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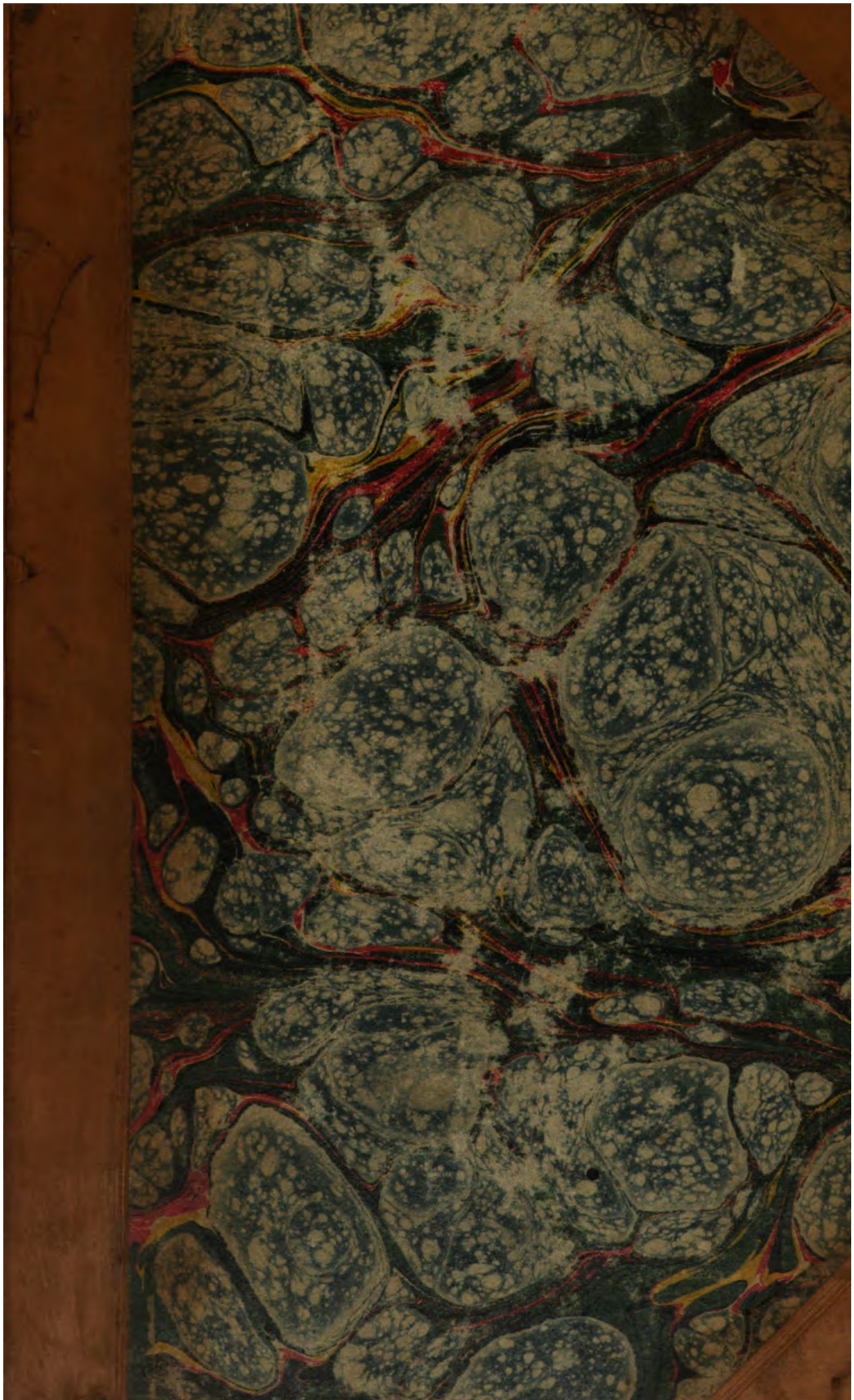
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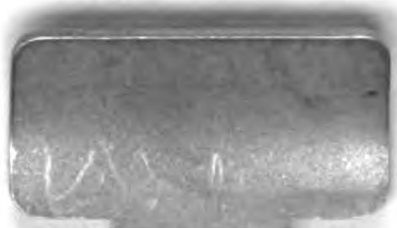
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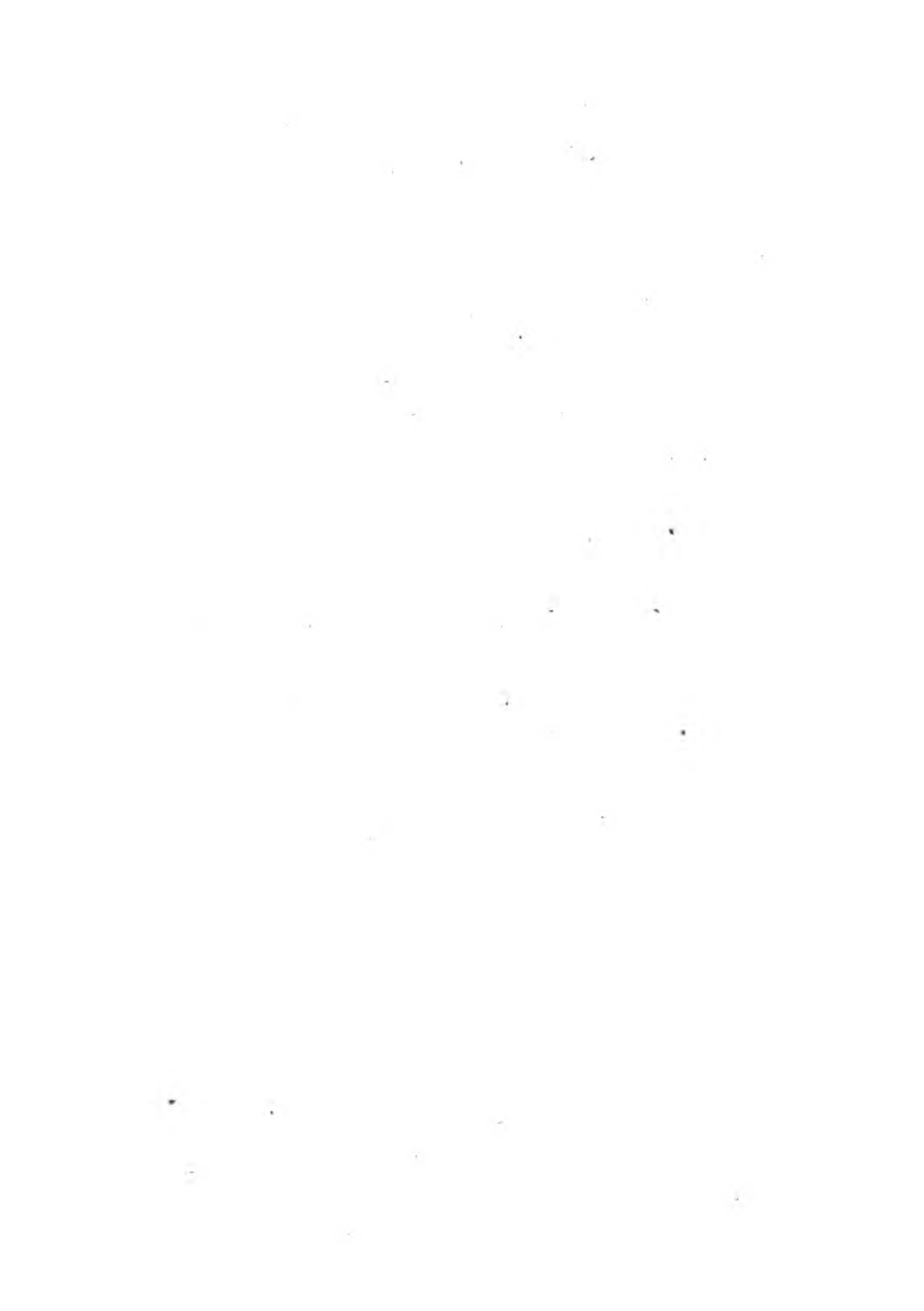
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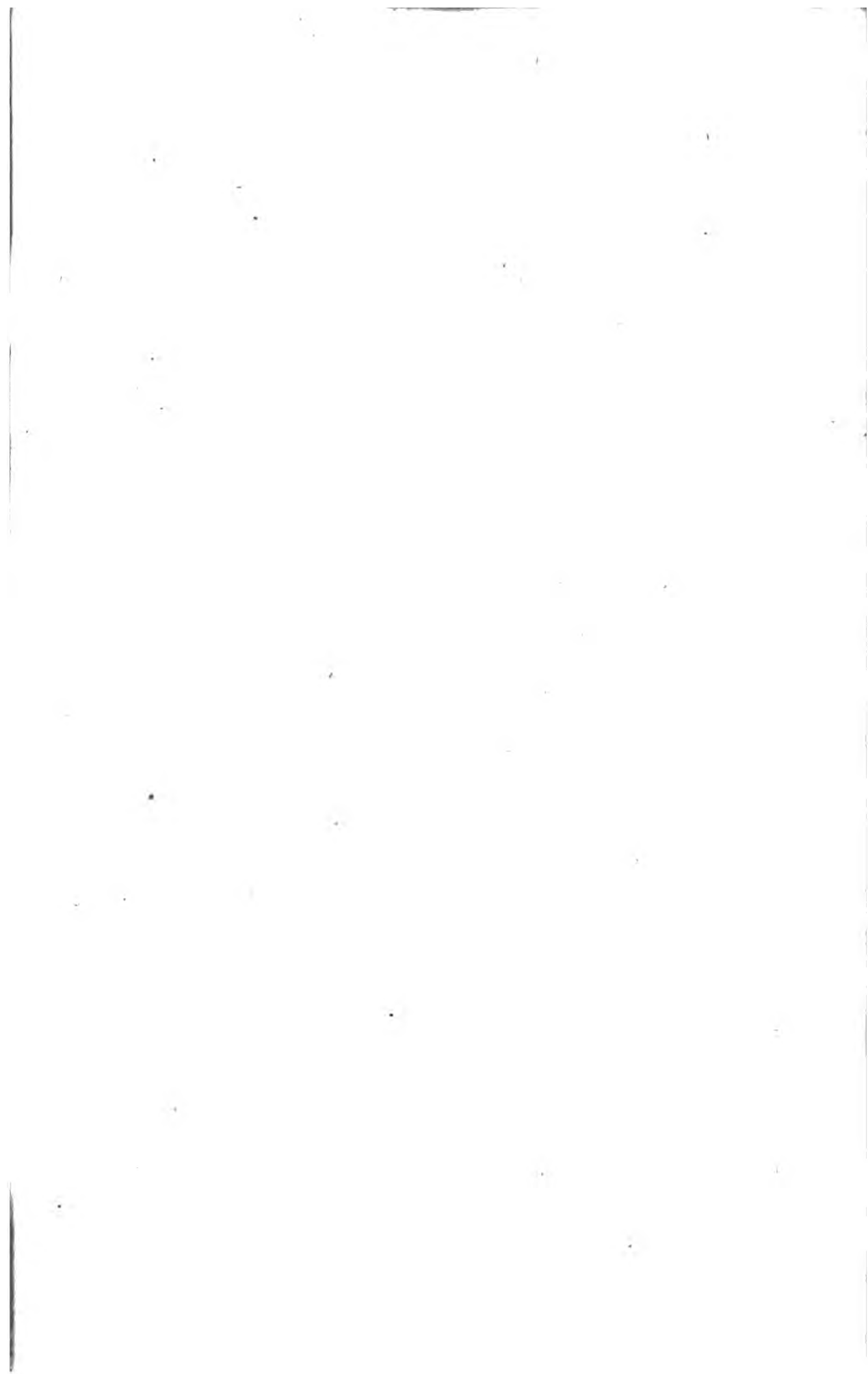


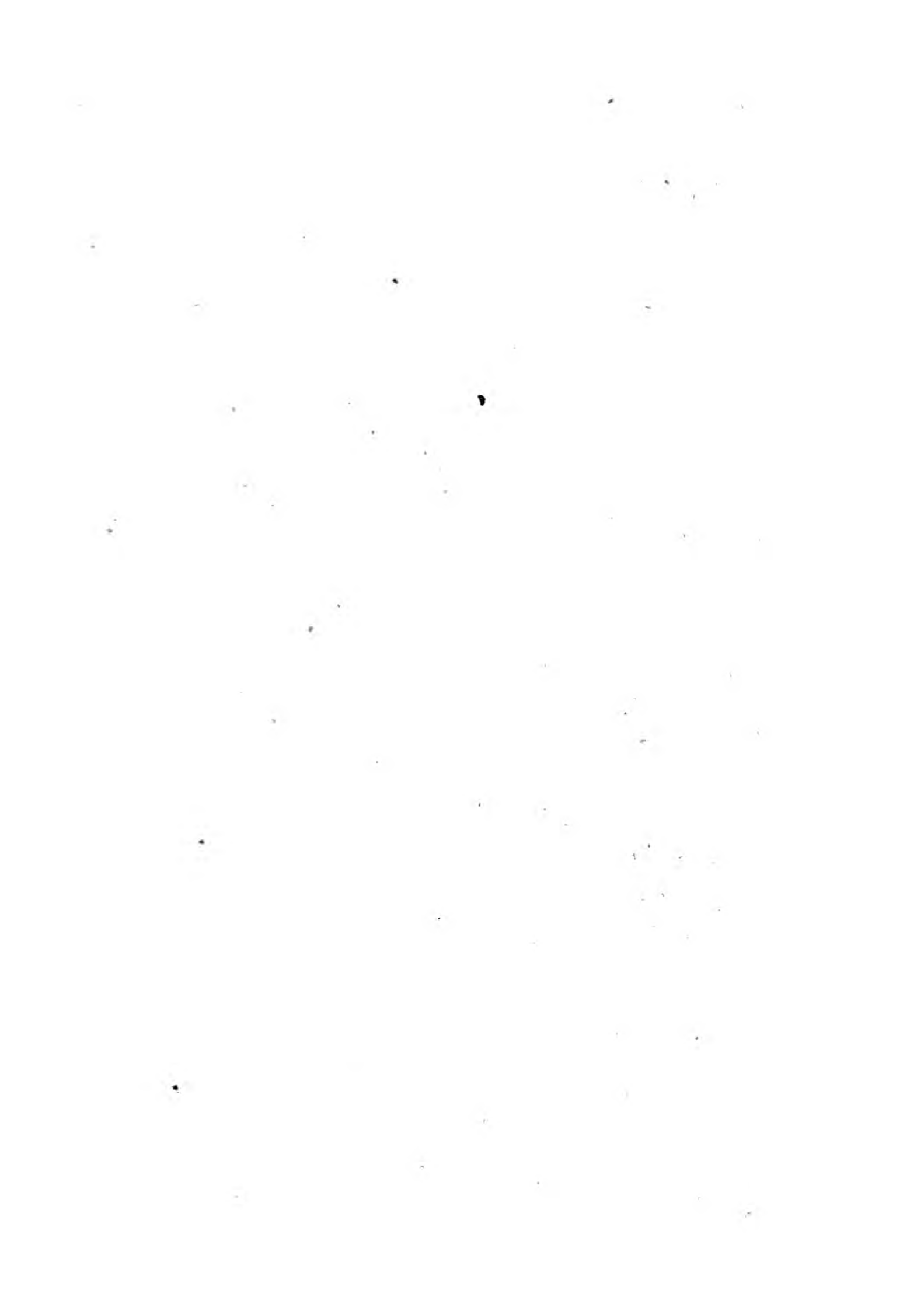
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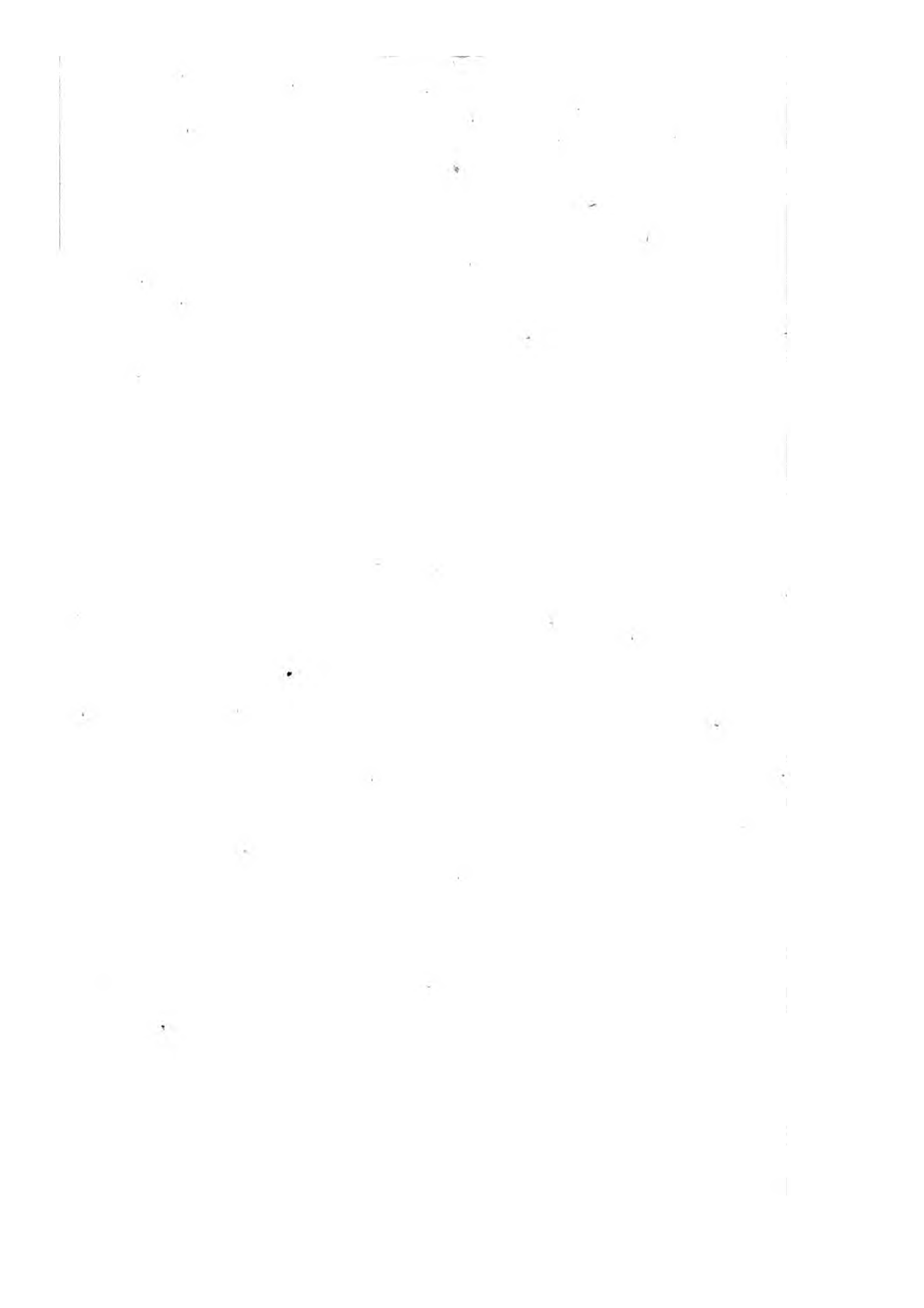




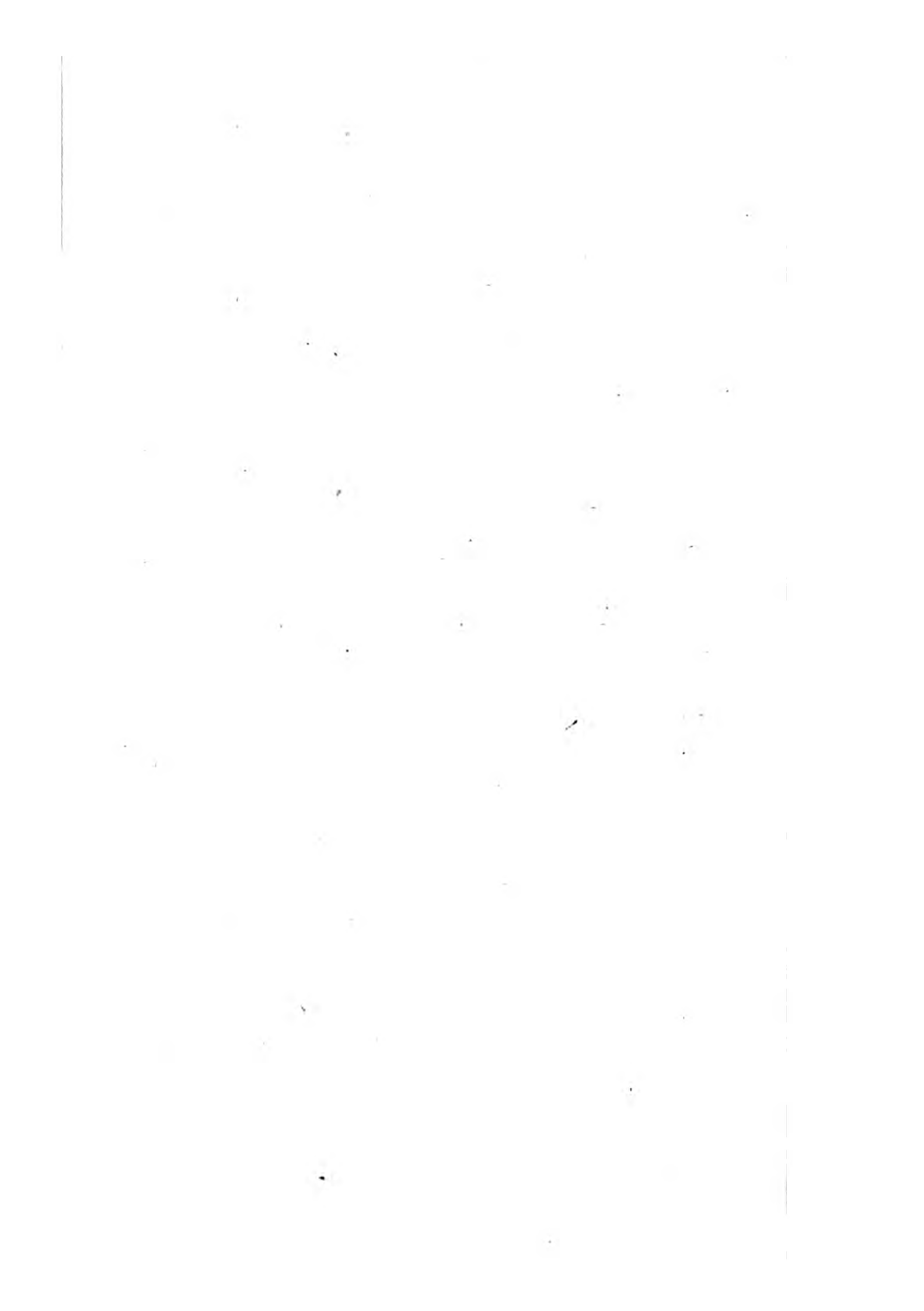








THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.



THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS

OF THE
MINISTERS

OF THE
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

VOLUME NINETEENTH.

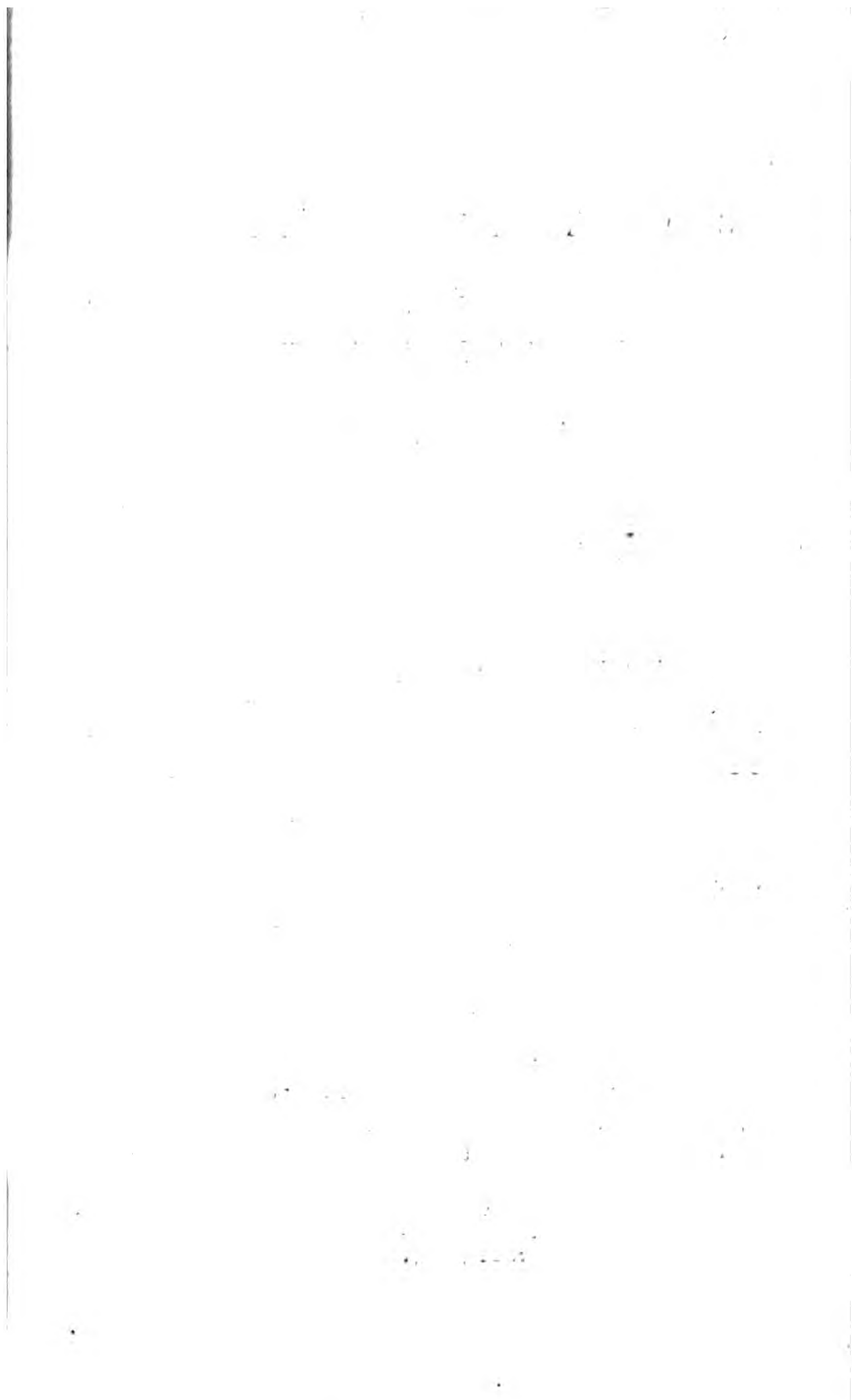
"Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est, nosse rempublicam."
CICERO, de Orat. lib. ii.

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M, DCC, XCVII.





C O N T E N T S.

No.	Name.	Population in 1755.	In 1790-7.	Increase.	Decrease.	Page.
1	Halkirk, -	3075	3180	105	—	1
2	Falkirk, -	3932	8020	4088	—	71
3	Roxburgh, -	784	840	56	—	114
4	Aberdeen *,	15433	24493	9060	—	140
5	Alnefs, -	1090	1121	31	—	234
6	Stornoway,	1812	2639	827	—	241
7	Barvas, -	1995	2006	11	—	263
8	Lochs, -	1267	1768	501	—	274
9	Uig, -	1312	1898	586	—	280
10	Rhynie and Effie,	836	681	—	155	289
11	Aboyne and Glentanar, -	1695	1050	—	645	296
12	Boyndie, -	994	1260	266	—	305
13	South Knapdale,	1292	1524	232	—	308
14	Kinclaven,	993	1150	157	—	327
15	Bendothy, -	1293	878	—	415	334
16	Tannadice,	1491	1491 †	—	—	372
17	Rothiemy, -	1190	1125	—	65	385
18	Orphir, -	855	826	—	29	394
Carried over,		41339	55950	15920	1309	

* In the APPENDIX there is additional communication respecting the Town of Aberdeen.

† Stated at the same number as in 1755, no return of the population having been given in, in consequence of the living being vacant, though probably increased.

CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	Population in 1755.	In 1790-7.	Increase.	Decrease.	Page
	Brought over,	41339	55950	15920	1309	
19	Kilmany, -	785	869	84	—	420
20	Dunning, -	1491	1600	109	—	434
21	Tundergarth,	625	510	—	115	443
22	Annan, -	1498	2500	1002	—	447
23	Tarbolton,	1365	1200	—	165	453
24	Longforgan,	1285	1526	241	—	459
25	Madderty, -	796	631	—	165	563
26	Minto, -	396	513	117	—	570
27	Collington,	792	1395	603	—	579
28	Innerleithen,	559	560	1	—	592
29	Glenbucket,	430	449	19	—	607
30	Yetholm, -	699	976	277	—	609
31	Auldearn, -	1951	1406	—	545	616
32	Killean and Kil- chenzie,	2391	1911	—	480	627
	Total,	56402	71996	18373	2779	
	Population in 1755,	56402	—	2779	—	
	Increase in 1790-7,	—	15594	15594	—	

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

S C O T L A N D.

PART XIX.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF HALKIRK,

(COUNTY OF CAITHNESS, SYNOD OF CAITHNESS AND
SUTHERLAND, PRESBYTERY OF CAITHNESS).

By the Rev. Mr JOHN CAMERON, Minister.

Preliminary Observations.

THE tract of ground, which is now called by the general name of the parish of Halkirk, consisted formerly of two parishes, *viz.* of Skinnet and Halkirk. At what particular period they were united I have not yet been able to learn, but I have reason to suspect that their union took place some time after the Reformation. Nay, circumstances make it very probable, that the part of which the parish of Halkirk consisted, when it was erected into a

stated parish, was no parish at all before the Reformation ; but that the other part, which was called the parish of Skinnet, was a stated parish of very early date before that period. Halkirk, by all I can learn or conjecture, was originally no more than a chaplainry, occupied by the Bishop's chaplain, who also served the great family, that had one of its seats at Brawell, a place very near the chapel, in that capacity. Here also the Bishop had one of his seats, within a very few yards of the present manse. It was here, as I have it from report, that the Bishop, whose name I do not recollect, was assassinated in a most shameful, cruel, and barbarous manner, by a set of ruffians from Harpsdale, a place belonging to the chaplainry. These savages were called the sons of John of Harpsdale, whom the then Earl of Caithness suborned, as instruments very fit for the execution of that alarming and horrid deed. The reason why the Earl formed and executed this atrocious design, was, as it is reported, to be revenged of the Bishop for assessing his lands in the chaplainry with an addition to the chaplain's living. This augmentation being very disagreeable to the Earl, and of course to his tenants, roused their resentment, and precipitated them into this shocking deed. A most exemplary and extraordinary punishment was inflicted on the instigators and perpetrators of this murder, at the instance, and by the special direction of King Alexander II. who, to his great credit and honour, exerted himself in a remarkable manner, in the discovery, condemnation, and punishment of these presumptuous culprits. What is recorded in history concerning this affair, seems to corroborate what I have from report ; and from the concurrent testimony of both, there is reason to believe, that this was the noblest and most distinguishing action of that King's life. But to return to the history of the parishes :—

Origin.

Origin of the Names.—The spot where the chapel formerly stood, and where now the kirk of the two united parishes stands, is a small round hill, in the middle of a large extensive plain. From this spot, as the centre, there is a very gentle rise, almost in every direction, to the surrounding hills. From this circumstance, it is more than probable, the parish derives its name; for the rising ground whereon the kirk stands is called *Tore Harlogan*, and the kirk, *Teaumpul Harlogan*, and so retain the original Irish names, though the parish is called by the name of *Hacrigg*, and more frequently of *Halkirk*, which are manifestly a corruption of the original name, *Tore, olaggan*. Now, *Laggan*, in Earse, signifies a low place, the lowest in the neighbourhood, and *Tore*, a mount or small hill. Thus the original name was compounded of *Tore* and *Laggan*; and had it not been that the chapel was built on the small *Tore*, or hill, that is, in the middle of this low place or *Laggan*, this parish would have been called parish of Loggie, or *Skir, a-laggan*, or *Laggy*, as other parishes in Scotland are called, for the same reason, as is evident, from the low situation of the place of worship, when compared with the rest of the parish; whence it is very presumable, that the original name of this parish was, *Skira, Tbore, o Laggan*, but in course of time was corrupted into the name *Hacrigg*, which has no meaning but analogy of sound; and because the sound *Hacrigg* resembles the English word *Halkirk*, it was converted into that name.

As to the name of the other parish, it is sometimes pronounced *Skinnet*, sometimes *Skinite*, sometimes *Skinilt*, sometimes *Skinnon*, sometimes *Skinine*. Nothing can be concluded from this confused variety of pronunciation; but from the situation of the kirk, with the aid of these sounds, I have reason to believe that the real name should be *Skiea Noylte*, the Wing of the Burn; for that place goes

off

off from the burn that runs beside it, in the form of a wing*.

Situation and Extent.—The two united parishes, or what is now called by the common name of Halkirk, is in length 24 miles from N. to S. W. Its breadth is various, being in some places 12, in other places 10, in some 8, in others 7 miles, from the N. E. to the N. W. It is bounded on the N. by the parish of Thurfo; on the N. E. by the parishes of Bower and Wattin; on the S. and S. W. by the parishes of Latheron, Kildonnan, Reay; on the W. by a detached part of the parish of Thurfo, and on the N. W. by the parish of Reay again. It is situated in the county and presbytery of Caithness, and belongs to the provincial Synod of Caithness and Sutherland. It is an inland parish, and the most central in the county.

Soil.—The soil is in general very good, though very various. In some parts it consists of a mixture of clay and loam, in some of a heavy or light kind of clay altogether, in many parts of a mixture of clay and a light kind of
moss,

* The river that runs by the kirk is called *Ambine Thorse*, *i. e.* River of Thurfo; whence it may be supposed, that the river is called from a person or place, as rivers commonly are. The place or person might have been termed *Thor*, or *Thorsa*, a Danish word; now, *Thor*, or *Thorsa*, as it might have been pronounced in that language, is the name of a northern deity, from which was derived the name of a day, Thursday, and of persons, with some variations and compositions. Thus, for instance, there were of old of the name *Oddin*, or *O'Doine*, another northern deity, from which we have *Woddinsday*, or *Oddinsday*, or *O'Doinsday*; and there are to this day persons of a name patronimically derived from it, *viz.* *Macdoine*, or Oddin's Son. This may lead to a discovery of the name of this parish. The place where the kirk stands is truly a *laggan*, or low place, in the strict sense of the word; and then, why might it not be compounded by the addition of *Thor*, or *Thorsa*, and so called *Thor O'Laggan*, or *Thorsa O'Laggan*, *i. e.* The low place of *Thor*, or *Thorsa*; as Thurfo is in Earle called *Inver Thorsa*, *i. e.* The Mouth of Thorse. Thus Inverness, &c. From *Thor* several names are also derived, as *Torghuil*, *Maithorghuil*, *Thorkelín*.

moſs, and in ſeveral parts it is gravelliſh or ſandy, or chingily. It is in general not deep, rather ſhallow; in ſome parts too ſhallow and rocky. The ſurface is rather flat; for though there are ſeveral hills or riſing grounds, yet they are of no conſiderable height, having a very gentle declivity in general from their ſummits to the ſubjacent plains, eſpecially in the lower end of the pariſh.

Diſadvantages ariſing from the Soil, &c.—To the circumſtances above mentioned relative to the ſoil may be aſcribed, in a great meaſure, its wetneſs, which prevails very much, eſpecially in winter, ſpring, and latter end of harveſt; beſides, the fogs, and miſts, and rains, which are rather too frequent in this country, contribute much to this diſagreeable quality; another circumſtance which tends to its wetneſs, is the kind of ſtrata, which, in general, is not, in the arable ground, and other places, more than 1 foot, or $1\frac{1}{2}$, or 2 feet at the utmoſt, below the ſurface. Theſe ſtrata in many places conſiſt of a hard, heavy, petrified kind of clay, which may properly be called *caput mortuum*. In moſt places, eſpecially in the lower end of the pariſh, they conſiſt of flags, as they are here called, or large thin ſtones, which lie in a horizontal poſition, and run cloſe to one another, without any great interval or interruption. From theſe two laſt circumſtances it happens, that the ſurface is kept perpetually wet, except in the ſummer and harveſt, for neither of theſe ſtrata will ſuffer the water to ſink or filtrate through them, therefore it muſt remain on the ſurface, till it is either exhaled by ſun and wind, or runs off along theſe ſtrata to the adjacent ſwamps, lakes, and burns, which, by the bye, muſt be very ſlow, the declivity to theſe being in many places very inconſiderable. This, moreover, occasions, in a great meaſure, the great dampneſs or chillineſs of the ground, which are ſo inimical to vegetation, and peculiarly noxious to the roots of trees,
and

and of all other vegetables that are allowed to be in the ground longer than the spring, summer and harvest. These disadvantages are not more peculiar to this parish than to the other parishes of the county.

Advantages, arising from the same Causes.—These disadvantages, are, however, in a great measure compensated by advantages arising from the same causes. If these strata will not suffer the water to penetrate through them, yet by keeping it so near the surface, it soon dries or runs off, by being so much exposed to sun and wind, and there being no great depth of earth to retain it, or interrupt its progress to the swamps, lakes, burns, rivers. If the ground is kept by them cold, damp, and chilly, in spring or seed-time, or even after that time, which, as was already observed, is no small impediment to agriculture, and occasions a slow vegetation, yet, in the months of June, July, and August, it becomes very warm and tepid, very nourishing to the tender vegetables. In these months, by reason of the great length of the day, and of the earth being laid on these hard and impenetrable strata, as above observed, to very near the surface; in these months, and for these reasons, I say, our crops make a very rapid progress; nay, I will venture to say, a much greater, than in any part of Great Britain, or even in more southern kingdoms, in that short period of time. From this circumstance it happens, that we have as good a crop generally, and as early a harvest, and oftentimes earlier, than they have in more southern countries. But I must say, that all our prospect of a crop depends in a very great measure on the complexion and temperature of these months. If they are favourable, we are sure of a great and good crop; if not, we have no great reason to expect a suitable return.

Another advantage, worthy to be observed, is, that these flags, or flat stones, are most excellently calculated for building, and that with great ease and expedition, and
 little

little expence. They are at hand in many places, easily worked in the quarry, joined to one another in straight seams, which makes them easily separable asunder, very plain and smooth on the surface, straight and plain on the sides, of a hard and elastic quality, and of a very beautiful blue colour. They are generally in the form of a square or parallelogram, of different areas and thickness. I have seen some of them about 14 feet square, and only about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. They answer several purposes, such as flooring of rooms, whether low or high, roofing of houses, partitions, large chests for meal, bottle-racks; very few of them will serve most of the purposes above mentioned. I have seen houses made of them altogether, and very few of them required to complete the house. When properly manufactured, they are not much inferior to Easdale slate, as they can be got in several places of a proper thinness for that purpose; now, these must be great advantages to a country where there is no timber, but what is brought to it with much trouble and vast expence, which makes that necessary article much dearer here, and less used than almost in any other country.

Arable Ground, Pastures, Meadows, &c.—Besides the arable ground, which is very considerable and extensive in several parts, there is a great deal of waste ground very capable of cultivation and improvement to a very great degree. What has been done this way during my incumbency, though very short of what it might have been, had the proprietors consulted their own interest, and prized their advantages, is a plain demonstration what a valuable addition might be made to their fields, their purses, and their people; and a mighty motive and encouragement to prompt them to bestow a particular attention on so good and useful an object. Pasture ground and meadows are also in great abundance, very fertile and beautiful, producing

cing annually large crops of grafs, very fit for hay or paf-
turage. Thefe, becaufe of their low fituation, are drenched
with water moftly all the winter and fpring, which cir-
cumftance contributes much to the luxuriancy of their
crop. Moft of our hills or rifing grounds, and alfo of our
moors, are well adapted for what we call ordinary or High-
land pafTURage, and capable of maintaining a very great
number of cattle. Thefe circumftances, together with the
want of inclofures and winter herding, are in a great
meafure the caufes why the people do not trouble them-
felves with raifing any crops of clover and rye-grafs.
Of late years, indeed, feveral attempts have been
made this way, which have been very fuccefsful; and
it is to be hoped, that this ufeul practice will foon
become more general. The reft of the parifh confifts
of fwamps, marfhes, bogs, or deep mofs, all of great
extent, but very fit for Highland pafTURage for the
greateft part of the year. When to thefe are added the
great number of lakes or lochs, fmall and great, which are
almoft in every quarter of the parifh, there is reafon to be-
lieve, that the fiftieth part of it is not in culture. Yet, after
all, it will be allowed, that it has the greateft variety, the
greateft advantages, as well as the moft pleafant and enter-
taining profpects, of any parifh in the county.

*Climate,—Mutual Influence of Soil and Climate on one
another,—Disadvantage from that Influence.*—Though the
climate is not in general very agreeable, yet I am perfua-
ded it is much better than it is represented and imagined
to be by people of other countries. For they who come
only for a ftart into the country, have no great opportunity
of knowing it; and they who never were in it, are, from
the report of thofe who were, prejudiced againft it. Re-
fides, from its more northern fituation, they are apt to con-
clude that the difference between this climate and theirs is
more

more than it actually is. But I will not hesitate to affirm, that, had our climate been equally good with our soil, the inhabitants of more southern counties would covet our more northern situation. However, it must be acknowledged, that neither our climate or soil are so agreeable as could be wished, and that the respective nature of each, contributes mutually to this disagreeable circumstance. They have a mutual influence on one another, as may appear hereafter in the course of these observations.

But this disagreeableness proceeds not so much from our northern situation, as from other causes; such as the swampness and flatness of the country; its abounding so much in fens, marshes, lakes, &c.; its being exposed, without any interruption, to the baleful influences of the N. N. W. and N. E.; and finally, to the hills and mountains on the S. and S. W. which environ it in these quarters, and intercept, in some degree, the genial and benign influences of the S. and S. W. From these high hills or mountains, which are, as it were, the barriers between this country and Sutherland, there is a declivity all along to the N. N. W. and N. E. shores. This contributes considerably to the coldness, the inconstancy, and variableness of our climate, being thereby devoted to all the evils that come upon us from these quarters, over an immense tract and body of water to the north pole. But this circumstance is not more hurtful and disadvantageous to us, than it is beneficial and advantageous to the neighbouring county. For these mountains shelter and defend them from many of these evils to which we are exposed; and I am truly of opinion, that had these mountains been situated in a contrary direction to us, and the declivity of the country in a contrary direction also, we would have a more agreeable climate and soil than we have, though, by the bye, all things considered, we have no great cause to complain.

All this time I have been giving a description of the climate of the country in general, when I should have confined my thoughts to this parish in particular; but this makes no difference, for almost every particular that is applicable to this parish, is in a degree less or more applicable also to the whole country at large. But to proceed:

From the mutual influence of the soil and climate on one another, arise the frosts, the noxious winds, the storms with which we are visited frequently in April, May, and sometimes in June; for when the air has a currency from the N. N. E. and N. W. it scours along the country, armed and impregnated with all the noxious and nipping qualities it gathers or contracts in its progress over the north seas; and these qualities are again seconded and improved by what, in its progress over the land, it receives from the wetness and dampness of the soil, and from the marshes, fens, lakes, and deep moss, with which it abounds; to this also is to be ascribed the frosty and blasting influences of the air, sometimes in August and often in September. Hence the vapours, mists, and mildews, which are sometimes very hurtful in that season of the year, to the great disappointment of the farmer. These are no less inimical to the crops of trees and tender vegetables; to the bud, the foliage, and the tender part of the branches, than the dampness and shallowness of the soil is to the root. But yet I must say, that several fruit-trees, and other kinds of timber, would grow and thrive here pretty well, if their crops could be defended and sheltered from these influences of the N. N. E. and N. W. I am warranted in this assertion by observations I have made on a fir planting in my neighbourhood, belonging to Sir John Sinclair, and planted by his father. About 18 years ago the young trees made no unpromising appearance; on the contrary, they

they continued in a blooming, lively, and thriving state, until by degrees they overtopped the dikes and fences whereby they are inclosed. From that date they withered and decayed gradually in their crops; the baleful infection, which made an easy prey of the tender crops of the branches, communicating itself therefrom downwards to the stronger parts, and from thence to the surface of the ground. The whole planting is now decayed to the very root, which still retains some life and vigour, and the branches shoot out from it almost flat on the surface of the ground to some distance, and wear a green and vivid appearance. From this circumstance it is evident, that though the soil is not the most favourable to planting, yet if the influences of the north could be prevented from the crop, timber of some kinds would thrive here pretty well; yet I by no means think, that the fir is anywise calculated for growing in this country.

To these causes must also be attributed the difficulty of making roads in this parish, and indeed in the country in general. By Sir John Sinclair's example, and the encouragement given by him, the whole country was animated, and heartily engaged, in making, repairing, and improving roads, which proved to be a great advantage; but yet, from the causes above mentioned, there is reason to apprehend, that what is already done in this way will soon serve no other purpose but only a direction to strangers, if more labour and expence, with more attention, be not bestowed upon it; and we may be thankful, if even after that the roads will be tolerable for more than one half of the year. However, the country has great credit from the exertions they have already made, and still continues to make, in opposition to these difficulties; and it is to be regretted, that their success has hitherto been far, very far short of their laudable exertions. At the same time, it is to be hoped, that by the plan

now adopted, if executed with perseverance, every difficulty will be surmounted, and the country accommodated to their wish in sufficient and durable roads.

Salubrity of the Climate, Health of the People, Longevity, &c.—From the above observations on the soil and climate, a person would be apt to conclude, that they must be inimical to health, and very prolific of a variety of distempers which detract from the comforts of life, and confine it to a very contracted period; more especially when the extraordinary inconstancy of the climate is considered, which often goes to extremes in the space of 24 hours; for it is not unusual to be visited here with all the coldness and rigours of winter, and the fervour and heat of a summer-day, in the space of 12 hours. But I can say from experience and observation, as well as from the testimony of the oldest persons here, that there is not a more healthy country in Britain, especially to those who are its natives, or are naturalised to it. There is no disease that can be called peculiar to it; neither are the distempers by which we are visited more frequent, or more fatal and violent, than in other countries, that are esteemed very healthy and salubrious. Hence the natives are in general very healthy, vigorous, firm, agile, well proportioned, excellently calculated to undergo fatigue and hardships; nay, I believe that in these qualities they excel, and that this, with their active and enterprising spirit, is the reason why this country is the first, the readiest, and best nursery for the British army. There are besides instances of longevity not a few. In the course of my incumbency, there have been several men and women who survived 100 years and upwards, many who exceeded 80, and at present there are a score who are either 90, or on the confines of that period, and most of them perfectly sound both in body and mind. Here I should

should not omit observing, that there is a man in my near neighbourhood, on the borders of 80 years, who can number upwards of 120 persons of his own progeny, besides those who have died. The number is still increasing by his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, &c.; and what is worthy of particular remark, he is still healthy and vigorous, and is as able to add to the number by his own personal exertions, as he was several years ago; so that if he be spared but for a few years, I have no doubt but he may see the number doubled.

Mineral Springs,—Discovery of Lime and Marl.—From the circumstances above mentioned, relative to the soil and climate, it will naturally be concluded that there are a great many springs in the parish; so there are, in very great abundance, and of most excellent quality in general. That some of these springs are mineral I have no doubt; but of what kind of mineral, and for what particular kind of distempers they may be salutary, I am not naturalist enough to enable me to determine. There is only one in the parish that attracted the attention of the people, and to which they ascribe salutary effects; it is called the Well of Halkirk, situated in the near neighbourhood of the church; and its water has been used for a cure by sick persons indiscriminately, but not near so much so as formerly. What benefit they have derived, or do derive from it, neither they nor I can tell, unless it flattered and gratified their imagination at the time. It is very limpid and clear, of a most pleasant relish, and rises in great abundance with a perpendicular force from bottom to top. On its surface lies always a thin, beautiful kind of substance, that varies like the plumage of the peacock, displayed in all its glory to the rays of the sun. What brought this spring to a particular notice beyond other springs in the parish, which, for
aught

ought I know, may be equally medicinal and salubrious, was the following circumstance: One of my predecessors in office, who happened to have some knowledge of physic, resorted to it perpetually while he lived, and was able to walk to it, and drank of it most copiously. In the course of his reiterated visits he discovered a rich kind of marl and limestone round the well. Whether the water contributed to his health I know not, but I am sure it contributed to his pleasure, and that the lime and marl availed much to the fertility of his glebe and small farm. To this simple incident is to be ascribed the first use of mineral water, and the first use and discovery of lime and marl in this part of the country.

Lakes.—As the parish abounds in springs, so in proportion it abounds in lakes. There are no less than 24 great and small. The most considerable are the lochs of Cathel, of Leurary, Lochmore, Lochmeady; but the largest is that of Cathel; it is 3 miles long, 2 broad, if not more, very deep, and almost perpetually full to its farthest banks. They all abound with excellent trout, and eel of different kinds and sizes; these fishes differ also in colour, according to the nature of the lake where they were spawned. In the lake of Cathel there are trouts, which are found no where else in the country, of a reddish beautiful colour, a pretty shape, very fat, and most pleasant eating. I suspect they are that kind of fish which naturalists call fresh-water herring. There are no pike-fish in any of them, which is an advantage, for reasons well known.

Rivers, their Fish, and Bridges.—There are several waters in the parish, which are perpetually supplied from these lakes, and some other lakes in the neighbouring parishes. In time of spout or flood, all these waters are both
dreadful

dreadful and dangerous, and often overflow and inundate the vallies and plains through which they run, especially in the heights of the parish, where they are attended with some damage, yet none of them merits the name of a river, but one, which is called the river of *Thurso*. This river originates principally at Lochmore, a very beautiful lake in the height of the parish. In its course it receives all the other waters and streams, which it discharges at *Thurso* into the Pentland frith. They all abound with excellent trout and eel; but the river of *Thurso* is very distinguishable for salmon, many in number, and excellent in quality. It is allowed, that better and more agreeable salmon is not to be found any where; I believe it is also the earliest in Britain for furnishing that fish; nay, it wants not clean and fresh salmon every day in the year; yet the fishing of it is of late years very much on the decline; to what cause this is to be attributed, it is not difficult to conjecture. If this is not seasonably adverted to and obviated, it is to be feared that a very fine and useful salmon-fishing may, in a few years, be reduced to nothing. From this river the town of *Thurso* derives its name; for the name of the river is *Thorsa* in Earse, and of the town *Inver of Thorsa*. Why the river is called *Thorsa* I cannot tell, unless it was so called from *Thor*, a Scandanavian deity. It runs almost all along in a stoney or sandy channel, is very rapid and impetuous in time of spout, and in certain seasons of the year, proves a great terror to all who inhabit near its banks; for it sometimes happens that it sweeps away corn and hay in harvest from all the plains and vallies through which it passes into the sea, and sometimes the tilled ground, to the great loss and disappointment of the farmer, and detriment of the land; yet few rivers are more beautiful, or run through a more pleasant tract of country. There is a great variety of prospects along its banks, which are bordered with rich meadows,

meadows, fertile fields, almost to its source, *viz.* Lochmore, where the salmon delight to dwell in great abundance, and to which they all run, if not prevented in their course. There are no bridges worth noticing on any of these waters, (only one on the last mentioned), which is the occasion of great inconveniency to the inhabitants of this parish in particular, and to the country in general, and no less so to strangers and travellers from other countries. This bridge is of pretty long standing, extremely well built, very strong and sufficient; there is none in the north of Scotland can excel it in structure and strength; for if it had not been wonderfully strong, and well adapted to the nature of the river, and other circumstances too tedious to mention, it would have been destroyed and swept away many years ago; it has got very severe trials during my incumbency, which very few bridges could withstand, and yet continues as firm and unimpaired as at the beginning, and is likely to stand for ages, if any the least attention is paid to it, which it well deserves. It is of mighty advantage to the country; but yet, before many inconveniencies and dangers arising from the river can be obviated, more bridges than one would be necessary. It was projected by Sir George Sinclair of Clyth, one of Sir John Sinclair's predecessors, for the accommodation of his tenants in the neighbourhood, (who are numerous), and of the country at large, and he left and consigned a sum for the execution of it. It was accordingly undertaken and executed by John Sinclair of Ulbster, Esq; Sir John Sinclair's grandfather, who, to the original sum destined for that purpose, added liberally out of his own funds. It stands in the near neighbourhood of the church, at the distance of 6 miles from the town of Thurso, and consists of 3 arches. Before I close this article, I should mention another water, which runs only through a small part of this parish, at the extremities of it,
and

and is next in bigness to the last mentioned, I mean the water or river of Forfs. It is a very rapid and dangerous water, especially in time of spreat, abounds with excellent trout, and a considerable number of salmon are fished in it every year; a few years ago there was a very good bridge built upon it, at a place in the parish of Reay, and very few waters in the country need it more.

Hills and Mountains.—Having in some measure anticipated the article of hills or mountains, in my observations on the soil and climate, very little may be said of them here. The only hill that is anywise worthy of notice, is that of Spittal. The summit of it is 4 miles from the nearest bank of the river Thurso, from whence there is a very gentle elevation to its base. From this to the summit the acclivity is very considerable. It is green all over, not very high, though yet I believe it is the highest in this end of the country. It has the command of a very pleasant, grand, and extensive prospect, being the most central in the country. Immediately on a person's arrival at the top, the Orkney Isles, the Pentland frith, the stupendous rocks on each side of the frith, and the surrounding seas, burst on his view at once, and overwhelm him with surprise and transport; nor is he less delighted when he beholds the whole country exposed in all its varieties, as it were, in a map, to his eye, looking down from this elevated centre on the grand subjacent and circumjacent objects. It is I believe 7 miles distant from the north shore, 12 miles from the east shore, and 14 from the north-west shore, having a gradual, gentle ascent from these shores, with the interruption of some small hills or rising grounds. Its precise height I cannot determine, having neither the opportunity nor the instruments proper for taking it. The name

of it is derived from the religious house, which was immediately below it, called the Hospital, by way of contraction, Spittal.

Another hill should not here be omitted; because, though it is not in this parish, it is yet on the near confines of it, I mean the hill of Dorry. Its distance from the Spittal Hill is about 12 or 13 miles due west. It is of considerable height, if taken from the shore or the church, of this parish. There is a good deal of arable ground about its base, which yields good crops of corn, a prodigious quantity of natural hay, and affords excellent pasture for a great number of cattle; it is, therefore, esteemed the best Highland farm in the country. It belongs to the parish of Thurso, though not within 4 miles of any part of that parish. It is a part of the bishop-lands, was a shieling belonging to the bishops of this county, and from this circumstance it derives its name. It commands the same grand extensive prospect with the other hill, though it is not so central.

Marl, Stones, Limestone, Mines.—There have been discovered of late figured stones, having the impression of plants and fishes. These were found in the course of attempts that were made by the direction and encouragement of Sir John Sinclair, to discover mines. I have been also informed, that shells of several kinds have been, and are still to be found in several parts of this parish; and this is not to be doubted, since great quantities of marl, excellent in its kind, are found in several parts, and applied to land with great success and advantage.

As to stones, having anticipated this article, I will only further observe, that there is no freestone in this parish; that there are excellent lime-quarries, attended with this great advantage, *viz.* excellent peat-banks close by them; and

and that the lime they produce far excels any we get from any other country.

As to mines, the surface of the ground, the colour of the substance which covers several springs, the colour with which the streams of these springs tinge their channels and banks, the essays and attempts that have been made for discovery of mines, furnish every symptom and appearance that mines are not wanting in this parish. But I much suspect, that more labour, expence, and perseverance is necessary to prove successful. What kind of mines these appearances indicate, I will not pretend to determine. But this I can say, that several years ago I saw the beginning of a vein, but very trifling, and saw also pure lead extracted from the ore. Further, I observed in this parish, and several parts of the country, a very heavy hard kind of brown stone, in great abundance, on the surface of the earth, which I am apt to conclude may be iron ore, but whether good or bad of its kind I cannot say. This depends on trial.

Thunder, Tempests, Water-spouts.—This parish is sometimes visited with thunder, lightning, tempests, hurricanes, water-spouts, terrible in their appearance, but in general attended with no considerable mischief. Till about 5 years ago, thunder for several years was very rare, more especially during the late bad and unfavourable years; so much so, that the country rejoiced when they heard on a morning repeated claps of thunder in these hard times; flattering themselves with the hopes that they were to usher in a change to the better in the seasons, as they had not heard them for a long time before. But they were disappointed in their expectations, for the weather immediately afterwards became more cold and stormy. They are considerably more frequent and loud of late years. Earthquakes,
which

which commonly happen with such storms and tempests as we have sometimes here, were never felt or known in this parish or country, so far as I can learn. Three remarkable water-spouts happened in the course of the last 50 years. The last one happened about 13 years ago. It appears from the astonishing effects they produced on and near the places where they fell, that had they happened in any of the inhabited parts of the parish, the consequences would have been lamentable and fatal indeed. They fell on the high and remote parts of the parish, which will bear testimony to these events for many ages to come. But, after all, I am inclined to suspect, though these effects are ascribed to water-spouts, that they were produced from another cause, *viz.* from the irruption of an immense collection of water, penned up in some of the prodigiously deep and very extensive morasses, which are not few in the Highland parts of the parish; and what gives this the semblance of probability is, that in many of these morasses, or *flows*, as they are here called, when the surface is bored, the water issues out like a torrent with great force.

Here I should not omit a real water-spout, in the strict sense of the word, that happened about 200 years ago on the loch of Cathel; a whole family residing on a very small island in the loch, excepting the youngest child and his nurse, were destroyed by it. This awful event was so far from being a cause of regret to the neighbourhood, that they exceedingly rejoiced at it, as thereby they were happily delivered from the terror and rapine with which they were perpetually annoyed and harassed by that lawless and plundering family; for they lived on rapine and plunder, and fortified themselves on this small island, to the utter defiance and vexation of the oppressed neighbourhood. The master of this family was by name Gaine Kiaricach,

i. e. Gavin Henderfon. The surviving child is progenitor of a certain branch of the Henderfons in this country.

Quadrupeds. Birds indigenous and migratory. Game.—The quadrupeds in this parish, both domestic and wild, harmless and ravenous, are much the same as in other Highland parishes, and not less numerous. For the game, there are some deer and roe, also otters, foxes, and hares, in great abundance. About 60 years ago, no hares were to be seen in this parish or country; now they are not plentier any where than here.

The birds that are native or indigenous are the same also as in other northern Highland parishes, and not less numerous. The migratory birds are the same also; such as the felter, the green plover or lapwing, the quail or corn-crake, the woodcock, the cuckoo, the snow-fowl. Formerly the lapwing visited this parish in multitudes; now we do not see the hundredth part of what was wont to be seen of them; and very soon, as the number yearly decreases, we will see none at all. The spring feasts in England will soon destroy that delicious bird we were wont to rear and feed for their table, and deprive us of their visits. The birds for game are of various kinds, and some kinds very numerous, the moorfowl, the blackcock, the tarmachan, plovers of several kinds, snipes, pigeons, partridges. It is only of late years that this last bird was to be seen here. We have also swans, wild-geese of different kinds in vast numbers, ducks in great variety and numbers also, besides several other birds too tedious to mention. On the whole I know not any place that can afford better game than this parish.

Population, its Increase, Causes assigned for it, &c.—The number of inhabitants has rather increased during my incumbency,

cumbency, which is upwards of 23 years ago; and I have reason to believe, from the concurring report of all the very old people with whom I have been talking on the subject, as well as from other circumstances, that the present number is at least one fourth more than it was about 70 years ago.

Agriculture has made considerable progress during that period, and in proportion to its progress, a greater number of hands were needed to carry it on. Industry and frugality kept pace with this progress; as the inhabitants were gradually enlightened, so they were gradually awakened, and incited to action; their necessities and wants grew greater as they multiplied; this put their invention to the trial, and their wants and invention introduced several employments, and several shifts for living, to which they were strangers before, and for which they did not care; for truly I believe that they knew no want, and felt no necessity for diligence and activity before that period. These circumstances furnished employment, and employment made room for hands; and numbers of hands that could live in idleness before, but could not do so now, were ready to embrace and avail themselves of it. Hence a variety of implements and utensils for husbandry, &c. which were very few and simple before, were afterwards found necessary; and of course and by consequence, artists and tradesmen, who were also very scarce before that period, to make them. Hence a small farm, that was wont to be worked by very few hands, cannot now be wrought to any purpose, without some additional hands; for the rent being formerly very low, and other necessaries easy to be got, very little pains was necessary to live and keep credit by that farm. But now the case being altered, there is a necessity for raising better crops, and for more labour and industry, before the family can be supported, credit kept, and all necessary demands

demands answered. Hence, several spots that have been neglected and despised before, as there was no use for them, are now sufficient to employ several hands, and to maintain several families. Hence, finally, people are called forth much earlier into life, and employed in business, who before that period would be only as playful children at the fireside, and quite useless to themselves and others.

Thus the number of persons being increased, and business and wants having enlarged their narrow sphere, and taken a wider compass, traffick and commerce, arts and manufactures started into being. They now begin to creep and crawl; and I hope they will soon be able to throw away their leading-strings, and to make more stately motions, and more masculine exertions.

Another circumstance, that contributed considerably to the increase of population, should not here be omitted. Before the period above mentioned, people in general did not enter so early into the conjugal state. The *storgea*, or impetus of nature, was superseded by motives of interest and conveniency. But now, *vice versa*, these prudential considerations are sacrificed to the impulse of nature, which is allowed its full scope; and very young people stretch and extend their necks for the matrimonial noose, before they look about them, or make any provision for that state. Often times, indeed, motives of interest, and the impulse of nature, combine with united force, and precipitate them into that state at a very early period of life. Whether this practice is favourable to the improvement of the species, I much suspect; but that it is very much so to population I have every reason to believe.

It is true, indeed, that population has of late years received no small check from the junction of farms, from emigration, and from the vast numbers that have gone to the army during this and the former war. But yet it is on

the increase, though not so much so as it would have been, without these checks.

Having thus endeavoured to account for the increase of population in the period above mentioned, I now proceed to lay down the present state of it.

State of Population, how divided, &c.—According to the best inquiry and calculation I could make, the present state of population is as follows, (from which it will appear, that the increase, since Dr Webster drew up his account of it in 1755, his state being then 3075 souls, is 105);—families 530; souls 3180; of these souls 1650 are males, 1530 females. Below five years of age, 443; between five and ten years, 509; between ten and twenty years, 685; between twenty and fifty, 986; between fifty and seventy, 482; between seventy and eighty, 55; between eighty and ninety years, 20. Of this number, there are 380 bachelors; maidens, 400; widowers, 40; widows, 89; men-servants, 308; women-servants, 321; tradesmen, such as tailors, weavers, shoe or brogue makers, smiths, wrights, coopers, *cowans**, 73. There is only one dyer, and two gardeners, and three merchants. The number of day-labourers cannot be ascertained. There are indeed several who work for daily hire, sometimes in the year; but they are not many who are stated ones, or make day-labour their business by which they support themselves and families. I would conjecture the number of those who live by day-labour to be about 50; and of those who make it only a bye-job, or a business now and then as they are disposed, or find it necessary, to be about thrice that number. Besides the above, there is a great number of spinners for the linen-manufactures in Aberdeen and Edinburgh. This number is as difficult to ascertain as the former, and for the same

* *Cowans*, masons who build dry stone dikes or walls.

same reason ; I would suppose the whole to be about 400. All the families above stated, excepting those of tradesmen, day-labourers, &c. are farmers, tenants, subtenants, cottagers.

Births, Marriages, Burials.—The annual average of births, marriages, burials, cannot be ascertained with any tolerable accuracy. By examining the register, I found there were 80 baptisms and 24 marriages recorded from January 1789 to January 1790 ; but I much suspect their number ought to have been more ; and I have reason for this suspicion, because some few may be baptised, and some few married by the missionary in this parish, and the neighbouring clergymen, whose names might have been neglected to be reported to the session-clerk. This circumstance, together with some who die unbaptised, and who are not therefore reported and recorded, may well account for this mistake. Indeed, these numbers of baptisms and marriages exceed what they were in the same space of time for several years before, according to the register. From these very probable circumstances, I may safely conclude the annual average of births for a few years past to be about 85, and that of marriages about 28. The number of deaths or burials I found on the register in the period above mentioned to be 24, which is by no means satisfactory, and puts it entirely out of my power to ascertain the precise average, especially when it is considered, that in order to elude payment of the tax, numbers use all the shifts they can ; besides, there are no less than 10 burial places in the parish, which gives numbers an ample opportunity to escape from both register and tax.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Many of the proposed statistical queries have no relation to this parish in its present

state. Many of those that have, were already considered and anticipated in whole or in part, as they occurred occasionally in treating of other articles. Therefore all that is necessary is to give a short account of such particulars as have not been anticipated, and may apply to this parish.

Well then, we have no manufactures, no artists, and but few mechanics. All the inhabitants are of the Established Church, yet many attempts have been made to introduce Secession among them. They are, on the whole, moderate and rational in their religious principles, punctual in their attendance on divine ordinances, and well disposed to encourage and support the means of religious instruction among them. None, for many years past, have died of famine or want: nay, in the late severe and unfavourable years, when the country was threatened with famine, nothing like it was seen or heard in this parish; yet the effects of these unhappy seasons are still felt, and will be felt for some time to come: So fatal a stroke it then received, that from it we may date a kind of revolution in manners and circumstances. No murders have been committed for many years past; yet secret grudges and animosities still prevail, and often times break out into quarrels and broils, at markets and meetings, which wear a dreadful appearance, and sometimes are attended with disagreeable consequences; but a great deal of this is to be imputed to the too free use of spiritous liquors on these occasions, which inflames their blood, and exasperates their spirits. As to child-murder, in particular, it is scarcely known in this parish, and long may it be so. I never heard of any instance of suicide but one, which happened about 18 years ago, and it is to be hoped will not happen so soon again; yet I am sorry to say, that of late years there were in the country two or three instances of that detestable and melancholy practice. I have no doubt but many leave this parish and country
either

either for want of employment, or for the sake of getting better. But I am persuaded, that numbers leave it wantonly, who, if they were disposed to exercise sobriety and industry, as they must do abroad, might find a competency of bread and employment at home. It is, however, very much to be regretted, to what cause soever it may be owing, that a spirit of emigration prevails too much of late years; for the consequences of it are, year after year, more and more severely felt by the country at large, but more especially by the farmers and tenants. That useful and necessary class of people, had scarcely these two last years, the complement of servants they would need, because they either could not get them for any wages, or if they could, yet their demand was too high, and perhaps their work so little, that they were not able to engage them. I deny not, but servants ought to have all due encouragement when they deserve it; neither do I think, that in this country they have more than they would need: but I affirm, that in the present state of things, the farmer is not able to afford it and keep credit. The demands of the landlord, which are not lessening, the expence of living, which is a third more at least than it was 20 years ago, together with the other expences that attend the working of his farm, which are also daily growing more, all these are of themselves too heavy for all the produce of the farm, and his other shifts to answer them, though he had no other burden. All these things considered, I believe in my heart, that the farmer is the greatest dupe and slave in the country; and while he is so, the country cannot thrive, especially since the whole traffick and credit of it is yet founded on no other bottom but the produce of the field. Let all concerned be wise and consider this.

Yet, after all, I think it very practicable to improve farms, to make the circumstances of the farmer comfortable,

to give all due encouragement to servants, and, in a word, to remove all these grievances, without any diminution of rents, or passing from the value of customs and services, These are things which the landlord considers, though indeed falsely, as great advantages, and will therefore by no means dispense with them. Well then, to gratify him, I do not think that there is any necessity to cede the value of services, &c. or any advantage he derives at present from the farmer; all that is required is to pass from the services, and some other articles in kind, and to take real value for them by commutation or conversion. This, if matters were duly considered, will be found necessary; and as it is necessary, so it could be easily accomplished. It may be compensated in such a way, as will redound much to the mutual credit and advantage of both landlord and tenant. If this were once effected, it would be attended with another important advantage. It would make the tenants more frugal and industrious, and improve their sentiments and morals; and what would greatly contribute to this reformation, is the prospect they would have of reaping and enjoying the fruit of their own labours, more especially if they held their tacks on longer leases, which would be also necessary in effecting so desirable a change. Whereas their present state and circumstances, have a manifest tendency to depress their spirits, to check their ardour for diligence and industry, to contract the heart, to cherish the selfish principle in all its meanness, and of course, all manner of fraud, cunning and dissimulation, which, I am sorry to say, have made considerable progress of late years. There are no stated or licensed taverns in the parish but one, which scarcely deserves the name; but there are several families, who retail whisky and ale occasionally. This practice prevails too much, and is attended with many consequences hurtful to the interest and morals of the people; and

and it were to be wished that it had been suppressed. Besides, of late years, since distillation prevailed so much, the use of whisky has almost superseded that of ale, which about forty years ago was the ordinary drink, both in taverns and private houses, and not near so hurtful and inconvenient to the people. The heavy duty on malt, contributed not a little to this disagreeable circumstance, by which means this beverage, so useful and convenient to the country people, when used in moderation, is in danger of being at last entirely in disuse, and no drink will be relished but what directly intoxicates the brain and inflames the blood.

The usual hire of a day-labourer is almost double what it was about 20 years ago. This is both natural and reasonable, because, as has been already observed, the expence of living has greatly increased in that period. It is various, according to the various jobs in which they are employed. The average here, *per* day, I would estimate at 9 d.; and the sum necessary to support a family, consisting of man, wife, and 4 children, *per* week, at 3 s. 6 d. Both the hire and the expence of living are yearly very much on the increase. The farmer is the only man who will suffer most by this progress, if he will not have more advantages than he has at present to keep pace with it. We have rather too many who are idly disposed, and who will not work, unless compelled to it by the extremity of the last necessity; for if they happen to have what will enable them to hold it out until night, or any prospect of any other shift, though at the expence of their more industrious neighbours, to whom they are no small burden, they have no concern about their debts, or any provision for to-morrow. Though these are a grievance to the country, yet the British army is much indebted to them; and, indeed, if this is a relief to themselves, it is no small one to their neighbours, who are glad to be free of such idle and useless drones. From

this cause, and the vices to which it is an inlet, as well as from other causes which are more necessary and unavoidable, it happens that we have a great number of poor. But what is much to be regretted is, that a considerable part of this number consists of tenants who have been reduced, either by the late unfavourable seasons, or by the insufficiency of their farms, and other shifts, with all their industry and frugality, to provide for the evil day. The number at present on the roll is 150; but it ought to have been near double that number, were all those who are in indigent circumstances to be admitted. So very low are the session-funds, that none can be admitted on the roll but the greatest objects, or such as are extremely indigent; and even, in that case, they are not in the smallest degree adequate to that number; for the only sources of our funds are the Sabbath collections, and the fines arising from delinquencies. The former is very trifling, more especially because our men of money are not those who most frequently come to church. The latter, though more frequent than could be wished, yet it turns out to no great account, because, though they are very subject to these delinquencies, they are yet on the whole very poor in purse. They are able to sin, but not able, had they been willing, to pay. It is a pity that the civil arm does not interpose its authority, and the gentry their influence and example, as could be wished, to strengthen the hands of the clergy in the suppression of these destructive practices. But to return to the poor: At the annual distribution of the funds, the share of each individual poor on the roll, is no more, at an average, than 2 s. at the utmost. This, and the insufficiency of the parish to supply their needs, is one great cause why numbers of them wander about, begging that charity which they cannot get at home.

It

It has been already observed, that the soil and climate of this parish and country, do not seem favourable to the production of trees. Yet, I believe, if proper methods had been used, and due attention given to that necessary article, some kinds of timber might thrive pretty well. But there are other kinds, which, in my opinion, will frustrate every attempt to rear them. Of this kind is the fir, as was also specified before. Yet it is certain that there was great abundance of that timber once in this parish. This manifestly appears from the remains of it that are still to be seen in several parts of the parish, and indeed of the whole country. From this circumstance it would be naturally concluded, that where that timber grew so well, and so stately of old, without the aid of care or art, it would surely grow there now, with the conjoined assistance of both art and nature. This is a paradox I will not pretend to solve, though yet I am very much inclined to think, that it is to be attributed to some change or revolution that has taken place in the climate, and consequently in the soil, from their mutual influence on one another. To corroborate this opinion I would remark, that about 23 years ago, there were two or three small woods of birch and mountain ash, &c. in a very blooming and vigorous state, in this and a neighbouring parish, which are now almost wholly decayed and withered root and branch. This reverse is, no doubt, in a great measure to be ascribed to the depredations of the country people, who cannot withhold their hands from growing timber, wherever their eyes behold it. But from this reverse, in so short a time, it seems to be principally occasioned by the late unfavourable seasons, which have proven as noxious to them as to other vegetables, and more so, because, as was before observed, they are not raised out of the earth, as other vegetables are, at the end of the season. Does not this circumstance render it at least probable
that

that their utter decay, and not attempting to grow since, is owing to such a revolution of climate and soil as took place at that period? And what makes for this still further, and adds to the probability of it, is another circumstance, *vis.* the seasons are colder, the earth more wet, the crops not near so good, some animals, such as the wild bee, the swallow, scarcely to be seen since that fatal period; and not only so, some vegetables that answered very well before, do not grow now at all with the greatest attention and industry.

I would also further remark, as it now occurs to me, and applies to the present purpose, that when there is a current of air from the sea, accompanied with mist and fog, it envelopes all the vegetable creation as far as it advances with a slimy, saline kind of dew, which is often from one end of the country to the other; for I believe there is no place in this country, that is above 9 miles in a straight line from the sea, which surrounds it close on every quarter but the S. and S. W. This dew, when applied to the tongue and palate, has a very saltish relish; so I have experienced once in the centre of the country; nay, at that time, and in that place, I felt the scent of rotten ware, as sensibly almost as if I had been on the shore at that time. This circumstance must surely have a considerable influence on trees, and the other produce of the soil, and this is the cause of my making this remark. But before I close these observations, I would further remark, that our winters are in proportion more temperate than the other seasons of the year. Whether this has been the case of old I cannot say.

Ploughs, Carts, Horses, Oxen for the Farm.—The plough used in this parish, and indeed in all the country, not very many years ago, was of very simple construction, very cheap, very easily and speedily made; it had only one stilt;

stilt; by this it was managed and conducted by the ploughman, with his right hand only, and close at his right thigh; it had scarcely a side board; though, for these reasons, it was very uneasy for the ploughman, yet it was very light and easy for the cattle. It ploughed very well, and easy, as I am informed; broke the earth as it turned it, served the purpose of a first harrowing as it went along, and good crops were raised after it. For some time past there is none of them to be seen; for those now used are much the same with those used in the south of Scotland. These are, indeed, more easy for the ploughman, yet not so for the cattle, because they are heavier, and plough deeper, &c.

The long yoke, as we call it, or two and two a-breast, before one another, is not used but by very few, and that occasionally. The old mode of four a-breast, or short yoke, as we call it, is still the fashion. This, however, though not so easy and safe for the driver, who goes retrograde in the furrow, with two on each side of him, is, I believe, more advantageous for the cattle than the other. For, in draughts of every kind, it is very much in favour of the drawing power to be near the centre of motion. This is manifestly the case in the short yoke, all the cattle being equally near the plough, and having consequently an equal share of the draught. The only disadvantage arising from it, besides the danger to which the driver is exposed, is, that two of the cattle draw on the tilled ground, and thereby trample it, which is both uneasy to them, and hurtful to the ground; but these are nothing when compared to the other advantages.

It is only of late years also that carts began to be used. Now the great advantage of them is seen and felt, and the use of them is daily becoming more and more general. They are increasing in number every year, especially as we have the prospect of good roads. Since carts be-

came so general, I am persuaded, that one half of the trouble, of the time, and of the expence, is saved, which was formerly bestowed on the article of carriage alone.

Further, the cattle used not many years ago for the purposes of the farm, and carriages of all kinds, were for the most part horses. This is still much the practice; yet oxen are, of late years, more and more used for these purposes, especially since horses are become so expensive in the rearing, and so dear in the purchase.

The present state of these articles is as follows:—Ploughs, 312; carts of different sizes, 220; horses, 580; of this number there are 30 large, or of the Galloway size; the rest are of different sizes, but in general rather small: oxen, 294; of these there are 40 of pretty large size, all the rest small, or of inferior sizes.

Produce of the Parish, Animal and Vegetable.—Animal produce is horses, black cattle, sheep, goat, swine, geese. Most of the horses bred here are of the small garron kind, and many of them sold at 2 or 3 years old. But most of those employed in work, &c. are purchased at a dear rate from other places, especially from the Orkneys, where our young horses are bought for the purposes of rearing and sale. Hence it is, that the very same horses which were sold by us at very low prices, are sometimes, 2 or 3 years afterwards, rebought by the same persons, who sold them before, at three times the original price. This is surely a mode of traffick very unfrugal, and much against the interest of the country.

Black Cattle.—There is a great number of these reared in this parish, being well calculated for it, as being furnished with good pasture, both lowland and highland. But yet I am persuaded, that the number reared is near one-third more than it ought to have been, or the parish can well

well maintain. This is the cause why our cows do not usually yield so much milk as might be expected; why that cattle are in general more poor, and of less size than they might have been; and consequently, why they fetch such low prices at markets. But what is their motive for this unfrugal and mistaken plan? Why, because the commerce in that cattle is a principal and necessary article of credit; and consequently, they calculate their stock, according to their number, and not according to their quality. Besides, having no other way so ready to maintain credit, and to answer Martinmas demands, they pinch their families in the necessary food arising from these animals, from an overweening expectation, and the mistaken idea, that if they have plenty of calves, they will be able to answer these demands, which hang a mighty terror over their heads every year. Thus it happens, that they themselves, and their cattle, are half starved, and their ill-founded expectations often times frustrated. Whereas, had they adopted another plan, and kept an adequate number of cattle only, their families would be better supported, their cattle better in quality and value, and the demands of the landlord more readily answered.

Sheep.—By appearance there are excellent sheep-pastures in this parish, especially in the Highlands; but in most parts they do not thrive to any satisfaction. This appears both from the smallness of the number they generally have, and the number of lambs that are yearly bought from other countries, for a continual supply of their own, which never increases, notwithstanding that annual recruit, but often grows less and less. This failure may be attributed to several causes; to the wetness and swampiness of the soil; to their being fed promiscuously with other cattle; to their being, for the most part, housed every night, and often with other cattle; to the want of due skill and care in managing

naging them ; and, finally, to their being attended to only now and then as a bye job ; all which circumstances are very hurtful, and inimical to that useful, delicate, and precarious animal. Yet I am persuaded, that good sheep-farms might be established, at least in some parts of the parish, especially in the Highlands. They are all of a mixed diminutive kind, but very prolific, and excellent eating. I cannot say that their wool is either good, or plenty of its kind, which is the cause that we are principally supplied with this necessary article from other places.

Goat.—This animal is not so abundant in this parish as it might have been ; for though we have not many rocks or places productive of those weeds and herbs, in which they most delight, yet I am informed by those who keep them, that they thrive very well.

Swine.—These are very few of late. To what cause this may be owing, I know not ; but about 21 years ago this end of the parish swarmed with them, and they generally sold well. They are commonly of a very small size, but far better eating, and firmer meat, than a larger kind, and by far more easily reared. There are some of a large size, but they are very few.

Geese.—A considerable number of this bird was formerly reared in this parish. Now they are but very few in comparison, which is much to be wondered at, because they would fetch now more than double the price they gave 30 years ago.

The present state of these articles, according to the best of my information, is as follows :

Number of horses, young and old, including those working the farms, &c.	-	-	-	1650
Of black cattle, including the work oxen,	-	-	-	4963
Of sheep,	-	-	-	2890
Of goats,	-	-	-	130
Of swine,	-	-	-	190

Vegetable Produce.—The great, and indeed almost the only vegetable produce, are bear and oats. These are sown in continual alternate rotation, without the intervention of any other crop. This practice must surely be unfavourable to the field, the crop, the quality of the grain, and expose the farmer to more trouble and expence, for reasons well known. No great attempts have yet been made to raise pease and green crops, such as turnips, &c. Yet I have reason to think, from the good success that attended the few trials which have been made, that they would prosper well. It is, indeed, great matter of surprise, that, in a parish where the support and credit of the people almost entirely depends on their cow and their grain, they should deny themselves this great advantage. For, besides the benefits that would be derived from these crops to themselves and their cattle, they would moreover enable them to keep a greater number of cattle, which they would like well, and occasion that rotation of crops so much wanted for the benefit of the field, and its produce. Want of inclosures and winter-herding are, as has been already observed, two great causes why the people do not avail themselves of this great advantage. Besides, being unaccountably averse to any thing that is strange or novel in this way, they cannot be persuaded to trust their credit and their prospects to such crops. Great quantities of potatoes are indeed of late years raised in this parish, from which they derive very considerable advantages, especially as they contribute much to make the living cheaper.

Oats.—The oats raised generally is of two kinds, black and grey, of a small body, very prolific, but not productive of any great proportion of meal. In some parts of the parish, in good years, the proportion is more than 9 stones of meal out of 1¼ bolls undried grain; in other parts, not above 6 stones out of the same measure of grain. Of late years, other kinds

Kinds of black oats are raised, and a considerable quantity of white kinds. Yet, though these yield more meal, they are found not to be well calculated for this soil, nor so profitable. However, by the bye, I know not but this may be as much owing to mistaken notions, and a predilection in favour of old usages, as to any other cause.

Bear.—The bear, for the most part, is in some degree inferior in quality to that of more southern counties: Yet, in good years, and in the most fertile spots of the parish, it weighs between 17 and 18 stones *per* boll. In any year it is reckoned preferable to any that grows almost in this county. The returns of it, in growth, are various, being 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 at the utmost. Yet, estimated at an average, the whole crop, bear and oats, does not much exceed 4 returns. But, I believe, that with more pains and industry, and proper encouragement and example to infuse that spirit into the people, the crop might be considerably meliorated; however, in good years, the produce is considerably more than is necessary for the support of the parish in its present state. The whole amount in bear and oat meal, at an average, according to the best of my enquiry and calculation, is about 15,500 bolls, the boll of meal at $8\frac{1}{2}$ stones.

Prices of Victual, and other Necessaries of Life.—The average price of victual, I mean of bear and meal, for we have no other, is, for some years past, 13 s. 4 d. *per* boll; of good beef, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. *per* lb.; of mutton and pork, when good, the same; of geese, sold at Martinmas, 1 s. 4 d. *per* goose; of hens, 6 d. each; of eggs, 2 d. *per* dozen; of sheep hogs or wedders, 7 s. *per* hog; of swine, 12 s. each. There are some of them that sell considerably below, and some considerably above that price, according to their quality and size; of an ordinary cow or ox, for slaughter, and in flesh,

L. 2, 10 s. ; some fell at less, and some at more, according to size ; of malt, 14 s. *per* boll ; of whisky, unmixed, 2 s. 6 d. *per* pint ; mixed, 1 s. 5 d.

Commerce and Traffick.—The principal subjects of commerce in this parish, as already observed, are the articles just now mentioned. As to horses, very few of them could be spared for sale, if those who rear them had patience to keep them until they would be fit for work, &c. Therefore they sell them at two years old, as mentioned above, at low prices, and buy others, fit for work, at very high rates ; so that there is no gain, but rather great loss by this branch of commerce. As to black cattle, I believe, that, *communibus annis*, about 1000 of them are sold between the butcher and the drover. As to victual, I believe they can export, at an average, in good years, about 1800 bolls, and support themselves ; but this export, as I am informed, is not so much as it was in former years. The decline in crops, the increase of people notwithstanding the improvements made of late years, and the beer consumed by whisky and distillation, may well account for this circumstance. As to whisky, I believe 2-3ds of it is consumed in the country, a great part of these 2-3ds in this same parish, and consequently, that scarcely 1-3d of that liquor is exported. Not many years ago, there were no less than 13 or 14 small distilleries in this parish, and on the near confines of it ; at present, since the late act, there are only 4, which I think is enough, considering all the good that is reaped from them.

Rent of the Parish.—The valued rent is L. 3314 : 7 : 8 Scotch, I suppose, at the conversion of L. 4 Scotch *per* boll. The real rent, including other advantages, but exclusive of grassums,

grassums, customs, services, at the conversion of 10 s. per boll, is, I am persuaded, L. 2200 Sterling good.

Heritors and Proprietors.—The heritors and proprietors are not so many as they were a few years ago. The number, at present, is 6. Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster is the principal, being proprietor of much more than one half of the parish, and superior of a considerable part of it besides his own property. He is also patron of the parish.

Ecclesiastical State.—The present incumbent is Mr John Cameron, who was admitted in September 1769. He married 20th December 1782; is a widower from January 5. 1784; has one daughter, an only child, born 5th December 1783. His immediate predecessors were Mr William Abernethy, Mr William Cumming, Mr John Munro, who was the first Presbyterian Minister, Mr John Sutherland, Mr James Nicolson. The stipend, in Mr Cumming's time, was scarcely, at the then victual-conversion, L. 35 Sterling. It was augmented in Mr Munro's time to about L. 50 Sterling, at the then conversion. He had only 2 chalders of victual in his stipend; yet small as was this stipend, he lived very comfortably, and made a suitable provision for his family, which was numerous. His eldest son was the late Sir George Munro of Pointsfield. His two immediate predecessors, who had much smaller stipends, and families to support and provide for, did the same also. So great was the value of money, and so many were the advantages of those days besides what they are now. The present stipend, which was augmented 11th December 1776, is 2 chalders of meal and 2 chalders of bear, L. 600 Scotch, and L. 30 Scotch for communion-elements.

The manse and church, during the present incumbency, have always been in a bad state of repair, and extremely inconvenient

inconvenient, though repaired four times, and at considerable expence during that period, *viz.* 23 years. The last of these repairs is going on just now, at the estimated sum of L. 154 Sterling; and as soon as the undertaker puts them off his hands, they will call for another immediate repair, whether the minister calls for it or not. It is to be regretted, that heritors, from a mistaken notion of saving their purses, should so unaccountably injure their own interest, and incommode the minister, when both might have been avoided with little expence.

The glebe is, on the whole, very good land, but considerably short of the *minimum*. It only sows 3 bolls bear, supposing all of it to be sown with that grain, and will not graze one cow. There is reason to believe that it was larger, and that it was curtailed by the encroachments or depredations of the conterminous tenants in time of vacancies, and never yet enquired into. This is the more credible, from the report of a very old member of this presbytery, dead several years ago, who informed the present incumbent that this was the case, for that he saw the decret of designation by Bishop John Forbes, of this diocese, in the custody of Mr Munro above mentioned.

Mission and Mission-house, &c.—Besides the church, there is a meeting or mission-house, in the Highlands of the parish, at the distance of 9 miles from the church, where the minister of the parish was wont to preach every 4th Sabbath as a voluntary deed, if not prevented by bad weather, or speats in the waters, which are too frequent, especially in winter. The house is pretty large, was built, and is still supported by the inhabitants of that district of the parish, for their own and the minister's accommodation, at very considerable expence for them. Of late years, they have a missionary supported at their own expence also. It

is true, indeed, that the Committee of the Royal Bounty sometimes granted a little for their relief; and the same is continued just now, but the further continuance of it is uncertain and precarious. The Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, since the late increase of their funds, have been often solicited and importuned to extend the benefit of their institution to that remote corner, that stands so much in need of it, and so well deserves it, by the exertions made by the people, beyond their abilities, to support the means of instruction among them. But all hitherto has been to no purpose. Yet there are missions established by the said Society in other places, which do not so much need them. However, it is still hoped, that this desirable object will be obtained, as soon as the Honourable Society will have a proper view of the utility and necessity of it. Here, it should be observed, that an excellent dwelling-house was very lately built by subscription, in order to encourage the missionary, and to assist the people, and with the prospect that a perpetual mission was to be established there*.

Schools.—There are two schools in the parish, a parochial and a Society one. As to the former, it is always thronged of scholars, and is taught by an excellent master; but the smallness of the salary, which is but a trifle more than L. 6, and the want of proper accommodations for teaching, are mighty hinderances and discouragements. These grievances were represented, last year, to Sir John Sinclair, who immediately gave powers to the minister to get the accommodations of a school-house and desks as soon as possible, in the first place, and that he would pay his quota of the expence on demand; and this he would have done, but some of the heritors refused to contribute their share, which would be but very trifling, and so the matter stands, which

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* Since the above was written, Sir John Sinclair has procured a mission for the two parishes of Halkirk and Latheron, from the Society.

is a pity ; for next to the boroughs, it is in the most central and commodious place for a flourishing school in the whole county.

As to the other school, it is always full also, and ambulatory for the accommodation of this extensive and populous parish ; yet two-thirds almost of the parish reap no benefit from it, not only because of their distance from the station, but also because it is difficult of access to many, who may be nearer hand, most seasons of the year. These circumstances render another school of the same kind necessary in the Highlands, if it could be obtained. Applications are making for it, and it is hoped that they will be attended with success ; for never have the Society applied their funds to a more useful and necessary purpose.

Antiquities, &c.—There are several vestiges of antiquity in this parish, some of which are to be seen by the eye, and some to be heard of by the ear, from oral tradition. But neither what is to be seen or heard, furnish a key, whereby the truth can be so investigated as to afford any great instruction or amusement. The remains that are visible make, indeed, awful and pleasant impressions on the mind of the beholder, and suggest to him a confused, but majestic idea of what they once have been : yet they, at the same time, affect him with pain, because the eagerness of his curiosity cannot be gratified. The avenues that lead up to the object of his ardent pursuit and desire are closed on every hand. No inscription, no emblem, no monument. A veil of obscurity intercepts his view, and eclipses the light. His curiosity is at a stand. It cannot push on further. What must he do? He retires full of what he has seen, but full also of regret and disappointment, because he did not see more of what his mind suggests to him it has originally been. But he rests not here. He has recourse

to oral tradition, hoping to find access by that quarter, Alas! tradition is too much the work of fancy. Like Homer's Iliad, it may amuse as a pleasant dream, but can give him as little authenticated information of the truth, as that poem can give of ancient Troy, and the siege of it, which I suppose was as confused a story in that poet's time, as that of these antiquities, and gave equal play and scope to the imagination. Where now will the antiquarian turn himself? He betakes himself to the historical page. There he may find something like the object of his enquiry and wish; but it is too vague and general, too much clothed with the brilliant drapery of fancy; and so, if he be not a dupe to credulity, he must still remain discontented and unsatisfied. This is actually my case. How then can I satisfy others, when I cannot get myself satisfied? However, I will attempt it, at all adventures, and do what I can.

The fertility and extent of the corn-fields, the richness and variety of the pastures in this parish, both highland and lowland, the traces of antiquity that still remain; all these evidently point it out as holding, from early date, a distinguished rank in this country, in regard of people and events, which would amply reward the memory of the historian, had they not escaped his notice. I myself, this moment, when I am at a loss for information, could I but find a proper historian on the subject, would have said, Peace to his soul. But since it is not so, what I see and hear otherwise tempt me to grop and search in the dark, and I shall be happy if any correct me with the light of authenticity and truth.

Ecclesiastical Antiquities,—claim my attention, in the first place. Among these, the religious house that was at Spittal is the most distinguished. This house, it is certain, was originally founded and endowed by a St Magnus of Orkney,

Orkney, and dedicated to that Saint, therefore called St Magnus. Who he was, I have not yet been able to learn; but, from several circumstances, I have reason to believe, that he was either a Dane or of Danish extraction; and that he assumed the name Magnus, on his becoming so eminently distinguished in the church. Whatever he was, it appears that he was a great and a good man, a personage of great wealth and influence, of no less piety and beneficence, and highly beloved and revered, especially in this country and in the Orkneys, where he has done so much good. From this circumstance it is, that there are still so many in these countries called Magnus. Circumstances also lead to the belief, that he was one of the Knights Templars, so powerful and affluent in their day, and a capital one too, and consequently, that the lands in the neighbourhood of Spittal Hill, to a considerable extent in this and the parish of Watten, were the property of that society. What makes this the more credible is, that there is scarcely a parish in Scotland where that society have not had lands, and established religious houses. Nay, so much did their influence and wealth accumulate, that it was their ruin at last. They were envied and dreaded by both church and laity, who coveted their wealth. Hence this order was extinguished very early in the 14th century, deprived of their wealth, and a large share of it transferred to the order of St John of Jerufalem, who also were treated in the same manner, as soon as their affluence made them ripe for the rapacious hand of covetousness. But to return from this digression, which I could not well avoid.

Why this religious house was called Spittal, *viz.* Hospital, I cannot learn *; neither can I find what kind of religious

* Some people imagine, that those religious buildings were called Hospitals, or Spittals, because they furnished shelter and *hospitality* to pilgrims

gious were admitted to it, or what were the particular rules and orders observed by them, or, finally, at what period of time it was founded, or when it was demolished. But, from the character of the original founder, for no doubt there were large donations made to it after him, from this character, I say, and from the name of the house, *viz.* Spittal, it is more than probable that it was erected and endowed principally for the maintenance and instruction of the poor religious; or, at least, that there was an apartment for the reception of mendicants, who were entertained on the funds of that house, as was usually the case in these religious establishments. Circumstances also render it probable, that the house was stripped and demolished in the reign of James VI. or perhaps Mary. That the number admitted to it, and retained in it, was great, is very certain; and it is no less certain, that the revenues of it were very considerable also; for, besides other circumstances too tedious to mention, there is one, which seems to me to put this beyond all doubt, *viz.* that the church was very large and capacious, being some feet broader, and several feet longer than the present parish-church, which is among the largest in these northern counties; as also, that there were several houses round it, which surely were the cells or habitations of these religious, some of which, as appears from their vestiges, were large also. Besides these, there were other houses of the same nature, for the accommodation of the same establishment, at a further distance; more particularly, there was a very large one, at a place on a rising ground to the west of the church, called Auchinarras, that is, the
Field

pilgrims and mendicants. Near Spittle, as it is now sometimes spelt, there is a farm called Achachool, or Acha Choirl, (that is, the field of the meeting of council, or muster), where the people of Caithness, in former times, frequently assembled together.

Field of the Altar. From all which it appears, that the revenues of the house, and the number of religious retained in it, were very considerable. There is a report prevalent in this country, that all the inhabitants of Caithness assembled there periodically, as a place of rendezvous, being the most elevated and central in the county, and that the church contained them all. This may seem a hyperbole, a figure always attending vulgar report. But, in my opinion, with a little qualification, it is not altogether irreconcilable to truth. For, suppose the kirk could not hold them all, yet it would contain many of them, and the houses and cells round it, I am persuaded, would hold the surplus; more especially, when it is considered, that the people were then far less in number, and that they were only persons above a certain age that must have assembled there on these occasions.

The lands about that house were about 130 years ago in the possession of the Murrays of Pennyland in this country, which makes me suspect that they were derived to that family from a Gilbert Murray, Bishop of Sutherland and Caithness, who made, in his day, a capital figure in church and state, and who, it is probable, got these lands either by purchase, or by donation from the church, after the extinction of that order and that house. It was annexed to the diocese of Orkney, and is still on the Exchequer books as a part of that diocese.

The church of Skinnan was a large, coarse, massy building, as indeed was that of St Magnus, dedicated to a St Thomas, therefore called the church of St Thomas. By all accounts it was in Mr Abernethy's incumbency, the only church in what we now call the parish of Halkirk. Here the said Abernethy performed the functions of his office, but his dwelling was at Halkirk. Once, in a Sabbath evening, on his return home from church, he was accosted

coffed by one Mahan Ryan, by name, a ruffian, who lay in wait for him at the river, below the castle of Braal, when he so maltreated him by tumbling him off his horse into the river, and then by blows and suffocation of water, that he was carried home as bruised and suffocated to death. The villain's motive for this savage treatment, was, as it is said, to be revenged of the minister for interposing the authority of his office, and the discipline of church-laws, to check him, in his career of wickedness: so untractable and wild were the people in these days.

Not far from this church was another religious house, called the Abbey. The remains of it shew, that it has once been a large building. Why it was called the Abbey, who was the founder of it, what order of religious inhabited it, and when it was founded, and when demolished, I cannot find; but I am certain, from what it appears to have been, that it was the receptacle of many devotees, and that the funds to support it could not be small. Nigh this house are the remains of a fine monumental stone, that was erected there as a memorial of some interesting event. It was 9 feet high above ground. I cannot say nor find what the particular event was. But that it was revered, and sacredly preserved, as a distinguishing mark of something momentous, appears from hence, that in John Sinclair's time, late of Ulbster, proprietor of that land, a set of ruffians, broke it wantonly, who immediately were pursued by the neighbours; and on their being overtaken, a scuffle ensued, to which numbers resorted, and was the occasion of bloodshed. The said John Sinclair, heritable Sheriff of the county, decerned the sacrilegious villains in a fine of a cow the piece, which were added to the public funds. Soon afterwards the remains of the monument were erected, and inclosed with a stone dike at his own expence, both of which are since entirely demolished.

lished. It is called by the people to this day, *St Thomas's Chair*.

Besides these, there were several chapels, or places of worship, in other parts of the parish, some of which seem, from what yet appears of them, to have been of some note in those days. One at Westfield, called St Trostan; one at Olgangbeg, called St Peter; one at Deal; one at Sibster; one at Banniskirk, and several more. I can say nothing about them but one thing, *viz.* That the church had its own share largely of this parish, as indeed the bishop had of this diocese, which made it one of the most lucrative bishopricks in Scotland *.

Civil

* Before I dismiss this article, I would close it with a remark, and an anecdote. Such was the superstitious regard the people paid to these houses about 80 years ago, that there was scarcely any who was married, or delivered of child, or was successful in any enterprise, or rescued from any danger, but embraced the first opportunity, after such events, of repairing to one or other of these sacred houses, with a large gift or offering to the tutelar saint of that particular house. These gifts were a great share of the emoluments of the clergy in the days of Popery; and so fond were the people of paying them, in the time of reformation, when there was no ghostly priest to receive them, that they guzzled and gormandized the meat and drink-offering themselves, all along drinking the Saint's health. Thus they went sober devotees to visit the dead Saint, but returned home perfect Bacchanalians and Epicureans.

Anecdote.—So lightly were clergy and divine worship esteemed some time after the Reformation, that in Mr Cumming's days, the last Episcopalian minister in this parish, there was no singing of Psalms in church but the lettergae, as they called the precentor, and one Tait, gardener in Braal. This Tait sung so loud, and with such a large open mouth, that a young fellow, of the name of Iverach, was tempted to throw a small round stone into his mouth, whereby his teeth were broke, and his singing stopped at once, and he himself almost choaked. Iverach immediately took to his heels; the service was converted to laughter; two of

Tait's

Civil Antiquities.—Here Braal claims the first place. It is truly a beautiful and princely place, and may with great propriety be called the Paradise of Caithness. Indeed, it would make a figure in any northern county, were it duly improved, for which it is a most excellent subject in this corner of the world. Though very little improvements have been made upon it, in comparison of what it deserves, yet of old it was a capital seat of the Harolds Earls of Caithness. The fabric, which is called the Castle or Tower of Braal, stands on an eminence, at a small distance from the river of Thurso. It is completely square, of a very large area, wonderfully thick in the walls, which are partly built with clay, partly with clay and mortar mixed, and in some parts with mortar altogether. The stairs and conveyances to the several stories are through the heart of the walls. These stories were all of them floored and vaulted with stones prodigiously large, as are indeed most of the stones of the whole fabric. A great part of it still remains, is as plumb and firm as ever, and seems, from its structure, to have been very high and stately; and what is strange, the highest stones seem to be larger than those below. It surely cost immense labour to get some of them up to such a height, especially in those days, when it is to be supposed, they had no proper machinery for the purpose. The plummet and rule were surely well applied in the progress of the work, but there is not the least impression of block or chissel, which shews the great antiquity of it. It was manifestly a place of strength, as well as of habitation.

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Tait's sons chased and overtook him, and the scene was closed with a most desperate fight. This Tait was the progenitor of the Tait's in this country, and by his hand was planted a very large ash tree in Braal, which fell several years ago, and there remains, as the fallen monarch of the wood, and as a proof how his family would thrive there, if taken care of.

A deep, large, well contrived ditch secures it on the north; and I have reason to believe, that it was continued down to the river, which secures it on that quarter. It has the appearance of being fortified also with other outworks, such as walls, moats, &c. which have been all demolished, when the gardens about it were first planned or enlarged. It is not known by whom, or when it was built, though it is the current report, that it was built and inhabited by the Harolds, who came over here from Denmark, but more immediately from Orkney, where they bore a princely sway, as well as here. But very ancient as this fabric certainly is, there is the remains of another very near it, to the south, that seems to excel it far in antiquity, and to have been not inferior to it in strength. Nothing of it remains, but a huge unshapely cairn of stones, which yet indicate it to have been once a very large and strong fastness, I suspect that below it are subterraneous vaults and communications to other works, necessary for defence and security in those days of violence and constant invasion.

But the beauty of the whole are the remains of a much more modern building, which was extremely well begun, but never finished. It stands close to the bank of the river, below the fabrics above mentioned. The design is certainly grand and magnificent, and worthy of its princely site; and had it been finished, it would, in all appearance, have been one of the finest, and most stately, and commodious edifices in the north, according to the style of those times. The work was carried on a few feet above the vaults, which were completely finished, and are indications of the greatness, majesty, and elegance of what was to be above them. There, unluckily, the building was stopped, and never was resumed or attempted afterwards, though what was done already was a very great temptation to it.

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Though there was abundance of stones ready at hand, excellently calculated for building on any plan, yet to suit the grandeur and elegance of the design, vast numbers of large freestone were brought from the shore, at the distance of 8 miles. This carriage was attended with great labour and expence, and occasioned the death of several men and horses; and this is very credible, because at that time there were no roads; and if there were, yet there were no carts then in use, but the tenants behoved to carry them in loads on the backs of horses. In short, all things put together, speedily effected a total miscarriage of the undertaking, and the failure of funds, and left this piece of work as a standing monument of the undertaker's great spirit, but of his great folly also. It was begun by John Sinclair, one of the Earls of Caithness, distinguished by the mock appellation of *John the Waster*, but in what year is not known.

The gardens of Braal should not here be omitted. They have the appearance of antiquity also. They are very large, very pleasant and beautiful, divided according to the variety and taste required in horticulture, especially in this country, surrounded with trees, nurseries, plantations of wood, all of them at present in a thriving state. Very considerable improvements have been, and still are made upon it by the Ulbster family, the proprietors, but far short of what they might have been, and what so good a subject deserves. I have it from undoubted authority, that about 100 years ago these gardens produced a great deal of fruit, though of late years that produce has been but trifling. Before I close this article, I should observe, that the finest and earliest salmon in the kingdom, and in great numbers, could be fished every season of the year, close to these gardens, which would be a great convenience to any family residing there.

Dirlet

Dirlet Castle.—The next piece of antiquity worthy of notice is Dirlet Castle. It stands in a very beautiful romantic place in the Highlands, called Dirlet, on a round high rock, very steep, almost perpendicular on all sides. The rock and castle hang over a very deep dark pool, in the river Thurfo, which runs close by its side. On each side of the river and the castle, and very near them, are two other rocks much higher, looking down over the castle, with a stately and lowring majesty, and fencing it on these sides. By appearance, as well as by accounts, it was a place of strength in the days of rapine and plunder. For further security it had the river on one hand, and a ditch on the other, through which the water was conveyed, with a draw-bridge. The last inhabitant was a descendent of the noble family of Sutherland. He was called in Erse the *Ruder Derg*, that is, the Red Knight. Having been denounced a rebel for his oppressive and violent practices, he was apprehended by Mackay of Farr, his own uncle, and died on his way to Edinburgh, some say to Stirling, to be tried for his life. Mackay took possession of his estate, which consisted of the lands called the Tenpenny-land of Braygald, a very fine and lucrative estate, and his successors enjoyed it for a considerable time. Whether Mackay got these lands as a reward for his loyalty, and the services he did his King and country by this action, or by what other means, I cannot say. Neither can I say at what period of time this Ruder Derg lived. His name and title, by all accounts, was Sir William Sutherland of Braygald, that is, of the Height of Caithness. This estate has been for many years in the possession of the family of Ulbster, who acquired it from the Mackays.

Lochmore Castle.—The next in course is Lochmore castle, about 8 miles above Dirlet. It stood just on the bank of
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the loch, hanging over the first current of the river out of it. In that place the river is very narrow, and very deep, and withal very current. It is said, by report, to have been built and inhabited by a personage called *Morrar, na Shean* *, that is, Lord of the Game or Venison, because he delighted in these rural sports. It is said also, that there was a chest, or some kind of machine, fixed in the mouth of the stream, below the castle, for catching salmon in their ingress into the loch, or their egress out of it; and that, immediately as the fish was entangled in the machine, the capture was announced to the whole family by the ringing of a bell, which the motion and struggles of the fish set a-going, by means of a fine cord, that was fixed at one end to the bell, in the middle of an upper room, and at the other end to the machine in the stream below. This is by no means improbable; for in these days, when the salmon were more plenty than they are now, and had a free course, that stream and that loch must have been swarming with that fish; and it would be so still, had not our modern inventions prevented it.

This *Morrar, na Shean*, according to report, was very anxious and impatient to have a son to inherit his estates and honours; but he had only 3 daughters successively, at which he was so disappointed and enraged, that he maltreated the mother and the daughters; and the mother, dreading more and more her husband's displeasure and ill usage of herself and the infants, detached them privately to a place where, without his knowledge, they were reared up into very beautiful and accomplished young ladies, all along amusing the barbarian husband and parent with the laudable pretext that they were dead. *Morrar, na Shean,*

* There is reason to believe that his name was *Cheyne*.

Shean, at last despairing of having any more children, and making a vast regret that he had no child at all, his lady availed herself of the favourable opportunity, presents him with his 3 daughters, and thereby converts his rage and discontentment into a transport of joy and surprize. The happy snare disarmed him of his terrors; the charms of his daughters infused a complacency through his whole frame. The interview is a scene of love, heightened by a happy mutual disappointment; and he thanks God, that his estates would not be under the belt of one man, as he called it. They are soon disposed of in marriage; the eldest to a Sinclair from the Orkneys, the second to a Keith, and the last to one of another name, but of some rank.

This story is wild and romantic, but it is by no means irreconcilable to the savage notions and barbarous usages of these dark and superstitious times. It may not be altogether according to the original fact, but is exactly the current tradition of the neighbourhood. It may be too much exaggerated by the embellishments of fancy; yet, I am persuaded, it is founded on some event of this nature that has taken place in these times, otherwise it would not have been so currently and so sacredly transmitted from age to age by oral tradition. Who this *Morrar, na Shean* was, I cannot find; but I suspect that he was one of the Harolds, who had one of his seats at Braal, and retired occasionally to his hunting-seat at Lochmore for his amusement; for this reason he was called by the mock name of *Morrar, na Shean*, *i. e.* Lord of the Venison or Game, because he loved the one for his table and palate, and the other for his sport and amusement. It cannot be expected that I can ascertain the era when this wonderful story happened, though I doubt not, had I access to the archives of the old families in the country, but I might trace it out, at least by way of induction.

induction. Suffice it, that it has the appearance of a very old story, and that it is very probable that these marriages gave the Sinclairs and the Keiths, who came over here more immediately from the Orkneys, the first footing in Caithness, where, in a short time, they grew so great and powerful; and to make this still the more probable, there was a Keith a viceroy, if I recollect, in the Orkneys, under the Danish monarchy, before any of that name, and perhaps of the name of Sinclair, had a footing in this country.

Next presents itself the awful remains of a very large fabric, at a place called Achnavarn, near the loch of Cathel. It was certainly a building of great strength; and seems to have been the habitation of heroes, who delighted "in hardy deeds of arms," and who, therefore, were in danger, night and day, of being surpris'd on all hands by enemies of the same kidney. It was fortified by several outworks, the remains of which strike the beholder with a sensation of terror; for they bring to his view the violent and bloody scenes that have been there acted, together with the dreadful, precarious, and hostile state of these times. By whom or when it was built, or by whom inhabited, I cannot find; but only that current report says, that it was inhabited by a Danish prince. This is by no means incredible, especially when it is considered, that in those days this country was perpetually infested with noble adventurers from that kingdom, who possessed themselves, by force, of the property of the natives, and kept it afterwards by the same hostile and violent means by which they seized it, till at length they became as naturalized and secure as the natives themselves.

There are other remains of antiquity almost innumerable. Indeed, I know not any parish that abounds with more. What were the particular design or occasion of them I cannot

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not precisely say, neither can I well find. But they shew, in general, that this country was once a theatre of iniquity, bloodshed, and violence; natives oppressing and plundering natives, and foreign rapacious adventurers making a prey of them all. There is not one of these antiquities that has the least appearance of being the habitation of peace and security. Surely they cost immense labour and expence in building and defending them, and the people could not be weak or few in those days. For the manifest design of them required a great number of hands, and strong ones too, to accomplish it; but how they were supported and maintained, when the most of their time and labour must have been ingrossed by these machinations offensive and defensive, is a mystery which I cannot pretend to solve: for in such a state of affairs, though a great number of people and great expence was necessarily required for these purposes, yet very few hands, and very little time and industry could be spared for the purposes of life; and surely, when they fought so well, and so frequently in those days, they must have eat and drank well also; but how or whence they got these necessary supplies is, at this distance of time, hard to account for; for the people then, as appears by the monuments they left behind them, lived more by plunder and rapine, than by industry and cultivating the field. It is true, indeed, fishing and hunting, and the beasts of pasture, would furnish a considerable supply, as there was better game and fishing, and more cattle and pasture than are now. It is true also, that the foreign adventurers of the north would bring some money and provisions along with them. After all, it is still a mystery, and so I leave it.

Yet so it is, that the people were then numerous, and very robust, and well supported, otherwise they could not carry on and atchieve what they did. Their houses, or

rather fastnesses, seem all of them to have been completely circular from bottom to top, prodigiously thick in the walls, built with the largest stones they could get, without any timber at all. Many of them were built on eminences, many on plains and low places, according as best suited the design, and many surrounded with ditches or ramparts, with outposts or redoubts, in a degree less or more. They are here called indiscriminately, as is commonly the case, Pictish Houses, Druidical Temples, Repositories of the Dead, Cairns, Touliehs. No doubt, they had places and houses for all these purposes, besides their strong holds and places of strength; yet security and strength is the characteristic of all their houses of what kind soever. Those of them that were on the greatest eminences were evidently designed for watch-towers, whereby any alarm of danger, or approach of an enemy, was, quick as lightning, announced to the whole country, by the rapid communication of light from one watch-tower to another, and all these were so stationed, as most admirably to accommodate one another, and consequently the whole country, to the remotest corners, as may be seen by any spectator who compares them, their situations, and distances to one another. This admirable contrivance was necessary to a country exposed so much as this was to the frequent invasion of the Danes, and the inroads and incursions of their neighbours.

With regard to their dwelling-houses, I cannot pass over one or two things I observed more than once; the same is also observable in what remains of their strong towers; these were oblong open slits, at certain distances, all round in the walls; before each of these slits or windows was a lodgment, of the dimensions of a small bed. These lodgments are in the stair, which mounts spirally through the heart of the wall from bottom to top. The design of this
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is evident. Further, I have seen in them numbers of small round hard stones, in the form of a very flat or oblate sphere, of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick in the centre, and about 4 inches in diameter. I have also seen other round stones, perfectly circular, very plain and level on one side, with a small rise at the circumference, and about a foot in diameter. Now, I think the intention of both these kinds of stones is manifest. It was certainly to break and grind their grain, as they had no mills or machines for that purpose. This they did, by breaking the grain on the larger stone, with the small round oblate stone in their hand.

Besides these buildings of stone, several of which were prodigious, there are in various parts of the parish ditches or intrenchments no less astonishing, edged on the outside, or opposite parapet, with large mounds of earth and stone, and inclosing a deep hollow in the centre. These were certainly encampments, in which they fortified and intrenched themselves in the time of encounter, or when they took the field for actual engagement. Pitched battles have surely been fought in these places; and the remains of stones that have been erected near, and at several distances, from these intrenchments, were designed as memorials of persons of note, who have fallen either in close battle, or in the retreat or pursuit. But what these battles were, at what time, and by whom they were fought, or who were the eminent persons who fell, and for whom these memorials were erected, I believe is not to be found. By the bye, I have no doubt but some of these stones would be erected in order to defend a few persons from the missile weapons of the enemy, and to give them the advantage of dismissing their own missile weapons at them with the greater success and security, on what side soever of the stone they made their approach.

Literary

Literary Character.—I have no account of but one literary character, the Rev. Mr Daniel Campbell, son to a farmer, commonly called Padric Buy, that is, Yellow Peter, who was an Earse poet, as well as his son, who composed, however, both in Earse and English. This Daniel was, and is still called by the old people in this parish, patronimically, Donil Buy, that is, Yellow Donald. He was minister of Kilmichael of Glafferie in Argyleshire, in 1698, as a fragment of one of his books informs me, which I have now in my hands. How long he was in that parish before the publication of this book I cannot say. By all accounts he was a man of literature, very pious, devout, and sensible, and withal very generous and charitable, very popular, much esteemed, and eminently useful. He was, in his day, an able member, and distinguished character of the church, being also an excellent orator. This fragment, which is all I have seen of his works, is of a book entitled, *Sacramental Meditations on the Sufferings and Death of Christ*. A spirit of rational piety and good sense breathes through the whole performance, and it is reckoned a treasure by all the pious here who happen to fall upon it. It was dedicated to the Dutchess of Argyle. He wrote and published more essays in prose and verse. Besides, he was a principal hand in translating the Psalms of David into Irish verse, to be sung in the church, and supplied his friends in this country with copies of the first impression. He was very generously mindful of his friends and relations, especially in this parish; for severals of them being reduced in their circumstances, by the failure of crops, in consequence of a very severe frost early in harvest, he sent them frequent supplies of money from Argyleshire, particularly, two families in Rumdale, a place in the height of this parish, who were entirely

tirely supported by his munificence. In what particular year this frost happened I cannot say; but it was a memorable year, and fatal to many. That it happened in his own and his father's day, appears not only from the circumstance above mentioned, but also from a paragraph of a letter then wrote by the father to the son:—" *All di nues bere is, dat di doks got over try on Poul Hacrigg, on di tird of Augt.*" i. e. " *All the news here is, that the dogs got over dry on the Pool of Halkirk.*" The particular day of the week on which it happened was Sunday; and that it was peculiarly fatal to Padric Buy, appears from the following poem he made on the occasion:

Roodh ud'hanic, ar Diadonich,
Chour, a brone, as moüllard orm:
Choife a mishe, bhoay noal,
Snichibhe mor, cho büirras leamhe.

Gud' chüirin cear, err, do bhoalidh,
Cheart, o croay, 'fa bürridh, dhaidh,
Noair, a scoabidh leamhe, a laar
Cho dheanidh, a tradh, don' bhüirichin.

In English:—

The Sabbath of the fatal frost
Did me great pain and sorrow cost.
It check'd me in my drink career,
For little cash had I to spare.

Though to the flail four men apply,
And on the sheaf with vengeance lay,
The floor, at night, swept clean and well,
Can scarce produce a scanty meal.

Language.—This county, being of old inhabited by a mixture of people of different languages and usages, I believe more so than any other county in Scotland, the origin

gin of several customs, which have prevailed for a long time afterwards, and some of which do still prevail, is to be traced to that period. From this intermixture spring many words in their language, especially words expressive of the names of persons, of places, of vessels, and various utensils and instruments, &c. But a very considerable part of this intermixture being Danes and Norwegians, as these were, by all accounts, superior in power and possession, so their language and usages would be the most prevalent also; and among the other effects of this prevalence, were the names which were given to places, many of which are manifestly of Danish origin. This circumstance, together with the variations they have necessarily undergone in the different stages of time since that period, render it almost impossible to ascertain, or trace out their real meaning at this distance of time.

At present there are two languages spoken in this parish, *viz.* the Earse and the English. The former is much corrupted, but yet spoken with great fluency and emphasis, and not without harmony of sound. The latter has also many words, which are neither English nor Scotch, yet, according to its idiom, it is spoken with great propriety, and the sentiments are expressed by it, either in narration or description, as intelligibly and significantly, as in any county in Great Britain, nay, I dare say, more so than in most of them. These languages are spoken in various degrees. Some speak only the Earse, but do not speak or understand the English; some understand the English, but do not speak it; some speak the English, but do not speak or understand the Earse; some understand the Earse, but do not speak it; but the greatest number speak and understand both these languages equally well. This is their state with regard to language; but of late years, the English is making great progress at the expence of the Earse.

Farms.

Farms.—The farms in this parish are of great variety with respect to rent or tack-duty, ascending through various degrees, from L. 2 to L. 200. Those of them that fall under the description of too large tacks or farms, are certainly a great bane to industry and population, and the necessary causes of many inconveniencies to subtenants; and it is equally certain, that the advantages arising from them either to the tacksman or the proprietor, are imaginary and delusive, and terminate in the prejudice of the interest of both. But how happens this? Why, the tacksman, who is not able to labour but a very small part of the tack himself, and founds his credit and support on what he can make of the subtenants, this tacksman, in order to keep credit with the proprietor, and to support his family, imposes, and perhaps of necessity, heavy burdens on the subtenants, by which they are in the end disabled to keep credit with this tacksman. The proprietor, by the rent he exacts from the tacksman, will reduce him in the end to bankruptcy, if he has no other shift; and if he should have such shifts, it is odds but he must pay for these also, as soon as they are perceived. Thus, the great evil originates with the proprietor, though perhaps undesignedly. Yet I will not stand forth in the vindication of these large tacksmen. They themselves are much to blame, either by taking tacks, which oblige them to distress others and themselves; or, if they hold their tacks on reasonable terms, by oppressing their subtenants, not from motives of necessity, but from motives of gain, and to make themselves easy at their expence.

And, as too large farms are great evils, for the reasons above stated, so, on the other hand, too small ones are no less so, for other reasons no less important. They are too inadequate to the burden they have to support, even when
they

they are held on reasonable terms ; but how much more so when the case is often otherwise. What is this burden ? Why, these tacks subject their possessors to several servitudes, which ought necessarily to be bestowed on their families and farms ; to expences in labouring, too disproportionate to the profits they can expect. They have rents to pay, a family and servants to support, a horse, an ox, and cow to buy, any of which may be more than the rent ; and oftentimes their small crops are very much curtailed by the rapacious hand of the miller, who has every power and opportunity in his hands to treat them without mercy. Now, these are things which too small a farm cannot bear, even though the tenant held it otherwise on reasonable terms. They are, at best, but a deceitful kind of wretchedness, amusing them with gilded and fallacious hopes, which reconcile them to their present state, but seduce them into complete ruin at last. The meanest servant of such a tenant reaps much more from his tack than he does himself.

Another great evil arising from these too small farms is, that they are a strong temptation to tradesmen to take them, whenever they have made a few pence by their trade, in which they were prosperous before they became tenants ; now, being entrapped into a farm, their families and their trade rush into ruin at once. By this means a good and useful tradesman is lost to the public, or rather becomes a burden to it.

There is, further, another evil accompanying these too small tacks ; they entice many from the service to become tenants, who could have lived more comfortably and usefully in their former state. This is one great reason why servants are so dear, and so difficult to be got by the farmer, or if he gets them, that they are so uninterested and careless in his service. From the moment they engage in

the service, the only object that occupies their attention is to gather a few pence, to enable them to marry, and take one of these small farms. Thus they are impatient of the service, and make it only a job of very secondary consideration while they are in it. Hence it is, that they leave the service without any great stock or character, and reduce themselves to misery at last; whereas, if they had not the temptation of these small tacks before them, necessity and self-interest would compel them to make a character in the service, because, in this case, their future prospects would entirely depend upon it, having no immediate prospect of being able to take a farm, which would require a greater stock than servants usually can afford. Thus, the parish would be better accommodated in servants; and the servants, on the other hand, would live more comfortably. This is by no means meant to limit or circumscribe the chances of servants. No; on the contrary, it is their true interest and welfare I aim at.

There is yet another grievance occurs to me, and of which these too small tacks are the occasion. The continual necessities of their possessors put them on shifts for present relief, which come upon them with vengeance at last. They spend a great part of summer and harvest in carrying peats and heather to Thurso, which would have been more usefully and profitably bestowed on the necessary purposes of the farm. Had this time and labour they subtract from the farm been in any tolerable degree compensated by their profits in this business of carriage, there would be less to say. But this is not the case; for the value they get for their time and labour is very inconsiderable; and what makes it more so is, that a great part, if not the whole of it, is spent uselessly before they return; and their horses, which are a great part of their stock, are both jaded and starved. Had they been near the town,

and provided in carts, it would have made this business more tolerable and profitable; but, on the contrary, they carry them the distance of 9 or 10 miles, and in bad roads, and on their horses backs; and six horses will not carry what one cart would hold, and one horse would carry in that cart with ease; mere necessity is the cause of this wretched business.

From the same cause it is also, that numbers of these small tenants sell, early of the year, and at a low price, the victual that should go to support their families, and pay the master. By this means, in order to silence the clamorous dun of their creditors, who, no doubt, may avail themselves of their necessity, little remains for the rent and the family; and if it should so happen that they pay the rent, yet they are, at the long run, reduced to the necessity of buying victual at a dearer rate than they sold; and if they have no money or credit, as for the most part they have not, the master must interpose with his purse or his victual, or they must starve. Very often they make whisky of their beer, with a pretence to make money for the rent. By this business, whatever profit the distiller may have, I am sure they can have none, but rather loss, considering the time spent, the duty paid, the whisky drunk, the pot hire, as they call it, and the want of the draff and burnt ale, which go to the distiller. Now, from what I have said about farms, it is not to be understood that I allude to the positive dearness of tacks. No; I all along allude to their relative dearness, or as they stand with respect to the present state of things in the parish.

Services.—I have mentioned services more than once as a grievance. They are so, and ought to be abolished, if for no other reason, yet for this great one, *viz.* that the tenant might have all his time and labour for the purposes of
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of his farm and credit. These will necessarily require the whole of his industry and time, though none of them were bestowed to serve the purposes of the landlord. Here it may be said, that these services are abundantly compensated by the easy terms on which they hold their tacks. This is mere delusion; for scarcely will any consideration of this kind, were it true, compensate the neglect of their own necessary affairs at home. Besides, on the supposition that they have value in their tacks for these services, yet, being always in pinching circumstances, it is with the greatest reluctance they perform them. Because they are not animated with a present meal for their hungry paunch, and with the prospect of payment at night to carry it home to a craving family, they consider the whole as lost time and labour; therefore they perform the service but very heavily and indifferently, and are well pleased how little the work is if the night is come. This being the case, what they do is far short of the work of a day-labourer, who expects his hire at night to refresh and enliven himself and family on his return. Thus the master's work goes on but slowly and slightly, and their own work at home neglected.

Mills.—Mills are, in some parts at least of the parish, a very great and shameful grievance. The proprietor, for an advance of rent, is tempted to give a lease of the farm and mill upon it, without any restrictions. The tacksmen, thinking he pays too dear, falls on shifts to make reprisals. He subsets the mill to under millers, at a rate which they are not able to answer. The millers, that they may keep credit, of necessity oppress the suckeners. The suckeners complain to the laird, or his factor. They get no hearing or redress. They return home, lamenting their fate. The millers redouble their oppression. The suckeners

ers go in humble prostration before the master miller, and present their petition to his majesty. His interest is too much concerned; he knows the millers cannot pay him, unless they are very severe; he turns his back, bids the distressed suppliants good day; he has nothing to do with the mill; it is sublet; let them agree with the millers. Thus they all sin by proxy, and the poor suckener is the sacrifice. Thus the proprietor and tenant pay dearly for this additional rent, for more reasons than one, which are too obvious to be mentioned. However, it is not amiss to produce an instance. There is a tack in my neighbourhood, the rent of which is L. 46. It is as much a gras as a corn tack. This tack pays the mill, according to the present price of victual, L. 8, 10s. which is very near 1-5th of the rent; and yet the miller is not satisfied. Not many years ago, the multure, &c. paid out of this farm was not near one half of what it is now, neither was the produce of it less, however more.

Conclusion.—Now all these evils, and many more, might be removed, and many great advantages introduced, if the present state of things were modified, or in some measure altered. This, I think, might be easily effected; and the parish is a most excellent subject for it. I need not point out the means whereby this desirable end would most likely be brought about. They are obvious to common observation. If the heritors had attended more to their own true interest, and considered that of their tenants as their own, for they are inseparable; if they had done this, it would naturally and necessarily lead them into this meliorating plan; but the difficulty is to persuade them that the adoption of such a plan would be their interest. The temptation of present gain makes them blind to what would enlarge their future prospects,
and

and be forthcoming with double interest to their advantage. But what is this plan? Let them duly consider the present state of things, and it will suggest the plan to them. The malady will point out the remedy, if they chuse to embrace and apply it. Without entering deep into this affair, which I leave to themselves and more able hands, I would beg leave to suggest to them in general the necessity and great advantage of exciting a spirit of industry, frugality, and emulation among their tenants, by due encouragement and good example, of putting their traffick and commerce into a better channel; of introducing into the parish some branches of trade and manufacture, of which it is capable; of animating them with the comfortable prospect of enjoying the fruit of their labours; and finally, and above all, of cherishing and cultivating their principles, both moral and religious. This would, in a short time, bring about better crops, and a greater variety of them; more particularly, it would introduce the raising of flax, for which this parish is well calculated. It would further enlarge their commerce and credit, would furnish a more ready market, which they often want; and turn the balance of trade, which at present is against them in several articles, to be in their favour. Finally, it would make cultivation less expensive, and more effectual, especially in the articles of servants and labouring cattle, which are just now a burden; for near one half of both would serve all the purposes of the farmer, if they were of a better kind, and properly guided. We shall conclude with the following

Statistical

Statistical Table of the Parish of Halkirk.

Length in English miles,	24	Number of unmarried women	
Breadth, - - -	9	above 45, - - -	400
Population in 1755, - -	3075	----- widowers, - -	40
----- in 1791, - -	3180	----- widows, - -	89
Increase, - - -	105	----- members of the E-	
Average of births for several		stablished Church, -	3180
years preceding 1791,	85	----- Proprietors residing,	3
----- of marriages ditto,	28	----- non-resid.	3
Number of males, - -	1650	Established clergyman, -	1
----- females, - -	1530	Missionary. - - -	1
----- persons under 5		Number of schoolmasters, -	2
years of age, - - -	952	Innkeeper, - - -	1
----- between 10 & 20,	685	Number of tradesmen, -	73
----- between 20 & 50,	986	----- day-labourers,	50
----- between 50 & 70,	482	----- men-servants,	308
----- between 70 & 80,	55	----- women-servants,	321
----- between 80 & 90,	20	----- poor, - - -	150
----- families, - -	530	----- carts, - - -	220
----- bachelors, or un-		----- ploughs, - - -	312
married men above 50,	380		

Valued rent, in Scotch-money, - - - - -	L. 3314 7 8
Real rent, in Sterling, anno 1791, - - - - -	2200 0 0

S T O C K.

Number of horses, - -	1650	Number of goats, - -	130
----- cattle, - -	4063	----- swine, - -	190
----- sheep, - -	2890	----- ploughing oxen,	294

P R O D U C E.

Bear and oat meal, - - - - -	15,500 bolls.
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A N N U A L S A L E.

Average export of grain, - - - - -	1800 bolls.
Average sale of cattle, - - - - -	1000 head.

N U M-

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF FALKIRK,

(COUNTY OF STIRLING, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEED-
DALE, PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW),

By JAMES WILSON, M. A. *Minister of the Parish.*

Boundaries, and general Description.

THE parish of Falkirk is between 7 and 8 miles in length from E. to W. and in some parts more than 4 miles in breadth. It is bounded on the E. by the frith of Forth and the parish of Polmont; on the S. by the parishes of Polmont and Slamannan; on the W. by Cumbernauld and Denny; and on the N. by the river Carron, which separates it from the united parishes of Larbert and Dunipace. By the changes which the course of this river has undergone, a few houses belonging to this parish are now on the Larbert side; and a few, which are connected with that parish, are on the Falkirk side of the river.

From

From a reference to the parish of Falkirk, in an action with respect to the patronage of the church and parish of Oldhamstocks, in the presbytery of Dunbar, which was depending in the year 1748 between the King and Mr Hay of Lawfield, it appears that the parishes of Denny, Slamannan, Muiravonside, and Polmont, constituted formerly parts of the parsonage of Falkirk. The three first of these parishes must have been very early separated from Falkirk; but it was not till the year 1724 that Polmont was formed into a parish. The minister of Polmont has not only stipend from his own parish, but also from those of Falkirk and Denny.

The estate of Callander having been confiscated immediately after the commotion in the year 1715, it was sold about the year 1720; and such tithes as were not conveyed with the estate, were disposed of by the commissioners and trustees of the forfeited estates in Scotland to Mr Hamilton of Dichmond, under this express stipulation, that they should be subject to the stipend of a minister for the new parish, which was to be taken off the parish of Falkirk. This circumstance explains by what means it happened that stipend is paid both out of this parish and Denny to the minister of Polmont.

Falkirk is situated on the north road between Edinburgh and Glasgow, and it is nearly at an equal distance from both. The road to Stirling and the North Highlands also passes through this town. Falkirk was once denominated *Ecclesbrae*, that is, the Church on the Brow; and the name is truly descriptive of the situation, for the town stands on an eminence, which has a declivity on every side. In the Gaelic language it is called an *Eglais bbris*, but more commonly an *Eglais bbrec*. The former of these phrases signifies the Broken Church, which some think is not improperly translated Falkirk, that is, the Fallen Church. Certain,

tain it is, that the church of Falkirk, as it now stands, has not all been built at the same time. In the year 1166, it was given * to the monastery of Holyroodhouse by the Bishop of St Andrew's; and as the parishes belonging to these religious foundations were often not properly attended to with respect to religious instruction and accommodation, so it is not improbable that the church of this parish might have been permitted to fall into ruin, and thence the name under consideration might have taken its rise.

An Eglais bbrec, the latter of the Gaelic designations which I mentioned, signifies the Spotted Church. To this name Buchanan, who understood the Gaelic language, gives his support, for in his History of Scotland he calls Falkirk, "Varium Sacellum." It is supposed by some, that it got that designation from the party-coloured appearance of the stones in the building.

As the wall of Antoninus, which will afterwards be described, passed very near the church, and where a part of the town is built, some are of opinion, that the present name of this place is derived from *Vallum* and *Kirk*, which by an easy transition, became Falkirk, thereby signifying the Church upon the Wall.

The greater part of this parish is inclosed and subdivided, as well as enriched by trees, villas, and gentlemens seats. The numerous fine trees which are in Callander park and its neighbourhood, together with the wood belonging to the same place, add much to the pleasantness of the town of Falkirk; as it is situated in the immediate vicinity of these rural and enlivening objects. From the manse, and other places on the north side of the town, the prospect is delightful, and comprehends a fertile and well-cultivated country of 12 or 14 miles square, which is bounded by the

* Nimmo's History of Stirlingshire, page 136.

Ochil-hills and elevated situations in the counties of Stirling, Fife, and Linlithgow. Toward the N.W. the tops of some of the Highland hills are to be seen, involved in clouds, and at certain seasons of the year covered with snow, when none of it is to be seen elsewhere within the whole compass of our prospect. A part of the frith of Forth, presenting itself to view, and the vessels, passing on the canal, within a mile of Falkirk, enhance considerably the beauty of the scene.

When this prospect is involved in the darkness of night, the flashes of light from the iron-works at Carron, appear in awful and sublime majesty. When a fall of rain or snow is soon to happen, the light is refracted by the thick and moist atmosphere, and considerable illuminations appear in the air above the works. These are seen at a considerable distance, and great flashes of light are thrown into the houses in this neighbourhood, which have windows toward the Carron works. Upon the eminence on the S. of Falkirk, the prospect not only comprehends the whole view which I have described, but also the scenery about Callander house, to which I have already alluded; the vessels in the harbour of Grangemouth; the masts of those in that of Borrowstounness; the ruins of the palace of Linlithgow; the steeples of that town, and those of Dunfermline; together with a variety of striking objects on both sides of the frith of Forth, as well as those which appear in other points of the prospect.

Population, and Ecclesiastical State.—The parish of Falkirk contains about 8020 inhabitants. In the town there are 3892; in the village of Camelon there are 568; in that of Briansford*, 758; in the village of Grangemouth, 419; and in that of Laurieston, 858; in the country part of the parish

* Commonly called Bainsford.

parish the inhabitants are about 1534 in number*. Among a people so numerous, we must expect to find different sentiments respecting religion, as well as about every other subject which comes under their consideration; but it is no small consolation to see, that the bitterness of ill-directed zeal is fast giving way to charity, and the natural influence of progressive improvements. Nothing will stand the test of time and experience, but that which is founded on truth. Error and prejudice will pass away; and it behoves us to rejoice, that amongst the wreck of false or unimportant speculations, virtue will remain without a blemish, and completely secure. It is the essence of true religion; it is the point where men of worth meet; and it is the centre from which every ray of excellence proceeds. The jarrings of interest may, on occasions, disturb the calmness of human life; but if reason direct the thoughts, and conduct the actions, the effects on the whole must be harmony and peace.

In the town of Falkirk, there is one chapel for the Burghers, two for the Antiburghers†, and one belonging to the Relief interest. In Lauriestown, there is a chapel for the most ancient Presbyterian Dissenters in Scotland, who are generally known by the name of Macmillanites. The congregations of these different meeting-houses are
 composed

* The annual number of births, taken upon an average from January 1. 1784 to January 1794, is 272. The annual number of marriages taken in the same manner, for the same term of years, is 62. But it appears, that the population of the parish is increasing, for the average of marriages for the last eight years is 72.

† There is a difference subsisting between the two congregations of Antiburghers in this town, which arose chiefly from the manner of setting apart the elements in the Lord's supper.

composed of people from this and other parishes. In this parish there are a few of the Episcopal persuasion, who have an opportunity of attending divine service every fortnight at Carron. The Roman Catholics are very few in number here, and have no place of worship in the neighbourhood.

The church of Falkirk is the only place of public worship in this parish for those who belong to the religious establishment of Scotland. The building is in the form of a cross, and far from being sufficient for the accommodation of those who wish to attend; but it is hoped something will soon be done to provide a remedy for this inconvenience.

Before the Reformation, the parish of Falkirk belonged to the see of St Andrew's. Immediately after that period, and before the Presbyterian mode of worship had assumed its present form, there were superintendents appointed for the different districts of the country. Falkirk was within the bounds of Mr Spottiswood's inspection, who was parson of Calder-Comitis*, and father of Spottiswood, who succeeded the superintendent in the parsonage of Calder, was Archbishop of Glasgow after Episcopacy was re-established in Scotland, wrote a history of the Church, and, after enjoying many honours, died Archbishop of St Andrew's.

While he presided over this see, that part of the diocese which was situated on the south side of the frith of Forth was erected into a bishoprick, and called the see of Edinburgh. St Giles's was the cathedral, and the minister of Falkirk was one of the twelve prebends. His salary for this office was L. 80 Scotch, which is L. 6 : 13 : 4 Sterling. A person of the name of Forbes was the first Bishop of this

* This parish is now divided into two, which are called Mid and West Calder.

this diocese. He is represented as having been a man of learning and piety, but rather suspected of being a friend to Popery. His studies were chiefly directed toward antiquities; and being recluse in his manners, he was little acquainted with the world. It is said that it was no uncommon thing for him to preach five or six hours at a time*.

After the benefice of Falkirk was bestowed upon the monastery of Holyroodhouse, the living of this parish became a vicarage. The great tithes, which formerly belonged to the parson, were then claimed by the religious order to which they had been given, and the minister of the parish was paid with the small; and the parson of Falkirk still receives some small sums of money as vicarages. The stipend of this parish consists at present of 32 bolls of barley, 64 of oat-meal, and about L. 65 : 14 : 2¹¹ of money, together with a manse, garden and glebe. The minister of Falkirk also claims a right of getting from the estate of Callander all the coals which are made use of by his family, without any other expence than that of paying for cutting them from the stratum in the pit, and bringing them home. Among several donations which King David I. made to the monastery of Newbattle, was that of fuel and pasture for cattle in the wood of Callander †, and it was upon this grant, I presume, that the privilege under consideration was founded.

The King is patron of this church, and has the right of presenting ministers to all the parishes of which the Earl of Linlithgow and Callander was patron before he was attainted of high treason. The patronage of the church of Denny appears, by the deed of conveyance, to have been
fold

* Burnet's History of his own times, vol. i. p. 31.

† Nimmo's History of Stirlingshire, p. 135.

fold along with the barony of Herbertshire in the year 1632. This transaction was sanctioned by charters of confirmation from the King in the years 1654 and 1680. However the King, as well as Mr Muirhead, claims the right of presenting, and the matter has not yet been brought to a final decision.

Schools.—The grammar-school of Falkirk is justly held in great reputation. Besides the school-wages, the master enjoys a salary and considerable emoluments as session-clerk. We have here a school for English, to which there is also a salary annexed, the master whereof has no small degree of merit in the line of his profession. There are other schools in Falkirk which do honour to their masters; and, upon the whole, our youths have good opportunities of laying the foundation of future usefulness and importance.

In the village of Camelon there is a dwelling-house and school-room provided for the encouragement of a schoolmaster, but no salary. Lord Dundas of Aske gives to a schoolmaster in Grangemouth a house to dwell in, a school-room, and L. 5 a-year. In Laurieston he gives a dwelling-house and school-room, but not any salary. One of the name of Scott, some years ago, left a small sum of money for the encouragement of a school at Bonny-bridge, which is toward the west end of this parish.

Though populous and flourishing situations like Falkirk yield a decent competence for the support of respectable schoolmasters, yet in few situations are they paid in proportion to their usefulness in society.

Country schools, where the inhabitants are neither rich nor numerous, require at this time peculiar attention. Parish schools in general ought to have their salaries increased, as every thing necessary for the comfort and support of life is rising in value, except money, which must of course

course fall in proportion. Parish schools have been the great nurseries of that general knowledge which is so commonly to be found even among the peasants of Scotland; and from them some of our most illustrious characters have sprung forth. But I am afraid, if additional encouragement be not soon given, that those sources of improvement and wisdom must soon be abandoned to the direction of the illiterate. Men of learning and ability will not chuse to languish in obscurity and indigence, but will seek for employment in some of the more lucrative situations of civil life; and then the nation will be prevented from being adorned and improved by those luminaries, which opportunities of education would have formed and drawn out to public view.

Poor.—The number of persons in this parish who are at one time upon the poors roll, may be estimated at an average at somewhat more than 150. They are supplied with small sums of money, according to their circumstances, from 1 s. to 5 s. or 6 s. a-month. The money which is thus expended on the indigent of this parish arises from funds belonging to the poor, from offerings at the church-gates on days of divine service, from other voluntary contributions, and from an assessment which the landholders annually lay upon themselves of L. 1 Sterling for every L. 100 Scotch of valued rent in the parish. As many persons, from the nature of their property, are little or in no degree exposed to the assessment, there is an annual, voluntary and liberal subscription in the town of Falkirk, and in the villages of the parish.

There is also in the town of Falkirk an hospital for the support of four aged and infirm persons. It was founded and endowed in 1640 by Lord Livingston of Almond and Callander. This deed was amplified and confirmed by him in the year 1668, after he was created Earl of Callander.

Upon

Upon certain parts of the estates which then belonged to his Lordship, there is security given for the fulfilment of the obligation. Moreover, if his Lordship, or any of the successors to his estates, should neglect or refuse to fill up any vacancy in this hospital, it is provided by the {foresaid act, that, if this neglect or refusal be persisted in, after notice shall have been given in due form to the person or persons then possessing the Callander estates, then the minister of Falkirk for the time being is authorized to present a proper object of this charity to fill any vacancy which shall be in the circumstances now described. Mr Richard Callander, then minister of Falkirk, and his successors in that office, were, in the above specified deed, made, constituted and appointed patrons of this hospital, and were lawfully authorized to nominate and admit proper poor persons to the benefit thereof in all cases where the said Earl or his successors should refuse or illegally delay to do their duty.

There are several societies in this town and neighbourhood for the support of the members thereof, when they are seized by sickness, infirmity or old age; but it is much to be lamented, that institutions of this kind are not more common and extensive. When the labourer is in health, he finds sufficient demands for his money, and too seldom thinks of making a little retrenchment in his expences, in order that he may prepare for the evil day. The Legislature have turned their attention to those useful and important societies, but much still remains to be done, in order to insure their extension and success.

Agriculture, and rural Improvements.—The land immediately about the town of Falkirk is let in small pieces, and produces a rent of L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3, 5 s. *per acre*, Scotch measure*. The Carse farms, upon an average, may

* The Scotch acre contains 54,760 square feet, and the statute acre 43,560.

may be stated at L. 2 an acre ; more or less, according to circumstances. Good land, which is not of Carse quality, is also let at a very high rent ; but in some parts of the parish, where the soil is poor, wet, and spongy, the value of the acre is very small.

In the Carse, the crops of grain and hay are so luxuriant and productive, that the farmers have but a small portion of their land in pasture ; and of course they have no more cattle than are necessary for the family and the farm.

The rotation of farming in the Carse of Falkirk consists in general of six parts : First, the ground is fallowed ; secondly, it is sown with wheat ; thirdly, with beans and pease ; fourthly, with barley ; fifthly, it produces a crop of grass for hay, the seeds of which had been sown the preceding year with the barley ; and sixthly, it is sown with oats.

The valued rent of the parish, by which the land-tax, parish assessments, &c. are paid, is L. 13,521 : 8 : 6 Scotch money *. The rental of the parish, about fourteen years ago, was estimated at L. 6,277, 9 s. Sterling ; but owing to the improvements which have taken place since that period, the rental cannot now be less than L. 9000. House-rents are not taken into the account in either of the above valuations.

Soon after the estates of the family of Linlithgow and Callander were forfeited, they were purchased by the Company which undertook to raise water from the river Thames into the York-buildings, for supplying a part of the city of London. The affairs of that Company having soon after gone into disorder, their whole estates were sold for the benefit of their creditors by the authority of the Court of Session ; and those of Callander and Almond

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were

* A pound Scotch is twenty pence Sterling ; but all payments in this country are now made by Sterling money.

were bought by William Forbes, Esq; the present proprietor.

The whole estates, together with some other farms which were purchased by him about the same time, amounted to about 8000 Scotch acres; almost 7000 of these are in this parish. Excepting about 500 acres, it was all arable; but little more than 200 of it were inclosed. The whole farms were out of lease, and the tenants were all removed as soon as they could provide themselves with other situations, in order that there might be no obstruction to the intended improvements.

Almost the whole of these estates is now inclosed and subdivided. The fences are, as much as possible, drawn at right-angles to one another; the ridges are straightened; and the wet parts are drained, or in the train of being done with all convenient speed. The inclosures which are near the town of Falkirk or the villages adjoining, contain each from three to four Scotch acres of land; but those which are in different situations, comprehend from seven to eight acres of the same measure.

About 2000 acres, which are near the canal and in the vicinity of Falkirk, were limed upon the green sward, and let to tenants for the space of two years, who were bound to lay them down with grass-seeds in the last year of their lease. A considerable part of the land, which was overrun by heath, broom and furze, was let to tenants also, who were to plough it five times. This in like manner was to be laid down for grass; but in both cases the grass-seeds were to be provided by the proprietor, and at his expence.

These improvements will not only add much to the beauty of a district already delightful; but when completed, will add much to the richness of this neighbourhood. It is one distinguishing feature in the improvements of Mr Forbes, that they are intended to be completed before he
let.

let the land in long leases ; whereas it is common to carry on improvements after the farms are in the possession of tenants.

Of Servants Wages, Prices of Food, &c.—A good ploughman gets about L. 12 a-year, together with his bed and board ; and a common female servant expects from L. 3, 10 s. to L. 4 *per annum*, independent of food and lodging. A man who engages to labour by the day, has 1 s. 2 d. in summer, and 1 s. in winter. During harvest the wages are higher. Great quantities of grain, especially barley, beans, and pease, are sold in this market. Carse barley is held in such high estimation, that it brings, in general, two or three shillings *per boll* more than barley from other parts of the country. During these several months, the price of grain has been extravagant ; barley has been sold at L. 1 : 12 s. *per boll*, wheat at L. 2 : 12 : 6, and oat-meal at 1 s. 4 d. a-peck. It is worthy of observation, that in former times of scarcity, the people of Scotland looked up to England, as well as to foreign countries, for supply ; but in the present season, when the people of England are in want, we have not only plenty within our borders, but have been enabled to relieve them in their necessity.

Markets, &c.—Besides several fairs in the year, and three tryfts *, there is a market every week on Thursday. At these three tryfts there are, at an average, 60,000 black cattle. As most of them are of the small Highland breed, the medium price may be fixed at L. 4 each. Thus at these meetings, it is supposed, L. 400,000 Sterling are put into circulation. Not a small proportion of this money passes through the Falkirk Bank. There are also horses and sheep disposed of at these markets.

By

* Tryft is a Scotch word for an appointed meeting.

By the favour of Mr Longmoor, a very accurate farmer, I have it in my power to lay before the public a statement of the prices which the Carse wheat, barley, and oat-meal, brought for the space of 40 years preceding the crop of 1794.

Prices of Karse Grain for 40 years preceding crop 1794.

Crop	Wheat per boll.	Barley per boll.	Meal per boll.
	L. o 14 0	L. o 11 8	L. o 10 6
1755	o 15 10	o 14 4	o 13 8
1756	1 3 0	1 0 0	o 16 8
1757	1 0 0	o 16 8	o 9 0
1758	o 14 6	o 10 8	o 9 0
1759	o 14 6	o 11 0	o 9 4
1760	o 16 0	o 11 8	o 10 4
1761	o 15 10	o 12 9	o 14 0
1762	1 1 0	o 17 0	o 15 0
1763	1 0 0	o 16 6	o 12 6
1764	1 1 0	o 16 6	o 15 0
1765	1 1 6	1 1 3	o 17 6
1766	1 1 6	1 2 0	o 16 10
1767	1 2 0	1 1 8	o 12 0
1768	1 2 0	o 16 4	o 15 0
1769	o 18 0	o 16 8	o 15 0
1770	o 18 6	o 17 6	o 15 0
1771	1 2 0	1 0 4	o 17 0
1772	1 4 0	1 1 8	o 16 10
1773	1 4 0	1 1 0	o 16 0

Medium price from 1753 to 1774, being 20 years,

Wheat, per boll, -	L. o 19	5 $\frac{6}{12}$
Barley, ——— -	o 16	10 $\frac{1}{12}$
Meal, ——— -	o 14	1 $\frac{1}{12}$

Crop

Prices of Kerse Grain continued.

	Wheat per boll.			Barley per boll.			Meal per boll.		
Crop 1774	L. 1	1	0	L. 0	19	0	L. 0	15	0
1775	0	19	0	0	17	0	0	12	8
1776	0	19	0	0	15	3	0	12	8
1777	1	1	0	0	16	6	0	14	6
1778	0	19	0	0	15	9	0	13	0
1779	0	15	0	0	15	3	0	12	0
1780	1	1	0	0	15	3	0	14	4
1781,	0	19	0	0	14	10	0	14	3
1782	1	6	0	1	6	6	0	17	6
1783	1	0	0	1	0	6	0	18	8
1784	0	19	6	1	1	6	0	13	4
1785	1	0	0	0	16	0	0	16	0
1786	0	18	0	0	19	6	0	16	0
1787	1	1	0	0	19	0	0	16	0
1788	1	0	6	0	16	9	0	13	6
1789	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	17	0
1790	1	3	0	0	19	0	0	16	8
1791	1	1	6	1	2	0	0	15	3
1792	1	2	0	1	4	0	0	1	0
1793	1	4	0	1	0	6	0	18	0

Medium price from 1773 to 1794, the last 20 years,

Wheat,	-	L. 1	0	8
Barley,	-	0	18	8 ^s
Meal,	-	0	15	3 ^d

Our markets are well supplied with butcher-meat of excellent quality. It is sold by the Scotch Trone weight; the pound of which, as it is used here, is to that of the Avoirdupois, as 7,000 are to 10,450.

Forty years ago, not more than one heifer, cow, or bullock, together with a few sheep and lambs, were exposed to sale in the weekly market of Falkirk. As to veal, it was scarcely to be found, but in the spring. But I am authorized

thorised to say, that there have not been sold in the shambles of this town, during the course of the last year, fewer than 2000 black cattle, 6000 sheep and lambs, and calves in proportion.

Forty years ago, few of the common people were in the habit of eating butcher-meat, except a little with their greens in winter. This scanty portion they fasted about Martinmas, and consequently, about that season of the year, more butcher-meat than common was brought into the market. But now all descriptions of the people are more in the practice of eating animal food.

It appears from Dalrymple's Annals of Scotland, that the price of a hen in 1295 was only one penny; but now one that is well fed will cost fifteen or eighteen pence.

Forty years ago, the price of butcher meat in this market was only about 2 d. *per* pound; but now it is from 4 d. to 6 d. or 7 d.

Forty years ago there were but 3 surgeons in the town of Falkirk; but at present there is 1 physician, 5 surgeons, and 2 druggists.

About 60 years ago this town and neighbourhood were chiefly supplied with wheaten bread from Edinburgh and Linlithgow. There were then only 3 bakers in Falkirk, and they were but occasionally employed. Hence it is, that the people in the remote parts of the country, when they come to procure bread for feasts or funerals, do still enquire of the bakers if their ovens be heated.

There are now 18 bakers in the town of Falkirk, and 6 in the different villages within the parish. They make excellent bread, and the price is regulated by the Edinburgh assize.

At the period above alluded to there were not more than 200 bolls of wheat *per annum* reduced into flour for the use of the Falkirk bakers. It was ground in common
mills,

mills, and bouted by hand-sieves. Now, about 7000 bolls are made use of annually; it is ground in mills, which are made for the purpose of preparing flour; it is bouted, and the different kinds separated by machinery, which is constructed according to the latest improvements. Seven of these mills are within a few miles of the town.

Forty years ago there were but 2 grocers in Falkirk; they complained of little business, and one of them was also a tallow-chandler. They had all their grocery goods from Borrowstounness, and imported nothing themselves. We have now 22 in that line of business; some of them carry on an extensive trade, both in wholesale and retail, and import wine, &c. from foreign parts.

It appears, that in the reign of Charlemagne, there was but one clock in Europe, and it was sent to him by Abdalla King of Persia*. How different is the situation of arts and improvements now, when there are four clock and watchmakers in the town of Falkirk itself!

There are two lodges of free-masons in Falkirk. One of them is so ancient, that it is marked No. 18. in the books of the Grand Lodge. The lodge of Carron also meets in a house within the precincts of this parish.

Falkirk was formerly a burgh of regality, and I have now before me a burghers-ticket, signed by one of the Earls of Linlithgow and Callander. I find no vestiges of any magistrates which have been invested with the powers of the burgh, except the bailiff of barony, who, in former times, before the hereditary jurisdictions were taken away, had an extensive jurisdiction both in criminal and civil cases. We have still a baron-bailie, who is nominated by the lord of the manor. But the power of life and death is not now attached to any barony. He can, within the bounds of his jurisdiction, enforce the payment of rents to
any

* Andrew's History of Great Britain. vol. 1. p. 92.

any amount, and decide in disputes about money affairs, provided the sum do not exceed L. 2 Sterling. The debtor's goods may be distrained for payment, and, if not sufficient, he may be imprisoned for one month. He can, for small offences, fine to the amount of 20 s. and put delinquents into the stocks in the day-time for the space of three hours.

We stand much in need of a police-bill for regulating the affairs of the town, and making those improvements which the state of its increased population requires. Much to the honour of the people, it may be mentioned, that though there is no place of confinement in the county nearer than Stirling, which is eleven miles distant, yet there are few instances of riot or disorder. It has been observed, that a considerable part of the business which comes before the Court at the Stirlingshire assizes, &c. proceeds from this quarter of the district; but it ought also to be attended to, that the population of Falkirk, and three or four miles round it, bears a great proportion to that of the whole county.

A considerable part of those astonishing improvements, which, within these 40 years, have been made in this parish, and in the adjoining country, has been owing to the great canal, which is cut from the frith of Forth to the river Clyde. As Scotland is almost cut into two parts by the frith and river, which have just been mentioned, an idea was formed as early as the reign of Charles II. of opening a communication between the east and west seas through the medium of a canal. In 1723, a survey of the intended track was taken by Mr Gordon, who is well known as the author of the "*Itinerarium Septentrionale*." In the year 1762, Mr Mackell, at the expence of Lord Napier, took another survey of the projected canal, and gave also an estimate of the money which would be necessary to
carry

carry the design into execution. Mr Mackell's report attracted the attention of the Board of Trustees appointed for the Encouragement of the Fisheries and Manufactures of Scotland; and at their request, Mr Smeaton in like manner took the business under his consideration, and gave in an estimate of the expence.

After various attempts, a bill was sanctioned by Parliament, which gave powers for raising a stock of 1500 shares for the purpose of making a canal between the Forth and Clyde. Each share was to consist of L. 100, and the whole capital would thus amount to L. 150,000.

On the 10th of July 1768 this great work was begun under the direction of Mr Smeaton. The operations commenced at the east end, and the late Sir Laurence Dundas of Kerse, Baronet, cut and removed the first spadeful of earth which was taken from the canal. The spade is yet kept in Kerse house in memory of that transaction, which was the beginning of an undertaking, great in the design, and difficult in the execution; but happy in its effects, and likely to be of unspeakable advantage to succeeding generations.

On the 10th of July 1775, the canal was fit for navigation as far west as Stockingfield, which is within a few miles of Glasgow. About two years afterwards a side branch was cut, by which vessels could go still nearer Glasgow, and a basin, together with granaries, and other buildings, were prepared. By this time the Company's public funds were exhausted; for the making of canals being then in its infancy in Britain, the manner of doing the business in the easiest way was not understood, and consequently the work was carried on at a much greater expence than it could be done for now, although the value of labour is much increased.

The canal remained in this languishing and unfinished state, till by the assistance of Government, the managers were enabled to begin their operations again in July 1786. The work was conducted by Mr Robert Whitworth, and on the 28th of July 1790, the navigation from sea to sea was opened. When, by the intervention of the canal, a communication between the eastern and western seas was completed, the event was signalized by the characteristic ceremony of pouring a hoghead full of the water of the frith of Forth into the river Clyde *, amidst the shouts and approbation of an astonished multitude.

When we consider the novelty of this undertaking, and the difficulty of the enterprise, we shall not be surpris'd to find, that it was 22 years and 18 days in being finished. The canal in its course passes through marshes, and over rivers, rivulets, and roads. There is a considerable aqueduct bridge, which conveys it over the Glasgow and Stirling road, a little to the westward of Falkirk. But the most magnificent is that having four arches, which conducts it over the river Kelvin, where the valley in which it runs is 400 feet wide, and the depth from the summit of the middle arches to the channel of the river is more than 65 feet.

The fide cut, which has already been mentioned, was carried forward to within half a mile of Glasgow. Larger and more commodious basons were made; necessary buildings were erected; there is land to be sold for building a village, and the place is called Port Dundas, in honour of Lord Dundas. From this port there is a junction made with the Monkland Canal, which is a small cut running 12 miles into the country on the east of Glasgow, for the purpose of conveying coals into that city.

The

* Edinburgh Magazine for April 1793.

The length of the great canal is 35 miles; the collateral cut to Glasgow $2\frac{1}{2}$; and that from Port Dundas to the Monkland Canal, 1 mile; in whole, $38\frac{1}{2}$ miles. This extensive track of a canal is supplied with water by six reservoirs, which cover about 409 acres of land, and contain about 12,679 lock-fulls of water; and the Company have it in their power to increase the number of reservoirs.

The summit of the canal is 141 feet above the level of the sea*. The number of the locks is 20 on the east, and 19 on the west. The length of the locks between the gates is 74 feet, and the width between the walls 20 feet. The medium breadth of the canal at the surface is 56 feet, and at the bottom 27. Vessels of 80 or 90 tons, properly constructed, may be navigated through, and are fit for voy ages

* The summit of the canal was at first but 140 feet. One foot in height was afterwards added to all the lock-gates, which has made some people conclude, that as 20 locks are on the east, the summit must now be 160 feet. But though the water throughout the canal be one foot deeper, yet the summit is only raised 12 inches. The first lock from the sea does now elevate vessels 8 feet; but the increased height of this lock raises the water on the next one foot; thus the upper gate of the 2d lock, which was 7 feet above the level of the water on the lower side, is reduced to 6 feet, and consequently, when a foot is added to its height, it only, as formerly, raises the vessel 7 feet. The same thing happens to the third lock, and so on through the whole; and when you arrive at the summit, the boat is only one foot higher than it would have been before the addition was made to the gates, and this foot was gained at the first lock.

The circumstance of there being 20 locks on the east side of the summit, and only 19 on the west, may be accounted for as follows:—On the east, the canal terminates in the Grangeburn, where there is so little water, that the vessels are left nearly dry at ebb tide; whereas on the west, it ends in the Clyde, where the water is 8 feet deep without the help of the tide, and this one lock is saved.

The revenue arising from the canal was annually increasing from the commencement till 1792, when it amounted to about L. 14,000. By the stagnation of trade in 1793, it did not reach L. 12,000; but in 1794, it was somewhat more than L. 12,000.

Government have shares in this canal to the extent of L. 50,000.

voyages by sea. The tonnage dues are 2 d. *per* ton every mile, with some exceptions, respecting lime, &c. The direction of the canal is under a Governor, Council in London, and a Committee at Glasgow, who meet monthly. They are chosen annually, by a general meeting, which is held in London every month of March.

The extensive trade carried on through this canal suggested to Sir Lawrence Dundas the propriety of building a village and quay near the east end of it on his own estate. The place which he fixed upon for this purpose was the angle which is formed by the junction of the river Carron and the canal. They were begun to be built in the year 1777; the village is now of considerable extent, and is called Grangemouth.

Vessels bring into this port timber and hemp, deals, flax, and iron, from the Baltic, Norway, and Sweden, and grain from foreign markets, as well as from the coasts of Scotland and England. The trade to London is carried on by the Carron Shipping Company, who in their vessels convey to that place goods which are made at Carron, together with other articles of commerce; and when they return, they bring grocery goods, dye-stuffs, &c. for the supply of Glasgow, Paisley, Greenock, Falkirk, Stirling, and many of the inland towns of the west country.

The tonnage at this port is, at a medium, nearly as follows: Vessels belonging to England, which bring cargoes from foreign places, about 5000 tons annually; ditto, from England, which carry on a coasting trade, about 4000 tons annually; those belonging to Scotland, which are employed in foreign traffic, about 10,000 tons annually; those which carry on the coasting trade are about 9000 tons annually; the Carron Shipping Company require about 9360 tons; the vessels belonging to foreign nations, which come annually to Grangemouth, may be estimated in their tonnage

at 2000. Great quantities of herrings made their appearance last winter in the frith of Forth, and many of them were caught at the very mouth of the river Carron. More than 120 sail from Greenock, Rothsay, Stranraer, &c. came through the canal to fish, and they returned homewards with full cargoes.

At Grangemouth, there is great need of additional warehouses and shades. But what is most of all wanted is a customhouse, or branch thereof. Borrowstounness having till of late been the principal place of trade in this neighbourhood, a customhouse was established there, and sufficient attention has not yet been paid to the situation of Grangemouth. Those at this port, who have business to do in the customhouse, are obliged to travel to Borrowstounness, which is eight miles distant; and when the river Avon is not fordable, they are under the necessity of going round by Linlithgow-bridge, which lengthens the journey four miles.

But the Carron iron-works have in a peculiar manner tended to improve this town and neighbourhood. They are situated on the northern banks of the river Carron; and though they are not in this parish, yet many of the workmen live in it, and as they are not two miles from the town of Falkirk, the shops and markets thereof are generally resorted to by those who are employed in the various operations of that extensive manufacture.

The Carron Company have a charter for employing a capital of L. 150,000. It is divided into 600 shares, and no person can have a vote in the management, unless he be possessed of ten shares. These works were first projected and established by Dr Roebuck, and Messrs Cadell and Garbet. They were joined by other gentlemen of respectability, and the Company are now in a very flourishing condition.

condition. The works are under the immediate direction of Mr Joseph Stainton, who is also a partner.

They are supplied with iron-ore from Lancashire and Cumberland; and with ironstone from Banton, Denny, and Bonnyhill, &c. in this vicinity, and from the county of Fife, &c. They have limestone from Burntisland, &c. and coals from Kinnaird, Carron-hall, and Shieldhill. All the materials, which are made use of at these works are brought to them by water-carriage, except coals, and these are found in their neighbourhood. At an average they use 800 tons of coal, 400 tons of iron stone and ore, and 100 tons of limestone *per week*. The ironstone is first calcined in an open fire; but the iron-ore needs no preparation in order to be fit for the blast furnace.

There are five furnaces of this description, which are supplied with strong currents of air from cast iron cylinders, instead of bellows. These cylinders are constructed somewhat like forcing pumps, and are not only more durable than bellows, but have more power, and produce a better effect. They have three cupolas, which receive a proper supply of air by means of pipes connected with the forcing cylinders. There are also fifteen furnaces, which are kept in action by the external air, without the aid of any artificial blast.

At Carron all kinds of cast iron goods are made in the best manner. A short kind of cannon called Carronades were invented there; and, in certain situations, they are considered as of great importance. They are moved in grooves; and thus the increased friction more effectually opposes the force of the recoil. The caliber of the cannon is bored out of the solid metal, and thus the hole is more smooth and just in its direction, than when cast with a core, and the piece is less ready to burst in time of action. The
outside

outside of the cannon is turned by proper instruments, and the whole is not only neat, but substantial.

At these works bar iron is also made; and in accomplishing that business, the following method is pursued:

The pig iron is melted in a finery, where coke is used; while hot, it is beaten out into plates about an inch in thickness. These plates are afterwards broken into pieces about two inches square, for the convenience of scouring them, &c. They are then scoured in an iron cylinder, which is connected with the water-wheel, and when they are properly prepared by this operation, they are put into pots, which are made of fire clay, and in an air-furnace they are brought to a welding heat; in this state of preparation they are put under the hammer, and wrought into blooms; the blooms are heated in a chafery, or hollow fire, and then drawn into bars for various uses. In this condition the iron is equal in goodness to that which is imported from Russia under the name of new sable iron.

The machinery is moved by the water of the river Carron, and for a supply in time of drought, they have a reservoir to the extent of about 30 acres. But as this precaution is not enough in very dry seasons, they have moreover an engine for throwing back the water that it may be used again, and this engine raises 4 tons every stroke, and makes about 7 strokes in a minute. If we take into the account, along with the people who are directly employed in the manufacture at Carron, those also who are engaged in the mines and pits, together with those who carry materials to the works, and goods by sea and otherwise immediately from them, we may estimate the whole at 2000 people.

Nobody is admitted to view the works on Sundays, except those who are properly recommended, or known to be worthy of attention. Mr Burns, the Ayrshire poet,

not knowing, or not attending to this regulation, made an attempt to be admitted, without discovering who he was, but was refused by the porter. Upon returning to the inn at Carron, he wrote the following lines upon a pane of glass in a window of the parlour into which he was shown :

We cam na here to view your warks,
 in-hopes to be mair wife :
 But only, left we gang to hell,
 it may be na surprife.

But when we tirl'd at your door,
 your porter dought na bear us ;
 So may, should we to hell's yetts come,
 your billy Satan fair us *.

Remarkable

* William Fullarton, Esq; of Fullarton, in the county of Ayr, North Britain, has obtained a patent for making cast and malleable iron after a new method. He calcines the iron stone or ore, if it be necessary, reduces it to powder, bolts it, separates the extraneous matter, and then puts it into a furnace, along with a sufficient quantity of coke, or charcoal. The furnace is intended to act as a crucible ; and the metal, when fluid, is not to be drawn off, and cast into pigs, but is to remain as a loop at the bottom. When it is taken out thence, it does not require to be melted again, but after being heated may, without any other process, be beaten into bars.

The principal advantages, which appear to attend the method proposed by Mr Fullarton must arise from his manner of preparing the iron stone or ore, and from permitting the metal to cool gradually in the furnace ; to which may be added the removing of the slag, which he takes care to do while the fusion is going forward. From the specification which he has given, it seems as if pulverising the iron stone or ore, and freeing it of extraneous matter, precludes the necessity, and saves the expence of using limestone as a flux ; and cooling the metal gradually, prevents that brittleness which cast iron and steel possess when they are cooled on a sudden ; and thus the loop is in a better state of preparation for being put under the hammer.

But

Remarkable Events.—Margaret, commonly called by historians the Maiden of Norway, died at Orkney, on her way to Britain, where she was to have been crowned successor to her grandfather Alexander III. of Scotland. Upon her death there was much agitation in the kingdom, and many competitors sprang up for the Crown. But of all those who laid in their claims, the rights of Robert Bruce and John Balliol * appeared to be most worthy of investigation and support. On the side of one or other of these opponents were the people of Scotland generally arranged. As the contest was violent, and not likely to be brought to a speedy issue, it was resolved to submit the whole business to the decision of Edward I. of England. He accepted of the offer with much pleasure, and took that opportunity

But if I fully understand the specification, Mr Fullarton's method must be subject to several inconveniencies. Either the furnace must be very small, or it will be difficult to remove the regulus after it has remained there till it be cold, and the work must suffer an interruption by waiting so long before a new charge can be put in. In order to obviate these inconveniencies, it might be proper to draw off the metal in the fluid state, and having cast it into pigs of the usual form, put them while hot into a furnace, exposed to a well regulated heat, and suffered gradually to become cool.

A gentleman, who was taken by the French during the last American war, having escaped from prison, was travelling homeward, and on his way, in passing through a valley among the Pyrenean mountains, came to a small forge, where some men were making iron from the ore. They sifted it, and having mixed it with charcoal, put it by small quantities at a time into a furnace. They let it remain till it was duly fused. Then they put a bar of iron among the metal, to which a knob adhered, and when it had acquired a proper consistency, they beat it with a hammer, repeating the operation, till, in a short time, they had made a bar of considerable length. This method is recommended by its simplicity, and perhaps it may suggest something for the improvement of making bar-iron in this country.

* Formerly called Robert de Brus, and John de Balliol.

nity of confusion, uncertainty, and terror, to have himself proclaimed Lord Paramount of Scotland; and finding Baliol not unwilling to acknowledge this supremacy, he decided the contest in his favour. But Edward soon hurled him from the throne, under the pretence that he had only put the sceptre into his hands to be swayed in trust. The troops of the English monarch soon over-ran many of the most important districts of this kingdom; and in triumph carried to Westminster the stone of Scone, which was made somewhat in the form of a chair, in which the Kings of Scotland had been in use to be seated at the time of their coronation.

In this season of national dejection and dismay, appeared William Wallace, of an ancient, but at that time an obscure family*. He lifted up the standard of liberty, and many flocked around the signal. But still there were not a few, who through envy or fear would not join the patriots. But Wallace and his adherents prevailed. They fought and were successful. They drove the English beyond the borders, and entered the countries in the north of Edward's kingdom.

When the King of England was informed of these events, he returned from the continent where he had been with an army; and marching into Scotland, he advanced with victorious bands through that country, meeting with little resistance till he came to Falkirk.

Having come within view of the Scotch army, they saw them drawn up in battle array, somewhat more than half a mile north from Falkirk. Before this time many persons of eminence and power had joined the party of Wallace. Of those who were present with him on the occasion now
under

* Of Elderslie, in the county of Renfrew, which was probably at that time a part of Lanarkshire. Dalrymple's Annals, vol. 1. p. 286.

under review, the following names are the chief of those which have been preserved on record: John Comyn, or Cuming, of Badenoch, the younger; Sir John Stewart of Bonkill, and not of Bute, as tradition has handed it down. This gentleman was brother to the Steward of Scotland, from whom the surname of Stewart, or Stuart, was taken. To these we must add Sir John Graham * of Abercorn or Dundaff; and Macduff, the uncle of the Earl of Fife †.

Wallace had arranged his infantry in four bodies, of a circular form, with the convex side toward the enemy; the archers formed a line between the circles; and the cavalry were placed at a little distance in the rear. The strength of Edward's army consisted of cavalry, which were drawn up in three lines; and the third, which was intended to be kept as a corps of reserve, was commanded by the king himself. Nothing being said of the manner in which the English infantry were disposed, we are naturally led to believe, that they were not numerous.

A morass, which was in front of the Scotch army, but is now drained by the canal, prevented the troops of Edward from attacking the Scotch in front; but wheeling to the right and left, they flanked them on both sides, and the carnage was dreadful. Struck with a panic by the fall of Graham, Stewart, and Macduff, and pressed by the well appointed cavalry of England, they were compelled, after a brave resistance, to abandon the conflict, and leave the victory in the hands of Edward.

Sir John Graham and Sir John Stewart were both buried in the church-yard of Falkirk. The stone which was laid on the grave of Sir John Graham had some sculpture upon it, which the hand of time was fast obliterating. At length another

* Generally called in old records, Sir John de Graham.

† Dalrymple's Annals of Scotland.

another stone was erected with decorations, and an epitaph, the whole being supported by pillars. When the letters of the inscription were nearly defaced, another of a similar kind was put over it; and when it also had suffered considerably by the lapse of time, the late William Graham of Airth, Esq; erected a third, after the same manner as the two former. The inscriptions are as follow :

Mente manaque potens, Vallæ fidus Achates,
Conditur hic Gramus, bello interfectus ab Angliis.

xxii. Julii, anno 1298.

Heir lyes Sir John the Grame, baith wight and wife,
Ane of the chiefs who rescwit Scotland thriſe.
Ane better knight not to the world was lent,
Nor was gude Grame of truth and hardiment.

Not far from the tomb of Sir John Graham lie the ashes of Sir John Stewart. The place of his rest is but a few feet from the east end of the church, and near the south corner of it. Though Sir John was nearly allied to the progenitors of the house of Stuart, whose kindred blood flows in the veins of many illustrious families of Great Britain, and also in not few of the princes and potentates of the earth, yet his grave is not marked out, except by a stone without a name, and is the segment of an octagon.

Much has been said with respect to discontents, which are represented as having subsisted among the leaders of the Scotch army on the eve of the battle. The peevish departure of the well-tryed patriots, Wallace and Cuming, cannot be received but upon the most authentic documents. Jarrings might have prevailed among a number of leaders, where the subordination of regular government was not observed; but from the character of the men, and the circumstances of the case, no fault seems to have been committed,

mitted, which was either disgraceful to themselves, or hurtful to the issue of the day*.

In the reign of Charles I. the Earl of Lanark, who was afterwards the 2d Duke of Hamilton, together with a person of the name of Monro, being friendly to the King, attacked with their troops, near Stirling, the army which had been raised by the Marquis of Argyle, and the Earls of Cassilis, Eglintoun, and Loudon. The former were repulsed, and fled to Falkirk; but a temporary accommodation stopt for a time the effusion of human blood.

In the battle of Dunbar, Cromwell was successful, and he marched forward to give Charles II. battle, who was encamped with his army at the Torwood in this neighbourhood, and had then been proclaimed King of Scotland. On his route, Cromwell stormed, and took Callander house, where Charles had a garrison.

The Earl of Arran, when Governor of Scotland, did, with the consent of his party, agree to give Mary, the young Queen of Scots, in marriage to Prince Edward, the heir to the English throne. But having at Callander house met with Cardinal Beaton and the Earl of Murray, leaders of the opposite party, a negotiation was entered into, which broke the matrimonial treaty.

It appears, that Mary Queen of Scots visited Lord Livingston at Callander house, *anno* 1565 †.

In the year 1745, when the troops of Great Britain were in Flanders supporting the house of Austria against the arms of France, the grandson of James II. who, at the revolution in this country, had taken refuge at the Court of Versailles, asserted his father's pretensions to the throne of these kingdoms. This measure was, without doubt, agreeable to the
French

* Dalrymple's Annals of Scotland, vols. 1. pages 262. and 263.

† Stuart's History of Scotland, vol. 1. p. 93.

French Court, as it would evidently be the mean of withdrawing our forces from the continent. Perhaps it was even suggested by them; and we know that they gave a small supply of money and arms.

Charles, flushed with the hopes of power, eminence, and royalty, sailed from a port in Brittany on the 15th of July, and in a short time landed in the Highlands of Scotland. There he instantly drew together a considerable number of partizans, and marched directly to Edinburgh. He got possession of the town of Edinburgh, lodged in the palace of Holyroodhouse, and soon afterwards engaged at Preston, near Musselburgh, a few of the King's troops, who were under the command of Sir John Cope. Here he was victorious; and in the anxious expectation of future success, marched into England, as far as Derby, by the way of Carlisle. Though he had many friends near the road by which he went, yet prudence permitted but a few of them to follow his fortune.

Disappointed in his views, he returned by Glasgow, marched to Stirling, and laid siege to the castle. By this time a considerable number of the King's troops were assembled near Edinburgh, commanded by Lieutenant-General Hawley. He marched for the relief of Stirling; and having stopped to refresh the troops at Falkirk, he encamped with them between the glebe and the field where Sir John Graham fell in defence of liberty and his country.

On the 17th of January 1746 the alarm was given, that the Prince's followers were advancing by the Torwood. By different means they attempted to deceive the army of the King. They left a standard at the place where they had halted on their way from Bannockburn, which, being seen at Falkirk, would, they supposed, hush their opponents into a temporary security. They also sent a small detachment by the north side of the river Carron, that it might
appear,

appear, if there was any alarm, that they intended to attack the King's camp on the left; but, in the mean time, the principal body of their forces were led straight forward, and crossed the ford of Carron, at Dunipace, about the distance of three miles to the westward.

No sooner was this discovered than the drums at Falkirk camp beat to battle. But the General not being present, they were detained so long before his arrival, that the enemy had gained an eminence, which is about a mile south-west from this town. The way thither being rugged, the cannon could not be dragged up time enough for the action; swampy ground rendered the cavalry almost useless, and a tremendous storm of wind and rain blowing directly against the face of the national troops, added to the unfortunate circumstances of the day. Notwithstanding the bravery of Major-General Husk, and other officers, the King's forces were worsted; many were killed, several taken prisoners, and the rest fled to Linlithgow.

Among the persons of rank who were left dead on the field were Sir Robert Monro of Foulis, Bart. and his brother Duncan, a physician. Sir Robert, in the retreat, was surrounded by the enemy, and after a desperate resistance, yielded to the stroke of death. The physician, from the affection which he had for his brother, left the peace and sweets of retired life, and followed him through the din of arms, and the dangers of battle. In the discharge of this amiable office, he fell a victim to kindness and brotherly attachment. They were buried beside each other in the church-yard of Falkirk; a superb monument was erected to their memory; and the circumstances of their death are recorded by suitable inscriptions. The number of forces which were led to action that day was about 6000 of the royal party, and perhaps somewhat more of those in the
interest

interest of the Prince; but the true amount of his troops has not been exactly ascertained.

Hawley found means to vindicate himself to his Sovereign; but the impressions of his conduct which remain here, are by no means favourable to his character, as a General entrusted with an important command. If we credit report, he was dining that day at Callander house with Lady Kilmarnock, whose Lord had then declared himself in favour of the young adventurer, and was at that time actually engaged in his services somewhere in the island.

The action began about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and by the evening the Prince's army were in possession of the town of Falkirk. One of the sons of Macdonell of Glen-gary, when walking in the principal street, soon after he had arrived from the field of battle, was shot from a window by a musket-bullet. He did not instantly die; but having languished a few days, he expired. His death was accidental, for it was occasioned by one of his own men, whose gun had missed fire during the engagement, and not being apprised of this circumstance, while he was cleaning his piece, the shot went off at the expence of a life, which he would have done much to save. But such was the violence, zeal and distrust which prevailed, that he was found guilty, and shot in this neighbourhood. Soon after the battle of Falkirk, the Prince's troops were vanquished and dispersed at Culloden. Thus tranquillity was restored to the nation; and we trust, that the horrors of civil war will never again prevail in the land.

Eminent and Remarkable Characters.—The Livingstons were long conspicuous and powerful in this parish and neighbourhood. It is supposed that they are of Hungarian extraction, and that the family sprung from a gentleman of the name of Livingus, who came with Margaret, Queen of
King

King Malcolm Canmore, about the year 1075. We find, that different branches of this family were employed in some of the most important situations and transactions of this country*.

In the progress of society there arose among them the three distinguished families of Linlithgow, Callander, and Kilsyth. The Viscount Kilsyth, and the Earl of Linlithgow and Callander, were found guilty of rebellion in 1715, had their estates confiscated, and their titles forfeited. The titles of Linlithgow and Callander at this time centered in the same person, and the Earl found means to escape to the continent, where he died. Sir Thomas Livingstone of Bedlormie and Westquarter, Baronet, is lineal heir of the family.

Lady Ann, the only surviving child of the last Earl of Linlithgow and Callander, was married to the Earl of Kilmarnock, who joined the followers of the Prince in the year 1745, and was beheaded for treason on Towerhill, on the 18th of August 1746, in the 42d year of his age. His infidelity to the King is the more remarkable, as his family had always been loyal, and as he himself, at the beginning of the commotions in which he afterwards was an abettor, had exerted himself considerably in behalf of the reigning family.

The truth seems to be, that as he was not in opulent circumstances, he was induced to become an adventurer; and from his marriage-connection, he was in hopes that if the Prince succeeded, he would be raised to the possessions and perhaps to the honours of the forfeited and deceased Earl of Linlithgow and Callander. And this leads me to observe, that it is politic in a state to inflict as few permanent disabilities and punishments as the nature of government

* Douglas's Peerage, articles Linlithgow, Callander, and Kilsyth.

and good order will permit. If a man falls a just victim to the law, the galling remembrance is gradually destroyed among his connections and descendents; but if an estate be forfeited, or a civil privilege be permanently taken away, there is a perpetual brooding over the misfortune, and from this source there often springs the bitterness of strife.

Our Government have, with much prudence and humanity, restored the estates which were confiscated in 1746; and it is much to be lamented, that something effectual has not been devised for the heirs of those who suffered by the forfeitures in the year 1716. The estates having been otherwise long ago disposed of, could not be restored; but the wisdom of those in power, among the many resources which they have, might perhaps find out the means of at least a small compensation.

The estate of Kerse, in this parish, once belonged to the Hopes, a family of considerable note and antiquity in this country. John de Hope was one of the barons who submitted to Edward I. of England in 1296, when he had invaded Scotland.

Kerse, as well as many other estates in Scotland, were purchased by Sir Thomas Hope, who, as an advocate, made a conspicuous figure.

In the revolutionary period of the Scotch church, six ministers, who had denied that the King had any power in ecclesiastical affairs, were committed to the castle of Blackness, and for high treason were brought to trial at Linlithgow, Jan. 10. 1606. No counsellor of eminence, not even Sir Thomas Craig, the procurator for the church, could be prevailed upon to stand forward as their advocate at the bar of the Court. Mr Thomas Hope, for he was not then created a baronet, undertook, though but a young man, to plead their cause. His forcible elocution, his ingenious,
though

though unsuccessful exertions, procured him admiration, and brought him into notice.

He was not only consulted in all difficult cases by the Presbyterians, but was esteemed by the Court party, and was King's Advocate, both in the reign of James VI. and Charles I. He had three sons, who were Lords of Session, and two of them sat upon the Bench as Judges, while he himself was at the bar. The Lord Advocate has a right to plead with his hat on, and tradition says, that this privilege was introduced in the time of Sir Thomas Hope, as it was thought unbecoming the dignity of a father in his situation to plead with his head uncovered before his sons. But it is more probable, that the custom was introduced as a distinguishing mark of respect to the King's Advocate.

Sir Thomas, his second son, to whom he gave the estate of Kerse, was eminent in the law, and, I believe, the only commoner who ever has been Lord Justice-General of Scotland; as his father, Sir Thomas of Craighall in Fife, was the only person not honoured with a title of nobility, who at any time, in the character of Lord High Commissioner, represented his Majesty in the General Assembly of this church. The estate of Kerse was sold sometime ago to the late Sir Laurence Dundas, Baronet, father of Lord Dundas, the present proprietor.

Antiquities.—In the barony of Seabegs, near the canal, there is an artificial mound of earth, where courts and deliberative councils were formerly held, as appears by the name Mote, which the place yet retains. There is also a small burying ground, where formerly there was a Roman Catholic chapel.

In different parts of this neighbourhood there have been dug up urns, filled with ashes, and stone coffins, containing human bones. Somewhat more than twenty years ago, there

there was found, in a hollow of a freestone quarry near Castlecary, some wheat, which had become black, and was supposed to have been there, from the time that the Romans possessed that station.

The small river Bonney, which separates a part of this parish from Denny and Dunipace, seems to be the Cronan of Offian.

Old Camelon *, not *Camelodunum*, but probably *Bede's Guidi*, appears to have been formerly a place of consequence. There are now few vestiges of it remaining; but not long ago, foundations of houses, and the direction of some of the streets, were visible. Much has been said about the importance which it once had; we have heard of the riches and ornaments of royalty which were found there, when it was taken by the Romans. But we have no authentic documents by which we can decide whether it was a habitation of some of the ancient tribes of North Britain, or whether it was only a Roman station.

It is also reported, that Camelon was a sea-port town; and in confirmation of this we are told, that an anchor was formerly dug up † in the ground near it. There are circumstances which authorise us to conclude, not only that the river Carron has been navigable farther up than the place where Camelon stood, but also that the sea came very near Falkirk, and covered the whole of that district which is now called the Carfe. The name Carfe in Scotland is generally applied to that land which has been formed by the retreat or exclusion of the sea. Our carfe lands are very little raised above the level of the frith of Forth, and in many places are defended by banks ‡. The Carfe,
which

* A new village in its neighbourhood is called Camelon.

† Sibbald's Historical Enquiries, chap. 7.

‡ A few days ago, in the morning of October 30, a tide being uncommonly high, the banks were overflowed by the sea, and the water not only entered many houses, but inundated several hundred acres of the Carfe land.

which is very valuable in quality, might easily be enlarged by encroaching farther on the sea. Lord Dundas, by this method, has lately added about 70 acres to his estate. About the beginning of this century, a Dutchman, who was well acquainted with operations like these in Holland, proposed to the Duke of Hamilton to gain for him 2000 acres off the sea, adjoining his estate of Kinneal, in the parish of Borrowstounness, provided he should be allowed to possess it rent free for forty years, and be furnished with timber, &c. from the Duke's wood in the neighbourhood. The proposal was rejected; and the sea continues to roll its tides over those shallows, where fruitful fields might now have been yielding an annual income of L. 4000 or L. 5000 to the proprietor, and a considerable quantity of provisions for the supply of this populous part of the country.

But the most prominent feature of antiquity in this parish is the Roman wall, built in the reign of the Emperor Antoninus Pius, under the direction of his Lieutenant Lollius Urbicus. It in general follows the track where Agricola had previously erected a chain of forts. It is more than 1600 years since the wall was built, and yet in several parts, both in this parish and elsewhere, its form and course are visible. It extends from the frith of Forth to the river Clyde, and was about 40 Roman, or 37 English miles in length. Carriden, Kinneal, and Blackness, on the east, Dumglas and Old Kirkpatrick on the west, have, by different people, been suggested as its boundaries. Bede says, that it began two miles from the monastery of Abercorn, and ended at Alcluith, which appears to be the same place which is now called Dumbarton*. If the wall terminated

* Camden's Britannia by Gough, article Lennox.

minated at Old Kirkpatrick, Dumbarton was probably a fort belonging to the Romans; and we know, that on the east coast their forts and stations were carried far beyond the end of the wall*.

This wall, or rather defensive work, consisted of a ditch on the north, and a wall on the south. It varies as to the breadth of the ditch; but is never less than 12 or 15 feet wide, and the wall was about 12 feet thick at the foundation †. The ditch was deep in proportion to its breadth; and the wall was high in proportion to its width. Notwithstanding what has been said by some authors, no part of this wall appears to have been built of stone, except in swampy places, where the nature of the ground required it. Forts or stations, and between these, turrets or watch-towers, were erected for the accommodation of soldiers to defend it; and as they were at no great distance from one another, a general alarm could be given at the approach of danger. Hence the vulgar belief that the wall was hollow, and that the sound of a trumpet which was blown at one end could be heard at the other. Castlecary, Roughcastle, and Camelon, were the most remarkable forts or stations in this neighbourhood. The site of the two former are still to be seen.

Much light has been thrown on the history of this wall by stones with inscriptions, which have been dug up in various parts of it. A considerable number of these stones are in the College of Glasgow, &c.; one in Sir John Clerk's collection, and one in Callander house, with the following inscription:

VEXI
LEG XX
PRIMIG

From

* Sibbald's Enquiries.

† The ditch in Callander park is above 40 feet wide; in some other places it is not so much by half.

From these different stones it appears, that the wall was chiefly made by the 2d and 20th legions, and the vexillations of the 6th and 20th, together with a cohort of auxiliaries *. Every 100th part of a legion was called a century, and had a vexillum, or pair of colours. To guard these, ten of the best soldiers were allotted for each vexillum, and those guards, which in every legion amounted to 1000 men, were called its vexillation.

This rampart is denominated by Buchanan, in his History of Scotland, the wall of Severus. Other writers have also given it the same name; but though it may have been repaired by Severus, as it was by different people, yet the wall which he built was not in this district of the country, but was drawn between the Solway frith and Newcastle, nearly in the same direction in which Adrian had formerly built his.

The wall of Antoninus is generally known in this country by the name of Graham's Dike. Some are of opinion, that it derived this name from a powerful leader of that name, who broke through this famous line of defence, and routed the Britons on the south side of it, who were then abandoned by the Romans. Others affirm, that in the reign of Malcom II. one Gryme, who was connected with the royal family, aspiring to the throne, drew together some followers, and in order to settle the commotion, the pretender got a grant for the term of his life of all that part of Malcoln's kingdom which was on the north side of the wall, and that the line of separation was from this event called Gryme's Dike; hence, by an easy transition, Graham's Dike. It has also been suggested, that as the building of this wall has been attributed to Severus, so by translating Severus into English, you have Grim; and in a
country

* Henry's History of Great Britain.

country where the surname of Graham is so common as it is here, it was very natural to find the appellation Grim's Wall, converted into Graham's Dyke*. The name itself is of little consequence, but the wall is a striking monument of Roman activity.

The soldiers of the Roman empire were not allowed to be enervated by idleness. They were constantly employed, and often engaged in severe manual labour. Not only the walls which have been taken notice of, but also the various roads which they made in Great Britain are clear proofs, that they were called forth to exertion, and kept in active life. Along the south side of Graham's Dyke, a causeway was formed for the more expeditious and comfortable travelling of the soldiers from one part of it to another.

Nearly opposite to Callander house, an earthen wall of considerable height and thickness branches off from Graham's Dyke, runs through West-quarterhouse garden, and reaches the old castle of Almond. From that toward the east, there are few or no certain traces of it to be seen; but we may presume, that it once ended at Linlithgow, where there was a Roman camp, on the very place where the King's palace was afterwards built. This wall has no fosse, and being broad at the top, was probably intended to be a road, as well as a line of defence.

* Dyke in the Scotch language means a wall.

The reader is requested to make the following corrections in my Statistical Account of Mid-Calder, Vol. XIV.:

Page 364. line 7. for clothes read cloaks.

— 371. — 2. for emperor read usurper.

— 372. — 5. in the note, for rescue read route.

The following corrections and additions to the Statistical Account of the parish of Polmont (vol. III. p. 344.) are here inserted, at the request of the Rev. Mr William Finlay :

The parish of Polmont is not *interfected*, but bounded by *the frith of Forth*, on the north, and by the river *Avon* on the east. A small part of it is *interfected* by a *short cut* from Grangemouth, which is now the only navigable communication betwixt the great canal and the Forth. The iron stone is sold by the proprietors of land to the Carron Company, not at *tenpence per stone*, but at *tenpence per ton*. The annual amount of the funds for relief of the poor is not L. 28, but about L. 55, and the expenditure nearly the same. By an interlocutor of the *Teind Court*, June 1793, the stipend of this parish is ordained to be 111 bolls, 2 firlots, 1 peck, and 2 lippies of bear, 56 bolls of meal, and L. 152 : 10 : 10 Scots money, with L. 60 money forepaid for furnishing the communion-elements. The real rent of the parish is about L. 4000 Sterling *per annum*.

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF ROXBURGH,

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TWEED-
DALE, PRESBYTERY OF KELSO.)

By the Rev. Mr ANDREW BELL, Minister of the Parish.

PREVIOUS to the Union of the Scotch and English Parliaments, this corner of the land was often the seat of war, and the unhappy scene of broils and feuds, which usually stigmatize the border inhabitants of two hostile kingdoms in a barbarous age. Roxburgh was the residence and rendezvous of some of the greatest military, political, clerical and Royal characters Europe has to boast of, and the place where state councils were held with a splendour and

and magnificence becoming the dignity of assemblies, in whose decisions many nations felt themselves highly interested and concerned. Hence this parish affords great room for investigation, and opens a field, whereon the historic genius might range with peculiar gratification. The following remarks, however, being intended to make part of a work, whose object is *statistical* rather than *historical* enquiry, they are chiefly limited to local and existing circumstances.

Name.—Like all etymological interpretations of the names of places, the meaning of this is extremely vague and uncertain. Camden calls the castle of Roxburgh *Marchidun*, or the hill on the marches, alluding, not to the altitude or size, but to the strength and importance of that fortress. Some nomenclators say, that Roxburgh is a contraction for Rogue's Burgh, referring to the character of its ancient inhabitants, when marauding was the trade of all the borderers. Others affirm, that Roxburgh is the proper name, and derived from a Saxon word, *Rox*, signifying strength: And others insist, that Roseburgh (as it is vulgarly designed) is the proper appellation of this place, being most expressive of its beautiful situation.

Situation.—The old city of Roxburgh stood over against Kelso, on a rising ground at the west end of a fertile plain, peninsulated by the confluence of the rivers Tweed and Teviot. These long-renowned rivers flow here in all their glory; but the Teviot has decidedly the preference, when imagination calls up to view the grand assemblage of objects that formerly lined her banks in this place. On the south angle of a beautiful peninsulated tract of land, formed by the curvatures of the two rivers, is a rich spot,

spot of ground, where David I. built a magnificent friary for some Cistercian monks, whom he removed from Selkirk to Roxburgh; on the middle stood the town, both under cover from the Castle, which was situated on a large oblong knoll to the west, and separated from the city by a narrow neck of land, formed by the proximity of the rivers. "The south walls of the Castle impended over the Teviot, a part of whose waters were directed by a dam thrown obliquely across the stream at the west end of the Castle into a deep fosse, which defended the fortrefs on the west and north, emptying itself into the river, at the east end thereof*." Over this moat, at the gateway from the town, was thrown a draw-bridge, the remains of which were but lately removed. About two miles west from the Castle stands the present village of Roxburgh, pleasantly situated near the banks of the Teviot, on a declivity of southern exposure. It is divided by a small rivulet into the "Upper and Nether Towns," which had formerly been of considerable extent, though they now contain only about 200 inhabitants. This village is the seat of the parochial church; is nearly central to the whole parish; lies in the county which bears its name, and within the bounds of the Presbytery of Kelso, and Synod of Merse and Teviotdale.

Extent, Surface, and Soil.—The parish extends about 8 miles in length, and 4 in breadth at the extremities, including an area of 7000 acres of land. Its figure is irregular, and may be represented by a spread eagle, with his head towards the north, his wings shadowing eastward and westward. The general appearance of the country is flat and sloping. The soil is mostly a rich loam, well calculated for bearing turnips or wheat: The lands are therefore very valuable,

* Pennant.

valuable, but rather unpleasant to labour, being *banky* in some places. The skirts of the parish on the west and south are moorish. A great part of that tract of land which lies between the rivers, especially about the village, is so stony, that tradition reports it to have been once all covered with houses. In very few places, however, have the stones any appearance of having ever been used in building. The grounds on the east end of the parish, and those on the south side of the Teviot, are inclosed with ditch and hedge. The fences, being in general grown up, and ornamented with hedge-rows of trees; besides, various woods, and little thickets, or clumps of wood, reared upon unarable knolls and rocky hillocks in several parts, make the country look rich and beautiful. The parish is bounded by Maxton, Ancrum, and Crailing, on the west; by Crailing and Eckford, on the south; by Kelso, on the east; by a part of Kelso and Makerston, on the north.

Agriculture.—The greatest part of this parish is in a very high state of cultivation, and yields an ample reward to the occupiers for their toil and expence in labour. Whether lying in pasture or in tillage, the fields every where around display the remarkable activity, agricultural spirit, and skill of the farmers. Equal in all kinds of husbandry within their sphere to any in the kingdom, the landholders and farmers here are particularly attentive to the cultivation of potatoes, and, being favoured by the nature of the soil, have carried it to a very high degree of perfection. Three hundred fir-lots *per* acre is a frequent produce. They are planted in drills, the distance between each plant sometimes about three feet, and are completely cleaned of weeds by frequent hoeing; the first and second time very deep, with a sharp pointed hoe, afterwards not so deep, lest the root should be injured. About the time of their blooming, the earth is laid
up,

up, sometimes in the form of a molehill, about each stalk, which is a great improvement. In this way of management the ground is well cleaned, and afterwards yields a good crop of wheat or oats. The potatoes are planted on light dry land, either naturally rich, or made so with dung. Lime is found hurtful, by making them grow *scabbed*. In order to prevent their degeneracy, the seed is carefully picked, and such as grow curled leaves are kept out if possible. Though a rotation of crops is generally observed here, by raising one green and two white, yet some of the farmers, distinguished for skill in and attention to business, are often directed by the seasons, and the various soil of their lands.

Hence the number of acres occupied by distinct species of crops can hardly be ascertained. It is supposed that one half of the whole parish is generally in pasture; the other half in tillage; and one-third of that laid down annually with grass-seeds, the ground being always first properly cleaned and prepared for them. The parish rears a great deal more grain of all kinds than the inhabitants use, and the cattle bred or fattened within its bounds are not half, scarcely the third part, consumed there. Upwards of 50 ploughs are employed in the parish, and drawn generally with two horses. Oxen are also used, and found to answer the purposes of husbandry, both in the cart and plough.

Population.—Vestiges of villages, malt steeps, cottages, and other memorials of inhabitation in various parts of the parish, indicate the population to have been formerly very considerable; but no exact list of old date having fallen into my hands, the number cannot be ascertained far back. Agreeably to a practice recommended and generally observed in the Church of Scotland, the writer, upon his induction to this cure, visited every family within its bounds,

and found the number of souls in the parish to be upwards of 1050.

A very accurate list was again made out at the desire of the Sheriff of the county, in 1782, to assist in providing against a scarcity, with which this country was then threatened, and the number of souls was found to be 1100. They do not at present exceed 900*, and may be distributed thus :

Of the Established Church,	480		
Burghers, Antiburghers, and Relief			
Seceders, - - -	170		
Cameronians and Quakers, - -	9		
Children, - - -	241		
		900	{ Males, 360
			{ Females, 540
Families, or householders,	191		
Cotters, - - -	121		
Hinds and herds, - - -	23		
Handicraftsmen, - - -	43		
Apprentices to these, - - -	7		
Servants, - - -	115		{ Males, 60
			{ Females, 46
Farmers, - - -	22		
Heritors, - - -	10		

The great disproportion between the males and females seems to arise from a number of cot-houses being possessed by women, whose husbands or sons are employed elsewhere.

According

* Since this list was taken in 1791, the population has decreased upwards of 60.

According to the parish-register *. there has been, within the time included between the 1st of October 1783 and the 1st of October 1793,

Marriages,	-	-	76	
Births,	-	-	155	{ Males, 77 Females, 78
Burials,	-	-	114	{ Males, 64 Females, 50

The exact number of births and burials cannot be easily ascertained. For various reasons many childrens names are not registered; and the people in general all over this country having an idea of property in their family burying place, carry their dead there; and by neglecting to do so, they seem to feel themselves guilty, not only of violating a natural propensity in men to sleep with their fathers, but also of infringing a sacred obligation, as they say, sanctioned by the example of patriarchs, at the cave in the field of Macpelah. In articles of population, an account of the ages of different classes of persons have been thought expedient and useful. This the writer has been obliged to omit, except with regard to children, who neither fear nor blush to tell their age; and those who glory in "prattling o'er the tales of other years." The children mentioned above are under 10 years of age; of the other venerable class, there are 15 upwards of 70, nine upwards of 80, three above 90, and one near 100 years old. During the late incumbent's ministry here, a woman died at Fairnington about the age of 120.

State of the Poor.—At present there are 24 upon the poors roll; the monthly assessment for supporting these, including

* This reaches as far back as 1628; is remarkably regular, and has often been a proof of the utility of such records.

including collector and clerk's fees, is L. 6 : 4 : 4, levied, one half from the heritors, and the other half from the tenants, according to their real and valued rents respectively. Meetings for conducting the affairs of the poor here are held twice a-year; the tenants are always invited by the minister from the pulpit to attend on these occasions for assisting the heritors and kirk-session* in that work; and the allowance of each pauper is generally fixed according to the report of the kirk-session, or tenant under whom he lives, as to his circumstances. By this means improper applications for public charity are checked; the truly indigent furnished with a good mode of obtaining relief; and to the generous, a plan is opened for giving alms without danger of imposition. It is painful, indeed, to see parents, worn out with the toil and care of rearing a family, sometimes applying for public aid; while the very children they have nourished and brought up, will not give a mite to relieve their distress. The public, say they, is obliged to do it. This is the apology many make for neglecting to obey one of the first laws of nature, while they frequently lavish away a considerable part of their earnings upon the vanities of life. On this account some have thought there should be no law to force public charity, unless to oblige such as are in ability to support their indigent relations, especially children their parents. Alas! if filial or brotherly affection cannot melt the heart, a rod of iron, it is to be feared, would be used in vain to break it. In order to keep the number of poor on the list from increasing beyond proper bounds, and to prevent the modest and well-deserving from suffering want, the collections

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made

* Heritors, or landholders, and the kirk-session in a parish, are the *legal* members of these meetings. In assessing for the poor, however, the aid of the farmers is highly proper.

made in the kirk are distributed among needy persons, not on the poors roll; and in cases of incidental poverty, an *interim* supply is given. The heritors sometimes lodge money in the hands of the session, to distribute as they see proper. This is attended with great advantages; evils often occurring that cannot be provided against by the general meeting, and the collections in the church being scarcely adequate to the claims usually made upon them, such as the school-wages of poor scholars, &c.

State of the Church and School.—Five ministers have been ordained here since the Revolution, *viz.* Messrs Dalgliegh, Brown, Pollock, Hogg, and the present incumbent. The first of these was excluded from his charge at the Revolution, and returned to it afterwards; but the benefice being too small to support his numerous family, he was obliged to betake himself to some other employment, and leave this cure, much regretted by the people. Mr Brown was removed from his kirk in the year 1715; and had it not been for the compassion and humanity of a Noble Countess, he had felt all the distress naturally befalling such as are driven from a particular line of life, to which alone they have been educated. Though a man of no shining abilities, and greatly deficient in that discernment and prudence necessary to steer the helm of conduct in a politic age, yet we feel for Mr Brown, retiring, in exile, to a remote valley, where he lived for years in a cottage on the side of a rivulet, (by Cessford), tending his milk-cow, or delving his garden—his only livelihood, and the gift of charity. The ground of process against Mr Brown is said to have been a charge of disloyalty, which arose chiefly from his drinking the Pretender's health at Kelso, in company with the rebel army. This, it is said, he did with no ill intention, but simply thinking thereby to please Mackintosh, the rebel commander, and thus recover a horse the rebels had

had stolen from him. Mr Pollock lived not long to prosecute the remarkable success with which his ministry was attended in this parish. Designed by Providence to instruct a rude race of men, he was endowed with many qualifications requisite for that important task. A robust constitution, and a bold impetuous temper; unwearied attention to the care of his pastoral office; and a rigid execution of discipline; a competent share of various erudition, and very considerable powers of address, procured him the lasting memorial of having turned many from darkness to light. Scarcely above one in a family, before his days, having been taught to read here, under his tuition the youths not only obtained the elements of useful knowledge at school, but were obliged to commit the principles of religion and morality, as recommended by the constitution of this kingdom, carefully to memory, and repeat them publicly at church, which gave early and salutary ideas of civil and sacred virtues that the lapse of time has not entirely wiped away. His few surviving disciples talk of these things with delight; and discover the mingled sensations of joy and trembling, while they speak of the great *oaken stick* wherewith Mr Pollock always walked, overawing the insolent; or the engaging means by which he encouraged the timid and deserving. Mr Hogg was a native of the parish, and wore out his days in serving this cure with much esteem, respect, and usefulness. He died on the 3d day of February 1781, in the 46th year of his ministry, and was succeeded by the present incumbent in the month of November following. The church was built in the year 1752; was the first modern house of that kind in this corner of the country; is in good repair, neat and commodiously fitted up for holding the people. Though plain and simple in its construction, the present church forms a striking contrast to the old one here, and shows how
differently

differently men in ancient and modern times think of places fittest for devotional exercises. Agreeably, as it would seem, to the old idea, that the spirit of devotion likes best to dwell in gloomy retreats, the kirk at Roxburgh was almost wholly under ground, roofed with a strong arch, and totally overgrown with grass. The people entered to the place of public worship through an aisle * of the same construction, and descended by six or seven steps into the body of the church, (perhaps the particular construction of that edifice had been intended as a kind of security to the worshippers in times of persecution and danger). The manse has been rebuilt during the present minister's incumbency, and might be deemed a good one, did not the very damp situation render it both particularly uncomfortable and unhealthful to live in. The heritors have already been at considerable expence in repairing it, by renewing the ground-floor, throwing drains round the house, &c. but all seems, as yet, an ineffectual remedy of an evil that might easily have been prevented at first. It is surely the interest as well as the duty of all who are bound by law to furnish accommodations to persons in public characters, not only to contract with tradesmen, but also to see the work done in a place and form that may render it most durably comfortable. The Duke of Roxburgh is the undoubted patron of this kirk. The stipend is L. 73 : 3 : 4. including communion-elements, and L. 1, 10 s. Sterling in lieu of turf-casting. A decret of modification passed the 3d day of March 1790, augmented said stipend by a grant of four chalders of oat-meal, but the locality is not yet settled. Practice of this kind are not only very much against a minister's interest, but often prove also extremely hurtful to heritors,

* This aisle is still remaining, and is the family burying-place belonging to Sunlaws.

heritors, on whom the greatest share of stipends finally falls. The law indeed authorises a minister to uplift his whole modified stipend, until localled, from any proprietor, who has sufficient teinds within the parish. This, however, though strictly legal, is generally thought an ungracious step, is difficult to render effectual, and is seldom or never followed, unless necessity urges. The glebe is of considerable extent, but not including a grafs-glebe, nor has the minister any thing in lieu thereof that he knows of, has been all inclosed and much improven at the present incumbent's sole expence. But being naturally of a wet, cold bottom, and intersected by a very destructive rivulet, it will require constant attention to keep the fences in repair, and the land in any tolerable state of culture or fruitfulness. The minister's garden is now very good, and his office-houses are suitable, had their situation been dry.—The number of scholars attending the parochial school is generally about 30 in summer, and 40 in winter. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 100 Scotch, and a *darg* of turf cast on Roxburgh moor, according to use and wont. Besides his legal salary, he has several little perquisites, such as 10 s. *per annum* as precentor and session-clerk; 20 s. *per annum* as heritors clerk; for each proclamation of banns, 1 s.; for every registration of baptism, 6 d.; and 4½ d. for each testimonial of moral character; these are here given by the authority of the kirk-session. The school-wages are 1 s. *per quarter* for reading; 1 s. 6 d. for writing; and 2 s. for arithmetic. Besides the parochial, there are two schools in this parish, which accommodate children who live at a distance from the village. The salary of the masters of these two schools is given by their employers. It is much to be wished that country schoolmasters had more liberal appointments. The Duke of Roxburgh, whose attention to all such public institutions deserves the highest praise, has augmented

mented to the legal *ultimum*, viz. L. 100 Scotch, the schoolmaster's salary here, and I believe of all the schoolmasters where he has any concern. They are still but a poor inducement for men of genius or learning, in this enterprising age, to undergo the drudgery of that most useful office. At these humble seminaries, the *million* in this country receive the rudiments of civil and moral character; and the principles children imbibe there, often direct the whole tenor of their future life. Unless the depravity of the world has rubbed off the virtuous feelings a boy was inspired with at school, we frequently find him in mature age pushed on to excellence in laudable pursuits by the same nerves which led him foremost in the youthful sport, and made him aspire at personal honour, or his master's applause, by rising *Dux* in the class through merit and industry. It might, therefore, be of great advantage to church and state, in a land where the road to eminence is open to all who will strive to attain it, were a man of a liberal and polished mind placed at the head of each of these nurseries of youth, qualified not only to teach children the alphabet, but to implant in their minds the seeds of virtue, and of that noble ambition which leads to preferment in the world, as at school, by personal worth and due submission to superiors. But this can hardly be expected, while the appointments of that office continue so extremely narrow, as to make every well-educated and virtuous man shrink back from it as a place of hopeless penury, or follow some other employment besides his school, in order to gain a decent livelihood for his family. It is hoped, however, that such arrangements will be made as may enable presbyteries (whom the wisdom of our ancestors has constituted guardians of parochial schools) to recommend men every way fit for conducting that singular system of education from whence the Scottish people have derived such consequence, and on the

proper management of which the welfare of society so greatly depends. Over the parochial school of this parish a man of great integrity has presided upwards of 40 years, and many have reaped the good fruits of his labours.

Heritors.—There are ten heritors, or proprietors of land, in the parish, five great and five small. The Duke of Roxburgh is proprietor of one half of the lands in the whole parish, and bears consequently one half of all parochial burdens, except the minister's stipend, of which by law he can greatly relieve himself, being titular of all the teinds. The only great heritor who resides for any length of time is the Hon. Baron Rutherford of Fairnington. Of this gentleman's character, so universally and so justly esteemed, a small part only falls within the limits of a Statistical account. The whole estate is cultivated by the proprietor himself, and his extensive improvements have afforded bread to artists and labourers in this part of the country for many years. Besides their receiving the stated price of labour, the most humane and particular attention is paid to the comfort and health of the inhabitants; in so much, that every thing being found them, (even medical assistance when necessary), they have no need to apply to the public funds of the parish for charity. In a small village on this estate, in which there are upwards of 100 souls, the proprietor has established a school with a considerable salary to a teacher properly qualified. The schoolmaster has an additional allowance for keeping a Sunday school, where all who wish to attend are instructed in the principles of religion and morality, and proper books on these subjects put into their hands.—Inoculation of the small-pox has often been successfully practised in the bounds of his estate; and this also being afforded *gratis*, has induced the parents to comply with that salutary measure. Thus both the spi-
ritual

ritual and temporal interests of the people are carefully attended to by the Hon. Baron*.

Of the 22 farmers who occupy the lands in this parish, eight farm pretty extensively, the rest are small tenants. Eleven or twelve in the village of Roxburgh are called *cotlanders*, possessing from his Grace the Duke of Roxburgh about two acres of land each, together with a house, yard, and liberty of pasturing their cows in an adjacent *loaning*. This, along with their own industry in some trade, enables them to bring up their families pretty comfortably. They have no lease of their lands, but their rents are seldom raised, and they are almost never turned away, unless they behave ill, or prove troublesome neighbours. All of them have families, which being, in general, trained up in the path of virtue and industry, promise to be useful members of society.

Animals.—This parish contains about 160 work, 9 or 10 riding horses, and several young ones to preserve the stock, 600 black cattle, and 4000 sheep, all good of their kind, though not distinguished in the neighbourhood either for size or value. Birds of all kinds, usually met with in this country, appear here in their proper seasons.—The Tweed and Teviot are the only rivers in the parish, and abound with various kinds of fish, especially salmon, whose prices are generally regulated by the Berwick market. A small purple-coloured trout prevails much here, very delicious to eat, and is said to be peculiar to Teviot. Such quadrupeds as generally frequent the southern parts of Scotland, appear in various corners of this parish, and afford the sportsmen plenty of game in the season.

Advantages

* Since the above was written, this worthy Nobleman is dead, much and most sincerely regretted.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—Though this parish is not much distinguished from those around by any particular local advantages, yet its vicinity to a good market at Kelso, its inhabitants being liable to no peculiar disease, and its very healthful climate, are properties of high estimation. Spring agues were troublesome in two or three places, which lie low and damp; but since the ground about these was made dry in the course of farming improvement, by drains and inclosing, the inhabitants have not been exposed to that complaint in any remarkable degree. Several old people complain much of what they call *the pains*, or rheumatism, owing probably to the extreme cold they are exposed to from their damp houses, and great scarcity of firing. Among the principal disadvantages under which this place and all the neighbourhood labour, is the great distance from coal, and a total want of every other species of fuel. This is a real calamity to the poor; and most heavily felt by them since they were, some years ago, all prohibited from casting turf on the moors. Every cottar used to have liberty from his master to cast a darg or two of turf.—The fine road from Berwick to Carlisle, (so beautifully described in the Statistical Account of Bedrule), passes through the south part of this parish, and is of extensive *substantial* benefit, as is that likewise which runs along the north side of the parish from Kelso to Melrose. But the high road passing through the village of Roxburgh is yet in a natural state, and on account of its extreme ruggedness is almost impassable. In consequence, however, of a bridge now building over Teviot, near Kelso, we hope this road will soon be put into a state of complete repair, being the direct line therefrom up through a rich populous country, whose comforts and improvement are much impeded by the want of it. The bridge above mentioned is remarkably handsome, and will be of vast utility to all that

populous district between Tweed and Teviot; especially to the tenants on the east end of this parish, whom the accidental magnitude of these rivers often interrupted in the course of business. Another inconvenience arises to this parish from its intersection by the Teviot. The lands adjacent to the river are not indeed exposed to much damage thereby, and a boat is kept at Roxburgh, both for serving the country, and accommodating the people with access to the church; yet the flooding of the river often prevents a populous district of the parish from attending public worship, and *totally* deprives the children there of the benefit of the parochial school. As many landward parishes labour under similar inconveniences with regard to parochial schools, it is hoped that in these arrangements understood to be going on through Scotland for better encouraging the education of youth, some plan will be adopted for providing slated schoolmasters in such places as have not access to the parish-school.

Views.—In almost every corner of this parish the eye is presented with objects that nature and art seem vying how best to adorn. The beauties of the scenery which surrounds the seat of the ancient city of Roxburgh exceeds all description. A little to the west of this, the public road lies along the top of a precipice lined with trees, through which a traveller perceives the Tweed rolling “dark, “drumbly and deep,” far below him; at a little distance, on the other hand, he sees the Teviot meandering round a large plain, and bounded by a rocky wooded bank. While, contemplating these rivers, truly beautiful when in low water, and grand when in flood, the spectator suddenly loses sight of *them*, and every thing else but the wood that overshadows him in a hollow of the way. In this gloomy path he goes only a few paces, until a most enchanting scene

scene opens upon him all at once, the prominent features whereof are, the Duke of Roxburgh's seat at Fleurs; Sir George Douglas's at Springwoodpark; the Teviot on the right and Tweed on the left hand, two beautiful bridges over these, and Kelso, in all its glory, full in the traveller's eye, as he passes eastward. From a particular spot in the village of Roxburgh there is a very magnificent view. Looking eastward, the spectator sees nothing wild or uncultivated, and stretches the line of vision along a valley, apparently covered with trees, to the distance of 8 or 10 miles. A corn or grass field, a house here and there, and the smoke of various cots and villages curling up from amidst the forest, diversify and heighten the scene. A house on the top of a high hill, with a row of trees on each side of it, makes a fine termination to the whole. From the same spot the spectator is amused with a very different prospect westward, double the length, and bounded by the lofty mountain Carter, and its adjacent hills. From a rising ground on the south side of the parish, the curious are gratified with a romantic view of the Teviot. After being concealed by the particular arrangement of its banks, the river appears tumbling *cascade-like* from the mouth of Sunlaws caves, and instantly disappears again. The cave-mouths, and the river apparently flowing from them, produce a most singular effect. A prospect of the Teviot from Sunlaws hill, winding through an extensive dale, enriched in the highest degree both by nature and art, well deserves notice as peculiarly pleasing and grand. The widest and most abundant range of view which this parish affords, is from a rising ground or hill called *Duns-Law*, on the west angle of Fairnington estate. Agreeably to the import of its name, this eminence is said to have formerly been a station of authority and strength. An observatory, or summer-house, built on the top of it by the Hon. Baron Rutherford, commands

a prospect too vast, and crowded with objects, for particular or critical remark. From this advantageous spot of observation, the various powers of taste which adorn the mind of man are called forth, and pleasantly engaged in contemplating lofty mountains, verdant hills, fruitful plains, beautiful rivers, populous towns, great woods, three renowned castles, and a peep of the German Ocean. Under the spectator's eye from this place the parish of Roxburgh lies *fully* displayed, and forms an excellent landscape, the Tweed washing its border on the north, and Teviot partly on the south. A rich angle, all inclosed *, lying on the south-east side of Teviot, adds much to the beauty of the whole.

Curiosities.—Among the curiosities in this parish, two well-springs, on the banks of the Tweed, of a petrifying quality, are remarkable. One of these is but a feeble spring, and being in the midst of marshy ground, is not very perceptible. The moss around it, however, is all incrustrated considerably. More plentiful in its source, the other spring produces a more powerful effect. It seems to drip through a solid rock; but upon near inspection, that rock appears plainly to be a petrified substance. The powers of the water are so strong, as to crust a bit of moss, or any capillary substance, within the space of three months, and render it hard as solid ice in the course of half a year. A little below this a stratum of rock (by miners called a dike) runs across the river, and forms a great natural curiosity. The rock is divided into four slits, which contain the Tweed when not in flood. Two of these are about 34 feet deep, and so narrow that one may easily step across them. In summer, people a-foot used often to pass the river here; but

* This is said to have been the first inclosed ground in all this country.

but Sir Henry Hay Macdougall, some time ago, caused the middle rock to be blown up; and thus humanely stopped that curious, but *dangerous* passage. As the water runs through these gullets with great velocity, perpetually hurling down small stones, it emits a loud grumbling noise at *all* times; but at the break of an ice storm, it sends forth a tremendous roar like the raging sea, and is heard a great way off. In the time of frost the different shapes and hoary appearance of the ice form a grand scene; in summer, or when the river is low, a distant view excites pleasant emotions; a near inspection of the deep impetuous stream raiseth a very different feeling. These rocks are frequented by great numbers of salmon, and highly valued by fishers as a fit place for setting their nets. Three or four cart-load of fish are sometimes caught there in a morning. Such fish as lodge among these rocks a few days, it is said, turn quite black, owing, perhaps, to the effect of copper ore which appears on both sides of the river here in considerable quantity. Some of the small stones which halt on these rocks being kept in a constant eddy by the current, grind out deep round holes very *soon*, which make a curious beautiful appearance.

Antiquities.—Such as are given to that species of investigation might find many memorials of antiquity in this parish. The feat and gardens of the Franciscan monks, who settled at Roxburgh; various monuments of ghostly customs observed by those religionists; medals, coins, sundry machinery instruments; causeway paved streets and subterraneous vaults; pieces of spears, guns, and other military accoutrements; an immense quantity of iron nails, &c. found in cultivating the fields where the ancient city of Roxburgh formerly stood; spurs, and other articles of harness, got about the skirts of the castle; the castle it-

self, whereof there remains now only as much shattered wall as suggests the former prodigious strength and singular magnificence of that fortress; a variety of aged *stately* trees, particularly an elm, called the *trysting-tree*, about thirty feet round the trunk, and clothed with ramifications remarkably grand and venerable; those objects furnish great entertainment for the antiquarian: but the reader is referred for a farther account of them to the Statistical Report of Kelso, whose author has taken notice of them, and whose talents, besides superior means of information, are better fitted to do justice to such rare monuments of antiquity*. But there are other objects in this parish worthy of the antiquarian's notice. Among these may be reckoned a hawthorn-tree in the minister's garden, remarkable for size and beauty, measuring about seven feet round the trunk, and shading an area of upwards of thirty feet diameter. There are few objects of greater beauty to be seen than this tree when in blossom.—The remains of a strong tower, situated near this village, on the top of a bank gently sloping down to the Teviot, are worthy of notice. This venerable fabric has once been of great extent and magnificence. Old people here remember its having various apartments inhabited, the windows and doors secured by iron bars and gates, and the lintles and door-posts, especially those of the great porch, highly ornamented by grand Gothic sculpture. They speak with rapture also of the fine gardens, the fruit-trees, and various works of decoration,

* That these places belong to Roxburgh parish appears, from the local memory of the oldest inhabitants here; from the express terms of the leases, whereby the tenants of these lands have always held that farm; from the Bailie of Roxburgh barony holding his court at Friars; from the positive testimony of the late author of the county cess-books; and from the statute-labour of Roxburgh parish being applied for making and repairing roads about Friars as within this bounds.

tion, whereby they have seen this mansion surrounded. These things, so expressive of the taste and dignity of the former inhabitants of this place, are now quite effaced; and there remains of the tower itself only two apartments on the ground-floor, lighted by a few rays transmitted through some slits in the wall, apparently designed for air, or for shooting arrows from in different directions. The apartments are strongly arched above; the walls are upwards of six feet thick, and built with small stones, cemented firm as the solid rock. The roof is overgrown with grass, interspersed by brush-wood, sprung, seemingly, from seed blown thither from a neighbouring ash-tree. These bushes contribute much to the beautifully grotesque figure of this ruin. From this tower was carried to the late Lady Chatto's (whose property it was) a strong iron gate, two spears, a steel cap, and a coat of mail very entire. The spears were of such size that a *rugg* saw was made out of each, and still to be seen here: the coat of mail was so heavy, that a stout young man in this village, who tried it on and essayed to walk, was not able to move with it. This ruin is called Merlin's Cave, in memory of an ancient inhabitant of that name, they say. It bears also the name of Wallace's Tower; but whether it obtained that designation, like some other places in Scotland, merely in honour of such an illustrious champion of his country; or whether, as blind Harry says, Wallace was actually in this place, and built the tower at Roxburgh, the writer has not been able fully to ascertain. A young woman, about 70 or 80 years ago, fell from the stair-head, where she was sitting spinning one day, and soon after that the place was totally deserted. From a superstitious aversion probably, that still prevails in

* The steel cap is in possession still of Mr George Cranston at Flowlan.

in this country, to any place where wilful or accidental death has happened, the people imagining that such places are haunted by the ghosts of the deceased; that gloomy fancy was heightened in this instance by the consideration of the poor unfortunate's being a *bride* the day she died. A little to the westward of this, on the opposite side of the river, appear several caves cut out of solid rock, in the middle of a high precipice, whose bottom is washed by the Teviot, which flows here broad and deep in a serpentine form. Three of these caves have been of large dimensions. One of them was used as a hiding place for horses in 1745, when the Pretender to the Crown of Britain went through this parish with his army, and from that circumstance, as well as from its having been used for a stable afterwards, it is called the Horse Cave. Another, whose mouth is almost quite filled up, and inaccessible now, reaches so far back into the ground, that old people who have been in it say they never got to the farthest end of it, and suppose this cave had been a subterraneous passage to Sunlaws mansion-house in times of danger. A third is called the *Dove Cave*, from its having been used by Lady Chatto as a pigeon-house. The sides of it are full of square holes cut out of the solid rock, and said to have been the pigeon nests; but some imagine from this circumstance, that it had been originally a concealed cellar, or hiding place for stores. It is probable these caves had *all* been sheltering holds during the border incursions, which exposed the miserable inhabitants of this country to perpetual danger and depredation. At the mouth of one of these caves, in a fine summer evening, when the sun has gone "*balflings* down the west," the eye is presented with a view of nature displayed in such glory and variety, as she seldom assumes. Many vestiges of camps and trenches appear in this parish; but the most remarkable encampment in it is that on the north-west side,

so well described in the Statistical Report of Maxton, but from the local memory of the people not in Maxton parish. "The exploratory mount belonging to this camp "stands a little eastward on the banks of Tweed *;" is planted on the top with trees, as a vista from Mackerston-house, and makes a very picturesque appearance, the scenery round its base being highly romantic. A well of several streams issues out of it, which, from the name †, the peculiar salubrity of the water, and the remains of nice building, had likely been once of great repute. The great Roman road (Watling-street) by Borrowbridge, runs through the west corner of this parish; and that being thought the nearest yet found between England and Scotland, great quantities of cattle purchased at the Scotch markets are carried south this way.

Miscellanies.—The wages of household-servants are not higher here than in the neighbourhood; those of day-labourers are often regulated by the abilities of the worker, or his employer's necessity. Wages in general are understood to be more than quadrupled within the last forty years, and leave little ground of complaint, did not plenty create luxury, and luxury wants, which nature unadulterated seldom feels. The people here complain not so much of the price, as of the mode of obtaining labour in some instances. Cottars are bound to be at their master's call through the whole year, at 8 d. *per* day generally. Considering this *bondage*, as they call it, a hardship, the people strive to get lodgings in places where no such obligations are required, or where they may have victuals as part of wages, a thing seldom now granted to day-labourers here. Owing either to this, or *the monopoly of farms*, or the demolition of cot-

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houses,

* Pennant.

† St John's Well.

houses, or, perhaps, the combination of all these, the population of this parish has decreased upwards of 200 souls within the space of ten years ! a serious circumstance, were it universal through country parishes ; principles of effeminacy and corruption naturally prevailing most in towns, for reasons mentioned above, the people generally emigrating from the country to towns. In an age of general prosperity, indeed, these baneful principles make rapid progress every where. An unexampled flow of prosperity has, of late years, wonderfully altered the condition, sentiments, and manners of men in this corner of the country ; but the writer is happy to find the people here retain, in general, their wonted character of sobriety, kindness, liberality, and respect for the ordinances of divine worship. Indeed, the inhabitants of *Roxburgh* parish lie under peculiar obligations to virtue both civil and religious. Dwelling in peace, happiness, and safety on that very spot where their fathers knew not where to lay their heads, the sensible and reflecting feel thankful to Heaven for spreading its influence so benignly over us.

Memorials of death and slaughter appear in many parts of this parish, from human bones, sometimes scattered in the open field uncoffined ; sometimes huddled together head to foot, in a hole of the earth, and covered with rugged stones ; and sometimes found in cells of mouldering towers, with instruments of murder in their bowels. These sad memorials make minds of sensibility bewail the wretchedness of mankind in a rude, ungoverned state, and inspire veneration for that *excellent* constitution, under whose auspices Britons enjoy their religion, families, and home ; each one sitting under his own vine and under his own fig-tree, and none to make him afraid.

Surveying the plains where armies a hundred thousand strong had marched, empurpling the earth with blood, now
abundantly

abundantly yielding food for man and beast, men grasp in joyful expectation that halcyon era, when the spears of every land shall, as here, be beat into plough-shares, and the "still voice" charm the warriors confused noise into perpetual silence. Musing over the razed foundations of Roxburgh, once the fourth burgh of distinction in Scotland; the traces of those halls, which rung twice seven days in honour of Royal births and nuptials; and the rubbish of domes, where Princes and Nobles were wont to sit in state, the heart feels for the transient nature of sublunary joy or greatness, and the Christian's soul aspires after mansions above, where moth and rust corrupt not*.

* Such as wish for a full account of this place, may consult the History of Scotland, Redpath's Border History, Pennant's Tour, and particularly, a manuscript History of Roxburgh, formerly in the Advocate's Library, Edinburgh, and the writer supposes may still be seen there.

NUM.

NUMBER IV.

CITY OF ABERDEEN,

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN)!

From the Communications of several Gentlemen of that City.

Introduction.

ABERDEEN, the metropolis of the northern division of Scotland, and the capital of the county of Aberdeen, is situated at the influx of the rivers Don and Dee into the German Ocean; and in $57^{\circ} 9'$ north latitude, as taken at the Astronomical Observatory belonging to the town*.

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* There have been, in this century, three maps made of Aberdeen. The first by G. and W. Paterfon in 1746, which is titled, "A Survey of Old and New Aberdeen, with the adjacent country between the rivers Dee and Don." It makes a single sheet map, and is prefixed to No. III. of *Bibliotheca Typographica Britannica*, 4to. The second, published in 1773, by Captain Taylor, comprehends Old Aberdeen, and most of the parish of Old Machar, with all the fields lying between Dee and Don, to about three miles from the mouth. The third, on a larger scale than either of the former, published in 1790, by Alexander Milne, is intended chiefly as a map of the town and harbour of Aberdeen, with the nearest circumjacent fields.

The etymology of *Aberdeen*, the ancient as well as modern name both of the town and parish, is doubtless from the ancient British. *Aber*, according to Cambden, when applied to a river or brook, signifies the mouth, *ostium*, the place where it falls into the sea, or into any lake or river. The earliest mention, probably, of this place, is in a Roman itinerary of the incursion made by Severus, if we mistake not, into the northern parts of the island, in the beginning of the 3d century. The town is there called *Devana*, and the river *Deva*. But whether the name *Devana* was used by the natives may reasonably be questioned. It appears more likely to have been given it by the Romans from its situation on *Deva*, the Dee. What serves to confirm this opinion is, that the *Dee*, a river of the same name in the west of England, is, by Ptolemy, also called *Deva*, and *Cbeſter*, the only city of note upon it, is, from that circumstance, called *Devana*, a word which has no affinity to *Cbeſter*, or to any name by which it seems to have been known to the natives. Probably, therefore, *Aberdeen* is the first name by which this town was distinguished, and that before the introduction of Christianity into the country. It is much more probably derived from the ancient *British* than from the *Erſe*. To the former, the oldest names of towns, rivers, and mountains in this country have a greater affinity than to the latter, which, though but a different dialect of the same language, the Celtic came much later than the other into the eastern parts of the country, from a colony of *Iriſh*, whence it has had, time immemorial, the name of *Erſe*. If the Picts were, as some of our antiquaries suppose, a tribe of the ancient Britons, the name is doubtless to be ascribed to them. But if, as is maintained by others, the Picts were originally Scandinavians or Germans, the name *Aberdeen*, with many others, must have had its origin before their invasion, and must be attributed to the

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the first known inhabitants of the whole island, the ancient Britons. Another argument that it is from the old *British* or *Welsh*, not from the *Irish* or *Erse*, that Aberdeen is derived, is, that in no place where the *Erse* has been, time immemorial, the vernacular tongue, do we find any name of similar derivation; whereas we find many in these parts where the other language was known to have prevailed. In Scotland, for example, all the *Abers* are on the east side. There we have Aberdeen, Aberdour, Aberbrothock, Aberlemny, Abernethy. In Wales they abound—Aberavon, Aberconway, Aberfraw, Abergely, Abergerlick, and Aberystwith. In the neighbouring western parts of England—Aberford and Abergaveny. But not any that we know in the eastern parts of England, none in Ireland, nor on the west of Scotland, the country of the Highlanders, where the *Erse* has been the language of the people for many ages. It may seem strange that there should be no example of this British idiom on the east coast of England, of which the Britons were so long in possession. We know no way this can be accounted for, but by observing, that when the country was subdued by the Saxons, the old inhabitants, were not, as is common, suffered to remain and intermingle with the conquerors, but were cruelly expelled, and forced to take refuge in the mountains of the west, a tract of country comparatively barren, and almost inaccessible. It is this total and sudden extermination, by which alone we can account for so strange a fact, that few places in the eastern parts of England retain their old British names. That the ancient Britons, and the Irish or Scots (for the name *Scoti* was for ages used indifferently of both) were originally and equally Gaulish colonies, there is no room to doubt; but as they have come off at different times, and probably from distant parts of the extensive countries peopled by the Gauls, the dialects of these different colonies, though

though resembling, as sprung from a common stock, are not so far coincident as that the tongue of the one nation should be intelligible to the other. That our Scotch Highlanders are originally from Gaul is manifest from the name Gaelic which they have always given to the language they speak. This is not less evident of the ancient Britons, from the name universally given to the country, to which, after the Anglo-Saxon conquest, they were obliged to confine themselves. It was called *Gallia*, which in the Saxon idiom is *Wales*; the people *Galli*, Welchmen. For let it be observed, that those who spoke any of the Teutonic dialects always changed the hard *g* of the southern languages into *w*. Thus, of the French *guerre* they made *war*; from their *gardien*, we have *warden*; their *Guillamme* is our *William*; and *Gualtere* is *Walter*. And conversely, he who is in Britain *Prince of Wales*, is in France *le Prince de Galles*. To say, therefore, that one speaks *Welsh*, must have denoted the same originally as he speaks *Gaulish*, or Gaelic, no other alteration being made on the word than what the adapting of it to the Saxon pronunciation rendered necessary. It is, therefore, no improvement in moderns to confound with it the dialect of the Highlanders, by giving it the name *Gaelic*; for though this application may be justified from considering the origin of the people, yet as the more familiar name *Erse* serves both to discriminate the dialect of our Highlanders from the ancient British, and to point out its coincidence with the Irish, it is every way preferable. It is not meant to intimate, that those names which have commonly been considered as of Irish extraction, are all originally British. Some of them are manifestly of the former dialect. In *Erse*, the word *inver*, for example, corresponds to the British *aber*. Now we have several *invers*, as *Inverness*, *Inverury*, *Inverbervy*, all unquestionably from the *Erse*; only with regard to these, we have

have reason to think they are of much later origin than the other. *Strat*, or *Stratb*, in British, denoting a valley enclosed by hills, and lying along the banks of a river or lake. Hence *Stratbearn*, *Stratbmore*, *Stratbdon*, *Stratbspey*, &c. Nearly equivalent to Strath is *Glen* in Erse, and *Dale* in Anglo-Saxon. Thus, what with us is Clydesdale, was by the ancient inhabitants called *Stratclyde*.

This place is frequently known by the name of the *Old* and *New Town* of Aberdeen; the former is chiefly situated near the mouth of the Don, the latter near the mouth of the Dee. The two rivers, at their influx into the sea, are distant about a mile and a quarter; but this intervening space is mostly occupied by regular streets and buildings, which form the present city of Aberdeen.



OLD MACHAR.

THE parish of Old Machar was originally a deanry, called the Deanry of St Machar, and comprehended the parishes of Old Machar, New Machar, and Newhills. In times of Popery, they do not seem to have been divided into separate parishes, but to have been chapels in the deanry, at which chapels divine worship was regularly performed, as the inhabitants of so extensive and populous a district could not conveniently meet in one place for public worship. New Machar seems to have been erected into a separate parish about the time of the Reformation; and Newhills about the year 1663. This parish is now called Old Aberdeen, or the Old Town parish, from the city of Old Aberdeen, in which the cathedral, now the parish-church, is situated.

The extent of this parish is great, and its form irregular. Its south-east corner forms the north and west boundaries of the city of Aberdeen, or parish of St Nicholas. It extends about three miles up the Dee, by which river it is bounded on the south, and divided from the parish of Nigg, and county of Kincardine. The western boundary stretches in a crooked line from the Dee to the Don, at the distance of about two miles and a half from the parish church. By this line it is divided from the parishes of Nether Banchory and Newhills. Crossing the Don, it extends a mile and a half farther up the river, making in all four miles from the river's mouth. On this part, the Don divides it from the parishes of Newhills and Dyce; its northern boundary passes by the parishes of New Machar and Belhelvie, till it joins the sea at the Black Dog*, forming a sweep, every part of which is distant from the parish-church at least four miles. On the east it is bounded by the sea from the Black Dog to Aberdeen, the extent of coast being about five miles. Its greatest length from north to south may be from seven to eight miles, and its greatest breadth about four miles.

This parish rises in a gentle slope from the sea, and though there is no eminence in it that deserves the name of a mountain, its surface is beautifully diversified by rising grounds. The windings of the Dee and the Don, the manufactories, and the woods on the banks of the latter, some detached clumps of planting on the rising grounds, interspersed with a number of gentlemens seats and villas; together with the various prospects of the sea, the rivers, the cities of Old

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* The Black Dog is a solitary rock of a black colour, in the sands of Belhelvie, within high water mark. When the tide is out, one may walk round it on the sand; but when the tide is in, the summit of it appears above the water like the head of a black dog, and to this circumstance it owes its name.

and New Aberdeen, and the villages of Gilcomston and Hardgate, give a pleasant variety to the general appearance of this parish. The steep and rugged banks of the Don, from the house of Seaton till below the bridge, are so truly romantic, that they seldom escape the stranger's notice. These rocks, abounding with an immense variety of herbs, covered partly with wood, and partly with furze, afford ample gratification both to the botanist and the lover of rural beauty. Winding in a semicircular form, as you walk along their summits, you command in one direction, constantly varying, views of the sea, and of the old lofty Gothic arch which is thrown over the river; while, on the opposite direction, you have as diversified views of the old Cathedral, the spires of Aberdeen, and the various manufactories on the different meanders of the Don. These prospects, if you look down, are delightfully varied, by the fishermen plying their little boats, at the depth of 50 or 60 feet below. This place has been compared to the beautiful and wild scenery in Switzerland.

On the south side of the parish, near to Ferryhills, are many curious little Sandhills, lying in all different directions, and moulded into various forms, seemingly by the retiring of some immense quantity of water. Among these one called the round O deserves to be particularly noticed. It rises by itself in a circular form, from the level of a moss, and has a hollow in it of considerable depth, like an inverted sugar-loaf. This hollow is marshy in the bottom. As to its cause I have heard no conjecture. About this place are several beautiful villas; and it affords excellent situations for many more.

The soil in this parish is in some places naturally fertile, in others barren; and many parts of it have been forced into fertility by astonishing labour and expence. Where it has not been meliorated by art, it is in general shallow, sandy,

fandy, and full of stones. To this, some spots on the margin of the Don, and the fields from the east side of the city of Old Aberdeen to the sea, form exceptions; although the soil of these last be light, it has for a subsoil a very deep stratum of excellent clay. In many places to the north of the Don, especially towards the coast, a deep mass of an indifferent quality is found under the soil; and in some places immense beds of sand.

The air is generally healthy: and like that of other places on the coast, is neither so hot in summer, nor so cold in winter, as in more inland parts of the country.



ABERDEEN, OR ST NICHOLAS.

THE parish is sometimes called the parish of *St Nicholas*, the tutelar saint, to whom the great church in the city, which was very ancient, but of whose age we have no record, had been dedicated. The church was pulled down and rebuilt about the middle of the present century, but still retains the name of *St Nicholas* from the former dedication. As to the origin of this name, it is requisite only to observe, that though there have been in the church many Doctors named *Nicholas*, the Bishop of Myra in Lycia is the only one of the name who has obtained a place in the Kalendar, and is therefore to be accounted the tutelar saint intended. The name *St Nicholas*, as given to the parish, cannot be supposed to have been from the beginning. We even suspect the saint is younger than the parish. Probably this appellation is no older than the late edifice that bore the name. In primitive times it would have

have been thought a species of idolatry, to dedicate a church to any but God. The origin of this name, therefore, as a name of the church or parish, may not implausibly be attributed to some of the dark ages, the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth century.

The extent of the parish, in point of territory, is not great, being confined to the bounds of the city on every side, except the south-east, where it extends to the mouth of the river, and includes a small fishing village called *Futtie*, (or *Footdee*, as some of late affect to spell it from a mistaken etymology), which lies along the river, between Aberdeen and the sea, and is the only village in the parish. In other directions, even what may be called the suburbs of the town, are not in the parish.—As to the form, though very irregular, it comes nearer a triangular figure than any other we can think of. In this view we reckon the quay, and that part of the street which leads from the west end of the quay to the Bow-bridge, (which is the lowest and most southerly part of the town), the base of the triangle: the angle subtended, which makes the top of the triangle, and is the highest part of the town, is at the Gallowgateport, which is in like manner the northern extremity.—The length of the parish, reckoning from the lowest dwelling-house upon the Dee, next the block-house, to the most northern house in Causey-end, is about two English miles. The breadth, reckoning from Sommer's house eastward, behind North-street, to the Infirmary, which is in the most western part of the town, about one mile.—It is bounded on the south by the parish of Nigg, from which it is separated by the river; the only boundary on the east is the sea; on the north and west, quite round from the sea to the river, it is bounded by the parish of Old Machar, or Old-town parish, as it is here commonly called.—The circum-

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it abounds in stone-quarries, there are no projecting rocks of any magnitude. The town itself, which is about a mile from the sea, stands mostly on four little hills, gently rising from the river, to wit, Castlehill, St Catharine's hill, Port-hill, and Schoolhill.

The ground westward rises, for a considerable way, by a very sensible, though easy ascent. A great part of the Grampian mountains is in view. They run across the whole country, their direction being from north-east to south-west. The Tulloe-hill, on the south side of the river, in the parish of Nigg, may justly be considered as the termination of that tract of mountains on the east towards the German ocean. This hill is covered with short heath and loose stones; and has on it an eminence called the *Kairn of Loarstone*, which fronts the town on the south. The higher and more distant Grampians, on some of which are huge rocks, are chiefly covered with heath and mosses. The Stocket, or high ground west of Aberdeen, already mentioned, was, not many years ago, covered with stones and heath, but is now converted into rich fields of grass and corn.

The soil, in this neighbourhood, is naturally rather barren and thin, being mostly gravel and sand; but by means of the manure constantly furnished by so populous a city, is rendered, in a considerable degree, both deep and fertile. Some places abound in clay, and in others there is plenty of black earth.—The air is commonly sharp, dry, and healthy, as may reasonably be expected from the exposure and situation of the town. The wind, from whatever quarter it blows, has a free circulation. There is not, however, in this respect, a perfect equality in all parts of the town. In those on the east side, which are most exposed to the sea air, there is greater dampness, and a slower vegetation in the gardens.

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There is a steel mineral water on the west side of the town, near the Infirmary, commonly called the *Well of Spa*, not so strong as the Peterhead water, which has been thought of service in those cases wherein recourse is had to chalybeate springs. An essay on the virtues of this water was published by Dr Barclay, about the beginning of the last century. A mineral spring in the grounds of Mr Moir of Scotstoun, in the parish of Old Machar, was, some years ago, much frequented by the lower classes of people, partly for health and partly for amusement; but it was filled up by the proprietor, in the course of improving his lands. One has, by the tenant, been opened up in the neighbourhood, and several people drink the water, although it is not thought to be so good as the former. There is another mineral well near Gordon's mills. Both are weak chalybeates, and may be of some service in all cases, in which a weak solution of iron with fixed air can do good.

There are no lakes in the parish. That commonly called the *Loch*, lying west of the Gallowgate, is no other than a mill-dam, where the water of a brook is collected and confined for the use of a malt and flour mill in the town. One or two small lochs, on the west side of the city of Old Aberdeen, have been completely drained, and now produce excellent crops of grain. A rivulet, called the Denburn, divides, for a short way, this parish from Old Machar, on the south-west, and falls into the river Dee, a little above the quay.

The river Don is navigable to the bridge, but has no harbour. It is navigated by one small sloop, which is employed in bringing coals to the brick kilns that are near the water-mouth. In a little time there will certainly be more. Boats of a very large size might easily, at full tide, be brought nearly as far as Seaton house. This circumstance would be of great importance were there any manufactories

manufactories at Kethock's mills, on the estate of Frazerfield, which is opposite to Seaton, and where there is an excellent haugh, with a command of water sufficient for driving machinery to any extent. Goods might be easily exported directly from the manufactory, and materials imported to it, without the trouble and expence of land-carriage.

The Dee, which abounds with excellent salmon and trout, is navigable for ships, so far up only as the harbour of Aberdeen, into which ships of about 200 tons burden, if of a proper construction, or vessels of 10 feet draught (as it is called) can come, at high water, to the upper quay: and this only since building the north pier, for before that time the river was not only much shallower at the mouth than at present, but after a storm from the east or north-east, was liable to be blown up with sand, which formed a bar at the depth of little more than three feet from the surface, and proved a great obstruction to the entrance of large vessels. The water is, by means of the north pier, not only confined and deepened to 18 feet and upwards, but the harbour sheltered, in a great measure, from the storm.—Below the town's quay are two harbours, one on the north, and the other on the south side of the river, to both of which ships of much larger burden than those already mentioned have access; the one on the south side is the harbour of Tory, a fishing-town in the parish of Nigg.

Whether the river could be rendered navigable farther up than Aberdeen is not certain; and it is probable that any attempt to this purpose would answer no good end. The tide seldom or never flows higher up than to the bridge, which is little more than two miles from the mouth; and there is not commonly such a quantity of water in the river, as, without the aid of the tide, would serve for any useful navigation, especially as there is no town or village, except Aberdeen, on the river.

The greatest flood in the Dee, within the memory of man, was in the year 1768. But although the river rose to an amazing height, it did not reach any of the houses, even in the street called the *Green*, which is the lowest and only part of the town that appears to be in any danger from inundations or land-floods. But the haughs on both sides of Don and Dee are subject to them, and have sometimes suffered considerably.

Bridges of Don and Dee.

In 1281, Henry Cheyne (nephew of John Comyn, who was killed by Robert Bruce at Dumfries in 1305) succeeded to the bishoprick of Aberdeen. After Comyn's death, Bishop Cheyne, (from his being so near a relation to Comyn), as well as many others in Scotland, were greatly enraged at Robert Bruce, upon account of Comyn's death, and openly espoused the interest and party of the Comyns. For this reason, after Bruce became settled in the throne and government, Bishop Cheyne was obliged to fly into England, and remain there for several years, during which time the revenues of this bishoprick remained unapplied. But King Robert having been afterwards reconciled to Bishop Cheyne, was pleased to allow him to return, and possess the see of Aberdeen as formerly. The bishop was so happy, upon his being again received into the King's favour, that, upon his return home, he, with the concurrence and approbation of his Sovereign, applied the whole rents of his bishoprick, which, during his absence in England, had accumulated to a considerable sum towards building the bridge over Don of one large Gothic arch, where it now stands, upon the great high road leading northward from Aberdeen, and it appears to have been built about the year 1320. Bishop Cheyne died in 1329.

Bishop

Bishop William Elphinston left a considerable legacy to build a bridge over the river Dee, near Aberdeen, as well as for the erection of an university at Old Aberdeen, where the bishop's cathedral stood, but died in 1514, before any thing was done in the building of the bridge. Gavin Dunbar, son of Sir James Dunbar of Cumnock, by Elizabeth daughter of the Earl of Sutherland, and uncle to Gavin Dunbar, Archbishop of Glasgow, having succeeded to the bishoprick of Aberdeen in 1518, he soon thereafter caused collect and receive the money which had been left by Bishop Elphinston for the building of this bridge; and having also contributed himself a considerable sum of money to that work, he caused erect the greatest part of the bridge where it now stands, of seven arches, about the year 1530, although it was not finished till after his death. This bridge having gone into decay about the year 1720, was rebuilt out of the funds belonging to itself by the Magistrates and Town-council of Aberdeen, from 1720 to 1724, and is, at this day, one of the neatest of any in Scotland.

Harbour.

The extent of sea-coast in the parishes of Old Machar and St Nicholas is about six miles, and is commonly known by the name of the Bay of Aberdeen. The shore is flat and sandy. The harbour at the mouth of the river Dee was, till of late, always very much interrupted, and sometimes almost entirely shut up by a *bar*, or large bank of sand, upon which, at low tide, there was sometimes not above 18 inches or two feet of water, and at the highest tides not more than 13 feet. As this bar was frequently shifting its situation and varying its form, according as it was acted upon by storms from the sea, or floods from the river, few shipping were in safety to take the harbour, until first it was founded by a pilot, and the situation of the

bar, as well as the depth of the water, ascertained. These obstacles have in a great measure been removed by the erection of a new pier, executed according to a plan furnished by John Smeaton, Esq; engineer. It extends in length 1200 feet along the north side of the river, and a considerable way into the sea. It was begun to be built in June 1775, and was finished in October 1780. Since which time, however, it has received some additions, by the advice and direction of Mr Smeaton; particularly a jetty for sheltering the shipping within the harbour, from the violent inrun of the sea, in strong easterly winds. The cost of the whole amounted to about L. 18,000 Sterling. This expence has been defrayed, partly by some small funds formerly belonging to the harbour, but chiefly will be paid by doubling the shore and harbour dues upon the trade and shipping of the place, in consequence of an act of Parliament obtained for that purpose; but without any public aid or contribution whatever.

By the erection of this pier, although it is 200 feet shorter than in Mr Smeaton's original plan, the navigation channel at the entry of the harbour has been deepened and improved to a degree much beyond any thing that was previously expected. Now, small vessels, drawing 7 or 8 feet, can come into the harbour at low water; and at high water, or spring tides, there is from 18 to 21 feet at the entry, as the above mentioned bar, or bank of sand, is now, by the confinement of the river, and the increased velocity of the current, carried out into the sea, at least a quarter of a mile farther than it formerly was; so that we now see vessels of considerable burden, in the violence of a storm blowing right upon the land, sailing with safety into the harbour, even without the assistance of any pilot, which no ship could have attempted before, without the greatest danger of being wrecked on the bar, or some part of the adjacent coast.

coast. On the north pier-head the Magistrates have recently erected a *signal staff*, on which, when there is 9 feet water on the bar, will be hoisted, in the day time, a plain *red flag*, and in the night a *lighted lamp* and a *reflector*. They will continue hoisted till high water.—Vessels will have the harbour open when the light, or flag staff bears W. and by S. in which direction they will steer clear of the *Shortness*. The best anchoring ground in Aberdeen Bay is in six or seven fathoms water, with the two town's steeples in one, or the light bearing S. W. by W. $\frac{1}{4}$ W.—In times of great land-floods, or in any other circumstance which would make it dangerous to approach the harbour, neither the *flag* nor *light* will be hoisted.

Natural Productions.

This place affords few examples of uncommon quadrupeds, birds, or fishes. The swallow and martin make their appearance about the end of April, and disappear before the equinox. Most of the fowls that commonly frequent a low sandy sea-coast in the northern parts of the island, as gulls, sea swallows, sand larks, herons, cormorants, &c. are found here.

A considerable variety of fish are caught in the vicinity of this place, as haddock, whiting, cod, ling, turbot, skate, flounders of different kinds, halibut, plaice, soal, mackerel, dog-fish, and occasionally herrings. The fishermen of Foot-dee and Torrie collect, at low water, great quantities of sand-eels, on the shore about the mouth of the Don; these are used as bait. Some excellent shrimps are got with drag nets in the small lakes or holes which the tide leaves in the sand; they are sold for about 8 d. the pint Scotch. The market is well supplied with fish upon very reasonable terms. This is a great relief to the poor, as fish makes a principal part of their food. The nature of the coast prevents

vents sea-ware from growing upon it in abundance. The quantity of this marine production that may be driven to land by severe storms is not so great, or of so good a quality, as to be very serviceable either for manure or the manufacture of kelp.

As the parish contains little arable ground but what is occupied in gardens, and these mostly for the supply of the market, few things respecting agriculture, or the vegetable system, are worthy of remark. The gardens have long abounded with common pot herbs, as cabbages, carrots, turnips, spinage, cucumbers, &c. The fruits here are mostly of common and hardy kinds. It has been found by repeated trials, that the more delicate kinds, as the vine, peach, nectarine, &c. do not in general succeed. Small fruit, as gooseberries, currants, and rasps, agree well with the climate. The same may be said of the most of flowers, both indigenous and exotic, that are cultivated for ornament in gardens in the north of Scotland. The gean and roddan (mountain ash) are here in abundance and perfection. But the varieties of barren timber are neither very numerous nor plenty. They chiefly consist of ash, elm, beach, maple, birch, lime, willow, and holly, planted in hedge-rows round inclosures. Gardeners have, for some time past, found their account in laying out a considerable proportion of their ground in nurseries of forest-trees, as oak, elm, pine, Scotch fir, larch, laburnum, and many others, with which they supply not only this country, but send annually many thousands of their plants to England, where they can afford to undersell the English gardeners. It is observed by old people in this place, that notwithstanding the great rise of the price of provisions, and of the rent of land, the difference of the prices of all the most necessary pot-herbs and roots is, as far as their memory reaches, but inconsiderable. By this observation it would appear,

pear, that great improvements have been made here in the art of gardening. In the few fields within the limits of the parish are sown oats, bear, or big, rarely wheat, rye, pease, or beans; which, from the general disuse at present, it may be concluded that their culture here has not answered expectation. Flax is sometimes tried with success; clover and rye-grass are frequently sown; and some small spots of ground have been laid down with saintfoin and lucerne, by way of experiment.

In the parish of Old Machar are two limestone-quarries, one at Silverburn, and another about a mile north from it on the Old Meldrum road. Neither of them have been wrought to any great extent. Nine men will, in ten days, quarry and break stones to fill and fire the kiln at Silverburn. Each kiln will require 13 bolls English coals, or 18 bolls Scotch coals under duty. The average produce of a kiln is between 150 and 180 bolls of slacked lime, water measure. Each boll of shells will yield one and a half boll of powdered lime. Such stones as are not burnt are thrown into the next kiln. The quarry at the other kiln is in all respects so similar to this, that the same remarks may, with sufficient accuracy, be applied to both. The limestone of these quarries is not rich; it does not swell much in burning, and it has in it a considerable proportion of sand; it answers well in building, but is not so good for manure, especially in sandy soil like ours. The tacksman of these quarries desisted for some time from working them on account of the rise on labourer's wages, and the high price of coals. Since the tax on coals was taken off, he has again opened them; and when his lease expires, which will be soon, they will probably be wrought to a greater extent than formerly.

Granite abounds in the parish. There are excellent quarries of it at Rubislaw, Loanhead, Pitmuxton, and other places,

places, besides plenty of outlayers in the hill of Grandhome. The present rent of these amounts to about L. 80 Sterling annually, and about 100 men are constantly employed in working them; sometimes more, and sometimes fewer hands are employed, in proportion to the demand for the stones. Many of these stones are used for building in Aberdeen and its neighbourhood; but by far the greater part are sent to London, and there used for paving the streets. Nor is this trade likely to fail; for notwithstanding the uncommon durability and hardness of these stones, such is the prodigious intercourse of carriages in that immense metropolis, that a street paved with them, will in a few years be so broken as to require great quantities of new pavement. Some houses in and about London have also been built of Aberdeen granite. Our granite is much harder to work than freestone, and is capable by much labour of receiving a very fine polish. It is generally of a grey colour, and is mixed with shining talky particles, which give it, when well dressed, a considerable degree of lustre. About 12,000 tons of stone are annually exported from Aberdeen, and are valued at 14s. *per* ton, amounting to L. 8400. Sometimes, however, the exportation is considerably greater.

Besides the granite, our land abounds with a coarse hard stone, which, though it may be broken by the hammer, cannot be wrought by the pick or the chissel, and is therefore little used in building. Collected in immense quantities from the barren fields, which are trenched or drained in the course of improving the land, it is chiefly employed in filling the drains, or in raising dry stone fences for inclosing and subdividing these fields. Sometimes the quantities of these whinstones (as they are called) are so great, that they cannot be exhausted by fencing or draining. In these cases they are collected in Cairns, or the fences are made immoderately thick. In some grounds they are so nume-

rous and large, as to render the land utterly incapable of improvement, even by planting. These observations are not appropriated to this place only, but will too generally apply to many places all over the county of Aberdeen, and the northern part of the Mearns.

No mines have as yet been found in this place. We have no coals but what are imported from England and the frith of Forth. Lately an ore, seemingly rich, has been found at the haugh of Grandhome, in digging a lead for bringing in water to a manufactory about to be established there. The ore has been smelted, and turns out to be manganese, equal, if not superior in quality to any imported from England. There are several veins of it; one of them about four inches thick, and all of them passing obliquely between layers of hard and solid rock. John Paton of Grandhome is proprietor of the field in which it is found.

CITY OF ABERDEEN.

All historical accounts agree, that this city was erected into a royal burgh towards the end of the ninth century by King Gregory of Scotland, surnamed *The Great*. But the original charter of erection, and all the more ancient title-deeds and records of the burgh were, together with the town itself, burnt and destroyed by the English, as after noticed; a very few charters, and other grants, however, have been saved, the oldest of which is a charter by King William *the Lion* in favour of the burgeses of Aberdeen,
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and others benorth the *Month**. This charter was granted at Perth, there called *Pert*, but without any date or year, though it must have been towards the end of the twelfth century, as that King began to reign in 1165.

There are other two charters granted by the same King William to the burgeses of Aberdeen, of the toll of their chattles through the whole kingdom, both dated at Aberdeen the 28th August, without mentioning the year of God or of the King's reign, although, from the writing and seals, they appear to be of a later date than the former, and have probably been granted during the King's residence here, as he certainly built a palace and remained some time with his Court at Aberdeen. It stood upon the site of the present Trinity Church and Trades Hospital in the Shiprow; and upon King William's leaving the country, he founded in the same place a monastery for the Trinity or Red Friars, which was burnt and destroyed along with the town. It was afterwards rebuilt about the year 1633, by Dr William Guild, minister in Aberdeen, who bequeathed and left it for an hospital to decayed tradesmen, besides some other subjects for bursaries at the Marischal College, under the patronage of the Convener-court.

About 1306-7, (according to Hector Boece), the citizens of Aberdeen, who had always steadily adhered to and supported the interest of King Robert Bruce, being rendered desperate by the cruel usage of a strong English garrison kept in the castle here by Edward I. they, along with a number of others, adherents to Bruce's interest, surpris'd and storm'd the garrison, and put them to the sword, and at
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* It is supposed this alludes to the Month or high ridge of hills near to Fettercairn in Kincardineshire, through which the high-road called the Cairn of Month road passes from Brechin, &c. towards the river Dee.

the same time laid the castle in ruins, to prevent the English from returning. A party of the English, who happened to be in the neighbourhood, came immediately to revenge the disaster; but they were met and engaged by the Aberdonians and their associates, in the church-yard of St Nicholas, where the English were totally defeated, with great slaughter.

The first charter now extant, in favour of the burgh itself, is granted by King Robert Bruce, *anno* 1320, which contains also a gift and conveyance to the community of the Royal Forest of the *Stocket*. Besides this, he granted various other privileges and immunities to the citizens and burgh of Aberdeen, sundry of which are still extant, from 1314 to 1324.

In 1333, Edward III. of England having sent a fleet of ships to ravage the east coast of Scotland, a body of English landed, and by surprise, attacked the town of Aberdeen, in the night time, killed a great number of the inhabitants, and burnt and destroyed the town for six days together, in revenge for the several defeats which their countrymen had there received.

Anno 1336, Edward III. invaded Scotland, and marched with an army as far north as Inverness, during which time the citizens of Aberdeen went out and attacked a party of English forces, who had landed at Dunnoter, and killed their general. In revenge of which, Edward, upon his return from Inverness, made a violent attack upon the town of Aberdeen, put the greatest part of the inhabitants to the sword, and again burnt and destroyed the town. At which time, as well as *anno* 1333, many of the more ancient charters and records belonging to the community were lost. Some years after the town was rebuilt, and considerably enlarged, particularly towards the hills, upon which the principal part of it now stands, *viz.* The Woolmanhill, St

Catharine's-hill, the Port-hill, and the Castlehill, (the old town having lain along the Green and Shiprow, &c. eastwards), and in this the citizens were greatly assisted by King David Bruce, for their steady loyalty and attachment both to himself and his father. The same King David resided for some time at Aberdeen, where he erected a mint, as appears from some pieces of money coined there; and the whole town, after being rebuilt as above, was afterwards called *The New Town* of Aberdeen, in contradistinction to the *old*, which had been burnt down.

In September 1644, during the time of the civil wars, the Marquis of Montrose, with an army of about 2000 men, having approached the town of Aberdeen, and summoned it to surrender to him, the magistrates, after advising with Lord Burley, who then commanded in the town a force nearly equal in number to the assailants, refused to give up the town; upon which a battle ensued within half an English mile of the Town, at a place called the Crabstone, near to the Justice-mills, where Montrose prevailed, and many of the principal inhabitants were killed. An account of this engagement is contained in the council-records.

The city of Aberdeen has received various grants from fourteen different Sovereigns of Scotland, from King William the Lyon, downward to King James VI. inclusive, all extant in the town's chartulary, and, in 1638, the whole of these preceding charters and grants were, by a charter from King Charles I. not only ratified and confirmed, but also the burgh was of new erected; and by the same charter the Provost and Bailies are constituted Sheriffs, Coroners, and Justices of the Peace, within the burgh, and whole bounds of the freedom-lands, and salmon-fishings on Dee, holden burgage of the Crown, the Provost being named Sheriff and Coroner's principal, and the Bailies, Sheriffs and Coroners depute; which

which several offices of Sheriff and Justices of the Peace the magistrates of Aberdeen have been in the constant practice of exercising to the present day, in all causes coming before them in these capacities, and of holding quarter-sessions for the burgh in the same manner as the justices of the county. The magistrates have farther granted to them by the said charter the same powers, jurisdiction, and authority within the port, harbour, and flood-mark of Aberdeen, and whole bounds thereof, as well as within the rivers Dee and Don to the two bridges, as they have within the burgh itself and liberties, and have always exercised that jurisdiction and authority accordingly.

The Town-council and Dean of Guild of Aberdeen have likewise, by the same charter from King Charles I. full power and authority committed to them, of visiting, examining and trying all weights and measures, used in buying and selling, not only in the town, but also through the whole county of Aberdeen, which they have been, in like manner, in the practice of exercising, and holding circuit and itinerant courts for that purpose, in the different principal country towns, where any kind of trade or merchandise is carried on.

The foresaid charter and confirmation by King Charles I. with the whole other writs and title-deeds therein confirmed, and rights and privileges thereby granted to the burgh, were afterwards solemnly ratified by different acts of Parliament of Scotland, particularly by two acts in 1641 and 1681.

From the 1336, when the town was last burnt, to the 1398, there does not appear to have been any public records regularly kept. But from the last mentioned period to the present time, (except for about twelve years in the beginning of the 15th century), there is a regular and uninterrupted series of records of the acts and proceedings both
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of the Town-council and Bailie-courts, all in good order and condition, consisting of above 70 volumes, remaining in the town's chartulary, containing in whole a connected period of near 400 years.

Before the Reformation, there were several chapels within the burgh and royalty, annexed to and dependent upon the parish-church, particularly St Mary's Chapel, under the East Church, where the Highland Congregation now meets for worship; St Catharine's Chapel, which stood upon the hill of that name; St Ninian's Chapel at the Castlehill, part of which still remains, and St Clement's Chapel at Futtie, which has been lately rebuilt, and is still occupied as a place of worship under the patronage of the council.

There were likewise monasteries of several different orders of friars, established in Aberdeen, beside the Trinity and Red Friars already mentioned, *viz.* The Black Friars in the Schoolhill, where Gordon's Hospital and the grammar-school now stand. The Carmelite, or White Friars, along the south side of the Green, and the Gray Friars in the Broadgate, where the Marischal college and church are now situated.

The batteries erected by the town in 1781 and 1782, for defence of the shipping and harbour, have cost about L. 1200, and they have mounted upon them ten new iron cannon, 12 pounders. The town has likewise two brass field pieces, 3 pounders, with a proportionable quantity of shot and ammunition. They have also 400 stand of small arms or muskets deposited in the town's armory, and kept always in excellent order by a tradesman, who has a yearly salary for that purpose.

With respect to the present municipal constitution and form of government of the burgh of Aberdeen, which has now subsisted, and been invariably observed for no less than two centuries downward to this day. It is founded chiefly
upon

upon the acts of Parliament 1469 and 1474, by which all officers and members of the councils of burghs are appointed to be annually elected: " That the auld council of the " town shall chuse the new, in sic number as accords to it ; " and that the new and auld councils together shall chuse " all the said officers : That ilk craft shall chuse a person of " their number, that shall also have a vote in the election " of the officers, and that four worthy persons of the auld " council for the year before shall be chosen yearly to sit " with the new council." It appears, however, that these acts of Parliament were not in any part observed by the town-council of Aberdeen for above 120 years after they were passed. On the contrary, they persisted in following what they called the ancient form of government and auld consuetude of the burgh, by which it appears, that the numbers of the members of council often fluctuated, and varied very much, from 20 to 36, and that, when once they were elected or assumed, they were in general continued during their life, or so long as they did not differ with the persons who had assumed them ; and that the five first magistrates or officers of the burgh, *viz.* the Provost, (for many years styled Alderman), and the four Bailies, were alone elected annually at head-courts of the citizens, called *Curia Capitalis*, although sometimes without mentioning by whom the election even of these officers was made, but for the most part expressed to be *cum communi omnium burgensium consensu et assensu et voto*, which election, however, was equally illegal, and against the directions of the acts of Parliament, as the continuing the members for life.

This ancient custom was at last, 1590, openly challenged and complained of as arbitrary and illegal by a Mr John Cheyne, then a member of council, who insisted, that they should make an annual election, in terms of these statutes, which they not only refused to comply with, but expelled him

him from the council, as a person unfit and improper to be of their number. He was, however, soon joined by a Mr Ewen, and many other burgessees of equally patriotic principles, who raised a prosecution against the magistrates and council before the Courts of Session and Exchequer, with concurrence of his Majesty's Advocate, for obliging them to comply with the terms of the foresaid statutes. The consequence of which was, that the council at last, in October 1591, (after lamenting the fall of what they declared to be the auld consuetude and ancient form of Government of the burgh), agreed to follow the directions of the said statutes, and accordingly made an election in the terms thereof for the following year, ending at Michaelmas 1592.

It appears, however, that Mr Cheyne and his associates did not get into power, upon the new constitution, which they had the merit to produce, and that at the ensuing Michaelmas they assembled in arms in different parts of the town, in purpose to overawe the proceedings of the council; for composing of which violent animosities, a conference ensued betwixt a certain number of the council and the leaders of the citizens, the result whereof happily produced a submission by the several parties concerned, of all the matters in dispute betwixt them to his Majesty King James VI. as oversman, and twelve others as arbitrators; who, by a decret-arbitral, of date 9th December 1592, subscribed by them and the parties themselves, in testimony of their approbation; fixed and appointed the magistrates and council for that year, ending at Michaelmas 1593 by name, consisting of nineteen persons, *viz.* seventeen guild-brethren and two craftsmen, and ordained and appointed that the acts of Parliament concerning the election of magistrates, council, and office-men within the burgh, should be precisely observed in all time thereafter,

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This decret-arbitral was, in a few days after its date, read to and unanimously ratified by the whole burgessees and citizens of the town, convened together for the purpose, who, at the same time, solemnly swore to obtemper and obey the decret thereafter in all points; and which, with another decret-arbitral, pronounced by the commissioners of Burghs in July 1596, finding the craftsmen entitled to ten votes in the annual election of the magistrates, dean of guild, and treasurer, form together what is now called the Sett, or Municipal Constitution of the burgh, which has been uniformly observed as an invariable rule and standard in the annual election of magistrates and council to this day. By it the constituent members of the town-council consist of nineteen in number, seventeen whereof are guild-brethren, and two of them deacons of crafts. Four of the merchant-councillors only are continued by election for another year, and the remaining fifteen members are annually changed and go out, and all of them are yearly elected, without any preference or discrimination, from a roll or list of the whole burgessees of guild in town, and of the six deacons of trades previously made up for the purpose, from which the leets of the new council are taken, and determined always according to the majority of votes of the council, upon the day of the annual election, which is held upon the Wednesday preceding Michaelmas day.

After the election of the nineteen members of the new council, the magistrates and office-bearers for the ensuing year are elected the same day out of the seventeen merchant-councillors by the majority of votes of the new and old council together, and six deacons of crafts, consisting of forty persons in whole, *viz.* thirty guild-brethren, and ten craftsmen; and in case of an equality of votes in any of the steps of election, the Provost, or senior magistrate present, has a decisive or casting vote, besides his own individual and proper voice. In case any
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of the thirty guild-brethren, or of the ten trades, be absent from the election, the town-council and the craftsmen are respectively authorised by the sett to elect any other qualified persons of the same class, to supply the place of, and to vote for such absentees. Upon the whole, it is believed, from a comparative examination, that the present municipal constitution, or sett of this borough, will be found not only to be a perfect contrast to its own more arbitrary and ancient system of government, but also to be much more liberal and free than most of the other royal burghs of Scotland; because, in many of them, some of the members of council, and even magistrates, do still continue in office during life, or so long as they agree with the party in power; and in others, several of the members of council are entitled to keep their seats without election for a second year, in consequence of their having enjoyed certain offices for the preceding; whereas, in Aberdeen, every magistrate and member of council, even the old four, must be annually elected, without regard to any office which they may have formerly held, and fifteen of the whole number are yearly changed, and go out*.

The laws respecting the police of the city are contained in an act of Parliament, granted in 1795. According to this act, thirteen persons are to be elected and appointed commissioners by the inhabitants of the city. None, however, can have a vote unless he pays at least L. 5 yearly of house-rent. The Provost for the time being presides at the election, and has the casting vote. The commissioners continue in office for the space of two years. Eight only

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* The principal historical facts in the above narrative, which do not appear in any of the town's records, are taken from a small treatise, entitled, "A Survey of the City of Aberdeen," printed and published in 1685, under the signature of *Philo-politicus*.

go out at the new election, and five remain, which five shall invariably be of the number of those eight commissioners who were elected two years before, and shall be chosen to continue in office by the collective body of the other commissioners, by signed lists to be given in by a majority of them to their preses or clerk, fourteen days previous to the then next general meeting for election, so as to preserve as nearly as possible an equal rotation in duty. These commissioners have full power to nominate and appoint treasurers, clerks, collectors, scavengers, lighters of lamps, and other servants proper and necessary under them in the execution of their office. This office respects chiefly the paving, lighting, and cleaning the streets, and supplying the city with water. The money necessary for defraying the expence in executing these public matters is, by the act, to be raised by an assessment upon the inhabitants of the city of 1 s. Sterling in the pound yearly for every dwelling-house, or shop, cellar, warehouse, or other building within the city and royalty, actually occupied and possessed at the time by any one person, which shall be estimated at or above L. 1, 5 s. Sterling of yearly rent. A rent-roll of such houses, &c. is to be annually made up by fifteen persons chosen for that purpose. This assessment is to be paid by the tenant or occupier of the house; and if the money thus raised is found not to be sufficient for answering the purposes of widening and improving the streets, and answering the other purposes of the police for which the act was obtained, the commissioners are authorized and empowered to raise and increase the said assessment of 1 s. Sterling in the pound of house-rents yearly (for a certain number of years then to be fixed by such general meeting of the inhabitants) to any sum or rate not exceeding 1 s. 6 d. Sterling in the pound annually of the house-rents aforesaid. This police-act is to continue for the term of 21 years, and

from thence to the end of the then next session of Parliament.

From the last tax-roll the rents appear to be L. 15,500 Sterling.

Population.

It is not known that there are extant any records which contain the state of the population of this city at any distant period. The population, however, owing chiefly to the rapid progress of manufactures, has greatly increased within these 40 years. In 1755, according to Dr Webster's account, it was 10,488. It appears, according to lists taken up by order of the ministers in 1789, that the number of souls in what is called St Nicholas parish, amounted to 16,386. According to a list of the inhabitants within the strict limits of the city, as divided into four quarters, taken in the month of July 1795, by a committee appointed by an act passed in the last session of Parliament, for making up the first rent-roll, and superintending the first election of commissioners of police, the population was as follows :

	Males.	Females.	Under 10 years.	Total.
Even Quarter,	1548	2352	1152	5052
Foot Dee Quarter,	1023	1534	744	3301
Green Quarter,	872	1495	647	3014
Crooked Quarter,	1387	2220	1146	4753
Totals,	4830	7601	3689	16,120

From the register of baptisms, which, owing to the neglect of Dissenters, and other causes, is extremely defective, no accurate list of births can be obtained ; but, according to an extract from the baptismal register, such as it is, the annual average from 1st October 1771 to 1st October 1790 amounted to no more than 149. As no register of burials is kept here, the number of deaths is not known. The annual average of marriages, as taken from a pretty exact register, is about 112.

Of

Of the ancient state of the population of Old Machar the session-records make no mention. It would appear, however, from the many houses that have lately been built, and manufactures established, that the population has greatly increased within the last 50 years.—The population in 1755, according to Dr Webster's account, was only 4945. In the year 1790 it amounted to 8107, of whom 3535 were males, and 4572 females; of these, there resided in the city of Old Aberdeen, including the Spittal, 1713; in the town of Gilcomston, 2234; and in the country, including the villages at Windmillbrae, Hardgate, Bridge of Don, and Printfield, 4160. As the numbers in the last mentioned villages are not, in the ministers lists, distinguished from those in the adjacent parts of the country, it is impossible, with any degree of accuracy, to separate them here.

The number of marriages, baptisms, &c. in the parish of Old Machar will be seen in the following tables :

Table of the Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials in the Parish of Old Machar for Ten Years after the Year 1722.

	Marriages.				Baptisms.			Burials in Old Machar Ch. yd.			Sex unknown Snow church-yard.	
	Men in the parish.	Women in the parish.	Both in the parish.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Sex unknown.		Total.
1723	9	7	11	27	58	35	93	38	56	6	100	2
1724	12	7	6	25	64	49	113	51	48	17	116	2
1725	5	3	10	18	58	48	106	55	54	10	119	2
1726	11	8	16	35	46	44	90	56	48	8	112	2
1727	6	13	13	32	62	47	109	23	37	9	69	2
1728	7	4	11	22	41	43	84	42	35	5	82	2
1729	6	3	14	33	36	38	74	41	65	11	117	2
1730	6	8	16	30	44	39	83	38	32	6	76	2
*1731	—	—	—	—	43	42	85	37	29	8	84	2
1733	—	—	—	—	32	37	69	32	42	6	80	2
	72	53	97	222	484	422	906	413	446	961	955	20

* The last two years are wanting in the register of marriages, and therefore the total is only for eight years, deducting the number in the second column as properly belonging to other parishes, the total for 8 years will be 169.

Year.	Marriages.			Total of 1st and 3d columns.	Grand total.	Baptisms.			Burials in Old Macbar Church-yard.				Burials in Spittal Church-yard.				Snow Cb. yd.	
	Males only residing in the parish.	Females only residing in the parish.	Both residing in the parish.			Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Sex unknown.	Total of 1st and 2d columns.	Grand total.	Males.	Females.	Sex unknown.		Total of 1st and 2d columns.
1753	6	8	27	33	41	50	38	88	21	25	18	46	64	—	—	—	—	2
1754	7	8	19	26	34	45	43	88	20	22	9	42	51	—	—	—	—	2
1755	15	10	35	50	60	42	50	92	15	26	11	41	52	—	—	—	—	2
1756	9	3	26	35	38	54	40	94	11	31	14	42	56	—	—	—	—	2
1757	11	4	23	34	38	39	42	81	12	24	7	36	43	—	—	—	—	2
1758	9	12	21	30	42	31	46	77	27	37	13	64	77	—	—	—	—	2
1759	14	8	23	37	45	39	31	70	26	29	11	55	66	—	—	—	—	2
1760	11	5	27	38	43	59	44	103	16	31	10	47	57	—	—	—	—	2
1761	5	8	20	25	33	49	55	104	22	23	7	45	52	—	—	—	—	2
1762	8	11	22	30	41	49	48	97	23	27	8	50	58	—	—	—	—	2
Tot.	95	77	243	338	415	457	437	894	193	275	108	468	576	—	—	—	—	20
1783	9	10	25	34	44	36	38	74	50	61	1	111	112	99	111	12	210	222
1784	8	12	29	37	49	50	32	82	43	48	1	91	92	120	124	11	244	255
1785	8	19	39	47	66	55	45	100	44	40	0	84	84	122	111	10	233	243
1786	13	12	43	56	68	77	72	149	46	48	0	94	94	100	138	8	238	246
1787	16	10	37	53	63	74	71	145	46	64	0	110	111	119	127	10	246	256
1788	11	15	45	56	71	59	66	125	51	44	1	95	96	111	121	8	216	224
1789	12	18	35	47	65	63	68	131	49	62	0	111	111	111	144	9	255	264
1790	8	15	47	55	70	67	75	142	47	70	1	117	118	121	146	7	267	274
1791	25	22	48	73	95	78	61	139	35	56	0	91	91	92	86	5	178	183
1792	14	16	38	52	68	91	64	155	63	71	2	134	136	127	112	12	239	251
Tot.	124	149	386	510	659	650	592	1242	474	564	7	1038	1045	1106	1220	92	2326	2418

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Though the preceding tables are as accurate as can be made from our registers, they are by no means perfectly correct. That no person may be misled by forming calculations from them, I have therefore deemed it expedient to subjoin the following remarks:—From the register of marriages I have given in the first column of the tables the number of marriages in which the man only resided in the parish; in the second column, the number in which the woman only resided in the parish; and in the third, the number in which both parties belonged to the parish. As in most marriages, in which the parties reside in different parishes, the woman is supposed to leave her own, and to go to her husband's parish, I consider the fourth column, which gives the sum of the first and third, as containing the number of marriages which properly belong to this parish. As, however, several instances have occurred, in which the man has come to reside in the parish of the woman, this mode of reckoning may not be perfectly accurate; I have therefore chosen to add the second and fifth columns, that every person may calculate from the table upon any principle he may incline to adopt. I must farther observe, that the number of marriages mentioned in the table, especially during the last ten years, is considerably short of the truth. This is owing to many loose and disorderly persons, who are annually fined for irregular marriages by the justices of peace. In such instances the ignorant parties always consider the magistrate, and avowedly speak of him as the celebrator of the marriage. They are tempted to have recourse to this absurd and irregular method of obtaining marriage, because it may be accomplished with greater secrecy and expedition than by observing the legal ceremonies. It is therefore frequently adopted in this place, when the consent of parents cannot be obtained, when the woman is pregnant, or when prudence, or the laws of the country present any
obstacle

obstacle that would stop or retard the marriage. I know an instance in a neighbouring parish in which parties within the forbidden degrees of consanguinity were thus married. When a young couple meet with any obstacle to their union,—when, from wantonness or humour, they spurn all regular forms,—or when they are too impatient to wait for proclamations, they apply to the procurator-fiscal to get a justice of peace to marry them. He instructs them to tell the justice that they were married at such a time, but to refuse to name the celebrator and witnesses. Whereupon the judge first decerns them to pay the legal fine; and next, upon a representation of their poverty, &c. by virtue of his or their power as justice or justices of peace, modify this fine, sometimes to half a guinea, sometimes to 5 s. and sometimes even to much less. They get an extract of this sentence, pay the procurator-fiscal, and the ceremony is over. Can any idea be more ridiculous, than that a person should apply to a public prosecutor, pay him, and be instructed to tell a lie to the magistrate, merely to get himself punished for a crime, which he is conscious he never committed. Many of these poor creatures are afterwards so ashamed of this farce, that they apply to their parish-ministers to be regularly married. To what length the absurd and wanton irregularity of justice of peace marriages, as they are called, may be carried, and what disorder they may introduce into society, if not checked by the Legislature, it is hard to say. Surely the laws against irregular marriages were intended to prevent, not to encourage such practices. While, however, they are thus executed, if this can be called executing them, they are so managed as to defeat their own end. I know of no clause in all the acts of Parliament relating to such marriages that permits the justice to mitigate the fine. On the contrary, they are expressly appointed to substitute certain corporal punishments in place of the legal fine, when
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the parties are unable to pay it. If they would adhere to this alternative, the laws would be restored to their proper efficacy, and this branch of their jurisdiction would soon afford them very little employment. But while they assume powers, with which they do not seem to me to be entrusted by the laws of their country, I am under a necessity of considering them as acting in these instances, not as the guardians of order, but as the perverters of the law, and the promoters of confusion. We have here some justices of speedy growth; but I would be wanting in candour, if I did not acknowledge, that the *real gentlemen* of this county have in general considered it as beneath the dignity of their character to take any concern in irregular marriages, that they uniformly refuse such applications, and that when such applications have been made to them, their good advice has often prevailed with the parties to have recourse to the forms which the laws of the country prescribe.

As to the register of baptisms, no trouble has been spared to render it correct. The two parochial ministers seldom baptise a child, without causing the parent bring an attestation, that he has paid for having his child's name registered; and the minister of the Chapel of Ease keeps an accurate list of the children baptised by him, which he sends annually to the session-clerk. Several persons are also employed to procure information of those who are baptised by dissenting clergymen of different denomination. Notwithstanding all this care, several baptisms annually occur, which are not recorded. Besides, the children of a very few Quakers who are never baptised, and some who are either born dead, or die so soon after their birth that they cannot be baptised, cannot be mentioned in the register of baptisms. The annual births in the parish must therefore exceed the numbers stated in the tables, I suppose, by a dozen at least.

There

There are three burying grounds in Old Machar, the church-yard, the Spittal burying ground, belonging to Alexander Moir, Esq; of Scotstoun, and the Snow church-yard, belonging to the King's College. Of the burials in the two first, tolerably correct registers are kept. Of the burials in the last, no accurate account can be had, but by searching the accounts of the common procurator of the College, by whom I am informed, that the average number of burials in it does not exceed two in a year. This burying ground is used chiefly by Papists. I could find no register of burials for the Spittal during the two first periods mentioned in the tables; I have therefore inserted for these periods only the burials in the parish church-yard, and those in the Snow church-yard in a single column, entitled, Sex unknown. The number of burials for the Spittal church-yard may, however, be ascertained and inserted in the blank tables, by calculating from the proportion of the average burials in the church-yard to that of the Spittal burying-ground during the last ten years, and in this manner the average number of the whole burials in the parish for the first two periods may be found. In all the registers of burials some instances occurred in which the sex of the person buried was not ascertained; in these cases, either the surname only of the person buried was mentioned, or the keeper of the register charged himself for the *buriallair* (grave) of a child, without mentioning whether it was male or female. To ascertain with any tolerable degree of accuracy the proportion of the sexes buried in the parish, I was therefore obliged to insert in the tables of burials, in distinct columns, the numbers in which the registers mentioned the sex; and to show the whole number, I have added a third column, entitled, Sex unknown. I have only to observe farther with regard to the burials, that many who die in this parish are buried in other parishes; but that a far greater number
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are brought from other parishes, especially from Aberdeen, and buried here. This is owing partly to their forefathers having lived, died, and been buried in this parish; and partly to the burial lairs being much cheaper here than in Aberdeen. From the manner in which the registers are kept, it is impossible to determine how many of the persons buried belong to the parish, and how many are strangers, otherwise I should have marked this distinction by inserting their respective numbers in separate columns. By these observations it will appear, that no calculations respecting the general population of the parish can be justly founded on the tables of burials, and that the rule of multiplying the burials by 36 would lead us greatly to over-rate the population of the place. But as by far the greater number of strangers buried here are brought from Aberdeen, and as the same causes render the number of females in both places superior to that of the males, calculations from the deaths, intended to establish, not the real number of people, but the proportion of the sexes actually living in the parish, though not accurate, will come nearer the truth.

As the numbers who annually come from other places to reside in Old Machar are greater than the numbers who emigrate from it, and as the number of baptisms inserted in the register falls short of the real number of births in the parish, the rule of multiplying the number of births by 26 would lead us to under-rate the population of the place. As in this instance, the errors arising from this mode of calculation are easily accounted for by the daily influx of strangers into a large city and its neighbourhood, perhaps these rules for ascertaining the population of a country may be found to hold with sufficient accuracy, if the births

and burials for Aberdeen, and a large district round it, are taken into the account.

With regard to the population of this parish, it may be proper farther to observe, that from what is already mentioned, it appears that the females exceed the males by 1037, which is more than an eighth part of the whole number. That this remarkable disparity in the number of the different sexes really exists in this parish is evident from the minister's rolls, which are as accurate as the very fluctuating state of the people in so populous a place will admit of. It cannot be explained either by the births or burials. For from the preceding tables it appears, that during three distinct periods of ten years each, the number of males born in the parish has considerably exceeded that of females. If they all had continued in the parish, the balance ought certainly to have been in favour of the males, which is the reverse of the fact. If this disparity were owing to any extraordinary mortality among the males, it could only be temporary, and would appear by their forming a majority in the register of burials, which the tables shew to be also the reverse of the fact. It may, however, be satisfactorily explained by the following observations: Most of our manufactures, especially the bleaching and thread-making businesses, employ a much greater number of women than of men; and the great manufacture of the place, the knitting of stockings, is carried on almost entirely by females. Accordingly, while most of our women remain at home, many of our young men emigrate to other places, in quest of more lucrative employment than they can find in this part of the country. Besides, the temptations of cheap and commodious houses, of easy access to fuel, and to all the necessaries and comforts of life, from our vicinity to the port and market of Aberdeen, and
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of the high probability of finding employment from some of the many manufactures carried on in the neighbourhood, induce many old women, and many of the widows and daughters of farmers and tradesmen, to leave the country, and reside in this parish, while their sons have either settled as farmers in their native place, or gone abroad, or entered into the army or navy. If to these observations we add, that in all parishes, in which there are several large towns and villages, most families need more female than male servants, the majority of females in this parish, great as it is, will be sufficiently accounted for.

The annual average of baptisms for ten years immediately after 1722, is $90\frac{6}{10}$; for ten years after the 1752, $89\frac{4}{10}$; and for ten years after 1782, $124\frac{3}{10}$. To this average 12 at least should be annually added to make up for those not inserted in the register.

The annual average of burials for ten years immediately after the 1722 is, in the parish church-yard, $95\frac{2}{10}$, and in the Snow church-yard, 2; for ten years after the 1752, in the parish church-yard, $57\frac{2}{10}$, and in the Snow church-yard, 2; for ten years after the 1782, in the parish church-yard, $104\frac{1}{10}$, in the Snow church-yard, 2; and in the Spittal church-yard, $241\frac{8}{10}$; in all, $348\frac{3}{10}$.

The average number of marriages properly belonging to the parish for eight years immediately after the 1722 is, $25\frac{1}{10}$; for ten years immediately after 1752, it is $33\frac{8}{10}$; and for ten years immediately after the 1782, it is 51. In calculating the above average of marriages, those in which the women only resided in the parish are excluded, and no allowance is made for the justice of peace marriages, several of which annually occur.

From the above statements of the population of the city and parishes of Aberdeen, it appears, that the whole in

1790-95, amounted to 24,493, making an increase, if Dr Webster's account is to be relied on, of no less than 9060.

The people in general are industrious and sober; and not a few arrive at an advanced period of life. Several women died lately above 90 years of age, and one above 100*.

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* State of the Population of the Town of Aberdeen from 1758 to 1770.

	Estab. Church.	Episcopal.	Seceders	Papists.	Quakers.	Independents or Glasfitts.	Tot. of exam. perf.
1758,	6488	1787	—	121	27	45	8468
1759,	6444	1727	261	123	29	55	8639
1760,	6366	1829	295	127	33	57	8707
1761,	6534	1907	301	137	22	35	8936
1762,	6634	1846	270	125	18	23	8916
1763,	6898	1895	288	118	18	21	9238
1764,	7156	2012	310	134	22	27	9661
1765,	7308	1968	334	125	17	23	9775
1766,	7645	1938	329	134	17	27	10090
1767,	7757	2059	332	137	14	29	10328
1768,	7795	2067	341	140	15	32	10390
1769,	8133	2164	354	158	15	29	10853
1770,	8552	2182	303	117	17	27	11198

Remarks.—The above state comprehends the three pastoral charges into which the town of Aberdeen is divided. These, together with the village of Futtie, which (being under the charge of a distinct catechist, who has hitherto been ordained, but not reckoned a minister of Aberdeen) is not included in this state; make up the parish of St Nicholas. It comprehends none of the extensive suburbs west and south from the Denburn, they having belonged to the deanry of Aberdeen, and now to the parish of St Machar, commonly called Old Machar, or Old Aberdeen. In these there has been a very great increase of inhabitants within the last forty years.

The above state takes in, not the number of souls, but only of examinable persons, as the ministers included not children in their lists. They reckoned them examinable as soon as they had learned to read, and could answer some of the common questions; so that their lists contained at least all persons of five years old and upwards. In calculating from these; the number of souls, it is to be observed, that in Aberdeen (and perhaps in most towns) the number of children bears a less proportion to that of souls than in country parishes; one reason of which is, that many aged persons, particularly single women, retire to towns, and accommodate themselves in small rooms. This is found to hold in Aberdeen; for one of

the

This town and neighbourhood is not remarkable for any uncommon or epidemical disease. A certain kind of putrid sore throat, however, raged lately, and cut off many of the

the ministers, for a few years of the above period, took an account of the whole souls in the part of the town under his charge, and was surpris'd that those under the examinable age were so few in comparis'n. From his lists the number of souls in the other charges might have been nearly calculated, but he neglected it at the time, and as he has been dead for some years, we do not know whether any of his lists can be now recovered.

The increase of inhabitants during the above period arose in a good measure from the introduction and extension of manufactures, and also from the great demand for stones for paving the streets of London; which brought a multitude of labourers from all parts of the country to Aberdeen and its neighbourhood; and after that demand slacken'd, many of these remained with their families in Aberdeen, as a proper place for obtaining employment as day-labourers. Many likewise, who have come up as patients to the infirmary, have, after being cured, settled with the same view. These circumstances have also contributed to a great increase of population in the adjacent parts of the parish of Old Machar.

For some years previous to the above period, there had been a considerable increase in the population of Aberdeen, owing chiefly to the introduction of manufactures, but partly also to the extensive cultivation of land, formerly waste in the environs, which found occupation for many additional hands.

Aberdeen affords a signal confirmation of the vagueness of conjectural accounts of the number of inhabitants of a town, and of its always far exceeding the truth. For, during the above period, the writer of this account happened to ask a gentleman who had been in a public station for near fifty years, and had bestowed some attention on the state of the town, What was in his younger days reckon'd the number of inhabitants? And what the proportion between Presbyterians and Episcopalians? His answer was, that the examinable persons were always reckon'd at least 10,000; and the Presbyterians and Episcopalians nearly equal in number: But for a few years previous to the period of the above state, there had been a very great increase of population, (in one of the three pastoral charges in one year, no less than about 500), and yet at the beginning of that period they fell far short of the number specified; and through the whole period, the Presbyterians were nearly to the Episcopalians as $3\frac{2}{3}$ to 1, and to all Dissenters together (of whom the Seceders were originally Presbyterians) as $2\frac{8}{9}$ to one.

the young of both sexes. In the year 1789, the genuine *Dysentery* broke out in Footie, and raged with considerable violence. The only check to it that proved effectual was by removing the infected persons into a temporary hospital, where they received medical aid, and every necessary accommodation at the public expence, the money being raised by subscription.

The provincial dialect of the English, which is generally spoken here, is not commonly considered as being very pure. Owing, however, to a much greater intercourse with the English than formerly, a sensible change to the better has taken place in the idiom. Some old people remember when many broad Scotch words and phrases were current, even in the best companies, which are now scarcely ever to be heard in the lowest. The consideration also that this is a place of education, the seat of an university of considerable eminence, has proved an inducement to several, especially to those who have entertained thoughts of publishing in English, to make the proper idiom of the language more a matter of study than was ever done at any former period, a circumstance that has not failed to produce good effects.

Whatever may have been the original language of the inhabitants of this place; and whatever may have been the changes which at different periods it has undergone, it is undeniable, that for many centuries back the old Scotch dialect, whose affinity to the English is manifest, has been the language, not of this place only, but of all the eastern coast of Scotland. Now, though the oldest names, such as those of mountains, rivers, towns of high antiquity, and tracts of country, are probably, as was already hinted, from the ancient British; and though some names of a lower epoch, from the intercourse of the inhabitants with Highlanders, or Irish Scots, are doubtless from the Erse; yet by
far

far the greatest number of names of places are from the old Scotch dialect, which has been now for many ages the language of the country. Not any more remarkable instances of such derivation in this parish can be given, than the names of the streets of the town, the principal of which are the Castlegate, the Braidgate, the Overkirkgate, the Netherkirkgate, the Gallowgate. Add to these, the Gaistraw, the Shipraw, the Rottenraw, the Dubbyraw, the Checkeraw, the Narrow-wynd, the Back-wynd, the Correction-wynd. These, with Putachie's-side, and the Green, are almost all the old names of streets and lanes in the town. We cannot give a better example than in this very thing of the advances noticed in a former article, which we are daily making towards English. We almost never hear now of the Braidgate and the Castlegate. They are become universally the Broadstreet and the Castlestreet. The Gallowgate, for what good reason we know not, has not yet shared in this reformation, for nobody ventures upon *Gallowstreet*. The *Kirk-gates* too remain the same as ever. They are never called *Church-streets*, though we more commonly say the *Upper* than the *Over* Kirkgate. There is little or no change made on the other passages called *wynds* and *raws*. Only it is to be observed, that in all those which have been made in the city or suburbs for at least fifty years past, we have neither *gates* nor *wynds*; they are all *streets* and *lanes*. Thus we have within that period got *Queen-street*, *Marshal-street*, *North-street*, *Shoe-lane*, *Justice-lane*, &c. &c. If the same humour prevails in other places of the country, we may conclude, that the words *gate* and *wynd*, occurring in any compound names of the passages through a city or town in Scotland, will serve as evidences of an antiquity higher at least than the middle of the 18th century. As to the names of the few hills, gentlemen's seats, &c. lying near the town, they appear,

appear, as far as we can discover, to be of the same origin. Thus *Ferry-bill*, *Froster-bill*, (the word *Froster* probably corrupted from *Forrester*), *Hilton*, *Robslaw*, *King's-wells*, *Countess'-wells*, *Whitemires*. Some are more obscure in their origin, as *Pitmuckston*, *Rodrieston*, *Torry*, *Futtie*, &c. Of this last it was observed, that some resolve it into *Foot-Dee*, the foot of Dee. But this is directly contrary to the common rule of analogy in the derivation of words. When any thing is expressed by one word in our language, (and this holds in both dialects, English and Scotch), representing it as a part or member of some other thing, that other thing makes the first part of the compound name, and the part or member makes invariably the last part. Thus the mouth of the *Wey* is *Weymouth*, not *Mouthwey*; and that the Scotch, in this formation of words, is the same with the English, appears from some names of places in this neighbourhood. Thus we have *Loanhead*, not *Headloan*, for the head of the loan or loaning; *Craiglug*, not *Lugcraig*, for the *lug*, that is, the *ear* of the craig. If, therefore, they mean to call the place the foot of the river, it would have been unquestionably *Deefoot*, not *Foot-Dee*. But we are not even certain that the mouth of a river is either in Scotch or English ever called the *foot*.

Ecclesiastical State of Aberdeen.

The two principal churches of this city, which at present are called the *East* and *West*, were formerly called the *Old* and *New* Churches. The church which stood where the West Church now stands was called the *Old*, and is supposed (though upon what evidence is not certain) to have been several centuries older than the other. The stile of architecture, though both were Gothic, was very different from that of the East (formerly called the *New*) Church, still standing, and which likewise is of an uncertain date.

The

The Old Church was pulled down, and rebuilt, about the year 1754.—The College Church belonged to the Grey Friars, and was purchased by the Magistrates from the College. There is no account when it was built.

In the city of Aberdeen are three parochial charges, and one in the village of Futtie. There are two charges in Old Machar. The exact value of the living is L. 126 Sterling *per annum* to each parochial minister, without any manse or glebe. The patronage is vested in the Magistrates and Town-council for the time being.

The following table contains a list of the ministers of Aberdeen since the year 1673:

1673 David Lyal.	1673 Pat. Sibbald.	1673 George Meldrum.
1680 William Blair.	1686 Andrew Burnet.	1682 George Gordon.
1716 John Osburn.	1696 James Osburn.	1694 Thomas Ramsay.
1749 Thomas Forbes.	1703 Colin Campbell.	1700 Tho. Blackwall.
1783 Durican Shaw.	1729 James Ogilvie.	1711 Francis Melvil.
	1776 Wm. Farquhar.	1726 James Chalmers.
	1779 James Sheriffs.	1728 John Bisset.
		1757 Geo. Campbell.
		1772 Geo. Abercrombie.
		1791 Hugh Hay.

Besides the parochial churches, there is a chapel of ease in the College Church; another in Futtie; one lately joined the Establishment from the Relief; the Trinity Chapel of Ease, and the Gaelic Chapel, all belonging to the Establishment.—In this place are three congregations belonging to the English, and two to the Scotch Episcopal Church.—Of the Seceders, is a congregation of Burghers, and another of Antiburghers, and one belonging to the Relief.—Here the Roman Catholics, the Methodists, the Brethren, and Independents, have each a congregation.—The Quakers have a meeting in this place: and a house has lately been opened, and occupied as a place of worship by a Dr Chandler.

State of the Poor.

The number of poor at present in Aberdeen, who receive stated and occasional supplies from public charitable funds, amounts to 481; besides 25 boys, who are maintained in the Poor-house. The funds appropriated for their use are at an average about L. 829 Sterling *per annum*. Of this sum L. 210 Sterling are allowed for the support of the Poor-house, in which are a master, mistress, and servants, to superintend the education, &c. of the boys. The sum of L. 151, 5 s. of the remainder is allotted to the exclusive management of the kirk-session, which, after paying the salaries of their officers, they distribute among poor families, who have no stated supplies from other funds.

Hospitals, Infirmary, &c.

The inhabitants of Aberdeen seem to have been always distinguished for generous and humane actions. Several very ample mortifications and donations for pious and charitable purposes were made by different persons, belonging to this place, in the last century. But as a full and accurate account of these cannot be given, notice shall only be taken of some, which have been made since the beginning of this.

Robert Gordon, merchant in Aberdeen, by deeds of mortification, of date 13th December 1729, and the 19th September 1730, founded an Hospital for the maintenance and education of indigent boys in Aberdeen, being the sons and grandsons of burghesses of guild, or the sons and grandsons of tradesmen of the said burgh, being freemen or burghesses thereof; and for the purposes of it he assigned his whole estate, personal and real, to the Provost, Bailies, and remanent members of the Council of Aberdeen, and the four ministers of Aberdeen, whom he appointed perpetual Patrons and Governors of the Hospital.

Mr Gordon having died about the year 1731, his assignees obtained possession of his funds; and from the produce of them purchased an acre, and built a proper house for the Hospital. When the funds had accumulated to a proper degree, they took in boys, and the institution has gone on since with remarkable success; and there are at present maintained, clothed, and educated in it 60 boys, at the annual expence of upwards of L. 1000 Sterling, which the Governors are now enabled to afford, by the early purchase of lands, and afterwards feuing them out to great advantage.

The branches of education taught in this hospital are, reading English, English-grammar, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, the elements of geometry, navigation, geography, French, church-music; and such of the boys as discover a genius for it, are instructed in drawing also. These branches of education, together with a proper instruction in the principles of the Christian religion, are carried on under the direction of three masters, who constantly reside in the house; the drawing master being only employed occasionally, and mostly during the summer; and the master for church-music attending twice or thrice a-week.

The boys must not be under nine years of age when admitted into the Hospital, and must leave it at 16 years of age. They are put to proper trades, under the direction of the Governors; L. 8 : 6 : 8 Sterling are allowed for apprentice-fee; and, upon finishing their apprenticeship, they are allowed each L. 5 Sterling to assist them in entering into business.

Anno 1772, the Governors judged it proper, for removing objections to their management, to apply to his Majesty for a charter of incorporation, and it was obtained, incorporating them under the name and title of, *The President and Governors of Robert Gordon's Hospital in Aberdeen.*

Anno

Anno 1739, the town of Aberdeen formed a resolution of erecting an Infirmary in Aberdeen, for the benefit of the diseased, in all the northern parts of the kingdom. For carrying this purpose into execution, subscriptions were set on foot, and the well disposed were so liberal in promoting this pious design, that a part of the house for the accommodation of patients was finished *anno* 1742, in a plain but decent manner. An addition was made to the house *anno* 1745, by which they were enabled to admit a greater number of patients; and afterwards, from the great number of patients who applied, they were under the necessity of adding another wing in the year 1759. In the year 1772, they applied to the Crown for, and obtained a charter of incorporation.

The number of those admitted into the Infirmary annually, at an average for three years past, amounts to 1126. Out patients receive advice and medicines to the number of about 2500.

The annual expence of the house, at an average for some years past, has amounted to L. 1300 Sterling. Their fixed funds are about L. 400 Sterling; and for the other L. 900 they depend upon collections through different parishes, and upon donations.

Anno 1786, Baillie James Cruickshank, merchant in this city, represented to the managers, that some persons, desirous of promoting the prosperity and success of the Infirmary, (but who wish to remain unknown), had resolved to ease it, in a great measure, of the debt it then laboured under, by paying a sum of L. 500 Sterling for that purpose. He also informed them, that some persons had agreed to make a donation of L. 1500 Sterling, to be stocked for the benefit of the Infirmary, and the interest thereof for ever to be applied for the use of the patients in general; and he
desired

desired that no public notice should be taken of these donations in the newspapers.

A few years ago, a day-labourer, William Muir, who a good many years ago had been a patient in the Infirmary, and received benefit from it, has given to the Infirmary no less a sum than L. 155 Sterling, as the beginning of a fund for building a *fever ward*, reserving [to himself, and his wife only, if she survive him, the interest of the above sum, and he still continues to work for his own and family's subsistence.

Anno 1741, Mr John Richart of Achnecant, by a deed of settlement, of date the 20th of October, ordained, that (after the payment of certain legacies, mentioned in said deed) the remainder of his executry should be paid towards endowing an Infirmary and Work-house in Aberdeen. After the death of Mr Richart, it was found that the remainder of his estate, after paying all the legacies mentioned in his will, amounted to about L. 4172 Sterling, one half of which, *viz.* L. 2086 Sterling, was to be applied towards endowing a Work-house. For this purpose the Magistrates and Council (the executors of Mr Richart's will) bought the ground-right and ruins of an old tenement of houses and a garden, and afterwards repaired said house, and built some additions to it, at a considerable expence, all of which was paid, partly by the Magistrates, and partly by voluntary contributions from the different corporations, and from private individuals in town, without breaking in upon Mr Richart's mortification.

To the above mortification the Magistrates added a mortification under their management, legated by Mr John Kemp, of the parish of St Martin's in the Fields, in the county of Middlesex, apothecary, *anno 1713*, the annual produce of which is about L. 48 Sterling, and destined by the mortifier

fier for maintaining a free-school for educating and bringing up poor children.

The Poor's Hospital was opened the last day of October 1741, for the reception of such idle and strolling vagrants as should be found in town, and the poor inhabitants, who had no visible way of earning their bread; also for boys and girls, the children of poor inhabitants, and for destitute orphans, who had no relations to take care of them. Every person in the house was to be employed in work or labour of some kind, according to their strength and capacity. The children to attend the school in the house for certain hours every day: the boys to be taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and instructed in the principles of Christian knowledge, and bound to trades when they came to a certain age. The girls to be taught knitting of stockings, and other branches of female education, to qualify them for being good servants. The various kinds of labour carried on within the house were, picking of oakum, beating hemp, carding and spinning coarse wool and flax, manufacturing coarse cloth, and knitting stockings.

The managers of the Hospital were the Magistrates and Council for the time being, and some of the most respectable inhabitants chosen annually by the Magistrates and Council out of the different societies and persuasions. After carrying on the institution on the above plan for some years, it was thought more proper for the health of the poor inhabitants, to allow them, at their own houses, what the charitable funds and contributions could afford. Accordingly, the manufacture was discontinued, and the number in the Hospital is now restricted to 25 boys, who are maintained and educated in the house, and are the sons of poor inhabitants. The annual expence of the house amounts to about L. 210 Sterling, which is paid in part from the annual produce of Mr Richart and Mr Kemp's mortifications,

tions, and the deficiency from other monies belonging to the poor.

Anno 1759, Alexander Michie, wright in Aberdeen, disposed a tenement, consisting of two small dwelling-houses and a garden, in favour of the Poor's Hospital, which now rent at between L. 11 and L. 12 Sterling annually.

Mr James Man, master of the Hospital, who died *anno* 1762, after appointing certain legacies to be paid by his executors, or to the amount of his effects, ordained the remainder to be paid to the managers of the Poor's Hospital, to be put out at interest, and the annual rent to be specially applied to the paying of apprentice-fees for the boys, who should be brought up in the house, and bound to trades. The amount on Mr Man's effects (after paying all his legacies, debts, and funeral charges) was L. 95 Sterling. The interest of this sum was allowed to accumulate, till the whole amounted to L. 200 Sterling, the annual rent of which is now applied to paying apprentice-fees for boys, brought up in the Poor's Hospital, and bound out to trades, at the rate of 10 s. annually for each boy during his apprenticeship, which is generally six years.

By an account we had from the late clerk of the Poor's Hospital, *anno* 1784, there were no less than 36 charitable societies in this town, besides the corporations; and their annual disbursements to the poor, amounted to L. 1183 Sterling.

Mr John Burnet, late merchant in Aberdeen, did, by a deed executed by him, February 1. 1785, dispose to the ministers of Aberdeen of the Established Church, and the other members of the kirk-session of Aberdeen for the time-being, and their successors in office, and four other trustees named by himself, and a delegate to be chosen from the Infirmary and Poor's Hospital annually, two-thirds of the yearly free produce of the lands of Kinnadie, and others mentioned

mentioned in the deed of mortification, for the relief of such persons, living in the town and parish of Aberdeen *only*, who are unable to sustain themselves, and who are bedrids, or afflicted with bodily diseases, that are supposed to be incurable, and failing such, for the relief of any other sick poor people, and particularly such as are afflicted with lingering diseases; and failing such, for any other indigent and poor people, and particularly the aged, living in the town and parish of Aberdeen.

Anno 1782, November 2d, a subscription was opened for obtaining a supply of grain to the poor of Old and New Aberdeen, and, in a few weeks, to the great praise of the inhabitants, as well as relief of the poor, the subscription amounted to no less than L. 1728, 13s. Sterling. Two gentlemen were sent to England to purchase grain: A committee was appointed, and met once a week, for attending to and relieving the distress of the poor while it continued: To encourage importing meal, pease, flour, potatoes, bounties were granted; the ordinary custom on meal was dispensed with, and the price of the meal lowered from time to time, and given out in proportion to the numbers and necessities of the poor families.

Anno 1787, three fishermen were drowned in attempting to enter the harbour of the Cove. A subscription was opened for their widows and children, which amounted to L. 36 : 17 : 9 Sterling.

Anno 1790, May 17th, a boat belonging to the Cove, in the parish of Nigg, and neighbourhood of this city, was lost. Five of the men in the boat were married, and left widows and 25 children; the sixth man was unmarried, but left an aged mother, who, in a great measure, depended upon him for subsistence. The Collections and subscriptions made for them in Aberdeen amounted to L. 103 : 4 : 3 Sterling.

Mr

Mr James Thain, merchant in Aberdeen, about three years ago, made over to trustees named by him L. 400 Sterling; the interest he appoints as a salary for a master, who shall teach the children of the poor of this city reading, writing, and arithmetic, and instruct them in the principles of the Christian religion, without demanding any fees from them. Forty boys and girls are taught at this school, and the worthy founder, who is still alive, frequently visits it, and is more happy in observing its continued success, than if he had received a much greater sum to himself than he has given for this laudable institution.

Dispensary.

The Aberdeen Dispensary was instituted in the year 1781, for the purpose of attending, at their own houses, such patients as could not be admitted into the Infirmary: It is supported by the bounty of the public, and is under the management of contributors. Dr Gordon, the present physician, has had the charge of it for ten years.

The utility of the institution to the poor will appear from the following abstracts.

But it is calculated to be extremely useful in other respects; namely, as being an excellent school for the education of medical students, and on account of the ample field it presents for observation, and the acquisition of practical knowledge, affording, of course, the best of opportunities for improving the science of medicine. To make it useful in all these respects has been the study of the present incumbent, and the public will judge of his success from the annexed tables.

His success is very conspicuous in acute diseases, but especially in fevers. What led to this success was the frequent occurrence of that class of diseases; for other diseases occurred only occasionally, but fevers constantly. The

human body is liable to be affected with many diseases only once in life, but it may be, and often is, repeatedly affected with fevers. The study of fevers, therefore, engaged Dr Gordon's particular attention, and the numerous cases which every day occurred, afforded ample scope for observation.

He was mortified to find, that the method of treatment commonly practised, and recommended by the most celebrated *modern professors*, so frequently failed of success; and that many more recovered, when left to the efforts of unassisted nature, than when treated according to the most approved rules of art. He was therefore naturally led to entertain suspicions with respect to the propriety of those rules; and was soon convinced by observation and experience, that it was impossible for him to be successful in the treatment of fevers, without imitating the method by which nature cured them. For which purpose he made it his business to pay particular attention to nature's operations and method of cure, in order that he might make that method the model of his practice. And his practice, when thus regulated, was attended with great success, and enabled him to make some very important discoveries with regard to the nature and treatment of fevers. These discoveries he proposes to lay before the public, as soon as he has fulfilled his engagement to his pupils, who have urged him to publish a text-book, which he is preparing, and will soon have finished.

The method which was found so efficacious in the cure of fevers, was applied to many other acute diseases upon the same principles, and with similar success, as may be seen from a perusal of the tables already referred to. This shall also be laid before the public as speedily as possible.

At present, it shall only be observed, that the general principle which pervades and guides the whole of his practice is to imitate and follow the footsteps of nature, to make art subservient

subservient to nature, and theory to practice. This method is not new, though of late, too much neglected; for the same principle has been the guide of all great *practical physicians*, both of ancient and modern times. And it is by this method only that the art of physic can be improved and brought to perfection. It is not to be improved by hypotheses and ingenious theories formed in the closet, but by observations accurately made in the chambers of the sick.

The annexed tables are extracted from the records of the Dispensary, which contain every patient's name, date of admission, age, residence, disease, cure, or death, with the names of the recommenders; and all the recommendations are numbered, preserved, and presented, along with the books, to a general meeting of the subscribers for examination, by whose orders the returns are annually printed, and dispersed among the citizens of Aberdeen. The returns of 1794 afford a melancholy proof of the power of prejudice; for in that year 35, or more than half of the deaths were of the natural small-pox, notwithstanding Dr Gordon had given public notice of his readiness to inoculate gratis the children of the poor.

TABLE I.

Containing an Abstract of the Patients admitted to the benefit of the Aberdeen Dispensary, for nine successive years.

Year,	1786	1787	1788	1789	1790	1791	1792	1793	1794	
No. admitted,	1338	1410	1437	1309	2048	1591	1489	1150	1153	Tot. 12925
No. cured,	1277	1348	1379	1217	1915	1537	1441	1116	1089	12319
No. dead,	61	62	58	92	133	54	48	34	64	606

TABLE

TABLE II.

Shewing the State of the Diseases which occurred in the year 1786.

DISEASES.	Admitted.	Cured.	Dead.	Proportion.
Fevers, - - -	290	284	6	1 in 48
Scarlet Fevers, - -	61	58	3	1 — 20
Erysipelas, - - -	20	20	0	0
Inflammatory fore throat,	23	23	0	0
Influenza, - - -	2	2	0	0
Small-pox, - - -	67	55	12	1 — 5
Measles, - - -	9	9	0	0
Chincough, - - -	79	70	9	1 — 8
Fluxes, - - -	39	39	0	0
Rheumatism, - - -	27	27	0	0
Pleurisy, - - -	15	15	0	0
Peripneumony, - -	56	53	3	1 — 19
Cholera, - - -	4	4	0	0
Asthma, - - -	50	45	5	1 — 10
Dropfy, - - -	4	4	0	0
Stomach complaints,	54	54	0	0
Worms, - - -	19	19	0	0
Accidents, - - -	49	49	0	0
Various other complaints,	470	447	23	1 — 20

TABLE III.

Shewing the State of the Diseases which occurred in the year 1787.

DISEASES.	Admitted.	Cured.	Dead.	Proportion.
Fevers, - - -	382	367	15	1 in 25
Scarlet fever, - -	13	11	2	1 — 6
Erysipelas, - - -	2	2	0	0
Inflammatory fore throat,	24	24	0	0
Malignant ditto, - -	3	2	1	1 — 3
Influenza, - - -	3	3	0	0
Small-pox, - - -	67	49	18	1 — 3
Chincough, - - -	9	8	1	1 — 9
Fluxes, - - -	37	37	0	0
Rheumatism, - - -	26	26	0	0
Pleurisy, - - -	7	7	0	0
Peripneumony, - -	41	37	4	1 — 10
Asthma, - - -	66	59	7	1 — 9
Dropfy, - - -	1	1	0	0
Stomach complaints,	67	67	0	0
Worms, - - -	12	12	0	0
Accidents, - - -	65	65	0	0
Various other complaints,	585	571	14	1 — 42

TABLE

T A B L E I V.

Shewing the State of the Diseases which occurred in the year 1788.

DISEASES.	Admitted.	Cured.	Dead.	Proportion.
Fevers, -	348	340	8	1 in 43
Scarlet fever, - -	30	26	4	1 - 7
Erysipelas, - - -	6	6	0	0
Inflammatory fore throat,	25	24	1	1 - 25
Malignant ditto, -	6	6	0	0
Influenza, - - -	55	55	0	0
Small-pox, - - -	33	25	8	1 - 4
Chicken-pox, - - -	6	6	0	0
Measles, - - -	20	20	0	0
Chincough, - - -	21	18	3	1 - 7
Fluxes, - - -	43	41	2	1 - 21
Rheumatism, - - -	15	15	0	0
Pleurisy, - - -	7	7	0	0
Peripneumony, - -	64	64	0	0
Cholera, - - -	1	1	0	0
Asthma, - - -	70	70	0	0
Dropfy, - - -	2	2	0	0
Stomach complaints,	79	78	1	1 - 79
Worms, - - -	3	3	0	0
Accidents, - - -	45	44	1	1 - 45
Various other complaints,	558	528	30	1 - 18

T A B L E V.

Shewing the State of the Diseases which occurred in the year 1789.

DISEASES.	Admitted.	Cured.	Dead.	Proportion.
Fevers, - - -	235	233	2	1 in 117
Scarlet fever, - -	3	3	0	0
Childbed fever, .	6	3	3	1 - 2
Erysipelas, - - -	7	7	0	0
Inflammatory fore throat,	25	25	0	0
Malignant ditto, -	60	37	23	1 - 2
Influenza, - - -	1	1	0	0
Ditto of infants, - -	68	68	0	0
Small-pox, - - -	17	13	4	1 - 4
Chicken-pox, - - -	1	1	0	0
Measles, - - -	35	34	1	1 - 35
Chincough, - - -	32	30	2	1 - 16
Fluxes, - - -	73	70	3	1 - 24
Rheumatism, - - -	16	15	1	1 - 16
Pleurisy, - - -	4	3	1	1 - 4
Peripneumony, - -	25	24	1	1 - 25
Cholera, - - -	1	1	0	0
Asthma, - - -	60	47	13	1 - 4
Dropfy, - - -	4	1	3	3 - 4
Stomach complaints,	64	64	0	0
Difficult dentition,	7	7	0	0
Worms, - - -	5	5	0	0
Accidents, - - -	27	27	0	0
Various other complaints,	533	496	35	1 - 15

T A B L E

TABLE VI.

Shewing the State of the Diseases which occurred in the year 1790.

DISEASES.	Admitted.	Cured.	Dead.	Proportion.
Fevers, - - -	623	608	15	1 in 42
Scarlet fever, - -	28	25	3	1 — 9
Epidemic childbed fever,	23	15	8	1 — 3
Epidemic erysipelas,	52	52	0	0
Inflammatory sore throat,	98	98	0	0
Malignant ditto, - -	39	34	5	1 — 8
Auricular mortification,	7	4	3	1 — 3
Influenza among infants,	20	19	1	1 — 20
Small-pox, - - -	121	96	25	1 — 5
Chicken-pox, - - -	6	6	0	0
Chincough, - - -	25	22	3	1 — 8
Mumps, - - -	1	1	0	0
Fluxes, - - -	41	36	5	1 — 8
Rheumatism, - - -	33	33	0	0
Pleurisy, - - -	24	23	1	1 — 24
Peripneumony, - - -	19	18	1	1 — 19
Cholera, - - -	2	2	0	0
Asthma, - - -	76	59	17	1 — 4
Dropfy, - - -	9	6	3	1 — 3
Stomach complaints,	176	176	0	0
Difficult dentition,	60	54	6	1 — 10
Worms, - - -	12	11	1	1 — 12
Accidents, - - -	63	61	2	1 — 31
Various other complaints,	490	456	34	1 — 14

TABLE VII.

Shewing the State of the Diseases which occurred in the year 1791.

DISEASES.	Admitted.	Cured.	Dead.	Proportion.
Fevers, - - -	350	349	1	1 in 350
Scarlet fever, - -	7	7	0	0
Epidemic childbed fever,	28	27	1	1 — 28
Epidemic erysipelas,	41	40	1	1 — 41
Inflammatory sore throat,	50	50	0	0
Malignant ditto, - -	4	3	1	1 — 4
Auricular mortification,	2	2	0	0
Small-pox, - - -	48	41	7	1 — 7
Chincough, - - -	62	56	6	1 — 10
Mumps, - - -	19	19	0	0
Fluxes, - - -	36	36	0	0
Rheumatism, - - -	4	4	0	0
Pleurisy, - - -	12	12	0	0
Peripneumony, - - -	60	59	1	1 — 60
Asthma, - - -	116	107	9	1 — 13
Dropfy, - - -	19	18	1	1 — 19
Stomach complaints,	126	117	9	1 — 14
Difficult dentition, -	50	41	9	1 — 5
Epidemic peripneumony,	32	31	1	1 — 32
Worms, - - -	5	5	0	0
Epilepsy, - - -	6	6	0	0
Accidents, - - -	60	60	0	0
Various other complaints,	544	538	6	1 — 90

TABLE

T A B L E VIII.

Shewing the State of the Diseases which occurred in the year 1792.

DISEASES.	Admitted.	Cured.	Dead.	Proportion.
Fevers, -	200	198	2	1 in 100
Scarlet fever, -	48	44	4	1 — 12
Childbed fever, -	5	5	0	0
Erysipelas, -	12	12	0	0
Inflammatory fore throat,	22	22	0	0
Malignant ditto,	10	8	2	1 — 5
Auricular Mortification,	1	0	1	1 — 1
Influenza, -	60	60	0	0
Small-pox, -	70	61	9	1 — 8
Chicken-pox, -	10	10	0	0
Chincough, -	20	18	2	1 — 10
Fluxes, - -	50	50	0	0
Rheumatism, - -	38	38	0	0
Pleurisy, - -	11	10	1	1 — 11
Peripneumony, -	60	59	1	1 — 60
Cholera, - -	10	10	0	0
Asthma, - -	80	73	7	1 — 11
Dropfy, - -	11	11	0	0
Stomach complaints,	88	88	0	0
Difficult dentition,	35	34	1	1 — 35
Worms, - -	10	10	0	0
Accidents, - -	50	50	0	0
Various other complaints,	638	620	18	1 — 35

T A B L E IX.

Shewing the State of the Diseases which occurred in the year 1793.

DISEASES.	Admitted.	Cured.	Dead.	Proportion.
Fevers, -	228	224	4	1 in 57
Scarlet fever, -	1	1	0	0
Childbed fever, -	2	1	1	1 — 2
Erysipelas, -	12	12	0	0
Inflammatory fore throat,	10	10	0	0
Small-pox, -	3	2	1	1 — 3
Measles, - -	156	154	2	1 — 78
Chincough, - -	15	12	3	1 — 5
Mumps, - -	2	2	0	0
Epidemic dyfentery,	84	80	4	1 — 21
Rheumatism, -	25	25	0	0
Pleurisy, - -	3	3	0	0
Peripneumony, -	36	35	1	1 — 36
Asthma, - -	47	42	5	1 — 9
Dropfy, - -	6	6	0	0
Stomach complaints,	41	41	0	0
Difficult dentition, -	33	33	0	0
Worms, - -	6	6	0	0
Epilepsy, - -	2	2	0	0
Accidents, - -	25	25	0	0
Various other complaints,	413	400	13	1 — 32

T A B L E

TABLE X.

Shewing the State of the Diseases which occurred in the year 1794.

DISEASES.	Admitted.	Cured.	Dead.	Proportion.
Fevers, - - -	86	82	4	1 in 21
Scarlet fever, - -	2	2	0	0
Epidemic childbed fever, -	9	9	0	0
Epidemic erysipelas, -	15	15	0	0
Inflammatory sore throat, -	26	26	0	0
Influenza, - - -	39	39	0	0
Small-pox, - - -	138	103	35	1 - 4
Chincough, - - -	50	46	4	1 - 12
Mumps, - - -	4	4	0	0
Epidemic dysentery, - -	80	80	0	0
Rheumatism, - - -	57	56	1	1 - 57
Pleurisy, - - -	10	10	0	0
Cholera, - - -	9	9	0	0
Asthma, - - -	62	58	4	1 - 16
Dropfy, - - -	12	12	0	0
Stomach complaints, - -	44	44	0	0
Difficult dentition, - -	32	29	3	1 - 11
Worms, - - -	12	12	0	0
Epilepsy, - - -	3	3	0	0
Accidents, - - -	38	38	0	0
Various other complaints,	422	409	13	1 - 32

Manufactures.

The principal manufacture of Aberdeen, prior to the year 1745, was knitted stockings, which were mostly exported to Holland, and from thence dispersed through Germany. After that period the linen-manufacture was introduced, and brought to considerable perfection.

The spinning of linen-yarn in this place, for manufactures, arose from a small beginning. Some patriotic gentlemen, a few years after the battle of Culloden, being desirous to spread this useful art more extensively in the northern district, applied to the Board of Trustees at Edinburgh, who sent a woman here qualified to instruct others

in the art of spinning. She was accompanied with all the implements necessary for her purpose. As a proof that her exertions were crowned with success, it may be observed that the spinning of linen-yarn has arisen in this town to the extent of nearly 100,000 spindles *per annum*. This is accomplished mostly by the wives and daughters of mechanics and labourers, and procures them a yearly income of about L. 5000 Sterling. Much linen-yarn is besides brought to Aberdeen from the country round to a considerable extent. The quantity, however, of linen-cloth made here and in the neighbourhood is very small, owing, it is believed, to the Irish, who have engrossed the greater part of that branch of trade, both at the English and foreign markets, not on account of the superior quality of their goods, but of the encouragement given by their Parliament to the linen-manufacture, which enables them to undersell us even in our own country. A considerable quantity of the coarser kinds of this yarn is exported to Perth, Dunfermline, Glasgow, and other manufacturing places to the southward. Messrs Collison, Thomson and Company, of this place, lately began the manufacture of brown sheetings, osnaburghs, and sail-cloths, and are the only manufacturers of such goods here. They have already, by unremitting attention, brought their brown sheeting and osnaburghs, to as great perfection as any made in Scotland. Their sail-cloth manufactory only commenced in 1795, and what they have yet made has been sold to the sail-makers in this place, who acknowledge it equal in quality to the best that comes from the south-country. The sheetings and osnaburghs are shipped for London, and from thence are chiefly sent to the West Indies and America. From the satisfaction these manufactures have given, they are greatly on the increase, and bid fair to be carried to a considerable extent. The flax used in the linen branches here is chiefly imported from Holland,

land, and some from England. But the Baltic flax is used for brown sheetings, ofsnaburghs, and other coarse goods.

Thread Manufacture.—In the article of thread, particularly white and coloured pound threads, the Scotch stand unrivalled, and they must maintain their superiority by local advantages, which no other country at present can possess, and the manufacture is carried on to an extent equal to any demand. Aberdeen exceeds in quantity that of any other town in Scotland; and none have surpassed, if they have yet come up to, their fabric in quality. All the threads made here are sent to the English market, and for the greatest part direct to London, and from thence to many different places abroad. Besides pound thread there is made here a considerable quantity of the finer threads, called *ounce* or *nun's* thread, from their having been made by nuns in France and Flanders before the manufacture was introduced into this country. The principal thread-manufacturers in Aberdeen are, Milne, Cruden and Company, for stitching and ounce threads; Leys, Masson and Company, for stitching and coloured threads; and Young and Walker, for coloured threads only.

These, with several less extensive adventurers in the same trade, and including a few who manufacture linen-yarn only, employ nearly 100 boys under 14 years of age, who earn each from 1 s. 8 d. to 2 s. 6 d. a-week; 600 men, earning from 5 s. to 12 s. a-week each; and not under 2000 women, who have constant employment, mostly in their own houses, in spinning yarn, doubling and twisting thread, &c. Many women, who work within the manufactures, will earn from 5 s. to 6 s. a-week; but those who work in their own houses cannot earn nearly so much, a considerable part of their time being taken up with family matters, and other avocations. But additional to the

persons just now mentioned, who dwell in the city and suburbs, the thread-manufactures here give occasionally employment to at least 10,000 women in this and other northern counties in spinning linen-yarn. Their employment in spinning for manufactures can only be called occasional, because in summer they are generally employed in procuring fuel, and spinning wool and flax for family use. Their labour is also required in the field during harvest.

Woollen Manufactures, &c.—In the beginning of this century, the woollen manufactures of Aberdeenshire were chiefly coarse slight cloths, called plaidens and singroms, which were sold from 5 d. to 8 d. *per ell*, and stockings from 8 d. to 2 s. 6 d. *per pair*. These were manufactured by the farmers and cottagers from the wool of their own sheep, and by the citizens from the wool brought to the market from the higher parts of the country. The goods were bought up by the merchants of Aberdeen, at a weekly market held in town, and at stated periodical fairs held through the country, and which, in regard to manufacture, were under the regulation of the Dean of Guild of Aberdeen, who regularly attended, and who, being invested with legal authority, confiscated such goods brought for sale, as were deficient in quality, size, or measure. The chief market for exportation was Hamburgh, from which place was brought over, at the public charge, and placed in a public warehouse, a press or machine for packing of bale goods, by which 400 or 450 dozens of men's stockings may be put into a portable package; but are made seldom to contain above 300 dozens, forming, when packed, an oblong square, and measuring about 50 cubic feet, and weighing 15 cwt. gross.

Soon after the rebellion, *anno* 1745, a spirit of agricultural improvement, as well as of commercial enterprize, took

took place. The first had one effect, particularly in the low country, which will be questioned as an improvement. By obliging the farmer to winter-herding, he was discouraged from keeping a stock of sheep on his farm, on many of which, where large flocks were formerly kept, not one is now to be found.

The spirit of commerce happily saved the manufactures from the consequential want of the raw material, which that system of farming threatened.

The woollen manufacture is now carried on more immediately by the merchant, who imports from London and Newcastle the raw wool, which he causes to be combed, and given out to the spinsters and knitters throughout the country, from stations in every parish which they regularly attend, either weekly or monthly, as suits best with the circumstances of the place, or convenience of the manufacturer.

By this revolution in the woollen manufacture, a greater variety and better quality of goods are made, particularly of stockings, which is now the principal article of the woollen export.

The plaidens and fingsoms, which were formerly the great staple articles, are now almost quite out, and no more is exported than is sufficient for under-wrappers to the bales of stockings.

Several manufactures of coarse cloths are set on foot, but as the quantity made does not much exceed the demand for home consumption, a small quantity only is exported.

The stocking-manufacture is considerably increased. It is thought rather to exceed L. 100,000 Sterling annually, of which about two-thirds are sent to Holland and Germany, and one-third to England, Portugal, and America.

One-fourth of the whole value may be reckoned to the
raw

raw material, so that from L. 70,000 to L. 80,000 Sterling is laid out on labour for foreign consumpt.

About 400 persons are employed in wool-combing, and 30,000 *occasionally* employed in spinning and knitting. It is said *occasionally* employed, because a great proportion of these are frequently otherwise occupied, particularly at harvest, at mofs, and in the summer season, providing some pieces of clothing for themselves or families.

The advantages peculiar to this branch of manufacture are, that children at the age of ten, and people very far advanced in life, may, and often do, though in a scanty measure, maintain themselves by their labour at this work, and the knitting can be carried on while travelling or watching cattle or the like; nor does it require much, or at least not constant light, many carrying on their work throughout the winter evening, with the faintest light issuing from a few turfs,—a circumstance much in favour of a country where the nights are long, and the inhabitants poorly supplied with fuel or light. From these circumstances, perhaps, it is, that the stocking manufacture finds hands, and has its work done at a slower rate than some other branches of manufactures, a good knitter not being able to earn more than 2 s. *per* week, and the average not exceeding 1 s. 6 d.

There are a few stocking-frames in Aberdeen, but nothing considerable is done in that way.

When speaking of the extent of the stocking manufacture of Aberdeenshire, it must be understood, that what is manufactured in the adjacent parts of the shire of *Mearns*, to the distance of 12 or 15 miles on the coast, is included, as all that trade centers in the city of Aberdeen, and is carried on by the merchants and manufacturers residing there.

The

The wool used in the stocking-manufacture is brought from London and Newcastle. The whole quantity of wool imported annually into Aberdeen is not less than 2800 bags, of 240 lb. each.

If the value of the stockings exported is allowed to be L. 102,000, and the average price at the rate of 25 s. *per* dozen of mens stockings, the quantity of wool consumed in that article will be 2500 bags: the soap consumed in washing the wool and scouring the stockings will be about 37 tons, and about 35 tons of oil used in combing the wool: So that there is expended in Aberdeenshire, and part of the Mearns adjacent, on the manufacture of stockings for foreign consumpt, yearly,

On 2500 bags of British wool, at an average of L. 9 <i>per</i> pack, (Sterling),	-	-	L. 22,500	0	0
On 37 tons of British soap at L. 50 <i>per</i> ton,			1850	0	0
On 35 tons of foreign oil at L. 40 <i>per</i> ton,			1400	0	0
			<hr/>		
In all, for materials,	-	-	L. 25,750	0	0
For labour,	-	-	77,250	0	0
			<hr/>		
The supposed annual amount of stockings for exportation,	-	-	L. 103,000	0	0

It has been observed, that 300 dozens of mens stockings, when packed, weigh 15 cwt. and measure about 50 cubic feet; five feet go to a barrel bulk. The quantity manufactured would therefore afford luffage for no more than five vessels of a hundred tons burden, and the wool and other materials used in the manufacture, cargoes for 13 vessels of the same tonnage.

Allowing the linen-yarn manufacture to be of the same amount, it is presumed the luffage is much the same with the

the woollen, but the material of the former would not afford lading for above seven vessels of an hundred tons. Hence both these branches of manufacture, which form the principal staple articles of export from the port of Aberdeen, would only employ 30 vessels, or rather afford 30 cargoes for a vessel of that tonnage; and hence it may be accounted for why the proportion of shipping belonging to the port of Aberdeen is so much inferior to places in Scotland of less trade and population.

When it is said above, that the stocking-manufacture is of superior quality now to what it was formerly, it is to be understood of the fabric in general: there were much higher priced worsted stockings made about 50 years ago than at present. They were the work of women of the better sort. We have heard of two or three guineas *per* pair having been paid; but there were but few of such quality knitted; and such, it is apprehended, were more for curiosity than use, and the value more imaginary than real. There were, till of late, a good many made, which brought from 60 s. to 90 s. *per* dozen, and were both a neat and comfortable wear; but the silk manufacture has lessened the demand for these at present, and they are only sought for by those who seek for convenience, rather than follow fashion.

In the year 1789, a water-mill was first erected near Aberdeen, with machinery for teasing, scrubbing, carding, and rowing of wool, and jennies for spinning the same to manufacture into cloth. Previous to this period the manufacturer was obliged to import his warp-yarns from the north of England. The *worst* was chiefly spun by old women, and that only from *backings* or *nails*, as they were not able to card the wool.

While the manufacture of cloth was in this situation,
there

there were not above 1500 stones of wool manufactured in a year. But there has been manufactured,

	Wool, 24 lb. <i>p.</i> stone.	Backings, 16 lb. <i>p.</i> stone.
From Nov. 1. 1792 to Nov. 1. 1793,	4350 ft.	3450 ft.
From ditto 1793 to ditto 1794,	5160	2800
From ditto 1794 to ditto 1795,	5970	2350

About half of the above wool comes from Northumberland, a small part from London, and the rest is Scotch.

The decrease of the manufacturing of backings is owing to the stocking-manufacturers of Aberdeen (from whom they were got) doing very little business since the French over-ran Holland, which was the principal market for the woollen stockings.

The country people, 10 miles round Aberdeen, manufacture about 900 stone a-year of Scotch wool, mostly for their own use.

Cloths manufactured from the above wool are six quarters broad duffles; six quarter broad blue milled cloths, at from 4s. to 10s. *per* yard; three quarters to yard broad feys, farges, shafts, plaidings, baizes, linseywoolseys, jemmies, and stripped apron stuffs. The colours are chiefly dark and light blues, with a few mixtures and drabs.

The above cloths are sold along the east coast of Scotland, betwixt Perth and Tain, and 20 miles up the country. A few of the broad cloths are sent to London and America.

The only inconvenience that the woollen-manufacturers in Aberdeen labour under is the want of weavers, particularly for broad cloths, which indeed is the only bar why they do not extend their manufacture of cloths, of the quality of the Yorkshire broads and Rachdale baizes, for exportation.

Milling,

Milling, dying, and dressing of cloth, is done in the same manner as at Leeds.

At a period when the aids wanted by Government are so considerable, the Legislature ought to do every thing to encourage and strengthen the manufactures of the country. In 1782, Parliament granted a drawback of the duty of soap used in bleaching and cleaning linen and other goods. But a farther drawback is yet necessary with respect to *ashes* used in bleaching, which drawback, although very trifling to Government, would be of consequence to manufacturers in many respects. The member of Parliament who will give himself the trouble to examine into the utility of this drawback, and step forward to procure it, will deserve better of his country, than the man who, by a continual opposition to Government, endeavours to raise a name to himself, by pretending to be the people's friend. The people's best friend, is the man who contrives to secure their property, and increase their trade by unfettering their manufactures.

Trade and Commerce.

The state of the trade and commerce of this city, at different periods, will be seen from the following tables of the shipping, &c. of the Port of Aberdeen.

PORT of ABERDEEN.—An Account of the Quantity and Species of Merchandise exported from this Port in the Year 1712, shewing the particular Countries to which exported, the number of Vessels employed, their Tonnage, and Number of Men.

To what country exported.	No. of vessels employed.	No. of tons.	No. of men.	Species and Quantities of Goods.
Norway,	13	406	64	1087 3-4ths quarters oatmeal. 1501 ditto barley. 4 ditto pease. 951 3-8ths ditto malt. 146 hundred 1 qr. and 500 cod and ling fish at 6 score to the hundred. 7 trusses worsted stockings. 479 barrels salmon. 17 hogheads tobacco.
Holland,	6	238	38	359 one-half barrels pork. 104 trusses woollen cloth & worsted stockings. 10 casks hog-lard. 398 bars lead. 10 chaldrons coals.
Portugal,	2	85	14	12 trusses worsted stockings. 380 cod and ling fish. 373 barrels salmon. 18,690 cod and ling fish.
Sweden,	2	100	13	115 3-8ths quarters oatmeal. 197 3-8ths ditto malt. 90 barrels herrings. 69 one-half barrels salmon.
Spain,	2	150	17	24,052 cod and ling fish. 31 parcels worsted stockings. 76 barrels herrings. 79 3-8ths quarters oatmeal. 100 quarters malt.
Germany,	1	40	4	95 5-8ths ditto barley. 766 one-half barrels salmon. 2 boxes stockings. 90,000 stock fish.
Italy,	4	300	53	47,160 cod and ling fish; 68 barrels herrings. 480 bars lead.
Total,	30	1319	203	

PORT

PORT of ABERDEEN.—An Account of the total Number of British and Foreign Ships, their Tonnage and Number of Men, including their repeated Voyages, that have entered at this Port, or cleared outwards to and from each foreign Kingdom or State, in the Year ending the 5th day of January 1795, shewing the countries to which the foreign Vessels belong.

To or from what foreign kingdom or state, long.	Inwards.						Outwards.					
	BRITISH.			FOREIGN.			BRITISH.			FOREIGN.		
	Ships.	Tons.	Men	Ships.	Tons.	Men	Ships.	Tons.	Men	Ships.	Tons.	Men
Granada,	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	188	12	—	—	—
Denmark and Norway,	15	875	49	—	—	—	6	334	18	—	—	6
Gibraltar,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greenland,	3	653	85	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holland,	14	1460	73	—	—	—	3	653	85	—	—	—
Ireland,	1	88	5	—	—	—	3	280	15	—	—	—
Italy,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poland,	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	90	6	—	—	—
Portugal,	4	343	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany,	22	261	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany,	1	81	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prussia,	4	870	34	—	—	—	1	243	9	—	—	—
Russia,	8	803	44	—	—	—	6	796	42	—	—	—
Sweden,	9	907	39	—	—	—	6	465	27	—	—	—
Total,	61	6041	363	12	950	69	28	3151	220	1	100	6

PORT of ABERDEEN.—An Account of the total Number of Ships and Vessels, their Tonnage and Number of Men, belonging to this Port, that traded to and from foreign Ports Coalwise, Fishing Smacks, &c. from 5th January 1787 to 5th January 1795, distinguishing each Year.

PORT

Year ending the 5th January	Foreign Trade.			Coal Trade.			Fishing.		
	No. of vessels.	Tons.	Men.	No. of vessels.	Tons.	Men.	No. of vessels.	Tons.	Men.
1788,	63	4964	319	90	5520	396	12	1236	202
5th ditto	64	5639	324	92	5675	350	8	1115	180
5th ditto	69	5553	350	89	5811	334	12	1313	193
5th ditto	73	5567	527	94	6578	853	12	1293	185
5th ditto	44	3265	192	139	9417	673	7	1116	160
5th ditto	48	3656	203	134	9200	673	11	1079	134
5th ditto	37	3212	170	162	11126	869	11	998	121
5th ditto	34	2984	165	168	11802	824	7	785	98

PORT of ABERDEEN.—An Account of the Quantity of English Coals and Cinders, Scotch Coals and Culm, brought Coastways into this Port, between the 5th day of January 1782 and the 5th day of January 1793, distinguishing each Year, and shewing the Amount of Duties paid or payable thereon.

	Quantities of English.				Quantities of Scotch.				Duty on Scotch Coals and Culm.			Duty on English Coals and Cinders.		
	COALS.		CINDERS.		GOALS.		CULM.		L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
	Chalders.	Bushels.	Chald.	Bush.	Tons.	Cwt.	Chal.	Bush.						
From 5th Jan. 1782 to 5th Jan. 1783,	7927	17	350	27½	3989	5½	124	4	700	5	3	2167	3	8
From ditto 1783 to ditto 1784,	7500	12	333	30	3288	0½	253	26	596	13	4	2087	7	7½
From ditto 1784 to ditto 1785,	9476	23	330	0	3721	1½	306	8	675	18	7	2667	16	8½
From ditto 1785 to ditto 1786,	8768	13½	277	0	3265	16½	369	8	596	5	6	2610	1	0½
From ditto 1786 to ditto 1787,	10,663	9	264	0	3440	2	356	27	633	3	0	2929	15	3½
From ditto 1787 to ditto 1788,	11,024	18½	342	31½	3793	16½	385	8	710	11	7	3225	0	9½
From ditto 1788 to ditto 1789,	14,481	22½	283	9½	3544	10	432	7	674	12	6	4060	15	5
From ditto 1789 to ditto 1790,	13,674	7½	423	4	4157	10	412	17	783	5	5½	3877	0	5½
From ditto 1790 to ditto 1791,	13,127	11½	459	31½	3955	13	470	32	750	3	5½	3713	18	9½
From ditto 1791 to ditto 1792,	12,944	33½	327	4½	3650	2	693	33	721	4	6	3647	15	5½
From ditto 1792 to ditto 1793,	15,471	20½	290	13½	3275	10½	702	29	641	10	10½	4313	18	8½
Total,	124,060	9½	3682	8½	40081	8½	4507	19	7483	14	0½	35300	13	11½

PORT of ABERDEEN.—An Abstract Account of all Goods Imported and Exported, brought and sent Coast-ways, to and from this Port, and shewing the Tonnage of Shipping and Number of Men employed in each Trade, from 5th January 1790 to 5th January 1795, distinguishing each Year.

	Vessels.		Tonnage.		Men.		Barley.		Meal.		Coals.		Wine.		Spirits.		Bricks.	
	No. of	No. of	No. of	tons.	No. of	No. of	Quarters	Quarters	Quarters	Chalders	Tons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	No. of	No. of	
Year ending	57	5066	381	2216 ³ / ₄	3053 ³ / ₄	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	93200
5th January	81	7461	524	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1790	662	27938	2334	3572	8215	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	981	66704	3086	1002	2036	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	23	2460	211	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1791	93	7889	528	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	817	31086	2534	756	19552	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	993	45224	3975	1817 ¹ / ₂	347	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	33	3560	273	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1792	83	7199	463	78	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	901	34857	7292	4900	20870	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1011	46506	3221	450	103	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	38	3136	231	349 ¹ / ₄	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1793	100	9239	552	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	699	35305	2935	6268	23203	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	936	51874	3725	352	400	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	28	2541	195	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1794	68	5951	392	94	320	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	891	37680	3030	6801	32093	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1095	54027	3839	405	700	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	29	3251	226	12 ¹ / ₂	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	73	6591	432	0 ¹ / ₈	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1795	955	37361	3112	8206	31956	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1180	56373	4206	4215	1903	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
				9347	4318	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

PORT OF ABERDEEN.—An Abstract Account of all Goods Imported and Exported, &c.—Continued.

Year ending 5th January	Salmon.		Tow.		Cod-fish.		Malt.		Iron.		Flour.		Oats.		Salt.		Wool.	
	Barrels.	Kitts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	No. of	Quarters	Bars.	Quarters	Quarters	Quarters	Bushels.	Cwt. qr. lb.	Cwt. qr. lb.	Bushels.	Cwt. qr. lb.			
1790	Foreign trade outwards,	1863½	14½	955	114692	184	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto inwards,	—	—	—	18800	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coast trade outwards,	130	10908	—	80225	579	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto inwards,	1410	—	—	65966	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1791	Foreign trade outwards,	981½	32	1127	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto inwards,	—	—	—	11240	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coast trade outwards,	927	11449	—	66600	1809	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto inwards,	1205	—	—	15340	148	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1792	Foreign trade outwards,	1802½	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto inwards,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coast trade outwards,	156	—	—	55572	603	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto inwards,	1010½	—	—	183	210½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1793	Foreign trade outwards,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto inwards,	—	—	—	20	1	4	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coast trade outwards,	466	24212	—	196100	10997	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto inwards,	1487½	25	—	94	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1794	Foreign trade outwards,	1372½	—	—	736 cwt.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto inwards,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coast trade outwards,	383	13422	—	617	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto inwards,	1178	—	—	258	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1795	Foreign trade outwards,	406	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto inwards,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coast trade outwards,	1109	21710	—	981	763	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto inwards,	1130	—	—	218	1909½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Fishery.

Fishery.—The salmon-fishings at Aberdeen employ a considerable number of men, and are attended with no small profit to the persons concerned in them. They commence annually on the 11th of December, and end on the 19th of September. The fishings on that part of the river Dee which belongs to the parish of Old Machar, consist of seven *Cavels* :

Two upon Mid Channel, let for	L. 360	0	0
Two upon Pot Water, - - -	120	0	0
Two upon Fords, - - -	120	0	0
One upon Bridge Water, - - -	20	0	0
	<hr/>		
	L. 620	0	0

The other fishings on the north side of Dee belong properly to the parish of St Nicholas, and are of great value. Those on the south side of that river are in the parish of Nigg, the statistical history of which contains an excellent account of the fisheries at this place and neighbourhood. The fishing on the upper part of the north side of the river Don, in Old Machar parish, belongs to Mr Paton of Grandhome, and is appropriated to the amusement of the proprietor, and of such Gentlemen as, by his permission, angle on that part of the river. Below that, all the way down to Seaton, the river on both sides belongs to the proprietors of the *cruive* fishing. The *cruives* lie at Gordon's Mills. They are put into the river as soon as the weather will permit, after the commencement of the fishing season, and taken out when it expires, that the salmon may get up the river to spawn. The regulation of the *cruives* has occasioned perpetual disputes and law-pleas between the heritors on the upper parts of the river, and proprietors of that fishing. To put an end to these contentions, the parties have entered into an agreement, by which the proprietors

of the cruive-fishing are allowed to regulate their cruives as they please, on paying annually a stipulated indemnity to the upper heritors, and this agreement is to last for nineteen years. Formerly the cruives would have let through some small fishes, but now they will confine a trout of 2 lb. weight. Formerly they were left open from six o'clock on Saturday night till about sun-rising on Monday morning; but now they are kept constantly shut.—The proprietors of the cruive-fishing employ an overseer, who is allowed a suitable salary, and has under him, constantly three men, and occasionally several more. Their property is divided into eight shares, which may be separately bought or sold, or let. One person may hold one or more of these shares. Some of them are at present let for L. 40 Sterling annually. Estimating each share at this rate, the annual rent of the whole fishing will amount to L. 320 Sterling. Most of the fish are caught, not in the cruives, but with nets below the cruive-dikes. The proprietors have a house at the cruives, in which they cure and keep their salmon. They meet once every month during the fishing-season, to examine their books, to give directions to their servants, and to regulate the other business of the fishing.

Nearly opposite to the house of Seaton, the Nether Don fishing commences. It includes both sides of the river, and extends to the sea, comprehending a small part of the coast on each side of the river. The tide flows up the river nearly as far as this fishing extends. Some parts of the river can therefore be fished only in certain states of the tide. During several hours about the time of low-water, while some are fishing in the river, others are fishing in the sea. The boats and nets with which they fish upon the sea-coast are larger, and require more men to work them, than those which are used on the river. This fishing is divided into two distinct properties, the one called the King's

Cavel, and the other the Bishop's Cavel. In each cavel there are six shares called, Halfnets, and all the shares are nearly of equal value. The proprietors of each cavel employ an overseer, who, in the beginning of the season, has eleven men under him, but after the 1st of June, twenty men, and occasionally a greater number. Both the cavels fish alternately the same water. It often happens, indeed, that both fish in different places at the same time. Very curious regulations are adopted by both cavels for fixing the periods at which they succeed one another on the sea, and on the different fishing stations on the river. These regulations have no connection with the stated hours of the day and night, but are ingeniously calculated, according to the ebbings and flowings of the tide, to give both the cavels an equal chance for fish. The produce of both properties are accordingly at the end of some seasons very nearly equal. Such is the general principle on which these regulations are founded; but they cannot be particularly explained without an accurate map of the river, accompanied with a long and minute detail, which would be very uninteresting to the public. Besides the fish caught by their nets and boats, they set short nets called *feetbs* in some corners of the river, and salmon are often found entangled in the meshes of these nets. At the south end of Don Bridge the proprietors have houses, in which they cure and keep their salmon till they are ready for exportation. They meet once every fortnight during the fishing-season to superintend their business, and give directions to their servants.—None of the shares of either cavel are let; it is therefore impossible to say with accuracy what rent this fishing would yield. Its value is very great. A single share sold lately for L. 2500 Sterling. Estimating each of the twelve shares at this rate, the value of the whole fishing of both cavels would be L. 30,000 Sterling.

The

The disadvantage by which this, and of consequence the cruive-fishing, is most apt to suffer, arises from the precarious state of the river's mouth. Many years ago, the river near the sea took a long turn to the south, which rendered it so shallow, that often the salmon could with difficulty enter it. The proprietors of the fishings were anxious to deepen the mouth of the river, by making a straight cut through the sand-bank, at the turn of the river, between it and the sea. This was undertaken for a small sum of money by Dr Gregory, then one of the professors of King's College. He accordingly built a stone bulwark, part of which is still extant, almost across the old channel of the river, just where it turned to the south. This caused the stream to push directly, and with great force, against the sand-bank, which lay immediately between it and the sea. Embracing an opportunity of a great flood in the river, he made a small cut across the sand-bank, which the flood water soon entering, swept away for itself an excellent channel directly into the sea. Having effected this important service to the Don fishings at an expence considerably below the stipulated sum, the Doctor generously gave the remainder of the money as a fund for the support of superannuated salmon-fishers, and some of them now draw from that fund L. 2 Sterling annually.—Though there is now little danger of the river resuming its old circuitous and shallow course, as it still enters the sea through a large bed of soft sand, its mouth varies almost every season, and often with every violent hurricane of wind. It is still sometimes so shallow at low water that no large fishes can enter it. The only method of deepening it, is by causing it to run into the sea in as straight a stream as possible. For this purpose, as its tendency is still to turn to the south, though at a place much nearer to the sea than its former winding, the proprietors of the fishing have erected a new bulwark of stakes
and

and heath, kept down with stones, in an oblique direction, on the south side of the river, a good way into the channel. This seems already to have good effects, by turning the stream to the north, and deepening the river's mouth. It is daily gaining additional strength, because the weather is driving the sand close behind, and thereby supporting it.

The salmon in Dee and Don are thought to be in the highest perfection in April and May. For several years past they have not been sold here at any time under 3 d. *per* pound; and until the beginning of July, when the annual contract of the proprietors of the fishings with the Aberdeen merchants, who send the salmon to the London market, expires, none are to be had under 6 d. *per* pound. To obtain them even at this price we must send to the boil-house in Aberdeen. It is hard, that while our rivers abound in fish, their whole produce should, for five or six months in the year, be sold to one or two Aberdeen merchants, at about 4 d. or even under that sum, and that, during that period, none of the inhabitants can obtain a single pound under 6 d. and that only in the way of favour from the merchants. Last year our salmon were selling in the London market cheaper than we could buy them at Aberdeen. Was not this carrying on a monopoly at once to the disadvantage of the merchants and the country? It has been alleged, that the proprietors of the Bishop's Cavel were once obliged to offer their fish for sale in the market of Old Aberdeen. If ever this commendable practice took place, it has long ago fallen into disuse. Two thirds of the produce go to the London market; and the catch of July, August, and September, is salted, and exported in barrels to France and Flanders, where they have a character superior to the fish of other rivers, which occasions a difference of price at home of 10 s. to 15 s. *per* barrel. From 120 to 150
fishermen

fishermen are employed on the rivers. Their wages, at an average, are from L. 5 to L. 15 *per annum*.

The grilse come into our rivers about the middle or end of June, and continue till September. These may generally be bought at about 2 d. or about 2½ d. *per pound*.—The fish caught in July, August, and September, are salted and exported.

The white trout and finnocks caught in the salmon-fishers nets are excellent. They belong as a perquisite to the fishermen, by whom they are sold at about 2 d. *per pound*, and sometimes at a lower rate, to the inhabitants of both the town and neighbourhood. Many finnocks are caught in the Don by small *feetbs*, which the fishermen set for that purpose after the season of the salmon-fishing is over. It is thought that these *feetbs* do not tend to prevent the salmon from coming up the river to spawn, because they are too small in the marshes for entangling large fishes, and because they are never so far extended into the river as to hinder them from passing.

Nail Manufacture.—The chief branch of the iron manufacture carried on here is the making of nails. This work was established about the year 1780, and employs from 20 to 30 hands, who earn very high wages. Other branches of the iron manufacture might now, that the coal-duty is taken off, be carried on here to advantage.

Distilleries.—The small stills in Aberdeen and its neighbourhood were lately either given up, or removed to the Highland districts. All the whisky made in such stills is liable to be seized as smuggled goods when brought to Aberdeen; so that the city depends entirely on the large distilleries in the south of Scotland for supplies of whisky.

The

The quantity imported before the late prohibitory distilling act was great, and in general of a very bad quality.

A distillery, on a pretty extensive scale, was lately erected near Aberdeen; it was completed on the 29th September 1794. It is situated near Don Bridge. The chief inducement for erecting it there was the command of water, 38 feet perpendicular upon the banks of a navigable river. It was intended to distil annually the produce of 12,000 quarters of corn, but could do much more. This season, (1795), owing to obstructions from the severity of the weather during the last winter and spring, the embargo, and the prohibition, only 8215 quarters were brewed, paying upon importation to London L. 26,800 Sterling, with about L. 1000 more for duty upon malt. The principal part of the corn grew in Aberdeenshire; the rest was imported from the adjacent districts. The whole was the growth of Scotland.

It would be of great public utility if distilleries upon a moderate scale were erected in different counties throughout the united kingdoms, instead of being centered in and near London, in ten great houses. Most of the spent wash or burnt ale, and much of the dung, is thrown into the river, which, besides injuring the water, is a loss to society. More cattle and hogs would be fed, and all damaged or ill-harvested corn, unfit for exportation, would be turned to the utmost advantage; the manure would enrich the lands contiguous. This distillery would well keep at the rate of 400 cattle, or 1000 hogs, yielding sufficient manure to fertilize annually from 15 to 20 Scotch acres, of the most barren land; but call it at a medium 20 English acres, as the contents of the wash-still here amounts only to 2650 gallons, every 100 gallons ought to manure nearly one English acre; and consequently the London distilleries, whose
wash

wash-stills are at least 100,000 gallons in contents, ought to fertilize 1000 acres *per annum*.

Throwing away the bottoms, as they are called, is a great public loss.—Suppose a house to brew daily 100 quarters, this would produce about 10,000 gallons of worts or wash, or 100 gallons from a quarter *. When the fermentation ceases, the wash is fit for distillation; about one-tenth, or 1000 gallons, of which will be a thick sediment or bottom, which in England is frequently thrown into the river, in the presence of the officers of excise, thereby saving the duty of 9 d. *per* gallon, and avoiding the danger of burning the still. In Scotland it is thrown away to avoid the burning only. It could easily be proved how much corn is thus totally lost annually; it is probable full 50,000 quarters. This must be the case until the Legislature make it the interest of the corn-distiller to extract all the spirit in and from the corn, without running the risk of burning the still.

In this distillery, half barley and half bear are made use of; unquestionably there is more farina, or saccharine matter, in barley than in bear, and it is that only which produces spirit. Potatoes are less fit for distillation than barley; the spirit produced is much fouler; and it is not believed that they would answer upon a large scale. Rye may be used to advantage with malt and barley, but it must be in a small proportion. All barley used by distillers would be malted if there were no duty upon malt, because

* *To prevent throwing away the bottoms,—two methods only appear eligible: Distillers to be allowed a still of suitable or proportionate gallons, under proper regulations, for extracting the spirit from the bottoms, without being obliged, as now, either to throw them away, or mix and distil them with the wash. Or, to be allowed a proper number of hours to work their stills off, less rapidly than they are now obliged to do. The first appears by far the most eligible.*

cause 100 grains of malt will yield more saccharine matter than 100 grains of barley, but it occupies more space; it is the interest of the distiller at present to use as much raw grain as possible, saving thereby the duty on the malt; and it is certain, that the grains or refuse for feeding the cattle or hogs is the better the less spirit that is taken out of it: As the spirit extracted, however, would be much finer and wholesomer, and as it could not possibly, under proper regulations, be attended with any loss to the revenue, it may be worthy the consideration of Parliament, whether it would not be adviseable to enact, that in future spirits should be extracted from malted grain alone,

Breweries.—The first public brewery, for brewing ale for the consumption of this town, was erected by Messrs William Black and Company about the year 1768. Their work is very considerable, and there is scarce any thing of the kind in Scotland so complete. They brew table-beer, strong-ale and porter. Their strong-ale is of such excellent quality, that a great deal of it is sent to London, and several places abroad; and their porter is generally superior in quality to the London porter which is brought here for sale; but such is the effect of prejudice, that people will drink London porter of the worst kind, before good fresh porter brewed at home.

There are now, besides Messrs William Black and Company's brewery, no fewer than six public breweries in this town and parish of Old Machar. Two of them in town, Messrs George Annand and Company, and Messrs Brebner, Gibbon and Company, do a great deal of business, and they are all in a thriving way.

Before there were any public breweries in this place, the people who kept public-houses brewed all the ale and beer which they sold; and it was then customary for private families

milies to brew for their own use, but private brewing is now laid aside.

Cotton-Cloth Manufacture, &c.—There is carried on by some gentlemen in this town a very extensive manufacture in spinning, weaving, and printing cotton-cloth in the greatest variety of patterns. The printfield and work-houses, where this manufacture is principally carried on, lie in the parish of Old Machar. This work has added considerably to the population of the town and neighbourhood.

Price of Provisions, &c.—The price of beef and mutton about 4 d. *per lib.*; veal, 5 d.; pork, 3½ d.; geese, 1 s. 6 d. each; ducks, 1 s. 8 d. *per pair*; butter, 8 d. *per lib.* or 28 ounces; cheese, 5 s. *per stone*, or 28 pounds; chickens, 10 d. *per pair*.

The wages of a labourer *per day* are from 10 d. to 1 s. 4 d.; a carpenter, bricklayer, or mason, has 1 s. 6 d. a-day, and a wright commonly 1 s. 3 d. The wages of a female-servant is commonly about L. 1, 10 s. and for a male-servant from L. 4 to L. 5 in the half-year.

The most memorable *battle* in this neighbourhood was that which was fought, in the last century, between Montrose and the Covenanters, on Friday the 13th of September 1644, in which victory declared for the former, and the latter were pursued with great slaughter from the field of battle, which was about a mile westward to the town. A gentleman of this place, proprietor of some ground in the Schoolhill, which had been time immemorial employed as garden-ground, intending to build on it, dug pretty deep for a foundation, when, to his great surprize, he came on a place in which there were found many human bones, and among them 14 or 16 skulls. What is very remarkable is,

that on some of the sculls there was found long yellow hair, neatly wrapped round and plaited with an woollen fillet or string in form of a queue, which did not appear to be rotten. As there were no remains of any coffin, and indeed no appearance from the position of the bones that the bodies had been regularly interred, and as this field is at the west end of the town, exactly in the line of the pursuit from the field of battle, it is conjectured, that on that occasion the bodies of many, who had fallen near the place, had been huddled together, and promiscuously thrown into this clay pit, for such it appeared to have been. It was on that occasion that Montrose gave up the town to the pillage of the soldiers, who were mostly Irish, and cruelly massacred many of the harmless inhabitants, insomuch, that the women only durst appear, and take concern in burying the dead. It is about twenty years since the discovery of these sculls and other human bones was made.

Intended Canal.—There are at present no navigable canals in this place, unless the *lead* at the printfield is considered as one, and it has been used as such, only for bringing stones from a quarry to the buildings of the manufacture. A subscription has been raised to obtain a survey of a canal from Aberdeen, up Don side to Monymusk, with a branch up the water of Ury, through the Garioch, to Inch. The survey is made by Captain George Taylor, and the undertaking found to be practicable. A small cut, twenty feet wide, by three feet and a half deep, is intended to carry boats of twenty or thirty tons burden. The locks and bridges will be fewer, and less expensive than most people acquainted with the grounds are apt to suppose. The expence is within reach of the gentlemen proprietors of the lands adjacent. The quantity of goods now carried by land is sufficient to pay a reasonable interest for the money required,

required, at little more than half the expence of land-carriage. So favourable is the spirit of the people to this undertaking, and so evident its advantages to the public, that many farmers propose to subscribe for shares. The canal will pass for three miles through the parish of Old Machar, from the harbour of Aberdeen, and communicate with Gordon's mills field, the printfield, and Parsley bleachfield, the most extensive manufactures in this part of the country.

The benefit which the manufacturers on the banks of Don, both in this parish and the parish of Newhills, would reap from this canal, must indeed be great; both by the cheap carriage of coals, and all the heavy and bulky articles used in their several branches, to their manufactures, and by the easy conveyance of their goods to Aberdeen, on the arrival of which in a given time they might securely depend. As there are many fine haughs and water-falls along the Don, and adjacent to the course of the intended canal, it may in time be the means of establishing useful manufactures at a considerable distance from the town, where the immense expence of fire and carriage renders such undertakings at present impracticable. But its beneficial influence on agriculture will be more instantaneously conspicuous. Almost the whole labour of the farmers, and of their servants and horses, from seed-time to harvest, is employed in digging, drying, and carrying home, peats and turf for their winter-fuel. This, by discouraging the carriage of lime and other manure, and by putting it out of their power to attend properly to green crops and fallow, has exceedingly retarded the improvement of the lands at a distance from the town. By means of the canal, every farmer along the banks, and to the distance of two or three miles from these, might, at a cheap rate, and in a few days, lay in his winter-fuel of coals, and have abundant leisure to attend to the improvement of his land. It
would

would also afford him a cheap, easy, and expeditious conveyance of lime and other manure from Aberdeen, while a single servant could, at comparatively little expence, attend his grain, meal, poultry, butter, cheese, milk, and all the produce of his farm, to market, in doing which he must at present employ many horses and carts. It would thus redound to the advantage of the proprietors of the adjacent lands, not only by fertilizing their soil, extending their arable land, and increasing their rents; but also by enabling them to open with profit many quarries of excellent granite, some of lime and some of slate, which, on account of the expence of the carriage to town, are as yet unwrought. By furnishing a cheap and expeditious conveyance to market for the wood of many fine and extensive plantations adjacent to its course, and which, for want of such conveyance, cannot now be sold to advantage, it would greatly increase the value of these plantations, and encourage their owners to extend them over many large tracks of otherwise bleak, barren, and unproductive ground. Thus would it tend at once to increase population, to enrich both the landholder and the tenant, and to beautify the face of the country.

This place gave birth to Mr *George Jamieson*, a portrait-painter of the most distinguished eminence. He was born of respectable parents about the end of the 16th century. Having, at an early period of life, discovered an uncommon genius for portrait-painting, he went abroad, and studied under the celebrated Reubens, during which time he made great progress in his profession. About the year 1620 he returned to his native city, where he settled as a portrait-painter, and afterwards married an Aberdeen lady of the name of *Isobel Toash*, by whom he had several children, both sons and daughters. It appears that all his sons died when young. His only daughter whose descend-

ants

ants are now living, was called Mary. Her first husband was Mr Burnet of Elrick, in the county of Aberdeen. She was afterwards married to Mr James Gregory, the eminent mathematician, and professor of mathematics in the Universities of St Andrew's and Edinburgh, and great grandfather of Dr James Gregory, present professor of medicine, University, Edinburgh. Her third marriage was to Bailie George Eddie of Aberdeen. By all of them she had children. Many of the descendants of the two first have numerous families in this county. She appears to have inherited a considerable portion of her father's genius for portrait-representation, chiefly on tapestry, many specimens of which still remain, particularly several large Scripture pieces, in different compartments, which now decorate a part of the High Church of Aberdeen.

Jamieson's character and style of painting soon became generally known and admired all over the kingdom. He appears (as may be seen in the subjoined list) to have painted a great number of portraits, among which are King James VI. and Charles I. It is said, that when taking the portrait of Charles I. the King ordered him to keep on his hat. Owing to this circumstance, or perhaps in imitation of Reubens his master, in all the pictures of himself he is represented with his hat on.

Mr John Alexander, grand-nephew of Mr Jamieson, seems to have been the only one of his descendants who possessed his genius for painting. He practised in Aberdeen as a portrait-painter till a considerable time after the year 1730. Many of his paintings also are highly esteemed.

George Jamieson was a nephew of David Anderson of Finzeach, merchant-burgess of Aberdeen. He was commonly called, *Davie do a' thing*, on account of his very great and extensive genius for mechanics, and most other

branches

branches of natural philosophy, which he eminently displayed in many different instances at Aberdeen.

Mr Anderson was born about the 1575, and married towards the end of that century, to Jean Guild, daughter of Matthew Guild, burghers of Aberdeen, by whom he had several children, particularly three daughters, all married to different gentlemen in the town and county of Aberdeen.

After his death, his widow, Jean Guild, with the concurrence and approbation of her daughters and their husbands, mortified the greatest part of a considerable property of her own, for the maintenance of ten poor orphans, at the rate of 50 merks yearly to each, under the patronage of the Magistrates and Town-council of Aberdeen. Her brother, Dr William Guild, Principal of King's College, also destined a considerable sum of money for the like pious purpose, and under the same patronage; from the produce of which, and the great improvements and attention which have been made and bestowed upon them by the patrons, about 40 necessitous orphans are at present in a great measure supported in the town of Aberdeen, and which they are entitled to enjoy from their earliest infancy till they become 16 years of age.

CATALOGUE of some of the Works of GEORGE JAMIESON,
Painter.

PICTURES.

Persons to whom they belong.

Jamieson, his wife, and son.	}	Sir George Chalmers, painter, married to Jamieson's great-great-grand-daughter.	
Jamieson in his painting-room, which is adorned with pictures of Charles I. and his Queen; Jamieson's own wife; another head; two sea-views; Perseus and Andromeda.		Earl of Findlater, at Banff Castle.	
Jamieson, a single figure, with a miniature in his hand, supposed his wife's picture.	}	Alexander Carnegie, Esq; town-clerk of Aberdeen, Jamieson's great-great-grandson.	
Sir Duncan Campbell.		}	Earl of Breadalbane.
William Earl of Airth.			
John Duke of Rothes.			
James Marquis of Hamilton.			
Archibald Lord Napier.			
William Earl of Marischal.			
Earl of Loudon, Lord High Chancellor.			
Thomas Lord Binning.			
John Earl of Mar.			
Sir Robert Campbell.			
Sir John Campbell.			
Geneological picture of 20 heads of the family of Lochow.			
Two of the Family of Argyle.	}		
Lord Glamis,		Earl of Strathmore.	
George Herriot, jeweller.	}	Herriot's Hospital.	
Sir Alexander Erskine, Cambuskenneth.			
Sir Charles Erskine of Alva,			
Sir John Erskine of Otterstown.			
Arthur Erskine, Scotsraig.			
William Erskine, master of Charterhouse.			
Mary Erskine, Countess of Marischal, and _____ of Panmure.		}	Lord Alva.
Margaret Countess of Rothes.			
Martha Countess of Strathmore.			
Anne Lady Binning.			
Henry Prince of Wales.			
Henry Erskine Lord of Dryburgh.			
Sir Alexander Gibson, Lord of Session, Collector of decisions.		}	Murray of Polmaise.
Same person.	Countess of Rothes.		
James Erskine Earl of Buchan.	}	Earl of Buchan.	
Henry Erskine, Lord of Dryburgh.			
Alexander Erskine, son of Mar, full length.			

PICTURES.

PICTURES.

Persons to whom they belong.

Alexander Frazer of Philorth.	}	Lord Salton.
William Forbes of Tolquhon.		
Sir Thomas Hope, Lord Advocate.	}	Mr Scott, late of Rossie.
Sir John Hope, Lord of Session.		
Margaret Murray, his wife.	}	Sir Ernest Gordon, Park.
Sir Adam Gordon.		
Dr Dun, founder of the grammar-school of Aberdeen.	}	Bisset, Leffendrum.
Crichton, Viscount Frendraught.		
Sutherland, Lady Frendraught.	}	Morison of Bognie.
Marquis of Montrose.		
Urquhart of Cromarty.	}	Mr Jamieson, wine-merchant, Leith.
His wife.		
Leslie, Lady Frendraught.	}	Sir John Dalrymple.
Charles I.		
Jamieson himself.	}	Baird of Auchmedden.
Three young girls of the Haddington family,		
Three girls, aged six, seven, and eight, of the families of Argyle, Errol, and Kinnoul.	}	Lindsay of Wormiston.
Two boys, aged three and five, and a dog.		
Marchioness of Huntly.	}	Duke of Gordon.
————— Gordon.		
Sir Thomas Hope, Lord Advocate.	}	Earl of Hopetoun.
Dr William Johnston, brother of Dr Arthur Forbes, his wife.		
Dr Arthur Johnston.	}	Andrew Skene of Dycé.
Mr Andrew Cant, minister.		
Gordon of Straloch, publisher of maps.	}	Marischal College, Aberdeen.
Sir Paul Menzies, Provost of Aberdeen.		
A head unknown.	}	King's College, Aberdeen.
Patrick Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen.		
Professor Sandilands.	}	Mr Campbell, Royal Bank, Edinburgh.
Professor Gordon.		
The Sybels, some of them supposed to be of Jamieson's hand.	}	Marquis of Tweeddale.
Charles I.		
Earl of Tweeddale.	}	Charles Frazer, Inverallochie.
Andrew Frazer of Muchills.		
His wife, daughter of the family of Forbes.	}	Wauchope of Niddrie.
Two heads, unknown.		
Two Sandilands of the Torphichen family.	}	Late Mr Andrew Paul of Aberdeen.
Sandilands of Cottown.		
General David Leslie.	}	William Urquhart of Craigston.
Sir Alexander Frazer of Fraserburgh.		
William Forbes, first Bishop of Edinburgh.	}	Earl of Kinnoul.
Sir Thomas Nicolson, Lord Advocate.		
Earl of Huntly, called Luckenhand.	}	Countess Dowager of Aberdeen.
James VI. full length.		
	}	Said to be sold to a family in England.

PICTURES.

PICTURES.

Persons to whom they belong.

Carnegie of Southesk.	}	Sir David Carnegie of Southesk.
Carnegie of Northesk.		
Carnegie of Craigs.	}	Sir William Forbes, Craigievar.
Carnegie of Dunnichen.		
Patrick Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen.	}	Charles Bannerman, Advocate in Aberdeen, married to a great - great - great - granddaughter of Mr Anderfon's.
David Anderfon of Finzeauch, merchant, burgesses of Aberdeen, commonly called, "Davie do a' thing," uncle to Jamiefon.		
Mr, Alexander Robertson, town-clerk of Aberdeen.		
Another not known.	}	Dr Alexander Bannerman, physician in Aberdeen.
Alexander Bannerman of Elfick in 1643.		

The above catalogue, and the materials from which the account of Mr Jamiefon was taken, were communicated by Alexander Carnegie, Esq; town-clerk of Aberdeen.

N. B. It is proposed to give an account of the Universities of Aberdeen in another part of this work.

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF ALNESS,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ROSS, AND PRESBYTERY OF
DINGWALL).

By the Rev. Mr ANGUS BETHUNE, Minister.

Origin of the Name.

ALNESS signifies the *Promontory*, a headland of the brook or river, being compounded of the words *Auilt*, brook, or *Ambain*, river, and *Nefs*, a headland, which is the termination of many names of places where there is a headland or promontory. The name corresponds with the situation of the parish, which stretches along a river, formerly called *Averon*, but now known by the name of the *Water of Alness*, and terminates in a narrow point or promontory.

Situation, Extent, Soil and Produce.—The parish is situated in the county of Ross, and belongs to the presbytery of Dingwall and Synod of Ross. It is of a very irregular form;

form; in some parts not above two miles, and in others more than four miles broad. It is 12 miles long, extending from Alnesh point, on the shore of the frith of Cromarty, its south-east boundary, a considerable way into the more highland parts of the country. In the lower part of the parish, lying contiguous to the sea, and about two miles upwards, the ground is mostly arable, and of various qualities. The soil, however, is generally light, and though it seldom produces luxuriant crops, yet when the farmers are industrious, their labour is rewarded by a middling return of oats, barley, and pease, and abundant crops of potatoes; and there can be little doubt, if the farms, which are almost all open-field, were inclosed, and a different mode of farming adopted from that generally practised in this part of the country, but the soil would produce at least a third more grain than it does at present. The higher parts of the parish, lying beyond a ridge of hills which conceals them from the eye of the traveller on the public road, consist of straths or glens, producing some bear and black oats, but chiefly adapted for pasturage, and in which a considerable number of black cattle, and some small horses, are reared. Adjoining to these straths are two beautiful freshwater lochs or lakes, which have a pleasant effect to the eye, and abound with a variety of trout. Each loch is about two miles long, and nearly a mile broad. Higher up the country, and beyond these lochs, is a very extensive tract of rich heath, affording pasture in the summer time, not only to the graziers in the braes, but for the oxen and young store of the farmers in the lower part of the parish and neighbourhood, who, not having sufficient pasture of their own, must send their cattle to feed for the summer months to these grazings.

Sheep-farming has been lately introduced on these higher grounds, extended heaths, and some of the glens; but the
plan,

plan, however justifiable in itself, and on the part of the proprietors, was unpopular, because it occasioned the removal of the native possessors of these farms and grazings, and excited a disorderly and tumultuous spirit among the country-people, which it became necessary by legal and forcible means to suppress. This gave rise and rapid circulation to a report, as injurious as it was groundless, that the proprietors treated these poor tenants with oppression and cruelty. In justice, however, to the proprietors of *this* parish, who have let any part of their estates for sheep-farming, it is proper to assure the public, that such tenants as had been removed from their possessions for that purpose, were otherwise provided in farms by these gentlemen, either on their own estates, or on some others in their vicinity; and that to this humane object they paid every attention in their power, feeling themselves particularly interested in, and solicitous for, the accommodation of the few tenants whom, with a view to encourage the introduction of sheep-farming, they had found it necessary to remove.

Heritors of the Parish.—The proprietors of the parish are General Sir Hector Munro of Novar, K. B. Captain Duncan Munro of Culcairn, Captain Hugh Munro of Teaninich, Miss Mackenzie of Inchcoult, and Andrew Munro of Lealdie. Of these, General Sir Hector Munro and Captain Hugh Munro of Teaninich have their family-seats, and are resident in the parish.

The place and family-seat of Novar has been highly cultivated and improved by Sir Hector Munro, at a very great expence, and with much and approved taste. It is indeed a great and a finished place, the most complete in the north, and the admiration of all travellers to this country. It is, too, very advantageously situated, considerably elevated above the frith, not a mile distant from it, and commanding

commanding a full and extensive view of the neighbouring country, and of the bay and headland of Cromarty,—objects greatly admired for their singular beauty.

Valuation and Rent.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 2891 Scots, and the real rent about L. 1200 Sterling. The rent has not been much increased of late, sheep-farms excepted, which have been considerably augmented. No additional rent has been laid on the tenants of Novar estate since it came into the possession of Sir Hector Munro, nor for some time before that period. A laudable example to other proprietors, and highly deserving of imitation, and a certain method of securing the inviolable attachment and affection of the tenants.

Population.—The number of persons now living in this parish is 1121; of these, 800 are examinable, or above seven years of age.

Abstract of the baptisms, marriages, and burials, for the four years immediately preceding the 1st of January 1795:

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1791,	— 30	— 11	— 10
1792,	— 27	— 5	— 8
1793,	— 31	— 9	— 11
1794,	— 28	— 8	— 13

The population is rather on the increase, the population in 1755 amounting to 1090; the difference only 31.

Previous to the admission and settlement of the present incumbent, which took place in September 1771, the ministers of this parish since the Revolution were, Mr John Frazer, Mr Daniel Mackilligan, and Mr James Frazer, all worthy and excellent men, and successful preachers of the Gospel. The last, in particular, was a clergyman of pro-

found erudition as well as piety, and distinguished for great ability and acuteness in sacred criticism.

State of the Church, &c.—The church was rebuilt 15 years ago, and neatly finished. It still continues to be a decent and comfortable place of worship. A new manse, superior to the generality of ministers houses, has been built two years ago; and so cordially were the heritors disposed to grant such good accommodation, that no application was made to the presbytery for their interposition. The stipend is 128 bolls of victual, L. 36, 10s. Sterling in money, with an allowance of L. 5 Sterling for communion-elements; and as the minister feels, so he cannot help expressing, much gratitude to all the heritors, who, far from opposing his getting an augmentation of stipend, voluntarily concurred in his application to the Court of Teinds.

State of the Poor.—The number of poor upon the roll of the parish is considerable, being above 70 persons. The fund for their partial support and relief arises from the weekly collections, which will amount to about L. 20 Sterling *per annum*, and the interest of L. 124, a late donation by pious persons connected with the parish. Since the year 1774, General Sir Hector Munro of Novar has ordered a very liberal and charitable bounty of 12 bolls oat-meal to be annually distributed among the poor of the parish, which frequently proves a very seasonable supply*; and it is owing to the stated and exemplary attendance of the residing heritors on public worship, that the weekly collections amount to the sum already mentioned, which is far superior to the collections of neighbouring country parishes. One instance this of the many happy effects, of which the
regular

* Psalm cxii. 9.

regular attendance of the higher ranks, on the sacred institutions of religion, would be productive.

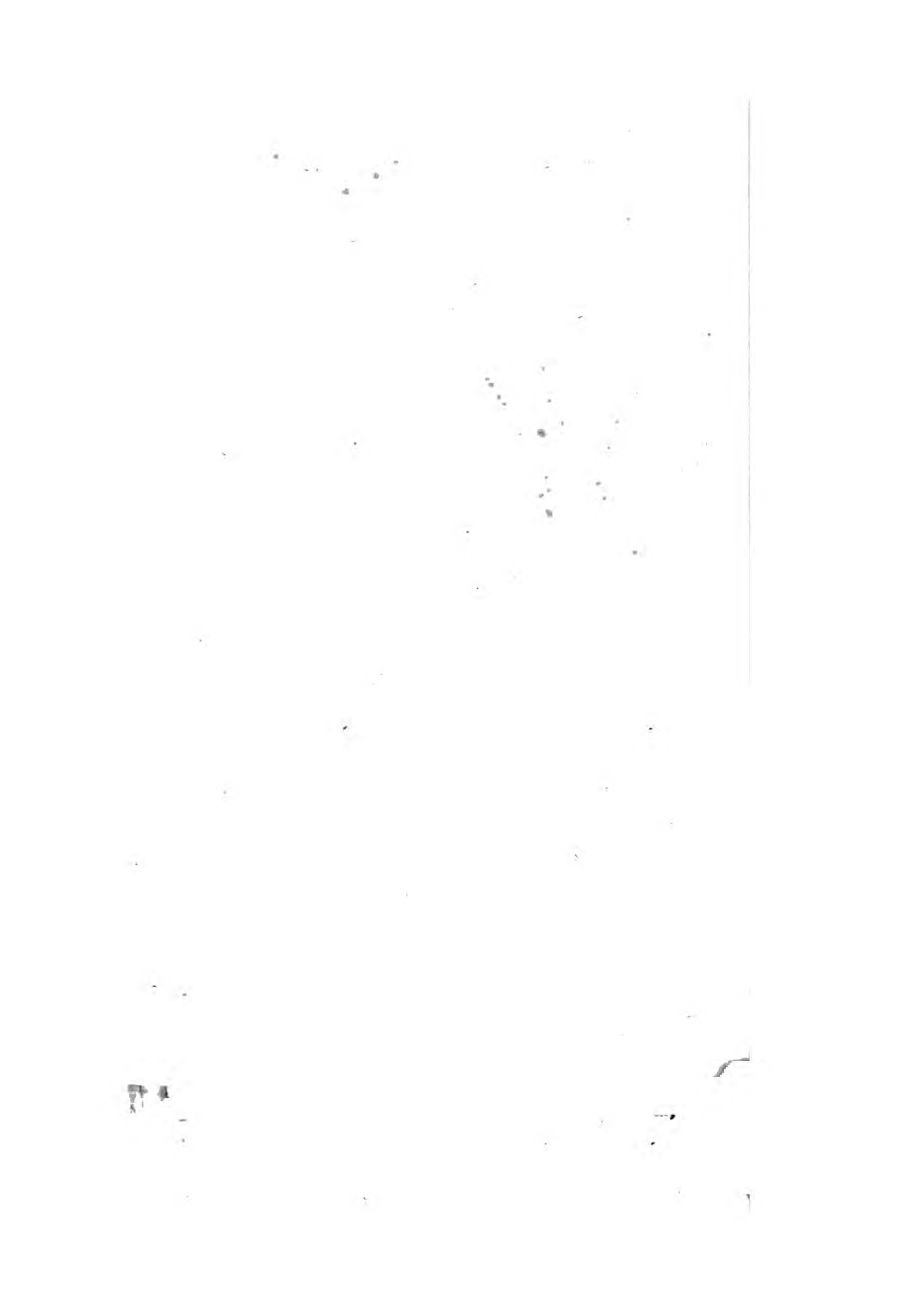
Schools.—There are three schools in the parish. A parochial school near the church, in which 60 children are usually taught. The schoolmaster's salary is 200 merks Scots; but his income, including his appointments of session-clerk and precentor, together with the emoluments of the school, will be above L. 20 Sterling. In the higher parts of the parish, there are two schools established by the Honourable the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge; one for instructing children in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and another for teaching young girls spinning, sewing, and knitting stockings. In both, there are above 60 boys and girls generally taught.

Ores.—On the property of Andrew Munro of Lealdie has been discovered an iron ore, which, from appearances, seems to be of considerable extent. It is also of a rich quality. A sample of it, which has been sent to the Carron Company, at their own desire, produced 75 lb. iron *per* cwt. The rock is of easy access, but is three miles distant from the shore. It may, however, at some future time, become a source of considerable benefit to the proprietor.

Character of the People.—The people are naturally judicious and acute, possessing considerable vigour of mental faculties. They are also, on the whole, industrious and sober, and, with a few exceptions, of good morals. They abstain carefully from profane swearing, and rarely utter an oath. To the Sabbath they pay a sacred regard; many of them are devoutly disposed, and seem to feel deep impressions of religion on their hearts. They all belong to the Established Church, and discover no particular propensity to fanatical sectarism. It must be confessed, however,
that

that some of them do not distinguish as they ought, between the means and the end of religion ; an error not uncommon where religion is most professed.

Language.—The Gaelic or Erse language is generally spoken by the country people, and is their native tongue. The English, however, has made very considerable progress in the parish for 20 years back, owing to the benefit received from the number of schools planted in it much about that time. The heritors and higher ranks seldom speak Gaelic, but some of them understand it so well, as to be able to converse with such of their tenants as have no English.





NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF STORNOWAY,

(COUNTY OF ROSS, SYNOD OF GLENELG, PRESBYTERY
OF LEWIS).

By the Rev. Mr COLIN MACKENZIE.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

STORNOWAY, or STRONEVAIDH, is so called from its being situated on the nose or point of a bay. The inhabited parts of this parish may resemble the figure of a triangle, one side of which extends ten miles north-east, along the north side of an arm of the sea, called the Broad Bay, and another along a neck of land, inhabited on each side, extending seven miles, and situated betwixt the south-east side of the Broad Bay and the channel which divides it from the continent. It is situated in the island of the Lewis, county of Ross, within the bounds of the Synod of Glenelg, and presbytery of Lewis. It is bounded on the west by the parish of Barvas from which it is divided by a tract of ten computed miles of moss or waste moor; on the

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north, by Nefs and the ocean ; on the east, by the channel ; on the south, by the channel and the river Creed, which divides it from the parish of Lochs. It consists of three districts, namely, Stornoway, Ui, and Grefs. At the head of this triangle stands the well-known village of Stornoway, whose origin is very old, and, like other towns, from a small beginning, is now arrived to some distinction and utility. On an elevated situation on the other side of the bay, near and opposite to the town, is built Seaforth Lodge, for the reception and accommodation of Seaforth, the proprietor of this island, when he chose to come and visit this part of his estate, and where the present proprietor, Colonel Francis Humberstone Mackenzie, a gentleman universally known for benevolence and a public spirit, did reside for some years with his family ; who, with his lady, when here, took pleasure in directing and superintending their people to habits of industry and happiness, until he was called away, at the commencement of the present war, to serve his King and country, by raising two battalions of infantry for Government. This mansion is delightfully situated, and commands an extensive view both of sea and land.

Stornoway is furnished with an excellent and well-frequented harbour, where vessels of every description may anchor with safety*. The attention and industry of its principal inhabitants are chiefly directed to fishing of herrings, of which, in successful years, they take some thousand barrels, and have about thirty-five vessels from 20 to 80 tons burden, annually fitted for the bounty at a great expence, and by the profits arising from them they are chiefly supported. In some late years notwithstanding, their utmost endeavours have been almost wholly frustrated by the failing of the fishing ; of consequence, they must be great sufferers by their adventures in this business, as the bounty-money will not defray their expence. The houses are built

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* A view of this town and harbour is annexed;

at a considerable cost, because all the materials are imported, the stones not excepted, and therefore such as are vacant must be set to tenants for higher rent than in most other places. Good houses are let at from L. 15 to L. 25 *per annum*, and rooms and lesser dwellings in like proportion. Some of the land about the town is let for 36 s. *per acre yearly*.

Schools.—There are two well-frequented schools in the town, provided with able teachers, good accommodation, and good salaries. The one is parochial, and the other is supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. The yearly salary of the parochial school is L. 40, of which the master has L. 25, and his assistant L. 15. The master has, together with the emoluments of his school, a dwelling-house and garden rent-free, and some land from the proprietor. The fees are, *per quarter*, for English and writing, 2 s. 6 d.; for arithmetic and English, 3 s.; for Latin, writing, arithmetic together, 4 s.; for a course of geography, 10 s. 6 d.; for navigation, L. 1, 1 s.; and for each set of book-keeping, 10 s. 6 d. The number of scholars is 40. The Society schoolmaster's dwelling-house and school-house are lately built with stone and lime, and covered with slate at Seaforth's expence. The salary is L. 17 to the master, and L. 8 to his assistant. The quarter-fees are, for reading, 1 s. 6 d.; writing, 2 s.; arithmetic, 2 s. 6 d.; book-keeping, 5 s.; mensuration, 5 s.; navigation, 10 s. The number of scholars is 129.

Besides these, there is a spinning-school established by the Society; the accommodation consisting of a garden and a slated house, with L. 6 salary granted by Seaforth, and L. 4 salary from the Society, to the mistress. To this school, and two others of the same kind, erected in this parish, but now laid aside for want of the requisite number of scholars, Mrs Mackenzie of Seaforth, a lady eminently distinguished
for

for great humanity and charity, gave much countenance and encouragement, by distributing liberal premiums among the scholars and mistresses, and by personally visiting them, and taking particular cognisance of their proficiency and several performances in spinning and knitting of stockings, thereby inciting them to emulation and diligence. She has now the satisfaction to find, that by her kind interposition and benevolent exertions to introduce and promote spinning of yarn in this island, many poor girls have been rescued from habits of idleness and vice, and trained to industry and virtue.

Customhouse.—Here there is a customhouse, the revenue of which, after paying incidental charges, will not amount to L. 20; and also a King's cutter, as a check to smuggling among the Hebrides.

Packet and Post-office.—There is a packet established by Government since the year 1759, which for some years went to the opposite coast once a fortnight for the mail, by letters and passengers, and on occasions carried cattle and horses; but business and correspondence greatly increasing, it was found necessary that it should sail oftener for the mail. Accordingly, the old packet was sold lately, and a new one purchased, which goes weekly for the mail, the expence whereof annually amounts to L. 130, of which L. 70 is paid by Government, and the balance of L. 60 paid by Seaforth, except what is collected by the freights of passengers, which cannot be great: Freight from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. each passenger.—There is also a post-office. The amount of postages charged from the General Post-office at Edinburgh to Stornoway was, in 1791, L. 50, and is now increased to about L. 90. The amount of letters sent from Stornoway

noway will be nearly equal to the receipts from Edinburgh.

Population and Number of Houses, &c.

	Parish or Country.	Goathill and Imerfligach.	Stornoway and Bayhead.	Total.
Families,	287	130	139	556
Total souls,	1299	580	760	2639
Males,	625	229	—	854
Females,	674	317	—	991
Under 6 years,	218	74	—	292
Between 6 & 14,	225	63	—	288
Between 14 & 60,	700	319	—	1019
Above 60,	156	90	—	146
Cattle,	2361	79	—	2440
Sheep,	2576	—	—	2576
Horses,	556	—	—	556
Slated inhabited houses in Stornoway,			-	67
Built of which since 1784,			-	26
Residing tradesmen: Joiners,			-	11
Masons.			-	4
Carpenters,			-	7
Smiths, in the town,			-	2
———— in the country,			-	2
Tailors,			-	11
Shoemakers,			-	16
Weavers,			-	13
Turners or wheelwrights,			-	2
Gardeners,			-	4
Shopkeepers,			-	8
Innkeepers,			-	5
				—
			Total,	85

Baptisms

Baptisms in 1792, in the whole parish :

Males,	-	-	70
Females,	-	-	65
			<hr/>
Total,	-	-	135
Marriages,	-	-	20
Burials, about	-	-	20

Population according to Dr Webster in 1755 was	1812
The population in 1796, is	2639
	<hr/>
Increase,	827

Fisheries.—The following table will give the reader some idea of the Fisheries carried on in this neighbourhood :

An

An Account of the Quantities of Fish and Train-oil Exported and sent Coastways from the Port of Stornoway, from the 5th April 1791 to the 5th April 1796 inclusive, distinguishing each Year, and the Quantities Exported from the Quantities sent Coastways.

of Stornoway.

Periods.	Quantities of Fish and Train-oil Exported.				Quantities of Fish and Train-oil sent Coastways.				Totals.							
	White herrings.		Cod and Ling.		Salmon.		Train-oil.		White herrings.		Cod and Ling.		Salmon.		Train-oil.	
	Barrels.	Tons. cwts. qrs.	Tons. cwts. qrs.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Tons. cwts. qrs.	Tons. cwts. qrs.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.	
1791	887	46 16 0	—	—	—	—	393	—	4592½	64 18 0	—	—	—	393		
1792	1675	39 2 0	—	—	—	—	114	—	6163	44 3 2	—	—	—	114		
1793	3572½	60 4 1	4½	—	—	—	264	—	10945	68 3 3	4½	—	—	264		
1794	3394½	134 13 1	—	—	—	—	156	—	6739½	137 11 1	—	—	—	156		
1795	3481½	94 9 3	—	—	—	—	176	—	4395½	114 0 3	—	—	—	176		
1796	1288	119 3 1	—	40	—	—	236	—	1753	120 17 1	—	—	—	276		

Agriculture.—There are about twelve large farms in the parish, and what portion of each of them is not occupied by the tacksmen himself, is let to subtenants, who pay to him, each person, from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 3 of yearly rent, and 12 days service. Many of these sub-tenants are employed in fishing ling, which they sell to their masters at 5 d. each; engaging on board the herring-busses at L. 1 per month; in manufacturing kelp at L. 1, 10 s. per ton; and working at road-making, and other labour, at 8 d. a-day. By these means, and the produce of their lands, they are enabled to pay their rents, and procure a tolerable subsistence.—The soil is of different kinds, some sandy, some mossy, some black rich soil, and some light gravel, all lying on a hard clay bottom, so very impenetrable, that a pike will scarcely pierce it. Rain can with difficulty enter into it, but remains mixed with the soil, or runs over the surface, till it be dried up in the spring season by the influence of the sun and wind. To this cause, and the frequent heavy rains, may be attributed the uncommon wetness and coldness of the soil of this island, and the late spring and harvest. The plough made use of in general is an awkward instrument, not unlike the Chinese plough, and described already in this work by a clergyman in Orkney; but the principal tacksmen use the Scotch and English ploughs, of which there will be a dozen in the parish. Horse-loads are for the most part carried in small creels, one on each side of the horse, and fixed by a rope to the crook-saddle; but coup-carts, of which there are about 20 in the parish, are made use of by the gentlemen, and are drawn by larger horses than those found in the parish. There is a general mode of turning the ground, called *timidb*, or making lazy-beds, at which two persons are employed on each side of the ridge; of these, two are cutting, and two lifting the clods, which, to a stranger, will appear

pear absurd, tedious, and laborious, but here is found to be necessary, and productive of the greatest returns, in regard that it gathers the ground, and raises it from the reach of the rising and running water, with *coks* of which the fields abound, and which otherwise would sink and destroy the feed. The seed sown is black oats and barley. With the utmost difficulty, about 40 years ago, the people were prevailed on to plant potatoes, but of which they now plant great quantities, by the plough and by the spade, and find them to be the most useful of all crops raised in the parish. They are sold at from 3 s. to 5 s. *per* barrel. In no season is the produce of this parish sufficient to maintain its inhabitants, who would often be in danger of suffering through want, were it not for the extensive importation of meal to Stornoway.

Air and Climate.—The air is extremely moist, and the climate very rainy. The dampness of the air is so great, that polished iron, where constant fire is not kept, will contract rust in less time than 24 hours. The inhabitants of this island might live in comfortable circumstances, were it not for the frequent and heavy rains which fall in it all the seasons of the year, and more especially in harvest, whereby the hopes of the husbandman are often blasted, and the fruit of his toil and industry lost. Such a climate may naturally be expected in a situation so far to the north, and surrounded by an extensive tract of deep wet moss on the one side, and the ocean on the other, though no high hills are here to break the clouds, as on the opposite mainland. The oldest people affirm, that since their youth, the climate and seasons are greatly changed for worse. Nevertheless, the inhabitants are healthy, and live to as great age as they do in a better climate, some living to the age of 90 or 100 years.

The seasons and weather are very variable, and not to be depended on. We have little warmth or heat in summer; autumn is rainy; the winter usually not so severe as on the continent, but more open, and free of snow and frost. Our spring is often wet and cold. Sowing of oats commences here, in a dry spring, with some few individuals, in the beginning of March, but not in general till about the middle of April. Barley is sown from the beginning of May to the end of June. Potatoes are planted from the middle of April to the 20th day of May. Harvest generally begins about the middle of September, and the crop is not totally got into the barns and barn-yards before November.

Diseases.—The only local and peculiar distemper prevalent in this parish, is a disorder which seizes new-born infants about the fifth night after their birth, and carries them off by convulsive fits; but this species of sickness is become less frequent than it has been heretofore. Rheumatism is often complained of. Inoculation is performed here with success by the skill and attention of Mr John Millar, surgeon.

Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.—The present incumbent, Mr Colin Mackenzie, was admitted minister of Stornoway the 27th day of August 1789. His predecessors were, Mr Donald Monson; Mr John Clark, who was admitted the 19th day of February 1747, and died 10th day of August 1772; Mr John Downie, now minister of Urray, who was admitted 22d day of July 1773, and translated to his present parish the 25th day of September 1788, which last Mr Mackenzie succeeded in the charge. He has been married near two years, and has one son. By the late augmentation, the living consists of L. 88 : 13 : 4 Sterling,

ling, with a manse, and glebe of eight acres, valued at L. 5. The first manse and glebe were at Stornoway; the present glebe was designed here at Tong, on the 5th day of October 1758, and the manse built thereon. The manse was built 37 years ago, has often been repaired, and needs now to be rebuilt. The situation is cold and wet. The church is new built, and elegantly finished. No parish stands in greater want of a missionary than this, there being upwards of 1000 souls who have not an opportunity of divine worship, and the benefit of public instruction, except on every fifth Sabbath. In order to accommodate the other two districts of the parish with divine service alternately every fifth Sabbath, the church at Stornoway must be vacant on that day, which is felt as no small grievance and disadvantage to the interest of religion among so numerous a congregation.

The Poor.—Whilst Mrs Mackenzie of Seaforth resided in this parish, the most indigent and infirm of the poor were supported by a bounty of meal given by her, and distributed weekly to them in proportion to their several necessities, in lieu of which Seaforth gives them an annual donation of ten guineas, to be laid out in meal for their use; this, with the weekly collection, amounting yearly to about L. 20, mulcts, and the annual rent of a fund of L. 100 gradually made up, is all they have to depend upon from the kirk-session. Their number is 127, sixty-three of whom live about Stornoway.

Price of Labour, and Wages of Servants.—Here, indeed, by reason of the multitudes levied for the army and navy, the great number of sub-tenants, and the many hands wanted for the fishing boats, labourers and farm-servants are become very scarce and difficult to be found. The wages of
men.

men-labourers are 8 d. a-day without meat, and 6 d. with two meals of meat and a dram. Women, 6 d. a-day, or 4 d. with two meals of meat. The day-wages of a carpenter and mason, 1 s. 6 d. with victuals; smith, 2 s.; tailor, 1 s. without, or 6 d. with meat; joiners, 1 s. 6 d. *per day*; shoemakers, 10 d. and 1 s. *per day*. Men-servants for farm-work from L. 2, to L. 5 *per annum*, and 2 pair of shoes at 7 s.; for women-servants, from 10 s. to 20 s. and 2 pair of shoes at 6 s. Herds, for looking after cattle, from 6 merks to 8 s. and 2 pair of shoes, with other small perquisites. The wages of domestic servants are nearly the same with those of farm-servants.

Roads, &c.—Road-making was only begun in this island in 1791; and a road is made, four miles distance from Stornoway, across a deep moor of 10 computed miles, to the other side of it.—Near to Stornoway there is an annual tryft for cattle, where some hundreds are bought and exported, at from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 3 a-head.—Beef is sold in Stornoway from 1½ d. to 3 d. *per lib.*; mutton, 5 s. and 6 s. *per wedder*; sheep, 3 s. 4 s. and 4 s. 6 d. each; lambs, 1 s. 8 d. and 2 s. each. Butter, 12 s. and 14 s. *per stone*; cheese, 4 s. and 5 s. *per stone*. Veals, 2 s. 6 d. each; pork, 2 d. *per lib.*; fowls, 4 d. a cock, and 6 d. a hen; ducks, 6 d. and 8 d.; geese, 1 s. 6 d. and 2 s.—The species of animals here are of a smaller size than in most other places. In this island are found no foxes, badgers, nor hares, till of late years five hares were introduced by Seaforth, which are now increased to almost as many hundreds. Sea-fowls, and birds of the same kind with those on the continent, are to be met with, except partridges, robin-red-breasts, rooks, and magpies.

Remarkable

Remarkable Instance of Preservation.—Eight years ago, a father and child, (a girl about eight years of age), going from Stornoway across the moor, in company with several others, the father having forgot to execute some part of his business in the town, hastily returned, and committed the care of his child to those in company with her, till he would overtake them; the child inadvertently falling behind, was not missed, till the travellers had proceeded far on their way, and the father had overtaken them; who as soon as he found that his child was not in company, instantly flew away like one distracted in quest of her, and with all the pangs of paternal sorrow, returned again to Stornoway, late at night, weary and disappointed. Next day, many people went far and near in search of her, through deep snow, and a trackless moor, repeating their diligence and minutest scrutiny for several days successively without effect. When they had utterly despaired to find her, (inconceivable to believe it!) on the eighteenth day after she was lost, the helpless and unwary wanderer was, by a man and dog, found near the sea-side, alive and in motion, but so faint and exhausted by cold and hunger, that she could not walk. She was carried to the town, humanely received, and all necessary means used to restore her almost expiring life to health and strength. She was too young to give any distinct account of the manner in which she was enabled to subsist so long without food and shelter from the cold. She is now in the service of Mrs Mackenzie of Seaforth, at Seaforth Lodge, who has been remarkably kind to her from the time of the above accident.

Wood.—Here no woods grow to any useful height or size. The proprietor, some years ago, planted a variety of trees in a well-sheltered spot of ground near his house, which
have

have all failed, except the allar, and mountain-ash or rhod-din tree.

Cave.—Not far from the farm of Grefs, there is a large cave, accessible only from the sea, where there was about 50 years ago a vast number of seals killed annually, and the practice is still continued, but now seldom more than seven or twelve are destroyed. The method of killing is this: A number of people assemble about low water, and carry a boat into the cave as far as she can proceed; they take from the boat a pot, which they have filled with live coal, and with which they light their torches; they then fall upon the poor seals without mercy, with clubs shod with iron. The entry of the cave is very steep and narrow on its sides, and does not admit more than the breadth of a fix-oared boat. After going in a great way, the light of day becomes somewhat obscured, and they then meet with a large pillar, which divides the cave at this place into two large openings or arches, by one of which they enter, and walk a long way under, where they meet with large tumbling round stones, surrounded in part with water. As they advance further in, they come to a fine pleasant beach, where they meet with the seals; further in still, there is a small chamber, which by the light of the torches appears remarkably white, its roof being all covered with white stalactitæ, which are hanging from the roof, like to large icicles; some of them put on the figure of hieroglyphics, and each of them seems perforated from the base to the point with a small tube. It is within very high, and sounds very loud, when the voice is exalted, but has no particular echo. From the outer entry to the innermost part of it, is no less than one-eighth of an English mile.

S U P P L E M E N T,

By another Hand.

STRONOWAY has its modern name from the situation of the village, which is built on a point jutting into the harbour, and in the language of the country called *Stron a Bbaigh*, or, the Nose of the Bay, from which, by an easy transition, comes Stornoway. Ui was the ancient name of the parish. There is in it a place called Ui, which was of old the only place of worship in the parish, and is situated on a narrow neck of land; every such neck of land, or isthmus, whether formed by creeks of the sea, or by the approximation of fresh-water lakes, is in Lewis called Ui, which, in the Danish language signifies any such neck of land; and the particular Ui already mentioned having been in former time the only place devoted to divine worship, gave its ancient name to the parish.

The extent of it is ten computed miles in length, and its breadth in some places seven. It is bounded by the parish of Barvas on the north; on the north-east by the channel between Lewis and the main of Scotland; and on the south and west by the parish of Lochs. The general appearance of it is a flat moor, of little utility to beasts, and of none to man, all covered with heath. The island is compared to a gold-laced hat; the internal part of which consists of this soft and useless moor, and the circumference of which is in part more or less cultivated at the sea-side. Near the town of Stornoway the soil is a light black mould, forced into some culture from moss; to the northward, the soil is covered by drifted sand; but farther back, of similar quality to that near the town. Neither of these soils, when properly drained and manured, can be called unfertile.

The

The air is moist, but agrees well with the natives. The prevailing distempers are the same with those stated in the account of the parish of Uig. The moor in this parish abounds in lakes. There are six small rivulets. The fresh-water lakes contain great quantities of small trout. Three of the rivulets produce some salmon and sea-trout. The salmon is sold fresh at 1 d. *per* English pound in Stornoway. Their fish is very poor; they are best in July and August. The length of the sea-coast is 25 computed miles; the shore in some places is rocky, and in some flat and sandy.

There is a great quantity of ling on the coast, and a few cods, both of which are well cured and dried by the country people; they sell them at above L. 14 Sterling *per* ton to the Stornoway merchants, who send them to foreign markets. They are all caught with long lines; the hooks are baited with pieces of smaller fishes. The utmost quantity fished, one year with another, does not exceed from 20 to 30 tons. They are most in season in spring. Herrings are caught in Loch Stornoway, some years in great abundance, and some not. The cod and ling are always stationary here. There are 30 decked vessels belonging to this port, from 20 to 80 tons burden each, which are employed in the summer season in the herring bounty-fishing, and at other times in the coasting trade. They are manned with natives of the island, and are always victualled, except as to the article of beef only, in the country.—Common seaweed is always used for manure. A few tons of kelp are manufactured every third year in the parish.—The principal Bays are,—Broad Bay, South Bay, Loch Stornoway, and Loch Grimshader; the last is a safe harbour for small vessels; the first but an indifferent one. In South Bay vessels sometimes stop for a tide, but it is no harbour. Loch Stornoway is a famous harbour for ships of any burden; the ground is good, and no weighty sea can
ever

ever come in to it. The four principal headlands are Tolsta-head, Seller-head, Tiumpan-head, and Pebble-head.

In this parish there is a remarkable cave, into which the sea goes at high water. When it was first noticed, vast numbers of seals were killed in it; and the practice is still continued once a-year, about Michaelmas. It is only accessible from sea; the people land from their boat opposite to the cave in time of low water, at spring-tide; they walk forward, and being furnished with fire, they light torches at the entry to the cave, which is dark far in, and they knock to death all the seals found there with heavy bludgeons armed with iron. At first it was not uncommon to see 50 killed at a time; but now the number does not exceed from 7 to 12. At the farthest end, there is a small apartment, the top of which is lined with stalactitæ, or icicles, of a very firm consistence; it is about an eighth part of an English mile in length, and its height is variable.—The otter, and tighan or fougart, are found in this parish. Moor-fowl, plover, and wild pigeon, are in great abundance.

In the country part of the parish are spun and woven all the cloth necessary for labourers, and make all the broags used there. Mrs Mackenzie of Seaforth gives encouragement in this as well as in the other parishes of Lewis, to industrious females, in the spinning of flax, &c. and bestows L. 10 yearly on the poor.—In this parish there is one attorney, and one solitary Roman Catholic priest, without an individual of a flock. In the town there are many bachelors among the superior rank. The number of inhabited slated houses in this town is 67. They are all made of the best materials; some of them large, commodious and well furnished; they are generally two stories high and a garret; there is a customhouse, with all its proper officers, a town-house, an assembly-room, and two school-houses; one for the parochial grammar-school, and the

other for the Society school established there.—On the north-west side of the town there are upwards of twenty thatched houses, which have strong walls and gables, with glass-windows, all in a line, fronting the side of the bay where it grows narrow. On the north side of the town there is a great number of miserable thatched huts, occupied by sailors, fishers, and other people, with their families. The poor inhabitants of those huts have built more commodious thatched houses along the shore of the bay, east of the town; and Mr Mackenzie of Seaforth gives every head of a family one guinea to encourage them to remove, and to help them in defraying the expences incurred on the occasion. He gives those poor people 20 years lease of their dwelling-places, to each of which a small garden is joined, and they pay three Scotch merks yearly for every such house-room and garden. He gives them full liberty to cultivate as much as they can of a neighbouring moor, and exacts no rent for seven years for such parts thereof as they bring into culture.—In this, and all the other parishes of the island, the women carry on as much at least of the labours of agriculture as the men; they carry the manure in baskets on their backs; they pulverize the ground after it is sown, with heavy hand-rakes, (harrows being seldom used), and labour hard at digging the ground, both with crooked and straight spades.—The people of the town seldom have menservants engaged for the year; and it is a curious circumstance, that, time out of remembrance, their maidservants were in the habit of drinking, every morning, a wine glass full of whisky, which their mistress gave them; this barbarous custom became so well established by length of time, that if the practice of it should happen to be neglected or forgotten in a family, even once, discontent and idleness throughout the day, on the part of the maid or maids, would be the sure consequence. However, since the
stoppage

stoppage of the distilleries took place, the people of the town found it necessary to unite in the resolution of abolishing the practice, by withholding the dear cordial from their female domestics, but not without the precaution of making a compensation to them in money for their *grievous loss*; and it is said, that even this is not satisfactory, and that, in some families, the dram is still given privately, to preserve peace and good order.

About 200 yards from the town, on the opposite, or south-west side of the bay, and upon an eminence, stands *Seafortb Lodge*, a neat modern house.

The only crops in this parish are small oats, barley, and potatoes. The parish never supplies itself with sufficiency of provision, but always imports a great deal from Caithness, Berwick, &c. and is at this time (1796) in great distress, without a probability of a speedy supply.—Black cattle are bought by dealers from the south yearly in this and the other parishes of the island, and driven to England, where they thrive amazingly, although the breed is but small.—A little flax and hemp is raised here.—They sow in April and May, and reap in September and October.—There is no wood of any kind. The whole island seems, in ancient time, to have been covered with wood, as is proved by stumps of large trees and hazle-nut shells being found at the sides of rivulets, and in the moor, at the depth of 14 feet, where the people dig peats. According to tradition, the Norwegians set the whole woods on fire when they took possession of the country.—The great disadvantage of this and the neighbouring parishes arises from the poverty of the soil, and the badness of the climate, the latter of which this island experiences in common with all the other islands and Highlands of Scotland.—If the circumstances of the people in the country part of this parish could admit of it, they might derive great advantages from the good
ness

ness of the harbour at Stornoway, as well as from the vicinity of the village.—The Gaelic language is principally spoken, and the names of places are evidently derived from the Danish and Norwegian.—The value of the living, the glebe not included, is L. 86. It is in the gift of the Crown. Mr Colin Mackenzie is minister; he is a married man, and has one son.—A very elegant church was lately built at Stornoway; the internal œconomy of it is very nearly finished; the expence of the whole work is said to amount to L. 900. This fabric does great honour to the proprietor. The manse is old, but commodious.—Francis Humberston Mackenzie of Seaforth is sole heritor of the landed property in this parish.—The poor are supported by the inhabitants when they come to their houses in course; the kirk-session distributes among them such sums of money as arise from the collections on Sabbath-days, and fines from irregular persons.—The country people commonly sell cattle alive to the inhabitants of Stornoway at different prices, conformed to their size and quality, and to the demand for such in other parts of the kingdom. When they sell them by weight, they draw from 2 d. to 3 d. *per lib.* Small widders are sold at 5 s. and 6 s. each; and the common fowls at 6 d.—When the season for cutting peats comes on, the service of the country people cannot be dispensed with by those in the town. The former, both males and females, come forward in great numbers, and receive from 4 d. to 6 d. *per day*, and they must be feasted on the occasion, otherwise the work shall be found very defective. When the peats are dry, the people are again called upon to lead them home, which work is conducted with equal expence. The wages paid to labourers in husbandry is much about the same here as in the neighbouring parishes.—Few ploughs are used here. They have, in this country, the most awkward instrument of tillage ever applied to the purpose;

purpose; it is drawn by horses, and bears but a faint resemblance to a plough, having only one stilt; the use of it is productive of great fatigue to men and horses; and after all, the ground is wretchedly ill turned.

On a small point near the town, there is a vestige remaining of a castle built for the protection of the place, by the Macleods, the ancient possessors of the island. Not far from it there was another tower, built by Cromwell to awe the neighbourhood; no part of this one remains. The people are not fond of a military life; but early habit reconciles them to sea-faring, and from that element they derive their chief subsistence.

There is a road begun and carried on for a few miles from Stornoway towards the parish of Barvas, which lies in a northern direction. The moor across the island from Stornoway to Uig is so extensive and soft, that it would require the labour of many ages to open a road through it.

Some years ago, a young girl, in attempting to go from one part of the country to another, lost her way in the pathless moor, and could not find it; when her strength failed, she dropped down, and notwithstanding the industry of the country people in quest of her, she was not found until the eighteenth day after her departure from home. To the astonishment of all who heard her story, life was found remaining; and by the assiduity of the surgeon, she was restored to good health and strength. This wonderful case is recorded in the 12th or 14th volume of the *Medical Essays*.

The common people of this island marry very early, and when death separates them, if the surviving party, whether male or female, finds it convenient to engage a second or third time in that state, some of them remain a few weeks, and some only a few days, in widowhood; so
that

that grief for the loss of husband or wife is an affliction little known among the lower class of people here.

A woman, in this country, whose husband shot himself accidentally, by an unguarded management of a firelock, settled her contract of marriage, *in the way she thought fit*, before the body of her late husband was interred, and was married the next day after she performed that last duty to the deceased.

NUM.

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF BARVAS,

(COUNTY OF ROSS, SYNOD OF GLENELG, PRESBYTERY
AND ISLAND OF LEWIS).

By the Rev. Mr DONALD MACDONALD, Minister.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE parish of Barvas does not furnish much room for statistical investigation, and the few observations which occur respecting it, may be comprehended within narrow bounds. As to the origin of its name, little but conjecture can be advanced; it is generally thought to be Danish or Norwegian, as the names of several other places on this coast indubitably are. It is situated in the western extremity of the county of Ross, synod of Glenelg, and presbytery of Lewis. It is very extensive, being in length from east to west 24 computed miles, and, upon an average, 9 miles in breadth; bounded on the west by a district of the parish,

parish of Lochs; on the north, by the Atlantic Ocean; on the east by the Minch; and on the south, by the parishes of Stornoway and Lochs.

Surface and Soil.—The surface of the whole parish is pretty plain, except a few hills, at a considerable distance from the sea, and some small glens or vallies through which rivulets run. The soil, as may naturally be supposed in such a vast track of ground, is various. The district called Claddoch is light, thin, spouty ground, and in many places so full of stones, that the plough cannot go through it. Nefs consists of fine large level fields, composed of loam, sand, gravel, and deep clay, which, in good seasons, produce tolerable crops, and in the hands of more skilful and substantial tenants might be turned to a very good account. The sea-coast, taking in the various points that jut out into the sea, may be reckoned about 30 computed miles; it is bold and rugged, having a tremendous surf or swell upon it, when the wind blows from the west and north-west. There is not a single harbour where a vessel can anchor, and but a few creeks where boats can land, even in the finest weather.

Climate and Diseases.—It is well known, that a great deal of rain falls in most parts of the west and north-west of Scotland; there is, however, less here than upon the mainland coast, or even in the adjacent parishes, the high hills which collect the vapours, and break the clouds, being at a considerable distance. The frost is seldom very intense; the snow, in general, not deep, or of long continuance. The air, though moist, is salubrious. Rheumatism, the general complaint of all moist climates, is very common; it is rather matter of surprize that it is not more frequent, considering their damp and dirty houses, how much the inhabitants

bitants are exposed to rain and cold, and their clothing poor. Flannel-shirts, which are in general worn by the common people, may be a good antidote against it. Fevers and fluxes are not uncommon; and many infants die of a complaint called the five nights sickness, from their dying of it upon the fifth or sixth night; there are no instances of any who have been seized with it that escaped, nor has the nature of this uncommon disease been as yet fully comprehended by the most skilful upon this island.

Rivers, Woods, &c.—There is not a single tree, or even any brushwood, to be seen in the whole parish. There are several small lakes or lochs, and some rivulets, but no stream that deserves the name of a river. In these are various kinds of trout, and in a few of them some salmon. Upon the minister's farm is a small water, where a few fine salmon, though of a small size, are caught, from the month of May till August. There are a few cod, ling, and haddock, taken upon the coast; but the principal fishing is that of dog-fish, from the liver of which they extract a considerable quantity of oil. Upon an average, there are about 8832 Scotch pints annually manufactured of it, and sold to the Stornoway merchants at from 6 d. to 8 d. *per* pint. Five of the annual bounties or premiums given by the Trustees for encouraging this trade, are generally gained by boats in this parish. The season for it is from the beginning of May to the latter end of August, when the weather proves favourable; indeed, it must be very moderate before they can venture to sea, which makes them exceedingly cautious when the wind blows off the land, lest they be driven to the northern ocean. It is very astonishing how few accidents happen, considering the terrible seas they encounter, and the badness of the creeks where they land. The number of boats employed in this fishing is about 42, from

16 to 19 feet keel, some of 8, and others of 6 oars. Their only implement is a hand-line, with two large hooks.

Agriculture, Cattle, &c.—There are in the parish about 90 ploughs, and all, except one (used by the minister,) of a singular construction; they are made of a crooked small piece of wood, on the top of which is fixed a stilt or handle; the man who holds it walks by its side, and directs it by this stilt. As no oxen are used here, it is drawn by four small horses; the driver, if he can be so called, goes before the horses, and pulls them on by the halter. In some places the ground is turned up by two instruments well known in the Highlands, called crooked and even spades; in most of these parts, the ground is so rugged, and full of stones, that the plough cannot go through it. There are no carts used in the parish, except by the minister. The manures are cow-dung, and tangle or sea-ware; there is another kind universally used here, perhaps not known elsewhere; their houses are thatched with stubble and heather ropes, (ropes made of heath), their roofs are so low and flat, and they burn such quantities of peat, their only fuel, that the stubble is abundantly covered over with foot; in the latter end of May, when the barley brard (blade) appears, they take this footy stubble, and strew it thinly upon it, which sometimes produces a tolerable crop, but must scourge the ground. The only crops reared here are black oats, bear, and potatoes, sown in April and May, and reaped in September and October. The returns are in general poor, owing to the poverty of the soil, and the cold and boisterous gales from the northern ocean, to which the lands are much exposed. The parish abounds in horses, black-cattle, and sheep, perhaps too many for the pasture. There is no saying, with minute exactness, what the number of each may be. Horses, according to a survey lately made, were calculated at 1050; black-cattle, 2670; sheep, 3392.

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The horses and cows are of a very small size, partly owing to the pasture, but more so to the little attention paid to the proper selection of bulls and stallions, by which they are yearly decreasing, and must continue so to do till this evil be remedied.

All the sheep, except a few of the black-faced kind introduced by the minister, are remarkably small. They roam at large through the moor, without any herdsman to attend them. Though very wild, they are in general, however, so far tame, that they can be driven into small inclosures, where the wool is pulled off, a barbarous custom, which certainly must be detrimental to the animal and its wool, and indeed proves fatal, when the weather happens to be severe immediately after this plucking.—The horses, though small, are remarkably hardy and mettled.—The beef and mutton sweet and well flavoured.—Horses, upon an average, sell at L. 2, 10 s. ; cows and stots at L. 2, 5 s. ; and sheep at 3 s. each.

Population.—It is impossible to say what number of souls might have been in the parish, as there never were any registers kept. Population, however, is allowed to be on the increase, chiefly owing to the farms being much smaller than in former times. There are in the parish, 439 families, 2006 souls, 914 males, 1092 females: Souls under 6 years old, 334 ; ditto betwixt 6 and 14 years, 407 ; ditto betwixt 14 and 60 years, 1067 ; and above 60, 198. In 1755, the population, by Dr Webster's list, was 1995. There are 14 weavers, 5 tailors, 7 blacksmiths, 340 fishers, and 1 miller. There is not one man by profession a shoemaker ; the most of the inhabitants supply themselves with shoes or brogues ; nor, indeed, do any of the above tradesmen depend wholly upon their occupations, all of them having small farms.

There

There are two women living in the parish, one of whom says that she is 100 years old, and the other 102.

Church, Schools, and Stipends.—The Crown is Patron; Colonel Francis Humberstone Mackenzie of Seaforth sole heritor. All the inhabitants are of the Established Church of Scotland. There are two places of worship in the parish. The church close by the manse is a perfect ruin, and is to be rebuilt first summer. The one in the district of Ness, about 12 computed miles from the manse, an old Popish church, called St Peter's, was enlarged and rebuilt last year; it is thatched with heath. The rent of the parish is about L. 900 Sterling, besides kelp, which was never attempted here till within a few years back. It is thought the shores will produce 60 tons once in three years.—The stipend, till this year, was only 1000 merks Scots, and L. 5 Sterling for a glebe, to which Colonel Mackenzie added L. 20 Sterling. The present incumbent, Mr Donald Macdonald, was settled in 1790. His predecessors were, Messrs Alexander Mackay, and Murdoch and Donald Morrisons. The manse is small; was built about 28 years ago, and repaired last year at a considerable expence; the kitchen, which is the only office-house, was repaired and slated at the same time.

There has not been a parochial school here for many years back; but Colonel Mackenzie, who is very desirous to have schools erected, contracted with an undertaker two years ago, to build a school-house near the manse, but owing to various circumstances, it has not as yet been accomplished. There has been a charity-school established in the district of Ness by the Honourable Society for many years back; it is to be lamented, that the people in general have as yet so little taste for education. There are only about 20 scholars who attend; though, from the compact-

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ness of the district, triple that number might attend daily from their parents houses. The schoolmaster, however, is of great service in such a remote corner, by his diligence in catechising and reading to the people on every Lord's day, when the minister is not there.

Mrs Mackenzie of Seaforth, whose zeal for the good of her people is conspicuous upon all occasions, has erected two spinning-schools, with a salary of L. 6 Sterling to each of the mistresses. To aid her in this laudable undertaking, the Honourable Society resolved to pay one-half of said salary. The girls are taught *gratis*, have 10 d. for every spindle they spin, and to encourage them, they have their wheels at a low rate; many of the poorest have them *gratis*. She allows 2 lb. of coarse lint for themselves to begin with; besides, as a spur to industry and emulation, annual competitions are held, when premiums are given to the best spinners.

Poor.—There are 80 upon the poor-roll, who are chiefly supported by the charity of the inhabitants, by begging from house to house; any support they get from the kirk-session is by no means adequate to their maintenance. There is about L. 4 annually distributed amongst them, (arising from the weekly collections and mulcts), together with five guineas of a yearly donation from Mrs Mackenzie of Seaforth, whose benevolence and charity have been of universal good throughout this whole island. She has, besides, upon her list, two very great objects in this parish, to each of whom she allows three bolls of meal annually. There is another mode here for supporting the poor, which shews the charitable disposition of the inhabitants; being in general scarce of money for the weekly collections, they, every spring, collect a certain quantity of grain or feed,
which

which is regularly divided by the kirk-session amongst the objects upon their roll.

Antiquities.—Several ruins of Popish chapels or churches are to be seen in the parish; round most of them are burying-grounds, which are to this day used for that purpose. A few of them can only be traced by the foundation-stones; the walls of others are pretty entire. The largest and most entire is that at Eorapie in Nefs, dedicated to St Mulvay; it seems to have been the principal one, and undoubtedly used as a place of worship. It is 50 feet long, 24 broad, and 16 feet in the side walls; the people around it, pay it as yet a great deal of superstitious veneration, and indeed some of them retain still a few of the Popish superstitions. A little to the north of it stood St Ronan's, and close by it, to the south, stood a house, built by one of the Macleods, once the proprietors of this island; there is still a piece of wall standing, called by them Macleod's Gate. The stones are mostly carried away by the tenants for building their houses. Some hundred yards to the south of that is a small mound, which evidently bears the mark of having once a building upon it, called *Caisteol Olgre*, (*i. e.*) Olaus his Castle. The names of the rest, which are but small in comparison to St Mulvay's, are, St Peter's in Habost, St Thomas's in Swainbost, St Clement's in North Dell, Holy Cross at South Galson, St Bridget in Borge, St Peter's in Lower Strather, St Mary's in Upper Barvas, and St John the Baptist's in Bragir. Betwixt Borge and Galson, upon an eminence at a small distance from the sea, may be seen the ruins of a pretty large dun, or Danish fort, of a circular form, with passages and small apartments in the walls; the only entry was from the top. Tradition says, that there was a subterraneous communication to it from the sea, of which no vestige can now be traced. There is another of
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the same kind in a lake at Bragir, called Loch Duin, but not so large. Three more are to be seen in three small lakes behind Strather and Borve, at a considerable distance from the sea, each of them having a causeway leading to them, which are visible in dry weather. Betwixt Barvas and Strather, in the middle of a deep moss, where no other stones are to be seen, and at a considerable distance from the sea, there is a very large stone standing upright, called *Clach i Drusbel*, famous for nothing but its size, being 18 feet above ground, and 14 feet in circumference, having no figures upon it, as erroneously related. The vulgar tradition concerning it, is too absurd and superstitious to deserve any notice. The island of Rona, situate in the northern ocean, about 16 leagues distant from Eorapie Point, or the butt of the Lewis, (which is reckoned the furthest to the north-west of any in Europe), belongs to this parish: It is reckoned a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth; there is a temple in it dedicated to St Ronan. It is rented by one of the Nefs tacksmen at L. 4 Sterling *per annum*, who regularly, every season, sends a large open boat, and brings from it some corn, butter, cheese, a few sheep, and sometimes a cow, besides some wild-fowl and feathers. There were once five families residing upon it, but now only one, who are employed by the tacksmen as servants.

The rock Sulisker lies 4 leagues to the east of Rona; it is a quarter of a mile in circumference, and abounds with a great variety of sea-fowl. The boat which goes to Rona, generally touches there for fowls and feathers. There is in Nefs a most venturesome set of people, who for a few years back, at the hazard of their lives, went there in an open six-oared boat, without even the aid of a compass. There is no place in it where they can draw up their boat; some of them continue in it, taking shelter under the lee-side of the rock, whilst the rest are busy in taking the birds, who

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are so tame, that they knock them down with sticks; their feathers sell at Stornoway, at from 9 to 10 s. *per* stone.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There are neither moles, frogs, foxes, or weasels, in the parish, nor any hares, till of late a few made their appearance from a breed introduced into the island by Seaforth. It abounds with pidgeon, plover, snipe, and a vast variety of wild-geese and ducks. The swan, woodcock and green plover, appear in their season. The coast abounds with a variety of sea-fowls. Eagles, corbies and crows, are numerous, and often prove destructive to the young lambs. The greatest disadvantage this parish lies under, is, the want of roads and bridges. From this side of the island to the village of Stornoway is reckoned from 12 to 18 miles of a broken swampy moor, without so much as the form of a road across this long and fatiguing space; the poor people are under the necessity of carrying every article almost, to and from Stornoway, upon their backs. Colonel Mackenzie, who is very eager to remedy this evil, has, for a few years back, begun a road to open a communication betwixt both sides of the island, and carried it forward about five miles at a great expence. In place of the statute-labour, every man, from 16 to 60 years of age, pays 1 s. 6 d. There is only one annual fair for selling cattle held in this whole island, consequently the sellers are under the necessity of disposing of them at that time, having no chance of seeing any other buyer during that season, except for such fat cattle as are purchased by the Stornoway merchants. Until there be a comfortable communication opened betwixt both sides of the island; until the breed of cattle of every kind be improved, and some mode contrived for a better market for them; this parish must labour under great disadvantages. On the other hand, it is no small advantage, in such a high and cold
latitude,

latitude, to have such abundance of very fine peats close by their houses in general. The fish of different kinds are most beneficial, especially that of the dog-fish, the oil of which brings a considerable sum of money, and the fish, when properly cured, has, by long experience, been found to be wholesome food.

The snow seldom lies deep or long; a circumstance highly favourable to sheep and black-cattle. As the lands were never measured, it is impossible to say with any certainty what the number of acres may be, but the extent of the cultivated land bears no proportion to the uncultivated. The common language of the parish is Gaelic. The names of places are derived from the Norwegian language, and by those who understand it, are allowed to be very expressive of their situation.

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF LOCHS,

(COUNTY OF ROSS, SYNOD OF GLENELG, ISLAND AND
PRESBYTERY OF LEWIS).

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER SIMSON.

Name, Situation, &c.

THIS parish derives its name from the numerous harbours which are in it, and which are always in this country called Lochs. They are so well secured from the sea, that many of them are very well adapted for places of anchorage to vessels of considerable burden, and the whole of them for small vessels, and are excellent landing-places for open boats. The parish may also derive its name in part from the innumerable bodies (lochs) of fresh water, situated in the moor, all of which abound with small trout of excellent quality. It is situated in the county of Ross, within the bounds of the presbytery of Lewis, and

synod of Glenelg. The extent of the parish in length is about 18 computed miles, not including the several ferries across the forefaid harbours which intervene in that straight line. The extent of the sea-coast, following the shore in all its directions, is 90 computed miles. In a country so much intersected by numerous arms of the sea, the breadth must be various, but at an average it holds at about 8 or 9 miles. It is bounded on the south by Loch Seaforth, which separates it from the parish of Harris; on the west, by the parish of Uig; on the north, by the parish of Stornoway; and on the east, by the channel, which separates this island from the continent of Ross. Along the coast it has a bold and rocky appearance; farther back, there is a great extent of soft flat moor. There is no soil but what the indefatigable industry of the inhabitants has forced into some cultivation, near the creeks of the sea, with the aid of sea-weed for manure. The air is very moist, but not unhealthy.

Distempers.—The rose or erysipelas, colds, and rheumatisms, are the most common distempers prevalent in this country; sometimes very infectious and epidemical fevers rage here, which terminate the lives of a great many of the inhabitants.

Fisheries.—Cod and ling constitute the principal fishing on the coast, of which kinds of fish there are caught annually at an average, 24 tons. The ling, when cured, sells at L. 15, 10s. *per* ton, and the cod at L. 10; it is sold to the merchants of Stornoway, who export it to the best market they can find; both the cod and ling are in the greatest perfection from February to May. All the other kinds of fishes, which are commonly met with on the coast of the isles, and which are fit for immediate family use, are caught here

here in great abundance. Between 45 and 50 tons of kelp are manufactured annually. The flood-tide invariably runs from south to north, both on the shore and at sea, and of course, the ebb-tide in the contrary direction. Loch Seaforth, Lochshell, and Locherifort, are the principal harbours. Across the entry of each of the two latter, there is an island, which makes them secure retreats for vessels in all kinds of weather. In the channel between Lewis and Sky, a third of the way nearer the former than the latter, are three islands, named *Sbaint* or Holy Islands, well known to mariners; one of them, in particular, seems to have been dedicated to the Virgin Mary; it is named *Moair*, or Mary's Island; in it there are the remains of a Popish chapel. Black-cattle are pastured on them all, and they are famous for fattening sheep, but particularly some small rocks in their neighbourhood, which have grass on their tops. There is one family residing on the largest of the islands, for the purpose of attending the cattle. The head of this family has been so unfortunate as to lose, at different times, his wife, a son, and a daughter, by falling down great precipices; the mother and son met with this catastrophe in following sheep, and the daughter, by going in quest of wild-fowl eggs.—Keback-head, and the point of Rairnish, are the two principal headlands on the coast. Most of the parish is covered with heath.

Population.—The whole amount of the population in this parish is 1768 persons, of which number, 845 are males, and 923 are females. Population in 1755, by Dr Webster's list, appears to have been 1267. Instances of longevity occur often; a woman died a few days ago aged 104. The number of families is 366. Most of the inhabitants are fishers and netmakers. There are 38 kelp-makers, 16 weavers of coarse cloth, 2 boat-carpenters, 3 tailors, and

2 blacksmiths, in the parish. Every individual here is of the Established Church.

Husbandry.—The number of black-cattle, not including the calves, is 2488; the number of sheep, 4000; the number of horses, 348. The different kinds of cattle are of a small breed, which adapts them well to the rough ground on which they pasture. There is very little corn raised in this parish. Their small crops are sown in the months of April and May, and reaped in September and October. The inhabitants rely principally on fish for their subsistence.

Language.—The Gaelic language is their mother tongue; many of the names of places are derived from the Danish and Norwegian languages.

Rent.—The land-rent of the parish is L. 1020, 5 s.

Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.—The value of the minister's living, including the glebe, is L. 80. The King is patron. Alexander Simson is now minister of the parish, and was settled there three years ago. His immediate predecessor was John Frazer; before whom were James Wilson, Alexander Mackay, and Colin Mackenzie, who was the first minister of the parish. The present incumbent is married, and has 3 boys and a girl. A new manse, two churches, and a parochial schoolhouse were built last year, and offices for the manse are to be built this year; there was a Society schoolhouse built three years ago. Colonel Francis Humberston Mackenzie of Seaforth is sole heritor of the parish.

Poor.

Poor.—There are about 58 poor people who receive the small collections made at the church-door, together with five guineas, as a donation from Mrs Mackenzie of Seaforth yearly, and all the money arising from fines inflicted on delinquents.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The fuel used here is peat. There is no plough in the parish; the little ground that is tilled, is by the crooked and straight spades. There are 70 fishing-boats belonging to the parish. The people from their youth are accustomed to a sea-faring life; they are of humane dispositions, and shew great hospitality to strangers. There is no doubt that the condition of the inhabitants of this poor parish might be greatly meliorated by the introduction of manufactures. In this particular, Mrs Colonel Mackenzie of Seaforth has already made some considerable advances, by directing the industry of the female inhabitants to the useful and rational occupation of spinning flax. Several merchants at Aberdeen send a great quantity of flax annually to a trustee at Stornoway, who distributes it to be spun, not only in this, but in all the parishes of Lewis. In this parish there are two spinning schools, the mistresses of each of them are paid jointly by Mrs Mackenzie of Seaforth, and the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. The forementioned trustee has a yearly salary paid him by Mrs Mackenzie and the said Society. To encourage the young women to acquire the perfect knowledge of spinning there is an annual competition at each of the schools, and premiums given by Mrs Mackenzie to the best performers, for the purpose of exciting a laudable emulation. The premiums are held out to all the taught spinsters in the island*.

* The encouragement thus given to promote the industry, the improvement, and consequently the real happiness of so many of our fellow-creatures,

tures, who, from local circumstances, are secluded from the more cultivated part of society, unquestionably reflects a high degree of honour on the worthy person by whom it is so generously bestowed, and shall infallibly prove a source of unspeakable consolation. The memory of the haughty, and, of course, the cruel-hearted daughters of dissipation, shall be utterly forgotten, or if mentioned, shall be mentioned with abhorrence: whilst that of the generous, whose kind efforts are well directed for the permanent good of mankind, shall be blessed on the earth for many succeeding ages.

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NUMBER IX.

PARISH OF UIG,

(COUNTY OF ROSS, SYNOD OF GLENELG, PRESBYTERY OF
LEWIS).

By the Rev. Mr HUGH MONRO.

Name and Situation.

UIG, in the common acceptance of the word, signifies, in many parts of the Highlands, a solitary place, much sequestered from the public eye ; which seems to apply with particular propriety to the local situation of this parish, it being separated from the parish of Stornoway and Lochs, which lie on the east and south-east coast of the island, by an extensive flat and soft moor, no less than 12 computed miles in length ; on the south-west it is bounded by the mountains of Harris ; on the west, by the Atlantic Ocean ; and on the north, by a part of the parish of Lochs, which in that place runs across the country from east to west. It is situated in the county of Ross, island and presbytery of
Lewis,

and synod of Glenelg. The length of the parish is ten computed miles, not including the wide entry of Loch Roag, which runs into the heart of the parish from the westward; its breadth is nine miles. The interior part of it is hilly, much more so than any of the other parishes in the island, and along the shore it is almost flat. In many of the farms along the sea-coast the soil is sandy; farther back, it is of a thin light kind, mixed with a little clay, and a great part of it seems to be the last stratum of moss which has been cut away for fuel, and which produces forced crops, with the assistance of sea-weed for manure.—The air is moist, and healthy to the inhabitants. The most prevailing distempers are rheumatism, erysipelas, cholics, and epilepsy among infants from the fifth to the eighth day after their birth; if they are not affected with the disease before the eighth day, they are not afterwards subject to it. The surgeon in this country declares, that the last-mentioned distemper proved fatal in every case which came within the comprehension of his knowledge, two only excepted, in which the surgeon attended. One of the children which escaped, suffered so much from the violent exertions of the muscles, during the continuance of the fits, that its arms and legs are distorted, and the whole frame is in a debilitated state, and likely to continue so. It is worthy of remark, that the infants of such parents as come to this island from the neighbouring continent or islands, or from any part of Britain, are not troubled with this affliction, until such parents reside for many years in this country; and indeed few of them are at all troubled with it. This distemper prevails over all the island.—This parish abounds with small lakes and rivulets; trouts are to be found in all the lakes, but somewhat inferior in taste and flavour to those on the mainland. There are four rivulets in which salmon are caught in small quantities, and used by the inhabitants.—The

length of the coast, following the shore in all its windings around Loch Roag, is 40 computed miles; the shore is rocky. Dogfish, cod, ling, and colesfish are abundant here. Great quantities of herrings, of uncommonly large size, have begun to be caught in this loch within these few years. The herrings make their appearance about the 20th of December, and remain to the middle of January; this last year, (1794), upwards of 90 sail came from different parts of the kingdom; they both fished, and bought the herring fresh from the country-people, at the great price of from 9 s. to 12 s. *per crane*, (which is the full of a barrel of green fish, as taken out of the net). The uncommon gales of wind which prevailed this winter, became fatal to some of the fishers, and rendered their success upon the whole much less than it was any year since the fishing last commenced. Forty years back, and long before, there was an immense herring-fishing in Loch Roag. Sweden was then the only market for the fish, and the abundance was such, that the country-people sold them for 1 s. *per* forefaid crane. The cod is very plentiful in this loch during the herring fishing, and when the herrings emigrate, they soon disappear. The cods are sold fresh by the country-people at 2 d. each. Such of the inhabitants as incline to take the trouble of curing them, can be supplied with salt for the purpose from two storehouses erected there by Mr Mackenzie of Seaforth, in which salt is kept for the benefit of the people. Muscles are found so plentiful that lime is made of their shells. Oysters, clams, and cockles, are found here. There are about 140 tons of kelp annually made at Loch Roag, which is superior in quality to any other kelp in the Highlands of Scotland; this is sufficiently evinced by its selling for at least a guinea *per* ton more than any other kelp.—Gallan-head is one of the chief promontories; it lies at the south-west entry to Loch
Roag.

Roag. The Flannan Isles lie in a north-west direction from Gallan-head, about 12 or 15 miles in the ocean; they are not inhabited, and are famous for fattening sheep, each of which have always at a time two lambs every season. The islands are seven in number, and are the same which Buchanan calls *Infulæ Sacræ*, because they seem to have been the residence of ecclesiastics in time of the druids; some of their temples, built without any mortar, are still extant. Sheep brought from those isles do not live for any time on the continent of Lewis. The people of the farms to which the isles are connected, go there once a-year to fleece their sheep, and to kill sea-fowls, both for food, and on account of their feathers. In the islands there is to be found, in the summer season, a migratory bird, called by Martin *colk*, by others *edder duck*, famous for its elastic down, which it plucks off its own breast, and with which it lines the nest.—Loch Roag, being the only one worthy of particular notice, is two leagues across at the entry, and runs up in a south-east direction about 12 miles through the island. This loch is covered with islands, several of them inhabited, and one of them is about eight miles long; its name is Large Bernera. The whole of this curious loch abounds with safe places of anchorage, sufficient to hold the whole British navy, nay, I may say the navy of Europe. The whole parish is covered with heath, except the inhabited grounds at the sea-side.

Population, &c. of the Parish of Uig, August 1792.

Families,	-	-	387
Souls,	-	-	1898
Males,	-	-	898
Females,	-	-	1000
Souls under 6 years old,	-	-	314
Ditto under 14 ditto,	-	-	342
			Souls

Souls between 14 and 60,	-	998
Above 60,	-	252

In 1755, the population, according to Dr Webster, was 1312.

There are in the parish, Netmakers,	-	275
Kelpmakers,	-	299
Weavers,	-	26
Wrights,	-	9
Tailors,	-	7
Blacksmiths,	-	3
Calves rearing,		641
Milch-cows,	-	914
Cattle,	-	2007
Sheep,	-	5044
Goats,	-	304
Horses,	-	682
Fishing-boats,	-	73

There are at present more instances of longevity here (as is always the case) than in any other parish in the island; severals near 90, and some above that age, are at present alive. They marry very young, and barrenness is scarcely known.—All the people dwell in little farm-villages, and they fish in the summer-season. The women do not fish; but almost at all times, when there is occasion to go to sea, they never decline that service, and row powerfully. When they go to the hills with their cattle, all descriptions of sex and age angle on the fresh-water lakes. All the woollen and linen cloth used for common purposes is spun and wove in the parish. There is only one surgeon in the whole island. All the inhabitants are of the Established Church. In the parish are four or five boat-carpenters, and

and several persons who make *broags* of leather tanned by the inhabitants with tormentil root.—There are no instances known of suicide.—Many of the people in the parish are employed in manufacturing kelp, and many of them go for the same purpose to Harris and Uist.—There are no trees to be seen, nor any kind of brushwood.

Agriculture.—The parish never supplies itself with sufficiency of provision. The people have lately acquired a superior knowledge and practice of the culture of potatoes to what they formerly had, and in proportion to the increase of this useful root, their buying of provision diminishes, and bears a small proportion to their outlays in former years. About 15 years ago, the present minister was obliged to give over the cultivation of potatoes, except a little for his own private domestic use, because prejudices hindered the people from eating them; but his perseverance in using them in his own family at last convinced the people of their error, and of the vast utility of that article. A small quantity of flax and hemp is sown in different parts of the parish, owing to the particular attention of Mrs Mackenzie of Seaforth, who makes exertions to direct the industry of the females of this and the other parishes of the island to suitable objects, and has erected, at a considerable expence, three spinning-schools in this parish. Here they sow small or black oats (the only kinds used) in the months of March and April; they reap in September and October; they sow here a little earlier than in any other part of the country, in order to be employed in manufacturing kelp as soon as possible. Barley is sown in May, and reaped in the latter end of August, and some of it in September. The oats are all cut with the sickle, but the barley is plucked; the reason for their plucking the latter is, that the root of it makes good thatch for their houses; and although

though they pluck it in rainy weather, when they cannot carry on any other harvest-work, it never heats, and is easily dried with the first fair weather. Kail or cabbage of any kind is not used here; since their prejudice against potatoes has been overcome, they chuse to bestow their manure on the latter rather than the former. The minister is in a similar predicament. That part of the parish which lies farthest out to the ocean is very destitute of sea-ware; the interior parts are abundantly supplied with cut ware for manure.

Language.—The Gaelic is the only language spoken, except by a few tacksmen; but it is to be hoped, that the English language, and, of course, the knowledge of books, shall become more prevalent, as two schools were lately erected in the parish.—The names of places are derived from the Norwegian or Icelandic tongues, such as Kenvick, Kirkibost, &c.

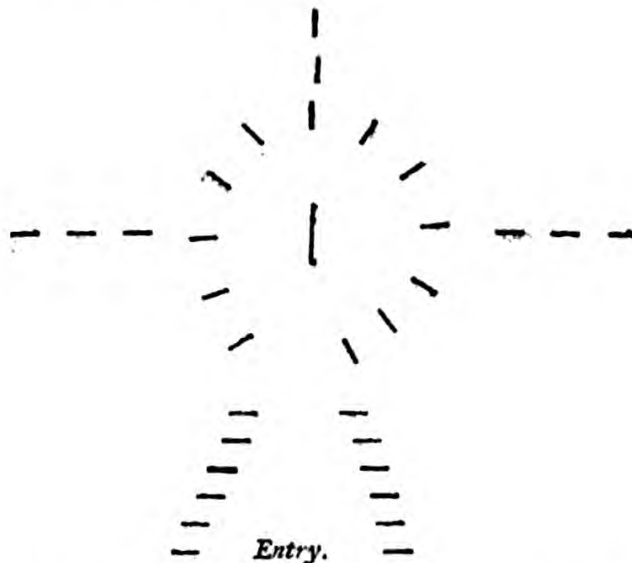
Church.—The value of the minister's living, including the glebe, and after a late and voluntary augmentation of stipend given by the proprietor, is L. 80. The King is patron. Hugh Munro is minister; he is the third since the erection of the parish. Macleod and Normand Morison were his predecessors. The present incumbent has been sixteen years settled; he is a widower, and has three daughters and one son. The manse was built about fourteen years ago. Two kirks were built two years ago. Seaforth is sole proprietor.

Poor.—There are 50 poor people who ask alms among the parishioners. Mrs Mackenzie of Seaforth gives L. 5 annually to meliorate their condition, and the mulcts of de-

linquents are laid out to the same purpose. All the people are remarked for a charitable disposition.

Price of Labour.—A boat-carpenter here gets 1 s. a-day and his victuals; a mason the same; a male-servant has L. 2 *per annum*, with coarse shoes, and his victuals; a female-servant from 5 s. to 10 s. annually, with shoes and victuals.—There is not a plough in the parish; all the tillage is conducted with crooked and straight spades. No carts nor waggons. The fuel is wholly peat.

Druidical Temple, &c.—At a place called Calarnish, not far from Loch Roag, there is an entire druidical place of worship, of which I subjoin a sketch :



Some of the stones are very large, especially that in the centre of the circle; they all stand on end at some distance from each other, and are wholly in a rough natural state, as taken from the shore.

At

At Meliffa are the remains of a nunnery, called still in the language of the country, *Teagb na n cailichan dou*, or, The house of the old black women. At Carlaway there is a Danish fort, or doune, with a double wall of dry stone; it is, perhaps, the most entire of any of the kind in Scotland; it is very broad at the base, and towards the top contracts in the form of a pyramid; the height of the wall is 30 feet; the fabric is perfectly circular.—In ancient times there were many battles fought in this parish between the Macaulays and Morifons, who had perpetual feuds.

This parish gave birth to the father of Alderman Macaulay, now living in London, whose uncle George Macaulay is still at Calarnish. The people of this parish are remarked for their cleanliness and hospitality more than their equals in any other part of the island.—The number of boats is not below a hundred.—Two or three open boats go annually from this parish to Glasgow with salted beef, dry salted fish, tallow, &c.—The people are very economical, and are not fond of a military life.

Miscellaneous Observations.—If manufactures were introduced here upon a great scale, they would tend to meliorate the condition of the people, because such employment would afford bread to the increase of population which prevails here, as well as in all the parishes of the Highlands.—Very near the manse there lives a woman, who has four distinct breasts or mammæ. She has had several stout healthy children, and suckled each of them, and likewise one of the minister's children. She has nipples and milk in each of the four breasts; the two upper are situated immediately under the arm-pits, and by being distended with milk, are very troublesome to her for the first two or three months after her delivery. Such a *lusus naturæ* is very uncommon.

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF RHYNIE AND ESSIE,

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN, SYNOD OF MORAY, PRESBYTERY
OF STRATHBOGIE).

From Communications by the Rev. Mr JAMES MILNE.

Name, &c.

THE parishes of Rhynie and Essie were united at a remote period. The church of Essie was continued as a place of worship till about 30 years ago, when it became ruinous; since that time the parish has been generally known by the name of Rhynie only. It is situated in the county of Aberdeen, Synod of Moray, and Presbytery of Strathbogie. This presbytery was disjoined from the synod of Aberdeen, and annexed to that of Moray in 1700: A disjunction the more remarkable, that several of the parishes were in the county of Aberdeen, and one of them, Mortlich, was originally the seat of the bishoprick, which was afterwards removed to Old Aberdeen.

Boundaries.—The parish of Rhynie is bounded by the parishes of Cairnie, Cabrach, Auchindore, and Gartly.

Extent and Contents, &c.—The figure of the parish is nearly square, it being 5 English miles long, and nearly as broad. It contains 8 of the 48 davachs or davochs of the lordship of Strathbogie. A davach contains 32 oxengates* of 13 acres each, or 416 acres of arable land. At this rate, the whole lordship of Strathbogie anciently was estimated at 19,968 acres, or, in round numbers, 20,000 acres of arable land. About one-third of this is infield or croft-land, and two-thirds outfield.

Lordship of Strathbogie.—As this lordship was one of the five divisions of the county of Aberdeen, anciently called Lordships or Thanages, as it included the whole original estate which King Robert Bruce gave to the noble family of Gordon, and as it has been overlooked by Dr Anderson in his Survey of the County of Aberdeen, the writer of this account thinks himself bound to take notice of it. The whole lordship of Strathbogie comprehends 120 square miles, including both the arable and uncultivated lands. It lies on both sides of the river Bogie, which empties itself into the Deveron, near Huntly. In 1424, when the proprietor of it was one of the hostages for the ransom of King James I. his rental was stated to be L. 400 Scotch money of that age, while the estates of the
High

* By act of sederunt, March 11. 1585, an oxengate, or oxgate, contains 13 acres, 4 oxengate a twenty-shilling land, 8 oxengate a forty-shilling land. Some of the oxengates in the lordship of Strathbogie are not 6 acres; others above 19 acres.—The hills are less cultivated, and the low grounds, formerly in wood, are now more in culture. That has probably occasioned the inequality. Therefore, in the above account, the legal measures of a davoch and oxgate are preferred to indefinite measures.

High Constable of Scotland, afterwards Earl of Errol, and of the Great Marischal, afterwards Earl Marischal, were only valued at L. 800 Scotch each.

The parish of Rhyne lies in the south-west extremity of this lordship, and of the strath of Strathbogie. The soil of the parish is various; loamy near the river Bogie; stony and gravelly, yet very fertile, near the bottom of the hills; and in some low grounds a clay, in others a mossy soil. Agriculture has not yet made great advances, there being only about *ten* acres of turnip, and 40 acres of sown grass, in the whole of this extensive parish. Yet the farmers are beginning to improve their lands; and to enable them to do so, there is abundance of limestone in some of the neighbouring parishes.

Mountain.—Though there are several hills, there is only one of these which deserves the name of a mountain. It is called the hill of Noth; and is of a conical shape, springing from its base about 600 feet, and at least 1000 feet above the level of the sea. The whole parish is elevated above that level at least 400 feet. As a proof of this elevation, the river Gady rises near the borders of this parish, and after falling into the Ury, and along with it into the Don, runs into the sea at Aberdeen, after a course of 30 miles to the south-east; and the river Bogie, which runs through the parish, after mixing its waters with the Deveron, and running also nearly 30 miles in a north-west direction, falls into the Moray Frith at Banff.

Population, Rent, &c.—The number of persons in this parish is 681; but, according to Dr Webster's list in 1755, it amounted to 836. The number of horses, 172; of black-cattle, 882; and of sheep, 2255.—The rent of the parish is about L. 700. The minister's stipend is two chalders of
meal,

meal, and L. 74 : 8 : 10 $\frac{8}{11}$. The schoolmaster's salary is 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ bolls of meal, which is paid in small quantities by the tenants. The collections for the poor, including what is made at the communion, amount to about L. 8 yearly, which, with the interest of L. 15 of funded money, and from L. 3 to L. 4 of feat-rents, has been found adequate to their supply.

Heritors, &c.—The whole parish is now the property of the Duke of Gordon, who is patron of Rhynie : But Earl Fife, as patron of Effie, has a vice patronage of the united parishes.

Antiquities.—On the top of Noth are, according to Mr Williams, Dr Anderson, and others, the remains of a vitrified fort. Some, however, are of opinion, that this is only the mouth of an extinguished volcano. The conical shape of the hill favours the idea of a volcano; but the stones and remains of a building are rather favourable to the supposition of a vitrified fort.—There is a tradition of a battle having been fought at a remote period about the middle of this parish. And a large stone, about five feet diameter, on which there are some hieroglyphical characters, and standing on the moor of Rhynie, is said to have been erected in memory of the engagement. Part of this stone has been lately broken : But it is certainly very ancient.

Eminent Men.—As this was the feat of a great many of the Gordons during the feuds of the clans, this parish gave birth to many brave fellows, eminent in days of turbulence, but now consigned to oblivion. Two anecdotes relative to the history of those times are, however, worth preserving.—Huntly's second son got the lands of Scurdarg in this, and afterwards

afterwards those of Pitlurg in a neighbouring parish. The male heir of the Earl failed in the time of James III. and the heiress was married to a younger son of the Lord Seton, afterwards Earl of Winton. Mr Seton was created Earl of Huntly, and was a man of great abilities. When the Earls of Douglas and Crawford had joined in a league which shook the throne, Lord Huntly, who was Lieutenant of the North, led on his troops to the battle of Brechin. But in marking out the commanders of the clans, he appointed his second son, the laird of Gight, to head the Gordons. According to the ideas of that age, the Earl himself was only a Seton, and Pitlurg was chief of the Gordons. The clan, therefore, insisting that Pitlurg should march at their head, he applied to Lord Huntly, and claimed his right. Huntly refused; and Pitlurg took off his black bonnet*, and waving it, cried, "*A' that's come o' me, follow me;*" immediately the whole clan went off with him, and left Huntly alone. The Earl, with admirable presence of mind, came up to them, and said, "Gentlemen, you have overcome me; I yield it to you. Pitlurg, command the Gordons. And now, Gentlemen, that you have got the better of me, let me see if you will beat Lord Crawford." The Gordons, in high agitation of spirits, attacked the enemy; and Earl Huntly, after a most glorious and important victory, got the lands of Badenoch and Lochaber, for *badding* (holding) *the Crown on the King's Head*. From that moment the family of Huntly became the greatest in the north; and this contention with the clan, by making them feel bold, was supposed to have contributed not a little to the victory at Brechin.

The

* A black bonnet, anciently the dress of a Highland Chieftain, is now worn by the moorland farmers in Mid-Lothian, to distinguish them from their servants.

The other anecdote regards a second son of Pitlurg, who got the lands of Cairnborrow. The day before the battle of Glenlivet, the Marquis of Huntly came to Cairnborrow, and applied to his lady, who was supposed to rule the roost, for her assistance. She said, she had got short warning; but that her old man, with his eight sons, with a jackman and a footman to each, should attend him immediately. Huntly thanked her; and after some more conversation with her, desired Cairnborrow, who had never spoke a word, to stay at home, telling him, that at his advanced years it was not proper to take him along, especially as he had so many of his sons. The old man heard him out, and shrugging up his shoulders, said, "*Na, na, my Lord, I'll bleed the whelps mysell; they'll bite the better.*" This was at once the reply of a sportsman and a foldier; and the whole family went to battle with the laird at their head. They defeated Argyle, and returned all safe to Cairnborrow*. In mountainous districts, sentiments of liberty, and of personal bravery, are very prevalent.

Advantages of the Parish of Rhyndyke.—These are, good soil in general, and shelter from the high hills, which renders the greater part of the cultivated lands very warm and fertile.

Disadvantages.

* The writer of this account has been favoured with a curious manuscript, in which the names of the father, mother, and eight sons, are all mentioned: "John Gorden of Cairnborne married Bessie Gordon, daughter to the Laird of Buckie, with whom he begat eight sons and three daughters. His sons were, 1st, John, laird of Cairnborne, afterwards of Edinglassie; 2. George Gorden of Sorbach; 3. James Gorden of Fermaghtie; 4. William, who coast (bought) Cairnborrow; 5. Mr Arthur Gorden; 6. Thomas Gorden of Aitloch; 7. Robert Gorden of Gollachie; 8. Patrick Gorden of Craigston in Sutherland. All these, with their father, and nine jackmen and as many footmen, went to Glenlivet battle."

Disadvantages.—These are, the distance from market, want of capital in many of the farmers, and, in some cases, mill-multures; but these last are all, by the Duke of Gordon, to be abolished, when the present leases expire; and the carrying up a canal from Aberdeen to the head of the Garioch, or from Huntly to Rhynie, will in time render the markets more accessible.

Character of the People.—They are sober, industrious, peaceable, and contented with their condition. They enjoy not the luxuries of cities, but they have the necessaries and some of the comforts of life, along with health of body and animation of character; and they add more to the strength of the country than four times their number of discontented and debauched manufacturers, or mobbish politicians can do, in any time of public or national danger.

NUM.

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF ABOYNE AND GLENTANAR,

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

By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.

Origin of the Name.

THE origin of the name of Aboyne is unknown. That of Glentanar is evidently derived from the rivulet Tanar, and signifies the glen or hollow occasioned by that rivulet.

Glentanar and Inschmarnoch, at a remote period, made one parish; but, from the poorness of the living, they were disjoined, and Inschmarnoch was sunk in the united parishes of Glenmuick, Glengorn, and Tullich. Glentanar was united to Aboyne; but after the building of a central church at Aboyne, the name of Glentanar was also sunk; and the parish is now generally known by the name of Aboyne.

Situation,

Situation, Extent, &c.—These parishes are situated in the county and synod of Aberdeen, and presbytery of Kincardine. The church is 30 English miles south-west from Aberdeen, and nearly the same distance north-west from Brechin. The cultivated part of these parishes extends four miles from east to west, and three miles from north to south; but the hills of Glentanar extend five miles farther to the south-west. The river Dee is generally the boundary between the two parishes, Glentanar lying on the south, and Aboyne on the north of that river. Only the lands of Balnacraig, and two insulated farms in the parish of Aboyne, surrounded on all sides by the parish of Birse, are situated on the south bank of the Dee. The parish of Lochlee, in the county of Angus, whose church is above 16 miles from that of Aboyne, bounds this parish on the south-west. In the county of Aberdeen it is bounded by the parishes of Glenmuick, Tullich, Coul, Coldstone, Logie, Kincardine, and Birse.

Ancient Division of the County.—The different hills which nature has marked out as barriers, were the ancient boundaries of counties and districts. In modern times, the division by rivers has gained ground. But in these parishes the county of Aberdeen crosses the river Dee, and follows the division by hills; and in this district, the ideas of a Highlander still favour the division by hills and mountains. The people uniformly call all that extent of ground which is bounded by the sensible horizon by the name of a *country*.

Mountains.—The parish of Aboyne has no considerable hills. Glentanar is altogether hilly, and approaches to mountainous. The highest mountain of Glentanar, called the *Fir Month*, is about 2500 feet above the level of the sea; and commands a prospect of Aberdeen, Montrose, and Ar-

broath. Another of these mountains, *Montb Kean*, is seen from the coast of Buchan, at the distance of above 40 miles, and serves as a barometer to the interjacent country. When the conical top of *Montb Kean* is covered with a cloud, the people in the lower parts of the county seldom fail to have rain within 24, or at most 36 hours.

Rivers.—The principal river, which runs through the whole extent of these parishes, is the Dee, which abounds in salmon, sea-trout, and burn-trout, or fresh-water trout. These are only caught with the rod, and sell at from 3 d. to 4 d. *per lb.* according to the season of the year. The inferior rivers are the Feuch, which runs along the lands surrounded by the parish of Birse, and falls into the Dee about 12 miles below Aboyne; the Tanar, and the Allachy, which runs into the Tanar, and along with it falls into the Dee about a mile above Aboyne. All these rivers are remarkably clear, but very rapid, and swell suddenly to a great degree, which renders them very dangerous.

Woods.—Besides a considerable quantity of different kinds of wood *planted* in the parish of Aboyne, there is a very large forest of *natural* wood in Glentamar, the greatest length of which is *ten*, and the breadth *six* English miles. This forest produces Scotch fir (a species of pine) of a very good quality, which grows on the sides of the hills; but from the great elevation, no wood grows near the top of the highest mountains. There is a great demand for this wood, which brings Lord Aboyne from L. 400 to L. 500 yearly. It was sold, till lately, at 3 d. *per* cubic foot; but for some years past at 4 d. in lots, or *prizings*, as they call it, and in picked trees at 5 d. *per* cubic foot; within these few weeks (in June 1796) it has been raised to 6 d. the foot. The axe-men are particularly alert in picking out and cutting
down

down the largest trees. But the expence of getting them out of the forest is very considerable ; and as the trees are always squared with the axe, the wood is not so economically managed, as if there were a saw-mill, and proper machinery for carrying the large logs from the forest. As a proof of the fineness of the wood, the writer of this account numbered 130 concentric circles on a tree of 11 inches diameter *.

A Canal proposed.—If a canal could be made out from Aberdeen to Aboyne, this extensive forest would produce L. 1500 a-year to the proprietor. Perhaps such a canal is not only practicable, but could be made at much less expence than might be expected, from the rapidity of the rivers, and the great elevation of the parish of Aboyne ; but it should not be attempted near the banks of the Dee. The writer of this account believes, that by raising a canal from Aberdeen at once to the level of Hazlehead, there would be almost a dead level, and at any rate, no occasion for more than one lock for six miles above Hazlehead. This canal should probably be carried past Canniegirach, Hirn, Rameir, Glaffel, and Kincardine. A branch of it could be conducted past Skene, Cluny, Monymusk, and perhaps nearly to Alford ; and till the increasing commerce of the county enabled the proprietors to make out locks from Hazlehead to Aberdeen, a distance of two miles, a carriage-way could be used at a moderate expence. With a little more public spirit, and also by laying out their money with economy, the proprietors of land in Aberdeenshire may make out canals, where they at present account them impracticable.

* The forest of Glentanar has been twice burned ; once, as was supposed, by accident. The young wood suffered, but the old wood received no hurt, except being a little singed.

impracticable. And from the great extent of waste or unimproved land, on which a very small quantity of lime would operate, they would soon be indemnified by the rise of their rents for the expence of any canal which was conducted on rational principles. In the parish of Aboyne, in particular, from the rise of both the rent of the lands, and of the price of wood, a canal to Aberdeen would be attended with most beneficial effects.

Soil and Agriculture.—Much cannot be said in behalf of either of these. The soil of both parishes is sandy or gravelly. In some parts it is loamy, but very little of a clay soil is found in either of these parishes. In rainy seasons abundant crops are produced; but it has long been observed, that Dee-side needs a shower every 24 hours, from May to August. And in very dry seasons, from the quality and thinness of the soil, this district is very deficient both in corn and straw. Harvests, of course, are earlier than in most parts of the county. When the soil of the lands adjacent to the two principal rivers of Aberdeenshire, the Dee and Don, are compared, the latter has manifestly the advantage on the whole. Hence the old rhyme;

A foot of Don's worth two of Dee,
Except it be for fish and tree.

The inhabitants of this parish, however, by selling their wood, in more distant parts of the county, at high prices, contrive to live comfortably. At the same time, it must be confessed, that this traffic in wood is a loss to agriculture; and since the introduction of the new husbandry, this district, which is admirably adapted for raising barley, turnips and potatoes, receives yearly a considerable quantity of lime, which goes a great way in the thin soil of this district.

strict. The application of lime, however, to this soil, should only be for turnips, potatoes, or bear sown out with grafs. Yet the farmers do sometimes apply it to successive crops of oats; a mode of farming which, if not speedily checked, must soon reduce the soil of Dee-side to a *caput mortuum*. Though, among the farmers in general, there is no rotation of crops, nor approved method of husbandry, yet the Earl of Aboyne's personal farm is in very high cultivation. It consists of nearly 400 acres, all inclosed by excellent stone fences, lined with hedge-rows, and alternately producing white and green crops; and it proves what can be done, even on Dee-side, by the proper application of soil, manure, and good ploughing.

Population, &c.—The number of inhabitants is 1050. In 1755, by Dr Webster's account, they were 1695. There are four heritors, *viz.* The Earl of Aboyne, who is patron, and generally resides in the parish, Mr Jones of Balnacraig, Mr Farquharson of Finzean, and the Earl of Aberdeen. The two last have only a small farm each. The Earl of Aboyne is proprietor of five-sixths of the parish. The whole land-rent is about L. 1200.

Burgh of Barony.—Charlestown of Aboyne is a pleasant little town, and a burgh of barony. It had once a weekly market. It still has four fairs or yearly markets.

Goat-whey Quarters.—In the parish of Glentanar a great many goats are kept, and persons afflicted with consumptions frequently resort to goat-whey quarters in that parish. Goatmilk is sold from 4 d. to 6 d. *per* pint. It is also made into cheese; and is much esteemed by connoisseurs.

Antiquities.

Antiquities.—There is a hill in the parish of Aboyne, called Mullach's hill, in which there are a great number of cairns, said to be burial-places, after a great battle, in which one Mullach was killed.

Proprietors of the Estate of Aboyne.—This estate anciently belonged to Frazer the thane of Cowie. The Earl of Marischal married the heiress of that estate, and the Marquis of Huntly her only daughter. Marischal kept the lands of Cowie, and Huntly got Aboyne, which he gave to his second son. That young nobleman was burned to death in the house of Fren draught, where he and some of his friends were on a visit. Lady Fren draught was suspected of having set fire to that part of the house in which he lodged; but it is still doubtful whether his death was wilful or accidental. The estate and the title of the Earl of Aboyne were given to another son of the family of Huntly. But in a few generations, the Earls of Aboyne were so much reduced in their circumstances, that the last Earl sent his baggage to Paris, because he saw he could not live in Scotland suitably to his rank. Unwilling, however, to abandon his country, he ordered it to be brought back, and by attending to the management of his estate, and the sale of his wood, and selecting able overseers for his personal farm, he soon retrieved his affairs. And after a life, not remarkable for its length, but for its activity, intelligence, and steadiness, he left a clear estate of L. 6000 a-year to his eldest son, and another, about the third part of that value, to his second son. In an age in which dissipation is so prevalent, a character of this kind ought to be mentioned with respect; and in a Statistical Account, the following particulars regarding Lord Aboyne's rural economy are worthy of notice.—He built *eighteen miles of a boundary* to his farm and plantations. The whole stone fences, including subdivisions,

subdivisions, must be at least 40 English miles in length, or above *seventy thousand yards*. The fences are about five feet in height, extremely well executed, and were all done by days wages, or by men hired by the season. He disapproved of building fences by *the piece*, as they are seldom durable. He lived in a district where the price of labour was low, but where the people were indolent. By giving them employment, and introducing overseers, and a few servants from other places, where agriculture was known and industry practised, he enabled his people to pay the rise of their rents, and taught them how to improve their own farms; and by generally residing on his estate, his rent was spent among his tenants, and enabled him to command an additional quantity of their labour; at the same time, he was respected in a much higher degree than he would have been, if, in place of spending his rents in useful and productive labour, he had either been a prodigal abroad, or a miser who lived at home, but would not part with his money to ornament or improve his estate. It is only proper to add, that the writer of this account was under no obligations to him, and lives 30 miles from Aboyne, so that he can have no motive for stating these facts, but a desire to influence our young nobility, and heirs to great estates, to imitate these good qualities, and to be at once useful to themselves and to society. For let it be remembered, that private vices are not so great public benefits as private virtues are found to be. The estate of a prodigal is often destroyed, without employing so much useful labour, as is exerted in improving the estate of a man of activity, intelligence, and public spirit.

Oak Ship.—It would be improper to omit mentioning, that a ship, entirely of oak taken from Lord Aboyne's
woods,

woods, was lately built at Aberdeen. She is called the Countess of Aboyne. It were to be wished that more encouragement was given to the raising of oak than is commonly given in this country.

Character of the People.—They are sober and alert; but not so patient of labour as the inhabitants of the low country. They are generally very decent, and regular in attending on religious ordinances.

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF BOYNDIE,

(COUNTY OF BANFF, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY
OF FORDYCE).

*From Materials communicated by the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER
MILNE, the Minister.*

Name, Situation, &c.

THE origin of the name is unknown. The parish is bounded by the Murray Frith on the north and north-west; by Banff on the east; by Ordiequhill on the south, and Fordyce on the west. It is of small extent, being only five English miles long, and from a mile to a mile and an half in breadth. It contains about 3000 acres, above one half of which are arable, and 400 acres are planted with wood of different kinds, but chiefly with Scotch fir.

Soil and Agriculture.—The soil of the parish is various. The agriculture is, on the whole, pretty well conducted. Though the parish is of small extent, yet there are generally from 60 to 70 acres of turnips, and 300 acres of sown grass. This parish was one of the first in the north of Scotland in which the new husbandry was attempted, and carried on with success. The late Earl of Findlater was the author of all these early improvements. The farm of Craigholes was first improved by his Lordship about 1754; and after improving this farm, to shew what could be done, he took every method of exciting his tenants to follow his example. He gave them long leases of 38 years and a lifetime. A better method could not have been devised. The certain period of 38 years gave his tenants a security for carrying on their improvements. The uncertain period at which the lease terminated, naturally deterred them from scourging their farms when once improved, because every man flatters himself with the hopes of a long life. From the example and the encouragement of Lord Findlater, the face of this and some of the neighbouring parishes was speedily altered. But though turnip and green crops were encouraged, and flour-mills were built, yet a regular rotation of crop has not been established, nor has much wheat been raised in this district. It is probable, however, that the high prices of flour will occasion wheat to be raised in greater quantities, though for a light soil a crop of turnips, and another of barley, is less scourging, and generally more productive than the south country practice of fallow and wheat.

Rent.—The rent of the parish is mostly in victual, and varies from L. 1000 to L. 1200.

Population.

Population.—The number of inhabitants is 1260; of which there are 800 nearly in the country parish, and 460 in the sea-town of Whitehills. The population in 1755, is stated by Dr Webster at 994 souls.

Sea-town.—The town of Whitehills is chiefly inhabited by fishers. There are seven boats employed in the fishery; and they are generally very successful. The kinds of fish principally caught are cod, ling, and haddocks; and besides considerable quantities sold in the town of Banff, and in the country around, the fishers generally carry every year to the Frith of Forth cod and ling to the amount of L. 500 or L. 600.

Stipend, &c.—The minister's stipend is, in money, L. 39, and in victual, 60 bolls. The collections for the poor amount to about L. 25 yearly, including the interest of L. 200 of lent money. The schoolmaster's salary is only 9 bolls of meal.

Character of the People.—They are sober, industrious, and charitable. From the long leases, and reasonable rents of the farms in this parish, the people have not that spur to exertion which racked rents produce for a season. But they have every inducement to steady and regular industry, which improves both their bodies and their minds; and they are strangers to that despondency, lassitude, and disgust, which, after a few years unavailing exertion, take possession of the dispirited, hard-toiling, and discontented farmer, who is oppressed by a rack-rent and short lease, and at last becomes careless of every thing, when he sees, that with all his industry, he is unable to pay his landlord and maintain his family.

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF SOUTH KNAPDALE,

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

*From Materials communicated by some Gentlemen
in the Parish.*

Name, Situation, &c.

THAT portion of Argyleshire, which is contained between the isthmi of Crinan and Tarbert, is known by the general appellation of *Knapdale*, or *Cnapadale*, a term it owes to the striking inequality of its surface. It is bounded on the north by the loch of Crinan, and track of the intended canal; on the east by Lochgilp and Lochfine; on the south by the isthmus and lochs of Tarbert; and on the south-west and west by the Sound of Jura. Its extreme length from north to south is about 18 miles, and its greatest

est breadth from 10 to 12. It is intersected from the south by the lochs of Caolisport and Castleswen. The first, and most easterly, penetrates about four miles into the country, and derives its name from its narrowness. The second owes its title to a castle, situated near its mouth; which, together with others on the western coast, were erected as fortresses by Swen, the Danish conqueror. The loch having passed this place about two miles, sends off a branch to the westward; and continuing its course for two or three miles farther, expands suddenly, and splits at once into several branches, resembling the palm, thumb, and fingers of the hand. The intervals between these branches are finely diversified with woods, rocks, fields, and sheets of water, which, viewed from the road leading from Inverluffay to Glassory, exhibit an assemblage of contrarieties so wildly grotesque, that fancy can hardly image a landscape more exquisitely delightful. The division of Knapdale westward of this loch, called Ross, is of excellent quality. Could the soil and rocks, with which it is unfortunately interspersed, be separated, there would not perhaps be a more fertile spot in Scotland. The country to the eastward, if we except the estates of Castleswen and Knap, the low grounds of Inverneil, Ceannlochcaolisport and Ormsfary, the extensive plains round Kilberry Castle, and a few patches along the sea-coasts, forms a counter-part to that of Ross. It swells into high and rugged mountains, incrustated with moss, and shrouded with heath. The shore, however, where not arable, is generally covered with wood; which furnishes excellent shelter, and proves very convenient for the winter-pasture of black cattle.

Knapdale, to the south-west, juts out into three great promontories or headlands. The most westerly is called the point of Kilvicoharmaig. Its figure is somewhat like that of a crescent, between which and the beautiful peninsula of

Danna

Danna lies the harbour of Lochnakille, an anchorage well known to mariners. Between the lochs of Castle and Caolisport is the centre promontory, or point of Knap; and the point of Ardpatrik is formed by a bay to the north-west, and the west loch of Tarbert to the south.

Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.—This country was formerly a parsonage dependant upon the abbots of Kilwinning. When, at the Reformation, that abbacy was converted into a temporal lordship, a large triangle of Knapdale, adjacent to the mouth of West Lochtarbert, was annexed to Kilcolmonel. The remainder was erected into a parish, consisting of six several places of worship, among which the pastor performed a sort of constant itineracy. The inconveniency of a charge so extensive, and so intersected by arms of the sea, was equally felt by the minister and people; and, upon application being made about 75 years ago, the parish of Knapdale was divided into the parishes of South and North Knapdales, by a line of separation originating at the shore, south of Castleswen, rising about a mile due east, and running north along the mountains till it terminates in the tract of the canal, a mile east of Loch-Crinan. By this partition, the whole point of Knap, and glen of Caolisport, was included in South Knapdale; but, though it had acquired nearly double the extent, the superiority of North Knapdale fitted it to supply the occasions of a much greater population.

Ancient Proprietors, &c.—Power alone, in the ruder ages of society, constituted a right. No other title was necessary, either to its acquisition or maintenance. The Macmillans were anciently proprietors of Kilhamacgand Knap. The last of the name, to prevent the prostitution of his wife, butchered her admirer, and was himself obliged to abscond.

abscond. His charter was inscribed in the Gaelic language and character upon a rock at the extremity of his estate. It proved but a feeble security against the rapacity of a barbarous age. The property was contested for by the Campbells and Macneils, the latter of whom were a powerful clan in North Knapdale, and decided in favour of the former by compromise. It continued in the same family till the year 1775, when, after the death of the tenth possessor, the estate was purchased by the late Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Campbell of Inverneil. The sword of Macmillan is said to be still in preservation. But it is sincerely to be regretted, that the inscription was defaced by a collateral of the Knap family about 30 years ago. Unless prompted by the vanity of having his ancestors considered in future as the aborigines of their property, it is difficult to assign a probable motive to an action so gothic. Macmillan's mode of investment, in heritable right, is not without precedent. The Macmurachies, of old, were proprietors of Terdigan and Kilberrie, lying in that part of Knapdale annexed to Kilcolmonel. Their charter is also engraved, in the same language and character, upon a rock near the shore of these lands. From this very ancient family, if we may credit the popular legend of the country, is descended the present, but unfortunate, royal line of France. Macmaster of Ceannlochcaolisport, Achahoish, and Ellary, became masters of these lands, at a very early period, by the murder of Macavern, the ancient proprietor. A pool of the river, where he was a-fishing at the time, and cairn where he fell, serve to perpetuate the memory of the fatal catastrophe. The pool is called to this day Lin-earn-vicavern; *i. e.* the Pool of Macavern's Cairn. The posterity of Macmaster were eminent for their dexterity at the sword, and their activity in repelling the incursions of neighbour-
ing

ing depredators. Their estate was sold by Ronald, the last of the race, to the late Sir James Campbell of Achnabreck, and by him conveyed to Campbell of Shirven, in the possession of whose family it now is. The Macneils and Macmillans, after having established themselves along the eastern coast of Caolisport, were gradually supplanted by the Campbells. The former found means to preserve the property of two or three farms in that part till towards the beginning of this century, when they were excambioned, with the then Argyle, for the island of Colussnay. But by far the most considerable family in South Knapdale was the Macalasters of Tarbert. Cantire was at that time held by the Macdonalds; and the Macalasters, who are allowed to be a tribe of that clan, possessed almost all the lands around Tarbert, and along the coast of Lochfine and Lochgilp, to the extremity of the parish. They were interrupted in the possession of their property by the Macivers, a restless tribe of the Campbells, inhabiting a part of Glassary, who effected a settlement, and erected a sort of fort on the west side of Lochgilp.

The inroads of these invaders were, for some time, extremely vexatious to their southern neighbours; till at length they were overcome, and almost extirpated in two bloody conflicts; first with the Macneils, near the mouth of West Loch-Tarbert, and afterwards with the Macalasters on the shore of Lochfine. The sanguinary policy which deprived the Macdonalds of Cantire, gradually diminished the authority of the Macalasters. The Macalasters became masters of Dael and Craiglafs, now the property of Macarthur Stewart of Milton; and a Peter Dow Campbell, taking the title of Kildusclan, of all their other lands north of Inverneil. These lands, after passing through the hands of the Campbells of Barnicarry and Askemil, were purchased, about three years ago, by Mr Macneil,
late

late writer at Inverary. Four other farms, belonging to the Macalasters, in the vicinity of Tarbert, are now in possession of Macfarlan of Muckroy; and three more in that of Campbell of Kintarbert. The remainder of the estate, with the mansion-house, burnt down by accident about two years since, was purchased by the late Mr Campbell of Stonefield. Not a single acre is now in possession of the Macalasters; and the ancient stock of Macneils, once all powerful in North, and numerous in South Knapdale, are masters of no more than two farms in the former, and one in the latter parish,—

Sic tranfit gloria mundi!

When northern ferocity had involved the western world in darkness, and buried the arts and learning of venerable Rome in its ruins, it was the peculiar felicity of the first planters of Christianity in Argyleshire to have rescued the sacred spark of Science from extinction, and lighted up her torch in the distant island of IONA. Benevolence feels the generous glow of satisfaction when it reflects, that, while the ambitious priests of other countries were desolating states, and dethroning princes, the devout of this were dif-
feminating, in sequestered islands and solitary caves, the genuine truths of that religion, which announced *peace on earth, and good will towards men*. The purity of its doctrines, we admit, were at length contaminated by superstition and legendary fable; but the gibbet has never been erected, nor the faggot lighted up, for the destruction of the human race.

Monuments of primitive Christianity are numerous in Argyleshire, but no where more frequent than in South Knapdale. Of these pious relicts there are four ancient

chapels, which have suffered but little from the rust of time. A fifth was removed by the Macalisters of Ceannlochcaolifport, on account of its contiguity to their house. A sixth at Kilmalisaig, and a seventh at Glenakille, where there are burying-grounds, may possibly have shared a similar fate. Of these, the chapels of *Cove* and *Islandmore* seem to bear marks of the greatest antiquity.

St Columbus and St Patrick, says tradition, having quarrelled about a point of faith, determined to part. The former, disgusted with Ireland, swore never more to see it, and set sail for Scotland. He landed on the west coast of Lochcaolifport, where he built the chapel of *Cove*, the walls of which, till of late years, had undergone but little dilapidation. Near the end of this church is a consecrated cave, which gives name to the farm in which it is situated. Its altar and font still remain, and over them a cross, cut on the solid rock, by no unmasterly chissel. Tradition adds, that Columbus having discovered the Irish coast from an adjoining eminence, deserted the place, and afterwards founded the renowned seminary of Icolmkill.

The following anecdote of the saint, whether authentic or not, serves to prove the precarious tenure of property in this country during the middle ages:—A book being abstracted, which the saint particularly valued, he, in the overflowing of his resentment, denounced this anathema against the culprit:

“ Fhir a thug nam mo leabhar,
 “ Gu m boidheach a bhios do bhean;
 “ Gu ma hard a bhios do thigh;
 “ Gu ma luath a bhios do threabhadh
 “ Agus gu mo deas a bhios do bhaile.”

“ Thot

“ Thou purloiner of my book, be thy wife handsome,
“ and thy house lofty; thy tillage easy, and thy
“ farm blest with a happy exposure.”

Who then, in the exercise of his sober senses, would attempt to break the bonds of civil society, when, by introducing anarchy, he must convert the most darling objects of desire into our greatest curse? But to return,

Near the west coast of Knap lie a group of small islands, the most considerable whereof is Ellanmorekilvicoharmaig. Carmaig was an ancient proprietor of this island. His whole family consisted of a grand-daughter, who used to amuse herself by angling on the shore, which is surrounded with currents, and frequented to this day by vast crowds of fish. It happened upon an occasion of this kind, that a bone, in place of a fish, came out with her line; she unhooked, and threw it back into the sea. Again and again it came out in like manner. Chagrined with disappointment, she carried it home, and put it into the fire. The whiteness of its ashes struck her fancy. She endeavoured to preserve them; but, burning her finger in the attempt, instinctively clapt it into her mouth. By this means she became pregnant of the saint, whose supernatural gifts were so long to survive himself. He founded Kilvicoharmaig, the mother church of Knapdale; and, after a life spent in acts of piety and devotion, was buried in his native island. His tomb, a little oblong building, elevated about three feet above the ground, remains uninjured by time. The saint is said to resent, with the most summary vengeance, the least indignity offered to this monument. Near his tomb is a small chapel, built by himself. It is arched over, and covered with flags. Within, in a recess of the wall, is a stone coffin, in which the priests are said to have been deposited. The figure of a naked man is cut on its cover.

The

The coffin, also, for ages back, has served the saint as a treasury; and this, perhaps, might be the purpose for which it was originally intended. Till of late, not a stranger set foot on the island, who did not conciliate his favour, by dropping a small coin into a chink between its cover and side. Upon an eminence, not far off, is a pedestal with a cross, and the figure of a naked man; and near to the cross is a cave, possessing the wonderful power of causing sterility in every person who dares to enter it. This magic island, if we may believe the legendary story of the saint, possessed many singular qualities. Nothing could be stolen from it that did not of itself return. The master of a vessel, conceiving a liking to the cross, carried it along with him; but, being overtaken by a storm at the Mull of Cantire, was obliged to throw it overboard; it floated back to a creek of the island, called, from that circumstance, *Port-nacroisb*, i. e. the Harbour of the Cross. Miracles were performed by the saint for many ages after his death. At length a woman, labouring under a dysentery, addressed him from the opposite shore, in the following verses:

“ ’S mise bean bhochd a’ Braidealban
 “ A m’ sheafamh air lic Mba’ Gbarraig
 “ So naomh ann an Eilean na fairge
 “ Thig’s tog a bhuineach o m’earbal.”

It was an unlucky business for the invalids of those days. The saint granted her request; but was so scandalised by the indelicacy of her language, that he became deaf to the prayers of his votaries ever after.

The cave preserved its reputation till of late; and, but for the following untoward accident, would have remained an object of terror till this day. A pair, more solicitous about gratifying their passions than promoting the political interest

interest of their country, went into it, with a view to bring its influence to the test of experiment. They were disappointed. The female became pregnant, and the whole neighbourhood sceptics. Though the miraculous excellencies of this island have now ceased, they are amply compensated to the proprietor by a natural one. Not a patch in the Highlands is fitted to produce beef or mutton of a superior quality.

The chapel or church of Kilmory-knap seems to have been the most considerable in South Knapdale. Its walls are almost entire. A beautiful obelisk, or cross, stands on the north side of the burying-ground. It consists of a single stone, neatly cut, and twelve feet in height: On one side is represented a stag-chace; and on the other, the crucifixion of our Saviour, suspending a balance. There is also an inscription, which the compiler of this account had not time to examine. It is said to be in the Hebrew or Gallic character.

Kilduffan is a small chapel on the shore of Lochgilp. It exhibits nothing striking; and tradition has forgot to inroll it in her ample page.

About 25 years ago, the tenants of Ceannlochcaolisport discovered six or seven stone coffins in a potato-field, not far from the place where the chapel formerly stood. They were of different sizes; but all of them too short to contain a human body. They were placed in the direction of east and west, and all empty, except one, in which a small fragment of human bone was found. Perhaps the custom of burying the dead, with the head towards the west, was anterior to the æra of Christianity, and borrowed by the primitive Christians from some pagan superstition. These coffins may have been placed by the Druids, as receptacles for the ashes of their dead. The bone discovered may have been rendered less perishable by a partial calcination. It
must

must be confessed, however, that though the druidical temples be frequent in Argyleshire, and commonly met with in plains like this, yet not the least vestige of any is to be seen here.

The following couplet has been handed down by the genealogists of this place :

Colmonel, Clan A gorry, Barry, Clan Murachie,
Mac Charmaig, Clan Neill, Martin, Clan Donachie.

It is adduced in evidence that Saints Colmonel, Barry, Maccharmaig, and Martin, were of the clans therein mentioned. The probability is, that these fathers flourished at a period much anterior to our earliest accounts of these clans ; and that, instead of being of the same race, they had been adopted as their tutularies. The bell of St Barry's Chapel is still in preservation at Kilberry Castle, and has been long prostituted to the ignoble purpose of summoning the servants of that family to their meals. It is inscribed with the saint's name, in the Latin language and Saxon character, but unfortunately without date. The revival of bell-founding, if lost in the middle ages, and the period at which the Saxon alphabet was introduced, might throw light on its antiquity. There are very many Kilmorys, and not a few Kilbrides, in this part of the Highlands. The former have likely been dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and the latter to a saint, whose fame has reached far and wide, since we find that there are not only farms, but parishes, of this name in the low country. It may reasonably be concluded, that they are of less remote antiquity than some of those already mentioned. It was not till the church became grossly corrupted, that the Virgin was recognised in an intercessory character ; and, as the fame of modest merit rarely extends to a distance, there is cause to believe that

St

St Bride might either be one of these miracle-making jugglers, which too often disgraced religion; or that her memory has been manufactured by subsequent priestcraft, to minister to the occasions of its vanity or its avarice.

The collision of opposite doctrines, and the cruelties inflicted by the orthodox, previous to the Reformation of religion, were unknown here. Motives of interest, as well as reason, induced our chiefs to become of the Protestant persuasion, and their example was readily followed by the populace. Common sense was insulted by our clergy; but in no other respect had they injured us. The case was different with the reformed of other parts. They had experienced the full force of hierarchical tyranny. Their wounds were still bleeding, and they were hurried by resentment into excesses, hardly inferior to the abuses they affected to correct. It is to our honour that the same doctrinal unanimity continues still to prevail among us. Of the six parishes which constitutes the presbytery of Inverary, there is hardly a single dissenting native, either of the Romish or Seceding church; and the sum total of stranger Catholics in South Knapdale, amounts to no more than one old woman from Perthshire.

Extent, &c.—This parish is in length, from south to north, about 20 computed miles, and 16 in breadth. It is situated in the county and synod of Argyle, and presbytery of Inverary. The soil is chiefly of a mossy nature, incumbent on a stratum of sand; but in the lower grounds it is a good loam. Very little of the parish, however, is arable; and that which is ploughed or dug with the spade, produces in general so very light crops, that it is reckoned more profitable to throw it into sheep-walks, or pasture-land for cattle. The grains chiefly sown are oats and bear. Every
where

where potatoes are cultivated with great care, and of late they constitute the principal food of the inhabitants.

Climate and Diseases.—The country being mountainous and adjacent to the western ocean, heavy rains are frequent in spring, summer, and autumn. The winter is extremely stormy; snow is sometimes very deep, and frost is generally of short duration. The inhabitants are commonly very healthy, and many of them live to a considerable old age. The most prevalent diseases are the small-pox, fevers, and colds.

Rivers.—There are several rivers in the parish, all of which abound with trout of an excellent flavour. In dry weather all the rivers are fordable; but, owing to the heavy rains that fall on the mountains, they often rise very suddenly to a great height, which renders them wholly unpassable.

Roads.—The roads are extremely bad, especially in winter. The best is a part of the great road on the east side of the parish, which leads from Inverary to Campbelton. It was made by the spirited exertions of the Duke of Argyle, assisted by the gentlemen of the county. In some places it is formed on the sea-shore, through a ridge of rugged rocks, 24 feet at least perpendicular above the sea.

Mines and Mineral Springs.—In that part of the parish that belongs to Sir James Campbell of Inverneil, there is a lead mine that had been wrought several years ago. In the neighbourhood of the mine a few mineral springs make their appearance; but no experiments on the virtue of their waters has yet been made.

Mountains.

Mountains.—Of these there is no scarcity. The most remarkable are *Cruach Lufach*, *i. e.* the hill of plants or herbage, from the great number of herbs growing on it; and *Sliabh Gavil*, (a mountain separated at both ends). It is twelve miles long, and eight broad at the base; it belongs to the Duke of Argyle.

Woods and Caves.—Some parts of the parish abound with natural woods, or coppices of oak, ash, birch, and hazel. Several of them are well inclosed with proper fences.—Although there are not a few caves in the parish, yet none are of consequence but one, near which is a chapel, with an altar and font. The farm in which it is situated is called the Cove.

Ecclesiastical State.—This parish contains three places of worship. One is at Tarbert, thirteen computed miles from the church at which the minister resides. In this chapel it was the custom, till of late, for the minister to preach every sixth Sabbath: Now a missionary is established there by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. There is another chapel about five miles from the church. The present incumbent, Mr Daniel Hyndman, was admitted to the charge in 1771. His predecessors were, Mr Patrick Pollock, first minister of this parish, after the disjunction from North Knapdale; and Mr Hugh Campbell, now minister of Kilmartin. The King is patron.

The present incumbent, when he came to the parish, found neither a church, or proper place of worship, in the whole bounds. There was not a glebe nor manse. The stipend was only L. 47, with L. 1, 16 s. for communion-elements. In the year 1772, he was under the necessity of suing the heritors at law before he could prevail upon them

to build a kirk. He was forced, for the space of six years, to preach in the fields. In the year 1772, he entered a process of augmentation against them; and in 1775, obtained a decret of modification for fixing the stipend at four chalders of victual, one half oat-meal, the other half bear, with L. 600 Scots, and L. 40 Scots for communion-elements; a sum by far too small for defraying the expences of the communion in so populous a parish. As there is no manse, the heritors allow L. 10 Sterling *per annum* until one is built.

Heritors, &c.—There are eleven proprietors in the parish, of whom two only are resident. There are four tenants who occupy extensive farms. One of them pays of rent yearly L. 256, another L. 105, a third L. 103; all exclusive of public burdens. There is a considerable number of smaller tenants.

Poor.—The number of poor on the parish-roll is 15. They are supported by the interest of L. 20, which was mortified by the late Campbell of Stonefield. To this very small sum is added the collections at the church, which are extremely inconsiderable.

Population of South Knapdale in the year 1796.

<i>Males,</i>		<i>Females,</i>	
Under 10, -	255	Under 10, -	207
From 10 to 20,	128	From 10 to 20,	92
From 20 to 50,	281	From 20 to 50,	307
From 50 to 70,	95	From 50 to 70,	109
From 70 to 90,	30	From 70 to 92,	20
	—		—
Total males,	789	Total Females,	735
Total population,		1524,	Of

Of these, 236 are married; 15 widowers, and 62 widows.

Marriages in 1793,	-	-	10
Births in 1793,	-	-	36
No. of Clergy, parochial and missionary,	-	-	2
Residing heritors,	-	-	2
Tacksmen *,	-	-	7
Schoolmasters,	-	-	3
Tenants,	-	-	89
Cottagers,	-	-	158
Male servants,	-	-	14
Female servants,	-	-	29
Masons, strangers,	-	-	5
Masons, Highlanders,	-	-	4
Joiners, strangers,	-	-	5
Joiners, natives,	-	-	7
Shepherds, strangers,	-	-	2
Shepherds, natives,	-	-	14
Improvers, English,	-	-	2
Gardeners,	-	-	2
Smiths,	-	-	5
Millers,	-	-	6
Shoemakers,	-	-	13
Dyers,	-	-	1
			No.

* By tacksmen is understood such as lease one or more farms; and by tenants, such as rent only an half, a fourth, or an eighth of a farm. Among cottagers, are included, not only day-labourers, but all servants, who, having families, receive livery meal for their board. There are few men in the parish who have not, at one time or other, served in the bounty-fishing vessels; and by bounty-fishers, is meant, such as were in that employ this season. By Clyde fishers is to be understood, the crews of such boats as pursue the fishing in the frith of Clyde, and lochs adjoining, during the season; and, by Caolisport and Knap fishers, such as attend to it no longer than while the herrings continue in Loch-caolisport.

No. of Tailors,	-	-	12
Weavers,	-	-	19
Soldiers,	-	-	4
Bounty fishers,	-	-	51
Frith of Clyde fishers,			40
Caolisport and Knap fishers,	-	-	80
Boat-carpenters,	-	-	3
Publicans,	-	-	9

Comparative Population of South Knapdale.

No documents are to be found, whereby the general population of South Knapdale, at any former period, can be exactly ascertained; nor are there any records of births, marriages, and deaths, from which conclusions of that kind can be drawn. The compiler of these has selected out the farms in which the greatest variation has happened, and obtained lists of their former inhabitants from tenants possessing them at the time specified:

Kilmalieaig and Drimdrishaig, in 1768,	81	In 1796,	52
Ormsfray,	-	1784,	149
Lochhead,	-	1772,	108
Barmore,	-	1775,	40
Invernul,	-	1768,	147
Oacfield and Brackley,	1782,	191	81
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		716	239

Diminution of population in these farms, 477.

In the year 1772, when the present incumbent took the list of the inhabitants of the parish with a very particular exactness, the population consisted of 1600 souls. According to Dr Webster's list in 1755, it amounted to 1292. Increase since that period, 188.

The emigrants to America since 1763, amount to 175; of these, about 100 emigrated in 1774 and since the present war commenced.

Holding

of South Knapdale.

325

Holding of South Knapdale.

Sheep,	-	-	-	7000
Black cattle,	-	-	-	2000
Horses,	-	-	-	250
Rental in 1772,	-	-	L. 1003	0 0
Rental in 1796,	-	-	2335	5 6
The stipend of South Knapdale, as established				
by decret of modification <i>anno</i> 1775, is,				
Vitual, four chalders, half bear half meal,				
converted at	-	-	L. 33	10 0
Money,	-	-	53	4 0
			<hr/>	
Total,			L. 86	14 0
Schoolmaster's salary,	-	-	L. 7	0 0

Language.—The Gaelic is the prevailing language spoken in the parish. The English has of late spread considerably, owing, in a great measure, to young people travelling to the low country, and returning home after they acquired the language.

Character of the People.—The inhabitants are in general active, industrious, and humane. They are extremely seldom guilty of any kind of immorality, that can expose them to punishment by law.

Fisberies.—The herring-fishing occupies a considerable number of people. The fish annually frequent an arm of the sea on the west of the parish. It is called *Loch-caolifport*, which signifies a small loch, with a harbour. The herrings also frequent Loch-fine, which bounds the parish on the north-east. The value of these fishings will, it is believed

believed, be increased by the Crinan Canal, a considerable part of which runs through the parish.

Disadvantages.—The people here labour under many disadvantages, which are great obstacles to their present happiness and improvement. The want of proper schools for the education of youth is none of the least. There is not a parochial school; and those established by the Society cannot accommodate all the children, many of whom, owing to local situations, have it not in their power to attend them.—The distance from market-towns, and the bad state of the roads, are complained of as very great hardships.—The scarcity of good fuel is severely felt by all the inhabitants; peat and turf are universally used; but when the season for casting them is wet, which is not unfrequently the case, the poor people suffer beyond description; and even although the season is favourable, so much of their time is necessarily spent in preparing the peats, that many things of importance in agriculture, &c. must be omitted.

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF KINCLAVEN,

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

By a Friend to Statistical Enquiries.

Situation.

IN Stormont, a beautiful and fertile subdivision of Perthshire, is pleasantly situated the parish of Kinclaven. It is under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the presbytery of Dunkeld, and synod of Perth and Stirling. The boundaries are, Cargill on the east; Caputh on the north; and Auchtergaven on the west and south.

Climate and Soil.—The climate is not greatly exposed to the sudden and frequent vicissitudes of heat and cold, rain and drought, which seldom fail to affect, in no small degree, the agricultural operations, in districts adjacent to the western coasts of Scotland, or in the immediate vicinity of the high mountains

mountains and extensive ridges of hills in Perthshire. Owing in a great measure to the mildness of the climate, and partly perhaps to other causes, this place is believed not to be productive of, or to foster, any epidemical distemper amongst the inhabitants, who are generally strong and healthy.—The soil is mostly light and sharp, containing great numbers of water-worn stones, many of which are, in some places, so large, as to obstruct the operations of the plough. The moorlands, and higher parts of the parish, contain in their soils a small proportion of mossy earth. A rich black loam constitutes the soil of some of the grounds in the neighbourhood of Arntully. The surface is diversified with a few rising grounds, all of which are accessible to the plough, and are not elevated to a great height above the level of the sea. From some of them, however, the prospects are diversified, and very pleasant.

Agriculture.—Agriculture is here carried on, in several places, with considerable knowledge and exertion. A rotation of crops, suitable to the soil and climate, is adhered to by most farmers. Farms in general are small, being from about 20 to 50 acres arable. One of the most extensive arable farms is Innernytie; it is rented at about L. 125 Sterling *per annum*. Some places are parcelled out into small *passles*, or farms, few of which are above 30 acres each. The occupiers of most of them are under the necessity of following some other occupation than that of farming. A considerable number are weavers; each of whom has a loom or two in the corner of the house, which is generally low and ill constructed. They employ themselves at the weaving business, chiefly during winter. Their utensils are far from being always in the best order, or made after the most approved model. They are, however, good enough, for the fabric of the cloth woven, which is mostly
coarse

coarse linens for the Perth market. Several looms are employed by manufacturers in Perth, who furnish the yarn, and pay a certain price for the yard weaving. Some of these small farmers or passlers are at times employed with their horses and carts at the roads, &c. By this frugal system, many numerous families are trained up in habits of industry and economy, though not with that elegance and luxury, which, of late, have become the characteristic marks, of the stile of living, adopted by extensive farmers.

These tradesmen, or farmers, or by whatever name they may be called, are their own masters, and, of consequence, possess an independent spirit, which is very seldom to be found amongst the menial hinds and other servants of great farmers. They pay a rent for their land greater in proportion, perhaps, than could be got by the landlord, were their small possessions thrown into large farms; and many of them are improving their lands with considerable skill and activity.—More than the half of the parish, however, is not inclosed, a circumstance not much to the credit or profit either of the proprietors or tenants. Many acres of moor or waste land yet remain to be improved. These neglected spots abound at present with heath, whins, bent, broom, &c. that afford but a coarse and scanty pasture for cattle. The soil, in most parts of the parish, seems to be naturally well adapted for the growth of broom; in some places that plant rises to the height of seven or eight feet, and makes a kind of shelter as well as fence to corn-fields. Arntully moor is the most extensive piece of waste land in the parish. It is chiefly occupied as a common for pasturing cattle belonging to the neighbouring farmers. A great part of the common of Arntully was about 20 years ago subdivided, (*glebed*, according to the provincial language), and convenient farm-houses and offices built on the subdivisions. The soil, in general, will admit of considerable im-

provement. It is observable here, equally as in many other places of Scotland, that when the moors are pared or cut for turf, they naturally produce abundant crops of *guild*, (*chrysanthemum segetum*), and a few other plants, which are not, until the sward is cut away, found growing in the place. This is especially the case in these moors that had anciently been in tillage. It is believed that the seeds of the guild will, when buried in the ground, retain their vegetative power for a great length of time, but when exposed to the influence of the weather, will readily vegetate. This is certainly true, not only with respect to the seeds of this, but of many other plants. Too much care, therefore, cannot be taken to cut down these weeds which are hurtful to agriculture before the seeds arrive to maturity. It is grossly absurd in farmers to allow thistles, &c. to grow without molestation on way-sides, or other uncultivated places. The seeds are mostly carried into the adjacent fields, and occasion much trouble. Many of them perish, but millions are buried in the earth by the plough, and afterwards vegetate with great luxuriance when raised up, even at the distance of many years, to the influence of heat, light, and rain. Farmers in this, and all the neighbouring parishes, are reprehensible for not checking more than they do, the progress of these plants, which, whatever their medicinal virtues may be, are very hurtful to agriculture.—Although much of the soil in Kinclaven is fit for the turnip husbandry, yet a very small portion of it is laid out for the cultivation of that useful root. The grains commonly cultivated are oats, barley, wheat, beans, and pease. The produce is generally good; barley frequently yields eight returns, that commonly gives meal for grain. In some places the old, but absurd custom of sowing pease, together with oats, in the same field, is, by some slovenly farmers, still continued. It generally happens that the one
grain

grain is ripe sooner than the other. In defence of this custom it is alleged, that if, owing to the weather, one of the kinds fail, the other will be tolerably good. Every experienced farmer will consider this argument as extremely inconclusive.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in the year 1755, by Dr Webster's account, was 993. At present, it is about 1150.

Church, School.—The parish kirk is in good repair; the manse not. Drummond of Logie-Almond is patron. The Rev. Mr John Scott is the present incumbent. The stipend is 1000 merks with 4 chalders of victual.—A meeting-house, belonging to the Antiburgher class of Seceders, was erected about a mile east of Arntully, in the year 1744, and is frequented by a numerous congregation from this and the neighbouring parishes, who prove themselves, by their laudable behaviour, to be good members of Society.—There are two schools in the parish, both of which are well frequented. The salary annexed to the parochial school is L. 80 Scotch.

Villages.—The chief in the parish is Arntully, commonly pronounced as if written Arntilly. It is situated a few miles west of the church, and consists of about 60 or 70 dwelling-houses, scattered in every direction, and exhibiting a striking picture of ancient villages in most parts of the kingdom. The roads and passages amongst the houses are inconceivably bad, especially in wet weather. What adds considerably to their miserable state, is the abominable, but too general practice, of placing the dunghill (midden-hole, *vulgarly*) before the doors of the dwelling-houses, many of which, in every point of view, much accords with the

situation in which they are placed. The county of Perth, were it possessed of no other spot of a similar description, should allow Arntully to remain in its present state, that a proper contrast might be drawn, between a neat modern village, and one upon the old construction. Most of the inhabitants, many of whom are weavers, occupy a small bit of ground adjoining to their houses, which furnishes them with garden stuffs, &c. by which many of them are enabled to keep milch-cows. This they very justly consider as a great help to their families. They seem to be contented with their domestic condition. Besides Arntully, the parish contains a few very small villages, as Knockshinan, &c.

Woods.—This district is ornamented with several coppices, or natural woods, chiefly of oak, birch, and hazel. They are cut every nineteen or twenty years, for the sake of the bark, which at Perth brings a good price. There are some plantations of pines and forest-trees, generally in a thriving state.

Rivers, Fishings.—The *Tay* is the only river here that merits notice. It runs in winding directions for the space of several miles on the north and east; no where, in its whole course, has it made such ravages on the land as in this parish, chiefly on the estate of Mr Drummond of Logie Almond. It has at several times forced its way through the banks, and made great excavations in the corn-fields, where it has formed spacious tracts for itself. Three or four of these tracts, being now abandoned by the river, remain lasting monuments what the *Tay* in its fury can do. It is probable, that at no great length of time it will make still more extensive devastations on the richest and most beautiful part of the parish.—The fishings on the river are

of some importance. One at the Linn of Campsie, on a very small extent of the water, brings L. 80 *per annum* to Lord Dunmore the proprietor. The fall of water is not high, but the Linn is very deep, and contains great quantities of excellent salmon. On the Tay, about a mile from the kirk, is Kinclaven ferry, which occupies three ferry boats, one for foot-passengers, one for horses, and another for carriages. At the ferry, is a good and commodious inn, on the Kinclaven side of the river.

Mills.—The parish is furnished with several corn-mills, to which the land in general is thirled or astricted. The thirlage in some places is considerably high. This kind of servitude is here, as well as almost every where else in Scotland, considered as a great hardship, and an obstacle to agricultural improvements. These thirlages or multures, at the first erection of corn-mills, might have been very just and necessary. Now they are quite the reverse. Why, therefore, should an improved society suffer an universally acknowledged grievance any longer to exist, and impede the most beneficial improvements of the country?

Castle.—Kinclaven Castle, on the banks of the Tay, remains in ruins. The walls are about eight or ten feet high; and unless destroyed by some modern Goth, will continue, for ages, to exhibit, an example of the ancient strong-holds in Scotland.

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF BENDOTHY,

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

By the Rev. Mr JAMES PLAYFAIR, Minister.

Situation.

THIS parish lies near the eastern boundary of Perthshire. The church stands in N. lat. $56^{\circ} 33'$. and long. 5 min. of a degree W. from Edinburgh; being a mile and an half N. from Cupar Angus; 6 miles W. from Meigle; 14 miles N. E. from Perth; and 17 miles N. W. from Dundee. It is situated on part of the lowest grounds of Strathmore, (Great Strath), being that extensive flat which runs almost in a straight line from the sea at Montrose, by Forfar, Cupar Angus, Perth, and Stirling, to Dunbarton, and the mouth of the frith of Clyde, in a direction nearly N. E. and S. W.; and is bounded by the
Grampian

Grampian mountains * on the N. W.; and by the Sidlaw † and Ochil Hills on the S. E.; the breadth of the strath between being generally from 6 to 8 miles.

River Isla.—The church stands 200 yards N. from the right bank of the river Isla, part of the water of which rises in the loch of Forfar, where is the highest ground of the flat between this and Montrose, (about 200 feet above the sea). The course of the water from the loch of Forfar is through Dean, Isla, and part of Tay, in a line from N. E. to S. W. along the middle of Strathmore. The Tay, after a gradual winding to the left by Perth, runs by the Carse of Gowrie and Dundee to the German Ocean, in a direction nearly parallel to the above portion of the tract of the Isla inverted. The Isla itself rises in the Grampian mountains, and runs generally S. E. with a rapid current till it is joined by the Dean, after which it runs S. W. (past the south side of this parish) into the Tay. At the church of Bendothy the Isla is 75 yards broad, and a yard deep at the ford. It is no where deeper than 9 or 10 feet in summer; and its banks are nearly the same height above its ordinary surface. At high floods, it rises 13 or 14 feet above its summer level; this is in part owing to the Tay, below this, being contracted for four miles by high and narrow banks. The Isla here is 100 or 110 feet above the level of the sea. It runs with an insensible fall.

River

* Grampian mountains are from 1000 to 4000 feet and upwards above the level of the sea. Originally and vulgarly called Grands-bens (Great Mountains). See Boethius's Introduction or Preface, and Buchannan's Index.

† Sidlaw, (Sud-law, or South-hills), so called from their position with respect to Strathmore. They are about 1000 or 1400 feet above the level of the sea.

River Eroch, or Ericht.—This river falls into the right side of the Isla in this parish. It also issues from the Grampians. It is composed of the united streams of Shee and Ardle, which last seems to be a contraction of Erochdale. The Shee, called also Blackwater, falls into the left side of the Ardle. These rivers generally run S. E. all of them with a rapid current.

Divisions of the Parish.—The river Eroch divides that part of the parish which is in continuation, nearly into two equal parts. One of these parts, lying W. of Eroch and N. of Isla, is embraced on other sides by the parish of Blairgowrie; and the other of these parts, lying E. from Eroch, and N. from Isla, is embraced, on other sides, by the parish of Alyth on the E. and by the parish of Rattray partly on the W. The parish of Cupar Angus bounds the whole, along the Isla, on the S. That part of the parish which is in continuation, is 6 miles long, and a mile and an half across. The church stands in the middle of the western division. Besides this, there are two other parts of the parish, insulated entirely by other parishes, and separated from one another. One of these parts, composed of Perfy, on the Shee, and Cally on the Ardle, lies in the angle of confluence between the Shee and Ardle, the nearest part being 7 miles from the parish church. The other insulated part, Drimmie, lies on the left bank of the Eroch, being a mile from the former part, and seven miles from the church. These two parts, taken together, are about a fourth of the whole parish.

Name.—The name of the parish, in the presbytery books, during the last century, is written Bennethy or Benathy; the first of which expresses the pronounciation at the place, and also the etymology (Nether-hill); on the
south

south declivity of which hill the church stands. It has been some time written Bendochy, being a corruption of the form of writing, which occurs in the presbytery book, the *e* having been therein written backwards, the end of second *n* turned above the line, and the *t* written very short. The name inscribed on the communion cups and plates is Bendothy, A. D. 1786.

Western Division.—That part of the parish which is in continuation is almost all under cultivation. That part in which the church stands, W. of the confluence of Eroch and Isla, is generally easy level ground. It consists chiefly of a gentle ridge, rising with an almost insensible ascent from the river Eroch, and running from thence south-westward, parallel to the Isla, having its highest summit at Muirhead, opposite the church, from whence it declines again to the westward. The sides of this ridge decline gradually towards the Isla upon one side, and to the Monkmire on the other, which separates it from the parish of Blairgowrie. Its highest summit is 80 or 90 feet above the level of the Isla. It is composed entirely of that red clay substance, called mortar here, from its use as a cement in building. Between the above ridge and the Isla, there is another inferior ridge, which runs a small way parallel to the greater one; on the S. side of which (former) the church stands. The inferior rises about 60 feet above the Isla. It is composed entirely of gravel, or water-driven stones and sand. It is broken off a small way, and then, in the same parallel line to the south-westward, an insulated ridge of the same materials occurs at Couty, which the water of Isla sometimes nearly forms into an island. There is besides a good deal of perfectly level ground, especially near the banks of the rivers. This division of the parish westward of the Eroch is possessed by three proprietors.

Coupargrange, on the E. is held by the heirs of the late Dr Young, Professor of Midwifery in Edinburgh. Rent paid by the tenants is L. 651 Sterling; and valued rent, L. 1411 Scotch.

Couty and Bendothy, on the W. held by the Honourable James Stewart Mackenzie, Lord Privy Seal. Rent paid by the tenants lately, L. 358 Sterling; and valued rent, L. 958 Scotch.

Mudhall, in the middle, worth L. 71 Sterling annually; valued rent, L. 125 Scotch.

These estates contain about 1500 acres, rented, or worth annually, L. 1080 Sterling, besides 100 acres of fir planting; they are divided and subdivided by thorn-hedges; but there are few fencible inclosures. There is a great variety of soil. The soil of the best lands of Coupargrange, especially the level ground near the confluence of the rivers, but now 40 feet at least above their floods, is composed of a deep black earth. This black earth, composed in a great measure of the rottings of vegetables, is more generally incumbent on sand than on mortar. In the grounds of Coupargrange it is above clay; but there is a stratum of sand between, which drains off the water. The lands of Mudhall are composed of three feet black earth at top, and then pure white sand for more than 40 feet down, as may be seen at the place where Isla has pushed in its shoulder and undermined. There is a black soil similar to this on some parts of the Lord Privy Seal's estate, but it is generally on lower ground there, and within flood-mark of the Isla. It is on such ground that the feed-oats grow, which have got a name through all the country. They are called the Coupargrange Oats. They are the common oats of the neighbourhood; but rise cleaner, whiter, and more substantial, from deep cherishing soil.

Where

Where the mortar * is uppermost, as in several places of these grounds, especially such as are highest, it proves a wet poor soil. In some places, which had formerly been moor, there is a thin black surface above the mortar, which has been produced by rotten fog and moss; this proves a very wet backward soil. From small experiments it appears, that such soil would be greatly improved by trenching. Earth that has once been trenched, will never again acquire the impenetrability and solidity which it had retained from its first formation; besides, in such soil, there is no good ground to lose from the top, by trenching. The rock below mortar, which is also of a red substance, when dug from the bottom of wells, moulders in the air, and seems to be rock marl. Ground that has a bottom of gravel and sand has commonly a very thin soil above. This is the only sort of soil that baffles industry. The Isla floods between 200 and 300 acres of these estates. At high floods it covers the breadth of half a mile from one side of the river to the other. Water-made ground is generally dry and fertile; more so than most of the other grounds that are above the flood-mark of the river. There is no vegetable mould under the latter, in general; the former is in a great measure composed of vegetable mould; this is some compensation to the farmer for extraordinary trouble and great risks in harvest, when the watery element threatens to possess his property. Some farmers drag their corns to higher grounds when cut; others trust to the season, and sometimes

* That red coarse clay, called mortar, is the basis of all the grounds in this part of Strathmore. Upon digging to a proper depth, it will always be found at the bottom, either in the form of clay or rock. Sand, gravel, pure clay, black earth, are always incumbent on it, never otherwise. Gravel is found on ground near to rivers, (and on flat ground, which, though remote from them, is not many dozen of feet above their level), rather than elsewhere.

times escape, but at other times the overflowing flood sweeps all before it. Two neighbours had taken these opposite methods: One jeered the other for want of faith in Providence; in a few days the rain descended and the flood came, and the provident farmer retorted, Where is your faith now, neighbour? It is down the water with your corn. In some instances, the proprietors of these estates have given very liberal benefactions to their tenants, for damage done by the river in harvest; particularly in harvest 1774, when the river rose two feet higher than ever was known. It was within six inches of the top of the lowest arches of the bridge at Couty. It left the bottom of the furrows bare where wheat had been newly sown that season; and that place was nine years of recovering its soil and vegetable powers. There is a lake of marl on the N. W. boundary of these estates, called the Monkmire, which is for the present exhausted. The Stormont loch, at the W. corner of Lord Privy Seal's estate, contains marl; this loch is not yet drained. There is an island in it, which has probably been a place of stores. The district called Stormont lies between that place and Dunkeld.

Eastern Division.—That part of the parish (in continuation) which lies eastward of the confluence of Eroch and Isla, rises with a gradual ascent from the Isla and Eroch to the N. and N. W. terminating in a rising ground, which forms part of a front ridge of the Grampians. The highest part may be from 600 to 800 feet above the level of the sea. There are about 2000 acres in this division of the parish, rented, or worth annually, L. 998 Sterling. It is possessed by twelve different proprietors, four of whom reside. Six of these proprietors possess the Grange of Aberbothry, which lies in the angle of the confluence of the rivers, and is much of it low ground; 200 acres of it, at least,

at least, flooded by both rivers. The proprietors of the Grange of Aberbothry are:—Mr Macdonald, late rent, L. 105 Sterling; present rent nearly double that sum; valued rent, L. 355 : 18 : 8 Scots. Mr Murison, late rent, L. 50 Sterling; valued rent, L. 172 : 7 : 2 Scots. Mr James Chalmers, rent L. 60 Sterling; valued rent, L. 123 : 8 : 0 Scots. Reverend William Chalmers, rent L. 55 Sterling; valued rent, L. 116 : 17 : 5 Scots. Mrs Geekie, rent, L. 74, 14 s. Sterling; valued rent, L. 133 : 17 : 7 Scots. Mr Robertson, rent, L. 49 Sterling; valued rent, L. 122 Scots. Mr James Chalmers and Mr Robertson's lands, are the only lands of the Grange, altogether above the floods of the rivers.

The other estates of this part of the parish, lie on ground ascending to the north-westward from the Grange. The names are:—Blacklaw, Mr Kinloch, late rent, L. 224 Sterling; valued rent, L. 643 Scots. Polcalk, Mr Thomas Whitson, worth L. 50 Sterling; valued rent, L. 101 : 11 : 8 Scots. Muirtown, Provost Halliburton, rent, L. 125 Sterling; valued rent, L. 138 : 6 : 8 Scots. Thorn, Mr Rattray, rent, L. 39 Sterling; valued rent, L. 179, 13 s. Scots. St Fink, Mr James Anderson, worth L. 88 Sterling; valued rent, L. 187 Scots. Tullyfergus, Mr David Millar, worth L. 72 Sterling; valued rent, L. 223 : 6 : 8 Scots.

The estates of Grange of Aberbothry are all level, manageable ground, with a gentle ascent north-eastward. They are all open and uninclosed. Not above 30 years ago the houses were all clustered in a village, and the estates were in runrig. Most of the lands of Grange are of clay, of a whitish nature in the bottom; but much of it is changed above into a darker vegetable mould, also famous for producing feed-oats. Some of the grounds, especially in the haughs, are sandy. The whole haughs here retain the marks of old tracts of the Eroch, which runs in floods with

a most rapid current, and has even bedded the Isla for some way with gravel; the Isla being destitute of gravel all the way above the confluence. The superiority of the soil, on some of the low grounds of this parish, seems to have originated from their vicinity to the rivers, though now above the reach of their highest floods. The soil of the other estates of this division, which lie N. W. from Grange, as Blacklaw, Polcalk, and Muirtown, consists of a bottom, and generally a top, of mortar, or that red coarse clay, which is the mother earth of this part of Strathmore, and most generally found in the neighbourhood. These grounds rise briskly from the Grange, and form part of a ridge of the Grampians. Those parts of this ascent, which are most level, have the blackest and most beneficial earth. Those parts which have the steepest ascent have reddest earth, and most of the colour of the bottom. Here and there, especially, in the steepest ascent, appears a red rock, mixed with small rounded pebles. There are many detached, rounded, whin or moor-stones in these grounds, blue and hard, a sort of porphyry, from one foot to three or four feet diameter, which have no mother rock here. The farms on the estate of Blacklaw, are divided from one another by thorn hedges; and there are some stone-dike inclosures on Muirtown and St Fink. There are not above 100 acres of this division uncultivated. On these grounds, and neighbourhood, especially at St Fink and Chapelton and Little Drum, there are many of these singular ridges of nature, called here Drums* (*dorsum*); perhaps 10 or 12 of them within a
small

* There are many of these drums in the neighbourhood, in the parishes of Alyth and Rattray, and in the Stormont, which have the same parallelism and position with the above. The Garrydrums in the Stormont, which are delineated by their dales and rills in Stobie's map, are among the most remarkable, being a mile and an half long each, about 100 feet high, and 600 feet broad at base, and rising above one another, according to the natural

small space of each other. They have all a parallelism to one another, and decline eastward. The rills between them
run

tural ascent of the ground in the neighbourhood. Indeed, drums occur over all this part of Strathmore. On the S. side of the Isla, their length is N. E. and S. W. parallel to Strathmore. It is evident, that they have not been produced by rills, since their length is not parallel to the line of descent of the mountain, on the side of which they stand, but generally perpendicular to it: Besides, frequently, though not always, the water runs from the dale at both ends. And in level ground, in many cases, the drum raises its back high above all grounds adjacent. Whatever cause may have produced the mountains themselves, and the great vale of Strathmore between them, these drums in Strathmore appear plainly to have been produced by the tides of the ocean, of which Strathmore was then a channel, and to have been formed (like banks in channels of the sea) by the tide of flood, coming by Forfar from the E. end of Strathmore, and searching partly westward along the strath, and partly searching diagonally up among the Grampians; and again by the tide of ebb returning the same way by which the tide of flood went up. Agreeably to this, not only the rills and burns, or brooks, are all parallel to the drums, but the rivers Tay, Enoch, and Isla, as they come out from the Grampians into the strath, all point eastward, and even their bendings among the mountains are towards the E.; notwithstanding, that afterwards, in the middle of Strathmore, they run in one body south-westward: In coming out from the mountains, the rivers run in the direction of the tide of ebb, and after becoming considerable bodies in the middle of the Strath, they run in the direction of the tide of flood; circumstances which can be easily apprehended. That the drums and courses of brooks and rivers have been formed in this manner, is an opinion which I have weighed maturely, which has pressed upon my mind for several years, and which I have seen a good many parts of Scotland to ascertain the truth of; which, being an hilly country, full of straths, is better for determining a point of this nature, than a champain country, like most of England. It is an opinion which I have put to the test of experiment, by judging before hand, as the higher grounds of a province opened to view what must be the position of the drums between; and where the premises were right, there was no error in the conclusion. To enlarge upon this point would be foreign to the subject of this paper. Suffice it to say, that drums are parallel to the straths in which they lie. And where there are no straths, they are parallel to the base of the adjacent mountains. The drums and rivers are commonly parallel to each other. In this case,
the

run E. They are in length perpendicular to the line of ascent of the Grampian ridge, on which they lie, or nearly so: The W. end of them, however, inclining somewhat towards the Grampian ridge, on the ascent of which they lie, and the E. end of them being in the same proportion turned away from it. They are in that part of the ascent which is flattest; those parts which are steepest have them more rarely. In the grounds of Polcalk there is a dale and drum along the very top of the steepest declivity.

Highland Districts.—The insulated and cultivated part of the parish at Perfy, is a level spot on the right bank of the Shee, or Blackwater, possessed by two proprietors. North Perfy, Mr Farquharson, rent, and worth, L. 58 Sterling; valued rent, L. 156 Scots. South Perfy, Mr Stewart,
rent

the rivers are streight. It is always a crooked river that runs across the drums; sometimes following the dale, and sometimes breaking over the drum. And suffice it farther to observe, that the centre of gravity of the earth, depends on the relative position of the materials thereof; so that if the water enveloping the north pole, were, by some means, transported to the south pole, a new center of gravity would be thereby formed; and the waters would never return to their old bed, but would adhere to the new center

I would farther add upon this head, a passage from Dr Edmund Halley's *Astronomy of Comets*:—"Hitherto no comet has threatened the earth with a nearer approach than that of 1680, (whose period is 575 years). For by calculation I find, that November 11th, 1661, that comet was not above the semidiameter of the sun to the northward of the way of the earth; at which time, had the earth been there, the comet would have had a parallax equal to that of the moon; this is spoken to astronomers. But what might be the consequence of so near an appulse, or of a contact, or lastly, of a shock of the celestial bodies, (which is by no means impossible to come to pass), I leave to be discussed by the studious of physical matters." Another return of this comet may clear up its history, and that of the changes of the earth. Its 8th bygone visitation of the earth, happened four years after the time vulgarly assigned for the universal deluge. Four of these visitations have been recorded in history.

rent, L. 80 Sterling; valued rent, L. 160 Scots. Mr Farquharson has a house here, and has inclosed much of his arable land with stone dikes, as Mr Stewart has likewise done; whin or moor stones having at first been plentiful on the grounds. Cally is possessed by one proprietor, Mr Macdonald; rent, L. 91 Sterling; valued rent, L. 228, 17s. Scots. The cultivated part of Cally is a level spot on the left back of the Ardle. It is rather lower ground, and drier than Perfy, but unincloded. Floods of the rivers do no damage to the grounds or corns in these parts, as they never reach so high. There is a large hill or ridge between Perfy and Cally, uncultivated, and level at top, being a continuation of the hilly ground adjacent, and having nearly the same elevation with other high grounds in the neighbourhood. These high grounds seem to have been the original surface of the country; the above cultivated parts among the Grampians having been scooped out by bodies of water running in these beds. Perfy, Cally, and Drimmie, belonged of old to the monks of Cupar Angus: Cally, for this reason, was named Monk's Cally. The inclosed part at Drimmie is chiefly a steep ridge on the left bank of the Eroch, and running parallel thereto, on the N. side of which ridge there is a hollow, and then again a second ascent. This estate is either cultivated or inclosed pasture. The fences are of moor-stone. Much of the soil is wet mortar. It is better soil near the river, where Mr Murison, the proprietor, has a lodge. Rent, L. 160 Sterling; valued rent, L. 508 : 13 : 4 Scots. Drimmie pays no stipend to the minister.

The real rent of the whole parish, as above, is L. 2467 Sterling. The valued rent in the cess books, L. 6045, 14s. Scots.

Runrig formerly.—There is properly no village in the parish. About 40 years ago, the farm houses lay together in clusters, from the ancient policy of self-defence against depredators, and from the conveniency of keeping the cattle on common pasture. The farms lay in runrig, that is, each field was divided into as many parts or ridges as there were farmers in the village; by which the good and bad land was equally divided among all; and in winter, or when in grass, all the ground was common pasturage. Different properties were thus occupied, as well as different farms on the same property. A multiplicity of interfering interests discouraged any attempt at a change. There was not then, nor indeed could there be, any winter turnip, sown grass, or wheat; neither was there any fallow nor potatoes. Lord Privy Seal, whose property lay by itself, was the first that divided and inclosed his farms separately. He was next followed by the owners of Cupar-grange, originally distributed among twelve possessors; but eleven parts of the twelve were now become one property. After which, the Grange of Aberbothry was divided; originally the equal property of eight, now of six persons unequally. There were formerly balks between the ridges; there was no grass private property but what grew on the balks. There are now no balks. Formerly they ploughed with eight oxen, or with four oxen and two horses before them; at present they plough entirely with horses, commonly two in a plough. What corn they had was not much inferior to what grows at present. They ploughed always deep, cleaned the ground in the spring, and dunged it for barley. The whole of the dung was laid on the infield. The outfield, which was the greater proportion, never got any dung. It yielded a crop now and then, after lying several years in grass, or rather in a state of nature; the crop was private property, but the grass was common pasturage.

turage. Formerly they used tumbler sledges for carts; the wheels and axle being all of one piece; they now use carts of a proper construction. Almost all this parish was abbey lands. At the Reformation, the monks sold the lands, and the tenants who resided generally became the purchasers. The circumstance of their purchase made little alteration on their manner of living. Anciently there was no glass in the windows, but only wooden boards; now every window has some glass. There are six gentlemen's houses, and five farm-houses two stories high. The inhabitants formerly had, and some still have, vile smoaky houses for want of vents. This has begun to be remedied in some low thatched houses, by building a three feet wide chimney of mason-work, six feet high, and setting a clay and stake vent above it to go out at the top, three feet wide within every way; narrow vents of mason-work being found to be dangerous in thatched houses.

Tacks.—In the low country part of the parish, the tenants have all tacks of 19, or a smaller number of years; and their rent is paid commonly after the crop is sold and disposed of. In the Highland districts they scarcely have any tacks, and as the tenant may go when he pleases, the rent is paid commonly before the crop is off the ground, according to the practice of the neighbouring Highlands. For some time bygone, the tacks of Lord Privy Seal's tenants have been renewed two years before their expiration. A reasonable rent is fixed on by the heritor, in which the tenant finds it his interest to concur. The consequence is, they are all old tenants on this estate. One family has seen out the century in the same place. In the estates of some other proprietors of the parish, some farms have been let (by newspaper advertisements for private offers) to the highest bidders; this makes landed property an object only
of

of commerce, which is not so favourable for the solidity of society, as that mode (resulting from the principles of the feudal system) by which the tenant, born at the same cradle, and living on the same soil, wishes to lie in the same grave with his fathers. Whereas a tenant, who has been preferred because he was the highest bidder, thinks he owes duty to no man after he has paid his rent. There is one family on the Cupar-grange estate, which has also been there a century. The former tenant in that family kept a piper to play to his shearers all the time of harvest, and gave him his harvest fee: The slowest shearer had always the drone behind him. In the first part of this century, the tenants not only lived together in one village, but each village was almost entirely of one family, allied together by marriage and blood.

Rotation of Crops.—Though every person pursues a rotation of crops of his own, there is no rotation common to all. The tenants on the estate of Cupar-grange are bound to a rotation of six years; three to be white crops, *viz.* oats, barley, and wheat; and three intermediate crops respectively to be green crops, such as grass, pease, flax, turnip, potatoes, or fallow. The tenants on Lord Privy Seal's estate are bound to have no more than two thirds of their land in crop, and to have one third in grass; the grass to lie four years; they are also bound to have half of their ground in grass during the last five years of the tack.

Sowing and Reaping.—Wheat is sown in the months of October and November, a boll to an acre. It is sown after dunged fallow, or after potatoes that have been dunged. The quantity of dung to an acre is from 30 to 40 cart-loads. Those that are near, purchase some Cupar Angus dung; which, when unmixed with earth, is a valuable manure.

nure. It is purchased at 1 s. 6 d. or 2 s. the cart-load. A load of marl, at four miles distance, would cost 50 d. containing 5 bolls. A load of lime, at six miles distance, would cost 12 s. 6 d. the 5 bolls. There is little or none of the two latter at present used here. Wheat, though lately introduced here, is most congenial to the climate of any grain; as it alone, of all of them, stands the winter, and is soonest ripe, and ready to be removed from the autumnal storms. It is begun to be cut down about the end of August, or beginning of September. It has not, however, succeeded on high mountainous grounds. Four or five hundred feet of difference of elevation, makes a very great difference of climate; and of grounds of the same elevation, those nearest the mountains are the coldest and dampest soil.

Oats are sown in the end of March and beginning of April, (a boll to an acre), frequently after grass. They never get any dung, as they grow more luxuriantly, with less fatness of soil, than any other crop can do. They are reaped, last of all the crops, about the end of September or first of October. There is almost no market for oats, excepting feed oats, which sell higher than the price of other oats; but oats are first converted into meal, and then sold. The common people live on oatmeal pottage twice a-day. It is the most wholesome and palatable of all their food, being purely vegetable; notwithstanding the reflection in Johnson's Dictionary, that "oats are eaten by horses in England, and in Scotland by men." Such food makes men strong like horses, and purges the brain of pedantry. It produces hardy Highlanders, who by their strength and dress are so formidable to their enemies, that they call them, "Les diables des Montagnes."

Pease are sown in the end of April. They are not considered as a valuable crop, except on account of the straw; they are precarious to win in harvest.

Barley

Barley is sown about the beginning of May, a boll to an acre. It is sown commonly after turnip, or other green crop, and is reaped about the middle of September. Barley needs to be dunged, if the ground has not been dunged the preceding year. Barley, so called, has two rows in the head like rye : That which has more rows in the head than two, is called Chester Barley. The Chester is that which has been most anciently sown here, and which is still most in request in the high grounds ; but barley is thought the most advantageous crop in the low country.

Flax is sown about the end of April, after a shower, or when the ground is wet. They sow about 10 pecks of lintseed on an acre. The flax is pulled about the end of August, and yields from 18 to 24 stone of flax the acre. There is but little lintseed saved. The flax is laid for five or six nights in the water, and lies afterwards two or three weeks on the grafs.

Potatoes are planted about the end of April ; that most commonly used is the kidney, an egg-shaped white potatoe. There are likewise several other sorts here. Two or three bolls of potatoes are cut and planted on an acre, a yard between the rows, and a foot between the sets. They yield from 20 to 30 bolls and upwards an acre. The ground is twice ploughed at least before planting ; and they are hoed and drilled with the plough two or three times after. They are, or ought to be, taken up before the end of September. The rows are taken up by the plough, and gathered with children and others ; ploughed again, and harrowed before and after ploughing, and gathered at all these times. They are kept in winter generally under ground, but sometimes imperfectly, on account of the moisture getting down among them, and causing them to rot, heat, and shoot in the spring. If they were to be kept dry in an ice house, they would be preserved all the year over from frost, damp, and vegetation,

tation. This is proposed as a subject for a premium by the Highland Society. But I doubt the singularity of my project would operate against my pretensions,—to keep a thing from frost in an ice-house!

The potatoe is the true root of Scarcity, which promises to set Famine at defiance. The poorer sort of people dine and sup chiefly on potatoes, in the season of them. But those that are in a state of servitude, are commonly above eating potatoes. Potatoes * are useful for horses in the spring; they eat them raw.

Turnips are sown the first week of June in drills, the ground having been ploughed (and cleaned) two or three times before sowing. There is the same space left between the drills and between the plants, as in the case of potatoes; and they are cleaned and dressed in the same manner. Sow them when the ground is wet, or prepare your ground, and wait for rain, even a fortnight. They are ready to take up by the middle of November; some of the balls of them are a foot diameter, seldom less than 6 inches. An acre feeds 2 cattle, and puts L. 3 Sterling worth of beef upon each. Both turnip and potatoes are dunged.

Clover and ryegrass † are often sown out with barley, sometimes

* The substance called shot stars is nothing else than frosted potatoes. A night of hard frost, in the end of autumn, in which those meteors called falling stars are seen, reduces the potatoe to the consistence of a jelly, or soft pulp, having no resemblance to a potatoe, except when part of the skin of the potatoe adheres below undissolved. This pulp remains soft and fluid when all things else in nature are consolidated by frost; for which reason it is greedily taken up by crows and other fowls, when no other sustenance is to be had, so that it is often found by man in the actual circumstance of having fallen from above, having its parts scattered and dispersed by the fall, according to the law of falling bodies. This has given rise to the name and vulgar opinion concerning it.

† *Rye-grass*.—The most troublesome weed to farmers, and which it is the object of fallow chiefly to destroy, is that sort of grass called *Quicken*, which

sometimes with other crops; 16 lb. of clover feed on an acre, and two bushels of ryegrass; the products on good ground is 200 stone of hay.

Quantity and Weight of Grain.—There are about 1500 acres to the W. and 1800 acres to the E. of the confluence of Eroch and Isla; in all 3300 acres; of which,

896	acres are sown with oats;
421	with barley or bear;
148	with wheat;
129	with pease;
58	with potatoes;
43	with flax;
87	with turnip;
130	in fallow;
1230	in sown grass;
158	in natural grass;

3300 acres.

The estates of Drimmie, Perfy, and Cally, sow besides about 260 bolls of oats, and 150 bolls of bear. The average produce in the low country part, is 5 bolls the acre of oats and bear; 8 bolls of wheat; 3 bolls of pease, Linlithgow measure; 20 to 50 bolls potatoes, being 4 heaped barley firlots the boll, or 20 stone meal-weight. In the Highland districts, the produce of oats and bear is 3 bolls. Oats weigh 12 or 13 stone meal-weight, (in the low country); barley 18 stone, and wheat 14 stone, the boll, Linlithgow measure;

which propagates by shoots from its roots, which spread under ground. This grass is so like rye-grass, that however well farmers know its roots, I scarcely know any of them that can distinguish the grass of it from rye-grass. The quicken grass grows with the seeds of it arranged in the manner of wheat, while the seeds of the rye-grass are arranged in the manner of rye. I believe the seeds of this weed are apt to be sown for rye-grass by mistake.

measure; the oat and barley firloft being to the wheat and peafe firloft as 3 to 2 nearly; the ftandard wheat firloft is very nearly equal to the Englifh bufhel, being 110th part larger. Good oats yield a boll of meal of 8 ftone for a boll of oats. Good barley yields a boll and a half of meal, or 12 ftone, for a boll of barley. By the above weights, I mean meal-weight, or Scotch avoirdupois, a ftone, or 16 lb. of which are equal to 17 lb. 6 ounces Englifh avoirdupois. The firloft of the parifh is the Dundee barley firloft, which is 3 lippies in the boll, or a 20th part larger than the Perth firloft. The Perth firloft is a 25th part larger than the true ftandard. Some farmers of late keep two barley firlofts, one for Dundee and another for Perth. The Perth wheat firloft, which is ufed here, is alfo faid to be a 30th part larger than the true ftandard*. The prices of victual have been fo variable of late, that nothing particular can be faid of them. The average of wheat fome years bygone was L. 1 Sterling the boll; of oatmeal, 13 s. 4 d.; of bear, 14 s. or 15 s. In this year of fcarcity, we have feen the wheat at 50 s. the boll; the bear at 27 s. and the oatmeal at 24 s. the boll, from the failure of crop 1795.

Cattle.—There are 1229 horned cattle of all ages and fexes in the parifh. I have no other general name to them; but many of them are dodded, that is, wanting horns: We call them Cattle, to diftinguifh them from horfes, of which there are 232 in the parifh, young and old. Cattle weigh from 20 to 40 ftone, meal-weight. A fat ox of 40 ftone,

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* If a rod of 63 inches 77 decimal parts, vibrating 47 times in a minute, were adopted as an univerfal ftandard of meafure; the length of the rod would be equal to a chord of the equator, fubtending the angle of acceleration of the fixed ftars in the time of one vibration. So that the length of the rod, multiplied by the number of its vibrations in a year, would be equal to a great circle of the earth meafured along the equator.

last year, brought L. 10 Sterling. Horses sell from L. 12 to L. 20 Sterling; a horse will draw 80 stone of coals from Perth, on a cart. There are no sheep kept in the low country part of the parish, but some in the Highlands. We have no asses here, but some swine.

Butter and Cheese.—There is a good deal of butter and cheese made; but the cheese is less valuable than it would be, by wanting the substance of the butter. Butter sells at 10 d. the pound of 20 ounces Scotch, equal to 22 ounces English avoirdupois. Merchants retail it salted during winter, giving 16 ounces English for a pound, by which the unwary purchaser loses 6 ounces. Cheese is sold by the country people (22 lb. English avoirdupois to the stone) at 4 s. 6 d. and is retailed by the merchants at 16 of these pounds to the stone. These are grievous evils to the poor, and originate from not restricting the inhabitants, efficaciously, to the use only of one weight and one measure. I have known an instance in churning butter, in which the cream, after more than ordinary labour, cast up only one pound of butter instead of four, which it ought. By standing a while to cool, and having the labour repeated over again, it cast up the other three pounds of butter.

When Kitty kirked, and there nae butter came,
Ye, Maufe, gat a' the wyte. ALLAN RAMSAY.

Yarn.—There is a good deal of linen yarn spun in the parish, and some of it is weaved. The women spin with both hands, 10 hairs a-day. The price of yarn has been as variable, of late, as that of victual, from 25 d. to 43 d. the spindle. They spin 12 hairs, sale yarn, out of the English pound avoirdupois.

Mills.

Mills.—There are two lint-mills in the parish, and four corn-mills, for grinding. There are three mills erected in the parish for threshing corn. Each mill is driven by three or four horses. It threshes a boll in ten more out of wheat than is done by flails. But the mill breaks the wheat-straw much, and unfits it for thatch. The expence of mounting one is L. 30 or L. 40 Sterling. One of these has about 80 revolutions of the threshing-drum for one revolution of the horse's wheel. But as the horse's tract is eight times larger than the circumference of the threshing-drum, the threshers move with only ten times the velocity of the horses. These mills give satisfaction.

Rent and Produce.—The whole rent of the parish is L. 2467 Sterling. The crop and annual industry of the people is worth about four times that sum, little short of L. 10,000 Sterling. Of this, one-fourth goes to sow the ground, and furnish implements of husbandry; one-fourth to pay the rent; one-fourth to pay and maintain the servants, (men's wages being from L. 10 to L. 13, and women's wages L. 4 Sterling); and one-fourth to support the farmer's family. Before the farms were divided, and the late mode of farming adopted, there was only "ane to saw, " and ane to gnaw, and ane to pay the Laird witha'." This is sometimes the case still. The stock and tiend of the whole parish, according to the valuation of the presbytery of Meigle, A. D. 1630, was 84 chalders 3 bolls 2 pecks of victual, and L. 3131 : 4 : 10 Scotch of money; and turning the money into victual, at L. 100 Scotch the chalders, (which seems to have been the rule then used in the valuation, the whole stock and tiend, estimated in victual, was 115 chalders. But the present rent being L. 2467 Sterling, would be equal to 192 chalders, at 16 s. Sterling the boll. The value

value of the parish at that time, therefore, was little more than half its present value.

Stipend.—The stipend is $6\frac{1}{2}$ chalders of victual, two parts oatmeal, and third part barley, and L. 33 : 6 : 8 Sterling of money. The present incumbent, who is a native of the parish, was settled, A. D. 1785. Mr Alexander Dun was minister for 36 years before that; and Mr James Ramsay, before him, was 47 years minister of this parish. He began with the century, and was the first Presbyterian minister after the Revolution: The people having retained the Episcopal minister 12 years after the Revolution, and having adhered to him some time even after the settlement of his successor. His name was Mr Rankin.—The age of the church is not known; it was newly seated about 20 years ago. The wood of the roof is 100 years old. The manse was repaired five years ago. It is mostly all new, except the cupples and joists, and floors, and part of the fore and back wall. It has stood about 70 years. The school stands at Cupar-grange. The salary is now 200 merks Scotch. English, arithmetic, and writing, are taught by the present schoolmaster. I believe there is no native of the parish who has not been taught to read.

Chapel.—A chapel of ease was built about eleven years ago at North Perfy, for the accommodation of the people in the neighbourhood. It cost L. 150 Sterling, raised by contributions in the country. It is slated, seated, and contains 400 people. The seat-rents and collections amount to about L. 30, which maintains the preacher. Application was made for aid from the Royal bounty, and from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, without effect. In this last case, the failure was partly owing to the want of concurrence on the part of landed gentlemen, to

comply with the rules of the Society, which require half of the preacher's salary to be made good by them. There is a burial-ground at Cally. The chapel at Perfy is nine miles from the parish-church.

Poor.—There are at present 7 poor persons on the list, who get from 2 s. to 5 s. monthly; in all, L. 1 : 2 : 6, monthly. The monthly collections are 8 s. L. 6 Sterling is raised by an assessment of 2 s. yearly on the L. 100 Scotch valued rent, paid equally by the heritors and tenants. The kirk-session had lent L. 100 Sterling to Mr Robertson of Strathloch, *alias* Baron Reid, which, after his failure, lay 25 years in captivity in the hands of his trustee, till it amounted to L. 147 Sterling, when it was again recovered. Most part of that sum had not been three months in the hands of Bertram, Gardner, and Company, when it was again unfortunate. The session have L. 40 at interest besides the above. The session-clerk's fee is L. 1 yearly. Five shillings of monthly pension is only 2 d. a-day; when the poor people have no other support, it cannot detain them long from that country, where the weary are at rest.

Wages.—When people are well, and in health, they do not provide for the days of infirmity, which may be many, nor think of the years of which they shall say, they have no pleasure therein. L. 5 Sterling were great wages ten years ago. Twice that sum is the common hire of men servants at present; and some have the face to ask, and the luck to obtain, near three times that sum, besides food. The wages of a day-labourer are 8 d. or 10 d. a-day, besides food; of a wright or mason, 1 s. 8 d. or 1 s. 10 d. without meat; of a man shearer for the harvest, L. 2 Sterling; of a woman, above L. 1, and meat; of a man shearer for a day, 1 s. 6 d.; of a woman, 1 s. and meat. It is too little the
 practice

practice of farmers to keep cottars, by which means people are not raised on the grounds sufficient to perform the work. They think it more profitable to import them from the Highlands. A new cart costs L. 6 Sterling; harnessing for it costs L. 2, 10 s. An iron-headed plough, and cast metal mould-board, costs L. 2. A new harrow costs 7 s. The threshing a boll of oats costs the 25th boll.

Fuel.—Most of the people bring any peats they use from the mofs of Cochrige, in the parish of Kinloch, being seven hours in going and returning. Coals from Dundee or Perth are the chief fuel used by those that have carts to drive them.

Bridges.—There was a bridge built over the Isla, on the road from Cupar Angus to Fort George, by Government, in 1766. The arches are five. The middle arch is 30 feet above the summer water; and the road over is 15 feet wide. The road is sometimes impassable, on the south side, at high floods. The bridge is built nearly over the only two natural great stones in the middle of the river, called the *riding stone* and the *wading stone*; and as works of nature outlive those of art, they may shew the place where it stood after it is gone. There is another bridge over the Arde at Cally, on the same road, and a bridge at Stron, over the Shee, on another road, both of one arch. There is a boat over the Eroch at Cupar-grange for foot people.

Bendothy.—Bendothy was the parish church of Cupar Angus before the abolition of Popery. The church was then more central for the parish than it is at present. The seats of Keithick, in that parish, stood in the church here before the late repairs. There is a stone in this church upon Nicol Campbell, proprietor of Keithick, son of Donald, abbot of Cupar, and grandson of the Earl of Argyle, who

who died, A. D. 1587, aged 70. His brother, David Campbell, proprietor of Denhead, (in Cupar parish), is also buried here. He died, A. D. 1584, aged 88. There is also a stone on Leonard Leslie, (entitled, *Dominus de Cupro*), commendator of Cupar, who died, A. D. 1605, aged 81. There is a figure in the wall of John Cummin, proprietor of Couty, in this parish, dressed in a coat of mail, A. D. 1606.

St Fink.—There has anciently been a chapel at St Fink, dedicated to that faint. That part of the parish which is eastward of the confluence of Eroch and Isla, would seem, from its situation, to have belonged to this chapel. The houses near to it are called the Chapeltown, and the foundation of the chapel remains at St Fink. There has anciently been a burying-ground round the chapel. The present proprietor dug out some heads, without a body, (each inclosed between four square stones, fitted to hold the head); probably the heads of people who had been slain at a distance in battle. There was a cairn of stones on his estate, which he also opened up, and below the stones, among the loose earth, which was black with burnt ashes, he found human bones, which had undergone fire; and upon digging down into the firm ground below, he found two inverted urns, which had been placed in pits dug for them, each urn containing human bones; the bones and urns were in perfect preservation. The urns were large enough to hold the thigh and leg bones, and other bones, entire. They were adorned with rude sculpture, but had no inscription.

Pictish buildings.—In digging in the grounds of Mudhall several subterraneous buildings were uncovered, which, when cleared of the ashes and earth with which they were filled, were found to be about 6 feet wide within walls, 5 feet deep, and 40 feet long, or more. They were built in the sides, and
paved

In A. D. 1648 were 30 Baptisms.

1702,	42 baptisms.		1779,	20 baptisms.
1749,	33		1795,	18

Males.	Females.	Relative Situations.
160	—	Male householders.
	66	women bearing children.
	65	women past, and not bearing.
	19	widows.
	11	unmarried women keeping house.
7	—	weavers not householders.
2	—	wrights ditto.
66	—	male relations of the house.
	106	female relations.
100	—	male servants.
	74	female servants.
105	—	males under 10 years.
	97	females under 10 years.
—	—	—
440	438	males and females.
438	—	females.
<hr/>		
878 souls.		

Ages of the People.

Persons.	Years.	Years.	Persons.	Years.	Years.
202	from 0	to 10	52	from 60	to 70
178	10	20	9	70	80
147	20	30	1	above	80
120	30	40	<hr/>		
94	40	50	In all, 878 souls.		
75	50	60			

Religious Persuasions.

696	Establishment.		3	Episcopals.
143	Seceders.		2	Papists.
32	Relievers.		In all, 878 souls.	

Language,—Is the common Scotch, which has not altered much in pronounciation and diction since Gavin Douglas's * translation of the Æneid in that language. It is a provincial dialect of the English. Some words are of

* There are, in this translation, a great many learned and foreign words from the Latin and other languages, which (in the manner of Johnson's phraseology) do not egerminate from the vernacular tongue.

Greek original. *Ben*, is βενος, a hill; *broch*, (about the moon), is βροχος, a chain about the neck; *brose*, is βρωσις, meat. *Cæsar de Bel. Gal. lib. 6. f. 13, 14.* says, the Druids in Gaul spoke the Greek language, their schools being formed on the model of those in Britain. Some words are of French original; *blancheau*, (milk and water), is, *blanche eau*, white water; *ma'gre*, (in spite of), is *malgre*; *ingle*, (the fire), may be traced in the Latin *ignis*. The celebrated author of the *Wealth of Nations* observes, that people who live in the country have more intelligence than those in towns. Farming does not require many words, but much reflection and observation, and great exertion and industry. People that live in retirement are not so expert in the use of words as they that live in society are; but their tongues are better indexes of their hearts. They do not need to live on little traffic, which is a great enemy to truth and morals; and are not always a match for those arts of trade, by which towns-people sometimes take them in.

Religion, &c.—There is more of the external form, and, I believe, real substance of religion, here in Scotland, at least on one day of the week, than is to be seen in other places out of Scotland. The clergy commonly repeat their sermons from memory, that they may avoid the prejudices which would otherwise arise against them from suspected want of ability and inspiration,—prejudices, which, however groundless they may be in their cause, are real in their consequences. Socrates, a wise man in his life, was certainly a fool at his death, which was occasioned by his despising the opinions of the people. Such as are disaffected to the church, are, more commonly than otherwise, very indifferent about the state. It is singular to see or hear of them lifting up one hand, in their own way, to
 implore

implore a blessing on the gospel, and stretching out the other, to the enemy, to help to pull it down. They stumble on that block, which bears the inscription, that the Pope is Antichrist. But who is Antichrist now? He or his enemies? The Revelation of St John decides it: "He is Antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son." Why, my friends, you care as little for the gospel and the Sabbath-day, as you do for the Pope, or the Establishment; otherwise you would not expose the shame of your nakedness, by joining with Sans Cullotes, to dance with them upon the decade. One word more on this subject, and I have done. Babylon was a great city, and no better than it should be. Rome was a great city, and the whore of Babylon. Beware of making cities too great. They are capable of making sudden tumults. It was not France, but Paris, that twice overturned the Government, and left every man to do that which was right in his own eyes. To prevent the exorbitant growth of cities may be done by individuals, but is not to be attempted by statesmen. If the property of the nation were spent by its possessors in provincial towns, (rather than all collected at the metropolis), property would be less liable to the effect of sudden convulsions. The most despotic and cruel of all governors were the mobs of Athens and Rome. From such inhuman masters, Good Lord deliver us!

Canal.—A canal would be very beneficial to this country. It could be brought from Perth, along the east bank of the Tay, as far as the head of the Stormont-field canal; and could from thence be carried on higher grounds to Cupar Angus, from whence is level ground all along to the Loch of Forfar, which is not quite 200 feet above the level of the sea.

Climatt.

Climate.—For two months of summer there is a strong twilight all night, so that one can read ordinary print by it in the open air at midnight; the sun being only 10 degrees under the horizon. In summer, in the shade, the thermometer stands at about 60° on Farenheit's scale, in warm weather above, and in cold weather below that point. There is almost no difference between the state of the thermometer here, and that at Edinburgh, as printed in the newspapers; in winter, the thermometer is very variable. One night, in December 1794, it was down 24° below freezing. This was very uncommon. The W. wind is the most common; it is a dry wind. The N. wind is also dry, and blows in winter. The E. wind is accompanied with rain; but in spring it is sometimes dry. The S. wind is a wet wind, and seldom blows. The S. W. wind, which blows in the direction of the strath, is the most common of all others. The air is often still at evening and morning, and then the S. W. wind blows at mid-day, and in the afternoon a good gale. The barometer is high in good weather and frost, and falls after wind and rain.

A great fall of snow in winter seems to change the climate above it from the time of its fall, while it continues upon the ground. It prevents the cold of the atmosphere from descending to the earth, and the heat of the earth from ascending to the atmosphere. Ground that is not frozen when the snow falls on it, will not freeze after. One day a good many years ago, I saw the hoar frost on the ice of the river, in the morning, half an inch long. It was feathered like fern, and had great resemblance to vegetation. The icy particles at that time clouded the atmosphere, and individually were visible to the eye. Though the frost in December 1794 was the most severe ever known, there was a pool of still water in Isla river that did not freeze. I think that a complete coat of ice alters the temperature

of the water under it, and prevents it from being cooled by the atmosphere, so that it has not the same disposition to freeze as it had before it was covered. If hedges or dikes were raised 30 yards from the road side, that space would hold all the driven snow, and the road would be free from it.

The crop 1795, having been a bad crop, and having raised the oatmeal to 24 s. and the wheat to 50 s. the boll, a sketch of the weather may not be unacceptable. The frost began on the 18th December 1794, and continued to the 4th of January. It began again on the 10th of January; snowed on the 19th and 20th, and continued deep snow. March 13. there was some blackness on the ground; March 11. the river ice broke, and went down; March 19. wreaths still in hollows; Sidlaw hills still continued white; March 23. ploughs going; March 31. rain and flood; April 4. sowing; April 15. snow nearly off Sidlaw hills; May 9. snowing; thermometer about 48° all May; all summer below 60° except a day or two. The harvest dry till the 9th of October, and wheat and barley partly in; on the 9th of October a flood, wind S. E.; on 10th, another flood; barometer about $29\frac{1}{4}$; rain continued to the 18th, wind S. E.; barometer $29\frac{1}{4}$; thermometer 50° . October 23, 24. dry, high wind, S. W.; barometer $28\frac{1}{4}$; taking in the corn; the ears of the uncut oats sprung, standing upright in the fields.

Phenomenon.—One night I observed in the air a long narrow stripe of a whitish cloud, one end of which was near me; its position was horizontal. The end next to me, as it advanced, became more red, bent into a curve; then revolved upon itself with a very quick spiral motion, and the appearance of intense fire; and though it was quite calm where I stood, the phenomenon was attended with the
found

found of a whirlwind, which I would have perceived it to have been, had it been day-light, and a cloud of dust to make it visible.

Artificial Appearance.—I believe much of the corruscation of the *Aurora Borealis* proceeds from reflection in the atmosphere. One night I perceived the atmosphere illuminated in quick succession of red flashes, like the *Aurora*, to an angle of 20° or 30° elevation, and found it was done by boys, burning pop-tow, about a mile distant, and that the successive corruscations of the atmosphere were occasioned by the tossings of the tow.

Conjecture.—I have sometimes, in very clear nights, perceived the Milky-way to be a great circle in the heavens, passing near Aquila, Cygnus, Sirius; and I find it goes through the southern hemisphere in the same circle continued. Its plane, therefore, is a plane which passes through the centre of the earth. The conjecture I have founded on this is, that the Milky-way exhibits to us the position of the universe, which is a plane (of small comparative thickness) lying in the position of the Milky-way. What supports this conjecture is, that the small motion which the sun has among the fixed stars, is, in this plane, towards Aquila.

Diseases incident to Wheat—are the black and rust. The black is the most hurtful. The covering of the grain is entire, but within it is all black powder, which afterwards blackens, and hurts the sound wheat. If you pull up a blacked stalk, all the stalks that rise with it from the same root are blacked likewise. It is most common in rainy summers; no effectual remedy is found. Potatoes are sometimes liable to the scab or curl, especially if the ground be
poor,

poor, and they be burned with the summer's drought. It seems to proceed from animals * scraping the skin, when they can get nothing else to live on.

Diseases incident to Children—are, the small-pox, chin-cough, measles. The ague, formerly frequent here, is now seldom known. It seems to have arisen from colds, and working too early in the morning to avoid the heat of the day. There are some fevers that are epidemical; and some are infectious to those of the same blood and family, but not to others.

Stormont.—The Stormont Loch, at the corner of this parish, has been thought by some to give name to the district of Stormont, which lies between that place and Dunkeld. But the word *Stour* signifying a fight or battle, (see Johnson's Dictionary on the word), that name seems rather to have arisen from the Stormont having been the field of battle † between Agricola and Galgacus in the 84th year of the
the

* The caterpillars are sometimes hurtful to gooseberry bushes. The animals I speak of begin at the leaves next the root of the bush, and eat every leaf as they proceed, gradually up to the top; and when the bush is made bare, they descend, and begin at the bush next adjacent, proceeding from bottom to top in the same manner. To save the bushes, make a rope of tanfy, about the grossness of one's arm, and lay one upon the ground, at the root of each bush, so as to encompass the stalk of the bush completely. Its smell is offensive to the animals, and prevents them from ascending.
Probatum est.

† The account, which was transmitted to the editor hereof some years ago, of this parish, and of the traces of the above event in the Stormont, having been lost or mislaid, and the clergy more immediately concerned having concurred in the opinions therein suggested, it will be unnecessary for me to do more than glance on a few leading points, and to compare the history of Tacitus with the appearances, and both these with the account of
Boethius,

Christian æra. Of this battle there are traces at **Mause or Maws**, on the road from the church of **Bendothy** to the chapel at **Perfy**.

Boethius, which came to my hand and knowledge, after I had formerly transmitted to the editor hereof the substance of what follows.

Tacitus, in the Life of Agricola, says, that Agricola "ad montem Grampium pervenit, quem jam hostes infederant;" arrived at Mount Grampius, where the Britons had already sat down; which must be some place on the side of the Grampian mountains, where they rise from Strathmore. That it was beyond the estuary of the Tay, may be meant by the words of Agricola on the occasion, "transisse æstuarium." It was within the province of the Horesti, the boundary or "finis" of which extended to the shore and the fleet, ("deduxit exercitum in fines Horestorum;") from which he returned again through the territory of the newly conquered people: this cannot accord with any other place than Angus, and part of Perthshire, eastward of the Tay.

The Buzzart Dikes on Garrydrums, in the parish of Kinloch, (being earthen dikes of 8 or 10 feet high, inclosing great part of a square mile), we take to be the place of Mount Grampius where the Britons had already sat down, "quem jam hostes infederant," and which contained the "læta præda victoribus." This place is near the tumuli, and the appearances of the field of action, and it is four miles N. from the Roman camp at Micklehour. As the camp stood on the grounds of the Horesti, the latter part of the word Micklehour is the word aimed at by Tacitus. The Roman camp of Micklehour is formed by the confluence of Tay and Isla; it stretches two miles along the Tay, two miles along the Isla, and two miles and a half along the dike that incloses it. It contains a prætorium on the side next the Isla. The above-mentioned dike is called Cleaven Dike, (that is, the dike of the fork or confluence); a mile and a half of it is still standing towards the Tay. There is a draught of it in Stobie's map of Perthshire; but it cannot be traced within half a mile of the prætorium; the map stretches it out too far on the end next the prætorium. The Tay had formerly run nearer the W. end of the dike than it does at present. Cleaven Dike is 20 feet broad at present, and about 5 feet high, and has been made out of two parallel trenches that are 20 yards from the dike on the opposite sides of it. Cleaven Dike has openings at the W. end, and the middle, for the egress and ingress of an army. The camp has a small exploratory fortification within it, on the top of an eminence. It lies in the parish of Caputh. Cleaven Dike is the "vallum" of Tacitus. His expression would not be accurate, but in a case like this, where there is only one line of dike

to the camp. The Roman legions, he says, were drawn up "pro vallo," before the vallum of Cleaven Dike, at such distance behind the battle, that they could be of no immediate service there; and therefore, upon seeing the number of the enemy, many advised to bring up the legions, "plerique admonebant arcessendas legiones." A mile and a half west from Micklehour is another Roman camp at Inchtuthill, a proud inch or island within the high flood-mark of the Tay; and which the watch-place (or trenches, called the Steed's Stalls, in the parish of Cluny), was intended to overlook: The said trenches, 8 in number, fit to hold and conceal 1000 horses, being in a straight line between Buzzart Dikes and Inchtuthill. Another watch-place on the same eminence overlooks the camp at Micklehour.

The *Stour-ment*, or main battle, happened in the heart of the Stormont, upon ascending ground, in the parishes of Kinloch, Cluny, and Blairgowrie, at the places called, Cairns, Upper Balcairn, Nether Balcairn, Cairnbutts, and Craig Roman, on the side of the Grampian ridge, between 3 and 4 miles N. from Micklehour, (Cairn being a common name given to artificial collections of stones and earth laid over the dead). The ascent is intersected by many singular ridges, or drums, that run parallel to the base of the mountain; these are the "colles" noticed by Tacitus, "erigere in colles aciem cœpere." The Garrydrums, on which the Caledonian camp of Buzzart Dikes lies, are very singular ground, being several high and narrow ridges or drums, (of which the farmer that occupies them observed as follows, "Gentlemen that come to see this place say, that they never saw the like of them in any country.") These drums are mentioned by Tacitus in the words following: "Britanni, qui adhuc pugnae expertes summa collium infederant, degressi paulatim et circumire terga vincentium cœperant." The Here Cairns of Gormak, below, and immediately contiguous, lying close together, about 80 in number, and about 15 feet each by 5 in height, mark the contest that followed; "quantoque ferocius accurrerant, tanto acrius pulsos in fugam disjecisset."

The flight is still to be traced by numerous tumuli, through Maws, in the parish of Blairgowrie, along the track that lies between the moor of Cochridge on the W. and the river Eroch on the E.; "grande et atrox spectaculum,—corpora, et laceri artus, et cruenta humus." The Great Cairn of Maws lies in this tract, not far from the woody banks of the Eroch: "Ira virtusque victis; postquam silvis appropinquarunt *, collecti, primos circumveniebant." This cairn is 27 yards broad, and about four feet high.

It

* *When a troublesome person abstains from fighting, upon finding that he is like to meet with his master, the fight is said to be "let a-be for let a-be, like the fight of Maws."*

It was opened, in the centre, by the writer hereof, and found to contain human teeth found, and a great quantity of human bones much reduced, which were mixed with charcoal, and lodged among loose earth, having undergone the fire, which contributes to the preservation both of the bones and charcoal. This is the grave of the 340 Romans who fell. The Britons lost 10,000. I found burned bones also in a small tumulus adjacent.

Compare what has been above said with the words of Boethius the historian. "Romani ad Taum haud procul a Caledoniæ castro (Dunkelden) confedere. Tulinam, ne Romanis dedita, illis refugium foret, concremarunt (Britanni). Locum Inchtuthil nostra ætas vocat, conjuges et omnem rem pecuariam, in Grampium transfulerunt montem. Facto consensu, eo devenere, ut imminente hyeme, præliis abstinerentur, et prohiberent, ne Pictorum agros, cis Taum, Romani occuparent. Secundum hæc Galdus (Scotorum Rex) Atholiam hyemavit, Pictus vero et Gildo munitionibus, quæ tum in Horestia erant, haud procul a Tao, hyemem transgere. Sequentæ ætate, Agricola ligneum pontem in castris fecit, eo Tao fluvio strato, universum Romanum exercitum transportatum, in campos, haud procul a Grampii montis radicibus deduxit. Perculit rei fama Pictorum copias, qui proximis villis et munitionibus hyemabant, ut Galdum periculi facerent certiozem. Galdus, cum exercitu, Grampio monte superato, in vallem deveniens, Pictorum, Noruegorum, Danorumque copiis est adjunctus, loco haud procul a Romano exercitu diverso. Atrox pugna donec sera nox. Multa prodigia in Albione, antequam Galdus cum Romanis pugnam iniret. Natum Tulinæ monstrum."

On the year following, he says, "Romani noctu Tulinam adiere, inde pontem, quem Tao, proximo anno, imposuerant, diruerunt."

Concerning his authority he says, "Ex quibus hanc historiam collegi, nostræ gentis peculiariter Veremundus Archidiaconus S. Andrew, natione Hispanus, qui ab exordio historiam, usque ad Malcolm III. tempora cui opus dicavit, contexuit, (A. D. 1060); Turgotus, Campbellus, quos tres, ex Iona insula, ad nos comportandos curavimus." And in another place, "Veremundi rude vetustate historia, abunde omnia complectens, quem authorem sumus insequuti."

It is unnecessary to observe on the above, that Boethius means that Agricola fought Galgacus in the Stormont, near Inchtuthill, and the east bank of the Tay. It is a pity that Veremund should be lost. His book may perhaps yet exist in the library of Aberdeen College, of which Boethius was Principal. More respect is due to Boethius, as an historian, than is commonly granted to him. They are his facts, and not his prodigies, or opinions of the day, by which we are to acquit or condemn an historian.

Mr Cant, the editor of Adamson's old poem, in his notes thereon, besides making several curious observations and discoveries on Roman antiquities, mentions

mentions the scene near Blairgowrie as the most likely place where Agricola fought Galgacus: Published A. D. 1774, at Perth.

Fingal, the hero of Ossian, is mentioned by Boethius, and his time conjectured to be about the departure of the Romans from Britain. "Conjuncti quidem in hæc tempora Finanum filium Cœli (Fyn Maccoul, vulgari vocabulo) virum, uti ferunt immansi statura, Scotici sanguinis venatoria arte insignem." Compare with this Mr Banks's description of the island of Staffa, and a celebrated cave there. "We asked the name of it; the Cave of Fiuhn, said our guide. What is Fiuhn? said we. Fiuhn Maccoul, replied he, whom the translator of Ossian's works has called Fingal. How fortunate, that in this cave we should meet with the remembrance of that chief, whose existence, as well as the whole epic poem, is almost doubted in England!"

I was so impressed with the records of Boethius having a foundation in fact, that I sought for Fingal, and found him there; but was somewhat disappointed to find, that Boethius knew more of him than he chose to tell; for he also is among the crowd of infidels, concerning the marvellous achievements of that hero.

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF TANNADICE,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNES,
PRESBYTERY OF FORFAR).

By JOHN JAMIESON, D.D. *Forfar*.

Name, Situation, &c.

THERE is no evidence that the name of this parish has been changed. The more ancient orthography is *Tannadys* or *Tannadyse*. This name is most probably of Gaelic origin.

It needs scarcely to be observed, that this parish is situated in the county of Forfar, in the presbytery of Forfar, and in the synod of Angus and Mearns. It extends about twelve English miles from E. to W.; in some places it is eight or ten miles broad; but, at an average, about four. It is bounded by the parish of Cortachie on the W.; by Outhlaw and Aberlemno on the S.; by Fern and Carraldstone on the E.; and by Fern and Lethnot on the N.

The

The greatest part of the ground is hilly or mountainous. The soil, in the lower parts of the parish, is in general good. It is more inclined to clay than sand, except on the brink of the river Esk. The air is dry, pretty sharp in winter, but in general wholesome. In former times the ague prevailed much, especially in one district, called the Glen of Ogil. But now the case is otherwise. The most common distemper is the low nervous fever, which may indeed be considered as the characteristic distemper of this county. Twenty or thirty years ago, what is commonly called the *louping ague* greatly prevailed. This disease, in its symptoms, has a considerable resemblance to *St Vitus's dance*. Those affected with it, when in a paroxysm, often leap or spring in a very surprising manner, whence the disease has derived its vulgar name. They frequently leap from the floor to what, in cottages, are called the *baulks*, or those beams by which the rafters are joined together. Sometimes they spring from one to another with the agility of a cat, or whirl round one of them with a motion resembling the fly of a jack. At other times they run, with astonishing velocity, to some particular place out of doors, which they have fixed on in their minds before, and perhaps mentioned to those in company with them, and then drop down quite exhausted. It is said, that the clattering of tongs, or any noise of a similar kind, will bring on the fit. This melancholy disorder still makes its appearance; but it is far from being so common as formerly. Some consider it as entirely a nervous affection; others as the effect of worms. In various instances, the latter opinion has been confirmed by facts.

There are several mineral springs within the bounds of this parish, but none of any consequence. It contains no lake. But the want is amply supplied by the beautiful South Esk, which in some places forms the boundary of the
parish,

parish, and in others runs through it; and by the limpid Noran, a stream which seeks its way from the hills to Esk over a very clear and pebbly bed. The name of Esk is common to a number of rivers in Britain; and the reason is obvious, as it literally signifies *water*; being the Celtic word *Uisc* or *Isc*, with very little variation. The manner in which the people of this country generally speak of the North Esk evidently respects the meaning of the name; for they call it *the North Water*. It is at least highly probable that South Esk may be viewed as a classical river, as the *Aefica* of the Romans. In the Itinerary of Richard of Cirencester, *ad Aeficam* is mentioned as one of the Roman stations in the province of Vespasiana; and it is marked as twenty-three miles distant from *ad Tavum*, or one of their stations on Tay. Now, although there are remains of a Roman camp at Kethick, near North Esk, the distance does not answer; whereas there is a Roman camp at Battle-dikes, on the other side of the river from Tannadice*.

The banks of Esk present a variety of delightful and romantic scenes. By far the greater part of this parish lies on the north side of the river. Here many salmon and sea-trout used to be caught; but of late years their number is much diminished. This is greatly owing to the height of the dam-dikes erected further down the river. It is also a general complaint with those who are fond of fishing, that, where there are *cruives*, no regard is paid to the old equitable law concerning the Saturday's *Sloppe*.

Here, a good number of years ago, a considerable fishing was carried on in Esk for the fresh water oyster, in order to procure pearls. Some of these were so valuable, that L. 4 have been given for one at the first market. One was got
nearly

* This camp is described in No. 36 of the Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica; and in Gough's edition of Camden's Britannia.

nearly as large as the ball of a pocket pistol. They were generally bought up, from those who fished for them, by people from Brechin; and it is said that this trade turned out to good account to some individuals engaged in it. More than twenty years ago it was given up; some say, that there was not the same demand for the pearls as formerly. It is asserted, however, that the shells were nearly exhausted, by reason of the great number of hands employed in collecting them.

The only remarkable mountain in this parish is St Arnold's feat; on the top of which there is a large cairn. The hills are covered with heath, but are not rocky. The parish exhibits no appearances which may be called volcanic, in the common sense of the term. But one natural phenomenon deserves to be mentioned. Near the eastern extremity of the parish is a spot of ground, commonly called, the *Deil's Hows*, i. e. the *Devil's Hollows*. It has received this name from its being supposed that the devil has here given some remarkable displays of his presence and power. It is a small hollow, surrounded with moorish ground. At different times, within the memory of some alive, pieces of earth, of 150 or 160 stones weight, have been thrown out from the adjoining ground, without any visible cause. Upon examining the spot, however, and digging to the depth of a foot and a half, or two feet, there appears a *stratum* of a yellowish colour, mixed with small stones, thoroughly impregnated in the same manner. At first it seemed that the occasional eruptions might be partly owing to some sulphureous substance confined here. But in consequence of subjecting one of the stones to a chemical process, it appears to contain no sulphur, nothing but argillaceous earth and iron. When calcined, the substance forms a good red ochre. I have been informed by one who has resided many years in the neighbourhood, that such eruptions

tions have taken place in this spot three or four times within his recollection, at the distance of twelve or sixteen years from each other.

I have heard of no figured stone but one, which was lately found in the foundation of an old house; the back of which house formed part of the wall of the church-yard. It exhibits the figure of a man, very rudely cut, with his head uncovered, and having a loose garment, like a Highland *plaid*, thrown over his shoulders. With the one hand he lays hold of the mouth of an animal, which has been thought to be a lion, but has more appearance of a wild boar. With the other, he brandishes a sword or dagger, with which he threatens destruction to his prey. There has been an inscription over the head of this figure, as would seem, in Saxon characters. But only two or three of these are now discernible; as the stone has not only been broken into two pieces, but has been otherwise mutilated, by the unsparing hands of some workmen employed to repair the wall. It is not improbable, that this might be an ancient grave-stone.

In a rock, at the western extremity of the parish, exactly on the north side of the bridge of Cortachie, a very coarse kind of marble is found, in small veins. Not far from this, in the parish of Cortachie, is a rock, the stones found in which, from the description given of them, seem to resemble quartz. They have somewhat the appearance of gold, most probably in consequence of metallic impregnation; whence the rock itself is called the *Golden Craig*. The parish of Tannadice abounds with free-stone and moor-stone. The large stones found in the field in detached pieces, are here generally called *outliers*, to distinguish them from those found in beds. There is also abundance of the stone vulgarly called *furdie*, the same which is commonly known by the name of *whin* in the western parts of Scotland, and
used

used for paving streets. A bed of this kind of stone is said to extend to this parish, from the Milntown of Mather, a place in the county of Kincardine, between Montrose and John's-haven. Slate, of the grey kind, is found in the Glen of Ogil.

Inundations are not frequent here. About twenty years ago, however, all the houses in the farm-town of Justinghaugh were swept away by an inundation of the river Esk. Since that time a good deal of money has been expended in this quarter, in forming what are called *beads*, or angular banks of stone, for keeping off the water on the north side of the river.

This parish boasts of no remarkable quadrupeds. The land is infested with foxes, and the water with otters. Roes sometimes come down from the hills, and lodge in the woods; they are very common in the higher parts of the parish. There even the red deer abound. Besides partridge, grouse, the fieldfare, and other common birds, they have one called the *oswald*, or *oswat*, very much resembling a blackbird. This, I suppose, is what the English call the *ouzel*, and describe as the very same with the blackbird. What is here called the *oswald*, however, passes for a different species. Various birds of passage make their appearance here, as wild-geese, swallows, lapwings, woodcocks, dottrels, &c.

Many cattle are bred in this parish. They are of an ordinary size. An ox fully grown often weighs 40 or 50 stones.

By reason of the parish being vacant, no exact account of the population can be obtained. By Dr Webster's account in 1755, it amounted to 1470. Fifty or sixty years ago there were 400 communicants; now there are generally between 500 and 600. At an average, there are annually 15 births, and 8 or 9 deaths. In the year 1794, however,

30 died. This was not the consequence of any particular distemper; but this year proved fatal to a number of old people. Annually there are about 20 marriages. None have died, for a considerable time past, who have exceeded 86 years of age. But there is one person living in the parish, who is above 90.

As far as I can learn, the only Dissenters are a few of the Episcopalian communion. The parish includes about 106 farms; but not the same number of farmers, as some of them possess more than one farm. There has, it is said, been, of late years, a decrease as to population, in consequence of the conversion of small farms into larger, and the removal of a number of cottagers from their possessions. None, indeed, have been under the necessity of leaving the parish for want of employment. Those who have left it have generally done so from the causes already mentioned, whence they have been obliged to remove into towns. It is supposed, that there may be about 200 ploughs in the parish. In the lower part of it, they are generally such as are drawn by two horses. In the higher, four are used. The ploughs are mostly of the new construction, with iron heads, and what are called metal boards. There are at least between 200 and 300 carts. The best arable land is let at L. 1, or L. 1, 1 s.; inferior, at from 5 s. to 15 s. *per* acre. From what has been already said, with respect to the conversion of small into large farms, it must be evident that the number of farms is diminishing.

There is not much ground inclosed with stone fences. The farmers, indeed, are universally convinced of the advantages arising from proper inclosures. But they are unwilling to submit to the expence; and some, even to pay the interest of the money which the proprietors might expend for this purpose. The old plan of inclosing with
earthen

arethen fences is generally given up, except for protecting young trees.

Not above one half of the land is laboured. The rest consists of mountains, moors, and plantations. The parish not only generally supplies itself with provisions, but spares a considerable overplus to other places. In the years 1782 and 1783 there was less scarcity than during last winter. The supply of meal, given by Government *anno* 1783, for assisting those parishes which were straitened for provisions, was found unnecessary here. Notwithstanding the general scarcity this year, little grain has been imported into the parish.

No hemp is raised here. But a considerable quantity of ground is employed in the culture of flax. Although this of necessity varies, it is supposed that, at an average, there may be 40 or 50 acres annually sown with flax seed. Within the memory of some still living, no grass-seeds of any kind were sown. Now, a great deal of land is laid out in this manner.

A small quantity of marl was found, some years ago, in a pit on the farm of Deirachie. But it was all expended on that farm. Very little lime is used, because of the great length of carriage; but a good deal of marl, which is brought from the Loch of Kinordie, in the parish of Kirrymuir. Some of the ground is very productive. This year, in a *baugh* on the estate of John Ogilvy, Esq; of Inshavan, I counted 21 stalks of oats growing from one root, the most of these from 5 feet 8 inches, to 6 feet high, and some of them carrying between 140 and 150 grains each.

A considerable part of the parish is employed in pasture. The hills afford excellent pasture for sheep. Wedders are sometimes brought down from the Glen of Ogil in the month of August, which weigh 10 lb. *per* quarter, and give 10 lb. of tallow.

Tenpence

Tenpence or 1 s. with meat, is the ordinary wages for a day-labourer in husbandry, whether male or female. 1 s. is the usual wages during harvest. A male-servant in husbandry, besides board, receives L. 10 or L. 12 *per* year; a female, between L. 4 and L. 5. Few carpenters, masons, &c. regularly labour in this parish. A tailor works for 10 d. a-day, with meat. The people are in general very industrious. There are a few weavers, some of whom are employed in the Osnaburgh trade; but the generality in what is called *country work*, for the use of families. There has been a great alteration in dress within the last twenty years. It is now far more expensive than formerly. A great many articles of dress are bought, which people used to manufacture for themselves.

The fuel used in the higher parts of the parish consists of peat and turf; in the lower, of coals, furze, and broom. The greatest disadvantage under which this parish labours, the lower part of it at least, is the want of fuel. Coals must be brought from Montrose or Arbroath, both about twenty miles distant.

The roads are greatly improved of late. This year, L. 105 have been expended in making and repairing private roads, leading to the turnpike-road newly formed between Forfar and Brechin, part of which lies in this parish. The general opinion is in favour of the turnpike-roads.

The prices of provision correspond to those of the neighbouring parishes. Butter, this year, (1796), sells at 1 s. *per* lb. The price of cheese is from 5 s. to 6 s. 8 d. *per* stone, according to the quality.

The *broad Scotch* is the only language spoken here. Some of the names of places are of Gaelic, and others of Gothic origin; although the former seems to abound most. To this class the following evidently belong: *Coul, Memus, or Memis, Ogil, Kinaltie, Balduckie, Balgillo, Quiech, Cairn, Inshavan,*

Inshavan, Acbloucbrie. *Inshavan* is said to signify *the island surrounded with water*. Besides the evident tautology of such a designation, there is no reason to suppose that it was ever descriptive of the situation of the place. The meaning given to *Acbloucbrie*, which, it is said, means the *cow-baugh*, is more natural, as it corresponds to the local situation; for a considerable part of the grounds, which receive this name, lies low on the border of Esk. *Barn-yards, Justing-baugh, Whitewall, &c.* are evidently Gothic. *Murtball* seems to acknowledge the same origin.

The real rent of the parish is between L. 3000 and L. 4000 Sterling. There are thirteen heritors, three of whom only are resident. The valued rent is divided in the following proportions, in Scotch money:

Cairn, Newmiln, and Quarriehill,	L. 256	0	0
Whitewall,	145	0	0
Inshewan and Easter Memus,	533	6	0
Wester Ogil,	700	0	0
Coul, the property of Mr Ogilvy of Irlabank,	1217	10	0
Findourie,	567	10	0
Glenquiech,	100	0	0
Forfechy, and the Miln of Cortachie,	230	13	4
Nethertown of Balgillo and Muirtown,	180	0	0
Wester Memus,	166	13	4
Balgillo,	166	13	4
Easter Ogil,	300	0	0
Kinaltie,	282	12	7
	<hr/>		
	L. 4845	19	3

The patronage of this parish belongs to St Mary's College St Andrews. One of the Popes made a grant of the lands of Tannadice, for the erection of this College; but in what year I have not been able to learn. In a seisin, dated

ted *anno* 1614, they are designed *the ecclesiastical lands of Tannadyfe*. The tithes are all exhausted. The old stipend consisted of one-third of the value of the tithes, amounting to 1000 merks *Scotch*, with 100 for providing elements. The stipend has been lately augmented to L. 100 Sterling, exclusive of the glebe.

The oldest register extant reaches no farther back than to the year 1693. Mr George Lyon, who seems to have been Episcopalian minister here for many years, was allowed to continue till the year 1715; when, on account of the state of public matters, many ministers of this persuasion, who had been formerly suffered to keep possession of the parish churches, and to enjoy the livings, were turned out. He was succeeded by a Presbyterian minister of the name of Oliphant; and he, *anno* 1724, by Mr John Ogilvie, formerly minister of Cortachie and Clova, Mr John Weath was fixed here, *anno* 1743; and was succeeded by Mr John Buik, *anno* 1767. He died in March last. The church is presently vacant. During Mr Weath's incumbency both the church and manse were repaired. The church is supposed to be pretty old; but it is not known when it was built.

Eleven or twelve persons usually receive alms. The contributions for the relief of the poor annually amount to about L. 30. A small fund, which produces L. 1 *per* year, was left, for their benefit, by Mr Ramsay of Kinaltie.

This parish furnishes very little to please the taste of an antiquary. On the north side of Elk, very near the place where the bridge of Shealhill now stands, formerly stood the castle of Quiech, the residence of the Earls of Buchan, who, in ancient times, had an extensive property in this county. The situation is romantic; and was still more adapted for being the seat of a feudal chieftain, by the security

rity which it promised, than by its pleasantness. The castle was built on a precipitous rock, immediately overhanging the river. This rock appears as if insulated by nature. A stream pours down through a deep chasm on each side of it. Thus it scarcely required any artificial means of defence. No vestiges of this ancient castle are now discernible. A humble cottage occupies its place. Within these few years, part of one of the walls of the chapel was standing. It was neatly built with hewn stones. But they have been lately carried off, and applied some other way.

A hill, in the neighbourhood of Achlouchrie, receives the name of *the Castlehill*. Like the site of the castle of Quiech, it overhangs the river, which here runs in a deep bed, by reason of the high rocks on either side. A fosse, still twelve feet deep and thirty wide, forms a semicircle round this hill. This, it is supposed, had been dug with a design to bring in water from the river for defending the place. It would seem, however, that there never has been any building here, as there are no marks of foundations.

Near the village of Tannadice, there is a place called *the Castle of Barnyards*. According to the tradition of the country, a gentleman of the name of Lindsay began to erect a castle here; but having killed the proprietor of Finhaven, in a quarrel, near this place, was obliged to fly. Thus, it is said, the building was never finished. Within these few years, several of the vaults were standing; and some of the walls, from five to seven feet in height. But the stones have been employed for building on the farm. Some centuries ago, great part of this county was in the possession of the Lindsays, whose chief, the Earl of Crawford, had his residence at Findhaven, a little way from this, on the other side of the river. The Lindsays, formerly of Glenquiech, pretended to be the proper heirs of the lands of Barnyards.

There are various *Laws* in this parish ; as the Law of Balgillo, the Law of Balduckie, the Law of Coul, and several others.

About twenty years ago, a considerable number of coins, both gold and silver, were found at Balgillo. But it is not known to what country, or to what age, they belonged.

NUM-

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF ROTHIEMAY,

(COUNTY OF BANFF, SYNOD OF MORAY, PRESBYTERY
OF STRATHBOGIE).

By the Rev. Mr JAMES SIMMIE.

Situation, &c.

THE parish of Rothiemay is bounded, on the E. and N. E. by the parish of Marnoch ; on the S. and S. E. by Inverkeithnie, Fergie, and Huntly ; on the W. and S. W. by Cairny ; on the N. and N. W. by Grange. Its greatest length is from 7 to 8 miles ; its greatest breadth from 5 to 6.

The northern part of this parish is inferior to the rest, both in fertility and beauty. Beside some hilly ground, and some plantations of fir, it consists of a large plain, containing partly arable, partly pasture-ground, and an extensive moor that supplies with fuel, not only the parishioners,

but, in a great measure, the town of Huntly *, which is distant about 6 miles. From this plain is a gentle declivity of more than half a mile, on the W. and S. W. to the Isla, and, on the S. to the Devoran; a river adorned with plantations and natural woods on its banks, and abounding with common trout, eel, and salmon. About a mile below its confluence with the Isla, the Devoran, running eastward, divides the parish into two parts, of which the northern follows the course of the river more than two miles, the southern near two miles farther. At this point, where the Devoran begins to divide the parish, and on its northern bank, are the Milltown, a small village containing about an hundred souls; the house of Rothiemay †; the church and manse; and a happy mixture of well-inclosed fields

* When the parishioners carry peats out of the parish, they do so clandestinely, or merely by indulgence of their landlords,—not by stipulation and right. It is much to be wished, that both they, and others whom they supply with peats, would use fewer peats, and more coal and wood, not only because, in wet seasons, peats are a very uncertain fuel, but because the preparation of them consumes much of their time, which might be more profitably devoted to various agricultural improvements.

† There is a tradition here, that the unfortunate Mary, Queen of Scots, passed a night in this house, and her bed-room is still pointed out. This tradition is confirmed by the authority of Buchanan, who, describing Mary's journey to Inverness, says, "*Proxima nox ad Rothimaium, Abrenethiorum villam, satis tranquille transacta est:*" Hist. Rer. Scot. Lib. 17. cap. 36. The Abrenethies here mentioned were Lords Abrenethies, afterwards of Salton. The tragical fate of one of them is celebrated in a popular ballad, called Frennet-hall. Next to the Abrenethies, a family of Gordons were proprietors of Rothiemay till the end of last or the beginning of this century, when it was purchased by Ogilvie, whose son (afterwards of Inchmartin in Perthshire) sold it to William Lord Braco, father of the present Earl of Fife. The most ancient part of the house, which was going fast to ruin, his Lordship has lately taken down, and has repaired and furnished the rest in a manner which does honour to his taste.

fields and woods; which, with woods and corn-fields on the opposite side of the river, rising, by a gradual ascent, to a great height, form a beautiful rural scenery, equalled by few, and perhaps excelled by none, of equal extent, in the kingdom.

Soil, Produce, Rent.—Plantations and natural woods occupy a considerable part of this parish. They consist chiefly of fir, birch, ash, elm, and aller *, which, in consequence of the scarcity of these in most of the neighbouring parishes, are sold at high prices, and bring the proprietors from L. 100 to L. 200 a-year. And it may be presumed, that, some years hence, they will bring much more, as many of them, especially firs, now young and thriving, will then be ready for sale; and as the proprietors not only supply from their nurseries the places of those they sell, but are carrying this kind of improvement still farther, by planting such parts of their estates as are less fit for cultivation or pasture.

The pasture bears only a small proportion to the arable land of the parish. It is such, however, as renders it profitable for some farmers to rear a few sheep, and all a few black cattle, for the market.

The soil, in general, is rich and fertile. It produces excellent oats, bear, pease, and lint, the common crops of the parish; and in such abundance, that large quantities, particularly of oats, oatmeal, and bear, are exported annually. A great part of the bear finds a good market at distilleries in the neighbouring parishes. Part of it, as well as oats
and

* Beside these, is a great variety of excellent larch, oak, beech, &c. particularly on the property of the Earl of Fife, whose example in planting, and other improvements, is well entitled to the imitation of other proprietors. Some old ash, belonging to his Lordship, are of an uncommon size, measuring, in diameter, four feet.

and oatmeal, is purchased, by commission, for merchants in other parts of the kingdom, and shipped at Portsoy, which is 12, Banff, which is 15, or Macduff, which is 16 miles distant.

Most farms are small, only five or six being rented above L. 40, of which one is rented at L. 110, another at L. 140. Few leases exceed 19 years. *Grassums* are in use. Personal service * and harvest-labour are no longer exacted. Of late, a great part of victual-rents were converted into money at the rate of 12 s. 6 d. a boll; and multure-rent, formerly every thirteenth peck, is now 3 s. 6 d. for every pound of farm-rent. Conversions not less favourable in their consequences to the progress of agriculture, than to the immediate interest of the farmer. The miller's fee (which remains to be converted into money) is every eighteenth peck. Restrictions to particular mills prevail here, as in other parts of Scotland; and the grain of one of the best districts of the parish is restricted to a mill in a neighbouring parish, and belonging to a different proprietor. Would it be any disadvantage to society, if mill-restrictions of every kind being abolished by a just compensation, every one were at liberty to choose his miller, as well as his smith, his carpenter, or any other mechanic?

The valued rent of the parish is L. 3170 Scotch. The whole parish is the Earl of Fife's, except about a tenth part, the property of Major Alexander Duff of Mayen. His Lordship occasionally visits his property here. Major Duff † constantly resides in the parish.

Advantages,

* By *personal service*, as different from harvest-labour, is meant, going on errands, and the like. The service of carrying the landlord's meal to the shore is still retained; nor, indeed, could it be conveniently dispensed with, where victual-rents are paid, and especially where the landlord does not reside.

† The Major, beside some very laudable improvements of his estate by planting and inclosing, has lately built an elegant and commodious house.

Advantages, &c.—Our chief advantage, respecting agriculture, is the nearness of lime. In the neighbouring parish of Grange, it is bought at the quarry for 1½ d.; at the kiln for 8 d. and sometimes 7 d. a boll*. The abundance of peat here induces most farmers to buy it at the quarry, and enables some of them, beside supplying themselves, to bring a profit by retail. There are about 50 lime-kilns in the parish.

To this advantage I wish I could add good roads; but the proper method of making and repairing these is not even understood here. Instead of using for this purpose that abundance of metal and gravel which nature has supplied, the statute-labour is employed in throwing on the middle of the roads the contents of the ditches on their sides, which, being clay or soft earth, so far from improving them, (unless, perhaps, during the heat of summer), generally makes them worse than before. Though inclosing is far advanced in this, compared with neighbouring parishes, still there is much room for this kind of improvement: A proof, among others, that a great part of our land has not yet reached half its value. Nor has draining by any means obtained that degree of attention, which a great part of our land evidently requires, though to this kind of improvement its natural situation is, in general, very favourable †.

Population, &c.—The number of inhabitants is 1125; of whom, 481 are males, 644 females. In 1755 it was 1190. The average of marriages for the last 10 years is 10; that of births, for the same period, 19; of deaths there is no register.

Of

* The boll of lime here consists of 2 firlots only.

† The mode of farming, and the prices of the various kinds of provisions, are the same here as in the neighbouring parishes.

Of the inhabitants 1067 are of the Established Church ; 25 are Episcopalians ; 27 Seceders ; and 6 Roman Catholics. The occupations of part of them, with other particulars which shew the state of the parish, will appear from the following table :

Clergyman,	-	1	Tailors,	-	-	6
Schoolmaster,	-	1	Shopkeepers,	-	-	7
Masons,	-	-	Innkeepers,	-	-	3
Dikers,	-	4	Butchers,	-	-	2
Wrights,	-	10	Meal-mills,	-	-	2
Turners,	-	4	Meal-millers,	-	-	3
Coopers,	-	3	Lint-mill,	-	-	1
Smiths,	-	-	Lint-millers,	-	-	3
Slaters,	-	-	Wauk-mills,	-	-	2
Flax-dressers,	-	3	Ferry-boats,	-	-	2
Weavers,	-	27	Horses,	-	-	260
Dyers,	-	-	Sheep,	-	-	500
Shoemakers,	-	13	Black-cattle,	-	-	1208

All the men who are not tradesmen and mechanics, are employed in agriculture ; and tradesmen and mechanics, who are housekeepers, likewise cultivate a few acres for the accommodation of their families. The women, when they are not employed in the mofs in summer, or the field in harvest, sometimes knit stockings, but commonly spin linen-yarn for the merchant, who buys it, by commission, for the manufacturer in Glasgow, Paisley, or some other distant part of the kingdom. Beside maintenance, a farm-servant's yearly wages are from L. 7 to L. 9 ; a maid-servant's L. 2, 10 s. or L. 3. A day-labourer's wages vary with the kind of his labour ; *viz.* for mofs-labour, a man's 8 d. a woman's 6 d. with victuals ; for harvest-labour, a man's 10 d. a woman's 6 d. with victuals ; for hay-cutting,

1 s. ; and for common labour, such as delving, 9 d. without victuals. A mason's day's wages are 1 s. 6 d ; a wright's, 1 s. both without victuals ; a tailor's, 8 d. with victuals ; a dicker's work is hired by the piece. By spinning linen-yarn, a woman earns $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. at most 4 d. a-day ! A poor pittance, indeed ! and till manufactures be established here, (a thing more to be desired than expected), there is little reason to hope that female labour will find a better, at least an adequate reward.

Church, School, &c.—The parish-church, built about 40 years ago, is commodious and well lighted. The Earl of Fife is patron. By a late decree of the Court of Teinds, the minister's stipend is " 106 bolls 3 firlots of victual, half meal half bear, and L. 533 : 6 : 8 Scotch, with L. 60 money foresaid for furnishing the communion-elements." The schoolmaster's salary, which is 200 merks Scotch *, and the school-fees, with precenter's and session-clerk's fees and perquisites, do not exceed L. 20 or L. 21 a-year. The
parochial

* Till within these two years, it was only 100 merks Scotch. The late Rev. Mr Bruce of Dunbar, who received the principles of his education at this school, generously proposed to augment it by a donation of L. 100 Sterling, on the following terms: 1st, That the heritors should become trustees of his donation, paying to the schoolmaster the legal interest of it ; and, 2^{dly}, That they should augment the salary to the *maximum*, or 200 merks Scotch. Though the heritors complied with these terms as soon as proposed, and though afterwards Mr Bruce, informed of this, promised that his donation should *be forthcoming* at a time mentioned, yet, not long after, he died, without having fulfilled his benevolent purpose, and (so far as I have yet been able to discover) without leaving the fulfilment of it in trust to his heirs or testamentary executors. It is hoped, however, that sufficient vouchers of his purpose and promise being produced, his heirs (who are happily in sufficient circumstances) will, from due respect to his memory, esteem his will, respecting this matter, as sacred as if it had been expressed with all the circumstances of legal formality.

parochial poor (24 * at an average of the last twelve years) are assisted from the interest of L. 160, the rents of one of the church-galleries, the weekly collections, fines for misdemeanors, &c. ; the whole forming a yearly fund of L. 25 or L. 26 Sterling.

Antiquity, an Eminent Character.—About a furlong north from the house of Rothiemay is a Druidical temple, which, though situated in the middle of a beautiful and fertile field, a veneration for antiquity has hitherto preserved entire. Mr James Fergusson, well known, among men of science, for his publications on astronomy, was a native of this parish †.

Character.—The inhabitants are, in person, slender rather than robust; in mind, acute and sensible. They excel their forefathers less in the luxuries of the table than elegance of dress; are generally very healthy; and live
many

* In 1783 and 1784, the number of poor was 45. In 1783, the kirk-session expended L. 70 of the poor's fund in purchasing foreign grain.

† To certify this, it may be proper to subjoin, that my information of Mr Fergusson's being a native of this parish I received from his brother, John Fergusson, who was an elder of this parish, and died very lately. He told me, that his father's name was John Fergusson, his mother's Elspet Lobban; that they dwelt at the Core of Mayen; that both he and his brother James were born there; that he himself was born in 1708; and that his brother James was two years younger. Accordingly the session-record, which is now before me, confirms this information in every particular. James Fergusson was born April 25. 1710.

I do not recollect every particular related in the Memoirs of Mr Fergusson, prefixed to his works, not having seen them for several years; but John, his brother, who had read these Memoirs, said, that, though generally agreeable to fact, they were not equally correct in every particular.

many of them 80, and some 90, years. Devoted to agriculture and the mechanical arts, they are very little inclined either to a military or a sea-faring life. They are sober and industrious, respectful to superiors, obedient to the laws, charitable to the poor, and practise, among themselves, the virtues of integrity and friendship. Of the form of godliness they are strictly observant; and justice, as well as candour, forbids me to believe that they are destitute of its power.

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF ORPHIR,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ORKNEY, PRESBYTERY OF
CAIRSTON.)

By the Rev. Mr Liddell, Minister.

Origin of the Name.

ORPHIR, or, according to the Icelandic historians, *Jorfior*, is compounded of the Norwegian words, *jord*, land, and *fior*, fire. This etymology is the more probable, as the parish of Orphir serves the neighbouring towns of Kirkwall and Stromness with a species of peats, distinguished by the name of *yarfo*, that is, fire-land, or earth fit for burning. And to the present day, there is a house and district called *Yarfo*, from its neighbourhood to a large moss of this description.

Situation

Situation and Extent.—This parish is situated in the county and synod of Orkney, and in the presbytery of Cairnston, and makes a part of the isle of Pomona, commonly called Mainland, from its being the largest of the Orkney islands.

It is bounded on the N. W. and N. by the parishes of Sternes and Firth, from which it is divided by a range of lofty hills; by the parish of Kirkwall on the N. E.; and on the E. S. and W. by the Orkney Mediterranean, generally known by the name of Scalpa Flow.

It is about eight English miles long, and from two to three miles in breadth; lying along the sea-shore, nearly in the direction of N. E. and S. W. and enjoys a fine exposure.

The face of the parish is diversified with hills and dales through which many rivulets flow. The soil, in a few places near the coast, is a rich loam, mixed with stones, and tolerably fertile; but, in general, it is clay or moss, or a mixture of both; and when well manured, though but indifferently cultivated, is more than sufficient to maintain the inhabitants.

The upper part of the parish, except a few small farms, near a lake, called the Loch of Kirbister, is hilly, and chiefly covered with heath, intermixed with coarse grass, and well adapted for the breeding of sheep and small cattle. The lower part, toward the S. E. S. and W. and extending about a mile from the hills to the sea-shore, is in general plain, and beautifully diversified with corn-fields, meadows, and green pasture. The eastern district is interspersed with rising grounds, covered with heath, and large peat-mosses, which furnish the inhabitants with fuel, and enable them to supply the neighbouring town of Kirkwall.

Climate.

Climate.—From the situation of these islands, in a northern latitude, and surrounded by the ocean, the diseases incident to a cold and damp climate might naturally be expected; but the reverse happens. The ague is not known here, and scorbutic complaints seldom occur; owing, perhaps, to the abundance of fuel, to the frequent use of vegetables, and of malt liquor; and above all, to the salubrious sea-breezes, which cool the air in summer, and counteract the frosts in winter, and render the climate, upon the whole, more temperate, than in many places of a more southerly latitude upon the continent. The small-pox was much dreaded here previous to the 1757, when inoculation was introduced, and has ever since been attended with uncommon success. Consumptions are not frequent. The most prevalent distempers are fevers, which frequently prove fatal, especially in years of sterility. Rheumatisms have become more frequent of late years, owing, it is supposed, to the substitution of the linen shirt for the woolen waistcoat, formerly worn by the common people.

Mineral Springs—are to be met with in every district of the parish. But the one most in vogue is the water of Scoridale, which has been famous for time immemorial, and is supposed to cure all diseases. It, like all the others, is of the chalybeate kind, without any mixture of sulphur. It is of a diuretic and antiscorbutic quality, and helps to promote digestion.

Lakes, Coasts, Islands, and Fisheries.—There are in this parish several small rivulets, but only one lake, called the Loch of Kirbister. It is between two and three miles in circumference, and is well stored with sea-trout of an excellent quality. The fall from this lake is very considerable, and turns one of the finest mills in the country. Here
was

was formerly a waukmill, but it was suffered to go into decay, after the introduction of the linen manufacture. There are two other mills in the parish, which go under the name of Dubmills. These are of no use in the summer season.

The sea-coast forms a circuitous course of about 12 miles, and is finely indented with bays and creeks, where vessels may anchor; one of them in particular, called the Bay of Houton, is protected by an island at the entrance, and forms a safe harbour for small vessels. The shore, except in the bays, is in general bold, consisting of rocks of from 40 to 50 feet high; and composed partly of whin, but chiefly of freestone. The water, within a gun-shot of the shore, is from 12 to 20 fathom deep.

Scalpa Flow.—The sea opposite to this coast is a most beautiful piece of water, being a small mediterranean, of about 50 miles in circumference. It is surrounded with 12 different islands, through which are several outlets to the Pentland Firth, and German and Atlantic Oceans. This, particularly in time of war, is the great thoroughfare for ships coming north about. It abounds with safe roadsteads and fine harbours; such as Holm Sound, Floxa Sound, St Margaret's Houp, Pan Houp, and Long Houp in the Island of Walls; where there is good anchorage, and a sufficient depth of water for the largest ship in the British navy. The principal entrance to Scalpa Flow, is through Holm Sound on the E. and Hoymouth on the W.; near which stands the village of Stromness, a sea-port, too well known to need description here, and possessed, for its size, of one of the finest natural harbours in the world.

Two miles distant from the southmost part of Orphir lies the island of Cava, a mile long, and about a quarter of a mile broad. There are only three families in the island, consisting at present of 19 persons. The soil is a mixture of clay and moss, which, as they have plenty of sea-ware, seldom

feldom fails to produce a good crop. Besides 9 horses and 16 cows with their calves, they have a few rabbits, and peats in abundance. The few inhabitants frequent the parish church, and are very regular in their attendance upon divine worship. There is a ruinous chapel in the island, round which is a church-yard, where they formerly used to bury their dead.

In this sequestered spot, seemingly pointed out by nature as a place for religious retirement, in the memory of people now alive, have been committed two rapes and one murder. The murder is said to have happened in self-defence. The rapes were committed by Gow the pirate's people, who carried off two young women from the island; and after keeping them for some days aboard their ship, returned them to their friends, loaded with presents; and they both soon afterwards got husbands.

There is another small island in this parish, fit only for sheep-pasture, called the *Holm* of Houton; a name generally given to small uninhabited islands

About a mile E. from the island of Cava lies a rock, or skerry, well known to seamen, called the Barrel of Butter; here was formerly a seal-fishery, for which the neighbouring farmer paid the proprietor a barrel of oil yearly, until the frequency of shipping scared them from the rock; then the proprietor, determined not to lose his rent, converted the tack-duty into a barrel of butter; which is still paid by the tenant, and thence the rock is said to derive its name. Its ancient name was Carlin Skerry.

The principal fishery on the coast of Orphir is the dog-fishery, which, for the time it lasts, is highly beneficial. These fish arrive, in successive shoals, about the time of new and full moon, and are observed to travel westwards. They make their appearance about the middle of June, and continue for a few days only at a time, until the end of August,

August. They are taken within half a mile of the shore, in from 20 to 30 fathoms water, with a common hand-line of half a crown value. One man will sometimes catch fifteen score in a day. They yield a great deal of oil; and when cured and smoaked, are thought to resemble kipper. Their value, *per* hundred, may amount, at an average, to 5 s. There are in this fishery about 24 boats employed, with 4 or 5 men in each. When the dog-fishing fails, which sometimes happens, the people are in the utmost distress for want of oil; which then rises from 6 d. or 8 d. *per* Scotch pint, to 1 s. or even 1 s. 6 d. During the rest of the year, they seldom catch any thing but a small fish called keiths or fillocks. These fish smoaked, together with the fillocks, constitute a great part of the food of the inhabitants.

Scalpa Flow abounds with many other kinds of fish, such as skate, flounders, haddocks, mackrel, and occasionally herrings. But the inhabitants are so much employed in making of kelp, which is the great article of Orkney commerce, that they have not leisure to attend to this fishery. The common kinds of shell-fish are also to be found here, such as lobsters, partans, spouts and cockles; there are likewise a few seals, and otters, whose skins are valuable. Sometimes, too, the small whales, called the bottle-nosed, make their appearance on this coast, and when embayed, are surrounded with boats, and forced on shore.

There are no fewer than fifteen smacks employed throughout the season, in fishing and carrying lobsters to the London market, all of which rendezvous in one or other of the harbours of Scalpa Flow. This fishery is considered as very beneficial to the inhabitants of the adjacent coast, who are chiefly employed in catching the lobsters, and receive from 1 d. to 1½ d. *per* piece. The boats fitted out for this purpose measure 12 feet of keel, and together with the nets,

cost

cost about L. 6. There are two men in each boat, who will clear, at an average, L. 7 Sterling a-piece, during the fishing-season, which, including that of the spring and harvest, does not last above six months in the year.

Kelp.—Of this article, about 50 tons, at an average, are manufactured, and exported yearly. The most expert kelp-burners in Orkney are supposed to belong to this parish; the consequence of which is, that they are universally employed. One farmer in particular, Nicol Slettar in Yarso, by his superior skill in surveying, and fixing with precision the value of shores, has deserved well of his country, having thereby considerably augmented the income of many of the proprietors. This man, by dint of experience alone, and natural sagacity, without the aid of education, will ascertain, with astonishing exactness, the greatest quantity of kelp to be produced from any district of shores, which he is employed to survey; but, like most men of merit, he has been poorly rewarded.

Of this great staple of Orkney commerce, much might be said: But, as the subject has been already anticipated in former Statistical Accounts, the author of the present report would only wish to add, for the sake of his countrymen, and upon the authority of the first manufacturer in Newcastle; "That, excepting barilla, which is sometimes not to be purchased for any money, the best crown glass cannot be made without a certain proportion of Orkney kelp; and that, if the proprietors would be at the pains to prepare this article in the best manner, and to preserve it pure and unadulterated, the price it would bring at market is scarce credible."

The tang, or sea-weed, which grows on this and the neighbouring coasts, is found to be fit for burning only once in three years; whereas, in the island of Sanday, and some
of

of the smaller islands, the same kind of sea-weed is burnt yearly. This is generally ascribed to their proximity to the ocean, and the rapidity of the tides; but, as there are many similar situations, from which the same effect is not produced, it is more reasonable to ascribe this phenomenon, either to the peculiar nature of the rocks on which these weeds grow; or, with greater probability, to the situation and soil of those islands, which are so narrow, flat, and sandy, as hardly ever to attract a cloud, or produce the smallest rivulet from one end to the other; by which means the sea-weed, being preserved from fresh-water, which is its greatest enemy, is permitted to grow in its utmost perfection.

Tides, Bays, Headlands, and Wrecks.—The tide, at its entrance into Scalpa Flow, is uncommonly rapid; but it gradually subsides, until it becomes scarce perceptible. The course of the flood, with a little variation, is from W. to E. There is one part of the coast, adjacent to the house of Mr Honyman of Græmsay, where the current, intercepted by a reef of rocks, runs 9 hours in one direction, and 3 in the opposite.

The principal neffes and headlands are Voeness, Toiness, Bernori, and Houton-head. The bays are, Waukmill Bay, Smugro Bay, and the Bay of Houton, all of them fronting the S. and S. E.; in each of which, particularly the last, small vessels may anchor with safety.

Only two shipwrecks have happened here in the memory of any person now alive. The one happened about 30 years ago, upon the rocks of Hobbister, where the vessel went to pieces, but the people were saved. The other in spring 1793, on the sand of the Waukmill Bay, where by unloading a part of the cargo, which consisted chiefly of flax, the vessel was got off, without receiving any consider-

able damage; upon which occasion, much to the honour of the inhabitants, every assistance was given, and not a single head of flax amissing.

Hills.—The principal hill in this parish is about 700 feet high. It is called the Wart Hill, as is erroneously supposed, from a small hillock raised on the top of it by Mr Murdoch Mackenzie, when he surveyed these islands. This gentleman, who is still alive, is a native of Orkney; and the first who brought surveying to that degree of accuracy which it has of late attained. Sir Robert Strange, the late famous engraver, was also a native of this country; and, as he told the present incumbent, passed some of the happiest days of his youth in this parish; which, after all his travels through France and Italy, he could not help admiring for the natural beauty of its scenery. Such is the sweet remembrance of youth! And yet this partiality is not altogether without foundation. For from the top of a hill, at the foot of which, on a rising ground, stands the manse of Orphir, are to be seen, at one view, 25 islands and 23 parishes, including most of the Orkney islands, and part of the island of Great Britain, with an extensive view of the Atlantic and Germanic Oceans, together with that truly sublime object, the stupendous mountain of Hoy, washed on one side by the Pentland Firth, and on the other by the Orkney Mediterranean, which is as beautiful a piece of water as any county in Scotland can boast of, and much frequented by shipping. The Lord Advocate of Scotland, upon a late visit to these islands, arriving at this enchanted spot, from whence he first beheld the Atlantic Ocean, is said to have exclaimed with ecstasy, “Happy is the clergyman who inhabits yonder mansion!” “And still happier would he be,” said the clergyman, “would his Lordship help him to an augmentation of stipend.” For
without

without thee, sweet Competence ! great Nature argues all in vain ; and all is Chaos dark again.

In former times, when these islands were infested by pirates, fires were kindled on the tops of the highest hills, and served to give warning to the inhabitants of the number and approach of the enemy ; and as the people appointed to attend those light-houses were to observe and repeat the signals, from the smaller hills and headlands near the coast, thence, from the Norse word, *Warder*, to watch, or look out, they got the name of Ward, or Wart Hills ; for this appellation is not peculiar to Orkney, but is to be found in other parts of Scotland, where the Norwegians resided.

Mr Hume, the historian, in his account of the Marquis of Montrose's expedition, is pleased to call the Orkney men, an unwarlike race of men *. But, had he consulted the Icelandick historians, he would have learned, that " of old, in these islands, when the trumpet sounded to battle, when the shell of war was heard through the land, when the signal fires were kindled on the hills, in an instant the young men of Orkney flew to arms, and assembled round their chiefs, determined to conquer or die. Their wives and their parents, instead of keeping them back from the combat, helped them on with their armour, and prepared them for the battle."—Those who distinguished themselves by their valour, were rewarded at their return with the smiles and the charms of the fair ;—of the fair maids of Orkney ! for Orkney has always been distinguished for beautiful women. Then no woman of beauty, of family, of fortune, or of virtue, would deign to give her hand to the youth who had either declined or fled from the combat. For well they knew, that *None but the brave deserve the fair*. Such, of old, were the men of Orkney, and the ladies too, whatever information Mr Hume may have received to the contrary.

* Perhaps the historian meant, more accustomed to naval than military exploits,

trary. And for the hardiness and bravery of the seamen of the present day, about 2000 of whom have stepped forward to serve their country, in almost every war since the Hanoverian succession, his Royal Highness Prince William, the son of our gracious Sovereign, can vouch.

Fossils.—There are here a few slates, of an inferior quality, and some excellent flags. Abundance of iron ore is found lying on the surface of the ground, but no attempt has been made to dig up any. Blue stone, fit for building, and also freestone, are to be had in great abundance. There is a curious vein of the latter sort in Houton-head, adjacent to the sea, of about 20 feet in height, and 100, or upwards in breadth, and consisting of a variety of colours, some white, some yellow, some green, and some of a jet black, and sometimes of all of these colours beautifully blended together. A small fragment of this rock was lately presented to an eminent seal-cutter in Edinburgh, who pronounced it to be very valuable, and admirably adapted for finishing side boards, or the ornamental parts of chimneys, provided it could be found hard enough to admit of a polish. For the sample presented to him, as well as all the outward surface of this vein, is so soft and brittle, as to yield to the slightest impression: But, if quarrymen were employed to penetrate the rock to a sufficient depth, it might be discovered to be adapted for many of the purposes to which the finest marble is applied.

Some coal-stone, such as is met with near the surface of coal-mines, has been discovered, among the rocks of Wauk-mill Bay, the property of Mr Honyman of Græmfay; but no trial has been made of it. Some very fine white and blue clay is dug up, beneath the flood-mark in S. augro Bay, commonly used for colouring chimneys and hearth-stones.

Quadrupeds,

Quadrupeds, Birds, &c.—All the different sorts of quadrupeds and birds, which are to be met with in the other parishes of this country, are also to be found here, the bird called the lyre excepted, which is peculiar to the high rocks of Walls and Hoy, and the Redhead of Eday. It is remarked of the island of Cava, and of some other small islands, that neither rat nor mouse will live in them.

Statistical Table of the Parish of Orpbir and Island of Cava.

Population <i>anno</i> 1755, -	855	Farmers of one plough going,	96
Ditto 1795, -	826	Ditto of two ditto, -	3
Decrease, -	29	Crofters and cottagers, -	46
Number of males, -	366	Wrights, -	5
females, -	460	Shoemakers, -	6
Persons below 10 years of age,	216	Weavers, -	6
From 10 to 20, -	184	Tailors, -	5
Above 20, unmarried, -	120	Masons, -	6
Widows and widowers,	40	Smith, -	1
Married persons, -	266	Millers, -	3
Houses inhabited, -	145	Merchant retailer, -	1
Baptisms from 1714 to 1723,	300	Piper, -	1
Ditto from 1738 to 1747,	264	Fidlers, -	2
Ditto from 1760 to 1769,	277	Jack of all trades, -	1
Ditto from 1786 to 1795,	264	This last is the kirk-officer, who	
Average <i>per annum</i> for those 40		serves the parish in the different	
years, -	27½	capacities of beadle, sexton, coo-	
Marriages from 1714 to 1723,	74	per, slater, plasterer, boat-beater,	
Ditto from 1738 to 1747,	82	gardener, kelper, mason, quarry-	
Ditto from 1760 to 1769,	67	man, labourer, thatcher, and far-	
Ditto from 1786 to 1795,	58	mer, and the most fortunate be-	
Average <i>per annum</i> for those 40		getter of boys of any in the parish,	
years, -	7	for his wife bore him 3 at one	
No register of burials has been kept.		birth, and most of his children are	
The births are to the population		boys.	
as -	1 to 30	Very few in this parish exceed the	
The marriages to ditto, as	1 to 118	age of 80, and only one person has	
The inhabited houses, as	1 to 5½	been known to arrive at 90 years.	
The batchelors to married		Number of horses, -	380
men and widowers, as	1 to 3	Ditto of cattle, -	883
Children to families, as	3 to 1	Ditto of sheep, -	400
Servants and indwellers as	½ to 1	Ditto of swine, -	435
Proprietors residing, -	2	Ditto of ploughs, -	102
Ditto non-residing, -	6	Ditto of carts, -	8
Clergyman, -	1	Ditto of boats, -	33
Schoolmasters, -	3		

Here

Here are no Seceders nor Dissenters of any kind.— Three suicides have been committed within these few years: One by a young woman, after a long fit of deep melancholy, from what cause is not known; another by an elderly woman, during a lowness of spirits, occasioned by a lingering fever; and the third by a young man, in the height of a nervous fever. Hanging was the death those unfortunate persons made choice of.

Emigration.—Many young men emigrate from hence yearly; some as sailors on board merchant vessels, who generally land in the King's service at last; although they abhor the idea of being pressed in their own country. Others, and the greatest number, enter into the service of the Hudson's Bay Company; and, instead of offering an honourable service to their King and country, or staying at home to cultivate their lands, and protect their wives, their children, and their parents, for the sum of L. 6 *per annum*, hire themselves out for slaves in a savage land, where, in the language of Scripture, they are literally employed as hewers of wood and drawers of water; or, what is a still more distinguishing badge of slavery, in dragging along large loads of timber, yoked in the team, like beasts of burden. My God! Shall man, formed in the image of his Creator, desert the human species; and, for the paltry sum of L. 6 a-year, assume the manners and the habits of the brutes that perish. Fly ye on the man, who would rather be the slave of a Company of private merchants, than enter into the fleets and armies of Great Britain, and bravely fight for his King and country, our religion, our liberties, and our laws. Many of those men, at their return, after 8 or 10 years exile, bring home with them all the vices, without any of the virtues of savages; indolence, dissipation, irreligion, and at the same time a broken constitution; and
the

the misfortune is, that having earned a little money, (for, after a five years residence, their wages are augmented), they are enabled to overbid the honest industrious farmer, who is incumbered with a number of small children, and who perhaps may have fallen into a temporary arrear, upon whom the unfeeling landlord has no compassion. But, behold the consequence! in a few years, from ignorance and want of industry, the emigrant, in his turn, is also reduced to poverty, and must give way to another of his own tribe. By these means, most of the farms are over-rented; and this fluctuating state of things puts an effectual bar to all improvement, and surely calls aloud for reformation from every virtuous landholder. There are at present, from this parish alone, in this infernal settlement, 43 of our prime young men; and 12 more are just upon the eve of embarking: This, added to the number of seamen abroad, scarce leaves hands to cultivate the ground, and must sooner or later depopulate the country. By those means there are no spare hands for manufactures; and the fishery, which, next to the kelp, ought to be the great staple of Orkney commerce, is entirely abandoned; and besides, the King's service is deprived of many hardy seamen; for the moment war is proclaimed, for fear of being pressed, they skulk away to this distant settlement. At the same time it must be acknowledged, for the honour of the Hudson's Bay Company, that no men ever acted with more integrity, or fulfilled their agreements more honestly, than those gentlemen have uniformly done; and further, upon a representation from the present incumbent of this parish, they have been pleased to augment the wages to L. 10; by which means above L. 1000 Sterling *per annum* is added to the income of Orkney.

Agriculture.—There are employed in tillage 100 Orkney ploughs, and two Highland ones. The latter were introduced by Patrick Honyman of Græmsay; who also inclosed his farm with good stone dikes. It is the common Scotch plough, with two stils. The former is of a very singular construction, having only one stilt, a small pointed sock, with a coulter, resembling a nail gully; and instead of a mould-board, two sticks fastened to the head of the plough, in a horizontal direction, which, instead of levelling the sward, serves only to break it into pieces, leaving one half of the surface unturned down. This plough, which is very light, is drawn by three horses a-breast, with the assistance of a driver, who goes before, and pulls them on by a halter, fastened to the midmost horse; the ploughman carries in his right hand a small stick, called a pattle, with which he clears the plough; it also serves him occasionally as a second stilt, when he wants to take more earth; and every now and then, when the horses are lazy, he throws it at them, to quicken their pace. The furrow made by this plough is seldom above three inches deep, and thrown off in a slanting direction. The harrows, which are also small and light, are of an oblong form, and generally with wooden teeth, and are drawn side foremost: There is a horse and a driver for each harrow.

The only crops raised here are small black oats, sown in April; and bear, or big, sown in May. The harvest generally begins about the end of August, and is over about the middle of October. A few potatoes are cultivated upon every farm. There is plenty of bog-hay; and, of late, attempts have been made to introduce clover and ryegrass; but nothing can be done in this way, without sufficient inclosures.

The manure chiefly made use of is dung from the cattle, mixed up with ashes and turf, and sometimes a little seaware.

ware. Very good marl has been discovered, but little use has been made of it. There can hardly be said to be any rotation of crops, the same fields having been sown, for time immemorial, with bear and oats alternately, and seldom yield above 3 or 4 of increase. The grain of this parish is esteemed to be of a superior quality, and the best malt in Orkney is made here. The bear raised from seawe is observed to be husky, and small bodied. Pease thrive very well; but, except a few for the table, little attention is paid to them. Cabbages and garden roots grow in great perfection; and perhaps the finest and largest artichokes in the world are to be found in this country, in the common kail-yards, springing up amongst the grafs without any cultivation.

Woods.—There are a few currant or berry bushes, and a few apple trees, trained up along the garden-walls; but no forest trees ever have been, or perhaps ever will be, raised in this country. The atmosphere is evidently too much impregnated with salt-water; for, in stormy weather, the sea-spray flies over the whole country, and frequently ruins the crop, particularly if it happens in the first of August, before the corn is greenful. There are a few natural hazles, mountain-ash, and willows, in one of the vallies of the hill of Hoy; and although these, owing to the winding of the valley, and the height of the surrounding hills, are remarkably well sheltered, yet they do not exceed 12 or 14 feet in height. A great many roots of small trees, seemingly such as these, are also dug up in several peat-mosses; but it does not appear that there have ever been trees of any size in this country; and this fact is incontrovertibly established by the Icelandick historians, who relate, that Einar, Earl of Orkney, about the end of the ninth century, “ *Dictum esse Torf Einarem, quod excindi, et foco, lignorum loco ad-*
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“ *beri fecit cespites (i. e. Torf.) enim in Orcadibus non erant sylvæ.*” *Celto Scandicæ, apud Johnstonum, p. 8.*

William Honyman of Græmfay, the principal heritor of this parish, lately planted several thousand trees of different kinds, but without effect. The present incumbent has also planted a good many of different sorts and sizes, but they no sooner get above the wall, than they are immediately blasted. A few ash trees were lately cut down in the Bishop's garden at Kirkwall; which, in the space of 200 years, had grown to the height of between 30 and 40 feet; and even these were protected by houses of equal height. Indeed, Orkney is not singular in this particular. We find the same causes produce the same effects in other situations similar to theirs, *viz.* in Caithness, Buchanness, and in all promontories, where the sea-air predominates.

Sheep.—In the hills and dales of Orphir, there is sufficient pasture for 3000 or 4000 sheep; and yet the whole number does not exceed 400, owing chiefly to the present want of police in the country. For, previous to the 1748, when the heritable jurisdictions were abolished, there were bailies in every parish, who decided in small matters within their bounds; and were particularly attentive to the regulations relating to the folding, shearing, and marking of sheep. Then no one was permitted to take a sheep upon any pretence, without the presence of at least two spon- sible witnesses, called Lawrightmen. But of late, since these offices have been abolished, every one goes to the hill when he pleases, and either marks and shears them without any witness, or disposes of them as he thinks proper; by which means thieves abound, and the real proprietors are defrauded; and as these poor animals are neither housed nor herded, many of them perish of cold, and many are worried by dogs. Such is our situation with regard to this most use-
ful

ful animal; chiefly owing to the above causes, and partly to the ill-judged preference given to the linen-manufacture, in a country where it can never become a staple commodity.

Number of Acres.—There is no map of the parish; but as the ploughgangs are much of a size, each containing about 8 acres of arable ground at an average, and the pasture consisting of about double that number; and as 3 crofts may equal a ploughgoing, then $117 \times 8 = 936$ acres of arable, and $936 \times 2 = 1872$ acres of pasture; and the whole parish being computed to contain 20 square miles, or 12800 acres, then there remain for mosses, braiks, lakes, and hill-pasture, 9992 acres. The arable being to the whole surface as 1 to $13\frac{2}{3}$; and both arable and pasture as 1 to $4\frac{1}{2}$; and to the waste land as 1 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ nearly.

Language, and Names of Places.—The language spoken here is much the same as in the south of Scotland, and strangers remark, with less of a provincial accent. The ancient names of places are derived from the Norwegian, such as Tuskibister, the land of Tuskermen; Kirbister, Kirkland; Houton and Hobbister, Highland; Swambister, the land of Sueno; Orphir, the land of Fire; and Claistran, Close Town, from being the westernmost extremity of the parish, and like a mill cloufe, closing or shutting up the same. It is something remarkable, that the western extremity of the neighbouring parish has a similar name, *viz.* Clouston, as if the original measurer of these parishes, in laying out their different districts, had proceeded from E. to W. from a superstitious respect to the sun's course. There are many other local names, evidently of similar origin; such as, Voeness, a headland dividing two small bays; Heildibrae, a place where bonfires used to be kindled, from the Ice-landick

landick word *beild*, signifying fire; Konger's-know, a tumulus near the road leading to the King's-ferry. But from what circumstance the Mainland came to be honoured with the name of Pomona, is difficult now to account for; unless its origin be ascribed to an opinion which prevailed among the ancients, that Thule was a terrestrial paradise, resembling the garden of the Hesperides. Orkney may have received its name from the Saxons, its ancient inhabitants, who had emigrated from the Hercynian forest, which, Cæsar tells us, *Græci appellant Orcyniam*, and of which Saxony formed a part.

The ancient proprietors of this parish were the Halcros, the Sinclairs, and the Stewarts. The only considerable proprietor at present is William Honyman, Esq; of Græmfay, a gentleman possessed of the largest property in this county, next to Lord Dundas, and lineally descended from Andrew Honyman, Bishop of Orkney, whom he has the honour to represent. Keith, in his Catalogue of the Bishops, p. 136. tells us, that Andrew Honyman, Archdeacon of St Andrews, author of the *Seasonable Case and Survey of Naphtali*, succeeded Bishop Sydsenf, *anno* 1664, to the see of Orkney, in the month of July 1668. This prelate received, on the street of Edinburgh, by one Mitchell, who had been at the rising into rebellion at Pentland Hills, a shot in his arm, with a poisoned bullet, as he was stepping into the Archbishop of St Andrew's (Dr Sharp) coach, for whom the shot was intended. He found his health much impaired after this disaster. He died in February 1676, and was buried in the Cathedral Church of Kirkwall. He was a man of singular piety, and great abilities.

Hill-dike.—The towns or districts of this parish are each of them surrounded by one common dike of seal, called the Hill-dike; the whole burden of keeping which in repair,

very improperly falls upon those whose farms are contiguous to it, the rest giving themselves no concern ; by which means it is poorly kept up indeed.

Rent.—The valued rent is L. 1632 : 18 : 10 $\frac{2}{3}$ Scotch money ; the real rent, including the feu-duties paid for the bishopric, about L. 500 Sterling, besides L. 150, at an average, for kelp. The value *per* acre of arable land may be 6 s. 8 d. and of pasture 1 s. 8 d. About 100 fathoms of peat are sent from hence to the towns of Kirkwall and Stromness yearly, valued at L. 1, 8 s. *per* fathom ; one half of these is paid in rent ; the remainder, though purchased with great labour, both of horses and people, is a sure fund to the inhabitants, as their mosses are inexhaustible.

Weights and Measures.—The false weights and measures of this country have long been a source of grievance and complaint ; and in no instance is the oppression more glaring than in the measure of peats paid here by the tenants, under the denomination of a fathom. This was originally a cube of 6 feet square, containing 216 solid feet ; and will it be believed by the generous and free-born Englishman, that, in a series of years, this measure has been gradually increased upon the ignorant and unsuspecting inhabitant, by his inhuman landlord, from 216 to 1008 solid feet ! for the present fathom in this parish measures no less than 12 feet square by 7 feet high.

The other weights and measures of this country, which are of Danish origin, have been also increased in the same proportion, whether by the landholder, or superior of the feu-duties, or by both in concert, is now uncertain ; but whoever were the transactors of this infamous business, if the cries of an oppressed people ever reach the Throne of Mercy, they have by this time received their just reward.

To Lord Dundas, who is the present superior, and who is justly esteemed to be one of the best gentlemen in England, no blame whatever can attach; his family purchased the estate long after the date of those grievances; and, so far from meriting the slightest charge of oppression, his Lordship, in a year of uncommon scarcity, upon receiving a list of those grievances, readily offered to accept of the lowest conversion the proprietors would name, provided the same benefit were communicated to their subtenants: And, by be on the man who rejected the equitable and humane proposal.

On the Orkney weight, called the punlar, 24 merks make 1 setting = 32 lb. Dutch, and 6 settings make 1 miel = 11½ stone ditto. This instrument is upon the same principle as the Roman steelyard, but may be very easily falsified; for, by making the smallest alteration on the short arm, to which the weight is appended, the receipt may be considerably increased or diminished; and either the payer or receiver greatly injured. A mistaken notion, however, prevails in this country: That, supposing this instrument to be correctly adjusted, and that the weigher were an honest person, yet still this mode of payment is in favour of the receiver. But the case is quite the reverse; for after an exact survey of the punlar, upon mechanical principles, it will be found, that for every stone weight above two, the receiver sustains a loss of 2⅓ lb. Dutch. To make this understood, it will be necessary to explain, that the punlar is a lever of 6 feet long, divided, by notches, into 12 equal parts, of 6 inches each, one of which constitutes the short arm, from the extreme end of which projects a plug of iron, of a little more than an inch long, and at the end thereof is inserted a pivot, round which a hook moves, for holding up the weight. The balance, upon the opposite arm, is a stone of 32 lb. Dutch, appending from a moveable ring, which slides

slides from notch to notch as the weigher chooses. Now, it is evident, that this addition to the short arm must diminish the weight; and, that in adjusting the lever, the measure of the short arm ought to be taken from the pivot of the hook to the pivot of the center of motion, and not from the end of the beam, as is the practice, which makes a 6th part of difference. For, if you suppose this arm of the lever, which is precisely the case, by the one measurement to be 7 inches, and by the other only 6; or, dividing the same, in the one case, into 28 parts, or quarters of inches, and in the other into 24 of these quarters; then, according to the mechanical principles of the lever, the weights will be inversely as their distances, and 24 merks at the hook will balance 28 upon the opposite arm, and there will be a loss to the receiver of 4 merks upon every setting, or repetition of the first error, occasioned by not making the measure from notch to notch on the long arm of the lever of the proper length, *viz.* from the centre of the pivot of the hook to the centre of the pivot of the point of motion; of course, the loss to the receiver, upon the miel, will be 20 merks; upon the 9 settings, 32 merks; and upon the 12 settings, 44; being nearly the 7th part of the whole receipt.

To cure this original defect, a very inadequate remedy has been applied, *viz.* the person weighing adds a setting more to the weight, by sliding forward the ring to which the balance is appended half way to the next notch; for it must be observed, that every notch forms a setting. Of old, they have probably had some standard weight equal to the miel; and, finding the punlar miel to fall short of it, or perhaps not to correspond with its constituent parts upon the bismar, another Danish weight, weighing one setting, and upon nearly the same principles, they have thought to rectify the mistake in this imperfect manner, not having been able

able to discover the original error. And this has also been the reason why, when the weight exceeded 6 or 8 settings, they have given 6 merks of cast, or forefeeling, to make up the increasing deficiency. This unfortunate mistake for the buyer and receiver may be completely rectified, in the manner above mentioned, by taking the measure from pivot to pivot, and not from the end of the beam, and then every setting will fall upon its proper notch, without going beyond it, and there will be no cast of the beam, or forefeeling, as it is called, necessary, which is the source of great fraud.

Church, Stipend, Poor, &c.—The church, which was repaired 40 years ago, was built in the year 1707, and the manse in 1789. The stipend, including the glebe, may be about L. 80 a-year. The patron is Lord Dundas. The present incumbent was settled in 1776, and is as yet unmarried.

There is a parochial school, where from 30 to 40 boys and girls are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic. The encouragement given to the master is extremely small; a solitary house, without so much as a kail-yard; 100 merks of salary, and no emoluments whatever; although it is to be hoped the heritors will redress this grievance, and appoint school-wages to be paid. A Society school is much wanted here; and until such can be obtained, the inhabitants, poor as they are, make a shift to employ private teachers occasionally at their own expence.

The condition of the poor is truly lamentable. The number upon the roll sometimes exceeds 20; and the annual amount of contributions for their support is only L. 4 at an average. Would the non-residing heritors, who are in affluent circumstances, contribute something for their relief,

hief, which hitherto they have not done, it would redound much to their honour.

Antiquities.—In the church-yard are the remains of an ancient building, called the Girth-house, to which great antiquity is ascribed. It is a rotundo of 18 feet in diameter, and 20 feet high; open at top; and on the east side is a vaulted concavity, where probably the altar stood, with a slit in the wall to admit the light; two-thirds of it have been taken down to repair the parish church. The walls are thick, and consist of stones, strongly cemented with lime. From its resemblance to the Pantheon, some have ascribed this building to the Romans; but, in all probability, it has been a Popish chapel, dedicated by the piety of its founder to some favourite saint.

In the district of Swambister, or Suenobister, are the ruins of an ancient tower, of a circular form, and about 180 feet in circumference; and once, probably, the residence of Sueno Boerstrop, who was killed by the famous Sueno Aferisæ, during a Christmas entertainment in this parish, at the house of Paul, one of the Norwegian Counts of Orkney; of which a very particular account is given by the Icelandick historian of Saga Orcadensis.

In the district of Tuskebister, at a place called Obah, resided several of the ancient Counts of Orkney; particularly Harold, who was poisoned by his aunt Fraukark, and the aforementioned Paul, who was put to death by his own sister, the first Countess of Athol. The situation is so circumstantially described by the Icelandick historian, as not to admit of a doubt; although, except an ancient chapel and burying-ground, alluded to by the historian, scarce a vestige of the ruin remains. Romish chapels are to be met with in every district of the parish; also a great many barrows or tumuli; but none of them have been opened.

Commerce.—The principal article of commerce is kelp, which at present sells as high as L. 10 *per* ton. The only other articles worth mentioning are, malt, black cattle, greafe, butter, and linen-yarn; for which so poor a price is given by the dealers in that commodity, that the most expert spinner can hardly earn 2 d. a-day.

No country in North Britain is better situated for trade than this, and yet nowhere has it been more neglected. This is chiefly owing to a low spirit for smuggling, which has been the bane of Orkney for half a century past; and, besides perjury, been the introduction of almost every species of meanness and of vice which can degrade the human character. The writer of the present report, when a very young man, inspired with the love of his country, and fired with indignation at this unhallowed trade, in which, as in a vortex, truth, honour, integrity, and every virtue, was swallowed up, resolved, with the spirit of an ancient Roman, to attack the hideous monster; and accordingly, despising the misapplied appellation of Informer, in so glorious as well as hazardous an attempt, gave in to the collector of the customs, on the public street, an accusation against a noted smuggler, had his vessel seized, condemned, and burnt; demanded and received the informer's share, as an inducement to others to follow the example, and immediately bestowed the same in erecting a charity school in the parish, whereby they have been since greatly benefited. Although it must be confessed, that, in this business, he was privately supported by some of the first gentlemen in Orkney; whose representatives, much to their honour, and for the good of their country, have since completed the business; and it is to be hoped, less from political motives, than from moral and patriotic principles.

Advantages

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The advantages of this parish are, fire, water, and fine women; notwithstanding which, most of the heritors reside at a distance, and leave their tenants to the mercy of factors, and under agents, who, besides the services payable to their masters, require many others, under the denomination of Favours, which, like Harry VIII.'s Benevolences, they dare not refuse. But it is to be hoped, that Mr Honyman of Græmsay, whose mind is enlightened by southern ideas, will redress those grievances, will abolish personal services, will grant long leases to his tenants, and encourage them to improve their farms; whereby he will render his people happy, his family respected, and gain to himself immortal honour; whilst his conduct, at the same time, will be an example to others, which they will be proud to imitate.

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF KILMANY,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR),

By the Rev. Mr JOHN COOK, Minister.

Name, &c.

THE parish of Kilmany has the same name with that by which the most considerable village it possesses is distinguished. From a small burying-ground * which surrounds the church, the name has probably been derived.

This village, which the name, the number of people it contains, and the vicinity of the church, distinguish above every other in the parish, is about 5 miles distant from
Cupar,

* Kilmany is, according to common opinion, of Celtic origin. If only that part of the word which signifies a burying-ground be Celtic, it will not be a singular instance of such composition in our mixed language. The other villages in the parish have, in general, either names descriptive of their situation, or those of former possessors.

Cupar, the county town, and the seat of the presbytery. It is scattered along the shallow and narrow water of Motray *, which unites, in the western extremity of the parish, two small streams, issuing from different sides of Norman's Law, and which, after a short and gentle course, falls into the river Eden, not far from the bay of St Andrew's. A little attention to the pleasing irregularities in the ground on which Kilmany is situated, and through which the rivulet flows, might have made it a beautiful picture of rural scenery. But how seldom has such attention either chosen the situations, or arranged the forms, of the largest towns! Accident, or the idea of conveniency, which can seldom be hurt by a regard to beauty, is allowed to have in these matters too powerful an influence; and in the position of the straggling huts of this village, as in that of many other places, we have to lament the carelessness which can build in a beautiful place of residence, and yet neglect to take advantage of the aids which the scenery at once furnishes and suggests, to decorate the dwellings of men, and from these thus decorated, to derive ornaments in addition to its own.

The church † stands on a beautiful bank, rising gradually from the stream, which flows past it on the S.; is skirted on the W. by some tall ashes; and fronts the hill of Forrit, once covered with firs, but now stript of the whole. No little clump has been left upon any of its brows; not even

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* The water could not float any kind of vessel for transporting corn.

† So late as the year 1768, the church was renewed. The building is simple and neat: but unfortunately, the long narrow form in which almost all the old churches in this part of the country are constructed, has been too much retained. It seems strange, that there should have been so prevalent a partiality to a form of building, of all others least fitted for public speaking.

a solitary tree to show of what it could have boasted formerly, in a country very destitute of such riches.

Extent of the Parish.—The grounds of the parish stretch from W. to E. about 6 English miles, chiefly in that fertile tract of country, which runs almost without interruption, from the barren plain betwixt the mouths of the Eden and the Tay, to the town of Newburgh and Loch Lindores. Where the valley is confined, the parish is scarcely a mile in breadth; but to the W. beyond the village of Rathillet, it widens with the valley, rises on each hand over the adjacent heights, and gains an extent of about four miles. The greatest part of the parish, however, is contained between one continued branch of the Ochil mountains, and some hills, of different sizes, and of various forms, which are scattered to the S.

Kilmany is distant from the river Tay, and from the port of Balmerino, about 3 English miles; but is separated from them by the branch of the Ochil Hills which stretches along the N. of Fife, and gradually diminishes in size, till it shoots down into the river near Scot's-craig.

Wood and Scenery.—This range of hilly ground, which diversifies in the most striking manner the southern shore of the Tay, which in some places swells in full unbroken masses, with variegated colouring, in others, raises suddenly upwards rugged fragments of uncovered rock, might, were the hand of improvement to perform its office, make this part of Fife a scene of the most luxuriant beauty. There are brows on these hills which the plough cannot reach, or where its labour would not be rewarded; which equally by their situation and their soil are fitted to rear timber. This is so obviously the only use to which they can be put, that the traveller who takes time to look around
him,

him, must lament the nakedness they display. He will lament it the more in a scene, where the hand of nature, and the toils of the husbandman, have done so much to administer to his delight; where the contrast of broken rocks and swelling hills, with plains in the richest cultivation; and where the cultivation, breaking with irregular steps the bleakness of the hills, sometimes left at their base, sometimes climbing on their sides, concur to form an exquisitely varied landscape. How much would it add to the scene, were the rich corn fields to rise into the bosom of woods stretching with various length down towards the plain; were some of the barest summits to escape above their verdure; and were the beautiful waters of the Tay seen through openings made thus picturesque?

Neither would such exertions in improving the country be unprofitable; nor is the idea of making them visionary. Independently of the value of the wood, (and it is well known how soon it does become valuable), it tends, by affording a warm shelter, to meliorate the adjacent land in a state of tillage. From every appearance it is also probable that the soil, which cannot be ploughed, might bear a rich covering of wood. From experience, indeed, little can be said, for the parish can boast of few attempts to plant trees; but where sagacity and taste have made the attempt, and continued the small attention necessary for success, they have been in general rewarded with a considerable recompense for the labour, and a rich addition to the beauty of the surrounding scene. The hill of Forrit, in the parish of Logie, was, till some years ago, covered with firs; 21 acres on the estate of Lochmalony, bear them in great perfection, and we may see them scaling some of the steepest hills in the neighbourhood*. In as far, indeed, as the beauty of the
country

* It is but just to observe, that the spirit of raising wood seems now to awaken: several plantations have been of late made, and are still making
in

country is concerned, it would be rather desirable that in some spots they should fail entirely. The irregularity thus produced, the wandering inartificial line in which the foliage would then appear, would give an ease to the scenery, which the formal squares and circles, used with such partiality by custom to bound plantations, effectually destroy.

Even were the trees not to rise to a great height, the proprietor, though he could not be otherwise enriched by them, would be indebted to the shelter they afforded to his arable lands; and the country would wear almost as rich an aspect, with its hills thus covered, as if they were crowned with lofty wood. On a rugged country this is peculiarly beautiful. A little distance always gives a fine effect, even to the poorest plantations; the shortness of the wood the eye cannot then accurately measure; while, at the same time, the foliage seems deep, and the boldness of the ground towers above its shade.

Antiquities.—No ruins of any abbey or chapel, not even the fragments of any remarkable building, give solemnity to the scenery of the parish. A few pretty large stones, sunk in the top of one of its hills, have excited curiosity; and the genius of antiquarianism, unaided by the information which the country can afford, would probably find in them the remnant of some camp or castle. The less splendid, but the more just account of the inhabitants, makes them part of some common decayed fence.

Scarcely a mile to the N. of Kilmany, there is a romantic rocky den, cut deep in the face of the mountain. It has probably been gradually worn down by the successive torrents, which the heavy rains in winter throw from the
higher

in the parish, and its neighbourhood; and if the exertions are vigorously continued, in 20 years the face of this part of the country will be completely changed.

higher ground, dashing amongst its rocks. The name it has received in the country is, Goule's Den. By those who live near it, no explanation of the name is given. The manner in which it is written here would lead any one, acquainted with the Arabian Nights Entertainments, to imagine, that superstitious terrors had peopled it with the destroying demons mentioned in one of these stories. The fact is, that dismal reports, of what had been seen and heard there, were in other days circulated; reports which have had often less to gain them credit, than the dismal gloom which the shades of night must draw over that rugged unfrequented scene.

Number of Acres, and Nature of the Soil.—The irregular extent of the lands in the parish, already mentioned, includes, (besides a glebe of 9), 3963 Scotch acres. Of these, the soil differs according to their local situation. In some of the acres, which are farthest south, the soil is a strong clay; in those forming the flat banks of the Motray, which runs through the whole length of the parish, the soil is a rich black loam, continued beneath the surface, beyond the reach of the plough; in those which are extended on the gentle acclivities, it is loam, with a gravelly and sometimes a rocky bottom; and in the rest, the ground is cold moor, on some spots covered with furze*.

Agriculture.—A very great proportion of the lands in the parish is in a state of high cultivation.—Of 3963 acres, 3216 are arable, the most of which commonly produce good crops. In raising these crops, there is no particular rotation

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uniformly

* There is also in the eastern corner of the parish a piece of light sandy soil, which carries broom to the height of 6 or 8 feet; a produce of very great beauty, and of some utility as fuel, but which takes such possession of the ground, that to extirpate it is a very difficult task.

uniformly observed throughout the parish ; but the one most approved, is that which the ingenious Lord Kames has recommended. The arable land is laboured by 55 ploughs, drawn each by two horses, which are driven by the ploughman. Though the use of cattle in tilling the ground, and even in dragging carriages, be entirely exploded here, it may be computed that 139 are raised annually within the parish, and sold when from betwixt 3 to 4 years old. There are no more horses bred than what are necessary for the purposes of husbandry, and for preventing the places of those which fail from being supplied out of the public markets*.

Of the land which at present lies waste, a considerable extent may be brought into a state of cultivation. The meadows, in particular, on the banks of the Motray, and which the water often overflows, might be made the most productive ground in the parish. Activity has already converted a part of these into the most luxuriant corn-fields; but to the improvement of the whole an obstacle is opposed, which perhaps may not speedily be removed. The water of Motray turns four mills in its course through the parish. The accumulation of water which hence must be made at each, renders it impossible to drain the meadows so thoroughly as otherwise might be done ; and the proprietors of these mills have not as yet been disposed to give up for any equivalent the privilege they possess. This privilege was undoubtedly acquired, when ignorance of agriculture supposed these meadows to be useless; but notwithstanding this ignorance of the nature of the compact, it was fairly acquired, and the enjoyment of it has now become a right. Though it would be absurd to think that it might be sacrificed to benevolence, it would not be unnatural to expect, that for a proper equivalent it would be yielded to promote the public good. But the proprietors of these
mills

* The parish feeds also two flocks of sheep, amounting in number to about 240, mostly of the English breed.

mills have a much weightier reason, in the estimation of the world, to induce them to make such a concession. Their own interest, independently of all equivalent given them, would be thus advanced, for the removal of the mills* would make way for the improvement both of the meadows of their neighbours, and of those which belong to themselves. Till this change take place, the rich meadows will be overflowed with water, and the country denied the corn which in great abundance they would produce †.

Wood.—Of all the ground which might be planted with wood, only about 74 acres bear trees grown to a visible size. Except a few ashes, which cluster in the villages, or run out in hedge-rows; and some trees of different kinds, which are scattered round the family-seats, on the grounds of Rathillet, Lochmalony, and Mountwhannie, the plantations have, chequered with two or three straggling birches, the
the

* These four mills, one of which is used for dressing flax, are all that remain in the parish of a much greater number. The small decrease in the consumption of oats, pease, and barley, (they were corn-mills), can hardly be considered a reason of this diminution. A better will be found in the superior size and mechanism of those that remain. Thirlage, a species of monopoly, which, like all others that are privileged, arose from a fear, that can exist only in the infancy of the arts, imposes here no heavier burden on the farmer, than to make him grind the corn used in his family at the nearest mill.

† In estimating the improvements in agriculture, which have been made within the parish, it will not be safe to follow as a guide the increase of cultivated land. This increase has by no means corresponded to the superior order into which greater skill in husbandry has brought fields which have been long under the plough; and unless the quantity of grain now raised could be compared with what was raised formerly, a comparison which cannot be made, it will not be known what have been the improvements in agriculture, nor what praise the farmers deserve. The amazing rise of rents may be some rule of judging.

the deep gloom of the Scotch, or the gayer verdure of the larch-fir. The small proportion of wooded ground, in comparison of what may be wooded, has been in part removed by considerable plantations lately made on the estates of Lochmalony, Mountwhannie, and Myre Cairnie; and it is to be hoped, that a few years will fill the melancholy blank, which the eye, in wandering over this parish *, finds upon its mountains.

Tithes.—The tithes of the parish, with the right of presentation to the living, were given to the College of St Salvator, in the University of St Andrews, by Bishop Kennedy, the founder of that college. They were intended to be a valuable donation; and would have been so in a high degree, from a parish in such a state of cultivation, had they been allowed to keep pace with the progress of agriculture and the price of corn. This was not allowed; and they have now shrunk out of all proportion to the real rent. The Principal and Professors of the United College, since the union of St Salvator's and St Leonard's, have received them, and are titulars of the tithes, and patrons of the parish.

Fuel, &c.—In the ordinary articles consumed for the support, or for the comfort of life, the inhabitants of this parish may be abundantly supplied. But the supply cannot be procured at low prices. Coals, in particular, must both be purchased at a high rate, and brought into the parish by tedious or difficult roads. In the county of Fife, no coal pits have as yet been opened to the north of the river Eden; hence no coals of any kind can be brought hither over land by a shorter road than six miles, and none good by one less than 16! and it is no easy matter to convey them from the
Tay,

* Eleven proprietors possess at present, in different proportions, the lands of the parish. For planting, the larch is in a special manner recommended to their attention.

Tay, by the rugged road which crosses the steep hills separating Balmerino from Kilmany *. From the vicinity of the parish to the towns of Cupar and Dundee, it feels the price of such provisions as the country produces in abundance, affected by the constant demand of these large markets. Hence cheese, butter, fowls, eggs, are bought at a higher price at Kilmany, because, from the progress of luxury, they are sought with greater avidity than beef or mutton, and from the wealth of the inhabitants, are purchased at an enormous rate at Dundee. Out of the markets of the towns just mentioned, those who do not kill their own meat are supplied. It was once easy to bring, at all hours, such supplies to Kilmany; for the high road betwixt Cupar and Dundee run through the village. Some years ago, (for it is but of late that Fife can boast of having a turnpike-road), the course of this road was turned eastwards, three miles from Kilmany. The public profited by the change, for they travel by a smooth instead of a hilly road; but the village suffered; for it no longer enjoys the wonted frequent opportunities of conveyance betwixt Cupar and Dundee.

Population.—The parish is the residence of husbandmen. Agriculture is the universal employment; it is the source and the substance of its few commercial transactions. It gives subsistence to almost every individual in the parish; to the farmers, to their servants, to the families of these servants, who are the great body of inhabitants; and to the few mechanics, whose offices are necessary for carrying on
country

* It must surely be desired by all who have grain to export, that the road to Balmerino were better made.

country affairs, or for promoting the comforts of life*. From the occupations of the inhabitants, it is evident that they cannot be numerous. Agriculture, however capable of affording the means of subsistence, never collects within the same bounds such numbers, as do the various branches of manufactures cultivated throughout the island. Fewer hands can conduct its operations. One great object, too, which in its present state it seems to have in view, is to take from these hands as many as possible. In many places, proprietor and tenant have united to accomplish this object. To have a large and easily collected rent is naturally desired by the former, and this has effected the annihilation of the little tenants scattered over the country; to save as many servants as possible in the management of country affairs, the latter has imagined it to be important economy, and this has often substituted unmarried men in the place of numerous families. The healthiest and the purest nursery, of the most vigorous and innocent class of our countrymen, has hence been much depopulated. However true it may appear, that a numerous class of tenantry are incapable of keeping the ground in order, or of paying the proper rent, there are bounds, beyond which the idea must prove fatal to the country in which it is put in practice; and it is evidently full of danger, whatever else it be, to turn away the cottagers who have been wont to reside on a farm. The natural consequences are, that servants of that kind are scarce,

* There is no baker in the parish. The greatest part of the bread consumed is prepared by the families who eat it. The increase in the consumption of wheaten bread has of late been considerable, but that it bears no proportion to the use made of oaten and pease meal in baking bread, is apparent, from the circumstance of the parish having no baker of its own. May it not be inferred from thence, that in times of scarcity it is no alleviation to the wants of the poor, when the rich give up the use of flour. The case is different in large towns. There is no flour preferred by bakers, nor barley by brewers, to that which this parish raises.

scarce, and their wages great ; and that a corn country depends upon foreign aid for cutting down its crops. So long as this aid can be easily procured, the helplessness of the situation does not appear ; but it would be severely felt, were any happy change to meliorate the condition of those regions of poverty from whence the aid is derived.

There is no such dependence in this parish. Its population, though from the situation mentioned it cannot be great, has not, as far as can be ascertained, diminished within the last 20 years. The number in 1755 was 785 *. There are now living in the parish 396 males, and 473 females ; in all, 869 †.

Poor.—The funds of the session, for the assistance of the poor, are adequate to afford the common supplies. They consist of the interest of about L. 200 Sterling ; upon which capital no encroachment has been found necessary ; of the money paid for the use of the mortcloth ; and of the collections at the church-door.

There are in the parish no stated poor, who receive weekly from the session. More or less is given to them, according to their wants †. They very seldom, and with much hesitation, ask ; their wants must be noticed and supplied. These two happy consequences, happy for the virtue of
mankind,

* The baptisms have been, at a medium for 20 years past, 21. Those buried in the church-yard, 14. There is no separate list kept of the parishioners buried, as they are sometimes carried elsewhere, and strangers brought to Kilmany. The average number of marriages is 8 ; but of these one of the parties frequently belongs to another district.

† Several families are Seceders from the Established Church, and assemble at a place of worship within the parish.

‡ Their number may be stated about 4 at an average, and their annual income L. 24, 10 s.

mankind arise from hence. The rich are roused to take that care of their brethren, which anticipates the wishes of the needy, which is man's best acquisition, and a source of pure enjoyment; while the poor lose not that withdrawing, declining modesty, to which it is so pleasant to afford assistance. Of both, such is the present state of feelings and manners, there are here frequent instances. The more wealthy (for the parish may be divided into several large families under the immediate care of the different farmers) take a kindly charge of those who live under them, and near them, assisting them very liberally when sickness or age has unfitted them for their service. On the other hand, the reluctance, not merely to solicit, but often even to receive aid, shews that delicate sense of dignity, which poverty may so keenly feel; of which nothing can divest a man but the meanness of his own soul; and which is much desiderated amongst the lazy, dissipated, importunate beggars of large towns.

Religion, &c.—It cannot be foreign from the object of a Statistical Account to mention the influence which religious principle has within the parish. Notice of individuals is often improper and undignified; a general statement of a point, which, whatever public opinion or practice may pronounce, is of infinite consequence to the stability and to the happiness of society, no man, whatever the statement might be, should be ashamed or afraid to make. It is grateful to give a favourable statement. Religion will be found here to be much more than mere speculation; it has great influence on the conduct; it concurs, with unsecularising situation, to preserve the manners simple, and to make the morals pure; and it yields support in the hour of distress, which the stoutest hearts might wish to have. Calm, placid resignation, in the certain prospect of approaching dissolution,

solution, affords an example of true heroism, which philosophy might be proud to reach. But it is heroism, arising from a cause that well accounts for it, in minds which have no incitement, from vanity, of the poor desire of imposing on the world, to assume the appearance of fortitude which they do not feel. It is the consequence of religion; of their firm belief of a better state of existence; and of their hope of what a good man will in that state enjoy for ever. Patriotism surely cannot wish for a more substantial treasure to the country, the interest of whose inhabitants she is desirous to promote, than that the purifying influence of true religion should prevail amongst them; nor deprecate a greater evil, than the petulant presumptuous licentiousness, which tolerates no reasonable, no virtuous restraints, which holds these up to ridicule, and labours to make them disregarded.

NUMBER XX.

PARISH OF DUNNING,

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

By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.

Situation, Extent, &c.

THE northern extremity of the Ochil Hills, terminating in Strathearn, comprehends a very considerable proportion of the parish of Dunning, which is bounded on the E. by the parish of Forteviot; on the W. by Auchterarder; on the S. by Falloway; and on the N. by Gask. The higher and muirland parts of the parish are situated among the Ochil Hills, the declivities of which are in some places gentle, and can admit the plough; but in other places they are steep and rocky. The high muirs, some of which are at least 1000 feet above the level of the sea, are occupied in extensive sheep-walks, which suffer considerably by a cold climate, and a greatly exposed situation. The soil, however, in many places, is dry, and carries a
good

good sward, abounding with excellent pasture-grasses, which retain, even in dry seasons, a beautiful verdure. Some patches of heath and bent grass, here and there, interrupt the uniformity of the verdure. The soil is generally not deep, and is incumbent on whinstone. These high lands remain mostly uninclosed, except by a few dikes of earth or turf, that formerly had, in irregular forms, chiefly circular, been drawn round some small parcels of ground, once in tillage. These small inclosures, if they deserve the name, are now very properly left in pasture, except one or two adjoining to each dwelling-house, and which are cropped mostly with oats and potatoes. The produce in these high situations is extremely scanty, and the harvest very late. This muirland district is much intersected by deep and very narrow glens; the verdant sides of which afford not only pasture, but sometimes an excellent shelter for sheep. Large clumps, and stripes of trees, are much desiderated in these naked and exposed places. There is every reason to believe, that their growth would be so quick as amply to repay any necessary expences.

These muirs are pastured mostly with the speckled-faced sheep, chiefly from the sheep districts, north of Strathearn, as Killin, &c. This variety of sheep is preferred to the black-faced Linton breed, for their weight and hardiness, and being sooner ready for the market. Severe colds, and long storms in winter, are the greatest evils to which sheep are exposed in this high district.

Agriculture.—In the lower and arable parts of the parish, considerable improvements have of late been made in agriculture. Summer-fallow and green crops are introduced into every farm; and a regular succession of crops is generally observed. Some farmers have adopted what is here commonly called the Carse of Gowrie system, which is,

1. Oats ; 2. Summer-fallow ; 3. Wheat ; 4. Pease ; 5. Barley, with grafs-seeds ; 6. Hay. In other farms the following rotation is observed : 1. Oats ; 2. Turnip ; 3. Oats or barley ; 4. Pease ; 5. Barley with grasses ; 6. Hay ; and sometimes pasture the seventh year. Potatoes are planted generally in some corner of a field in grain crops. Ten return of oats is not an uncommon produce. The turnip crop is found to be precarious, but is believed to be very useful. In some portions of ground here the oats do not degenerate. These may be called permanent soils ; and wherever found, ought to be chemically analyzed, that their qualities and proportionable mixtures may be ascertained. By arriving at this knowledge, farmers will have it the more readily in their power to rectify their soils, and bring them to an high degree of perfection. The Cupar-Grange or Angus oats are most commonly sown ; and they not unfrequently give meal for corn. The rent of land has risen greatly in the space of a few years. In general it is at least doubled since the year 1770. Some land is let at L. 3 *per* acre, Scotch, yearly, on a lease of seven years ; a great deal is let at 40 s. or two guineas an acre. Top-dressing on the sward, for being ploughed up next spring, is a very common practice. It is a prevailing maxim here, that land top-dressed with lime only, or lime and a mixture of earth, should not be ploughed until the lime has taken a *firm grip of the ground*. Experience has taught, that by this method the lime is not only kept from sinking too deep, but is also mixed more intimately with the soil, than were it ploughed in immediately after it is laid on the land. This parish is supplied with four meal, two lint, and three barley mills. Most of the land was formerly *thirled* to the mills at a considerable high *multure*. But these servitudes were found to be real grievances, and therefore were mostly bought up by
the

the tenants, who now, in consequence of this purchase, may carry their grain to be grinded at what mills they please.

Population.—The population in 1775, according to Dr Webster's account was 1491. It is now about 1600, which makes an increase of 109.

Church.—The parish church was anciently the chapel of St *Serf*. It is situated in the village of Dunning, and is well frequented. The Earl of Kinnoul is patron; and the Rev. John Baird is the present incumbent. The stipend lately received an augmentation, and amounts to about a thousand merks in money, and four chalders of victual. Besides the parish church, there are two places of worship; the one belonging to the Burgher, and the other to the Antiburgher Seceders. The Presbyterian Dissenters of the Church of Scotland are, by the general report of the respectable writers of the Statistical History of this country, described as being a peaceable and well-behaved class of the community. This praise-worthy character is justly applicable to both parties of the Seceders in this place and neighbourhood.

School.—The parochial school, the present master of which is Mr Balmain, is very well attended. The salary is 200 merks. The wages, *per* quarter, for reading English, are 18 d.; for reading and writing, 2 s.; arithmetic, 2 s. 6 d. Latin, 3 s. The Rev. Mr Baird, much to his honour, pays particular attention to the state of the school, especially with respect to the mode of teaching, the attendance and behaviour of the scholars, and the progress they make from time to time in their education. The proper and regular instruction of youth ought to be particularly attended to by all who have any regard to the good, not only of individuals,

duals, but of society at large. The surest part of the foundation of private and public happiness is laid in an early education, as it is generally conducted in the parochial schools of Scotland. Habits of attention, application, and cleanliness are acquired; the faculties of the soul are gradually enlarged and strengthened; the youth are trained up to fill with propriety any station of life to which they may afterwards be raised; and the principles of the Christian religion, the teaching of which is the most prominent feature of education in parochial schools, are so deeply rooted in the soul, that they become the means of preserving thousands from infidelity, and a life of immorality and wretchedness. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, sensible that the invaluable blessings of a religious life, and the happiness and permanent security of every well regulated government, are chiefly founded in the early education of every class of the community, have wisely appointed a Presbyterial visitation and examination, yearly, of all the schools in Scotland. By means of this, no small encouragement is given to teachers and scholars, and the exertions of both are called forth. From the state of the school, it is presumed that the youth of the parish of Dunning will be found to make considerable progress in any part of education to which they may apply themselves, and that their after life will be a strong proof, that the attention of their teacher and minister to their literary, moral, and religious improvement, has not been lost.

Poor.—About ten paupers are usually on the poor-list. They are supported by the weekly collections at the church, and the interest of a small sum formerly accumulated. Their usual supply is from 9 d. to 18 d. a-week each; but upon extraordinary occasions they receive half-a-crown a-week. None of them are permitted to beg. The chief
landed

landed proprietors in this parish do not commonly attend on divine service in the parochial church; so that [the poor here, as in most other places of Scotland, are supported by the commonality.—Two friendly societies, or *boxes*, as they are usually called, are established in the parish, and from which the members belonging to them who fall into want, receive a ready supply. One belongs to the weavers, and the other to the masons, in the parish and neighbourhood. Both are thriving. Part of the stock is at times laid out in purchasing meal, and selling it a little under market price to the members of the societies, and to the poor of the parish. Too much cannot be said in praise of these friendly or charitable societies, as they are conducted in all the manufacturing districts in Scotland.

Villages.—The principal village in the parish is Dunning. It consists of a considerable number of houses, many of which have been lately built, and are two stories high; of ashlar work, and covered with slate, mostly from Glen-Almond, about 20 miles distant. Some of the houses are elegant and commodious, exhibiting specimens of taste not commonly to be met with in country villages. In the immediate neighbourhood of Dunning is the village of *New Pitcairn*, or *Dragon's Den*, as it is usually called. It is but of recent origin; and consists of about thirty tenements or dwelling-houses, all of which, except a very few, contains two families, and some of them four. The ground on which this village is built is feued from Mr Graham of Orchil. The lots are mostly an hundred ells square, for which is paid L. 1 Sterling of purchase-money, and 7 d. a-year of feu-duty. The houses here are neat and [clean, and are mostly constructed for weavers. They are built for 2 guinea *per* rood, (mason's measure), with service, or 20 s. without service. Freestone is got every where at hand; not
; unfrequently

unfrequently out of the areas on which the houses are built. Mortar of earth is in many cases the cement, except for the corners and the hewn work. They are, however, cast, or *barled* with lime, both without and within. House-rents, equally here with the rest of the parish, are very low. A dwelling-house and room, with a four-loom shop, is let from 40s. to 50s. a-year; a labourer's house, well finished, is about 25s. at an average.—The inhabitants of these villages, and of the most part of the parish, are supplied with coal from the coal-works at Blairingone, in the parish of Foffoway. The distance from the village of Dunning about 12 miles.

Tradesmen.—The only manufacture carried on here is the making a few coarse linens for the Glasgow and Perth markets.—Weavers in the parish, 63, about 40 of whom are employed in factory work; wrights, 28; masons, 27; blacksmiths, 4; shoemakers, 7; tailors, 12. The parish is accommodated with eight inns or public houses, of which number six are in the village of Dunning.—The inhabitants are not distinguished on account of any peculiarities in their dress, customs, or manners. They are generally of an open and communicative disposition, industrious in their labours, and generous in their intercourse with society. The blue bonnet is not altogether out of fashion in this part of the country.—A considerable quantity of coarse linen-yarn is spun by the women in the parish, not a few of whom spin on the two-handed wheel, which a good many years ago was introduced from Fife.

Places of Note.—Duncruib, the property and residence of Lord Rollo, holds a distinguished place in the parish: “As
“ for the antiquity of this family, John Rollo got a grant
“ of the lands of Duncruib, and other lands, from David
“ Earl

“ Earl of Strathern, with the consent of King Robert, his father, of the date 13th February 1380. From the lands of Duncruib the family was designed; and these lands, with others, were erected into a free barony by King James IV. in favours of William Rollo of Duncruib, as the charter bears, of the date 26th October 1512. From this William was lineally descended Sir Andrew Rollo of Duncruib, who was knighted by King James VI. and afterwards was by King Charles I. raised to the dignity of Lord Rollo of Duncruib, in the year 1651.” (*Nisbet's Heraldry*, vol. i. p. 324.

The house of *Keltie*, the property of the Drummonds of Keltie, is not of a recent date, and is deservedly far-famed for the genuine hospitality of an open and generous-hearted family.

It is believed by many of the inhabitants of this place, that the river Earn was anciently navigable a considerable way above the village of Dunning; and some old people affirm, that they have seen iron rings fixed in a perpendicular rock, close to the bottom of which the level land of the Strath of Earn now comes. It is said, by tradition in the country, that to these rings the vessels which navigated the river were occasionally fastened. That a great part of the haugh or low ground, in the lower district of this parish, was formerly deposited by the water of the Earn, there can be no doubt; but that the river was navigable to the above mentioned rock is extremely uncertain.

Terrnave is the most remarkable spot in this parish or neighbourhood. It is a hill, or mound of earth, resembling a ship with the keel uppermost. It occupies many acres of ground; is covered with a fine sward of grass, and strikes the eye at the distance of several miles. The name is evidently a corruption of *Terræ navis*; but whether given it

by the Romans, or since they left the country, is uncertain. To this place a superstitious regard is attached by the vulgar. Tradition asserts, that some time ago a man attempting to cast divots (turf) on the side of it, no sooner opened the ground with the spade, than the form of an old man, supposed to have been the spirit of the mountain, made its appearance from the opening, and with an angry countenance and tone of voice, asked the countryman why he was tiring (uncovering) his house over his head? On saying this, the apparition instantly disappeared. The man, it is reported, was so terribly frightened, that he immediately left off the operation; and none has since ventured to disturb the repose of the imaginary spirit.

NUM.

NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF TONDERGARTH,

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

By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.

Situation, Surface, Extent, &c.

THE parish of Tondergarth, or Tundergarth, is about 14 miles in length, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in breadth. It comprehends the declivities of a range of hills which lie along the river *Milk*. It is surrounded by the contiguous parishes of St Mungo's, Dryfesdale, Hutton, Eskdale-muir, Middlebie, and Hoddam. Its surface is, in level, unequal, and beautifully diversified; is in many places green and arable, in others, covered with heath, and not yet reduced under tillage. It is not without woods, both natural and planted. Some marl-pits have been opened in it.

Population and Employments.—On the 17th of November 1791, the whole population was found, upon a careful enumeration,

enumeration, to amount to 510 souls. The *heritors* are in number 27. Earl Mansfield is superior of the greater part of the parish. Mr Johnstone of Grange, Mr Brown of Westwood, Mr Richardson of Piercbyhall, are the principal heritors ordinarily resident in the parish. The most considerable non-residing heritor is Mr Beattie of Crieve. The inferior inhabitants are chiefly farmers and farm-labourers. Here are, of artificers, 2 blacksmiths, 1 joiner, 1 shoemaker, 5 weavers, 2 tailors. The people are in general sober, industrious and healthy; in longevity, some of them have lived to the ages of 84, and even of 90 years.

Husbandry.—The husbandry which occupies the farmers is partly that of the shepherd-life; in part that of agriculture. It is the Cheviot breed of sheep which is here cultivated: And of this breed there may be between 3000 and 4000 sheep on the farms in the parish. The black cattle are of a race allied to that of Galloway; are reared from calves not bought in; and may be in number about 4000. The soil is for the most part gravelly, or of the nature of a morass. Oats, bear, and barley, are the grains here cultivated. Lime, and dung, with some little marl, are the ordinary articles of manure. The medium extent of the farms is from 100 to 200 acres. The lands are tolerably inclosed with stone *dikes*, and here and there with ditches and hedges. *Lint*, or flax, is raised in small quantities. Green crops, for fallowing and forage, have been tried with a success which has not failed to recommend the example to general imitation. In the harvest of 1795, the minister had, on a field before his door, one of the finest crops of turnips that have ever been any where produced. Potatoes are also raised in very great abundance. The horses used for the draught are commonly, in value, such as would sell in the market from L. 12 to L. 15 Sterling each.

Roads

Roads and Markets.—The roads are made and repaired by the money-conversion of 12 s. on every 100 merks, instead of the statute-labour. From *Scroggs* to *Debate*, a distance of about 5 or 6 miles, there is an excellent road. The market-towns to which the inhabitants of this parish usually resort are, Lockerby, Annan, Dumfries. The black cattle are sold at Dumfries, and at Lockerby, but more especially into England. Linen and woollen cloths are, for the greater part, not imported, but manufactured by the people for themselves, in the family-way.

Rents and Valuation.—The valuation of the parish is about 2900 merks Scotch. The real rents are probably between L. 1700 and L. 1800 Sterling.

Poor's Funds.—The poor are supported from the interest of a *mortified* fund of L. 66 Sterling, and out of the Sunday's collections in the church; which are, at ordinary times, about 1 s. 6 d. or 2 s.; but at the annual dispensing of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, arise even to L. 3 Sterling.

Minister, Benefice, School.—The present minister is the Reverend Mr Paxton, a bachelor. His three last predecessors were, Messrs Clarke, Jeffrey, Fergusson. The stipend consists of L. 800 Scots in money, and two chalders of victual. There was in the year 1795 no parish-school in Tondergarth; but application had begun to be made for the establishment of one. Among the inhabitants of the parish are some few Burgher and Antiburgher Seceders, and some Relief people; but none of these sects have a meeting-house here.

Language.—*Johnstone* is the most prevalent surname in this parish; and the old castle of Tondergarth was once the principal

principal feat of the Johnstones. The language of this parish has always been a purely Saxon dialect of the old Lowland Scottish. *Tondergarth* is a compound Saxon word, signifying the *Castle of the Garden*, or rather, perhaps, *the Castle of the Sanctuary*.

Brunswark.—At its western border, this parish almost touches the base of the famous hill of *Brunswark*. That hill owes its celebrity to the remains of two Roman encampments, which appear on the eastern and on the western side of its declivity. The remains of these encampments are still exceedingly distinct. It seems highly probable that they were at first formed by the Romans besieging a body of the ancient Britons, who had occupied the summit of the hill. It was so remarkable a station, that it could not fail to be continually occupied in all subsequent wars among the inhabitants of these regions, whether contending among themselves, or opposing stranger-invaders. The Anglo-Saxons, the Scotch, and English, in all their border-wars, naturally posted themselves often on the summit of Brunswark, as a place, by its elevation above the surrounding country, admirably fitted at once for an impregnable post, and for a station of prospect, from which all the movements of surrounding enemies might be spied.

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF ANNAN,

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

By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.

Situation, Extent, &c.

THE parish of Annan lies almost immediately upon the nearest Scottish shore of the Solway Frith. It is bounded on the E. by the parishes of Dornock and Kirkpatrick-Fleming; on the N. by Middleby and Hoddam; on the W. by Cummertrees; at its southern extremity it extends, for its greatest breadth, 3 miles along the coast; its greatest length is 8 miles.

Soil, Surface, Coast, Rivers, &c.—The river Annan intersects this parish, forming, at the place of its influx into the frith, the port of Annan, an excellent natural harbour. There are also some few brooks. The highest tides rise from 16 to 21 feet above the level of low-water. The surface

face is generally low and flat. Woodcock-Airhill, however, rises to something of elevation. The soil is clay, sandy, peat-earth, or a mixture of these. There are some tracts of heath-covered muir. Woodcock-Airhill has been planted with wood; and on the banks of the river Annan are also some stripes of planting. It was once tried to prepare kelp from the sea-weeds growing on the coast, but the sea-weeds were found not sufficiently plentiful to encourage the continued prosecution of this undertaking. Here are excellent freestone quarries, limestone, and granite.

Population, Heritors, Farmers, &c.—The population of the whole parish may amount to about 2500 souls. The heritors paying stipend are 60 in number; of whom the most considerable are, the Earl of Hopetoun, Mr Irvin of Bonshaw, Colonel Dirom of Mount-Annan, the Earl of Mansfield, Mr Carruthers of Warmanby, Mr Sharp of Hoddam, Sir Charles Douglas, Mr John Macmurdo. There are about 97 or 100 farmers families; but few hinds or cottagers.

The Town.—The town of Annan, one of the most ancient burghs in Scotland, and which, in conjunction with Lochmaben, Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, and Sanquhar, sends a member to the British Parliament, contains within the town, and upon the burgh-roods, 1620 souls out of the whole population of the parish. It possesses very extensive burgh-roods, which are, in great part, very imperfectly cultivated. There is a vast common, open to all the inhabitants for pasture, *peats*, and *divots*; of which the division and appropriation, although repeatedly proposed, have still been strenuously resisted. The revenue of the town is about L. 300 Sterling a-year, arising from tolls, fisheries, and feu-duties. Its houses are in general decent and well-built.

A few failors belong to it ; and there are 5 floops, the property of inhabitants of the town or burgh-roods. There are likewise two ferry-boats employed for passage to and from the coast of Cumberland. The burgh, not long since, supplied, as its proportion, two failors to the royal navy. It has in it four writers ; one surgeon ; a schoolmaster, whose emoluments are, of salary and subscription, L. 40, of wages, L. 25. The port is comprehended within the district of the custom-house of Dumfries. Day-labourers are supplied from the town, for most of the farm-work in the country part of the parish. The occupations of its other inhabitants are those of merchant and shopkeeper, weaver, blacksmith, tailor, joiner, shoemaker, tanner, currier, clog-maker.

Fisheries.—The fishery, on the coast and in the river, affords employment and subsistence to many of the inhabitants of this parish. The fisheries are let at the annual rent of L. 210 Sterling. A curious species of net is used here for taking salmon, both at the flowing and during the ebbing of the tides. Beside salmons, which are plentiful and excellent, hirlings, mussels, flounders, cod, whittings, prawns, skate, and sometimes turbot, are found on this coast.

Exports and Imports.—The articles of *export* are, potatoes and grain to Liverpool, Whitehaven, and the Frith of Clyde ; freestone to Ireland ; black-cattle, cotton-yarn, shoes, and clogs, to the contiguous inland parts of England. In return are *imported*, merchants goods in general from Liverpool ; London goods by the way of Newcastle and Carlisle ; iron and timber in deals from Gottenburgh.

Roads.—This parish is intersected by great roads passing between Dumfries and Carlisle, between Annan and Edinburgh by Moffat, between Annan and Edinburgh by Lang-

holm. On the great roads are toll-bars. The cross roads are made and repaired by the conversion-money for the statute-labour, which is at the rate of 3 d. for every pound Sterling of real rent, from the inhabitants of the burgh; and 12 s. on each 100 merks of valuation, from the landward part of the parish.

Agriculture, Cattle, Servants, &c.—The farms are of small extent; One only pays so large a rent as L. 100 a-year. The average rent from the *landward* part of the parish runs from 3 s. to 25 s. an acre: The average rent of the burgh-roads is from 10 s. 6 d. to 50 s. an acre. The wages of servants are, to men-servants, with their boarding, from L. 6 to L. 10 a-year; to maid-servants, equally with their board, from L. 3 to L. 5 a-year. Day-labourers receive, with their victuals, 10 d. a-day; and for severe labour, without victuals, 1 s. 6 d. Black cattle are the chief animal stock of the farms; are reared generally from calves within the parish; and have been multiplied in their numbers since green crops and sown grasses came into use here. Horses are used here, as in other places, for work and riding; some few are bred and reared from foals within the parish. Barley is the chief article of white crop; oats come next in quantity after barley; here is also a little wheat raised and exported. Potatoes are produced in great quantities. Many hogs are fed, killed, cured for bacon, and in this state exported. Here are but few sheep.

Rotation of Crops.—Pease, beans, and turnips, are the articles of fallowing green crop. Lime, dung, some little marl, and sleet from the sea-shore, are the usual articles of manure. The rotation of culture is, 1. Potatoes, turnips, or a fallow with manure; 2. Wheat or barley, and with it grass-seeds; 3. One crop of hay; 4. A top-dressing with manure;

manure; 5. From 3 to 5 years, pasture; 6. Two successive white crops, commonly oats; 7. Return to the commencement of the same rotation. It is a compost which is used for the top-dressing. Inclosures have become general, although but lately; they are made with ditches and hedges; and in some places with dry stone walls.

Houses, Mode of Living, &c.—Such farm-houses as have been lately built are good and commodious, and of one or two stories. The office-houses are arranged in squares, with large open sheds for black cattle. Servants and master eat commonly at the same table. The farmer's Sunday clothes are of English cloth. Peats and coal are both commonly used for fuel. The coal is sold at 7 s. 6d. for the ton of $13\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. The climate and situation are reckoned healthy. Epidemical fevers are unknown. Consumption and ague are rare. The harvest is generally early. In the year 1782, the crops were plentiful. There is on the river a cotton-work, about which from 100 to 130 men, women, and children, are commonly employed. One or two weavers in the town manufacture some checks.

Antiquities and History.—*Annan*, the name of this town and parish, seems to have been primarily the name of the river only. Its radical syllable is one of those words which were used in the ancient British tongue to signify simply *water*, or a *river*. *Annan* was probably a Roman station, the *Veromum* of the anonymous geographer of Ravenna. It seems to have been still occupied by the Britons of the west, after the departure of the Romans, till they were subdued by the Anglo-Saxons of Northumberland. When the kingdom of Northumberland was overthrown, Annan fell into the possession of the Scotch. While Cumberland, and the greater part of Northumberland, were possessed by
Malcolm

Malcom Canmore, and his successors, to William the Lion; Annan was, as well as Carlisle, one of their principal ports. It was soon after obtained in fief, with the whole territory of Annandale, and the port of Lochmaben, by the ancestor of King Robert Bruce. The Bruces built here a stately castle, of which the ruins still remain. By the succession of the Bruces to the Scottish throne, Annan became a royal burgh, obtaining then those privileges which it has ever since retained. Edward Balliol, during his attempts to wrest the kingdom from young David Bruce, was surprised at the Castle of Annan by a sudden expedition of the Douglasses from Moffat, and with difficulty made his escape out of their hands, flying naked and alone into England. While the Douglasses were wardens of these marches, all Annandale was theirs; and Annan, although a royal burgh, could not resist their authority. After their forfeiture, it became subject chiefly to the Johnstones, with whom it has, in a great measure, ever since remained. And yet the extensive burgh domains render the burghesses of Annan almost independent of the landlords of the surrounding country. Many remarkable military transactions of the border-warfare between the Scotch and English took place at Annan, and in its vicinity. Annan was one principal residence of those bold men of Annandale, famous in the Scottish history for exercising such constant warfare with the English borderers, that they became, even in respect to their Scottish neighbours, incapable of the order, the moderation, the civil submission of peace.

NUMBER XXIII.

PARISH OF TARBOLTON,

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

By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.

Situation and Extent, &c.

THE parish of Tarbolton, situated in Kyle, the middle district of Ayrshire, surrounded by the parishes of Craigie, Matchlin, Stair, Coylton, St Quivox, and Monkton, is a high-lying tract of ground, of between seven and eight miles in length, and about six in breadth. It is about five miles from the sea-coast; and its elevation above the level of the sea, seems to exceed the middle height between the highest and the lowest parts of the county. Its ancient and natural aspect has evidently been sufficiently rude and wild; bare and unsheltered; varied with frequent inequalities of surface; marshy in the hollows, on the heights
overgrown

overgrown with heath. But the rude aspect of nature has here, long since, given place to the beauties and the wealth of industrious cultivation.

Number of the Inhabitants, &c.—The number of the inhabitants of this parish was, in the year 1755, about 1365. It has been since rather diminished than augmented, and may be at present calculated not greatly to exceed 1200; of whom about 450 are inhabitants of the village of Tarbolton. The *heritors* are 19; and of these the principal are, the Earl of Eglinton, lately Colonel Montgomery of Coilsfield, Mr Cunningham of Enterkine, the Marquis of Titchfield, Mr Cooper of Smithstone, the heirs of Colonel Hunter, Dr Hunter of Park, Captain Davidson of Drumley, Mr Neill of Schaw. The *farmers* are in number about 130. In the village are several *stocking-makers*. Around it are the possessions of several of those small proprietors, who are usually distinguished by the appellation of *portioners*. Here is a *farmer society*, for the purposes of the friendly societies now common in Scotland; as also a *farmer club*, for the ends of agricultural improvement. In the village are two *mason lodges*.

Animal Stock and Valuation.—The animal stock on the lands in the parish has been reckoned at about 386 horses, 1800 cows, and 500 sheep. The valued rent is between L. 7000 and L. 8000 Scotch.

Dairies.—The capital species of industry followed by the farmers, is, the management of *cattle* for the uses of the dairy. The *leases* are commonly for nineteen years, and restrict the tenants to the generally received modes of cultivation. The cows are of a race famous for the abundance of their milk. They are frequently brindled, and
have

have short heads, straight backs, and square ribs. A prodigious quantity of butter and cheese is annually made here for sale: And in the preparation of these articles, the people of this parish, as well as the other inhabitants of this middle district of Ayrshire, are well known to excel the farmers of every other part of Scotland.

Agriculture.—*Barley* and *oats* are the prevalent articles of grain-crop. The lands are carefully subdivided and inclosed, here and there with hedge-rows of trees and belts of planting. *Potatoes* are the principal article of green crop; among other varieties of the potatoe, there is particularly a beautiful long white one, very advantageously in use here. The gardens afford abundance of pulse and pot-herbs. The *climate* is here, as around this western coast in general, moist, and subject to frequent rains. Yet it is sufficiently genial; for in the middle of September in the year 1795, the harvest was more than one half advanced. The *soil* is a reddish loam; and here and there are considerable strata of *peat-earth*. The culture of *turnips*, as a crop for forage and for fallowing, is not yet fully established in this parish; but begins to be continually more and more adopted.

Houses, Fuel, &c.—The *farm-houses* and *office-houses* are commodiously arranged in a square, open in front; and having, on this side, before the door of the dwelling-house, a smooth green, a pond of water, and the dunghill. They are covered with thatching, and are usually one story in height. Sown grasses are universally in use throughout this parish. The common proportion between the grass and the corn in the agriculture of a farm, gives one-third of the arable ground to the latter; to the former two-thirds. *Lime*, for manure, is not indeed found within the parish; but

but is obtained in great abundance, and at a reasonable price, in its immediate neighbourhood. *Peats* and *pit-coal* are the common fuel; the latter is obtained in plenty from no great distance. It is in one quarter only of the parish that *barley* has been found to answer as an article of crop. The inhabitants are, in general, a stout, healthy, cleanly, good-looking people, not ill educated, and still impressed with a great and serious respect for the ordinances of religion.

Markets and Roads.—The nearest *market towns* are, *Ayr*, *Irvine*, *Kilmarnock*, and *Mauchlin*. The *cross roads* are numerous, well laid, and kept in good condition; but with this disadvantage, that they are conducted without any distinction, indifferently up heights, and down into hollows. *Ayrshire*, abounding in coal and limestone, demanded for the conveyance of these, good roads, at a time when, in other parts of Scotland, roads were not thought to be worthy of great attention in parish-police; and when such attention had not yet been paid to them in this country, as was necessary to discover how much better it is to conduct a road round the base of a hill, than over its summit.

Minister and School, &c.—The present parish minister of *Tarbolton* is the Reverend Mr *Ritchie*. The church is in a decent condition. A new manse has just been built for the present incumbent. The value of the benefice does not exceed L. 150 a-year, nor yet fall greatly short of it. The parishioners, from the highest to the lowest, give a decent and diligent attendance at church. The parish schoolmaster's emoluments may be about L. 50 a-year. Latin, arithmetic, writing, the reading of English, are taught in the school.

Collections for the Poor.—The average Sunday collections for the poor are from 12s. to 15s. in amount. At the dispensation of the Sacrament, and upon other extraordinary occasions, the collection arises to from L. 2 to L. 5.

Antiquities.—*Tarbolton* was most probably a station of the Danes, at that remote period of our ancient history, when these people possessed all the northern and western isles adjacent to Scotland, and even considerable posts and possessions upon the shores of the mainland. Closely contiguous to the village is a mount, now named *Hood's Hill*, which strikingly exhibits the appearance of an old Danish encampment and fortification. Adjacent, at no great distance, within the beautifully ornamented grounds which surround the house of *Coilsfield*, are a scene, which the tradition of the country relates to have been a field of battle; and a stone held in veneration as the monument of *old King Coil*. It may more probably have been the scene of a battle between the *Danish* invaders, and the old *Gaelic* inhabitants of the country. The rude stone may have been originally placed to cover the body of some chieftain, although not that of him to whom it is ascribed. *Tarbolton* was perhaps the boundary between the *Danes* and the *Gael*. *Kyle*, the name of the district, was probably first imposed upon it, in respect to the people inhabiting it, and in contradistinction to *Cunningham*, the name of the adjoining district, which was more permanently occupied by the Danes. Near to the village of *Tarbolton* stands the ruined monastery of *FEALE*, having beside it a small hamlet of cottages. It is said to have been a cell or priory dependent upon *Paisley*, and belonging, by consequence, to the *Black Monks* of *Clugni*. I know not whether it may not rather be the same with that priory of *Failefurd*, to which

John Graham, laird of Tarbolton, and Steward of Kyle, granted the patronage of the church of Tarbolton, by a charter, dated at *Failefurd* in the year 1337, and afterwards confirmed at Dundonald in the year 1368, by John Earl of Carrick, afterwards King, by the name of Robert the Third.

NUM.

NUMBER XXIV

PARISH OF LONGFORGAN,

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

*By a Proprietor in the Parish, a Friend to Statistical
Inquiries.*

Situation and Extent.

THE parish of Longforgan lies on the south-east corner of the county of Perth, in the presbytery of Dundee, and synod of Angus and Mearns. It is bounded on the S. by the river Tay, on the W. by the united parishes of Inchture and Rossie, and the parish of Abernyte; on the N. by the parish of Kittens; and on the E. by the united parishes of Fowlis Easter and Lundie, and of Liff and Benvy. Its shape is irregular. Its greatest length 7 miles, and its greatest breadth about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles; but in some places it is so narrow, that the whole parish does not contain above 7000 acres.

Name.

Name.—The derivation of the name Forgan is unknown, but it must be very ancient, and appears to have been originally called Forgund, from a grant of the lands and barony of Longforgund to Sir Andrew Gray of Broxmouth, by King Robert Bruce, in the year 1315. The epithet *Long*, probably, is applicable to the village only, to distinguish it from others of the same name.

Contents.—It contains the estates of Castle Huntly and Monorgan, Drimmie, Millhill, Knap, Dron, and Littleton, Mylnefield, Lauriston, Lochton, two Ballos, two Newtons, and Temple Hall.

Rent and Heritors.—The valued rent is L. 7254 : 6 : 8 Scotch. The real rent would be difficult to ascertain, but it may be about L. 7000 Sterling *per annum*, which will most probably be considerably increased when the present leases are expired. There are eleven heritors, six of whom reside, the rest do not.

Climate.—The climate, in the lower part of this parish is mild, snow seldom lying above a week at a time; but in the hilly part it is less so. There, the snow lies much longer in winter, and there is at least three weeks difference between the ripening of the crops above and below the hills. All over the parish, however, the weather is various, and frequently changes very considerably two or three times in a day. The winters are neither long nor severe. The springs are short. In the month of May, and beginning of June, cold easterly winds prevail; but in general the west and south-west winds are the most prevalent through the year. In June and July, the weather is warm and fine. About the beginning of August rains are frequent; but the autumns are fine, and frosts seldom set in very severe till after Christmas

Annexed

Annexed is a Meteorological Table, extracted from the register of a very ingenious gentleman in the neighbourhood, taken at his house upon the northern banks of the Tay, and within two miles of the eastern boundary of this parish, and which can not vary much from the state of the weather in that part of the Carle which lies between the hills and the river Tay.

Years.	Barometer, height.		Thermometer.				Number of days in the year.		Winds, Number of days.								Rain fallen.			
	Greatest.	Least.	Height.		Mean Heat.		With rain.	With snow.	Fair.	North.	N. East.	East.	S. East.	South.	S. West.	West.		N. West.	Most prevalent in a year.	Quant. in inches.
1785,	30,90	28,30	83	21	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	57	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	91	14	260	25	30	59	6	5	125	86	29	S. W.	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
1786,	30,34	28,59	75	16	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	87	33	245	20	51	46	21	10	86	97	34	W.	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
1787,	30,40	28,27	73	23	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{10}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	26	240	19	34	71	14	7	104	100	16	S. W.	24 $\frac{1}{8}$
1788,	30,61	28,59	73	21	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	85	32	249	18	26	71	9	10	108	113	11	W.	16 $\frac{3}{8}$
1789,	30,72	28,10	73	20	34	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	124	34	207	26	26	74	11	8	94	116	10	W.	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
1790,	30,41	28,34	70	28	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	51	124	16	238	22	33	54	10	5	91	140	10	W.	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
1791,	30,40	28,18	71	20	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{4}$	50	111	16	238	40	29	49	10	8	82	125	22	W.	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
1792,	30,40	28,60	74	21	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	114	17	234	35	36	61	7	10	104	88	25	S. W.	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
1793,	30,35	28,35	78	29	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	138	28	200	19	29	69	10	8	129	88	13	S. W.	28 $\frac{1}{8}$
1794,	30,19	28,40	77	20	38	66	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	107	18	240	25	19	68	14	17	111	94	17	S. W.	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
1795,	30,70	28,53	74	19	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	122	38	205	39	35	70	9	13	98	81	20	S. W.	28 $\frac{1}{2}$

REGISTER AT CASTLE-HUNTER, FOR

1796, | 30,12 | 28,16 | 77 | 17 | 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 60 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 50 | 141 | 22 | 203 | 15 | 13 | 46 | 45 | 6 | 122 | 97 | 22 | S. W. 120 $\frac{1}{2}$

Surface, Hills.—The surface of the parish is very irregular. Its southern boundary upon the Tay to the eastward, is bold and steep, which ends in the rocky promontory of Kingoody. From that point a beautiful bank rises, and as it proceeds north and west, it takes the shape of a crescent, and ends in a bluff point, at a place called the Snabs of Drimmie, about 3 miles from its beginning, below which, and between it and the river Tay, the surface is a perfect plain, its lowest part upwards of 20 feet above the bed of the river, and forms the easternmost part of that fertile vale, well known by the name of the Carse of Gowrie. About half a mile north from the village of Longforgan, this bank sinks into a narrow vale, which runs across the parish, and from which rises a range of hills, which may be considered as part of the Sidlaws. These divide Strathmore from the Carse of Gowrie, and end at Perth. There are three remarkable hills in this parish, Dron, Ballo, and Lochtown. The first is 667 feet; the second, 992 feet; and the last, 1172 feet above the level of the sea.

Rivers, Fishings, and Rivulets.—There is no river connected with this parish but the Tay, which bounds it on the south for nearly three miles. It is here between two and three miles broad, and when the tide ebbs, it leaves near a mile of dry sand between its bank and the stream or current of the river. At present, the river Tay is famous for its excellent salmon, from Errol upwards; and again, where it narrows near the Castle of Broughty, about three miles below Dundee; but none are caught now where it bounds this parish; although formerly there might have been some, as the right of fishing for salmon is attached by
charter

charter to the estate of Monorgan *. Three rivulets also take their rise in this parish †.

Minerals.—Hitherto nothing has been extracted from the bowels of the earth in this parish but stone and shell marl; but there are several mineral springs, particularly about Castle Huntly, which are strongly impregnated with iron; and from the red colour of the soil in many parts, and from the weight and appearance of stones found very near the surface, there is every reason to believe that the bank of Forgan abounds with iron ore.

Stone

* If ever salmon were caught in that part of the river which bounds this parish, it must have been at a very remote period, probably before the Tay formed its junction with the Erne at Inchyra, and when the Carle land extended much farther south, and occupied a great part of what now forms the bed of the river Tay.

† Two of these rivulets rise from one point, directly north from Longforgan, in that vale which runs across the parish. One, taking an eastern direction, unites with the burn of Benvy, south of Gray, turns two corn-mills, a fulling-mill, and one flour-mill; and after serving as a boundary between the counties of Perth and Forfar, for a great part of its course, it empties itself into the Tay at Invergowrie Bay. The other, running westward, enters Lord Kinnaird's park in the parish of Rossie, where it falls immediately into a larger stream, which takes its rise in the upper part of this parish, and which, in its course, before the junction, turns five corn-mills, four lint-mills, one barley-mill in this parish, and one threshing-mill in the parish of Rossie. After they are united, they continue in a western direction as far as the Old Castle of Moncur, and are there joined by the burn of Balledgarno. This united stream there takes a southerly direction, and for a considerable way divides the two parishes of Inchtute and Longforgan. It again enters this parish, and proceeding eastward, passes through the parks of Castle Huntly, turns a corn mill at Monorgan, after which, its stream, being guided by a canal, dug within flood-mark, at a considerable expence, within these few years, it washes the harbour of Kingoody, and empties itself into the Tay south of Mylnesfield, under the name of the Burn of Monorgan, but in the charters and old writings it is called the Burn of Mountain. This burn, through its whole course, abounds with excellent trout.

Stone Quarries.—The stone quarries in this parish are many and various, but the principal is at Kingoody, upon the estate of Mylnefield, which is perhaps one of the best in Great Britain *.

There

* The Kingoody stone is of a greyish colour, called by mineralogists Grain-stone; it is difficult to work; hard and durable to an uncommon degree; so much so, that the fine old tower the steeple of Dundee, which was built of it in King David the Second's time, has shown scarce any symptoms of decay, except where the influence of the town atmosphere reaches. Castle Huntly, supposed to be built in 1452, has scarce a stone in it which has yielded to the influence of the weather; and a gate at that place, built of Kingoody stone, by Earl Patrick of Strathmore, 130 years ago, is crowned with four pyramids, the points of which appear perfectly entire at this day, (1797), not measuring more in diameter than 1-16th of an inch. These are only a few amongst many instances of its durability. It produces stone of all sizes, and for every purpose of building, as it affords blocks of 30 feet in length by 16 in breadth; also stone for pavements, millstones, slates, &c. In this quarry some stone is raised of a bluish cast, of an exceeding fine grain, and capable of a polish, little short of some marble. The deeper in the quarry the stone is the better; it is soft below water-mark, and it is easier worked, but hardens in the common air.

The best stone in this quarry seems to lie in a north-easterly direction, but as its bed proceeds north and west, it degenerates, at least it appears so, as far as it has yet been traced. About a mile westward below Longforan, it has the appearance of reddish granite; but it is soft, and seems to yield to the hammer, and dissolves so entirely with friction and moisture, that it has been found totally unfit for metalling roads, but it has been used, and does very well for building common village-houses; farther west it has more of that red colour, and becomes heavy, as if it tended to iron ore.

Mr Mylne, the proprietor, employs from fifty to sixty hands in the quarry of Kingoody; four boats for transporting stone, which are navigated by nine hands, and not only sends stones to the whole extent from Montrose to Perth by water, but likewise for 15 or 16 miles of country round by land-carriage. He also sends considerable quantities to England; and lately undertook, by contract, to furnish stones from this quarry to two navigable canals, the one called the Gippon's Navigation, near Ipswich; the other, the Chelmesford Canal, near Maldon, in Essex. He has built a considerable village upon the spot for the labourers, the inhabitants of which at present amount to 116 of all ages.

Although

There are also in this parish several other stone-quarries. Upon the estates of Dron and Ballo, the stone is good, durable, and excellent for every purpose of building. At Millhill, the stone is soft, and of a bluish cast, which does not stand the weather, but splits into small lamellæ upon being exposed. However, it answers very well for inside walls, and, if under cover, will last many years. At Lauriston, the stone inclines to a dusky black, is much harder, and, when polished, has the appearance of marble. It is a real limestone, but not very strong; however, were coals, or proper fuel near enough to bring the burning within a reasonable expence, it might answer very well. Below the Bank of Forgan there are several rocky protuberances, all of them a very hard bluish whin, very difficult to raise; and although some of them have been used for village houses, yet, as there is no working them either with the hammer or the chissel, they have been principally used for the turnpike, and other public roads. Castle-Huntly is built upon one of these rocky eminences.

VOL. XIX.

3 N

Marl.

Although it does not properly belong to this paper to interfere with the business of revenue or finance, yet, as the subject is curious, it is worth while to remark, that owing to the interpretation put upon the wording of the late act of Parliament, for imposing a duty upon stone sea borne, by the revenue-officers, the exportation of stone from this quarry, in all probability, will soon be at an end. For, although the whole revenue arising to Government, betwixt the 5th day of July 1794 and the 5th day of July 1795, from this duty, was only L. 16 : 18 : 3 $\frac{3}{4}$, yet, from the distance between Kingoody and the ports of Perth and Dundee, such is the difficulty of procuring coast-dispatches for a cargo of stone, worth only 17s. and not exceeding 10d. per ton in value, as to prolong a voyage, performed, before the commencement of this act, in twelve hours, to three days. Whatever reasons Government may have for continuing this act, as it is at present, does not fall within our province to say; but although of very small import to them, it is a very material concern to the proprietor, and his employers; for, in the year above mentioned, this duty alone occasioned a delay of work equal to twenty times the value of the duty paid.

Marl.—There has been found in this parish a considerable quantity of shell-marl, very pure and white. The present proprietor of Castle-Huntly has sold near 60,000 bolls, at 8 d. and 9 d. *per* boll, (a cube of two feet), since the year 1779; but it is now exhausted, or lies so deep, it is not worth the working. In the bed containing this marl, some red deers horns were found some years ago, uncommonly large.

Coal.—There is also a tradition, that there are coals at Myreside in this parish, and that some attempts to discover them were begun in 1715, but failed from some cause, now unknown. However, a very ingenious chymist, lately, was so fully persuaded that coals might be found in the level grounds below Forgan, that he made some proposals to work them at his own expence, but certain reasons made the proprietors drop any attempt for the time.

Growing Timber.—Upon every estate in this parish there are great plenty of fine growing timber, of all ages, and various kinds, such as oak, ash, elm, plane, poplar, lime, horse-chestnut, walnute, beech, fir, larix, mountain-ash, lybernum, &c. many of them from 100 to 150 years of age, particularly at Longforan, Mylnefield, Castle-Huntly, and at the house of Drimmie; and also in hedge-rows all over the parish, besides about 600 acres of fine thriving young plantations, from 20 to 40 years old*.

Marsh

* In the year 1743, a survey was taken of the growing timber on the estate of Castle-Huntly, then Castle-Lyon. It was found to contain 8557 trees of all sorts, valued at L. 2813 : 5 : 2. Amongst these were a great number of sweet chestnut trees, which were sold some time afterwards, and were bought up by ship-carpenters, who considered them as good, if not better, for the purpose of ship-building than oak. There are a much greater number

Marsh Reed.—A species of the *arundo*, called *phragmites*, or common marsh-reed, and which grows by the sides of rivers, or in standing waters, is found in great abundance here. Of late years it has been propagated upon the banks of the river Tay with great success, particularly at Errol and Seaside; and ever since the threshing-mills have been established, which totally disqualify the wheat-straw for thatch, the propagation of reeds has been an object of considerable importance to proprietors, for they are sold at a guinea for one hundred bunches, each measuring one yard round, and they are sure of a ready market for as many as they can raise; and the introduction of reeds for thatch is attended with this advantage to farmers, that the wheat-straw is now condemned to the dung-court, and is applied where it ought to be, to increase the manure of the farm*.

Orchards.

ber of trees upon the same estate now, but they have not been valued. Amongst others, there are some very remarkable, such as an ash, called Glamis tree, which measures 27 feet round, near the root, and 17 feet a yard high; another ash, 19 feet round near the root, and 14 a yard high; elms, 11 feet; horse-chestnuts, 10 feet; poplars, 10 feet; firs, 9 feet; planes, 9 feet; yews, 6 feet; lime, 7 feet three inches; thorns, 6 feet; one thorn, 6 feet 10 inches; all taken at about 3 feet from the ground. One fir, at a yard from the ground, 13 feet 6 inches; close to the ground, 19 feet; and the diameter of the top is 22 yards. And, within these few years, planes have been sold for L. 13 and L. 14 each; and firs cut down containing 90, and a beech blown down this year (1796), containing 127 cubic feet of measurable wood in their trunks.

The oaks, in general, are young; none, or very few, above 50 or 60 years old: but they thrive remarkably well, particularly in the clay; as a proof of which, there are many upon the estate of Cattle-Huntly, planted from the nursery in 1761, which measure from 4 to 5 feet round. The *larix* is but lately introduced here; but it thrives well, and upon every kind of soil. There are great plenty of walnuts, the fruit of which ripens well in general.

* About 20 years ago, the late Mr Henry Crawford of Monorgan made the first attempt to plant reeds upon the sides of the Tay, which bounds this parish,

Orchards.—There are five orchards in the parish, all in a thriving condition, particularly at Monorgan, which is reckoned the best in the Carse of Gowrie, and has been famous these many years for yielding fine fruit.

Horticulture.—The only gardens in this parish worthy of notice are at Castle Huntly. There are above 300 feet of glass; a melon-pit, of 20 feet by 12, worked by steam alone, without dung, and plenty of peaches, nectarins, apricots, figs, almonds, and other fruits, which ripen on the open wall.

Steam Melon-pit.—As the steam melon-pit is rather new, it may be an useful information to say, that the pit is 20 feet

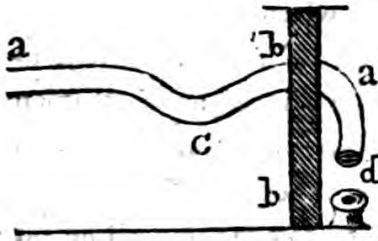
parish, but without success; and although he planted many acres, a very small spot only, upon the westernmost point of the estate has produced any thing like a crop. To make reeds thrive, two things are necessary; 1st, A certain depth of that kind of soil which rivers deposit; and, 2^d, A sufficient fence, to protect both the soil itself, and the new planted reeds, from the violence of the flux and reflux of the tide. Mr Crawford thought it would be sufficient to carry out into the river fences made of the weedings of young firs, cut into stakes, and driven deep into the soil, (or sleet, as it is called here), and wattled with the smaller wood, which answered very well for some time; the soil increased in bulk; the reeds were planted, and appeared to thrive; but the violence of the tide soon carried fences, reeds, and soil before it; and now, scarce a vestige of any thing remains. Some mounds, however, a considerable way within water-mark, are forming of themselves, and in several places showing a kind of lower grass; and wherever it gathers such a firmness, reeds, if planted, will probably thrive. If once fairly established, they propagate themselves without trouble, and give a crop every year. The same kind of reed shews itself in considerable quantities, in several fields next the river, and through the Carse, which it is impossible to get rid of, as they rise from roots exceedingly deep, some of which have been traced 8 feet below the surface. Hence they cannot be supposed to rob the prolific surface of any nourishment; but as they ripen and grow strong, especially amongst wheat, it is probable they are not quite harmless in shaking winds.

feet by 12, and is so constructed as to receive the steam from a boiler of cast-iron, containing ten English gallons, placed over a furnace, built about the middle of the back-wall, into a chamber, occupying the whole space below the melon-earth, which is supported by an arch of brick, so built, that the ends of the bricks leave about an inch open space for the steam to pass, while the sides are cemented with lime, over which is placed a layer of wheat-straw, about an inch thick, and then the melon-mould. The pit is about four feet deep behind, and two and a half or three before. A pit, of the above dimensions, will require two longitudinal arches, the one next the forepart of the pit, lower than the one parallel to the back part, so as to give a proper declivity to the surface of the melon-earth; and the mid wall, which supports the arches, is full of openings, to let the steam pass freely; care also must be taken, to construct the funnel for dividing the steam, that it may bear equally upon all parts of the frame. Melons raised in this way are thought to be thinner skinned, and rather higher flavoured than those produced in the common way.

Pine Stoves.—No doubt, steam might be applied to pine stoves with equal advantage; and it is probable, that the pit above described, or one upon the same principles, would answer every purpose of raising pines.

Vinery.—At Castle-Huntly steam is introduced into a vinery, and it is proposed to be tried in peach-houses also; but in these last, the steam is guided by pipes of tinned copper, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, conducted from the boiler, placed over the same furnace which heats the house, and carried round about half a foot above the back flue, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot above the front flue, but in a contrary direction, with cocks opening at different places, so as to divide the steam,
and

and apply it to any particular point at pleasure. The extremity of the steam pipe, a a, is conducted to the outside of the house, but just before it enters the wall, b b, it is bent



or curved downwards, as at c, where steam being condensed, lodges, and prevents communication with the external air, while it finds a passage out at d, when the cocks in the house are shut,

or the steam too strong. By these means, the house has the advantage of a great additional heat at no expence; and a steam dew, when thought proper, which most certainly contributes very much to preserve the trees from suffering by various insects.

Fruits ripen.—Fruits ripen upon the common wall as under. Cherries about the last week of June and beginning of July; apricots the first and second week in August; pears from the end of July to October; jarganells the first week in September; peaches, in fine seasons, in August, and continue through September and October; but all of them ripen sooner or later, according to their various species, and the difference of the seasons.

Village of Longforgan.—The village of Longforgan, which gives name to the parish, occupies 23 Scotch acres, and is beautifully situated upon the crest of that rising ground, which runs between Kingoody and Drimmie, and bounds the eastmost corner of the Carfe of Gowrie on that side, and from which it commands a fine view of the river Tay, for above 20 miles. Its longitude west from Greenwich is $3^{\circ} 16' 45''$, and its latitude $56^{\circ} 27' 48''$.

Origin.

Origin.—The origin of this village most probably had been for the accommodation of the retainers, and the more immediate dependents of the Baron of the Castle; and most probably all ancient villages owed their origin to the same cause. For they paid little or no rent, but what they did pay was mostly in kind. The rest was made up in a variety of services; so that their whole time, almost, was at the command of their superior; and also their personal attendance on their superior in the field was an essential and indispensable condition of their possessions; and except this last, such was the exact situation of the villagers of Longforgan not 50 years ago. They were bound to plough the ground of the mains or family-farm, to sow, reap, carry it into the barn-yard, thresh it out, and take it to market; to fetch lime, stone, slates, and sand, or any thing else wanting for the castle or demesnes; to plant all the trees upon the estate; to give so many days labour in the gardens or fields; to be ready at all times to go messages, either on foot or on horse-back, to any distance; and, in short, there was scarce any kind of servitude about the place they were not bound to perform, many of which continued till the present proprietor came in possession.

Inhabitants.—The village belongs entirely to the estate of Castle-Huntly; consists of one principal street, which is now a turnpike-road, and several lanes. It contains 126 families, which, at 5 for each family, makes 630 inhabitants of all ages. Of these, 3 are considerable farmers from L. 60 to L. 150 *per annum*; 36 are small farmers or acremen, paying from L. 5 rent to L. 16 *per annum*. Of this last class almost every one has a trade or occupation; so that the management of his little farm is the employment of his leisure hours only, which improves his health, and gives him many little comforts, which he could not expect otherwise.

wife. Besides these, there are also manufacturers, tradesmen, and labourers, who have no land, but all of them have yards (gardens) attached to their houses.

Burgh of Barony.—In the year 1672, Longforgan was erected into a free burgh of barony, by a charter of King Charles II. in favour of Patrick Earl of Strathmore, therein designed Earl of Kinghorn; with power to erect and constitute bailies, burgeses, clerks, officers, sergeants, &c. and to admit all kinds of trades to a variety of privileges; to have a weekly market within the burgh, and to have two free yearly fairs; one on the first Tuesday of the month of July; and the other, the first Tuesday of October; and each to last three days; the duties and customs of which to be levied by and applied to the sole use of the proprietor.

Markets.—Those yearly fairs, however, are now held, one on the third Wednesday of June, and the other on the third Wednesday of October, and continue each only one day. They are principally cattle markets, but are frequented by a number of travelling merchants, and a variety of articles, usually exposed to sale in other country fairs, are to be found here. At the summer market of Longforgan, all the farm-servants for the whole Carse are usually hired for the ensuing year. This custom, although of long standing, is by no means a good one, as the servant, if hired to another, remains with his present master from June to the Martinmas following, perhaps very much against the interest of the one, and the moral rectitude or good conduct of the other. The customs belong to Castle-Huntly, and for both fairs are generally from L. 6 to L. 7, 10 s.

Inns.—There are two inns in the village, one at the west end, very convenient for the accommodation of country passengers;

passengers ; and another about the middle of the town, upon a much larger scale, with a brew-house, malt-barn, bake-house, and good stabling attached to it*.

Villages.

* There are still remaining a few of the old houses in Longforgan, which shew what they were 20 years ago. They are very bad, narrow, low roofed, and inconvenient ; they are built with turf and stone, or with clay for mortar, and all thatched with turf and straw ; not a vestige of lime was then to be seen in the village. Since that time, all the houses capable of being made habitable have been repaired ; between 50 and 60 new houses have been built by the present proprietor, besides two sets of farm-offices for larger farmers, several barns and byres, and two smithies, all within the village. The new houses are generally 28 or 30 feet by 15 within walls, and the door in the middle ; they are divided into two good apartments upon the ground-floor, with a window to each to the street, and a smaller room in the middle, with a window backwards, which serves as a store-room to the family. In general, weavers have their houses fitted for their particular convenience ; but almost every one has a small apartment, neatly plastered with lime, and fitted up according to the taste of the possessor. They are built with stone and lime. The floors are of earth or clay. The garrets above are laid with deal, and they are covered either with sewed thatch of wheat-straw, tiles, or slates, with sky-lights. These houses, when built, cost from L. 30 to L. 50, according to the size, materials, &c. The same description may serve both for the old and the new houses all over the parish.

In the middle of the village there was a Cross, consisting of a pillar of one stone, with a lion on the top of it, standing upon a pedestal of masonry of several steps ; the whole height of the stone pillar is 21 feet. This had been erected by one of the Earls of Strathmore, probably Earl Patrick, as there is another built by him exactly resembling it at Glamis. This Cross was taken down some years ago, and is now set up upon a rocky eminence within the park of Castle-Huntly, called Cromwell's Knowe (Knoll).

This village is situated upon the ridge of a bank, through the middle of which the turnpike-road between Perth and Dundee runs from west to east ; and it is remarkable, that on the north side of the road, no water nor spring is to be found, in pits sunk (as some say) 50 or 60 feet deep ; while, on the south side, there are many wells very well supplied with water.

Villages.—There are only two other places in this parish which have the least claim to be called villages; Kingoody, which belongs to Mr Mylne of Mylnefield, already mentioned; and Lochtown, a small village belonging to Mr Haldane of Airthry. The rest can only be called hamlets, but they are numerous.

Farm Houses.—The farm houses are very good; many of them new within these twenty years. In general they are handsome; two stories high, with two fire rooms, a large light closet, and other conveniencies, on each floor, and covered with blue or grey slate. The dwelling-house is a little detached from, and advanced before the offices, forming one side of a square; the other three sides of which consist of offices. The barns forming the side opposite to the house, with a threshing-mill behind; and the other two sides are stables, byres, cart-shades, granaries, bothie, &c.; and the dung-court is in the centre of the square. The bothie is the apartment of the farm-servants, where they sleep, dress their victuals and eat.

Castle-Huntly.—The most remarkable building in the parish is Castle-Huntly. It stands upon the point of a very singular rock, which rises in the middle of the plain, quite perpendicular towards the south-west, and gradually sloping to the eastward. When it was originally built, as there is no date upon any part of the old castle, is unknown; but there is a charter in possession of the family of Gray, to whom this estate then belonged, and which made a part of very extensive possessions in this country, which belonged to that family at the time; which charter is from James II. in 1452, to Andrew the 2d Lord Gray of Foulis, giving him leave to build a fortalice upon any of his estates, which were then very extensive. In consequence of which, he

is said " to have built this castle upon a very remarkable " rock, a little to the south-west of Forgund, and called it " Huntly." It does not appear why he gave it that name; but there is an adjoining field, and a bridge across the rivulet which runs through the park, both of which bear the name of Huntly. It is said, that having married a daughter of the Earl of Huntly, he named his castle in honour of his lady. It is entirely built of Kingoody stone; and the country people have a tradition, that the materials were all brought by water to the spot. Be that as it may, there is every appearance of this rock, at some very distant period, being washed, if not surrounded by water; for river-sand is found in great abundance all round it; and if there be any foundation for this tradition, it is probable that there was a place of strength upon this rock many years before the 1452.

There is another circumstance which adds weight to this conjecture. The south-west face of the rock had been so much wasted by the weather, or some other more powerful cause, that sometime between the year 1660 and 1670, or thereabouts, Earl Patrick had judged it necessary to build a facing, or massy buttress, to cover the rock to the westward, to protect that side of the castle. This buttress is very distinguishable from the rest of the building of the castle, and is easily known to be Earl Patrick's, from the corresponding style of building with his other works: Now, it is hardly probable, that from the year 1452 to 1660, a distance only of 208 years; so great a waste could have been made upon the face of a whin rock, by the common operation of wind and weather, as to make such a facing necessary; and if so, especially as the estate had been long in the family before, the probability is, that the original building had been much more ancient, and that it had only been repaired,

paired, perhaps enlarged, and its name changed, by the Lord Gray, who obtained the charter from James II. *

Sold

* The most ancient part of this castle had been an oblong square, built upon the most projecting part of the rock, in such fashion, that the first set of apartments, consisting of three vaults, all arched with strong masonry, had one end solid rock, and the other a wall of 14 feet thick, with a window to each, about 6 inches wide and 4 feet high. In the middle vault there had been a well, which is now filled up.

Opposite to the southermost vault, the rock projects a little farther to the westward, and is lower than the rest, upon which the pit or prison was built; also 14 feet thick walls, and a narrow slit of a window; no passage to the pit but by a trap-door, and over it, a square apartment of 20 feet high, arched at top, with a window of 4 feet square, and 38 feet from the ground, which is supposed to have been the guard-room, the only door of which is arched; and there was not the least vestige of any other way to get access to the castle, even for one man at a time, but over the shelving rock on the south-west, and close by the two windows in the other two arched apartments, one of which is exactly upon the door, calculated, as it would appear, for the use of spears, or other offensive weapons, to prevent the entrance of an enemy. From all which, it would appear to have been as secure a retreat, in those days, as nature and art could make it. This door had been built up, probably when Earl Patrick repaired the castle, and another, on the north-east side, had been struck out at that time, to make the access more convenient. On opening that old door in 1777, a very large iron-gate was found inclosed in a 10 feet wall, built of solid masonry. To make the castle still more secure, it appears, that the original builders had left no other way of getting to the apartments above, after passing the shelving rock, close by the two narrow windows of the lower vaults, but through the guard-room; and then, by a hole of about 3 feet square in the top of one of the arches, to which they must mount by a ladder, which, though built up, is perfectly distinct at this day. It is probable, that after mounting, the ladder was drawn up, and the Lord of the castle slept in security.

It would also appear, that some time or other there had been some kind of excavations round part of the castle, probably to serve as a ditch for defence; for, in 1780, when sinking a foundation for some addition to the present building, for about 12 feet deep and upwards, it appeared to have been filled up with wood-ashes, and rubbish of various materials; so that, finding

Sold in 1615 to the Family of Lyon.—In 1615, this castle, with the estate belonging to it, passed from the family of Gray to the family of Lyon, then Earls of Kinghorn, and Earl Patrick succeeding sometime about the year 1660, it became a favourite residence of his. Whether any alterations had been made upon the castle before his time, does not appear. But many alterations and additions were made by him, all of which bore his initials, and the date 1667. One very remarkable alteration made by him was enlarging the dining-room, by digging four feet out of the front wall for its whole length of 34 feet; so that, while the wall of the rooms, both above and below, are 10 feet thick, the front wall of this room is only 6 feet thick; and when the castle was repairing in 1778, the upper part of this excavation was found to project and hang over, like a solid impenetrable rock.

Name changed to Lyon in 1672.—By the same charter, which Earl Patrick obtained from Charles II. 1672, in favour

finding no proper bed to found upon, arches were thrown from point to point of the rock for that purpose. As no coal-ashes were found, may not this be an additional proof of its great antiquity?

The most ancient part of the building is very distinguishable from the rest, as all the stones are placed on the same bed as they lay in the quarry; and it would appear from the openings made on the walls, for different purposes, by the present proprietor, that the old castle had been built of two walls, one outside, of very large maffy stones, tolerably well dressed; and an inner wall, not quite so well dressed: That the middle space between these had then been filled up with immense large whin-stones, gathered from the fields, with smaller stones thrown in loosely round them, and then filled up with grouted lime, that is, lime mixed with a proper proportion of sand, and made so thin with water, as to admit of being poured in, and to fill up all the cavities between the stones. This cement is now so very hard, that it is much more difficult to work than any quarry; so much so, that in 1793, when making an opening for a window of $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $4\frac{1}{2}$, and only 6 feet thick, as the wall had been thinned before, it was hard work to four stout men for nine days.

favour of Longforgan, the barony was erected into a Lordship, to be called the Lordship of Lyon; and it is most probable that this was the æra of its change of name from Castle-Huntly to Castle-Lyon.

He also planted a great number of trees of all sorts, many of which now remain, and the whole grounds were dressed up in all the grandeur of summer houses, statues, avenues, gates, ornamented with various orders of architecture, &c. &c. agreeable to the taste of the times.

Sold again in 1777.—Nothing seems to have been done to this place since Earl Patrick's time, until the present proprietor purchased the estate in 1777. The whole has now assumed a new face. The grounds are laid out as much in the modern taste as their situation will admit; many trees are taken down, but many more have been planted, and great numbers of fine old horse-chestnuts, planes, limes, and ash, &c. in straight avenues, still remain, so as to preserve the unity of style between the place and the castle.

The castle also, although completely modernised within, has assumed even a more castellated appearance outwardly than formerly. The wings, embattled walls, round tower, and corner turrets, have been given it by the present proprietor; who has restored the ancient name of Huntly, by which it was so long known while in possession of the family of Gray. Its greatest height is 116 feet from the ground.

View.—The view from the top of Castle-Huntly is perhaps one of the finest in Great Britain. Situated in the middle, and rising 116 feet above the level of one of the richest and most fertile plains in the island, it commands a view of the river Tay for above 20 miles, which, in many places is two miles broad and upwards, and which is frequently

quently covered with a great number of vessels of various burdens. On the south, the hills of Fife bound the prospect, now in most places highly cultivated; and on the north, a continuation of the Sidlaws, covered with rich corn-fields to their summits; and the whole well wooded, and interspersed with gentlemens seats, villages, hamlets, and farm-houses, for above 30 miles; and in the back ground are seen distant hills for 60 miles and upwards.

Gate.—The gate is very remarkable, and had originally been built by Earl Patrick, at the west end of Longforgan, which he named Port-Patrick, after himself; but which, from a vulgar corruption, was always called *Port-Patience*. It was one of six, which he built in a straight line, upon the approach between Longforgan and the castle. It consists of a middle space of 16 feet wide, and an arch on each side of 7 feet. The whole length 72 feet 6 inches. It is ornamented on both sides with Tuscan semicolumns, and crowned with four pyramids. It was taken down about twelve years ago, and rebuilt, with great care, where it now stands, as a lasting monument of the taste of the Noble Earl by whom it was originally built.

Drimmie.—In this parish, also, there is a seat belonging to Lord Kinnaird, called Drimmie, which became the residence of the family, in consequence of the castle of Moncur having been burnt down in the beginning of this century. It originally consisted of a lodge built as a banqueting-room, in order to facilitate conviviality with the then proprietors of the estate of Castle-Huntly; and to this lodge additions have been made from time to time, as necessity dictated; but its situation is so little calculated for becoming a fit residence for the family, that no regular plan appears ever to have been adopted for beautifying, or laying out
out

out the grounds, consequently there is nothing about it worth notice.

The present proprietor has this year, 1795, made some considerable repairs about the house, for the purpose of rendering it a more comfortable abode, until a fit and suitable family residence shall be built, in a park not far distant, in the adjoining parish of Rossie, which his Lordship has inclosed at a great expence, and is of considerable extent, containing in it great variety of ground, plantations, water, &c. all of which have been improved with much cost and taste; thus that which requires the hand of time to render perfect, being so far completed, a house fit for so fine a situation and place may be erected, whenever it may suit the inclination or convenience of the family.—The estate of Drimmie has been in the possession of the family of Kinnaird for many centuries.

Mylnefield.—The house of Mylnefield is beautifully situated, east from Longforgan, and south of the turnpike-road leading to Dundee, upon the rising ground on the east corner of the parish. The grounds are laid out in great taste by Mr White. It has a great deal of planting, both old and young, about it, and commands a most delightful prospect of the river Tay, the distant hills of Fife, and beautiful rich bank of Gray, Lundie, &c. in the county of Forfar. It is surrounded with fine grass parks, from which the Dundee market is supplied with excellent mutton.

Old Church.—The parish church, manse, and school-house, are in the village of Longforgan.

The church was taken down 1794. It was an old, long, narrow, and inconvenient building, consisting of two parts, and evidently built at very different periods. The east-most, which belonged entirely to the estate of Castle-Hunt-

ly, was a substantial building, all of ashlar Kingoody stone; and from a very handsome cross on the east gavel, and several recesses of hewn stone within, probably for altars, or shrines of some favourite saints, it had every appearance of having been the original church when the Roman Catholic religion prevailed; and from uniformity of building with the church of Fowlis-Easter, it is probable that both were built sometime in the twelfth century, by the same Lady Gray, to whom both estates then belonged. The west end of the church, although apparently older, must have been of a much later date. It was a very insufficient building, of bad materials, and had every appearance of that ill-judged parsimonious simplicity, so much affected by the enthusiastic first reformers. This, therefore, would appear to have been added to it at the Reformation.

Steeple.—Upon the west end of the church is the steeple, which was built by Earl Patrick of Strathmore about 130 years ago. It has three bells and a clock, which last is the property of the inhabitants of the village; but it is not well kept. On the east end is a square building, also built by his Lordship. It stands diagonally, and was formerly joined to the church, but they are now distinct buildings. The lower part is the Castle-Huntly burying-place, and over it is a room, to which the family used to retire during the interval of divine service. This room the proprietor has given leave to the kirk-session to use for a session-house during his pleasure.

New Church.—In room of the old church, a handsome new one was finished in 1795, with large Gothic windows in front, towards the south, extremely well finished, and well seated, with an elegant circular gallery. The whole church is capable of containing 1000 hearers and upwards.

Manse.—The manse was built 1753, and has been twice repaired within these 15 years. In 1795, it got a thorough repair for the third time, and is now a most excellent convenient house; it has very good offices, all lately repaired, a good garden, and is beautifully situated, commanding a most extensive view of the river Tay, and the rich grounds below.

Stipend.—The stipend is 11 bolls of wheat, 56 bolls of barley, 57 bolls of oats, 2 bolls of meal, and L. 20 Sterling, besides a good glebe, worth L. 10 Sterling *per annum* at least; so that, with the house, garden, and offices, it is worth about L. 150 *per annum*, taken at a medium of 10 years back; but from an old practice, the victual part of minister's stipends is valued so low, it makes them appear much less than they are in fact; although, were they stated as they really are, the livings of the clergy in Scotland are in general sufficiently moderate, and many of them much lower than they ought to be.

Plan for improving Ministers Stipends.—It would be a good plan, were Government to make an offer to proprietors to purchase their teinds, which, it is believed, most would do. This would raise a very large capital; and were the produce put in the hands of trustees, under the direction of the Church, to be lent out by them to the best advantage, and to empower them to buy land if they thought proper, to be applied solely and entirely to pay the ministers stipends, and to uphold the church and manse, a permanent fund would be established immediately, to accommodate the parishes with more becoming places of worship, to lodge the ministers more commodiously, and also, to make many livings much better; and might, in time, be the means of making stipends keep pace with the value of money. This

is but the outlines of a plan, which may, indeed, be liable to objections; but the advantages would be so great, it seems to merit consideration. The stipends would still be unequal, according to circumstances; but, by proper regulation, all of them might be better: The clergy would then be raised to that rank and consideration in society to which they are well entitled; and men of learning and abilities would consider the Church as an object of honourable ambition: Heritors would no longer have cause of disputes with their pastors; and the Court of Teinds, with a thousand &c. might be set aside for ever.

Schoolhouse, Schoolmaster's Salary, &c. and School.—The schoolhouse is very tolerable, with a house for the master attached to it. The fixed salary for the schoolmaster is L. 7, 5 s. *per annum*; but that the parish might be well supplied, the heritors, at the settlement of the present teacher, raised the salary, by subscription, to about L. 20 *per annum*, to continue during his incumbency. The average number of scholars are about 80 or 90; and the fees for teaching Latin are 2 s. 6 d.; writing and arithmetic, 2 s.; and 1 s. 6 d. for teaching to read English, *per quarter*; which, with some small fees as session-clerk, and Mr Paterfon's yearly allowance for poor scholars, makes the place worth more than L. 50 *per annum*.

The school may be considered to be more immediately under the patronage of Mr Paterfon, the principal heritor; who, besides taking a very active part, and subscribing very liberally himself, he pays for teaching twelve scholars, children of such poor as cannot pay the usual fees; and every year, upon the examination of the school by the presbytery of Dundee, he attends himself, when in the country, and gives premiums of Bibles, New Testaments, Collections, account-books, pens, and paper, to be distributed by the
 examiners

examiners to such of the scholars of each class, as they may think most deserving; and as all the scholars know this to be an annual established practice, it has had an exceeding good effect, and has raised a spirit of emulation, and that degree of application amongst the children, which cannot fail of giving great pleasure to all concerned.

State of the Poor.—The state of the poor in Scotland is, in every respect, quite different from what it is in England. There is a kind of very commendable pride, which prevents many of the labouring poor in this country from accepting parish charity, as long as by their own industry, or by the bounty of their friends, they can get a morsel of bread. In most parishes, the ordinary funds are sufficient to supply the wants of their poor: These are principally under the management of the minister and the kirk-session, who must be well acquainted with the circumstances of every one; but should the ordinary funds prove insufficient, the care of the poor falls to the heritors. This has happened in some parishes; and hence, something like a rate, or proportional assessment, has taken place; but in this parish there is no such thing.

<i>Funds.</i> —The funds are, L. 230, at interest at 5 per cent.	L. 11 10 9
Weekly collections at the church-doors, including what is given at the Sacrament, may be reckoned at 10 s. per week,	26 0 0
Fees for marriages, burials, &c.	5 0 0
	L. 42 10 0

Besides seat-rents, which cannot as yet be exactly ascertained, but may be between L. 3 and L. 4 more, as the heritors have given the communion-tables, which hold between 70 and

and 80 fitters, to the kirk-session, for the benefit of the poor*.

Number of Poor.—There are only 12 persons who are upon the session-list, (November 1795), and who receive about L. 2, 8s. *per* month; so that the funds of the parish are quite sufficient for such ordinary supplies; but at present, the session have to pay L. 6 *per annum* † to the Lunatic Hospital at Montrose, for a poor woman disordered in mind; and in the year 1795, as there was an appearance of scarcity, from the deficiency of the crop, the session came to a resolution to give all their resident poor meal instead of money; and to every person entitled to 1s. to give in its place one peck of good oatmeal,

Extraordinary Supply 1795.—However, crop 1795 was found to be so very deficient, particularly in the Carse of Gowrie, that before February 1796, there was every appearance, not only of scarcity, but of want, and which would probably have been the case in this parish, had not the heritors exerted themselves in an extraordinary degree; Mr Mylne of Mylnefield, and Mr Wemyss of Laurieston, who had oats, took charge of their own tenants; but as Lord Kinnaird and Mr Paterfon had neither oats nor meal of their

* The least reflection ought to convince every one, that it is of the utmost consequence to society to keep off a rate as long as possible; for although there are many who will exert themselves to the utmost, rather than accept of parish charity, yet, when they know that a fund is established for their aid, they are inclined, from that moment, to consider it as their right; shame is entirely laid aside; their industrious endeavours to support themselves are at an end; and they become a burden upon the parish at a much earlier period than they are entitled to in the true spirit of charity.

† Raised this year (1797) to L. 10 *per annum*, and granted as a favour from the hospital, besides about L. 2 for clothes,

their own, they sent from London 400 quarters of the best mealing English oats, which they directed to be ground into meal, to be sold at the Dundee market price to all of their tenants who wanted, and who could afford to pay; and to those, whose daily earning were not sufficient to maintain themselves and family, they ordered the meal to be given out weekly at a reduced price, *i. e.* at 1 s. *per* peck, and to continue till next harvest; and to the poor for nothing.

Few Poor.—It may seem extraordinary, that in a parish consisting of 1500 souls and upwards, and in which there is a village of nearly half the number, principally labourers and manufacturers, there are so few who receive charity; and still more extraordinary that there is but one travelling beggar in the whole parish; even she receives parochial supplies, but she has got such a habit of begging, nothing can restrain her. Of that class, many pass through the parish, but they come from the neighbouring towns, and many from the Highlands. This may be accounted for as follows:

Reasons why.—Every native of this parish, who is in real want, upon proper application, gets a supply as far as the funds will admit, and according to his or her necessities.

If they be totally unable to do any thing for their own maintenance, or if they have a family to provide for, which they are unable to do, they get more; if they be single, or if they have friends or relations who can help them, they get less. For it is the leading feature of this charity, that the poor are to be supplied with the necessaries of life, and not with the superfluities, and in such a manner as to be a spur to the industry of all, especially of the rising generation, and not to encourage sloth, and support idleness and extravagance.

As

As this is a corn country; as improvements in agriculture, to an immense extent, have been carrying on within these 30 years; as there is one of the best stone-quarries in Great Britain in this parish, which employs a great number of hands; as numbers of buildings have been going on; and turnpike-roads, with many other public works, there is, of course, a great demand for labourers of every description, and of all ages; even women and children get constant employment in the field for near 3-4ths of the year, besides what are required for the manufactures and different trades. It is in the winter months only, that the labouring and industrious poor run the greatest risk of want. At that period, therefore, the heritors are very attentive to the wants of the poor; and as the village of Longforgan belongs entirely to Castle-Huntly, during the three winter months, *i. e.* December, January, and February, or longer, if the season be severe, Mr Paterfon orders meal to be distributed to the poor on his estate, one or two pecks *per* week, or more, according to their necessities, or as the number and helpless condition of their families may require. By such means the parish of Longforgan has hitherto been able to support its own poor, without a *rate* upon themselves, or a tax upon the benevolence of their neighbours.

Population.—The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, amounted only to 1285; and as the number at present is 1526, consequently there is an increase of 241; of these, 778 are males, and 748 females.

Under 10 years of age, there are	-	363
Thence to 20 years,	-	293
to 50 years,	-	712
to 70 years,	-	137
to 80 years,	-	17
to 90 years,	-	4
		<hr/>
		1526
		Married

Married persons,	-	-	430
Widowers,	-	-	23
Widows,	-	-	46
Batchellors above 50,	-	-	7
Unmarried women above 45,	-	-	5
			<hr/>
			519

Minister,	-	1	Shoemakers,	-	7
Schoolmaster,	-	1	Blacksmiths,	-	8
Surgeon,	-	1	Wrights,	-	16
Excise officer,	-	1	Weavers,	-	61
Butcher,	-	1	Male servants of all deno-		
Baker,	-	1	minations,	-	136
Brewers,	-	2	Female servants of all de-		
Coopers,	-	2	nominations, above		80
Masons,	-	2	Farmers paying L. 100		
Innkeepers,	-	2	<i>per ann.</i> and upwards,		15
Alehouses,	-	4	Do. paying L. 50 <i>per</i>		
Lint-dressers,	-	3	<i>annum</i> to L. 100,		10
Gardeners,	-	5	Do. from L. 20 to L. 50,		7
Lint-millers,	-	6	Do. from L. 10 to L. 20,		18
Corn-millers,	-	6	Do. from L. 5 to L. 10,		28
Tailors,	-	6			

Families in the village,	-	-	126
Ditto in the rest of the parish,	-	-	181
			<hr/>
		Families,	-
			307

Seceders of all denominations,	-	40
Episcopalians,	-	12
Inhabitants of the village of Longforgan, at 5 <i>per</i> family,	630	
Inhabitants of the whole parish at the above calculation,	1535	
		So

So that the calculation at 5 *per* family comes within 9 of the real numbers in the parish.

Residing proprietors,	-	-	6
Non-resident,	-	-	5

The increase of inhabitants in the parish cannot be well ascertained from the register of baptisms, which do not seem to have been accurately kept.

From January 1. 1731 to January 1. 1741, were baptized,

Males,	-	-	240
Females,	-	-	227
			<hr/>
			467

56 marriages recorded. No burials recorded in this period.

From 1st January 1741 to 1st January 1761 no record.

There does not appear to be any register of burials before the year 1771; nor of marriages from 1741 to 1771.

From Jan. 1. 1761 to Janu. 1. 1771, were baptized,

Males,	-	-	246
Females,	-	-	220
			<hr/>
			266

During the 10 years preceding 1793 were baptized,

Males,	-	-	222
Females,	-	-	223
			<hr/>
			445

Within the period of 10 years preceding 1793, the bans were published in this parish for 143 couples; 75 of these, both parties were of this parish; and one of the parties of the remaining 68; so that 218 individuals of this parish were married within that time.

The decrement of lives in this parish can be still less accurately ascertained, as the register is kept from the fees paid for the mortcloth (pall) only, which is used at burials of persons coming from other parishes to be interred here, as well

as for those who die and are buried in the parish; and burials going from this parish to any other do not use the mortcloth of this parish, and therefore are not registered; nor do the poor pay any thing. But it appears by the mortcloth-register, that it has been used 256 times in the 10 years preceding 1793, *i. e.* $25\frac{6}{10}$ per annum.

1794.	Baptized.	Males	-	14
		Females,	-	21
				—
		Total,		35
	The mortcloth paid for 16 times.			
	Married, both parties in this parish,			24
	The man in ditto,	-		6
	The woman in ditto,			5
				—
	Of this parish married,			35 persons.
1795.	Baptized,	Males	-	22
		Females,	-	21
				—
		Total,		43
	Married, both parties in this parish,			8
	Man in ditto,	-		4
	Woman in ditto,			8
				—
				20 persons.
	Mortcloth paid for 18 times.			

Fees for proclamation, if the bride be of this parish:—For 3 Sundays, 2 s.; 2 ditto, 3 s.; 1 ditto, 10 s. 6 d. If the bride be not of this parish, for 3 Sundays, nothing; 2 ditto, 1 s.; 1 ditto, 2 s. 6 d.

Fees for the mortcloth:—For the best, 5 s.; second, 2 s. 6 d.; a child's, 9 d.

As there are also certain small dues payable for registering baptisms, any deficiency probably arises from the unwillingness

willingness of those who are not of the Established Church to pay dues.

Salubrity.—This parish is in general healthy. nor is there any disease endemical to the district. Formerly, in the low carse, agues prevailed, Now, since the ditches have been deepened, and the lands so completely drained of water, the disease is scarcely known. Fevers are not frequent, which may be owing to the regular diet of the inhabitants: While young, the ploughmen and labourers are subject to colds, which, in strong constitutions, and in a more advanced age, generally terminate in rheumatisms, and gouty pains, as the country people call them; but, in others, it falls upon their breasts; their lungs become affected, and, in general, such complaints end fatally. This termination generally happens in scrophulous habits, which are very prevalent, particularly amongst the weavers and common people of this neighbourhood. Within these 20 years, one instance has happened, of a hydrops pectoris, in a strong healthy man above 50, who caught cold from getting wet sowing his corn in the spring, which was followed with a stricture in his breast, and difficulty of breathing: Soon after his legs swelled, which gradually rose upwards, evidently dropsical and in a short time; after every medical help had failed, it proved fatal. A healthy young woman, who had never been farther out of the parish than Dundee, was seized with an inflammation of the liver: The disease was not known till too late; and although Mercurial friction was then used, she died.

For many years past, diseases have been more frequent in the hilly part of the parish than in the Carse. This had been frequently observed by the late Reverend Mr George Lyon of Ogle, who was minister of the parish for more than

than 50 years *. Inoculation has been practised here, and many submitted to it thankfully, when strongly recommended to them some years ago ; but for some time past it seems to have been forgotten.

Mode of Living.—The Inhabitants of this parish are in general industrious, quiet and sober; some of them very intelligent in their professions; many of the better sort live exceedingly well; their tables are abundantly supplied with every necessary, and some with the luxuries of life. In general, the farmers are well lodged, and both they and their families are well dressed. The lesser farmers and manufacturers also live well, and have plenty of good wholesome food; many of them are supplied with butcher-meat at times; and both they and the labourers, not only use oat-meal and potatoes, with the produce of their yards or gardens, but they frequently use wheaten bread, the consumption of which has increased much within these few years, and there are very few who have families, who do not use tea and its accompaniments.

Farm Servants.—The farm servants formerly lived with the family; and their usual food was broth made of kail and barley, or *grotts*, (unhulked oats), without meat, and bannocks made of pease and bean meal. Now they live apart from the family in their bothie, and get what is called livery meal, *i. e.* 2 pecks of oat-meal *per* week, and 3 choppins (quarts) of skimmed milk *per* day.

Some

* The Author of this paper is happy in this opportunity of paying a just tribute to so worthy a character. During a ministry of 50 years and upwards, besides a very conscientious discharge of his duty in his official capacity, his charity, benevolence, and attention to the poor, made him extremely useful and much beloved. His character was irreproachable; he was a sincere Minister of the Gospel; a good Christian; and an honest man.

Some attempts have lately been made to introduce Jacobine principles into this parish; but by care, attention, and proper exertion of the heritors, in support of the country police, it is hoped that the idle, the unprincipled, and ill-disposed, will be effectually prevented from disturbing the public peace; and that the good sense of the inhabitants in general, who are loyal and well-disposed, will teach others to put a proper value upon that most excellent Constitution, under which all enjoy so many blessings.

Increase of Population.—That the inhabitants of the parish are in general upon the increase, when compared with Dr Webster's return, has been already observed, notwithstanding that several cottages, and one considerable village, have been removed, to make room for larger farms. It is in the villages, however, that the addition has principally taken place. By a survey taken of the village of Longforgan in 1775, there were then only 105 families in it; there are now 126. Twenty-one families make 105 persons at five a family, equal to nearly one-sixth of the whole number.

Fuel.—The fuel commonly used by the inhabitants of this parish is coal, brought by water-carriage from the Frith of Forth, and landed at Dundee, the burn-mouth of Invergourie, or at Polgavie; the medium price used to be 4 s. *per* boll, of 56 stone Amsterdam weight, that is, about 6 d. *per* cwt.; but within these few years the price has risen to 5 s. and upwards. This has introduced the use of English coal from Newcastle and Sunderland, which are now much liked, and by many thought better, and in the end cheaper. They also burn whins, (furz), and weedings of firs, but their dependence is upon coal.

Horses.

Horses.—There are in this parish about 347 horses; of which ten or twelve at most are riding or carriage horses; the rest are all for the purposes of agriculture. There are some few brood mares, but not one stallion; and although some few horses are bred here, yet the principal supply is from the west country markets.

Cattle.—There are about 900 cows and black cattle in this parish. The cows are of various breeds, and of all sizes; and although many calves are brought up, yet there is perhaps too little attention shown to this species of farming.

It has been a practice here with many farmers to take in black-cattle from the higher lands, about the end of the year, *i. e.* after Martinmas, and put them in their straw-yard, where they continued, and got nothing but straw through the winter, these were called winterens, and usually paid from 6s. to 10s. *per* head, according to the size. It was formerly a practice in this parish to use oxen in the plough; but now there is no such thing in the whole parish, except on the estate of Littleton; and though they may be bred to go well either in the plough or cart, perhaps to as good purpose as horses, are much more easily kept up, and when unfit for the farm can be fed to great advantage, and will fetch a good price from the butcher; yet it is found, that they are not so fit for the purposes of farming in this country, as their feet are too tender, even when well shod, for much work; and much carting upon hard roads lays them up entirely.

Sheep.—There are no sheep in this parish, but such as are kept for the use of families, except upon the estate of Mylnefield. Mr Mylne keeps about 400 of the Bakewell breed, and as near the original stock as he can procure.

These

These he prefers to every other kind. He thinks that they fatten much sooner than the black-faced. He is much inclined to think that the same field will fatten as many of the one kind as of the other; and he is convinced, that the quantity of mutton produced on the acre is certainly at least 25 *per cent.* in favour of the poled sheep. Besides, as his farm is partly corn, and partly grass, the poled sheep are so quiet, and so little disposed to ramble, that they are in every respect preferable for such farms to the black-faced, who are so wild that no fence can keep them within bounds; consequently, the loss which may be sustained, from their rambling disposition upon such a farm, is beyond all calculation. But the sheep kept for gentlemens families are the black-faced widders, brought from the Highlands at four years old, if they can be had. They thrive well; and, when fed, weigh from 16 to 20 lb. *per* quarter, and are excellent mutton. There are also some Dorsetshire ewes for early lambs, which have been sold in the Dundee market, in January and February, at a guinea and 20 s. each.

Calves.—Calves are fed in this parish, and particularly at Castle-Huntly, for veal, fully as good as any in England. They are fed in a box, which is made of any coarse boards, 4½ or 5 feet long, 4 or 4½ high, and about 2 feet wide, in proportion to the breed to be fed. The boards of which the box is made, are to be put so close to one another, as to let in sufficient air, but no more, as the exclusion of light may be one essential part of the process. It stands upon 4 feet; at one end about 4 inches high; and the other 2 inches; which, with small holes in the bottom, drains it of all wetness. But, to make it still more comfortable, the bottom should be covered with straw or hay, which should be changed at least twice a week. The calf is put into this box when new dropped, or as soon after as possible; and
for

for the first week milk should be given it cautiously; after which it may be given more freely; and when about ten days old it should be bled. It may then get as much sweet milk, fresh from the cow, as it can take, three times a-day; and a large piece of chalk should be hung in the box, which it will lick occasionally. The bleeding should be repeated once a week, and it will be fine veal in ten weeks. It should never be killed sooner, but three months, or even older, the veal will be excellent, and will weigh from 10 to 11 stone, of 16 lb. each. The frequent bleeding prevents diseases from plethora, which calves are subject to, even when not so high fed; and still more when they are. And the chalk contributes nothing to the whiteness of the veal, but it amuses the animal, and it corrects the acidity in the stomach, which might otherwise happen, and which frequently does happen. At all times when they loath the milk, and do not feed well, let them be bled. A cow calf is the best for veal. If a bull calf, he should be cut at about a week old, otherwise the veal will neither be so good nor so white.

Pigs.—Pigs are in general to be found in the farm-yards of proprietors only. Those in this parish are mostly, if not all, of the Chinese breed, which are never mealy; but sometimes they lose the use of their feet, of which they seldom recover. They are very prolific, and easily brought up; they pick up their food in a straw-yard, or about the doors, and live upon what otherwise would be lost. They may be fed upon clover, yams, potatoes, or the refuse of the kitchen, and will fatten upon damaged corn; but if shut up for eight or ten days, and fed upon ground pease or beans, at a very small expence, they become excellent meat at all ages; indeed all their corn should be ground; very fine is not necessary; but if well bruised between
rollers,

rollers, or broken in a mill, it will be found by experience, that much less will nourish, and even fatten pigs, as well as all animals of every species usually fed upon corn. Therefore, to breed pigs about a farm, and to feed all bestial upon bruised grain, instead of whole corn, are really great improvements in agricultural economy; but the practice is not general here; and the country people still retain some prejudice against pork; but it is wearing out gradually.

Poultry.—Poultry of all kinds are bred in this parish, turkeys, geese, ducks, hens, &c.; but the fowls are certainly much fewer in number since the practice of letting large farms began. All the small farmers, acre-men, and every village-house, formerly paid so many fowls (kain) as a part of their rent, which was a mean of keeping up the breed, not only for the supply of the country round, but also to answer the demand of the market-towns in the neighbourhood. Now, the villagers pay none, as it was a constant cause of dispute with the farmers, and even amongst themselves. However, most of the great farmers pay kain, although they are very averse to the practice. But the landlords insist upon it, as the only means of preserving the breed from total extinction; at the same time, many farmers throw the burden upon their cottars, and make them pay the kain as part of their house-rent. In all old leases it made a part of the agreement, that so many capons should be paid annually, as part of the kain, and then they were in plenty; but as they have not been exacted for some time, now there is scarce a capon to be found in the country.

Pigeons.—There are eight dove-cots, or pigeon-houses, in the parish. The pigeons are exceedingly fine; but they are a very expensive delicacy to the farmer; yet they are of some advantage, for their dung, either mixed with chaff, or not, and sown upon the surface, and either harrowed in with

the seed, or suffered to lie, especially if the weather be moist and wet, makes a most excellent top-dressing for any crop.

Game.—There are plenty of hares, partridges, plovers, and snipes. The two last are much diminished in number, since the marshy grounds were drained so completely. The land-rail is often heard, but seldom seen. Woodcocks also take this parish in their rout, and are exceeding fine. Some years ago there was a considerable colony of herons in this parish: They occupied a circle of fir-trees which surrounded an old building, near a piece of marshy ground, upon the estate of Castle-Huntly; but when the grounds were drained, and the trees cut down, the herons hovered about the place a year or two, and then emigrated entirely. There are a great number of crows, (rooks), particularly about Castle-Huntly, where they have spoiled the beautiful tops of many full grown trees. They are also very destructive to young plantations, to potatoes, pease, and beans, when they first begin to shew themselves above ground, and perhaps to other grain also; but as they devour grubs, and other pernicious insects, it is not improbable but they do more real good than ill to the farmer. There are also carrion crows, (boddies, as they are called here), and hawks, but not very numerous. There are great numbers of hedgehogs found in this parish.

Foxes.—Foxes also sometimes come down from the plantings upon the hills, and pay unwelcome visits to the poultry-yards; and some winters, a strolling red-deer has now and then made its appearance, even in the low grounds of this parish.

The surface of this parish is various; what lies next the river is *carfe* * clay; the southern declivities of the hills consist

* *Carfe*, probably from the word *Carrs*, used in the north of England, for level land on the banks of a river or arm of the sea.

fit, for the most part, of rich black loam. Some parts are covered with a soil of a particular reddish colour, but very prolific when well dressed; the country people call it mortar, *i. e.* a kind of clay mixed with gravel, and very different from carse clay. The upper part of the parish is of a very inferior quality.

About 40 years ago, not half the clay grounds in this parish were subject to the plough; the ridges were broad, unequal and crooked, and their crowns only were arable, between which a broad space, which they called a *bauk*, and which consisted of half of each ridge at least, was left in natural grass, upon which the farmers pastured cattle, and which, in winter, was generally covered with water; even the surface of these bauks was pared off, and sold for building and covering houses; and the farmer considered his *divots*, *i. e.* the pared surface, as an article of profit. Clover and fallow were then unknown; and the clay between Forgan and the river, which is now the richest part of the parish, was then so poor, and so unproductive, that tenants could scarce be got upon any terms; the best of it scarcely yielding double seed. Every encouragement therefore was given; the grounds were drained and fenced at the landlords expence, who also gave lime, on leases for 38 years, to enable the tenants to improve the land, and indemnify themselves for labour and expence. At present, the ridges in the clay are still in most places unequal and crooked, as it is exceedingly difficult to change their direction, without very materially injuring the land, and not possible but at a great expence; but the whole surface is quite dry, and the water effectually carried off by means of deep ditches round and through every farm. There are no bauks; but the whole is highly cultivated, well limed, and kept in good heart by proper management and a regular
rotation

rotation of cropping; of which clover and fallow always make a part.

General Improvements.—In 1760, a piece of uncultivated moor ran across the whole parish from west to east, consisting of between 500 and 600 acres, and yielding nothing but heath, broom or whin (furze). In 1761, it was divided by submission, amongst the adjoining proprietors, and now no part of it is uncultivated. About 200 acres of it are covered with fine thriving plantations of fir and larix, from 30 years old and upwards; about as much is under the plough, and the rest laid out in beautiful grass parks, and makes part of the estate of Mylnefield, improved by the present proprietor at a very great expence, almost equal to a purchase of the ground, but which is worth now from 40 s. to 45 s. *per annum*.

That part of it which fell to the estate of Castle-Huntly, was either planted with fir, larix, and other trees, or let to tenants; to some of whom lime was given by the proprietor, at the rate of 45 bolls *per acre* *, and to others marl, at the rate of 50 bolls *per acre* †, to enable them to improve the ground. So that what was scarce worth any thing before the division, twenty years ago, was let at 5 s. *per acre*, and now gives 20 s. and 25 s. and upwards. But the rise of rent was gradual, as the improvement of the land enabled the tenant to pay.

Formerly the hills, and all the upper part of the parish, were one continued uninclosed moorland surface, with scarce a habitable house upon them. The proprietors then were either unable or unwilling to lay out money upon their estates, and were happy to get tenants who had money to spend and a spirit to improve; therefore, to such, they were willing to give long leases, as the only means, without expence to themselves, of reimbursing the tenant for his time, trouble, and expence, while their estates were
improving

* Charlestown lime, and wheat measure.

† A cube of 2 feet.

improving at the same time. Several of these leases are (1796) unexpired at this day. In 1767 two estates were let in this parish for three nineteen years, (57). They were at the time perfectly open, uninclosed, and almost uncultivated, and the whole buildings upon both of little or no value. The tenant built new houses, repaired the old ones, particularly a mansion-house on each, inclosed a great part with substantial stone-dikes, (walls of dry stone about 4 or 5 feet high), and the rest with thorn-hedges, planted about 60 acres of trees of all sorts, limed and marled and drained the whole grounds, which were then spouty and wet, and by that means greatly improved the estates; so that what was let, in 1767, at L. 152, 10s. in 1784 was valued at L. 300; and now (1796) they yield a rent of L. 360 *per annum* and upwards. But these improvements were done at a very great expence by a skilful farmer, who applied the money with judgment.

Another estate, of about 300 acres, in 1777, brought a rent of L. 65, which now pays L. 305, besides 75 acres of very thriving plantations, which were at that time not worth more than 2s. *per acre* on an average. They were valued lately by a nurseryman at L. 3375 Sterling. Their weedings yield about 10s. *per acre per annum*; and if they continue to thrive equally well, may, when fifty years old, be worth four times the sum.

The estate has also been improved at a great expence, by dressing the fields, inclosing them with good fences, building mills upon the burn, (a small rivulet), which runs through the estate, and also farm and cot-houses.

Another estate in this parish, purchased within these few years, which was then perfectly open, and in very bad order, is now inclosed, with good stone and thorn fences, well divided in handsome fields, and about 200 acres planted with all kinds of trees, which are in a very thriving condition;

tion; so that, now, its value is already doubled, if not more.

About eighteen years ago, in the intermediate space between the bank of Forgan and the clay, there were about 20 acres of morassy ground, called the Latch, so much impregnated with water, that in many places it could not carry a horse. To improve this, and render it arable, a deep ditch was dug along the bottom of the brae-land, (rising ground), to cut off the springs from above, and the space divided by cross ditches, with another between it and the clay to carry off the water; and now the whole is fine arable land, as good as any clay soil in the carse. It was let then at 5 s. *per* acre; it is now worth from 50 s. to L. 3 *per* acre.

Embanking.—The encroachments made by the river Tay upon the Carse, part of its boundaries, having made the proprietors of these lands think of embanking for their defence; the late Mr Crawford of Monorgan, who was the only heritor in this parish whose lands were in danger, began to embank about thirty years ago, and built stone-fences at a very great expence; but being injudiciously constructed, and built of bad materials, they have required repair almost every year. Now, since Monorgan has been annexed to the estate of Castle-Huntly, the proprietor has begun to embank upon a new plan. He has cut the earth into sloping banks, falling to its greatest height at an angle, everywhere much above 45° , and paving the whole extent of the slope as far as the tide reaches, with good long stones, with their ends inwards, and towards the land; so that the waves wash over it, and, as they meet with no resistance, they do no injury. The expence of this is no doubt considerable, but perhaps not much, if any thing, more than what has been done by other carse proprietors along the banks of the river, and bids fair to be infinitely more durable. However
he

He has this year tried to fence after another manner. He has drawn a line, within water-mark, at a considerable distance from the beach, and upon it laid down stones, not built, nor very regular, but in such sort as to form a broad base, and to narrow gradually towards the top, and about 5 or 6 feet high. This bulwark of stones is expected to break the force of the flood-tide, even in stormy weather, so that it may beat with less violence against the land; and as in the reflux it will certainly cause a considerable space of dead water, a greater quantity of mud or sediment will be left behind, which, in time, will probably increase so much in bulk, and also in firmness, that reeds may be planted with a probability of success; and if they once are established, the fence will bid fair to be durable; Also at another place, where the river approaches nearer to the braes (high banks), he has dug a trench of about 3 feet deep, and as broad, the outside nearly perpendicular, but perfectly covered with the beach; the inside sloping upwards to humour the acclivity of the bank. In this trench are thrown stones, as regularly as it can be done by a common labourer, and, when the trench is full, more stones are laid up, so as to cover the face of the bank higher up than any tide flows. From the solidity of the foundation, and the gentleness of the acclivity, this also is expected to answer. If either of these do, they will save much expence; but of that experience must judge.

Levelling in Clay.—The ridges upon the clay part of the Mains of Castle-Huntly were crooked, unequal, irregular, and liable in rainy seasons to be drenched with water, when Mr Paterson got possession of it in 1779. But he has levelled the whole, except one field, which does not require it so much; straightened all the ridges, rounded them sufficiently

to carry off the water, and no more, and made them all of 18 feet broad.

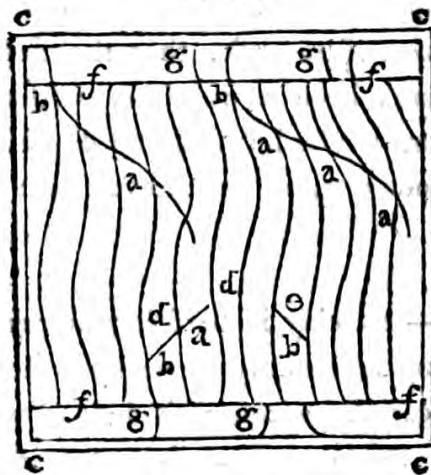
He made the first attempt to level in a manner recommended by Dr Anderson ; but he found it too difficult to execute, perhaps from not clearly understanding the Doctor's method. He therefore did the whole with the spade. He first opened a trench of about 10 feet wide, and extending from end to end of the field, in the same direction he meant to lay the ridges, laid up the upper surface of the 10 feet trench upon the side of the ditch, to be removed afterwards ; then made up all the low spaces, or former furrows, with the underfoil, from the crowns or rising grounds, with spade and wheel-barrow, if near, and if at a distance, with carts. He raised this trench with the underfoil, also brought from both ends, towards the middle of the field, in such sort as to form an inclined plain, falling off at both ends, and to drain it completely by its own furrows, which were to run into the ditches on each side of the field. When this underfoil had got its proper shape, he marked off another 10 feet trench, and, with the spade alone, threw the upper foil of the second trench upon the new formed under foil of the first, so as to cover it completely with the same cultivated earth uppermost, which had been the upper surface before ; and so on through the whole field, until he came to the last trench, upon which, when the proper shape was given with the under foil, the upper foil, which had been laid up upon the edge of the first trench, was carted round and laid on, which completed the operation. The appearance of the field then was uniform and regular, rising in the middle, and falling off at both ends towards the ditches which receives the surface water. It was then divided into 18 feet ridges, and continues so ; and by this means the whole field was levelled, without burying any part of the original surface. The expence of this, upon a
ten

ten acre field, which was the last done, was nearly about L. 6 *per* acre for labourers alone, exclusive of carts, horses, and farm-servants. But the whole might very probably have been done at about L. 8 *per* acre, including every expence. The same year, that field was well dunged and limed, and sown with wheat, and yielded very near 14 bolls *per* Scotch acre, near $7\frac{1}{2}$ quarters Winchester measure. Wages are higher now; but still he thinks it would be well worth while to dress many fields in the Carse in the same manner. It is also worthy of remark, that the field above mentioned had originally been a meadow, with a great part of it mofs, and before it was levelled and dressed, the middle of it was so low and wet, it scarce ever bore a crop worth reaping.

Surface-draining on Clay.—As clay is perfectly impervious to water, surface-draining is the only means by which this species of improvement can be accomplished; and all over the Carse of Gowrie, this operation is extremely simple. There are certain large common drains, which pass through the district in different directions, sufficiently capacious to receive the water drained from the fields by the ditches which surround them, and of such a level as to carry it clear off, and to empty their contents into the river Tay. There are also ditches which surround every farm, or pass through them, as their situations may require, but in such manner as to communicate with every field upon the farm. These ditches are made from 2 to 4 feet wide at top, and from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 foot at bottom; a shape which prevents their sides from falling in; but even then they must be cleaned and scoured every year at a considerable expence. If the fields be of an uniform level surface, the common furrows between the ridges, provided they be sufficiently deepened at their extremities, will serve to lay

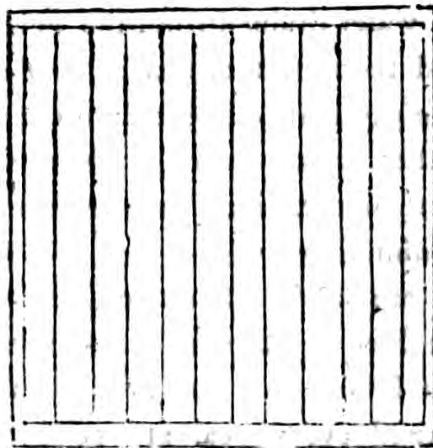
the grounds dry ; but as it seldom happens that any field in the Carle is so completely free of inequalities, the last operation, after it is sown and harrowed in, is to draw a furrow with the plough through every hollow in the field, which lies in such a direction that it can be guided through them, as at a a a, and so as to make a free communication with any of the surrounding ditches, or with any of the furrows

FIG. 1.



between the ridges, as at b b b b, which may serve as a conductor to carry the water off to the ditches upon the extremities c c c c.

FIG 2.



When this track is once opened with the plough, it is widened, cleared out, and so shaped with the spade, that it may run no risk of filling up. Its width should be from 6 inches to a foot, according to its depth, which must depend upon the level of the field ; but the breadth of a spade at bottom is a good general rule. It frequently happens, that there are inequalities in several parts of the same field, which do not extend wholly across it, or which do not pass through it, in any direction that a plough can follow ; but which may extend over two ridges, d d, or one ridge, e, or even part of a ridge ; such require an open communication

to be made with any conducting furrow, to carry off the water, which are always made with the spade. All these open communications are here called *gaas*; and to keep them perfectly clear is a very essential part of every Carse farmer's attention. It is as yet a general practice in the Carse to have head-ridges, as they are called, at the two extremities of each field; *i. e.* the ground upon which the plough turns is laid up in the shape of a transverse ridge, higher in the middle, and falling off at each side; so that a *gaa* is made in the course of the inner furrow, as at *f f f f*, with which the whole furrows between the longitudinal ridges communicate, and into which they pour all their surface water, which is carried off by similar *gaas*, or openings, cut through the head-ridges, at convenient distances, as at *g g g g*, and by which the whole is emptied into the adjoining ditches, *c c c c*, and by them into the main drain.

It is supposed that it would be a much better plan, instead of forming head ridges, as above described, to lay the earth up to the ends of the longitudinal ridges uniformly, which could easily be done with a little more trouble, by returning with an empty plough. There would then be no depression between the longitudinal and transverse ridges, of course, no occasion for a *gaa*; and by cutting fairly through the head ridges opposite to every longitudinal furrow, a freer passage would be given to the surface-water from the whole field to the adjoining ditch, and, of course, the draining be more complete. This method Mr Paterson has followed upon all the fields which he has levelled, and which is represented by the FIG. 2.

Besides all these, an experienced Carse farmer will take care that his ground is carefully ploughed; that the land is laid up equally; that no inequalities are left, so as to hold water; that the ridges are properly rounded, neither too
high

high nor too low, but as near as possible to the section of a large circle: By which the surface-water will easily drain off, without lodging; and while the crowns are not too much enriched, nor the furrows impoverished, the whole will be made equally fertile, dry, and prolific, and not unfrequently be accessible to the plough earlier in the spring than the fields upon the declivities of the surrounding hills; and the reason is obvious, because there is no spouts, no under-ground water to get rid of; nothing but superficial moisture alone.

Draining in Loam and inclining Fields.—The southern declivities of the hills in this parish, in general, consist of rich loam, which is exceedingly prolific. But as the surface is irregular, and as the substrata consist of rocky protuberances, veins of sand, and, in some places, impervious till or schistus; while, in a natural state, they are spouty, and until they are drained, in many places they are totally incapable of any agricultural improvement. The manner of draining these is various, according to the shape and lie of the field, and also of the different places where the water shows itself. If from one spring only, and if that can be cut off from the grounds above, the task is easy; but if the spouts or springs are many, or if the appearance happens in several places, and no original spring be discovered, the drains must be carried through the field, in such a manner as to communicate with every place where the water appears, and this is in general done according to the skill, experience, or sometimes the caprice of the farmer; sometimes zig-zag,



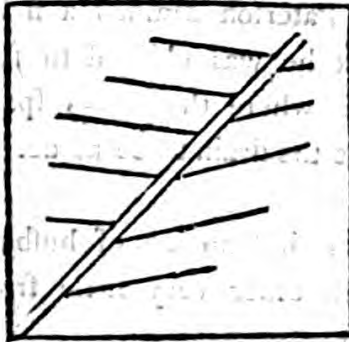
sometimes

sometimes in this



fashion;
and some-
times, e-
specially if

the field will admit of it, a main drain is carried diagonally from corner to corner of the field, with other drains, leading either through, or from every spouty part of the field, thus,



which is called feathering; but if there happens to be rocky protuberances, the drains must be carefully guided round them. These drains are formed thus: A ditch is dug, in any direction the farmer may think proper, at least three feet deep and two feet broad, (narrower may do if the stones be

scarce), and the whole should be left open till it should be seen whether those made are sufficient to drain off the water from all the spouty parts of the field.

The next thing to be attended to, is to take care that the bottom of the ditch be lower than any vein of sand which touches it, or which communicates with it; otherwise the drain will be of no use; as the sandy veins will conduct the water wherever they reach, which will burst out at the first obstruction. Satisfied in these particulars, the ditches may be filled, from one foot to 18 inches as the quantity of water may require, with small stones, broken on purpose, and laid in as irregularly as possible. Over these

these, a coat of six inches of straw, furze, or broom is laid, to keep the earth which is now filled in over it, from trindling through, and which in time forms a matted coat, and leaves about a foot or 14 inches of surface above. The furze or broom is better than the straw, but good gravel, free of earth, if it can be had, is better than either. If that should not be judged of sufficient depth for the plough, the ditch may be made deeper at first. These under-ground drains are called here fivers, and, if carefully constructed at first, may remain in good order, and answer every purpose expected from them for many years, while the whole field appears one uniform surface. Mr Paterfon drained a field, so full of rocky protuberances that he was obliged to feel his way with an iron rod, to know where there was space enough between the rocks to guide the drain to be made.

Instruments of Husbandry.—The instruments of husbandry commonly used in this parish, differ very little from what is used in the neighbourhood.

There are 122 ploughs, all of which, at least such as good farmers use, are of Small's construction, with iron mouldboards, or generally so. Some smaller farmers indeed use one, which partakes of the old Scots plough, and which they call a mongrel; but it is a very inferior instrument. About twenty years ago, and even less, four horses, two and two abreast, were frequently seen in the plough, with one man holding and another driving; sometimes with three horses and two men: But now, ploughing is entirely performed with two horses abreast, with one man who holds and drives, except upon very particular occasions, when hard ground must be raised by main force; and which requires the exertion of four horses.

There

There are other ploughs used for drilled crops, such as potatoes, turnips, and beans. One called a scraper, with a broad flat sock, made to cut a space of about 6 inches, and from each wing of the plough a thin plate of iron runs down to the level of the sock, with a cutting edge in the direction of the drill, and its point turned inwards, and so contrived, that these three, *i. e.* the sock and two wings, shall cut or brush along the whole space between the drills, and cut up every weed at about 2 or 3 inches deep. This operation is succeeded by another, with a double-headed plough, the heads of which are smaller than the common plough, and so contrived, with the flat side of each head outwards, as to cut close to the edge of each drill; and as the mould-boards of each are of course upon its inside, it turns the mould inwards, leaving a ridge of earth and collected weeds in the middle of the space between the drills. The whole drilling operation is finished with the double mould-board plough: All these are tempered with a rack and pin.

There is also a very ingenious instrument used in this parish for sowing turnip. It is constructed thus: Two wooden rollers, of about 8 inches diameter, placed on end upon one axle, for convenience of turning, both together occupying a space of 6 feet, so as to stretch over two drills at a time, are fixed by a frame to shafts for one horse; and behind this another frame of light wood is attached to it by a rope or chain from its middle, in which last frame is placed an iron axle, with a light iron wheel of 18 inches diameter at each end, and to which axle are fitted two boxes with covers for sowing turnip, with conductors, to which are fitted iron points, moveable, so as to open the earth and drop the seed deeper or shallower at pleasure. The boxes also are moveable upon the axle, to be fitted to any distance of drills; and behind each conductor a small roller of 14 inches wide, and 4 inches diameter, moves in sheers to roll

roll in the seed. With this instrument one man may, with great ease, sow ten acres in a day.

Harrows, &c.—The harrows used here are of the common kind, with very little difference, only some lighter and some heavier, but all of them have a cross spar fixed upon one side, about 3 feet long, and about 6 or 8 inches high, which they call a rider, and which prevents the harrows from overtopping one another, especially in turning. Mr Paterfon, some years ago, when the wheat seed time was very rainy, got a beam 18 feet long, made to the breadth of the ridges; upon each extremity of which he fixed an old fore-wheel of a coach, and hung a set of harrows to the beam, so as to take in the whole ridge at once; and to each end of the beam attached 3 or 4 horses, to go in the furrows in a line, by which the ground was completely harrowed, and none of the seed trampled down with the horses feet. This he has used ever since, when a wet season makes it necessary, and with great advantage, and several farmers have followed the example. He also uses another harrow for his drill-crops alone, and only when the ground is exceedingly foul with couch grass. It is about 2 feet wide, and 5 feet long, with teeth set in diagonal lines, but so as to leave no part of the surface over which it goes untouched. On its fore-part is a staple of iron, to which a swingle-tree and traces are fixed for the horse; and to its hinder part a handle of wood, about 4 or 5 feet long, rises up, and inclining a little backwards; from the middle of which a light spur of iron runs forwards, and is inserted into the harrow about its middle. The whole so contrived, that the man who drives can easily guide it, press it down into the earth, or raise it up, and leave the accumulated couch or weeds behind, at pleasure.

Carts.—The carts formerly used in this parish, and which are still generally in use, measure, in length, over the top of the coop, (box), 6 feet; in breadth, 3 feet 8 inches; in depth, 1 foot 3 inches; and narrowing a little towards the bottom, so as to contain about 26 cubic feet. But the coops now introduced measure, in length, 5 feet 3 inches, and narrowing at the bottom to 4 feet 8 inches; and in breadth, over the top, 4 feet 8 inches, narrowing to 3 feet 7 inches at bottom, and 1 foot 3 inches in depth. They contain nearly the same cubic measure of 26 feet; but from their shape, and being placed more forward upon the axle, they are much lighter upon the horse, and an easier draught. They answer very well with one horse for most purposes; but with two they fatigue the horses much less, even with a much greater load.

Thrashing-mill.—In the year 1788, Mr Paterfon set up the first thrashing-mill in this part of the country; and now, (1796), there are built, and building, fifteen in this parish alone. This *powerful* machine is, perhaps, one of the greatest improvements in farming which the age has produced; but it is now so well known, a description is scarce necessary, and not easy to be understood without a drawing*.

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3 T

Machine

* The thrashing-mill at Castle-Huntly was built at first by one James Morris, an inhabitant of Longforgan, taken from one which had been set up for some time before, at Mr Mains of Pous in Stirlingshire, and built by William Jaffray, a mill-wright in Alloa, who finished the machine at Castle-Huntly himself. It consisted then simply of a horizontal wheel over the horses heads, placed in a shade, and adjoining to the barn, with two levers of about 14 feet long, with a horse to each, which turned a lying shaft by a pinion, upon the other end of which was placed a vertical wheel, which turned a cylinder, or drum, of about 4 feet diameter, and 5 feet long; upon which was fixed six thrashers, and to which the corn was conducted, after being laid upon a breast of wood, by two fluted rollers, which were made to press upon

Machine for cleaning Yams.—As yams, or Surinam potatoes, are now come into universal use for horses, as well as for every

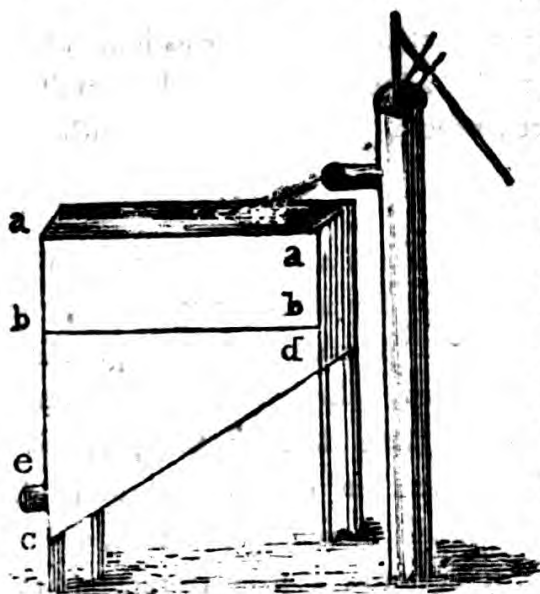
upon the corn by weights, and turned by a very simple contrivance on the lying shaft.

Upon the supposition that the mill thus constructed had not sufficient velocity to thresh the corn perfectly clean, it was altered some time after by Mr Mickle, also of Alloa, who added fanners, or a winnowing machine, to separate the corn from the chaff; and multiplying wheels, which increased the velocity so much, that with four threshers only upon the drum, if the horizontal or horse-wheel went twice round in a minute, which horses can easily do * at their usual pace, the drum will move through a space of 2496 feet, and the corn passing through the mill will receive 832 strokes in the same time: But this machine requires 7 or 8 men, and 4 horses at least; even 6 or 8 horses may be put to, which makes the work much easier. This mill has threshed and winnowed $9\frac{1}{2}$ bolls of wheat Linlithgow measure, = to 5 quarters 2 pecks Winchester measure, in 27 minutes: but this was in 1793, for seed, when the crop was rich, and the straw short; for it is to be observed, that the power and execution of thrashing-mills are various according to circumstances, independent of the machine itself; such as, the richness of the crop, and the length of the straw: If the crop be rich, and the straw short, the mill will thrash more in a given time; and, *vice versa*. Mr Mickle also reversed the motion of the drum, and made it give the stroke upwards instead of downwards, as formerly, which was found to be a very great improvement, and has been universally adopted ever since.

Since that time, the thrashing mill has been still farther improved, by adding to it a rake with four wings, which is turned by a strap from the lying axle, and moves over a concave grating, through which the corn falls into the hopper of the fanners, while the shaker (as it is called) turns out the straw upon a sloping rack, perfectly clean, and by that means saves the labour of two men at least. And what is very remarkable, the most approved mills now, after many experiments have been made, are built exactly upon the same principles with that built by William Jaffray in 1788, with the horizontal or horse wheel 16 feet in diameter, and the spear-wheel $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and the drum from 3 to 4 feet, which is calculated to make nearly about 90 revolutions for once of the horse wheel. This goes with great ease with four horses; threshes the corn perfectly clean as far as nearly 10 bolls in the hour. One of the best in the Carse is lately built by William Dick, wright in Dundee, at Ballendean, and farther improvements are still going on. Very good mills

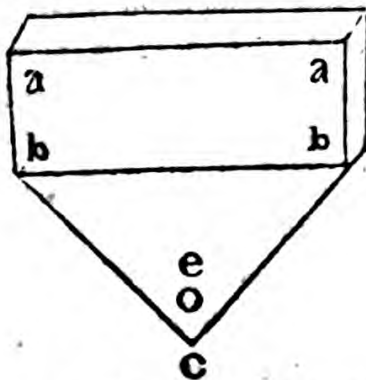
* Moving in a circle of about 28 feet diameter.

every other species of bestial upon the farm, it may be proper to mention, that, for horses, it is necessary to clean them perfectly from all earthy particles which may adhere to them. For this purpose every farmer should have a machine for washing them, to shorten labour. A square trough of wood,



well seasoned, and well joined, six feet long, and three feet wide, divided into two apartments, the upper one, a a b b, above two feet deep, with a bottom, b b, full of small holes, to receive the yams, and the lower apartment, b c b d, perpendicular on one side, a b c,

and the other three sides, b b c, sloping to a point at its



bottom, c, near which a plug, e, is placed, to let the dirty water and earth out at pleasure; and while one man pumps the water into this trough, or throws it in with a bucket, one or two men, according to the quan-

tity, provided with birch brooms, rinses and cleans the yams, while all the earth sinks into the lower apartment, b b c;

and

mills are now built, so as to work easily with two horses, and thresh and clean from 5 to 6 bolls in the hour. Some are also made to go by water, and some by men, but not in this parish.

and by drawing the plug, e, the whole earth and water may be let out at once, while the yams remain in the upper apartment quite clean and free of earth; but if not so well cleaned, or if the earth be hardened about them, by putting in the plug at bottom, the trough may be filled again with water, either that the yams may be rinsed again, or remain covered with the water as long as may be sufficient to soften the adhering earth, which will then separate with the birch broom from the yams with great ease.

Stacking Grain.—When the corn is cut down, the next important operation in husbandry is to get it in safe, and to preserve it sound, and also to protect it from plunder by animals of every description, whether wild or domestic. The general method of building stacks in this parish is upon the ground, and, if the corn be win in the field, no precaution whatever is thought necessary; so that, although it be preserved sound, it becomes a prey to rats and mice, and to every animal which can get in to the corn-yard. A better method is to build the stacks upon what is called *Statholls*, which are constructed as under: A number of pillars of stone or wood, eight or ten or more, may be placed in a circular form, according to the diameter of the intended stack, and one in the middle of the circle; all these are covered with caps of round stones, projecting so far that no rat or any such animal can get up from the ground; and the pillars are made about 2 feet high at least, to prevent geese or turkeys from drawing the corn at bottom. Upon these stones, a frame of wood is laid, and from the middle of this frame a cone of wooden spars is raised, of about 4 or 5 feet diameter at bottom, and ending in a point at about 6 or 8 feet high, according to the height of the stack, of which the cones must not be higher than the intake at farthest.

thef. From this cone, wooden pipes are laid acrofs the ftack when building, and are cut to its fhape. Thefe are made of three rough fir boards, very partially fitted to each other, fo as to let the air pafs in all direftions amongft the fheaves of corn. But the principal ufe is to draw the air up through the cone in the centre, and guide it through every part of the ftack. By which means, corn may fafely be taken much fooner in, than when no fuch precaution is ufed *.

Formerly the fmall farmers and acremen had no tacks, (leaves), but were tenants at will, and were alfo bound down to all the fevere conditions, as already mentioned; and fo little was the intereft of the landlord underftood, or the tenant regarded, that fo lately, as between the year 1750 and 1760, it was an eftablifhed cuftom, that the Earl of Strathmore's officers, (who was the proprietor at that time), actually

* There is ftill another method, lately introduced by a very refpectable gentleman †, not far from hence, but not in this parifh, which is probably the beft means of preferving and taking in corn ever thought of; which is, by building frames of wood to any extent, upon which the corn is laid, the breadth of two fheaves only, and a binding one in the middle, as upon a fhelf, with the heads inwards, and for a depth of about 3 feet: Another fhelf of wooden fpars is laid and fixed into the perpendicular ftoops (uprights) in fuch fafhion as to prevent any preffure from the fuperincumbent fheaves. Upon this fhelf or frame the corn is again placed, in the fame manner, and over that another, and fo on, as high as you pleafe; fo that the fheaves be loofely laid, and receive from all quarters fuch a body of air as to dry and win the corn completely, even if taken in immediately from the hook, (fickle), provided it be cut down dry. Whether this be a new thought or not is of no confequence. The gentleman who has introduced it has great merit; and although the expence of building the apparatus may prevent the method from becoming general foon, efpecially as in thofe fituations where the climate is favourable, or the feafon dry, it is by no means fo neceffary, yet there are many places in this country, where fuch fuch plan of preferving the corns would be always ufeful; and there are fometimes feafons fo unfavourable, as would make fuch a refource a very fortunate circumftance for all concerned, efpecially in fmall or middling farms. In very large farms it may not be fo eafily attainable.

† *Captain Drummond of Gardrum.*

tually seized upon one tenth of the crop yearly, upon the lands of Longforgan, as part rent, and carried it, corn and fodder, off the field; and not one dared to lead a sheaf of corn till that was done. Some time after, new tacks (leases) were entered into, more favourable to the tenant; but, in all, still such a number of feudal services were required, as to show the practice of former times, and how unwilling they were to give them up; and, what is very extraordinary, it was not the landlords alone who were unwilling to give them up: for in the year 1782, when the present proprietor of Castle-Huntly proposed to convert all the feudal bondages into a very moderate money-rent, some very intelligent tenants were averse to convert even the harvest-bondage, which of all others was the most oppressive, although at the moderate computation of 10 d. *per day per shearer*.

State in 1777.—In all the leases delivered to the present proprietor of Longforgan in 1777, there was very little difference from former customs; only, formerly, they were bound to all services, and at all times. In these tacks, the number and kind of services were expressed. They were all thirled to a particular mill, *i. e.* they were bound to grind all their corns at the baron's mill: For the mill of Millhill, to which Longforgan and all the estate of Castle-Huntly were then thirled, although separated from that barony, originally belonged to it; and although the estate of Millhill had been sold out of the family, by one of the Earls of Strathmore, yet so little was the interest either of proprietor or tenant attended to or understood, that he suffered his tenants upon the estate of Castle-Huntly, (then Lyon), to remain bound to grind their corns at the mill, no longer his own.

Hand Mills.—Formerly hand mills or *querns* (as they are called), were the only instruments used in this country for grinding corn; but it is probable, that when those were found unequal to the demand, mills were built by the landlord who had water at his command, as a benefit to his tenants and retainers; and that the miller became bound not only to grind all the corns used by the tenants upon the estate, but also to send for them and return them in meal; for which certain cultures in kind, that is certain quantities of the corns (millers tolls) were allowed, which was called thirlage. The tenants were also obliged to give their help in preparing the corn for grinding, and cleaning the mill-lead, *i. e.* the tract which conducts the water for the mill wheel, &c.

In those days, when mills were but few in number, the privilege of getting their corns ground might be a great convenience at any price; but afterwards, when their numbers encreased, and the millers became rivals for employment, what was originally meant as an useful convenience became a very great hardship. The baron, to keep up the rent of his mill, obliged his tenants to grind all their corns there as formerly, although they could have got their crops manufactured cheaper at other mills, where, naturally, the rates were lowered to those who were not obliged to frequent them, in order to invite customers; while the millers became inattentive, negligent, and sometimes insolent and overbearing, to those who were bound to their mill. Hence the grievance of thirlage, which is so much complained of.

Tacks or Leases formerly.—The tacks (leases) entered into, between 1760 and 1770, with the greater tenants in this parish, were in general for 38 years, to themselves, heirs, executors and assignees, with power to sublet. They were all thirled to a particular mill; their restrictions were
loose

loose and unguarded ; subject to bondage in harvest and a certain number of carriages ; and, as the clay of this parish was then in exceeding bad order, lime was given by the proprietor to most of them, and a small rent in money required for some years ; after which their rent was partly in wheat, barley and meal, deliverable between Christmas and Candlemas ; partly in money, either payable at Whitfunday, or one-half then and one-half at Lammass or at Martinmas. Liferent tacks were then not uncommon ; and they sometimes extended to two or three lives. In some tacks (leases) a very extraordinary clause was introduced ; the tenant had leave to name any life he pleased during his tack (lease), upon which his possession was to continue.

Tacks or Leases now.—At this day, there is no thirlage ; there is no bondage in harvest ; nor are the tenants bound to days work in planting, &c. They pay their rents in money and victual only. They are not bound to go messages ; and they only are bound to carry with their horses and carts, a certain proportion of coals for the proprietors family, if they reside ; which is exceedingly moderate, and some carts for lime, &c. which is seldom demanded ; but it is expressly provided, that they shall not be demanded either in feed-time, or harvest.

Divisions into Sixes.—In 1775, or thereabouts, the practice of dividing the carse farms into sixes, became pretty general ; and it became a clause in most tacks (leases), to have 1-6th of the farm in fallow, 1-6th in wheat, 1-6th in beans or pease, 1-6th in barley, 1-6th in clover, and 1-6th in oats ; which practice is said to have been introduced by the late Henry Crawford of Monorgan, Esq ; and it has been continued in the clay by the best farmers ever since. Sometime
after

after this, it became a practice with proprietors to give tenants 19 years, and also their own life added; upon the principle, that a man would certainly keep that farm in good order, which he was to possess during his life. However, that has been found to be fallacious, as there are many wealthy farmers now, although not in this parish, who after their certain time is out, grudge to lay out a shilling more upon their farms, lest they should not live long enough to get its value out of the ground; and there are large farms now falling into decay from this cause. So that from experience it would appear, that the best terms for a tack (lease), is a certain fixed period of years; if the farms be improved, perhaps 19 years is as good as any; although the odd year is not easy to be accounted for, unless upon an inveterate partiality for odd numbers; for certainly, eighteen years, or three rotations, is much more natural; but if unimproved, the lease should be longer, to encourage the tenant to lay out his money.

Present Condition of Tacks or Leases.—Now, the terms of all new tacks or leases are generally for 19 years to themselves, heirs, and executors only, not assignable, nor can the tenant sublet. He must reside with his family and fier, *i. e.* his horses, servants, and cattle, upon the farm; not to sell any fodder; hay and wheat-straw for thatch excepted. He is to lay the whole dung he makes upon the farm. He is in general bound to the rotation of fixes: But now it is thought sufficient to bind the tenants not to sow any white crop upon the clay, *i. e.* wheat, oats, or barley; but after fallow or green crop, which are declared to be lint, clover, beans, pease, tares, and the like; and to keep one half of the farm under these crops during the currency of the lease; and the same upon the rich loam; potatoes, yams, and turnips, or any such, are amongst the interme-

diate crops ; but it is thought by some to be always a good practice to bind the tenant to the fixes for the last six years of the lease. Upon the lighter ground they are permitted to take three crops, one of them a green crop, and the last a white crop, to be sown down with grafs, and to continue in pasture for two years at least. This gives a greater liberty to the farmer in varying his crops, and cannot hurt the ground. He pays half a boll of wheat, and half a boll of barley *per* acre, and the rest in money ; the barley deliverable between Christmas and Candlemas, and the wheat any time between that and the middle of June, when demanded, and the money at the Whitfunday following, *i. e.* crop 1795 payable 1796, and so on. The entry is generally to the houses and grafs, if there be any, at Whitfunday, and to the land at the separation of the crop the same year. The outgoing tenant is generally permitted to fell his last crop, corn, and fodder, and also his dung, but not to carry any out of the barony, (manor), which is an old custom. The houses and offices are delivered to the tenant in good repair, which he is bound to keep up, and re-deliver at the expiry (end) of his lease in equal good condition. Sometimes they are appraised, and are to be given up of equal value,

These in a great measure explain the general principles of farming in the carse ground of this parish, and perhaps it is the best general rule that can be given. But upon rich loam, they at present divide their farms into five parts, as they think fallow rather a prejudice, in room of which they use drilled crops of potatoes, yams, turnips and beans, which cleans the land effectually. Lint and pease are also sown as intermediate crops ; and after all of which, wheat is sometimes sown, and good crops obtained. After the wheat, barley sown down with clover and rye-grafs ; then oats, and then a clearing crop again.

Resident

Resident Proprietors Farmers.—All the resident proprietors are farmers, which is really of more consequence, both to the country and to themselves, than is generally imagined; for it is of consequence to the country to have proprietors, who have both spirit to adopt and to try new experiments, and money to carry them into execution. If useful and advantageous, they will be examples to their tenants; if they fail, they can afford the loss. But it is impossible to estimate the advantage to themselves; for it enables them to judge of the exact extent a farm ought to be of for a certain number of horses and men, and no more; and will make him a competent judge of the value of his farms, and prevent him from falling into that most injudicious error, of increasing his rents beyond what the farms can afford to pay.

Remarkable Change of Property.—It is very remarkable, that near 6-7ths of this parish has changed its proprietors within less than 30 years.

That one of the most considerable estates in it was sold in 1615 for 40,000 merks Scots, equal to L. 2222 : 4 : 5 $\frac{1}{11}$ Sterling; and in 1777, it sold again for L. 40,000 Sterling.

Value of Land in 1667.—That the rent of that whole estate in 1667 was,

Wheat,	276	bolles.
Barley,	225	
Oats,	62	
Meal,	230	
Pease,	36	

At L. 5 Scots per boll, 829 bolles, valued at	L. 345	8	4
Money rent,	100	0	0
	<hr/>		
Sterl.	L. 445	8	4

In 1719.—In 1719, it was,

Wheat,	213	1	1
Barley,	197	0	1
Meal,	140	2	3
Oats,	80	0	0

B. 631	0	1	valued at 10s. 5d. <i>per</i> boll,
			overhead, L. 547 9 6 $\frac{2}{3}$
			Money, - 205 0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
			Sterl. L. 752 10 6

But take the victual at the same price as in 1667, *i. e.* at L. 5 Scots *per* boll, overhead, the rental will be 631 bolls, at 8 s. 4 d. = - - - L. 262 18 4
 L. 2460 : 11 : 4 Scots money, = - - - 205 0 11
Sterl. L. 467 19 3

No great difference of rent; nor much proof of improvement in that period.

In 1750.—In 1750, the whole rent was 10,000 merks Scotch, and given as a jointure; in Sterling money,

L. 555 11 1 $\frac{1}{2}$

The widow went abroad, and let the estate for 420 0 0

In 1777, when the estate was sold, calculating the wheat at 20 s. and the other victual

at 12 s. *per* boll, the rent was - 1412 2 6

Value the victual in 1667 at the same rate,

and the rent would have been then, 707 16 0

The yearly rent now is more than the whole value of the fee-simple, when it was sold to Lord Strathmore in 1615.

It is worthy of remark, that in 1667, above 3-4ths of the rent was paid in kind.

That to 1750, for near a century, very little alteration had taken place in the value of property.

In

In 1777.—That in 1777, the rents doubled what they were in 1750, in consequence of the beginning improvements in agriculture at that time.

That in 18 years more, *i. e.* in 1795, the value of property actually doubled what it was in 1777, and from the same causes, added to the decreased value of money.

Rents from 1750 to 1796.—About the year 1750, the best clay farms were let at 5 s. *per acre*. A few years after, when valued for new leases, they were supposed to be over-rated at 10s. In 1759, the same farms were let at 17 s. In 1782, they rose to 25 s. In 1786, they were let at 45 s. And the same lands would probably let now at 50 s. *per acre* at least.

Most of the estates in the parish, indeed all of them, may be said to have been improved in the same proportion, but at an immense expence to the proprietors, who have spared neither labour nor money, in fencing, draining, building houses, furnishing lime and marl to tenants, relieving them of all feudal burdens, subscribing largely to turnpike and parochial roads, and planting in such lands not so fit for other agricultural purposes.

Reasons for this Increase.—These improvements appear astonishing; but notwithstanding which, although they add greatly to the general stock of national wealth, yet the increase of value in property is by no means of so much real advantage to the landholders as at first sight may appear. For, in the first place, the expence of the improvements is almost equal to a purchase; and as labour of every kind, servants wages, and the expence of every necessary of life are doubled, and many of them trebled in that time.

No doubt improvements in agriculture have done wonders,
but

but it is money falling in value which is the real cause of the difference, both of receipt and expenditure. The high rents likewise may appear extraordinary to our neighbours in England, particularly; but it must be considered, that the Scotch acre is 1-5th larger than the English, and the Scotch farmer literally pays nothing but his rent. All taxes, both King's and parochial, minister's stipend, and every kind of public burden, is paid by the heritor.

Practical Agricultural Remarks.—Although fallow be the most approved method, and generally thought to be the best preparation for wheat upon clay, yet many very judicious farmers seem to think that lint and clover are preferable upon loam; only it is certainly extremely proper to observe the same rule, of never sowing two white crops in succession. If this be the practice, a cleaning crop of potatoes, yams, drilled beans, or turnip, will always be necessary to make one of the rotations.

All roots are certainly scourging crops, and exhaust the ground; and although the practice be pretty general to take wheat after potatoes, it is perhaps not the best farming; at any rate, it is not to be depended on in this country; for in rainy autumns, there is such a risk of poaching the ground in taking them up, and in dunging the land afterwards, as to make it totally unfit for a wheat-feed. However, if the season be favourable, and the ground in good heart, it may do very well. Even very tolerable wheat crops have been got after turnip.

There are many farmers in the Carse now, who pay little regard to the usual rotation of fixes. It is true, they still divide their farm into fixes; but they make wheat after fallow, and after every green crop; in short, they borrow from their oats and from their barley, till they have

1-3d instead of 1-6th of their farm in wheat. There are others, who go farther still, and make a greater proportion of wheat; and some divide their farms into sevenths, and take two white crops together, to make their grass farther from the dung. If any of these be good farming, experience must shew. Some attempts have been made to throw fallow out of the rotation in clay, and in its room to sow hafty pease, or other green crops, but it has not answered the intention.

If after lint, it be meant to sow wheat, the dung should be laid on as soon as the lint comes off, and ploughed in immediately; and if after clover, perhaps the best practice is to lay the dung on as soon as the hay comes off the ground, spread it immediately, and let the second crop cover it, which it will do in general. Both then are ready for the seed furrow in good time. At all events, never let dung lie one moment in heaps, but let it be spread instantly, and well divided. A great deal of the success in farming depends upon the proper management of dung.

If it be meant to sow wheat after turnip, the tops may be begun to be cut off some time before, and given either to cattle, or to milch-cows; after which, they should be taken up in October, the tops and roots cut close, and then housed, or stowed in a temporary shade for the purpose; and to prevent their spoiling and springing, they should be turned over from time to time, and the soft and rotten ones picked out; by which means they will keep very well through the winter. And at all times, what remains in the ground unused, should be taken up when they begin to shoot, which both preserves the turnip, and prevents their hurting the ground by their running to seed. Mr Paterfon has practised this; and one year in a field of equal soil, and equally prepared, he had yams, potatoes, lint, and turnip,
and

and of the crop of wheat following, it could scarce be distinguished which had been the preceding crop.

But as it is a common practice to let turnips remain in the field through the winter, and to be taken up for use only as the demand for cows or cattle requires, great care should be taken to suffer none of these to run to seed; for it is an undoubted fact, confirmed by experience, that turnips suffered to run to seed exhaust the soil more than almost any crop whatever, and impoverishes more than much high dressing will recover in many years. It is probably the same with all plants bearing oleagenous seeds. Flax, at any rate, is an impoverishing crop, as it leaves nothing behind; but if suffered to seed, it scourges the ground much more; and from this it is natural to suppose, that in proportion to the richness of the seed, and the nourishment that is in it, the ground which produces it will be proportionally exhausted. Rye-grass, if suffered to seed, exhausts the ground; if cut in blossom, it does not.

One remark here is necessary, that when turnips, or their tops, are given to milch cows, the rotten parts should be carefully separated and thrown away; for it is with good reason supposed, that it is the putrid parts which give the bad flavour to milk, and not the turnip itself. However, a very easy cure for this has been discovered lately; to mix a very small quantity of a weak solution of nitre among the milk, while warm from the cow, and no turnip taste will remain.

Yams.—Yams have also been cultivated with great advantage, particularly upon the Mains of Castle-Huntly, ever since the year 1782, when Mr Paterfon brought a fir-lot (a bushel) from Calder, near Glasgow; and now they are spread all over the country. They are very easily raised; but the ground should be ploughed pretty deep in
autumn,

autumn, after oats or wheat, and again in the spring; they may then be planted in drills, either with dung or without it, according to the state of the field, or the crop which is to follow. If they be planted after dunged wheat, and to be followed with barley, dung is unnecessary. If after oats, as a cleaning crop, and to be followed by wheat, it is a good practice to dung them well. This ensures a great crop of yams; prevents carting upon and poaching the ground as much as possible; and if the field be in proper order, may be followed by wheat, without any more dung. However, this is not recommended as the best preparation for wheat.

Drills.—In planting yams, the drills may be drawn from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet distant, according to the judgment of the farmer. If the ground be very rich, and if the principal object be to clean it properly for a crop of wheat to follow, and, if well dunged, a very great crop may be expected at $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet distant, and there will be ample room to work it as perfectly as if it was fallow. The stems will cover the whole completely, and with ease. Every extraneous plant may be destroyed. The sets should be large, about $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a large yam, dropped at about one foot or nine inches asunder. Small sets do not answer so well.

A great Crop.—In 1794, upon the Mains of Castle-Huntly, a field of yams was dressed in this manner, and yielded 110 bolls *per* Scotch acre, which weighed, when cleaned of earth, 5 stone 5 pounds Dutch *per* firiot, or 23 stone English *per* boll, at 16 pounds each stone, or 40,480 pounds *per* acre. It was well dunged to the yams; and the wheat crop that followed looked remarkably well, August 1795, but did not turn out so well as was expected. This, however, is no rule, as the wheat crop in general, and particularly through the Carle, was light that year. A Scotch

acre is to an English acre nearly as 125 to 100. If the soil be of an inferior quality, the drills should be nearer, that the stems may cover the ground completely.

Management.—Before the plants appear above ground, they should be well harrowed, which destroys all annuals that may have appeared, and opens the soil. As soon as they are well above ground, the usual practice is to take away the earth from the drills on each side with a common plough. The earlier this is done the better, as it not only destroys the fresh crop of weeds, but it softens the earth, and approximates to the warmth of the sun the young fibres, beginning to shoot; and if this operation be too long delayed, these tender fibres, which, in process of time, are to be loaded with an abundant crop, run a risk of being cut off by the plough, and their progeny totally destroyed. This operation may be performed in half the time with the scraper and double-headed plough, already described for drilled crops; *i. e.* the scraper goes first, and cuts up all the weeds, and is immediately followed by the double-headed plough, which takes away earth and weeds from the drills, and ridges them in the middle space between. Each of these instruments, by a particular construction, can be made wider or narrower, so as to fit itself to any distance of drills, and are easily drawn by one horse. They can be used to advantage in light soils only; for if the soil be strong, it is not possible to get them deep enough in the ground, so as to root out every weed; nor can they be made to loosen the earth sufficiently for the young fibres to shoot; and if so, a prolific crop is not to be expected. In such soils, a common plough, upon the principle of Small's, but made light on purpose, is certainly best. The next operation is hand-hoeing, which can now easily be done, and which answers a triple purpose, as it destroys all the luxuriant weeds which
the

the plough could not reach, loosens the earth about the roots of the stem, and covers with a fresh mould those fibres, now making quick progress from the parent root.

After this, especially if the field be foul, the spaces between the drills should be well harrowed with a small harrow, of a particular construction, already described for drill crops. One horse draws it along, and the man who drives the horse can easily guide it by the handle, and press the whole harrow sufficiently into the earth, so as to pick up every particle of couch-grass, or any other fibrous weed; and when the harrow is so loaded as not to be able to carry any more along, the driver, with great ease, lifts it up, leaves the collected weeds or couch-grass behind, to be carried out of the field afterwards, and passes on with his harrow. After this operation, the ground is left, until the annual weeds have shewn themselves in full vegetation; but before the stems of the yams are too luxuriant, and then with the common plough, if the drills be wide, the earth is laid up with one or two furrows, according to the distance between each, or as the farmer's judgment shall direct; and afterwards, the whole is finished with a double mould-board plough passing between each drill: But if the drills be narrow, it generally lays up the whole earth at once, without any assistance from the common plough.

When the yams are fully ripe, which will probably happen sometime in October, and which is known by the decay of the stems and the ripening apples, they are to be taken up either with the spade or with the plough, and gathered; but it is a good practice to cut the stems first with a scythe, and carry them off the field, which makes an excellent bedding in the dung court for a succeeding year; and if the farmer keeps pigs nothing will be lost, as they will pick up all the apples, and every yam which may adhere to the stems. It has also been remarked by experienced farmers, that if the
potatoes

potatoes or yams are suffered to remain in the ground until their seeds are fully ripe, they exhaust it exceedingly; and hence, even on this account, a crop of potatoes, thus managed, is a very bad preparation for wheat. They should be taken up earlier, or they should be followed by some other species of grain. Yams and potatoes are by no means meliorating crops*.

Potatoes.

* If possible, yams should be taken up in dry weather, free of earth, and before frost. The floor of the house, in which they are meant to be stowed, should be laid with straw, and all the sides next to the walls, and the whole well covered; and if carefully managed in this manner, they will keep well till midsummer or longer, and still be firm and juicy; this is much better than any method whatever of preserving them out of doors.

Horses are very fond of them; but one half peck is quite enough to give at a time in the beginning, and never more than one peck should be given in the day; with these and straw alone, horses may be very well kept through the winter, if not very hard worked; and if it should be judged necessary to give them any corn, it should be bruised, or given in meal, and very little at a time; for as the yams generally keep the belly open, if corn be given at the same time, it will be found to pass perfectly whole and undigested. Cattle may be indulged with more, if agreeable to them, as the object with them is different; but with them, also, they should be given in small quantities at first, and then to be regulated by the effect, as they are very apt to scour and not to feed, if given in so large quantities, especially at first.

The yam does not boil as the common potatoes, but they soften a little; and when boiled with chaff or bran, they make a most excellent feed for milch-cows in the winter, and if attended to, they will give butter equal, or not much inferior, to what they give when fed on clover. They may be also given raw to cows with advantage, which some experienced farmers prefer to boiling.

If horses are to be fed with yams, 1st, It is of the utmost consequence to clean them most perfectly, as any sand or earthy matter adhering to them may be of the most dangerous consequences, from the particular structure of the horse's bowels. 2d, In winter particularly, (but it is at all times a good practice), the yams should be washed this day, which are to be used the day following. Immediately after washing, they should either be carried into the stable in wheel-barrows, or troughs, with holes in the bottom, to draw off the moisture; or thrown into an empty stall for
that

Potatoes.—Potatoes may in every respect be treated nearly in the same manner with advantage. The ground prepared in the same way; the crop will certainly be improved in quantity by dunging well in the drills, perhaps not in quality. As the stems of the potatoes are not so luxuriant, for the purpose of improving a succeeding crop, the drills may be nearer, perhaps about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, for it is of the utmost consequence to the ground, to prepare it for a succeeding crop, that the whole should be completely covered with the stems of the potatoes, or with the green crop of whatever kind. The potatoes ripen sooner than the yams, and the manner of preserving them is the same; but they do not keep juicy so long; and while the one is most excellent food for man, the other is equally, perhaps more, beneficial for cattle.

Potatoes have been long an object of particular attention to the villagers of Longforgan, as well of those who have small farms as of those who have none; and the practice is promoted by the master farmers who occupy the rich brae land in the neighbourhood, letting out small portions of it which they mean to be wheat, at perhaps the rate of four guineas or more *per* acre. The farmer ploughs and prepares the land, and each man plants or dibbles his measured portion with potatoes. Sometime after this, and before the plant appears above ground, they loosen all the
ground

that purpose; by which means the cold chilliness from washing will be taken off, which is much more dangerous to horses, and is much oftener the cause of diseases in the bowels than is generally thought. But if, notwithstanding all this care, symptoms of cholick appear, let a drink be prepared consisting of an English quart of small beer warmed, with a table spoonful of ground pepper, and near an English pint of malt spirit (whisky), and given immediately, which seldom fails to cure. If the complaint does not yield to this, and if it be entirely from food, from one-half to an ounce of laudanum should be given in a warm drink; and at any rate, if the horse continues in pain, it is always safe to let blood.

ground completely with a back, an instrument with a handle of about 4 or 5 feet long, and two iron prongs like a fork: but turned inwards. This makes the plants rise stronger and gives the roots room to spread, so as to yield perhaps a hundred bolls *per* acre; and during the whole progress of the plants coming forward, they make it their business to clean the ground perfectly by hand-hoeing, which prepares it for the succeeding crop.

When houses cannot be had, both yams and potatoes may be kept in temporary shades made on purpose, sloping like the roof of a house, which may be built at small expence, of young firs and thatched, the bottom and sides well lined with straw, and a deep trench drawn round them to keep them dry, with a door or opening at one end, from which they may be taken at pleasure; but always kept well covered to prevent access to frost. *

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* The curl is a disease to which potatoes are exceedingly subject, and which, it is believed, is as yet but little understood. A notion seems to prevail that it is infectious, and that it will propagate both by roots and stems. This year (1795) there seemed to have been, in many places, more of this disease all over the country than had appeared for many years; and it is observable, that from the same seed, planted in different fields, the one has abounded with curl, while the other was perfectly free: Also, in the same field, some spots have been diseased, and others not; but the sound potatoes always were upon the driest part of the field. From the idea of its being infectious, directions have been given, that as soon as the curl appeared, the diseased root should be immediately dug up and thrown away. But, to prove this, as soon as the curl appeared in a field belonging to the author of this paper, he placed marks in the ground between the diseased and the sound: and there did not appear, through the whole season, the least symptom of the disease increasing; that is, those which were not diseased when the marks were put in, remained so to the end of the season perfectly sound. And while the curl was prevalent in the fields, not one potatoe, planted in the garden, had the least appearance of disease. Mentioning these circumstances to a very ingenious gentleman, he gave it as his opinion, that this disease does not proceed from the seed, and that it is not infectious; but that it is owing principally to wet soil, rainy seasons, or an error in cultivation;

Lint.—The inhabitants of Longforan have been remarkably successful for many years in raising great crops of lint. Their practice in this particular, is well worth imitation. They water their lint grounds with their dung-water and cow wash ; but it must be done in rainy weather, to prevent this effence of dung from burning up the crop. This mode may be used to great advantage upon grass-grounds and has been tried this year by a farmer in this parish, upon four acres of wheat, and upon as much lint, and the appearance between the acres so watered, and the rest of the same field, is most remarkably in favour of the former ; and Mr Paterfon is so convinced of the advantage of this practice, that he has constructed a cart for this purpose, upon the same principle with those carts used in watering the streets of London.

A large cask (a butt) is fixed upon shafts, with a set of low wheels, (old coach-wheels), for convenience of filling. In one end a hole is made of about two inches diameter, to which a square conductor is fixed, the middle part about 6 inches long, with an opening of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches square, coming right outwards, and from which a transverse arm of the same dimensions, and about 3 feet in length, is fixed close at both ends, but the fore part covered with a plate of iron, full of holes ; and to guide the flow of this dung-water, a plug is fitted to the hole in the head of the cask, with its greatest end inwards ; through its body a strong cord passes,
knotted

tion ; and added, that, at any time, he could make the curl by planting the feed too deep, or in wet poached ground ; and yet, in the same field which a farmer in this district had let out to the neighbouring villagers, every man's proportion could have been known from the healthiness of the plant, or the contrary ; what could this be owing to, if not to the variety of the feed ? These observations may be worth attending to. This disease has never been observed amongst the yams. As it is of the utmost consequence to introduce such kinds of food for bestial, as may as little as possible encroach upon the necessaries of life for man, it is hoped the length of this article will be excused.

knotted at each end of the plug, to keep it from shifting; one end of this cord comes out at the bung of the cask, and the other through the middle of the fore-arm; and by the simplest exertion of drawing the cord either outwards or inwards, the water within may be made to flow, or be stopped at pleasure. The cask may be filled with a bucket, and a long handle, made on purpose, by which means the most valuable part of the dung, which is generally lost, may be turned to great advantage; and by a particular contrivance, even drilled turnip may be watered with this simple machine. This year, 1796, when there was no appearance of rain in the turnip seed-time, it was put in practice at Castle-Huntly with great advantage; upon the iron plate on the front of the transverse arm, a piece of thin wood was fixed, so as to cover the holes entirely, except a space which was left near each of the two extremities, to each of which a flexible leather pipe, of about 18 inches long, was firmly nailed, and to the other end, the nose of a common garden watering-pan was fixed. These two pipes were attached to each other by a piece of small stick, so as to make them move together, and, by a handle fixed to it, the man who drove, and who walked behind, guided them upon the two drills, one on each side of the horse. This operation may be repeated once or twice, according to the judgment of the farmer.

Red Clover and Rye-grass.—In such parks or inclosures which are intended solely for pasture, white clover and ribbed grass are commonly sown; and hay seeds, as they are called, have also been sown for the same purpose: But the grass which makes a portion of the farm rotation, and which is recommended to be sown upon a sixth part of the clay grounds every year, is always understood to be red clover and rye-grass. From 16 to 25 pounds of red clover,
ver,

ver, and if for hay, about a firloot (bushel) of rye-grafs upon the Scotch acre ; but if it be meant to be cut for the beftial upon the farm, the fame quantity of clover feed, with one or two pecks of rye-grafs feeds, is enough. This is moft excellent food for horfes, cows, fheep, and pigs ; and if begun to be cut early upon loam, it will give two good crops ; and, upon clay grounds, it will, in general, in favourable feafons, give three crops before the froft fets in, and probably a good after-grafs for paffure on both. This grafs-crop, as it is commonly called here, is meant for one year only ; and that part which is cut for hay, generally produces very good crops, from 200 to 300 ftone, of 22 lb. Englifh each ftone, *per* acre ; and fuch part of it as is not neceffary to be ufed at home finds a ready market at Dundee or Perth. It is perhaps worth while to mention a remarkable inftance of a crop of this kind upon the Mains of Caftle-Huntly. In the fpring of the year 1786, red clover and rye-grafs were fown amongft wheat in a field of 13 Scotch acres, which produced 6000 ftone of hay ; and the fecond cutting of the fame field was fold at L. 2 : 13 : 4 Sterling *per* acre.

Hay.—The beft time to cut the hay is when the clover is in flower, and before the rye-grafs feed is formed : For, at that period of vegetation, the plant itfelf, which is the object for ufe, is full of its native juices, and, of courfe, contains more real nourifhment, than afterwards, when exhausted, to maturate the feed. It is alfo well known to experience, that rye-grafs, when fuffered to feed, impoverifhes the ground exceedingly ; and when cut in the ftage recommended, an exceeding good fecond crop may be expected, otherwife not. If the farmer means to have rye-grafs feed of his own, he may fet apart a portion of his field on pur-

pose, which he will find a much better plan for agricultural economy, than letting the crop remain longer upon the ground to ripen the seed.

Clover Seed.—It has been attempted to grow clover for feed in this parish, but not with such success as to encourage the experiment. For this purpose, to have it as pure as possible, the first crop was early cut, that every other vegetable, which had a chance of feeding with the clover, might be destroyed. The second crop then was to give the seed: But this made it often too late in the season for ripening; and after all, the difficulty of separating the seed from the husk was exceedingly discouraging. Whether the threshing-mill would do this more effectually, remains to be tried.

Winning Hay.—It is a common practice in this country, after their hay is cut, to let it lie for several days in the swarth, as it is called, without touching it; the only reason given for which is, that it will turn a shower in that state better than when teased out, and left open upon the field. The least reflection may convince any one, that this is both false reasoning, and bad practice. The great object in making hay, is to dry it as quickly as possible, with all its native juices in it; and the most obvious method for this purpose is, not to let it rest one moment after it is cut down, but to continue turning and turning it constantly till dry; and if it should get a shower during this operation, when lying loose and open, the rain will pass through it, and be soon dried up by a succeeding breeze and sun; and, at any rate, there is every probable chance of coiling, *i. e.* putting it in cocks, or getting it stacked in safety sooner by these means than otherwise. It is well known, that rain destroys the native juices of every plant, if exposed to it for any time; and when hay is suffered to lie in the swarth, that part of it
which

which is undermost neither sees sun nor feels air, while the upper part is bleached with both; and, of course, as it must remain much longer in the field before the under part is win, the upper part is lost; and also, it will be much longer exposed to accidents, from unfavourable weather; the practice, therefore, is bad, and the method above recommended in every sense preferable.

Timothy Grass.—Timothy grass has also been tried in this parish; but it yielded a coarse vegetable, by no means to be compared with the rye-grass upon the same field, and while the last remained, the Timothy was thrown out in the winter, and left nothing but bunches scattered through the field*.

Tares.

* Cattle, as well as every other species of bestial upon the farm, are fed upon clover in the house, besides their pasture during the greatest part of the summer; but great care should be taken not to give it to them, while wet with rain, or to suffer cattle or cows to pasture upon young clover while the morning dews remain upon the ground: For it is well known, that not only clover, but other succulent vegetables, when ate by cattle in that state, are apt to produce such a sudden, and violent fermentation in the stomach, as to end in fatal consequences, if not timely prevented.

This disease is evidently produced by an extraordinary and sudden distension of the stomach, from an immense quantity of fixed air let loose by the fermentation of those succulent vegetables; and as, from the nature and stricture of this viscus, the more it is extended, the less capable it is to discharge any of its contents, of course, if not speedily relieved, the disease increases, until a rupture of the stomach takes place, and death ensues.

If soon observed, by an apparent swelling and elevation on the near side, not far from the spine, gentle exercise, by walking the animal about, very frequently, effects the cure; probably by assisting the peristaltic motion of the guts, and promoting a discharge of wind and fœces per ano, which is the first favourable symptom of the disease going off. To aid this, many remedies have been thought of and proposed; and amongst others, a pound of sweet butter, melted and mixed with Ol. Anisi or Ol. Junipiris, from one

Tares.—Upon the large farms, tares have lately been introduced and sown at different periods, so as to come in for feeding

to two ounces, poured down the throat, has been used with success. It has also been recommended, to fill an empty egg-shell with tar, and to put it down the throat into the stomach with the hand. This also has been attended with success; and at Castle-Huntly above a dozen of cattle were recovered upon the very first experiment, after seeing this remedy recommended in the newspapers. To give this the better chance of success, the egg must be kept whole in the hand, and pressed as far down as possible, while the animal's head is kept up by those who assist at the operation, and who may facilitate the introduction of the egg into the stomach, by stroking the outside of the throat downwards, after the hand which introduced the egg is removed;—and it is remarkable, that as soon as the animal has performed deglutition, a quantity of foul ill smelling air comes up, and very soon after the disease begins to abate and to go off. It has also been proposed to force a round flexible stick into the stomach, from the idea, that if its mouth, (*i. e.* the mouth of the stomach), can be opened by any means, the cure will be effected; which is a very reasonable conjecture.

But Dr MONRO at Edinburgh, the celebrated Professor of Anatomy in that University, has improved upon this. He recommends a flexible tube, made of spiral wire, and covered with leather; to one end of which is fixed a brass knob full of holes, which is meant to be introduced into the stomach, and as the tube is flexible, it fits itself to the throat, and being hollow, a strong wire, with a probe point, can be introduced at the opening of the other end, by which it can be kept as clear and pervious as possible. This is extremely necessary; for without some such means, the holes in the brass knob, and perhaps the tube itself, might be filled by the viscous mucilaginous matter in the stomach, and the intention totally defeated. However, at any rate, the introduction of this instrument is a great point gained; and the first explosion of detached air through the tube, will most probably give relief, while the wire keeps the passage open, to render the remedy complete and more certain. Mr Walker in a book, published in 1794, under the title of Rowlin's Cow Doctor, has given a full account of this elastic tube, copied from the Caledonian Mercury, into which it was inserted in March 1792, with Dr MONRO's permission; and having got one of these tubes for black cattle from Mr Still, cutler in Edinburgh, who makes them for eight shillings a-piece, he got some such made on a smaller scale for sheep, and tells us, p. 123. "that they have been found of infinite service in saving the lives of sheep *in-sought* or *brake-sought*;" by which is understood, the swelling of the stomach, from the fermentation of the food.

Dr

feeding bestial, both horses and cattle, after the first crop of clover, and to continue in succession until the second crop
be

Dr MONRO has, since that time, contrived an instrument of iron, made likewise by Mr Still, for keeping open the mouth of the animal; by the use of which, it will be found much easier to pass the tube into the stomach; which will give a better chance of success, than any thing hitherto recommended, and, in most cases, may render stibbing unnecessary.

The success of all those remedies, however, depend upon their being introduced into the stomach, which is in many cases difficult, and in some, if the disease be gone too far before it is observed, it becomes impossible: There then remains no other hopes of relief, but by making an opening in the stomach from without. This operation is here very common, and is frequently performed without much anatomical skill in the operator, and who in general is not very nice in the choice of his instrument, taking the first knife he can lay his hand upon; but what is most recommended, is a knife of about four or five inches long, and about one inch broad, with a sharp point and fixed in a handle. He then marks the place for the operation, by measuring with his finger and thumb extended, a span from the prominent point of the hip-bone forwards, and a little downwards, so as to meet another span measured from the spine or backbone outwards, and at the point where these meet, with one bold stroke of his instrument, he penetrates the stomach; the imprisoned air immediately rushes out, and the animal is relieved.

This, although a coarse operation, is certainly so far effectual, as it saves the animal's life: but if a milch cow, no more milk can be expected from her that season; and it is sometimes very long before any description of cattle recover the effects, either of the disease or the operation, or perhaps of both. Sometimes it is necessary to keep the wound open for some time, before all the air be let out; and sometimes it suppurates, and becomes very troublesome to heal. It would seem to be a very great improvement on this operation, were a trocar used instead of the knife, and made on purpose larger than common, and which every man who has cattle should be always provided with. The operation then might easily be performed, and with great certainty. The trocar itself might be withdrawn immediately after the operation, while the tube remained to give a free passage to all the air in the stomach; and the wound, in all probability, would give no trouble, but heal directly.

Cattle are subject to other diseases; but they are little understood in this part of the country. A cow 8 years old was taken ill July last. The first symptom of disease was her loathing her food; and on examination it was
found,

be fit to cut. Various kinds of tares have been tried, viz. the flat vetch; the large and small round tare; the last kind has hitherto been found the best, both for fodder and seed. They are a most excellent food, and much liked both by cattle and horses.

Winter Tares.—Mr Mylne of Mylnefield is the only one in this parish who has tried winter tares. They are sown about October, and may be cut about May. He thinks them

found, that she had been costive for sometime, had a dullness and heaviness in her eyes, and was very much hide-bound. Some medicines were given for her costiveness, which answered very well; but her disease increasing, a celebrated cow-doctor, from a neighbouring parish, *by trade a weaver*, was sent for. After examination, he declared her to be elveshot; and although he pretended to point out the very holes under the skin through which the elvan arrow had passed, yet she was not so bad as many he had seen, and therefore he prescribed and administered, but without effect: For soon after a very large swelling was discovered between the forelegs, upon the brisket, which felt soft and pulpy. The cow went off her food entirely, her pulse quick, breathing short, and in a few days she died. On dividing the brisket, it was found full of a glary, jellatinous substance, and very much enlarged: and upon opening the thorax, the pericardium appeared extended to an immense size, so as to occupy the whole left division entirely. On puncturing it a yellowish fluid issued out, which could not have measured less than 6 or 8 Scotch pints (3 or 4 English gallons), so that the cow died of a *hydrops pericardii*.

On examining the cow-doctor, he said he had often seen elveshot cows, some of which he had cured. That he had seen some drop down dead upon the spot: That he had frequently felt the impression made by the elvan arrow under the skin; for they can wound even mortally without any external appearance: That others he had seen with their whole body as soft as wool, (his own expression) after death: That he had frequently picked up those arrows, which were smooth triangular small pointed stones or pebbles, like flints; and it was his belief, that those who do the mischief are our *goodly neighbours*.

From this it will appear, that the belief in the existence of fairies is not yet quite extinguished in this country; but they have been very unjustly blamed for killing cattle, as a stroke of lightning is a much more natural way of accounting for the mischief, which however was beyond the sphere of their knowledge when this notion was very prevalent; and the triangular pebbles are as innocent as our *goodly neighbours*.

them the best food he ever tried for working horses. The sheep are so very fond of them, that they may be said to devour them; and for a week after they were taken off from them, they did not eat the most succulent grass with any relish: they even preferred them to red clover, which, of all others, used to be reckoned their most favourite food.

Lime.—Lime is now universally used as a manure in this parish; and, after repeated trials, many good farmers seem disposed to prefer the Charlestown, because they think it contains sand, which makes it fitter for opening the texture of clay than the English from Sunderland, especially the whitest kind, which they think contains chalk*. The quantity is, in general, 30 bolls South Sunderland lime, barley measure, and 45 or 50 bolls Charlestown, wheat measure, *per acre*, which is laid upon fallow after the dung is ploughed in, and then harrowed, to divide and mix it; after which a very shallow seed-furrow prepares it for sowing. This may last for two rotations; that is, twelve years or more, according to circumstances; but some are of opinion, that it would be a good practice to give every fallow on clay about 10 or 12 bolls of lime, harrowed in, in the same manner. Upon this practice experience must decide.

In using lime as a manure, many good farmers are of opinion that it ought not to be too much drenched with water, but laid on as hot as possible, especially in clay, and harrowed in immediately, to mix it with the soil: By which means, the more complete slacking of the lime would be left to the succeeding rains, and it would then be more intimately mixed with the soil; and the clay, particularly,
would

* The greatest fault of the Charlestown lime, is the vast quantities of Yolks (unburned stones) it contains. The palion or blue lime, is much more in request here than any other; expence from 2 s. 4 d. to 2 s. 6 d. *per boll*, and about 30 bolls *per acre*.

would be much better dissolved by the operation. Even some farmers have proposed to powder the burning lime-shells, instead of slacking them, to answer this purpose more effectually.

All black loam, sand, or any kind of earthy substance almost, proves to be very good manure for clay; from its lessening its tenacity upon being mixed with it, and by that means brings a greater quantity of its prolific parts into action; and clay carried to poor soil, or to mossy grounds, proves a very useful manure.

Marl.—Marl has also been tried on clay, but without advantage. It answers well upon lighter lands, as far as 50 bolls (a cube of two feet each) *per* acre; and in much less quantity, it makes an excellent top-dressing for grass.

Composts.—Composts are not much in use in this parish. But dunghills have been made up of different materials, such as, earth, rubbish from old houses, dung from the straw-yard, and, in some few instances, lime, rubbish, or marl; but the practice is not general, and as yet it is not confirmed by experience.

Dung, Hints to Landlords.—Dung never should be permitted to go off the farm. The straw now, since threshing-mills came into general use, is fit for fodder or dung only. The incoming tenant should have leave to sow grass seeds in 1-6th of the farm, without any claim or demand by the outgoing tenant. If the Landlord gives him leave to sell his last crop upon its foot, *i. e.* standing corn and fodder, he should be obliged to sell it by public roup (auction), that the incoming tenant, or any one on the barony, may have an option of buying it if they please. If he chuses to thresh it out, it should be done on the farm, and the fodder either sold by public roup, or to the incoming tenant by appraisement. It would be an excellent regulation, if every new tenant

were

were enabled to enter with a proportion of fallow on clay, as well as grafs; and with the dung in the straw-yard, in the fame way as if the outgoing tenant were to continue. This Mr Paterfon has been enabled to do, upon two farms, by buying the dung, and a proportion of fallow, from the creditors of an outgoing bankrupt-tenant*, and giving them to his fucceffors, and taking them bound in their tacks (leafes) to leave the dung and the fallow on the fame terms at the expiry of their leafe.

Inclofures.—In the upper part of this parifh, many of the farms are inclofed and subdivided with hedges and ftone dikes, (fences); and indeed there are fome few hedges round the extremities of the farms in the low Carfe; but, in general, every other fence but the ditch is reprobated by Carfe farmers. They fay, that the hedges not only harbour numberlefs fmall birds, which deftroy a great deal of corn; but they prevent the wind from drying their clay ground in fpring, and winning their corns in autumn, which they think of much more confequence than any fhelter their protection can afford againft fhaking winds.

Cheefe and Butter.—Very tolerable cheefe is made in this parifh, and a confiderable quantity of excellent butter, which are difpofed of to private families, efppecially the butter, which is in great request, or fent to the Dundee market. It has been a general opinion, that very good butter can alone be made from the milk of cows fed upon very old paffure; but the greater part of the butter made in this parifh, which is acknowledged to be excellent, is made from the milk of cows fed upon clover, of one or two years at moft: For here the clover is fown with the barley;

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* N. B. This tenant was a victual-merchant.

the following year it gives a crop of hay, or is cut for the horses or cows, and is afterwards ploughed up for the crop of oats or wheat to follow ; so that the farmers here have no old grafs,

Bees.—Bees thrive well in this parish, and produce excellent honey ; and in the gardens at Castle-Huntly, where there are a variety of fragrant flowers, particularly great quantities of minionette, sown on purpose, honey has been got little inferior to Minorca, both in colour and flavour.

Hops.—It is very probable hops might thrive here, as, in many places, the soil is abundantly rich for that purpose ; but *shelter* is wanting.

Seed-time.—Seed-time for wheat, September, in the clay ; October, and even November, on the brae land ; according to the season, which they are most anxious to catch, especially in clay, while the ground is dry, otherwise they run a risk of losing it altogether : But in the loam or brae land, they do not wish to sow before the middle of October ; and good farmers are not anxious that such grounds should be too dry, but rather prefer moisture, should the harrows even trail, while they are sowing ; as they think it a great mean of preventing annual weeds from rushing up amongst the crop. *Beans* are frequently sown in the clay upon the wheat-stubble in broad cast, and ploughed in about the end of February, or beginning of March, that is, as soon as the plough can touch the ground ; and about a fortnight, or a longer time afterwards, some farmers sow hafty pease upon the same furrow, and harrow them in, after which very good crops have been gotten ; also, drilling beans may be used to great advantage upon clay, but the ground should be prepared by a winter furrow, and in
the

the spring by another furrow, as early as the season will permit; immediately after which it is harrowed, then ploughed across the ridges, and the beans sown in every third furrow*: After sowing, harrow the field well, and then let it lie until the beans be near appearing through the ground; then harrow it again to destroy the annuals; and after the beans appear distinctly, hand-hoe them, harrow between the drills with a narrow harrow, and proceed as in dressing other drilled crops. Upon black land, *beans* are sown in generally in longitudinal drills, in the month of March; *pease*, March and April; *oats*, March and April; barley, from April to June, according to the species of the grain; the Lincolnshire should be sown very early. Grass seeds, which consist of rye-grass and red clover, are generally sown with the barley, because the ground is better prepared; but they answer fully as well with oats †, or even among wheat, when sown early in the spring; the ground being first opened with a light harrow, and then rolled in; which operation is, in general, of great advantage to the wheat, as it opens the soil, and makes the young plants *stock* or tillar better.

The principal reason of sowing the grass seeds amongst barley, is probably on account of the rotation of fixes. How far this practice ought to be adhered to, or if any variation may be introduced with success, the experience of farmers must judge. But, in general, the barley in clay is but an indifferent crop, and therefore some farmers are trying early oats in their room, or even common oats, which, in general, gives the best crop.

Pickling

* This is by much the best method upon clay, as every drill, nay, every furrow, serves as a drain, and keeps the ground perfectly dry; as all the rain will fall into the furrows between the ridges, which must be kept open for that purpose.

† Perhaps the crop of grass is more certain, as it has a better chance from the spring rains.

Pickling Seed Wheat.—All the wheat for feed undergoes a preparation, which here they call pickling, *i. e.* they sprinkle it with stale urine, and then riddle powdered quick-lime upon it, turning it all the time with shovels, until the grain be completely covered with a white crust. It is then carried out to the field, and sown immediately. This has been an established practice for many years, and it is followed, from experience of its utility. It is very probable that it serves to quicken vegetation, and to prevent vermin from destroying the seed. It is also a good practice to swim the seed in a strong brine, or pickle, of sea salt, made strong enough to bear an egg, to take off all the light grain, which swims on the surface, and then lime the rest for feed.

Smut in Wheat.—The operation of pickling has been supposed an effectual remedy against smut (blake) in wheat; but it certainly is not so. Whatever may be the cause of this disease is difficult to say; but it is by no means peculiar to wheat; it is very remarkable in barley, and also in oats; but amongst them it quite disappears in the threshing, and therefore is not noticed. Sound ears have been found, to all appearance from the same root, and even some sound grains of wheat upon the same ear with smut. Some have thought it was an insect, and that it was infectious, and if sown with other seed would produce smutty corn: This is not true, for the experiment has been fairly tried here, of smutty and sound wheat mixed, and even some of the smut bruised, and the crop did not differ in any respect from the rest of the field. It may be in some respects from the season, and in some from the seed; perhaps from some imperfection in the maturation of particular grains, totally imperceptible to us, the causes of which we are ignorant of, and which may never be in the power of man to remedy. The best

best prevention, perhaps, in our power is found seed; to obtain which, swimming in brine seems to be an excellent method; but, as it is also probable that the pungency of the stale urine, incrusted with lime, may be a protection to the seed from various insects, while it promotes vegetation, were both operations combined, it might be of advantage. After the wheat is swimmied, and the sound heavy part alone reserved for seed, let it be dried by frequent turning in the barn-floor; then, when dry, sprinkle it with the stale urine and lime, as already mentioned. It is very probable the good consequences will repay the farmer for all his labour.

On fallow well prepared, 6 pecks to half a boll of wheat may be sown upon the Scotch acre, according to the soil and season, of which the farmer must judge. If after clover, pease, or beans, or later in the season, more seed will be necessary.

Harvesting.—The shearers are generally hired for the whole harvest, and their wages have, since 1780, varied from 20 s. to the men, to 30 s. and upwards; and to the women, from 14 s. to 20 s.; and if by the day, from 10 d. to 20 d. or more, to the men; and from 6 d. to 1 s. to the women.

Victuals.—All the shearers get bread and beer in the field, *i. e.* a choppin (of about an English quart) of beer, and the bread of 1-14th of a peck of oatmeal for breakfast; and for dinner, 3 mutchkins (pints) of beer, and 1-14th of a peck of meal in bread; and with some, it is also a practice to get half a lippie of oatmeal every night, *i. e.* 1-8th of a peck, while the harvest lasts, for their supper, which they may either use, or take home to their families. Harvest usually

usually lasts from 16 to 20 days, unless the weather be uncommonly bad. Some farmers in this neighbourhood have at times got persons to contract to cut down their corns at a certain sum *per acre*, from 5 s. to 6 s. ; but these are few, and it is now, in general, given up, probably from want of hands.

The expence of harvest must vary according to the price of victual, and the state of the weather. If the oatmeal be dear, it will cost more, and *vice versa*; and if the weather be bad, and draw the harvest out to a much longer period than usual, it will cost more.

In 1780, upon a farm in this parish, the harvest cost 5 s. *per acre*.

In 1781,	-	-	5 s. 8 d. <i>per acre</i> .
1782,	-	-	6 s.
1783,	-	-	7 s. 11 d.
1784,	-	-	7 s. 8 d.
1785 and 1786,	-	-	7 s.

And since that time it has been as high as 9 s. and 10 s. *per acre*, including the whole expence of bringing the corns into the barn-yard.

Maiden Feast.—It was, till very lately, the custom to give what was called a Maiden Feast, upon the finishing of the harvest; and to prepare for which, the last handful of corn reaped in the field was called the Maiden. This was generally contrived to fall into the hands of one of the finest girls in the field; was dressed up in ribbands, and brought home in triumph, with the music of fiddles or bagpipes. A good dinner was given to the whole band, and the evening spent in jivialty and dancing, while the fortunate lass who took the maiden was the Queen of the feast; after which, this handful of corn was dressed out, generally in the form of a cross, and hung up, with the
date

date of the year, in some conspicuous part of the house. This custom is now entirely done away; and in its room, to each shearer is given 6 d. and a loaf of bread. However, some farmers, when all their corns are brought in, give their servants a dinner, and a jovial evening, by way of Harvest-home.

Expence of Threshing.—Threshing out the corns used to be a very expensive article, especially when done by labourers on day-wages; but the general practice was a 25th part of the grain. Upon a farm in this parish, of 180 acres, it cost, on an average of 6 years, about L. 32, very nearly 2 s. 6 d. *per acre*. This operation is now performed entirely by the threshing-mill.

Roads.—Previous to the year 1790, all the roads through the Carse of Gowrie were exceedingly bad; and the whole statute labour of this parish was found insufficient to uphold the four miles of post road which passes through it. That year an act of Parliament was obtained to make certain roads in the county of Perth turnpike, and amongst others the road through the Carse from Perth to Dundee, and its three branches, leading to the harbours of Polgavie, Errol, and Inchyra; which, by the liberal subscription and unwearied attention of the proprietors, are now made equal to the best roads in the kingdom, but at the expence of L. 13,000 to the Carse proprietors, who are trustees. Since that time the trustees have made it a rule to apply the statute labour, through the whole Carse, solely to the bye-roads, or other roads of communication. In the parish of Longforgan, not only this rule has been observed, but the heritors have contributed largely for the same purpose, to the amount of several hundred pounds; by which means several of these roads, already made are very little inferior

to the turnpike ; and as the whole of what has been projected is now carrying into execution, the communication from the different parts of this parish, and indeed through the whole Carse, with the neighbouring market towns and harbours, will be so easy to the farmer, as to account in a great measure for the rise of the value of land in this part of the country. This should serve as an encouragement to country gentlemen to exert themselves in making good roads, as the greatest improvement, and best laid out money they can expend upon their estates ; as it enables the farmer to perform all his labour at much less expence, and of course to pay a better rent without diminishing his profits *. One remark here is necessary, that in this parish, and indeed in general through the Carse, care has been taken to apply the statute labour of each farmer, as much as possible, to those roads alone most useful to him.

General

* It is a well known fact that previous to the year 1790, a great part of the interior of the Carse of Gowrie was perfectly inaccessible to carts for almost half the year ; so that they were obliged to deliver their produce on horseback ; and the very idea of bringing lime or dung from any distance was scarce to be entertained, except under the most favourable circumstances. Now there is not a farm in the Carse but what is accessible in every point, and at all times, to carts loaded with 13 or 14 bolls of wheat, or 10 bolls of barley, or $4\frac{1}{4}$ bolls of lime shells, or 26 cubic feet of dung, at least, and at a most trifling expence ; for within the county, the turnpike toll is but 9 d. for which a cart with two horses can deliver produce, or bring lime, &c. from some one part or other, to almost any place in the Carse, to the extent of three loads in summer, of the above amount, and two in winter, per day : For roads of communication they pay nothing. Is it possible then to point out the advantage of good roads to farmers in stronger terms ? and, Is there any one man of any description, who feels that advantage more ? Not one. Nor is there an owner of any one article conveyed upon these roads, so amply reimbursed as the Carse farmer is, for the tolls he pays upon his lime and dung : Indeed very little dung is brought from any distance to Carse farms ; they in general are served within themselves.

General Produce, and Expence of Labour.—The crops raised in this parish are good in general: Upon the clay ground, on an average from 7 to 8 bolls *per acre*; and on the loam, different according to the quality of the soil, and the skill of the farmer: But the expence is very great, being no less than L. 3, or L. 3, 3s. *per acre*. This may in a great measure be owing to the very high wages of servants, both male and female; which has increased of late to an extraordinary degree: Farm servants wages were in 1780, about L. 5.

In 1781,	-	-	L. 6 10 0
1783,	-	-	7 7 0
1789,	-	-	7 16 0
1790,	-	-	9 10 0
1791,	-	-	10 0 0
1792,	-	-	10 7 0
1793,	-	-	10 16 0

1795, with some, as far as L. 12, or 12 guineas *per annum*, and women from L. 3 to L. 4; many of the women, however, get part of their wages in lint, cloth, &c.: So that within these 15 years, wages have been doubled and more. The farm servants indeed are now better clothed, and in every respect make a much better appearance: It is much to be wished, that their good behaviour and industry would keep pace with their encouragement, which is not always the case.

Labourers Wages.—Labourers wages so late as 1777, were at 7 d in winter, 8 d. 9 d. in summer; now they are from 1 s. to 1 s. 6d.: Wrights were then 1 s.; now 1 s. 8d. Masons were then 1 s. 2d. now 2 s.: Taylors 6d. and their meat formerly; now 1 s.

Ancient State of the Course.—There is a tradition universally prevalent through this part of the country, that formerly the river Tay occupied a very different bed from what it

does at present. That it entered the Carse westward of Inchyra, and shaped its course along those grounds which are still hollow, and remarkably low between the estates of Glencarse and Pitfour; that it approached the hills at Glendoick, and continued skirting them eastward by Pitroddy, Flawcraig, Craigdilly, Ballendean, Baledgarno, and Rossie. That at the Snabs of Drimmie, it sent off a portion of its waters, which entered this parish between the hills of Forgan and Dron, directing its course eastward through that vale, and after receiving several burns or rivulets in its passage, emptied itself into its parent river at Invergowrie, or the mouth of the Gowrie.

That the river Earn continued its separate course till it was joined by the Tay below Errol: That the whole low grounds of the Carse of Gowrie were then covered with water, out of which arose a number of islands or inches, which retain their names to this day, such as, Inchyra, or Inchsheriff, Inchcoonins, Inchmichael, Megginch, Inchmartin, and Inchtire: That the rock upon which Castle-Huntly now stands was then washed with water; and that the stones of which the original fortalice was built were brought by boats from Kingoody.

There is no written testimony known to the author of this paper which confirms this tradition; but Hector Boethus, when mentioning the lands given to the Hays, ancestors of the present Earl of Kinnoul, for their gallant behaviour at the battle of Luncarty, which was fought some time in the tenth century, says, that they got a falcon's flight: 'She flew between Inchyra and Rossie, a town four miles west of Dundee, and so they gat all the lands between Errol and the Tay.' If this be correct, it favours the conjecture, that the Tay then came somewhere near Rossie, and that the greatest part of the Carse was included in the royal gift. However, there are a number of other circumstances

circumstances which would seem to give countenance to the tradition. The supposed original bed of the river, notwithstanding the distance of time when this change is said to have happened, and the improvements of these 50 years back, is still low, morassy, and swampy, almost through its whole course. In many places, it is actually covered with water still; and it abounds with the same species of marsh-reed, which grows upon the verge of the river Tay, about Errol, Monorgan, Seaside, &c. Upon several places near the hills are found sand banks and gravel, particularly at Glencarse, Rait, Castle-Huntly, in the vale between Forgan and Dron, &c.; and the upper surface of the low Carse ground is a perfect clay, very much of the same nature with that deposited in the bed of the present river, which is exposed to view by the reflux of the tide; while those rising grounds, still called Inches, consist of a rich black loam, mixed with gravel, the under stratum of which is till and red stone rock. There is a bluff point in the east part of this parish, in the course of that branch, which is supposed to have been the Gowrie, called Denmark to this day, and where the country people say the Danes landed, but which at present is more than a mile from the river, and no water near it, but a small rapid rivulet. Even Forgan is supposed to owe its name to the dividing of the river, from the Gaelic pronunciation of the word; and it is said, that there are charters, one for Bambrich in Fife, now upon the south bank of the Tay, but which formerly was said to be bounded by the Earn or Ironside; and another, either for Flawcraig or Craigdilly, where, it is said, iron rings had been found fixed in the rocks, for fastening ships, and that in the charter there is the remarkable expression—*Ubi olim naves ligabantur*.

Whether there be any truth in these, or if there be, at what period this great change upon the Carse happened, is
not

not easy to say; although it is said (upon what authority is not known to the author of this paper) to have taken place some time in the twelfth century, or earlier, as some are inclined to suppose. But it is remarkable, that several of those islands have Christian names, while the places upon the rising grounds and hills, supposed then to have bounded the river, are evidently more ancient, and probably original Gaelic; the names of many of them being descriptive of their situation in that language. And if there are charters which contain any such expressions as those mentioned, the period must have been very remote, and might actually have happened in the twelfth century, or earlier.

Monorgan might have been at that time a much larger estate, which indeed is extremely probable; for even in the memory of men now living, many acres of that estate have been carried away by the river. Great encroachments have also been made upon other estates in the Carse from the same cause. Hence it is also very probable, that the spacious bay between Errol and Kingoody has acquired its present extent and shape, by the united exertions of the Tay and Earn, opposed to the flood-tide from the sea.

The various substrata in this district might likewise be a subject of curious investigation. By an examination lately taken at the braes of Monorgan and Polgavie, where the river Tay has made its greatest encroachments, and where the banks are from 19 to 20 feet perpendicular height, the following strata can be distinctly traced: 1st, A brownish clay, mixed with sand and vegetable earth, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, forming the present prolific upper surface. 2^d, About four feet deep of a brownish free clay, with a proportion of sand, but no vegetable matter. The only difference between these two is probably owing to cultivation, manure, sun and air. 3^d, About 2 feet 3 inches of a poor yellowish clay, without sand, but mixed with cockle, muscle, and other

other marine shells, but no vegetable substances. *4tb*, A strong blue clay, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, containing sea shells, and roots of vegetables, the growth of which would seem to have been checked by the superincumbent stratum. *5tb*, Also a strong blue clay, with yellowish seams in it, about 5 feet deep, and containing a much greater proportion of vegetable substances than the 4th stratum, but under like circumstances. The river rises to the surface of this stratum in stream tides. *6tb*, Three feet deep of the same kind of strong blue clay, mixed with more than double the quantity of vegetable roots than in the 5th stratum, but which also seem to have been born down, and their vegetation extinguished by some superior pressure. These three are separated from each other by a small seam of sand and clay, which forms a pretty exact line of division, and through which the vegetable roots do not seem to have passed. *7tb*, A real peat moss, near four feet deep, quite full of various kinds of vegetables, with roots, trunks, and branches of trees; the surface of which forms the bed of the Tay; in many places of which the moss can be distinctly traced, perfectly entire, clean, and firm, without having received the least injury from the flux and reflux of the tide; and out of which, at other places, great quantities of peats for fuel have been dug at different periods, and are so still. It is very remarkable, that in this stratum many roots of large trees are to be found, principally allar (alder) and birch, at about 13 feet distant from each other, perfectly upright, in the same situation in which the trees had originally grown, with their ramifications extended among the moss, and some of their smaller fibres penetrating the clay below. The trunks and branches of the trees lying horizontally are all fresh, and have the appearance of having been borne down and laid flat by some powerful cause; and what is also
very

very remarkable, many of the roots seem to have had their trunks cut off about six inches above the original surface. *8th*, Immediately below the peat mofs is blue clay, without any mixture, and no vegetable roots or substances *.

Antiquities.

* A man now living, and 72 years of age, who has sunk 23 pit wells in several parts of the Carse, says, that after he penetrated the cultivated surface, he always found about ten feet of brownish clay, without vegetable mixture, under that blue clay with vegetable roots and sea shells, and generally at about 19 feet deep he found peat mofs from 3 to 9 inches deep; then blue clay again with vegetable roots, of different depths from 9 inches to 6 feet, and under that about two feet deep of peat mofs again, composed of oak, fir, beech and hazel wood. That he has seen taken out of this mofs deers horns, skulls and other bones. Below this mofs he generally found blue clay and quick-sand tinged black with the mofs. The wells he dug were from 16 to 34 feet deep; and when he fell in with quick-sand before he came to the mofs, he generally found, at about 16 feet deep, a spring of pure soft water, free of any mineral taste; but when he was obliged to go deeper, and to penetrate the mofs before he found a spring, the water had a mineral taste, and when mixed cold with spirits, it turned them as black as ink. This man also says, he has frequently seen oak and fir trees taken out of the braes, after being uncovered by the tide.

In the year 1780, when digging in a swamp at Castle Huntly, to make a piece of water, about six feet below the surface, a very large oak tree was found, lying with its top eastward. That part of it which lay across the excavation appeared to be the two large top branches, of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter; the trunk of which must have been of very large dimensions. The branches were cut out and taken up, and were found to be hard and fresh, but as black as ebony. The body of the tree was suffered to remain, left in taking it up it had made an opening for the water to escape: But it is still to be seen, on one side of the piece of water, and may at any time be followed out, were it thought a sufficient object of inquiry to the curious. It is from this mossy stratum of vegetable substances, no doubt, that the marsh reed rises, and shews itself in many fields through the Carse; as they are found to be so deep, as to defeat every attempt to get them rooted out.

Antiquities.—The remains of antiquity in this parish are but few. Castle-Huntly, already described, is the only building which has any claim to antiquity, since the old church at Longforgan was taken down. In the midst of a plantation of firs, which was part of the muir of Forgan about 30 years ago, is a tumulus or barrow; its central mound about 5 or 6 yards high, and 28 yards diameter; the surrounding ditch, out of which probably the earth had been taken for its formation, 10 yards wide. It still bears the name of the Market Knowe, (knoll), as the markets were held there formerly; and the country people remark, that although the whole ground round it was then covered with heath and broom, the *Knowe* always preserved a beautiful green sward. Some openings have been made in it, and coffins found, consisting of four rude longitudinal stones, and two smaller ones at each end, containing human skeletons.

A few years ago there was found, somewhere about this tumulus, an earthen pot, containing 700 silver pieces, about the size of a sixpence. Upon one side a head crowned, with *Edward*, very distinct; and on the reverse a cross, with . . . in each division, and round it, *London Civitas*, very plain; and four pieces, also of silver, same size; on one side a crowned head, round it, *Alexander Dei gratia*; and on the reverse a cross, with a star of six rays in each division, and round it, *Scotorum Rex*, very plain. These were found by a man in this parish, whose business gave him frequent opportunities to be about the place, and privately sold to a shopkeeper in Dundee for L. 10 or L. 12; and it was by the greatest accident the circumstance came very lately to the knowledge of the author of this paper, who has now a piece of each in his possession. He had his information first from a very respectable tradesman in Dundee, who is also an ingenious antiquary, who saw them all counted, about

two or three years ago, and kept the two pieces, from which this description is taken. He added, that they were all in a state of high preservation. This was accompanied with another piece of curious information ; that, nearly about the same time, there was found in the parish of Invererity, in the county of Forfar, just such another pot, containing exactly the same number of the same silver coin, viz. 700 of Edward I. and four of Alexander. Upon which he made an ingenious conjecture, that these deposits, very probably, had been the wealth of two brothers, who had divided it equally, and had hid it each in his own parish, and had been killed during the troubles in those days.

About a dozen years ago, in making a new road through a sandy hill between this parish and the parish of Rossie, some coffins, of the kind above mentioned, were found, also containing human skeletons, and some pieces of money, both silver and copper. The silver, about the size of a sixpence of Henry IV. very legible. Some of the copper, with *fleur de lis*, but no legible inscription ; and some which appeared to have been hammered only, quite rude, and without any mark of inscription or figure, both about the same size with the silver coin.

Upon the eastern boundary of this parish, but now in the parish of Benvie, is the remains of a fort, or fortified camp, evidently Roman, from its square shape, and its name, *Catter Mellie*, certainly a corruption of *Quatuor Mille*.

At about three miles distance, and upon the top of the hill of Dron, is the remains of a fortification, which appears to have been built of rude stones and turf. It is roundish, or rather oval, following the shape of the hill, and occupying a space of about two Scotch acres ; towards the south it has three retrenchments, or banquets, rising above one another, as the hill ascends. It is now planted, and will very soon be totally obliterated. This, with another, something
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of the same kind, in the adjoining parish of Abernyte, and that on Dunfinnan-hill, might have been part of a chain of posts, running diagonally across that range of hills from the Carse to Strathmore. These, from their shape, must either have been Danish or Scottish; most probably the latter, as they present a face to the point of invasion. There is also a ruin near Lochtown, about which even tradition is silent.

The parishes, in general, would appear to have been much smaller formerly than now. For, at Dron, there is the remains of a church or chapel, and burying-ground; and upon the grounds of Monorgan, also in this parish, there is the remains of a burying-ground, which most likely had a chapel attached to it.

There is also, in a field near Forgan, a tombstone, covering a grave or graves, where the country people say some persons were buried, who died of the plague last century. It had an inscription to that purpose, but is now defaced.

About 16 or 17 years ago, digging some trenches pretty deep for drains upon the bank below the east end of Forgan, were found some large stones, lying in such an arrangement, as gave the appearance of the foundation of a large building, which is supposed to have been some religious establishment.

There is a very respectable man in Longforgan, of the name of Smith, a weaver, and the farmer of a few acres of land, who has in his possession a stone, which is called Wallace's stone. It is what was formerly called in this country a *bear stone*, which is made hollow like a large mortar, and was made use of to unhusk the bear or barley, as a preparation for the pot, with a large wooden mell, long before barley-mills were known. Its station was on one side of the door, and covered with a flat stone for a seat, when not

otherwise employed. The most remarkable part of the history of which is, that upon this stone Wallace sat in his way from Dundee, when he fled, after killing the governor's son, and was fed with bread and milk by the goodwife of the house, from whom the man, who now lives there, and is proprietor of the stone, is lineally descended, and here his forebeers (ancestors) have lived ever since, in nearly the same station and circumstances, for about 500 years.

N U M.

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF MADDERTY,

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

By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.

Situation, &c.

THIS parish is situated on the western boundaries of the parishes of Gask and Trinity-Gask, and on the eastern of Crieff. It has Fowils on the north, and part of Trinity-Gask on the south.—The climate is considerably wet and cold. The low and damp lands alongst the banks of the water of Pow are believed to be productive of rheumatisms, a disease of which the inhabitants of that district frequently complain.

Pow.—The only water or rivulet worth notice in the parish is the Pow, which, for a long way, is confined in a canal or cut that was dug to straighten its course near a century ago.

ago. This cut is about 24 feet in width, and 6 in depth. The descent is so very small, that the water appears generally to be stagnant. The lands adjacent are low and flat, which, with other circumstances, expose them to frequent inundations. This would not be altogether unfavourable to their agricultural improvements, could these floodings be kept under controul. This, perhaps, could be easily accomplished by small embankments and sluices, or kinds of locks, erected in proper places, for the management of the water. At present, the damage occasionally sustained on these lands is very considerable. No encouragement is held out to the farmer to institute any kind of improvements upon them. Much good soil is carried away by inundations, or in a great measure ruined by stones and gravel thrown upon it. Lime and dung, that may be applied for their fertilization, are sometimes carried off, or much injured by the water; and the crop, especially in harvest, is always in danger of being wholly lost. A navigable canal through this part of the country, from Perth to Crieff, could be made at a small expence, and would be of great advantage to a large and populous district.

Rent.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 3472 : 1 : 8 Scots; and the real rent may be about L. 1500 Sterling.

Population.—According to Dr Webster's account in 1755, the number of inhabitants of Madderty amounted to 796. At present, (1795), it is no more than 631, which makes a decrease of 165.

Agriculture.—Husbandry here has not been carried to that state of perfection to which it has arrived in some districts of the county. A climate rather cold and wet, and a soil of a considerably stiff clay in most places, have contributed to retard, in this neighbourhood, the advancement
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of agricultural improvements. Something, however, has been done in the melioration of the soil, and in the system of cropping. Lime and marl have been tried with success; and the sowing of grasses has been attended with great profit to the husbandman. Farms, in general, are small, giving from L. 15 to L. 50 Sterling a-year. The largest in the parish pays L. 90 Sterling a-year. Although almost wholly arable, yet very little of the parish is inclosed; a circumstance which is attended with much inconveniency and loss. More grain is produced than is necessary for the use of the inhabitants. The common Scotch plough, with two horses without a driver, is lately got into practice. Ploughs of Mr Small's construction have also been introduced. The land, in some places, contains great numbers of *fit-fast* stones, which prove to be great obstructions to its improvement. The Rev. Mr Ramsay, the present incumbent, who occupies a piece of land full of these stones, constructed a machine for the purpose of raising them. It operates on the principles of the pulley and cylinder, or wheel and axis, and has a power as 1 to 24. It is extremely simple, being a triangle, to two sides of which the cylinder is fixed. It can be easily wrought and carried from place to place by three men. A low four-wheeled machine, of a strong construction, is made to go under the arms of the triangle, to receive the stone when raised up. This machine has been already of great use in clearing several fields of large stones in this place and neighbourhood.

Abbey of Inch-efray.—This religious house was founded in the year 1200 by Gilbert Earl of Strathearn, and his Countess Matilda. It was dedicated to the honour of God, the Virgin Mary, and John the Apostle and Evangelist. The site of this famous Abbey is on a small rising ground, which seems, from its situation and name, to have once been
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been an island furrounded by the water of the Pow. In Latin it is denominated *Insula Miffarum*, which is said to be a literal translation of its common name, Inch-effray, for Inch-peffray, the Island of Maffes, or the island where maff is said. It was endowed with many privileges and immunities by David and Alexander Kings of Scotland. The edifices of this Abbey, which were once extensive, are now in ruins, and have, on several occasions, supplied abundance of stones for building houses, and making roads in the neighbourhood. The few remains of this ancient Abbey, with 6 or 7 acres of land in the immediate vicinity, belong to the Earl of Kinnoul, who, in consequence of this comparatively small possession, is patron of about twelve parishes that formerly were attached to the Abbey. Mauritius, abbot of this place, was present with Robert the Bruce at the battle of Bannockburn, and is reported to have had brought along with him the arm of St Fillan. This relick might, indeed, have given some encouragement to the superstitious; but one arm of a brave Scotsman, fighting in earnest for the liberty of his country, had more effect in obtaining that memorable victory, than could have been produced by the innate virtue of all the relicks of the dead that could have been collected. “ James Drummond, a younger
 “ son of David Lord Drummond, and his Lady, a daughter
 “ of William Lord Ruthven, was first styled Lord Inchafry,
 “ being Commendator of that Abbacy, and afterwards
 “ created Lord Madderty by King James VI. in the year
 “ 1607. He married Jean, daughter to Sir James Chif-
 “ holme of Cromlicks, and with her got the lands of Inner-
 “ pefry, which were her mother's portion, being heirefs of
 “ Sir John Drummond of Innerpefry. He had, by his said
 “ Lady two sons, John Lord Madderty, and Sir James, the
 “ first Laird of Machony.”—*Nisbet's Heraldry*, vol. 1.

Church.

Church.—The present church is situated about three-fourths of a mile from the ruins of the Abbey. It was built in the year 1689, and is not in the best state of repair. Lord Kinnoul is patron. The stipend amounts to 9 chalders of victual, and L. 29 Sterling, including the expence of communion-elements. The glebe consists of 9 acres of land. Manse and offices are in good repair. Some of the Seceding meetinghouses in the neighbourhood draw from this parish a considerable number of hearers.

School.—The parochial school is under excellent management, and is deservedly in high repute. It is attended by numerous boarders from different parts of Scotland, but chiefly England. Mr David Malcolm, preacher of the Gospel, is at present master, and teaches English, Latin, Greek, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, mathematics, land-measuring, &c.

Poor.—The paupers on the parish-roll are commonly about 4 or 5. They are supported by the collections made on Sabbaths at the church, which amount to about 2 s. 3 d. each Sabbath. There is also a fund of L. 90 Sterling, L. 29 of which were bequeathed by two heritors, lately deceased. None of the poor are permitted to beg.

Tradesmen.—The whole parish may be called agricultural; and the only places that may be denominated villages are Bellycloine and Craigs; but as each of them consists of a few houses only, they hardly deserve the name of villages. Except a very small quantity of coarse linen, for the Perth market, there is no manufacture here. The quantity of linen made must be small indeed, when it is considered that there is only seven or eight weavers in the parish, and these are chiefly employed in customary work. This place

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is also supplied with 4 blacksmiths, 4 wrights, 2 shoemakers, 2 tailors, and 1 miller.

Price of Labour and Provisions.—These here are equally high with any place in the neighbourhood. A day-labourer receives 1 s. 4 d. and sometimes 1 s. 6 d. a-day during summer, and a shilling in winter; a ploughman's wages are from L. 8 to L. 10 Sterling a-year.—The price of provisions the same as in the town of Perth, and frequently considerably higher, as the best prices are often charged for articles of a very inferior quality. No ale nor whisky sold publicly in the parish. Coal is the fuel mostly used by the inhabitants. It is mostly brought from Blairingone, in the parish of Fossaway, at the distance of about 24 miles. They are also had from the shipping at Perth, at the distance of 12 miles, but the price is higher than at Blairingone. Farmers here, and in most of the neighbourhood, set a higher value on a little money than on their own time and labour. This must always be the case where there is no manufacture, and farming and husbandry are not carried on with proper vigour.

Roads.—The parochial roads, for there is no turnpike in the parish, are extremely bad, being hardly passable in wet weather. The communication on both sides the Pow is, however, kept up, by means of three bridges of stone thrown across that rivulet.

Proper Names.—The names of places in this parish are partly Gaelic, and partly English. To the former belong Tillychiandie, Bellycloine, Dallarrie, Ardbennie, Balgowan: But Redhill, Woodend, Dubhead, &c. belong to the latter.

Antiquity.

Antiquity.—The only remains of antiquity in the parish worthy of notice, except the ruins of the Abbey already mentioned, is a portion of the Roman road or causeway from the camp at Ardoch to Perth. It runs about a quarter of a mile through the southern extremity of the parish, and is very entire. It is probable that it will not long continue in that state, if it can by any means be converted into a highway, or afford materials for making or repairing one.

NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF MINTO,

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOU-
DALE, PRESBYTERY OF JEDBURGH).

By WILLIAM BURN, D. D. *Minister.*

Situation, &c.

THE parish of Minto is almost an oblong, extending from east to west $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles; from south to north $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It is bounded on the east by the parish of Ancrum; on the north, by Lilliesleaf; on the west, by Wilton; on the south, by Cavers, from which it is almost divided by the river Tiviot.

Heritors.—There are three residing heritors: The Right Honourable Sir Gilbert Elliot, Baronet, the patron, whose estate lies on the east side, and comprehended the old parish of Minto. The family of Minto, for ages past, have been so eminent, both in the Senate and in the other departments of the State, that any thing I can say might be considered as
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mere panegyric. The house is large and commodious, has a south exposure, and is situated on the bank of a beautiful winding glen, extending almost to the Tiviot, and well stocked with a variety of old trees, with natural and artificial falls of water. In coming along one of the serpentine walks on the side of the glen, the ear is all at once surprised with the unexpected noise of the largest of these falls, the view being intercepted by a thicket; on advancing a little forward, the fall, the bridge, the large sheet of water, the surrounding banks, interspersed with variegated trees and shrubs, and the house, gradually open to the eye, excite the most pleasing emotions, and form one of the most beautiful landscapes that can be figured: The reflection of this landscape in the water adds to the grandeur of the scene. The pleasure-ground is extensive, and laid out with great taste. A little to the east are Minto Rocks, interspersed with clumps of planting, which form an awful and picturesque object. From the top of these rocks there is a beautiful and extensive prospect of the different windings of the Tiviot, and the adjacent country, for many miles round. Here are the remains of a building, which, during the incursions of the borderers, seems to have been a watch-tower. Behind the house, to the north, are two hills, which rise with a gentle ascent to a considerable height, and are excellent sheep-pasture. At a small distance from the house, and in the middle of a grove of trees, stands the church, which is neat, clean, and well seated. The village is placed about half a mile to the west, and contains 24 families, mostly labourers and mechanics. To the south-west, an English mile from the church, are the manse and glebe. This was the boundary of the old parish. Now, there are annexed the lands of Haffendeanbank, belonging to his Grace the Duke of Roxburgh, and the lands of Haffendean, the property of his Grace the Duke of Buccleugh,

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On the west of Hassendeanbank is the estate of Tiviotbank, lately purchased by David Simpson, Esq; another residing heritor, who has built a neat modern house on a rising bank, in view of the river, and ornamented the place with a variety of plantations. On the west and north-west are the lands of Hassendeanburn, Horsleyhill, and Huntlaw, belonging to Robert Dickson, Esq; the second heritor in the parish, who has lately built a large convenient house a small distance from the water. In this corner was the site of Hassendeanburn church, supposed to be an appendage of Melrose Abbey, (the farm next to it goes by the name of Monks Croft, where there was a tower called Monks Tower). The church, and most of the church-yard, are carried off by the water; yet, so strong is the desire "of sleeping with our fathers," that they continued to bury here, though, after every flood, the haughs were covered with human bones, till last winter, a great swell of the river swept it all away, except one corner. Since that time, some of the dead have been lifted and carried to different burial grounds. This parish is now divided amongst the parishes of Wilton, Minto, and Robertson. The original stipend was all annexed to Robertson. Here I must offer an advice to landed gentlemen, always to take care that the stipend be annexed together with their lands. The proprietors of this old parish have found the disadvantage of not attending to this, by the different processes of augmentation that have been raised against them by the several ministers.

Nursery.—On the lands of Hassendeanburn was established, by the late Mr Dickson's father, one of the first nurseries in the kingdom, which was carried on by the late Mr Dickson, who also established the nursery at Hawick. Both these nurseries are now carried on by the Messrs Dicksons; and

and in point of extent, character, and circulation, are equalled by few, if any. They contain all kind of foreign and native forest trees, fruit trees, flower-roots, and plants and flowering shrubs, that are naturalised in this country; besides a great collection of exotic plants. From this nursery originated that carried on by Messrs Dickson and Company, Perth; that in Edinburgh by Messrs Dicksons and Company.

Soils.—The soils in the parish are various. Towards the river it consists of different kinds of loam, well adapted to turnips; farther north it is a strong clay, and clay loam, both on a tilly bottom.

Manure.—Some seams of marl have been discovered, but so small, that they do not depend on these, and drive lime and marl at a considerable distance and great expence. Lime laid down on the field, 2 s. the lime-bushel, which is equal to three Winchester bushels. Marl, 3 s. the double cart.

Acres.—The number of acres 5213; of these, 475 are planted with forest trees.

Implements of Husbandry.—The English plough is universally used with two horses. Thrashing machines are beginning to be used.

Cultivation.—The mode of cropping or rotation, until within these few years, for a long time back, was as follows:—The infield, divided into five breaks—1. Fallow, with the dung of the farm, wheat, pease, barley, oats, and then fallow again, &c. : The outfield, first folded with the cattle of the farm in general, then sown with oats for three

or four years, and even longer, if the return was a little more than two feeds; after that, fallow, without any kind of manure; then two crops of oats, and fallow again every third year, as long as it would produce a decent crop; then allowed to go to pasture.

The present mode followed in the parish:—The light land first well prepared for turnip, which are sown in drills neatly made up, manured with the dung of the farm, and lime or shell marl, so far as they can be procured, not to lose the season for the turnip; part of which is eat on the ground with sheep, and part with cattle in the house. When eat with sheep, it is not uncommon to sow wheat with grafs-seeds, which, in general, succeeds well. When the turnip is carried off, barley with grafs-seeds seldom fails of a good crop; then hay is taken, the fog, or second crop, eat on the ground with various kinds of stock; then, in autumn, taken up for wheat, which is sown with one furrow; after the wheat, oats, and then turnip; sometimes they take up with oats, and then turnip; when the land is naturally very good, and in high order, wheat is taken after the oats, then turnip: After this rotation is followed twice, the grafs is allowed to lie for pasture two or three years, then taken up as before. The land that is too heavy for turnip, or the clay lands, are taken up from grafs with oats; then fallow with the dung of the farm, and a full dressing of shell marl or lime (25 double carts of marl, or 6 double carts of lime *per* English acre) sown with wheat; then pease, then barley with grafs-seeds, then hay, and after that three years pastured; then cropped as before,

Grafs-seeds.—When only one crop is taken, they sow 12 lb. of red clover, and half a bushel rye-grafs, to the English acre; when to lay in pasture, 6 lb. of white clover,
5 lb.

5 lb. of red clover, 2 lb. of rib-grass, half a bushel of ryegrass.

Notwithstanding the above mode of cropping, some, of late years, pasture the first crop, which they find pays well, and does more justice to the land.

Kinds of Stock.—The kinds of stock kept or bred: Sheep of the Cheviot breed on the outfield; on the infield, or improven lands, the Dishley or Beckwell breed have been tried, with advantage, for a few years. The short horned, or Teeswater cattle, prevail, and pay the breeder well. Number of sheep, 1680; black cattle, 380. Yet it may be supposed the parish is able to keep a great many more; but the residing heritors are of use to let, from year to year, a considerable number of grass parks; and some of the farmers, who follow the turnip-husbandry, have a fluctuating stock. Number of ploughs 36. No oxen used at present. Besides the horses kept for the plough, there may be about 46 riding and young horses. The harvest in general is early. The whole parish is inclosed with boundary fences, and by far the greatest proportion of it subdivided with ditch and hedge, interspersed with strips and clumps of planting, which serve both for shelter and ornament.

Servants Wages.—Servants wages have been on the rise for some years. A married man, or hind, L. 6, 10s. a cow kept, a stone of meal in the week, a firloft of potatoes planted, a peck or half a peck of lintseed sown, a free house, with a piece of ground for a garden, a certain quantity of fuel carried; it is understood, at the same time, that the wife or children are to assist at carrying in stacks, &c. A man, within the house, from L. 6 to L. 9. A woman servant, within the house, from L. 3 to L. 4. Day-labourers,

ers, at an average, 1 s. 3 d. *per* day in summer, and 1 s. in winter. Women, who work out of doors upon the farm, 8 d. Harvest wages fluctuating. Last harvest high.

For some years, I have observed with pleasure the rapid progress of improvement within the parish; the happy change of the mode of agriculture; the quantity of foreign manure, both lime and marl, carried at such a distance and expence, and the advantages arising from it; the attention paid to roads and fences, so advantageous to the inhabitants, and agreeable to travellers.

Roads.—There are many public roads: The funds arising from the conversion of the statute-money being very small, and not adequate to making and keeping the roads in repair, still the principal roads are very good, owing to the attention of Sir Gilbert Elliot, who, for some years, has made and kept up, at his own expence, the roads leading through his lands; whereby the funds are applied to other roads within the parish.

Population.—The number of inhabitants, 513 souls. The increase and decrease of population cannot be ascertained with precision, many being accustomed to bury in Hassendeanburn, where no register has been kept. For some years back it has increased considerably. In 1755, it was 396. The Established Church is the only place of public worship within the parish; they attend regularly and decently. There are few Seceders of any denomination.

Poor.—The number of poor, for these two preceding years, has been, at a medium, 16, and annual payments L. 50, raised by a regular poor-rate, one half paid by the heritors, the other half by the tenants. There are L. 50 belonging to the kirk-session, the interest goes into the cast,

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of, along with the collections, is distributed by the session in interim supplies, in case of sickness, or any other unforeseen calamity. In 1782, when oatmeal rose very high, the curators of the poor bought in a quantity, and sold it at a reduced price, both to the poor on list and poor householders with large families. There are no begging poor in the parish. The poor-rates are more than double within these ten years, notwithstanding the liberality of the family of Minto, who, when on the spot, gave a good deal of private charity, and a weekly proportion of broth and meat, which is continued in their absence.

Manse.—The manse was removed to its present situation in 1773, and is in good repair. The glebe consists of 35 English acres. The stipend upwards of L. 90.

School.—The established schoolmaster is the only teacher within the parish. He has a house, garden, and schoolhouse; salary L. 12, including the emoluments of session-clerk, collecting the poor-rates, &c. The number of scholars, at an average, between 50 and 60. In March 1792, above 50 scholars were seized with the measles in two days, so rapid was the infection. The schoolhouse was then small and confined, which moved the heritors to build one in an airy situation, the most beautiful and commodious in the south of Scotland,

Fuel.—The distance from fuel, and other local disadvantages, have hitherto discouraged manufactures, &c. notwithstanding there are a number of mechanics. Weavers, 7; blacksmiths, 3; tailors, 3; one nailor, who employs 5 hands; three carpenters, who employ 10 hands; one corn and one lint mill. Coals in general are burnt, (which are carried at the distance of 30 miles), and peats and wood.

Character.—The inhabitants are honest, sober, and industrious; seem contented with their situation, as no murders, suicides, or criminal prosecutions, are remembered to have happened. The farmers, in general, are respectable well informed people, pay great attention to husbandry, to the rearing and feeding of stock. The air is good; seldom visited with any epidemical diseases. There are no public-houses within the parish. I have not been able to discover any antiquities or natural curiosities but such as are common, viz. stone coffins, petrifying springs, large deers horns, &c. found in mosses.

NUM.

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF COLLINGTON,

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

By the Rev. Dr JOHN WALKER *.

Situation and Extent.

THIS parish is situated in the county of Edinburgh. It is in the presbytery of Edinburgh, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It lies west from Edinburgh, and reaches within two miles of the suburbs. It extends about four miles east and west, and about five miles in a south and north direction. It contains above 5000 Scots acres, the gross rental of which, including mills and quarries, may be near L. 6000 Sterling; but, excluding these, and also woods and plantations, the real land rent amounts to about L. 4125 Sterling. The valued rent is L. 4514 Scots.

In

This account is an abstract of a more extended history of the parish of Collington, to be published separately.

In the year 1635, and for a long time after, this parish appears to have been a wild and uncultivated track of country, and thinly peopled. Even so late as the year 1709, it contained only 318 examinable persons. Since that time, however, the lands have been inclosed, and so much cultivated, that it is now become one of the most productive parts of the country. The number of inhabitants has of course been considerably augmented, and is at present upon the increase, from the enlargement of the metropolis, and the advancement of manufactures.

The numerous mills erected for flour and barley; the mills for the manufacture of flax, paper, tobacco, and the wauking of cloth; the skinnery manufacture; the bleaching fields; a flourishing distillery; a manufacture of magnesia; and the great quarries of Hailes and Redhall; have brought together, of late years, into this parish, a concourse of people, and a degree of opulence formerly unknown.

Seventeen years ago, only 25 persons were employed in the manufacture of paper: At present, 92 persons are occupied in the parish in that manufacture, who, with their families, amount to about 300 people.

The whole parish is now estimated at more than three rents above what it was in the year 1709.

The hill of Caerketan-craig, in this parish, the most northerly of the Pentland Hills, is 1450 feet high above the level of the sea; and the hill of Capelaw, situated to the westward of it, may be about 100 feet higher. The Logan-house Hill, lying still further west in the range, and the highest of the Pentland Hills, was found, by geometrical mensuration, and by repeated barometrical observations, to be 1700 feet high above the level of the sea at Leith, which is only 60 feet less than one-third of a measured mile.

The

The arable lands of the parish slope gradually from the skirts of the hills to the level of the river; and they are in different places from 250 up to 600 feet above the level of the sea. This occasions a great diversity of climate in the course of three or four miles, and a great difference in the ripening of the crops.

Church.—The church was built in the year 1773, and is a very decent and convenient structure for public worship. Though plain, and executed at a very moderate expence, it is rather elegant, both on the outside and inside. It has even served as a model for some parish churches that have since been built.

Manse.—The manse was built *anno* 1784, at an expence sufficiently liberal, but with very insufficient workmanship. This is the case with the generality of the manses in Scotland, and which renders them, in proportion to their size, the most expensive houses in the kingdom. Imperfectly executed at first, and that usually for want of a proper superintendance, their frequent repairs and rebuilding come to be a matter of great inconvenience to the incumbents, and of much additional and unnecessary expence to the heritors.

Stipend.—The stipend *anno* 1792 remained what it was in the year 1635, amounting to L. 55 : 16 : 7 $\frac{4}{12}$ Sterling. Since that time there has been an augmentation granted by the Court of Teinds, which is not yet allocated.

The fall of money in its value is well known to be a great hardship, and especially of late, upon all persons of a fixed income, and upon none more than upon the clergy of Scotland.

The

The stipend of Collington, as appointed in the year 1635, was not only a competent, but a liberal provision for the minister of this parish at that period. It was more than equal to L. 223 : 6 : 5 $\frac{4}{12}$. But this, far from being singular, is universally the case with all the clergy of Scotland.

Glebe.—The extent of the glebe is less than what the law appoints; but even though it were of legal size, it could not be profitably occupied and cultivated by the incumbent, without an opportunity of renting so much additional land, as would afford sufficient work for a man-servant and two horses.

School.—There has always been a respectable grammar-school kept in the parish. It has always been well taught, and well attended, not only by children of the middle and lower ranks, but many gentlemen, who have afterwards proved an honour to their country, have received the elements of their education here.

The schoolmaster's salary is 200 merks Scots, the highest sum appointed by law, which, with very moderate school-wages, and some small emoluments as session-clerk, forms the living of a worthy old incumbent. But it is altogether an income that could not, in the present times, induce any young man, sufficiently educated and qualified, to undertake the office.

Poor.—The poor are maintained by the collections at the church, and other funds, under the inspection of the kirk-session, and partly by an annual assessment upon the heritors and tenants. The inrolled poor have each a stated allowance monthly; beside which, incidental charities, sometimes indeed the most necessary of any, are bestowed by
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the session on other persons in distress. These inrolled poor are 27 in number. They have from 2 s. to 4 s. a-month; or from L. 1, 4 s. to L. 2, 8 s. annually. The collections at the church-door and other dues, belonging to the session, amount to about L. 35, and the assessment is L. 30, forming together the annual sum of L. 65. Of this, L. 45 are required for the support of the poor on the roll; and the remainder is bestowed in occasional charities, and in defraying the little necessary expences of the church.

Though these inrolled poor are the most indigent persons in the place, none of them are in such a state of poverty as to be reduced to beggary. There are no beggars belonging to the parish, as it is made known to all who are admitted upon the poors-roll, that if they happen to beg they forfeit their pension.

Rents.—This parish contains more land of a low value than any other part of the country at an equal distance from Edinburgh. The present rents, notwithstanding, are considerable; nor could the lands, at these rents, be profitably held by persons inferior in skill, or in stock, to the present possessors. The arable ground lets from 30 s. to two guineas the acre; but there are many fields in tillage, towards the hills, of inferior value.

The rent of houses for cottagers is usually from 15 s. to 40 s. a-year. The houses which give 40 s. are well built and slated, but are too high priced for the income of a common labourer.

Crops.—The prevailing crops here are, wheat, barley, oats, beans, pease, potatoes, summer tares, clover, and ryegrass. The sowing of bear is entirely given up. There is very little flax cultivated, and no rye. Few turnips are raised, and seldom any cabbages or coleworts, but in sparing quantity.

quantity. There is but little white clover sown, there being but little ground laid down for pasture.

As wheat is accounted the most profitable produce, there are annually about 290 acres occupied by this crop. A great deal of land, though naturally unfit for wheat, is, by the aid of the Edinburgh dung, employed in raising that grain.

Potatoes form an important and useful crop, being both profitable in itself, and an excellent preparation for wheat. The potatoes are all raised by the plough, and are horse-hoed. The fields of them are extensive; the produce on the acre is generally large, and the market-price at Edinburgh high: though potatoes cultivated in this way are never equal in quality to those raised in lazy beds by spade culture.

About one-fifth of all the arable grounds in the parish is usually under clover and rye-grass.

Price of Labour.—A married ploughman, with all his perquisites, has generally to the amount of 1 s. every working day, or about L. 16 a-year.

The hire of a plough, with a man and two horses during winter, for what is called a long yoking, is 4 s. In spring, when there are two yokings, the price is 3 s. each yoking, or 6 s. a-day.

When this plough is hired to till by the Scots acre, the price is 10 s. an acre. At one yoking a-day, the plough is occupied upon the acre about two days and a half.

When harrowing is hired, it costs 2 s. an acre; but 3 s. when the ground is lee.

But the manufacturer pays for labour what the husbandman cannot afford. During the shortest days of last winter, a common labourer, employed by manufacturers in this parish, had 1 s. 4 d. a-day.

Manure.

Manures.—There is no manure used in the parish but what each farm affords, excepting the Edinburgh dung, on which the farmers chiefly depend for their cultivation and their crops. This is purchased at about 10 d. or 1 s. each double horse-cart. If the carriage, between 3 and 4 miles, be estimated at 2 s. 6 d. then each cart costs about 3 s. 6 d.; but the cost must be sometimes more, and may be sometimes less, according to the distance, and other circumstances. The carts which bring the dung from Edinburgh frequently carry the corn, hay, and straw from the farm to the city, which occasions an abatement of the expence. The quantity of dung bestowed on an acre is usually between 30 and 40 double carts.

Ploughgates.—The old ploughgates in the parish, when worked by 4 horses in a plough, were 42 in number. Last year, the ploughgates were rated at 49: which at 12 s. each, as charged for the statute-labour, amounted to L. 27, 5 s. Sterling.

Where these 42 four-horse ploughs were kept, there are now 60 two-horse ploughs employed.

The 42 four-horse ploughs had 168 horses and 84 men. The 60 two-horse ploughs have 120 horses and 60 men.

The two-horse plough is one of the greatest improvements that has yet taken place in the husbandry of Scotland. It seems to have been introduced into this parish before the year 1770, though in the year 1771, the plough with 4 horses was still used in many places.

The use of the single-horse cart is but a late occurrence. It did not take place in this parish till about the year 1780.

Population.—Before the middle of the last century, this parish appears to have had but few inhabitants. Their

numbers, however, continued rather on the increase till the time of the seven years famine, that is, from the year 1695 to the year 1702, during which period they are said to have been much diminished. From the year 1703, the numbers did again increase, till about the year 1720. At that time, they were again reduced by the establishment of larger farms, and continued for many years stationary. But by the increase of the metropolis and of manufactures, the parish has again, for a considerable time, been advancing in population. There are no uninhabited houses in it. If any are demolished, it is but in order to their being rebuilt; and every year there are new ones erected, which are immediately filled with inhabitants.

In an information presented to the Court of Teinds in the year 1709, this parish was said to contain 318 examinable persons. If to these a fourth of unexaminable persons be added, the whole inhabitants amounted to 397. From a record in possession of the church, it appears, that about the year 1750, the whole inhabitants of the parish amounted to 782. In Dr Webster's Report, *anno* 1755, the number is stated at 792.

At present, the number of inhabited houses in the parish is exactly 313; and the number of inhabitants is 1395 nearly; which, to a trifle, allots $4\frac{1}{3}$ inhabitants to each house.

If the extent of the parish, as is computed, amounts to 5070 acres, and the number of people is 1395, it contains between 3 and 4 acres for each inhabitant. This is a very great degree of population, compared to the extent of land; especially as there are upwards of 1600 acres of sheep-walk, and other grounds, which do not occupy 40 people. But the greater part of the inhabitants are supported by manufactures, and by various occupations, independent of the soil.

irtbs.

Births.—It is well known that the parish registers in Scotland have seldom been kept for any length of time with sufficient accuracy. In this parish, the register of baptisms has been continued with uncommon regularity, from the year 1655 to the present time. Many of the sectaries, and all the people of the Established Church, with few exceptions, have always registered the birth of their children. The baptism of children, also, from other parishes, has always been punctually distinguished; so that a more exact register of baptisms, for a period of 140 years, is seldom to be met with.

From that register it appears:

1. That during the above period of 140 years, there were 2447 males, and 2268 female children baptized, which fixes the number of males born, compared to that of females, at 12 to 11 nearly.
2. That in some particular years the births of one sex greatly exceed the other in number; but in the following, or in a few subsequent years, both sexes return to their ordained proportion. Notwithstanding many temporary inequalities, the balance, at last, is preserved upon the poise. Yet this is but one, among a thousand instances, of an immediate unremitted superintending influence, directed by unlimited power and wisdom.
3. That there are some years in which the inhabitants are remarkably prolific, compared to what they are in others. The number of children born in one year is sometimes nearly double that in the preceding or subsequent year, while the number of inhabitants must have been nearly the same.
4. That the average number of births for 10 years past is 39, and the number of people 1395. This allows 37 persons for each birth.

5. That

5. That the average number of births being 39, and the number of houses or families 313, each annual birth corresponds to 8 families.

Twins.—From the above register it also appears :

1. That of 4715 children baptized in this parish, 94 were twins ; therefore, one twin-child for 51 children baptized.

2. That during 17 years, including the seven dear years, there was no twin birth. In one particular year there were 3 such births.

3. That in the whole period, the male twin-children were to the female as 40 to 54.

4. That the number of males prevailed in those years in which male twins were born ; and that of the females in those years in which female twins were born.

Marriages.—There has been an exact register of marriages kept in this parish from the year 1655 to the present time.

From that register it appears :

1. That during the period mentioned, there are 1395 marriages recorded ; but reckoning only one half of those marriages, where one only of the parties was a parishioner, the number would amount but to 1060.

2. That from the year 1655 to 1794 inclusive, the baptisms were 4715, and the marriages 1060. During the last ten years, the baptisms were 401, and the marriages 91. In both cases, the marriages were less than a fourth, but more than a fifth, compared to the number of baptisms.

3. That, at present, there is only one marriage annually for 155 inhabitants.

Deaths.

Deaths.—The register of burials in this parish has been very carefully kept since the year 1728; distinguishing the death of children and of adults, of strangers and of parishioners.

From the above register of burials for 49 years it appears.

1. That the burials were 944; during the last 10 years, 175. In the former period the births had been 1696: in the latter, 394. In both cases, the births compared to the deaths approach to the proportion of 2 to 1, forming a very striking account of the increase of the people in this part of the country.

2. That the number of strangers from other parishes buried here amounts, at an average, to 6 persons annually, which is considerably more than the number of parishioners buried in other places.

3. That of the 944 persons buried, 452, or nearly one half, were children under 14 years of age.

4. That there are about 20 deaths annually; and above 60, perhaps 69, inhabitants for each annual death.

5. That in this, as in all other registers of deaths, there are years most remarkable for their health, and others for their mortality. In some cases, the causes of this great difference are to be observed, but in others they cannot be discerned.

6. That near 70 years ago, and even about 50 and 40 years ago, the number of deaths was greater than at present, though the number of people was certainly less. The lower ranks, which form the body of the people, are now lodged, clothed, and fed, in a manner more friendly to health than in these former times.

Diseases.—There are no local distempers, nor any peculiar appearance in any disease, observable in this parish.

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The air is salubrious, and the soil in general dry, without any ground fogs or stagnating water.

River.—On the river of Collington, which rises on the north side of the Pentland Hills, and after a course of about 16 miles, runs into the sea at Leith, there is much of that romantic scenery for which the small rivers in Scotland are remarkable; where they run in deep narrow glens, amidst great variety of ground with rocks and hanging woods, accompanied with small level fields or haughs, fertile in corn and grafs. This small river does more work than perhaps any other, even of the largest size in Scotland. In a course of about 10 miles it drives the following *Mills* :

Corn-mills,	-	-	14
Barley-mills,	-	-	12
Flour-mills,	-	-	20
Lint-mills,	-	-	2
Wauk-mills,	-	-	5
Paper-mills,	-	-	4
Snuff-mills,	-	-	5
Leather-mills,	-	-	2
Saw-mills,	-	-	7
			71
		Total,	71

Agriculture.—The husbandry here is entirely regulated by the supply of dung which is brought from the city of Edinburgh. This local advantage leads to a peculiar method of farming; proper, indeed, for such a situation, though inapplicable to the country in general.

Cattle.—The number of work-horses in the parish is about 171; of saddle horses, 31; and of carriage-horses, 10; in all,

all, 212. The number of the cows is 127 nearly; and that of the sheep about 4000.

There are not above half a dozen breeding swine in the parish.

Bees.—There are about 35 winter hives of bees in the parish, and formerly they were much more numerous.

Antiquities.—Of the names of places in this parish, there occurs but one evidently derived from the Gaelic; the rest, like that of the parish, are almost all of British or Saxon origin. On the lands of Comiston there are still the vestiges of a very large and ancient encampment. Adjacent to this camp, and near the house of Fairmilehead, an extensive and important battle had been fought, and two very large conical cairns erected, on demolishing which, for the purpose of making the turnpike-road, remains of human bones were found in them, and several fragments of old arms, two of which are still in the possession of Mr Trotter of Morton-hall, the proprietor of the ground. Not far from these cairns there had likewise been erected an upright pillar stone, which still remains. It is a rude massy block of whinstone, of a flat shape, 7 feet high above the surface of the ground, and above 4 feet below it. It is called the Kel Stone, an old British word signifying the Battle Stone. It has also passed immemorially by the name of Camus Stone, which would seem to intimate its connection with some Danish commander.

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF INNERLEITHEN,

(COUNTY OF TWEEDDALE OR PEEBLES, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF PEEBLES.)

By the Rev. JOHN WALKER, Minister of Traquair.

Name.

THE water of Leithen, which falls into Tweed near the middle of the parish, gives name to the whole, and pours nearly all the water of its extensive surface into this noble river. This is the last great accession Tweed receives before it leaves the district to which it gives name. The old parish of Innerleithen received, as an addition, all that part of the suppressed parish of Kailzie which lay north of the Tweed.

The parish bears a nearer resemblance to an equilateral triangle than any other regular figure; each side of which amounts to about $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The course of the Tweed, from the boundary of the parish of Peebles on the west, to the

the boundary of Stow on the east, forming the southern side; and from Tweed-bank at Spittlehope Burn-foot to Blakehope Scarr, the north-west; and thence to Tweed-bank, below Thornylee, the north-east. It contains, according to Armstrong, who made a map of the county about 20 years ago, 22,270 acres, Scots measure. What proportion the arable land may bear to the whole surface is not easily determined. The land in tillage, *communibus annis*, is considerably under 1000 acres, of all kinds of crops. The general appearance of the parish is broken, rugged, and precipitous, rising from the brink of Tweed, and the course of the Leithen, to near 1000 feet, without, in some places, leaving space sufficient for the breadth of a road, unless assisted by art, which has been but sparingly bestowed to that purpose. Though, to a stranger passing along the highway from Peebles to Kelso, nothing seems to strike his eye but stones or rock, yet there the indefatigable sheep find a variety of succulent plants, of which the apparent more abundant pasture of the northern exposure seems to be deprived. The parish gradually rises from Tweed to its northern point, where it meets with the contiguous parishes of Eddleston and Temple, which bound it on the north; Eddleston and Peebles on the west; Heriot and Stow on the north-east. Tweed forms the southern boundary, and separates Innerleithen from Traquair. Windlestraw Law is the highest ground in the parish, and is in the direction of the north-east side. Near this mountain, the counties of Edinburgh, Peebles, and Selkirk meet. The whole exposure of the parish being chiefly southward, is productive of fine grass. The sheep-walks, though high and elevated, are, from this circumstance, much valued by the farmer as sure spring ground; at which season, from the inconstancy and severity of the weather, the animal, already reduced

by the winter storms, suffers most. From the same cause, an early vegetation arises, which is denied to the northern exposure, and, from its succulence, furnishes sustenance to the dam to support her tender brood.

Soil, &c.—In the course of ages, the decomposing power of the atmosphere, and the decay of vegetable substances, have formed the greater part of the soil. The common whinstone, and other schistic rocks, have formed the basis of the greater part of the superstratum, which contains a considerable proportion of clay, as may be supposed, because formed from that class of rocks. The subsidence from the Tweed and Leithen has formed the least, but most fertile soil. This being subject to inundation, is not so fully under the power of the farmer as the hanging plains above either. In these, springs bursting through the fissures of the rocks, known by the name of *blind springs*, and large stones fixed in the earth, were unsurmountable difficulties to the inexperienced farmer of former times: now, though agriculture is here only in its infancy, the active and intelligent know how to overcome both, with prodigious advantage to themselves.

Climate, Diseases, &c.—The climate, in such an extensive hilly district, must be various; the air, however, is dry and healthy. The banks of the Tweed have an early harvest, both from the sharpness of the soil, and the genial exposure. The lowest part of the parish was subject to an annual visit of the ague about 20 years ago; but whether from the drainage of the land, or from the better agriculture of that particular part of the parish, it has for some time past entirely disappeared. No epidemical disease afflicts the inhabitants at present. Rheumatism, caused by bad and damp houses, and low living, in general afflicts the

the lower class as they advance in life. A house for the accommodation of this useful order of men is, for the most part, constructed of stone and seal, is reared on 'a sudden, and the occupant inhabits it as soon as constructed. Ill secured from the effects of the weather, and scantily provided with fuel, which is both dear and scarce, the seeds of this disease are rooted into the constitution, which the vigour of youth may for a while brave; but, as old age advances, seldom fail to manifest themselves in great virulence, and impair the strength of manhood by immature old age. Inoculation for the small-pox gains ground, from experience of its usefulness, though contrary to the theory of religious prejudice.

Fish, &c.—Associations have been formed to preserve the salmon in Tweed during close-time, which can produce no good, so long as salmon are not permitted to come up beyond a certain length before this season commences. The interest of no class of men here is concerned in their preservation. To make it so, the proprietors below must yield up a few of their good fish, to give the people above them an experimental proof of the difference betwixt good and bad salmon. The want of this makes them unable to distinguish the good from the bad; and all is fish that comes in the net. The first streams in Tweed in which the salmon deposit their spawn are within a few miles of the bounds of this parish. The people here can judge, by the appearance of the fish, whether it will deposit its spawn in Tweed or its feeders. Tweed formerly produced a great quantity of salmon; now they are seldom to be caught, except after close-time. Trout are to be met with in great quantity both in Tweed and Leithen. Pike are found in the old run of the Leithen. Birds are of the same kinds all over the county. Quadrupeds the same also.

Mineral

Mineral Spring.—The water which issues out of this spring is of the same nature with that of Harrowgate. In many disorders it has been productive of much relief to the afflicted. To fill this account of cures performed, or to lengthen it by giving an imperfect analysis of its water, would be improper. Two strong facts, which have come to hand, and are well attested, of its sanative effects, ought not to be passed over. They both relate to cases of inflammation in the eyes. The first is of a girl of 10 years of age, almost blind, from the neighbourhood of Hawick, who, by continuing to use the mineral for about a month, for two seasons, returned home the last season perfectly recovered. The other is of a young woman from Galashiels, with a similar complaint, who, by staying five weeks, returned home with the full use of her eyes. The first could discern nothing distinctly when she came the first season. The last could not distinguish any object at the distance of 50 yards. These cures, with many others, can be very well attested. In all disorders of the blood, its effects are highly beneficial, particularly in cutaneous eruptions. The want of accommodation prevents a greater concourse of people from being benefited by this salutary spring. So far as that is afforded, it is at one season of the year fully occupied. The short distance from Edinburgh should make it a desirable watering place.

Population.—The number of souls in the parish amounts to 560. The males, 289; the females, 271. Average of marriages for the last six years, $4\frac{1}{2}$. Baptisms, 16.

Males.

		<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Under 10 years of age,	-	72	66
Under 20,	-	63	44
Under 30,	-	42	53
Under 40,	-	29	31
Under 50,	-	29	25
Under 60,	-	25	21
Under 70,	-	19	24
Under 80,	-	8	7
Under 90,	-	2	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		289	271

Making in whole, 560.

Of these, 388 inhabit the village of Innerleithen, and 222 the rest of the parish. Population in 1755, by Dr Webster's account, was 559.

It may not be improper to remark, that the whole of this extensive parish is in the hands of fourteen occupants; and that of these, two only are fulfilling the first commandment with promise. Such are the hopes of the rising generation, amid the waste of men by the ravages of lawless ambition. Where the cottager meets with a master who gives him a cow's grafs, he finds himself able to raise comfortably a family for the use of his country. Their wants are few, and easily satisfied with milk and potatoes. To the credit of many of the farmers here, they assist in rearing, by these accommodations, a race of useful labourers for the succeeding generation. Though the farmers in general seem to have an aversion at matrimony, it must be mentioned to their credit, that they liberally assist those under them who do so. The greatest number of the inhabitants are employed in agriculture, and the care of their numerous flocks; a few mechanics and tradesmen are all
that

that can be excepted; and these no more than what the supply of articles of the first necessity require.

The village of Innerleithen, from its situation, boasts of many advantages. Pleasantly situated on Leithen-water, near its junction with Tweed, in the heart of a country whose staple is wool, in which provisions of all kinds are plentiful, it seemed formed by nature for a site of woollen manufacture. What must have occurred to every one since the value of manufactures were known in this country, was left to be accomplished by Alexander Brodie, Esq; of Carey-street, London. Some few years ago he erected a large workhouse, at considerable expence, from the patriotic purpose of promoting a spirit of industry in the vicinity of the place which gave him birth. Upwards of L. 3000 Sterling were expended on the works and machinery, which is of the best construction; but from causes which the author does not choose to dwell on, the manufacture has not gone on with that success, to the advantage of the gentleman who erected it, that its first beginning promised. The fault neither lay with him nor the conductor of the work. Such as it is, it returns, on the whole, very well. An infant manufacture, in a country *truly* pastoral, has many disadvantages. The whole operations of teasing and carding are performed by water. The house consists of five floors; the first and second of which are occupied by the operations performed by water, and which, had circumstances been favourable, would have by this time been farther extended; spinning jeanies, looms, &c. of various constructions, occupy the two next. The highest is a store-room for the raw material. From 27 to 80 hands are employed within doors, and as many at least without the manufactory. Children from seven years of age are employed in the operations of teasing and carding, and earn 2 s. 6 s. *per* week. The best spinners can make 18 s. *per* week. The best

best weavers as much. These two last, in general, work by the piece. The dyers have a fixed weekly rate, which differs according to their qualifications. In the course of the first year after the work was begun, cloth was manufactured to the amount of L. 1200 Sterling, and has gradually increased.

The whole of Mr. Brodie's attention as a useful member of society is by no means directed to this one object. His extensive operations in Shropshire and London are too generally known to need particular mention. To promote a spirit of industry in this district, he engaged in this manufacture, and gave the direction of it to his nephew, who, though not at first acquainted with the trade in wool, by application, soon made himself master of the business.

Sheep, Horses, and Cattle.—Upwards of 15,000 sheep are kept, in general of the black-faced kind, as a breeding stock. There are 90 horses, and about 200 head of black cattle. Few of the storemasters have thought of changing their stock of ewes and rams entirely, but they have of late purchased some of each, particularly the rams, since the price of wool has increased so considerably.

The sheep pastures and arable grounds are occupied by the same person, as is the case over all this district. It is not how many acres of arable, but how many score of sheep does the farm hold, which fixes the rent.

Stipend, Church.—The stipend is, *communibus annis*, about L. 110. The Duke of Queensberry is patron. The glebe contains, for the site of manse and garden ground, and crop and pasture, about 10 acres and a half. It has been asked, What proportion of ground ought a minister to possess as glebe, that the occupancy may become profitable? The answer must depend on such a variety of circumstances, that it cannot be of general application. If it is asked, Will the minister

minister of Innerleithen have a profitable occupancy? No. The land he possesses will not enable him to employ his man and horses half the time they ought to be employed. Ground cannot be laboured without two horses. Two he must keep, for the hiring of his ploughing he cannot obtain. One horse he ought to keep for parish duty; and when this requires one horse, the other is thrown idle as to the tilling the ground, and many other farming purposes. Should he, Apostle like, abjure the use of horses for his own accommodation, he may then drive in his fuel, and have his little farm cultivated in proper season; but every year he must go to market for fodder to maintain his horses; and this the late incumbent considered as an average expence of L. 5 *per annum*; which, added to the wages and maintenance of a ploughman, renders the glebe a loss rather than profit to any incumbent. Without a cow, no family can be comfortable in the country; the glebe, as yielding this benefit, is, with all its pecuniary disadvantages, highly useful. Could the minister of Innerleithen find people to hire, for driving his coals and tilling his land, and be, by these means, under no necessity of keeping a man-servant and a pair of horses, he might then not be under any difficulty of providing fodder for two cows, and a horse for parish duty, and by that means his glebe would turn out profitable. As circumstances stand, this cannot be obtained. Accommodation, therefore, and not profit, is all that can be looked for. Twenty acres of farm, at a reasonable rent, would render the clergyman's situation comfortable, and the possession of the glebe profitable. Such is the outline of an answer to the question, as it relates to this parish. The writer of this report speaks not from theoretical speculation, but from dear bought experience; and what is true in the one case is fully applicable in the other. Both manse and church are in a good state of repair. The manse was built
for

for the last incumbent; the church a few years ago, and, for its size, is one of the neatest country churches in the county.

The poor are supported by a poors-rate, one half paid by the heritors, the other by the tenants. The rate has an additional increase every year, which is a general observation made from every parish where this mode of provision has been recurred unto. The session have some funds in their hands, which they distribute to the most indigent of those who receive the legal provision, in cases of particular distress. The late incumbent obtained from the Earl of Traquair, when he fitted up the mineral well, the right of disposing of it, season by season, to some pauper, who, by opening and shutting it to those who resorted to it, might be entitled to any pecuniary gratuity they pleased to confer. By the regulations, it was to be open two hours every morning, and two every evening, Sunday evening excepted. Mr Brodie, whose generosity is only equalled by his impartiality, gives L. 5, 5 s. every year, to be distributed by the clergyman to poor householders. As soon as this gentleman had a permanent interest in the parish, he began to feel for the wants of the indigent, and though not obliged by law to provide for the poor, he made a law for himself, by which he has contributed more to the needy, than the most extensive proprietor is bound to by law. This, with the circulation of money produced by those employed in the manufactory, many of whom are old people and children, who could have earned little or nothing, has benefited the poor of the village very much.

Morals.—Whether the easier acquisition of money has had a tendency to improve the morals of the lower class, may be easily determined by the experience of every body. They are still found in their religious principles, and pique themselves on being so. Religion and morality, or rather

that branch of it, sobriety, have long been at odds in this district. Example goes beyond precept. The lower class will, if possible, imitate their betters. What proportion the Dissenters may bear to those who are of the Established Church is beyond the power of man to determine. The various denominations among us use times of vacancy, if possible, to carry off as many as they can; and disgust, or disappointment, or any thing, in short, may, with a little sophistry, become the pretext. These causes have already begun to operate, and what effects they shall produce time alone can unfold.

School.—The average number of scholars may be betwixt 30 and 35. The greatest number are in spring. The schoolmaster teaches Latin, English, writing, and arithmetic. His emoluments of office are L. 100 Scots.

Mr Brodie, who equally regards, in his extensive philanthropy, the sustenance of the body and the improvement of the mind, gives him L. 5, 5 s. for educating poor children. His office of session-clerk may yield L. 1. He has likewise a free house and garden. His whole emoluments can hardly exceed L. 20 *per annum*. He has contrived to rear a family upon this slender income. If emolument of office is necessary to promote its usefulness, this most important of all employments for the good of society, a country schoolmaster, will soon be no more, unless some means are fallen upon to render it more lucrative and respectable.

Antiquities.—Tower houses are met with in a ruinous condition at the mouth of every defile through this extensive parish. Tradition is silent, except in two or three instances at most, by whom they were occupied. If the same scenes of iniquity were practised in them all that the records of the presbytery of Peebles attaches to one of them, they have

have deservedly become the habitation of owls. A strong fortification was erected, in times of hostility, on a rising ground immediately adjoining to the village of Innerleithen. Vestiges of the fossum are still discernible on the outside of the third line of circumvallation. Within the third of these lines there is a space of rather more than an English acre. An immense quantity of stones have been collected to form these lines. No cement seems to have been employed. The loose stones were, however, built with considerable care. By whom constructed, at what time, against whom, are queries to be answered by conjecture only.

Names of Places.—These are, in general, borrowed from the dialect of the language at present spoken; some from their present or former proprietors. Horbrugh Castle, Tower, and lands, derived their name from the ancestors of Horbrugh of that ilk, a considerable proprietor at present in the parish. The origin of the name the writer learned, in the course of this investigation, to have arisen from the following circumstance:—During the time that Peebles was a hunting residence to the Kings of Scotland, the King and his nobles were engaged in the sport of hawking. The hawk flew across the Tweed after his prey. The river happened to be in flood; the King and the nobles could not follow. The ancestor of the family, of the name of either Hunter or Hamilton, was, at the time, ploughing on the lands, which afterwards, by royal grant, became his own; acquainted with the river, whose banks he cultivated, he loosed his plough, and with one of his horses came across the stream, and restored the hawk and his prey to the royal hunter; for which meritorious service the King endowed him with all the lands within view of his plough north of Tweed. As he was crossing the river, either the King, or one of his attendants, cried out, *Horse bruik weel*, and thence the

the lands, and their owner, were called Horfebruik ; which, in the course of time, have been changed into Horsburgh. *Valeat quod valere possit.*—The present proprietor has, independent of royal grant, a very just title to the lands on which he resides. They came into the family by an intermarriage with the name of Tait ; but the present occupant, by judicious improvement, has raised their value, from scarcely L. 50 of annual income, to be worth L. 300 *per annum*. The only substantial improvement in planting and inclosing, in the whole parish, has been effected by him ; and whilst he has given beauty to his vicinity, he has added considerably to his annual income. In a country like ours, where so much still remains to be done, every attempt to improve the face of the country merits its due praise, and ought not to be withheld.

Road up Leitben.—In summer 1794, this road, formed by subscription, and at present kept in repair by the same means, with the addition of the money for the commutation for statute labour, was begun to be used for the purposes of driving lime and coal. During the course of that summer upwards of 3000 bolls of lime, Linlithgow measure, and a considerable quantity of coal, were drove on it. This line of communications shortens the distance from coal and lime, from 12 to 14 miles. Both coal and lime are of better quality, and a considerable saving in toll-bar duty is obtained. The effects of opening this communication have already appeared highly beneficial to those who at first subscribed, and they are, as far as they are individually concerned, ready to enter into a second subscription, to carry the measure, as far as their ability allows, into complete effect. The narrow policy of others, who have not subscribed, and who have taken advantage of this communication, prevents them from subscribing at all. A public good
may

may by these means fall to nought, and the improvement of this highly improvable district be retarded. The accomplishing this purpose is worthy the patriotic spirit of the Honourable President of the Board of Agriculture. In his extensive communications with the members of that Honourable Board, he may open the eyes of some of them to their own advantage, and may point out to the nation in general the propriety of adopting this line of intercourse betwixt Carlisle and Edinburgh.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—In the account already given, the advantages of this parish have already been pretty fully detailed. A pure air, a fertile soil, abundant pastures, the means of instruction afforded to all, even the indigent, plenty of labour for the industrious, a legal provision provided for the needy, are a short recapitulation of these. The disadvantages are, in some respects, likewise hinted at. The greatest of these is, the distance from fuel. Peats are not to be obtained for general use. Furze was formerly the dependence of the lower class for their winter fire; but the industry of a farmer, who began his occupancy at Whitsunday last, has already gone far to remove this supply, and will soon make an absolute scarcity. The lands he possesses were formerly rented at L. 84 Sterling yearly; now they are let in lease for 19 years at L. 350 Sterling *per ann.* During the currency of the former lease, the lands might be suffered to bear furze, and yet the rent might have been paid. As things now stand, he must try some more productive mode of occupancy, else the price of labour and rent cannot be paid; the last of which is quadruple what it was, and the first double, in the course of these last six years. The completing the road up Leithen would bring the village of Innerleithen into a certainty of having coals at all seasons of the year. An attention to
sobriety

sobriety would furnish them with the means of providing themselves with fuel of the best and cheapest kind. Comfortable at home, they would not need to seek enjoyment abroad. Contented with their condition, they would not follow those given to change. These reflections by no means are intended for general application. Under all the disadvantages already enumerated, the generality enjoy, in a considerable degree, the advantages of civilised society. They love their country, are attached to its constitution, and rejoice in the security the laws afford. If any thing is wanting to meliorate their condition, it is reducing their religious knowledge to practice.

Real and Valued Rent.—As far as can be conjectured, the real rent is upwards of L. 3000 Sterling: The valued rent is L. 6639 : 1 : 2.

NUM.

NUMBER XXIX.

PARISH OF GLENBUCKET,

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

From Materials communicated by the Rev. WILLIAM SPENCE.

THE parish of Glenbucket is situated in the presbytery of Alford, and synod and county of Aberdeen. The extreme breadth, (at least of the cultivated part) is not above a mile, generally not half a mile; its length about four. It lies on each side of a small brook, called Bucket, running from north-east to south-west, where it falls into Don, and is bounded by the parish of Strathdon on the east, south, and west. The parish of Cabfach lies to the north, from which it is separated by a hill of about four miles wide. Tradition reports that it once belonged to that parish; and the remains of the chapel, where it is likely public worship was performed, were not long ago to be seen. The soil is, for the most part, of a light loam, on some farms mixed with clay. The springs are in general backward, and vegetation advances very slowly at first: The summers are, however, warm, as the parish is encircled by hills, so that the harvests are by no means so late as might be expected. The crops are, oats, for the most part of an early kind, and Scotch bear. Artificial grasses are beginning,

beginning, and only beginning, to be sown, and the advantages of them to be known. As there are, however, hardly any inclosures, and every farmer, almost every cottager, keeps some sheep, they are with difficulty guarded in the winter. The turnips must indeed, in general, be taken up, as there is no preserving of them.

The people are sober, and very industrious. There are few that do not make their own ploughs and carts, and also their brogues or shoes.

The parish is the property of one heritor, (the Earl of Fife); and contains, by a very exact list taken last winter, (1795), 449 souls; 229 males, 220 females. The average of deaths, for eight years, is about 8. The population, according to Dr Webster's account, in 1755, was 430.

The names of places, almost without exception, are derived from the Gaelic, as *Badenyon*, which gives name to an excellent fong; and means, as is said, the *Bird's Bush*, or *Tbicket*.

There are no funds for the support of the poor but the weekly collections, which are small. Luckily there are seldom any that require constant supply. Six or seven receive a few shillings twice or thrice in the year.

As the parish is small, so the stipend is perhaps the smallest in Scotland. The kirk, manse, and offices, were all lately rebuilt.

The parish lies at a great distance from every market-town. Aberdeen, the post-town, is above 30 miles off. To it the people must carry whatever they have for sale, and from thence all their necessaries are procured. None but those who have felt it can imagine how inconvenient it is to be at such a distance from a post-office and market-town, when, for six or eight weeks, sometimes all communication is stopped.

NUMBER XXX.

PARISH OF YETHOLM,

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOT-
DALE, PRESBYTERY OF KELSO.)

Collected from Materials communicated by the Rev.
WILLIAM BLACKIE.

Extent.

THE parish of Yetholm, or Zetholm, has never had any other name, as far as is known, nor does it appear that a part of any other parish has been annexed to it. Where longest, which is nearly from north-west to south-east, its extent is between four miles and four and a half; the breadth generally about two miles; and the Bowmont water divides it into two parts, not quite equal, the largest being towards the north-west. On the south, and south-west, and west, it is bounded by the parish of Morbottle; on the north-west by the parish of Linton; and on all the other

quarters by the English border. It is hilly, but the hills are green. The Bowmont water has some pretty large haughs; and from the minister's manse to the north-west there is a piece of flat land along with these haughs, for the extent of about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile.—About straight west, where this parish marches with that of Morbottle, there is a loch of more than a mile in circumference, in which are both pike and perch, the flat land already spoken of reaching round Yetholm Law till you come quite to the loch.

Agriculture.—About 1170 English acres are actually under tillage, and though there be some wheat sown, yet the greatest part is laid out in raising barley and oats, and turnips. Even the small tenants, who have from 1 and 2 to 10 and 15 acres, from Mr Wauchope and the Marquis of Tweeddale, have their turnip quarter, for which, on account of their vicinity to Northumberland, they find a ready market, getting, when a good crop, some years L. 3, others L. 5, to be eaten upon the ground with sheep. Much more land could be made arable.

The sheep maintained in summer (not reckoning the lambs, which are about 2500, and of which 1160 are fold off whilst lambs) are about 4800. They are generally the largest of the Cheviot breed, and if a period of 10 years is taken, it will be found upon an average, that the best prices in this country have been got for wool growing in this parish. Last summer most of it was sold for L. 1, 11 s. *per* stone. It is the short clothing-wool, and they prefer the New England tar, mixed with butter, for salve. In making the salve for smearing, they take 40 pounds of butter, 24 ounces in the pound, to 6 Scots pints of tar, with which they smear 140 sheep. A good many years ago, a trial was made in a neighbouring parish, farther up the Bowmont water, of crossing with the Bakewell breed; but it

was

was found so far from being an improvement, that they sold them off as speedily as possible.

The number of black cattle, except cows for milk, are comparatively small. The number of farmers horses, both for work and riding, is 39; and of farmers and hinds or herds cows, is 50. For some time past only 12 oxen have been reared; 40 Highland cattle have been bought in and fed off. Among the small tenants, and inhabitants who have no land at all, are kept 76 horses. The number of their milk cows may be about 64, besides some of them bringing up young ones.

Common.—There is a common in this parish of about 200 acres in extent, of which 40 or 50 are thought improveable. There is very little wood, and the gentlemen seem not disposed to plant any, although there is abundance of land fit for no other use.

Population.—This parish has, I suppose, more than doubled its population in the course of this century, because many villages in the neighbouring parishes of Hounam, Morbottle, and Linton, have been totally razed since the memory of people now living, and many of the inhabitants have withdrawn into the towns of Yetholm and Kirk-Yetholm, two villages in which the greatest number of this parish dwell; the former belonging to Mr Wauchope, and situated upon the north-west side of the Bowmont water; the other belonging to the Marquis of Tweeddale, and on the south-east side of said water.

When the present incumbent was ordained in the year 1786, he, in the course of his parochial visitation, found the number of souls to be in Town-Yetholm 539, in Kirk-Yetholm 323, and in the rest of the parish 208, making in all 1070 souls. There were 491 males, and 579 females.

Upon

Upon taking a new survey of the number of inhabitants, reckoning none but those who reside at present (January 1797) in the parish, I found in Town-Yetholm 490 souls, in Kirk-Yetholm 305, and in the rest of the parish 181; in all 976. The population in 1755, by the return sent to Dr Webster, was 699.

The reason why the number of females exceeds that of the males must be, that for about 30 or 40 years past the country about being greatly depopulated, single women unfit for farmers service, or an old widow with a daughter or two, most of them equally unfit, took refuge in these villages, and earned their livelihood by spinning, perhaps some one of the family by hoeing turnips by the day, and hiring themselves in harvest; whilst the males hired themselves for herds, hinds, and farmers servants, and were in other parishes. This is not mere conjecture, for a great part of the paupers upon the list consist of such women, and I know of many more who still subsist by their own labour. Besides, some single women, or widows, after obtaining a settlement in other parishes, come to reside in these villages; because stout women, fit to be employed the whole season in every kind of out-work, are so scarce in proportion to the demand, that no farmer will let a cottage, but upon the condition of being furnished with a worker, for whom, even in the turnip-season, they pay 8 d. or 9 d. *per* day, without victuals. Those who were hired by the day in summer 1795 got 1 s. a-day; and men before harvest got 1 s. and 6 d. a-day, without victuals. During harvest many farmers in this parish gave for men 1 s. and 6 d. with victuals, and none gave below 1 s. and 4 d. For women 1 s. and 4 d. and none below 1 s. and 2 d. Some years ago 6 d. was reckoned equal to victuals for a day: 8 d. is now thought by some the proper allowance. Labourers prefer getting their victuals to an allowance in money.

In order to ascertain whether, in the natural course, the number of males be greater than the number of females, I picked out all those families which consisted mostly of children, and found the males more numerous than the females.

Occupations of the Inhabitants.

Tinkers and gypsies, all in Kirk-Yethelm, including women and children,	-	-	50
Weavers,	-	-	35
Smiths,	-	-	9
Wrights,	-	-	15
Shoemakers,	-	-	5
Coopers, one of them also a wheel-wright,	-	-	3
Day-labourers,	-	-	49
Ploughmen and hinds,	-	-	25
Shepherds,	-	-	16
Schoolmasters,	-	-	4
Millers,	-	-	10
Skinner,	-	-	1
Retailers of merchandise,	-	-	6
Tailors,	-	-	9
Masons,	-	-	9
Waukers and dyers,	-	-	4
Thatchers,	-	-	3
Gatherers of eggs, having no other occupation,	-	-	2
Bakers,	-	-	7
Gardeners,	-	-	7
Carriers, one a stated weekly carrier to Kelfo,	-	-	9
Surgeons, one given over bufiness,	-	-	2
Butchers,	-	-	2
Coblers,	-	-	3
Pedlar,	-	-	1
Fidler,	-	-	1
			Saddler,

Saddler,	-	-	-	1
Malster,	-	-	-	1
Cow dealer,	-	-	-	1

Rent.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 7049 : 13 : 4 Scots. The real rent is about L. 2104 Sterling. It may with propriety be said to be three times more than it was during the remembrance of some old people yet living.

Stipend.—Till lately the stipend was no more than 13½ bolls oat-meal, 14½ bolls barley, 5 bolls wheat, all in Teviotdale measure, and L. 38 : 17 : 9¼ in money, besides L. 1 : 13 : 4 for communion-elements. An augmentation was lately granted of 2 chalders of oat-meal, Linlithgow measure, and L. 2 : 6 : 8 for communion-elements. But after all, if one considers, on the one hand, the great and rapid advances of rents, and on the other, the abundance of free teind in the parish, and that the stipend was never augmented before, he may be justified in pronouncing it too small. Andrew Wauchope, Esq; of Niddrie is patron.

School.—The salary belonging to the parochial school is 100 merks Scots. The master is furnished with a good school-house and dwelling-house. There are two or three private schools, for the accommodation of the inhabitants. The number of scholars may be about 80.

Poor.—The number of poor upon the roll is usually about 30, who receive from 2 s. 6 d. to 8 d. *per week* each, as their necessities may require. Besides the stated poor, some needy families receive occasional supply. The funds for answering these purposes arise chiefly from assessments. They amounted from Whitsunday to Martinmas, in the year 1795, to the sum of L. 52, 19 s, Sterling. The collections

lections in the church, amounting to about L. 8 annually, are, at the desire of the heritors, mostly given to indigent persons not upon the roll, with a view to prevent them from becoming a burden on the public so soon as otherwise would be the case.

NUM.

NUMBER XXXI.

PARISH OF AULDEARN,

(COUNTY OF NAIRN, SYNOD OF MORAY, AND PRESBY-
TERY OF NAIRN).

By the Rev. MR JOHN PATERSON.

AULDEARN is said by Mr Shaw's history of Moray to be composed of two Gaelic words, importing the iron-coloured brook, from a sediment of that colour occasionally thrown out by the brook, which runs westward of the village. By other gentlemen skilled in that language, it is supposed to denote the brook covered with alders, from the abundance of the trees so denominated, which grew along the sides of it, and which still grow near it. It was formerly a place of much greater consideration than at present, and the seat of the Dean of Moray, who presided over ten canons, and in the bishop's absence presided in the chapters and in synods. From a grant of the "lands of Penie (Pethenach juxta Erin per suas rectas divisas)" in this parish to the Priory of Urquhart, by David I. its ancient name seems to have been simply Erin.

The

The church and manse are pleasantly situated on a rising ground, which commands an extensive prospect of the Moray Firth, and Bay of Cromarty, of part of five different shires, and a landscape of many thousand acres of cultivated lands. They are situated in the centre between Elgin and Inverness, 20 miles from each. On the north the parish extends four miles along the coast of the Moray Firth, 6 miles from south to north, and the same from east to west; bounded on the south by the hills of Ardlach, on the west by the parish of Calder, and on the east by Dykes and Edinkaillie. The south-east part of the parish is of a rich red mortar soil, of difficult cultivation, but producing luxuriant crops of barley, oats, and pease. The south-west division is of a mould darker, and not so fertile as the former, and in late seasons the corn is liable to much damage. Around the village of Auldearn the soil is light and dry, in showery seasons recompensing the labours of the husbandman; but in those of an opposite description is parched, and the crop deficient. The north part is of a cold and heavy loam, extremely difficult in wet weather to labour in winter. The east and west sides are of a similar mould, producing weighty crops of oats, but not so favourable for barley, although barley, in general, is the grain most congenial to the soil of the parish, and vies in excellence with any in the northern part of this island. In that quarter of the parish which is the property of Lord Cawdor, the ground is so encumbered with stones, that if his estate was cleared of them, it is computed it would rise one-fifth in value.

Climate.—The climate is mild and serene, at least in the lower and level parts of the parish. No diseases peculiar to the place are prevalent. Notwithstanding the immoderate use of spirituous liquors, the ravages which dropical and consumptive distempers have made elsewhere, are here hap-

pily unknown; very few have fallen a sacrifice to the small-pox, though the people are in general averse to inoculation, from the general gloominess of their faith, which teaches them, that all diseases which afflict the human frame are instances of the Divine interposition, for the punishment of sin; any interference, therefore, on their part, they deem an usurpation of the prerogative of the Almighty.

State of Property.—The valued rent of this parish, amounting to L. 7255, 7s. Scots, is divided among six heritors. Miss Brodie of Lethen has an elegant seat in the fourth part of the parish, situated in a hollow betwixt two hills, sheltered on the east, west, and south sides, by plantations of trees; among which the majestic size of some venerable beeches, with their luxuriant diffusion of boughs and branches, must attract the notice of every beholder.—North of the church, in a delightful plain, beautifully variegated with wood and water, lies the family-seat of the Dunbars of Boath. The garden and pleasure-grounds, with the several inclosures adjoining, are laid out with the utmost elegance of taste. The family of Boath have been proprietors of that estate upwards of 250 years.—Mr Gordon of Braid has a summer lodge at Kinsteary.

The valued rents of the several heritors, as stated in the cess-books, are as follow, viz.: Charles Gordon's, Esq; of Braid, consisting of Kinsteary Park, and Auldearn, L. 2322, 14s. 4d. Scots money. James Brodie's, Esq; of Brodie, estates of Inshoch, Lochloy, and Penich, L. 1599, 11s. Lord Cawdor's estates of Bogholl, Moyness, Earlseat, Blackhills, Laylands, and Raitlone, L. 1493 : 19 : 6. Miss Brodie of Lethen, L. 1100. Alexander Dunbar, Esq; of Boath, L. 652 : 15 : 9. Knockowdie, L. 96. The real rent considerably exceeds L. 3000 Sterling yearly.

Population.

Population.—In 1755 the population is said to have amounted to 1951 souls. This statement, however, is liable to the suspicion of exaggeration; for the last incumbent, in his unsuccessful application for an augmentation of stipend the preceding year, 1754, represented them as amounting to only 1600 souls. In an accurate list taken spring last year (1796), the parish was found to contain 1406 inhabitants; 661 males, and 745 females.

The total of those who follow the profession of agriculture is 127. Several mechanics and tradesmen possess small crofts, in order to augment the means of subsistence for themselves and families. Of day-labourers there are 43, 11 shoemakers, 7 smiths, 15 weavers, 8 taylor, 7 millers, 11 masons, and 9 square-wrights; and there are 3 inns, and 4 merchants, in the village of Auldearn, which contains 41 houses, and 185 inhabitants. There are about 97 seceders of the Antiburgher persuasion, who, in conjunction with some others, attached to that sect in the neighbouring parishes, contrive to support a clergyman of their own in Bog-holl, in the south-east corner of the parish, and confines of Edinkaillic.

This secession from the communion of the established religion began about 40 years since, and is now rather on the decline. All the rest belong to the establishment, and join with it, at least in religious ordinances, although their attachment to puritanical doctrines makes many of them wander miles to hear popular and applauded preachers.

Abstract of births and marriages for 12 years, preceding 1797:

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>
1785	- 12	19	31	13
1786	- 15	14	29	19
1787	- 12	9	21	10
1788	- 19	15	34	16
Carried over	58	57	115	58

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Marriages.
Brought over	58	57	115	58
1789 -	15	14	29	14
1790 -	13	20	33	15
1791 -	17	14	31	13
1792 -	10	13	23	10
1793 -	12	7	19	8
1794 -	9	16	25	8
1795 -	21	14	35	13
1796 -	21	15	36	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	176	170	346	148

Average of births nearly 29, of marriages $12\frac{1}{2}$.

Abstract of births and marriages for 5 years, previous to 1749:

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Marriages.
1744 -	28	26	54	16
1745 -	18	20	38	7
1746 -	18	23	41	7
1747 -	29	31	60	13
1748 -	23	36	59	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	116	136	252	49

Average of births $50\frac{2}{3}$, marriages $9\frac{1}{2}$.

By reason of the negligence of the session-clerk of that period, the list of baptisms for 5 years previous to 1755, which would have afforded the fairest point of comparison, has been very inaccurately kept. From the above view it appears, that the population has decreased considerably, owing, as in other places, to the enlargement of farms, and flocking of young men to manufacturing towns.

Advantages and Disadvantages of the Parish, and Miscellaneous Observations.—There are few natural woods of any

any extent, but one of birch on the estate of Inshock, the property of Mr Brodie of Brodie; and from this wood the neighbourhood are generally supplied with most of their implements of husbandry. Here likewise are some valuable firs, equal in quality to those of Glenmore, and which sell at a shilling a foot cubic. There are, however, large plantations of firs interspersed with laryx, and every species of hard wood known in Scotland reared on the estates of all the proprietors; but the most considerable on that of Mr Gordon of Braid. The exertions of this gentleman, in the improvement and embellishment of his estate, by planting of trees and hedges, draining of marshes, bursting of stones by gun-powder, and inclosing of his grounds, and thus furnishing constant employment to the industrious poor in this quarter, deserve much praise. The extent of ground covered by Mr Gordon's plantations, including the clumps and belts of his pleasure-ground, exceed 600 acres; and their thinnings have already been very serviceable for firing, and various other country purposes.—From the appearance of the dips and rises of the various strata of metals betwixt the house of Boath and the sea, it has appeared probable to some persons of sagacity and observation, that coal might be procured at an expence nowise inadequate to the object, by means of a fire-engine planted near the sea-shore. And on that property there is a quarry of dark-blue stone, which mounts like coal into a blaze by the operation of fire, but is not consumed thereby, nor dissolves in water like limestone.

An almost inexhaustible fund of marl may be found in Loch Lity, upon Lord Cawdor's estate, covering about 40 acres of surface, to the depth of from 16 to 20 feet; the lake might be drained by a small fire-engine of L. 60 or L. 70 value. Few of the parishioners have made application to Lord Cawdor in order to avail themselves of this valuable manure. The most considerable moss belongs to Mr Brodie

of

of Brodie. Some other proprietors pretend to have fervitudes on it, though with the origin of their claims the present writer is unacquainted. The tenants are occupied during the greater part of the summer in digging, preparing, and bringing home their peats. If there was regular supplies of coals brought to Nairn, this labour might in a good measure be superseded, and the attention of the husbandman might, to much better purpose, be directed to his proper employment during that season. Large planks of fir are contained in the bottom of this moss, which serve for couples and lath to houses. Trees have been found 60 feet long, and 3 feet square. On the coast, on the north part of the parish, lies an inconsiderable lake called Loch Loy, of a mile in length, and a quarter broad, rather below the level of the sea. It has formerly undoubtedly been much larger than its present extent, but gradually contracted by the blowing of the sands in its neighbourhood, in which are two of those hills of fluctuating sand described more at large in the account of Dyke.

These hills have shifted eastward within these 20 years 500 yards, still preserving their magnitude and relative distance. The largest of these hills is about 100 yards perpendicular.—There are three markets held annually in this village; one upon the 21st June, called St Colm's market, in honour, it is supposed, of St Columba, the founder of the monastery of Iona.

The State of Agriculture.—The inhabitants are tenacious of antiquated practices, and admit of the improvements of enlightened experience by slow degrees. The mode is not materially altered from that in use 30 years since. When the corns are got clear off the ground, they begin to give a rib-furrow across the field intended for barley or pease; when that is over, if the season prove favourable, they give a
clean

clean furrow to their last year's barley-ground, for oats, which are begun to be sown the 28th of March, and finished the 5th of April; then they begin to spread their dung, and give a clean furrow to their barley-ground; a third furrow precedes the sowing of the barley; begun the 8th May, and finished towards the conclusion of that month.

The harvest, in indulgent seasons, begins 10th September, and ends about the last days of October. The common mode of preparing their dung for barley, is one half dung, and the other half mortar, but more frequently sand.

The better sort of tenants have ploughs of the English construction, drawn by a couple of horses; others are the old Scots plough, drawn by 6 or 8 oxen, where the ground is stony and of hard culture. The former makes use of box-carts, and the latter of kellocks, for conveying the compost which they use for manure. The kellock is of a conical figure, constructed of twigs of broom or juniper, interwoven in the manner of baskets; the fabrication of which furnishes employment to some of the labouring poor. It is suspended by two shafts, in which a single horse is placed, and set on a clumsy two-wheeled carriage. The kellock is in value 1 s. and slider and wheels 4 s. The common rotation of crops after breaking up the grass-field is, 1st, Two of oats, in succession; 2d, Barley; 3d, Oats; 4th, Pease; and thereafter barley, with clover-seeds, both white and red. All kinds of clover are sown here, though but lately introduced; they are used here even only by the more opulent, little hay being raised by the poorest sort. The labouring cattle are weak and starving in the spring, for want of fodder, and are fed on straw. They are thus often under the necessity of sending their cattle to the Highlands in summer, whence they return in as wretched a condition as they are sent. Potatoes, forming the subsistence of the people one-third of the year, are planted by every rank;

rank ; by the more substantial they are drilled, by the poorer they are planted in every furrow. The latter, though not so productive as the other, yet are esteemed better food. The ordinary return of an acre of drilled potatoes is about 16 bolls, but that of the other sort is not so abundant. The barley of this parish is in high demand among distillers, and weighs between 17 and 19 stone, Amsterdam weight. Above 2000 bolls of barley, and an equal quantity of oats, besides what is necessary for the maintenance of the inhabitants, are annually exported. No pease are raised but for home consumption, and little wheat, till last year, that, alured by the high prices of that grain, some farmers have begun to direct their attention to its cultivation, and, it is hoped, will find their account in it. The best cultivated fields let from 25 s. to 36 s. *per* acre ; but in the hilly parts rarely above 15 s. The most extensive farmers rent from L. 60 to L. 80 Sterling ; the smallest from L. 10 to L. 26. Sterling. None of the proprietors have inclosed any of their grounds, nor give encouragement to their tenants to do so, although most of them would give chearfully an advance of rent to have them inclosed, as their neighbours feed their cattle promiscuously from the end of harvest to the first of April, which prevents improving tenants from raising turnips, wheat, or fown-grafs to advantage.

The horses in this parish, about 370 in number, are of a small size, from L. 6 to L. 10 a-piece in value ; those possessed by the more opulent from L. 10 to L. 20 Sterling. The black cattle, in number 910, are of a mixed breed ; Lancashire, Dutch, Fifeshire, and Highland ; though the last mentioned species surpasses the others in number. The smallest will weigh from 50 to 60 lb. *per* quarter, 17½ oz. Amsterdam weight : The middling size from 70 to 80 lb. the quarter : The largest size from 100 to 140 lb. the quarter. The sheep, about 1200, are of the small white-faced kind ;

the

the ewes weighing from 6 to 10 lb. *per* quarter, and the wethers from 8 to 12 lb. *per* quarter. Their wool is esteemed, and reckoned preferable to that of the large black-faced.

No manufacture, flax-mill, or bleachfield, have yet been established here, though the parish is supposed to be possessed of singular advantages for them all, and likewise for some branch of thread or stocking manufactory.

The stipend, by decret 1755, was fixed to be 6 chalders of victual, half barley, half oat-meal, 400 merks Scots, with L. 60 Scots for communion-money, 14 wethers, and 11 shillings feu-duty for the Dean's Crook near Elgin. But by an interlocutor of the Court of Teinds, 24th February 1796, the minister's stipend is augmented L. 21 Sterling annually; and the meal altered from 48 bolls of the measure used and wont, to 54 bolls, at 8 stone *per* boll.

The church was built in the year 1757, and is still in good repair; the manse was built in 1751, was refitted last summer, and is now well finished, at the expence of above L. 200 Sterling.

The schoolmaster's salary is 16 bolls barley. The school-house is decent; about 30 scholars attend, who are initiated in the elements of Latin, English, writing, and arithmetic; his fee as session-clerk is variable, arising from the fines of delinquents. The funds for the support of the poor arise from the weekly collection and mortcloth-money, amounting to the small sum of between L. 8 and L. 9 Sterling yearly, with the interest of L. 94 Sterling, accumulated by the attention of the late incumbent. The number of poor on the roll are 56. Mr Brodie of Brodie is patron of this parish.

The inhabitants are sufficiently turned to the devout virtues; but their zeal not being of that sort which is founded in knowledge, and which adds strength and stability to vir-

tue, is conceived by them to imply such a degree of merit as to emancipate them in some measure from the restraints of morality. There are not wanting instances of petty thefts, yet they have never been disgraced by any crime of so flagrant a nature as to subject them to a trial before a criminal court; and their faults are in general the offspring of ignorance and illiberal prejudice, rather than of a corrupted heart.

There are vestiges of two Druidical temples, but not so entire as to merit particular description. Hard by the church is a green mount, in form almost perfectly circular, commonly called Castle Hill, which has all the appearance of artificial formation, and was probably one of those places which antiquarians conjecture to have been destined for the purpose of holding assizes.

NUM.

NUMBER XXXII.

PARISH OF KILLEAN AND KILCHENZIE,

(COUNTY OF ARGYLE, SYNOD OF ARGYLE, AND PRESBY-
TERY OF KINTYRE.)

By the Rev. ALEXANDER STUART.

Situation.

THIS parish (which consisted of two parishes till after the Reformation) derives its name from its two patron saints, John and Kenneth, with Kill (*Gella*) prefixed. It is situated in the presbytery of Kintyre, and county of Argyle. It is bounded on the south by the parish of Campbelltown, on the north by the parish of Kilcalmonell, on the east by the united parishes of Saddle and Skipness, and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean. Its length, by the measurement of the road, is 18 miles; and its breadth about 4.

Soil, &c.—The soil along the coast is in general sharp and sandy, but yields good crops of bear, potatoes, and oats, from the abundant application of sea-ware, driven in by the storms, and collected by the farmers for manure. The arable soil upon the higher grounds is generally a thin coat of peat earth, on a till bottom. In the mountain there is very little of green pasture, being mostly covered with heath.

Climate.—

Climate.—This parish, as it faces the Atlantic Ocean, is much exposed to the westerly winds, and the rains which generally accompany them. The climate may be said to be moist, or even wet, but not very cold, on account of the vicinity of the sea.—The people are generally healthy, and subject to few diseases. The prejudice against inoculation for the small-pox is now done away; and that disease, formerly so fatal to children, very seldom proves mortal; of 100 children inoculated last year not one died.

Antiquities.—The antiquities of the parish consist of a number of Danish forts, some rude obelisks, and the remains of one vitrified tower. One of the obelisks (which stands on an eminence, to which it must have been carried from some considerable distance) measures 16 feet above ground, and is 4 feet broad, by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick; a curious monument of the knowledge which our forefathers must have had of the mechanic powers.

Church, Stipend, &c.—Extensive as this parish still is, it was much more so before the late incumbent, Mr Robert Thomson, after much trouble and expence, got a part of it disjoined, and formed into a new erection, together with a part of the neighbouring parish of Kilcalmonell. In this laudable undertaking his merit was the greater, as his living at the time was only L. 50 a-year, with which he had to support and educate a numerous family. But he was a man who made little account of his private interest when engaged in any scheme for the public good. He afterwards got his living augmented to what is at present enjoyed by the writer of this, namely, 6 chalders of bear, Kintyre measure, and L. 18, 10 s. Sterling money, together with a glebe, and L. 12, 10 s. in lieu of manse. The Duke of Argyle is patron of the parish.

Schools.—

Schools.—There are 4 schools in the parish; 1 of them is supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and one by the Royal Bounty; the other 2 by the heritors.

Statistical Table.

Number of families,	425	Number of sheep,	4926
male children,	525	ploughs,	174
female children,	469	harrows,	556
servants,	272	carts,	292
male servants,	151	blacksmiths,	10
female ditto,	121	house-carpenters,	5
under 10 years of age	550	boat-builders,	2
from 10 to 20	372	millers,	6
from 20 to 50,	723	wheel-wrights,	5
from 50 to 70,	235	masons,	3
from 70 to 100,	32	weavers,	38
of widowers,	24	tailors	19
widows,	88	shoemakers,	17
Total number of souls,	1911	distillers,	3
Population in 1755,	2398	shopkeepers,	4
Decrease,	480	clergyman,	1
Rent of the parish,	L. 3705	schoolmasters,	4
Valued rent,	L. 453 : 13 : 1	sewing-mistresses,	2
Number of tenants,	174	day-labourers,	14
Cottars, including herds,	211	gardener,	1
Bolls of oats sown yearly,	2131	ferryman to Gigha,	1
bar,	302	fiddlers,	3
beans,	38	pipers,	2
pease,	19	blind,	6
potatoes,	431	lame,	17
flax-feed,	16	boats,	40
Number of black cattle,	3085	innkeepers,	7
horses,	743	tuck-miller and dyer,	1

Poor.—Number of paupers on the parish roll 22. Amount of annual distribution to them L. 25. This sum is wholly collected from the offerings of the tenants, tradesmen, servants, and cottagers; for of 8 heritors, among whom the property of the parish is divided, none resides in it at present.

The number of marriages, for 8 years past, is, at an average, $24\frac{1}{2}$; and of baptisms, $77\frac{1}{2}$ for each year.

Agriculture.—

Agriculture.—As there are but few inclosures in the parish, agricultural improvements are not greatly advanced in it. From the attention, however, which some of the heritors have of late given to these matters, there is reason to believe that the face of the country will soon put on a better appearance. The Duke of Argyle makes it a covenant in the leases which he gives his tenants, that they shall drain and inclose to a certain extent specified; and his Grace employs a skilful improver to superintend the operations.

The average returns throughout the parish is supposed to be, from oats $3\frac{1}{2}$; from bear about 6; from potatoes from 12 to 15; potatoes are almost the only green crop cultivated by the farmers. The quantity of beans and peas which is sown is not considerable; but there is reason to believe, as they answer well, that the cultivation of them will be more attended to in a very short time. The farmers are also beginning to find the advantage of having some clover and rye-grass, and the cultivation of these articles will probably, in a few years, be very considerable. A few have raised turnips, and no doubt many would do so if the lands were inclosed. The greatest defect in our farming, is the want of a proper intermixture of green with white crops. The farmers, and indeed the people in general, are active, industrious, and well behaved. No doubt their labour will turn soon to more account, as better implements of husbandry are now introduced among them. Many, instead of the old Scotch plough and 4 horses, use now Small's light plough and only 2 horses, and a few have laid aside the driver. More attention is also paid to the breed of horses and black cattle. There is only one considerable sheep-stock in the parish, in a mountainous farm. All the farmers have a few for their own use; these are of the old small white-faced kind, which have more delicate flesh and

and finer wool, and are not so subject to diseases as the Galloway breed.

Wages of Servants.—The wages of servants are constantly advancing. At present a servant man gets from L. 8 to L. 10 a-year, and a servant maid L. 3, besides a variety of articles under the name of bounty; a day-labourer gets 1 s. a-day and his victuals; a tailor 10 d.; a shoemaker 8 d. for the making of a pair of shoes; a carpenter 1 s. 6 d. together, all, with their victuals. Blacksmiths are paid by so much corn from the merk-land; a practice troublesome to them and the tenants both, and which ought to be laid aside, and money substituted in its place. The same observation will apply to the schoolmaster on the parochial establishment.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The advantages of the parish are, a good road, its vicinity to the sea, and to a market at Campbelltown, with abundance of natural manure from sea-ware and lime-stone.—Its greatest disadvantages are, want of timber, and scarcity of fuel in many farms, on which the peat-mosses are now exhausted.

Notes

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records. It emphasizes that without proper documentation, it is difficult to track progress and identify areas for improvement. The text suggests that regular updates and clear communication are essential for success.

2. The second part of the document focuses on the role of leadership. It states that effective leaders inspire their teams and provide clear direction. The text highlights the importance of listening to feedback and being open to change. It concludes that leadership is a skill that can be developed through practice and experience.

APPENDIX.

Communications by Alexander Carnegie, Esq; Town-Clerk of Aberdeen, regarding the Statistical Circumstances of that City. See No. IV.

THE city of Aberdeen, is one of the most ancient, and is endowed with some of the greatest privileges and immunities, of any of the royal boroughs in Scotland.

All historical accounts agree, that it was originally erected into a royal burgh, towards the end of the ninth century, by King Gregory of Scotland, surnamed the Great.

But the original charter of erection, and all the more ancient title-deeds and records of the burgh, were, along with the town itself, burnt and destroyed by the English, as after noticed.

A very few charters and other grants, however, have been saved; the oldest of which is a charter by King William the Lyon, in favour of the burgeses of Aberdeen and others be-north the Month, granted at Perth, but without any date or year, though it must have been towards the end of the twelfth century, as that King only began to reign in 1165.

There are other two charters granted by the same King William, to the burgeses of Aberdeen, of the toll of their chattles through the whole kingdom; both of them dated at Aberdeen, the 28th of August, without mentioning either the year of God or King's reign, although, from the writing and seals, they appear to be of a later date than the

former one, and have probably been granted during King William's residence here, as he certainly built a palace, and remained some time with his Court at Aberdeen.

The palace stood upon the site of the present Trinity Church and Trades Hospital, in the Shiprow; and upon King William's leaving this country, he founded, in the same place, a monastery for the Trinity or Red Friars, which was burnt down and destroyed along with the town. It was afterwards rebuilt about the year 1633, by Dr William Guild, minister in Aberdeen, who bequeathed and left it for an hospital to decayed tradesmen, besides some other subjects for burfaries at the Marischall College, under the patronage of the Convener Court.

In 1306-7, according to Hector Boece, the citizens of Aberdeen, who had always steadily adhered to and supported Robert Bruce's interest, being rendered desperate by the cruel and oppressive usage of a strong English garrison, kept in the castle there by Edward I. they, along with a number of others, adherents to Bruce's interest, surprised and stormed that garrison, and put them to the sword, at same time laid the castle in ruins, in order to prevent the English from returning.

A party of the English, who happened to be in the neighbourhood, came immediately to revenge the disaster which had befallen their countrymen; but they were met and engaged by the Aberdonians and their associates, in the church-yard of St Nicholas, where the English were totally defeated with great slaughter. Although Boece does not specify the particular year when these defeats of the English happened at Aberdeen, yet, from its connection with the subjects of the context, where it is introduced in the life of Bishop Henry Cheyne, it appears to have been at or near the above period, and he thus relates them: "Eo
 " prope tempore Brusiani, Aberdonensem arcem quam
 " aliquot

“ aliquot annos maximo cum Scotorum incommodo Angli
“ tenerant, Aberdonensibus plurimum suppetiarum affe-
“ rentibus, expugnatam, vi capiunt, cæsis iis qui ejus custo-
“ diæ fuerant destinati; ac paulo post, ne Anglis ullum
“ Aberdoniæ superesset refugium, omni supellectili exhaus-
“ tam, solo æquarunt. Angli amissæ arcis, cæforumque
“ contrubilium, tristi nuncio affecti, coactis copiis, Aberdo-
“ niam movent, animo acceptam injuriam ulciscendi. Id
“ ubi Aberdoniæ nunciatum, Brusiani simul cum civibus
“ illico, oppido, egressi sunt, cum hostibus dimicaturi. Jo-
“ annes Frisarius Brusiani exercitus, qui tum Aberdoniæ
“ fuerat, dux, suis ita animum accendit ad pugnam, ut non
“ tam ad certamen, quam ad certam victoriam, progredi vi-
“ derentur. Inita pugna, acerrimi certatum. Victoria
“ tandem (sed cruenta) Scotis cessit, Anglorumque plurimi
“ eo prælio cæsi, pauci vivi capti, rari fugere, adeo acriter
“ in pugna perdurarunt. Placuit victoribus quos captos
“ habebant, ad terrorem extra oppidum furca suspendere;
“ sed vetuere Canonici, atque ut cæforum corpora ad porti-
“ cam Templi Divi Nicolai terra conderentur, apud Frise-
“ rium atque Appuli præfectum obtinuerant, ubi eorum ossa,
“ cum titulis, in rei monumentum, adhuc cernuntur.”

In 1398, Robert Bruce, after being defeated in different engagements, came to Aberdeen, at which time he was so exceedingly sick, that he began almost to despair of the recovery of his health, as well as of his kingdom; but being encouraged, and offered assistance, both in men and money, by the Citizens of Aberdeen, and joined by a considerable number of them, he went northward in search of the English army, commanded by John Cuming Earl of Buchan, and Moubray, an English General, whom he came up with, and engaged, upon the 22d of May in that year, near to the town of Inverury, where a most bloody battle ensued; and although Bruce was then so weak, that he was obliged to be supported

supported on horseback during the engagement, yet he totally routed the English with great slaughter. He soon afterwards recovered his health; and his national affairs every day wore a more favourable aspect, this being the first victory which he had obtained.

The first charter now extant in favour of the burgh itself, is granted by King Robert Bruce, in 1320, which contains also a gift and conveyance to the community of the Royal Forest of Stocket. Besides which, he, by several other charters, granted various farther privileges and immunities to the burgh and citizens of Aberdeen, several of which are likewise still extant from the 1314 downward to 1329.

In 1333, Edward III. of England having sent a fleet of ships to ravage the east coast of Scotland, a body of English landed, and, by surprise, attacked the town of Aberdeen in the night-time, killed a great number of the inhabitants, and burnt and destroyed the town for six days together, in revenge of the several defeats which their countrymen had there received. And Boece, in his History of the Lives of the Bishops of Aberdeen, thus relates that direful catastrophe which befel the town, viz.—“ Per id tempus triginta naves
 “ Anglicanæ, in statione portui Aberdonensi proxima noctu
 “ jecere anchoras, unde expositæ copiæ in terram penè Aber-
 “ donium prius sunt ingressæ, quam cives eas advenisse sen-
 “ ferunt. Sequutus pavor ingens, terrorque omnium; ut,
 “ hominum, mulierum, atque puerorum fugientium turmus,
 “ passim viæ complerentur. Angli accepta clade (cujus
 “ ante meminimus) apud Aberdoniam ira perciti, com-
 “ plures Aberdonensium trucidant; urbem, simulatque
 “ Pontificis et Canonicorum ædes, omni supellectili popula-
 “ tus incendunt. Arsit Aberdonia sex dies, lugubre intuen-
 “ tibus spectaculum. Pepercere hostes templis, pietate
 “ moti, religiosorum quoque Abbatys, custodibus adhibitis,
 “ ne

“ ne torribus faculifve vento per aëra actis, qui tum forte
“ vehemens erat admodum, quid damni paterentur. Fuit
“ annus quo Aberdonia funestam hanc cladem accepit, a
“ Christo incarnato tertius supra millesimum tercentesimum
“ tricesimum.”

Also, in 1336, Edward III. invaded Scotland, and marched with an army as far northward as Inverness, during which time the citizens of Aberdeen went out and attacked a party of English forces, who had landed at Dunnottar, and killed their General. In revenge of which, Edward, upon his return from Inverness, made a violent attack upon the town of Aberdeen, put the greatest part of the inhabitants to the sword, and again burnt and destroyed the town. At which time, as well as the 1333, all the more ancient charters and records belonging to the community, (a few excepted) were lost. Some years afterwards, the town was rebuilt of new, and considerably enlarged, particularly toward the hills, upon which the principal part of it now stands, viz. the Woolman-hill, St Catharine's-hill, the Port-hill, and Castle-hill, (the old town having lain along the Green and Shiprow, &c. eastwards), and in this the citizens were greatly assisted by King David Bruce, for their steady loyalty and attachment both to himself and his father; and the same King David resided for some time at Aberdeen, where he erected a mint, as appears from some pieces of money coined there; and the whole town, after being rebuilt as above, was afterwards called the *New Town of Aberdeen*, in contra-distinction to the Old, which had been burnt down. Boece, who likewise gives an account of the last, as well as the former burning of the town, thus relates the second, viz. “ King Edward, dradand to tyne all the strength of
“ Scotland, came with XLM men to the relief of the Castle
“ of Lochendors, and after he had stuffed it with provisions,
“ he

“ he came with bloody sword through Murray ; and on his
 “ returning to Mar, he burnt the town of Aberdeen.”

In 1411, Donald, the Chief of the Isles, with an army of his countrymen, having made an attack, and seized upon Rofs and Murray, proceeded southwards as far as Strath-bogie, and threatened to invade Aberdeen ; the citizens, to a considerable number, along with Robert Davidson, their then Provost, being joined by the Earl of Marr, and many of the nobility and gentry of Angus, Mearns, and Aberdeenshire, went northward in search of Donald and his forces, and came up with them at a small village called Harlaw, about sixteen English miles from Aberdeen, where there ensued a most desperate and bloody battle, which continued with great fury until night separated them ; and each party claimed the victory. Many were slain in this battle on both sides, particularly Provost Davidson, and a considerable number of the principal citizens of Aberdeen.

In September 1644, during the time of the civil wars, the Marquis of Montrose, with an army of about 2000 men, having approached the town of Aberdeen, and summoned it to surrender to him, the Magistrates, after advising with Lord Burleigh, who then commanded in the town a force nearly equal in number to the assailants, refused to give up the town, upon which a battle ensued within half an English mile of the town, at a place called the Crabstone, near the Justice-mills, where Montrose prevailed, and many of the principal citizens were killed.

The city of Aberdeen has received various grants from fourteen different Sovereigns of Scotland, from King William the Lyon, downward to King James VI. inclusive, all extant in the town's chartulary. And in 1638, the whole of these preceding grants and charters were, by a charter from King Charles I. not only ratified and confirmed, but also the burgh was of new erected. And by the same charter,

charter, the Provost and Bailies are created and constituted Sheriffs, Coroners, and Justices of the Peace, within the burgh, and whole bounds of the freedom-lands. The Provost being named Sheriff and Coroner-principal, and the four Bailies, Sheriffs and Coroners-depute; which several offices of Sheriffs and Justices of the Peace, the Magistrates of Aberdeen have been in the constant practice of exercising to the present day, in all causes coming before them in these capacities, and of holding quarter-sessions for the burgh, in the same manner as the Justices of the county. The Magistrates have farther granted to them, by said charter, the same powers, jurisdiction, and authority within the port, harbour, and flood-mark of Aberdeen, and whole bounds thereof, as well as within the rivers of Dee and Don, to the two bridges, as they have within the burgh itself and liberties, and have always exercised that jurisdiction and authority accordingly.

The Town-council and Dean of Guild of Aberdeen have likewise, by the same charter from King Charles I. full power and authority committed to them, of visiting, examining, and trying all weights and measures used in buying and selling, not only in the town, but also through the whole county of Aberdeen, which they have in like manner been in the practice of exercising; and of holding circuit and itinerant courts for that purpose, in the different principal country towns, where any kind of trade or merchandise is carried on.

The foresaid charter and confirmation by King Charles I. with the whole other writs and title-deeds therein confirmed, and rights and privileges thereby granted to the burgh, were afterwards solemnly ratified by different acts of the Parliament of Scotland, particularly by two acts, in 1641, and 1681.

From

From the 1336, when the town was last burnt, to the 1398, there does not appear to have been any regular public records kept; but from the last mentioned period to the present time, (except for about twelve years in the beginning of the fifteenth century), there is a regular and uninterrupted series of records of the acts and procedure, both of the Town-Council and Bailie-courts, all in good order and condition, consisting of above seventy volumes, remaining in the town's chartulary, containing, in whole, a period of near 400 years.

The burgh of Aberdeen comprehends but one parish, called St Nicholas, which has no landward or country bounds, but is limited to the burgh itself, which does not extend above two English miles in circumference, and is surrounded on all sides by the parish of Old Machar, except towards the east. The Magistrates, however, by the above charters and acts of Parliament, enjoy and exercise the same powers and jurisdiction as they have within the burgh or royalty, over a large tract of land in the neighbourhood of the town, consisting of what is called the liberties or freedom, which will extend in circuit from twelve to fourteen English miles.

Before the Reformation, there were several chapels within the burgh and royalty annexed to, and dependent upon, the parish-church, particularly St Mary's Chapel, under the East Church, where the Highland Congregation now meets for worship; St Catherine's Chapel, which stood upon the hill of that name; St Ninian's Chapel, at the Castlehill, part of which still remains; and St Clement's Chapel at Footdee, which has been lately rebuilt, and is still occupied as a place of worship, under the patronage of the Council.

There was another chapel, called St John's, situated within the royalty of the burgh, although without the bounds of the parish of St Nicholas, upon that croft of
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land, called St John's Croft, where the Chapel of Ease to the parish of Old Machar now stands. The Magistrates and Council appear to have purchased the patronage of St John's, on account of its vicinity to the town, and situation within the royalty. There were likewise monasteries of several different orders of Friars established in Aberdeen, beside the Trinity or Red Friars already mentioned, viz. the Black Friars in the Schoolhill, where Gordon's Hospital and the Grammar-school now stand; the Carmelite or White Friars, along the south side of the Green; and the Grey Friars, in the Broadgate, where the Marischal College and Church are now situated.

The number of Advocates, or Lawyers, in Aberdeen, under the incorporation charter, will be seen from the Aberdeen Almanack; although five or six do not practise before the Courts, and some others are removed from town.

Erection of the New Pier, and the great Advantages arising from it.—The New Pier lately erected on the north side of the entry of the harbour of Aberdeen, and at the mouth of the river Dee, extending to 1200 feet in length along the side of that river, and a considerable way into the sea, was begun to be built in June 1775, and was finished in October 1780, according to a plan furnished by John Smeaton, Esq; engineer; the expence whereof, and of the additions which have been made to it, by his advice and directions, since it was built, particularly a jettie or catch pier, for sheltering the shipping within the harbour from the violent inrun of the sea in easterly storms, has amounted to about L. 18,000 Sterling. This expence has been defrayed, partly by some small funds formerly belonging to the harbour, but chiefly will be paid by the doubling of the shore and harbour dues upon the trade and shipping of

the place, in consequence of an act of Parliament obtained for that purpose, but without any public aid or contribution whatever.

By the erection of this pier, the navigation channel at the entry of the harbour has been deepened and improved to a degree much beyond any thing that was previously expected, although it be 200 feet shorter than Mr Smeaton's original plan, which was in whole 1400 feet in length. Before erection of the North Pier, the harbour-mouth was always very much interrupted, and sometimes almost entirely shut up by a bar, or large bank of shifting sand, upon which, at low water, there was sometimes not above 18 inches or 2 feet in deepness; and at high water, even in spring-tides, not above 13 feet; and as this bar was frequently shifting and varying its situation, according as it was acted upon by the storms of the sea or the floods of the river, few shipping were in safety to take the harbour until first it was sounded by a pilot, and the situation of the bar, as well as the deepness of water, ascertained; whereas, since the North Pier was built, small vessels, drawing 7 or 8 feet, have come into the harbour at low-water; and at high-water, on spring-tides, there is now from 18 to 20 feet in deepness at the entry, as the former bar, or bank of sand, is now, by the confinement of the river, and the increased velocity of the current, carried out into the sea at least a quarter of a mile farther than it formerly was; so that we now see vessels of considerable burden, in the violence of a storm blowing right upon the land, making for and sailing into the harbour with safety, even without the assistance of any pilot, which no ship could have before attempted, without the greatest danger of being wrecked on the bar, or some part of the adjacent coast.

The Battery, &c.—The batteries erected by the town in 1781 and 1782, for defence of the harbour and shipping, have cost about L. 1200; and they have mounted upon them ten new iron cannon, twelve pounders. The town have likewise two brass field-pieces, three pounders, with a proportionable quantity of shot, ammunition and laboratory stores. They have also 400 stand of small arms, or muskets, deposited in the town's armory, and kept always in excellent order by a tradesman, who has a yearly salary for that purpose.

Of the Municipal Form of Government, or Set of the Burgh.—With respect to the present municipal constitution and form of government of the burgh of Aberdeen, which has now subsisted, and been invariably observed, for no less than two centuries downward to this day, it is founded chiefly upon the acts of Parliament 1469 and 1474, by which “All officers and Members of the Councils of Burghs are appointed to be annually elected: That the Auld Council of the town shall chuse the New in sic number as accords to it: And that the New and Auld Councils together shall chuse all the said officers: That the craft shall chuse a person of their number, that shall also have a vote in the election of these officers: And that four worthy persons of the Auld Council for the year before shall be chosen yearly to sit with the New Council.”

It appears, however, that these acts of Parliament were not in any part observed by the Town-Council of Aberdeen for above 120 years after they were passed. On the contrary, they persisted in following what they called the ancient form of government, and auld consuetude of the burgh, by which it appears, that the number of the members of Council often fluctuated and varied very much, from 20 to 36; and that, when once they were elected or assumed,

ed, they were in general continued during their life, or so long as they did not differ with the persons who had assumed them: And that the five first Magistrates, or officers of the burgh, viz. the Provost (for many years styled Alderman) and the four Bailies, were alone elected annually at head-courts of the citizens, called *Curie Capitales*, although sometimes without mentioning by whom the election even of these officers was made, but for the most part expressed to be, *Cum communi omnium burghensium consensu, assensu, et voto*; which election, however, was certainly equally illegal, and against the direction of the acts of Parliament, as the continuing the members for life.

This ancient custom was at last, in 1590, openly challenged and complained upon as arbitrary and illegal, by a Mr John Cheyne, then a member of Council, who insisted that they should make an annual election, in terms of these statutes, which they not only refused to comply with, but expelled Mr Cheyne from the Council, as a person unfit and improper to be of their number.

He was, however, soon joined by a Mr Ewen, and many other burghesses of equally patriotic principles, who raised a prosecution against the Magistrates and Council before the Courts of Session and Exchequer, with concurrence of his Majesty's Advocate, for obliging them to comply with the terms of the foresaid statutes. The consequence whereof was, that the Council at last, in October 1591, (after lamenting the fall of what they declared to be the auld consuetude and ancient form of government of the burgh) agreed to follow the directions of said statutes, and accordingly made an election in the terms thereof for the following year, ending at Michaelmas 1592.

It appears, however, that Mr Cheyne, and his associates, did not get into power upon the new constitution, which they had the merit to produce; and that, at the ensuing
Michaelmas

Michaelmas election, they assembled in arms in different parts of the town, on purpose to overawe the proceedings of the Council. For composing of which violent animosities, a conference ensued between a certain number of the Council and the leaders of the citizens. The result whereof happily produced a submission by the several parties concerned, of all the matters in dispute betwixt them, to his Majesty King James VI. as overman, and twelve others as arbitrators: Who, by a decret-arbitral, of date the 7th of December 1592, subscribed by them and the parties themselves, in testimony of their approbation, fixed and appointed the Magistrates and Council for that year, ending at Michaelmas 1593, by name, consisting of nineteen persons, viz. seventeen guild-brethren and two craftsmen: And decerned and appointed that the acts of Parliament concerning the election of Magistrates, Council, and Officers within burgh, should be precisely observed in all time thereafter.

This decret-arbitral was, in a few days after its date, read, and unanimously ratified by the whole burgeses and citizens of the town, convened together for the purpose, who, at same time, solemnly swore to obtemper and obey the said decret thereafter in all points. And which, with another decret-arbitral, pronounced by the Commissioners of Boroughs in July 1596, finding the craftsmen entitled to ten votes in the annual election of the Magistrates, Dean of Guild, and Treasurer, form together what is now called the set, or municipal constitution of this burgh, which has been uniformly observed as an invariable rule and standard in the annual election of the Magistrates and Council to this day.

By it, the constituent members of the Town-Council consist of nineteen in number, seventeen whereof are guild-brethren, and two of them deacons of crafts: Four of the Merchant-Councillors only are continued by election for another

another year, and the remaining fifteen members are annually changed and go out : And all of them are yearly elected, without any preference or discrimination, from a roll or list of the whole burgeses of guild in town, and of the six deacons of trades, previously made up for the purpose, from which the leets of the new Council are taken, and determined always according to the majority of votes of the Council upon the day of the annual election, which is held upon the Wednesday preceding Michaelmas day.

After election of the nineteen members of the new Council, the Magistrates, and other office-bearers for the ensuing year, are elected the same day out of the seventeen Merchant-Counsellors, by the majority of votes of the new and old Councils together, and six deacons of crafts, consisting of forty persons in whole, viz. thirty guild-brethren and ten craftsmen; and in case of an equality of votes in any of the steps of election, the Provost, or senior Magistrate present, has a decisive or casting vote, beside his own individual and proper voice.

In case of any of the thirty guild-brethren or ten tradesmen being absent from the election, the Town-Council and the Craftsmen are respectfully authorised by the set, to elect any other qualified persons of the class, to supply the place of and vote for such absents. Upon the whole, it is believed, from a comparative examination, that the present municipal constitution, or set of this burgh, will be found not only to be a perfect contrast to its own more arbitrary and ancient system of government, but also to be much more liberal and free than most of the other royal boroughs of Scotland. Because, in many of them, some of the members of Council, and even Magistrates, do still continue in office during life, or so long as they agree with the party in power. And in others, several of the members of Council are entitled to keep their seats without election for a second year,

year, in consequence of their having enjoyed certain offices for the preceding. Whereas, in Aberdeen, every Magistrate and member of Council, even the old four, must be annually elected, without regard to any office which they may have formerly held; and fifteen of the whole number are yearly changed and go out.

N. B. The substance of the principal historical facts contained in the above narrative (which do not appear in any of the town's records) are taken from a small treatise, entitled, "A Survey of the City of Aberdeen," printed and published in 1685, to all appearance by a burgher or citizen, under the signature of Philo Politicus, which has always been held, and appears to be authentic, except in point of chronology, and to correspond in all the essential facts with the other authors cited and referred to by him, viz. Cambden, Spotswood, Fordan, and Boece's histories.

Building of the Bridges of DON and DEE.

Bridge of Don.—In 1281, Henry Cheyne (nephew of John Comyn, who was killed by Robert Bruce at Dumfries in 1305), succeeded to the bishoprick of Aberdeen. After Comyn's death, Bishop Cheyne, from his being so near a relation to Comyn, as well as many others in Scotland, were greatly enraged at Robert Bruce upon account of Comyn's death, and openly espoused the interest and party of the Comyns. For this reason, after Robert Bruce became settled in the Throne and Government, Bishop Cheyne was obliged to fly into England, and remain there for several years, during which time the revenues of his bishoprick remained unapplied. But King Robert, having been afterwards reconciled to Bishop Cheyne, was pleased to allow him to return and possess the see of Aberdeen as formerly. The Bishop was so happy upon his being again received into the
King's

King's favour, that, upon his return home, he, with the concurrence and approbation of his Sovereign, applied the whole rents of his bishoprick, which, during his absence in England, had accumulated to a considerable sum, towards building the bridge over Don, of one large Gothic arch, where it now stands, upon the great high-road leading northward from Aberdeen; and it appears to have been built about the year 1320. Bishop Cheyne died in 1329.

Bridge of Dee.—Bishop William Elphinston left a considerable legacy to build a bridge over the river Dee, near Aberdeen, as well as for the erection of an University at Old Aberdeen, where the Bishop's Cathedral stood, but died in 1514, before any thing was done in the building of the bridge. Gavin Dunbar, son to Sir James Dunbar of Cumnock, by Elisabeth daughter of the Earl of Sutherland, and uncle to Gavin Dunbar, Archbishop of Glasgow, having succeeded to the bishoprick of Aberdeen in 1518, he soon thereafter caused collect and receive the money which had been left by Bishop Elphinston for the building of this bridge; and having also contributed himself a considerable sum of money to that work, he caused erect the greatest part of the bridge where it now stands, of seven arches, about the year 1530, although it was not finished till after his death. This bridge having gone into decay about the year 1720, it was rebuilt out of the funds belonging to itself by the Magistrates and Town-Council of Aberdeen from 1720 to 1724, and is at this day one of the neatest and best set down bridges to the river of any in Scotland.



