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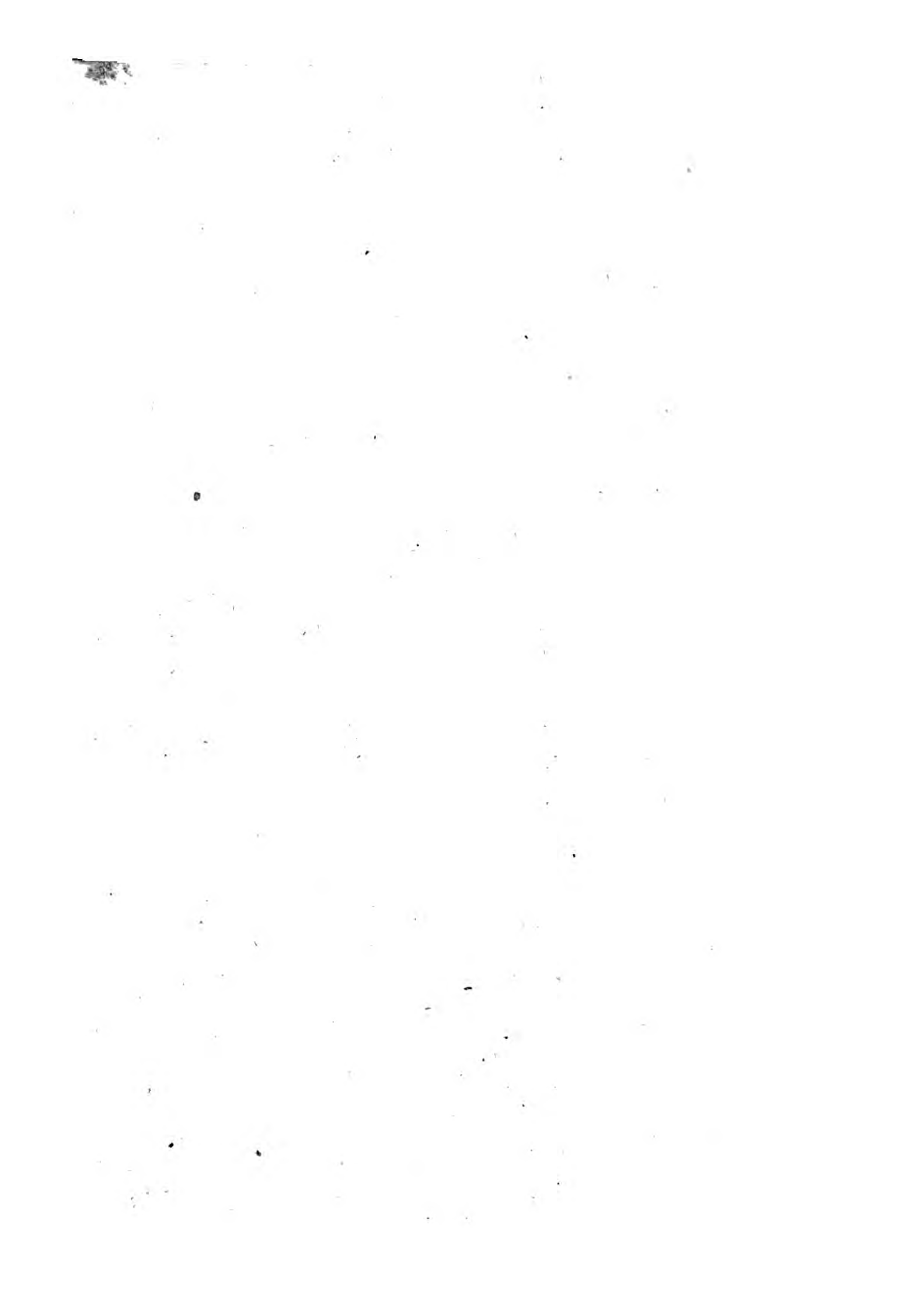


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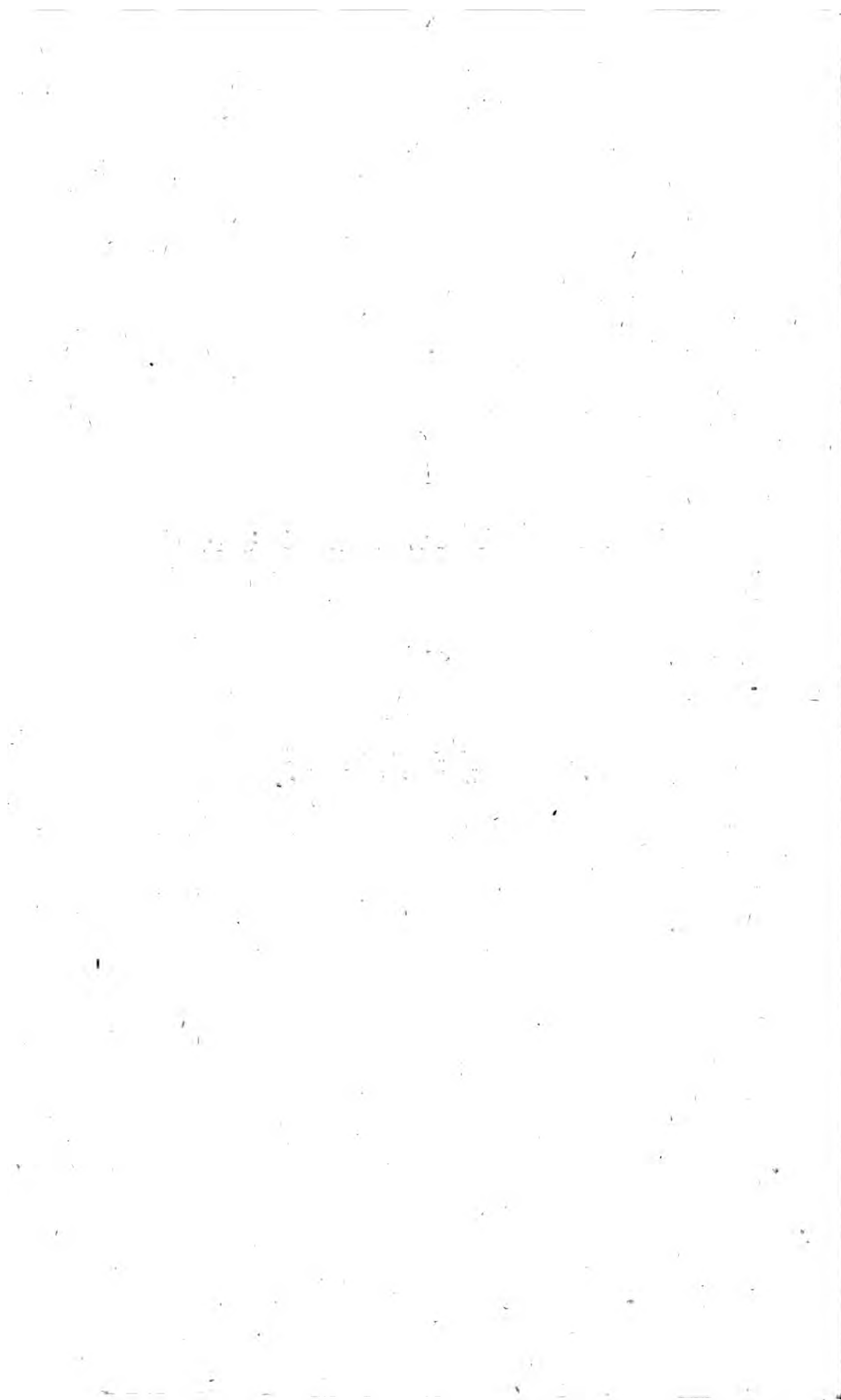
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THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.



THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND:

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS

OF THE  
*MINISTERS*  
OF THE  
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

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BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

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VOLUME FIFTEENTH.

*"Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam."*

CICERO, de ORAT. lib. ii.

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EDINBURGH:

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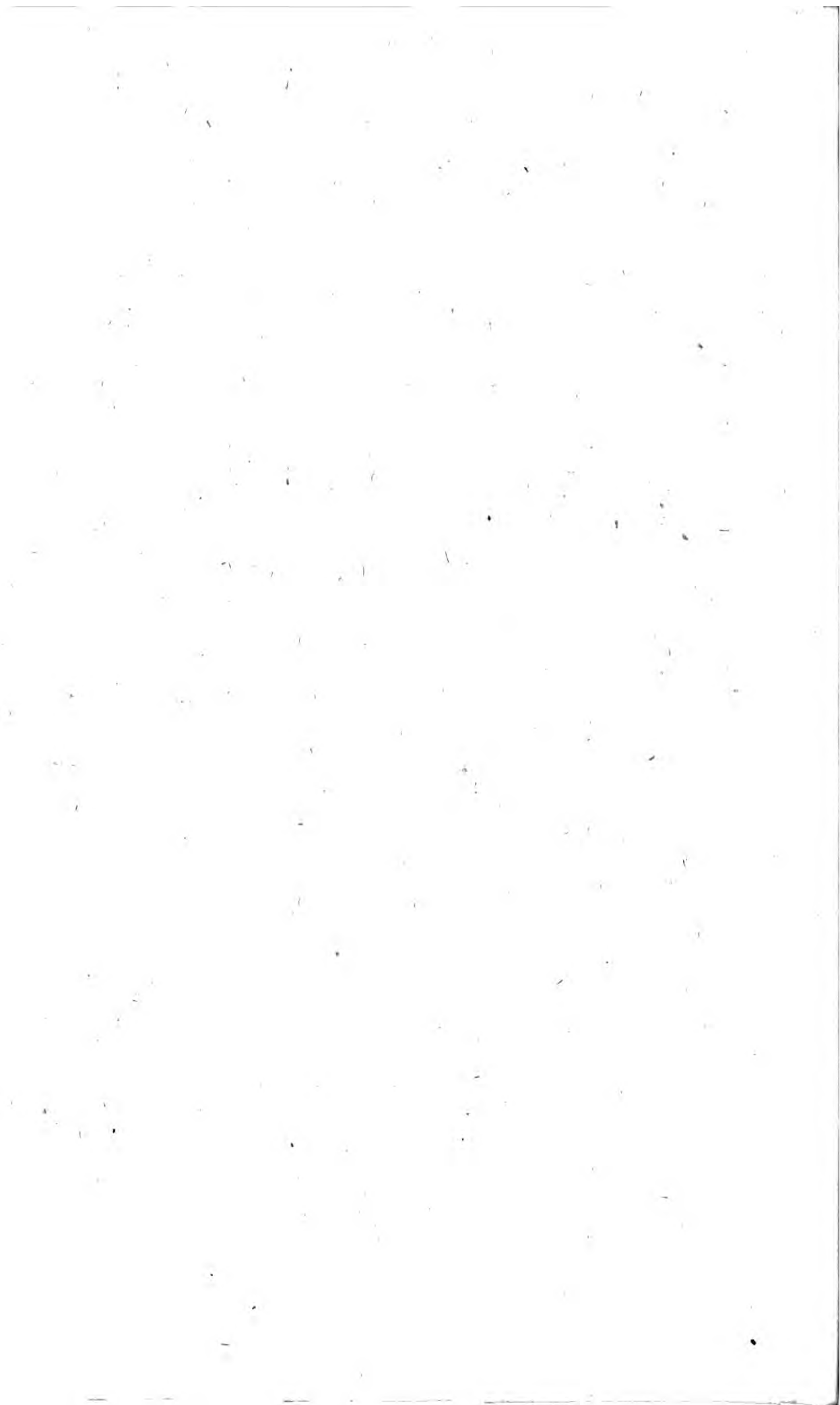


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| No.                 | Name.                    | Population in 1755. in 1792-4. In crea. Decr. Page. |        |      |      |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|------|------|
| 1.                  | Lanark                   | 2294                                                | 4751   | 2457 | 1    |
| 2.                  | Shotts                   | 2322                                                | 2041   | 281  | 49   |
| 3.                  | Lochwinnoch              | 1530                                                | 2613   | 1083 | 65   |
| 4.                  | Twynholm & Kirk-Chrift   | 519                                                 | 620    | 101  | 75   |
| 5.                  | Urquhart                 | 1110                                                | 1050   | 60   | 93   |
| 6.                  | Oyne                     | 640                                                 | 630    | 10   | 105  |
| 7.                  | Rayne                    | 1131                                                | 1173   | 42   | 110  |
| 8.                  | Kirkbean                 | 529                                                 | 660    | 131  | 119  |
| 9.                  | St Fergus                | 1271                                                | 1240   | 31   | 134  |
| 10.                 | Dollar                   | 517                                                 | 510    | 7    | 155  |
| 11.                 | Mordington               | 181                                                 | 335    | 154  | 173  |
| 12.                 | Tillicoultry             | 787                                                 | 909    | 122  | 189  |
| 13.                 | Benholme                 | 1367                                                | 1557   | 190  | 217  |
| 14.                 | Monzie                   | 1192                                                | 1136   | 56   | 241  |
| 15.                 | Dalgaty                  | 761                                                 | 869    | 108  | 260  |
| 16.                 | Baldernock               | 755                                                 | 620    | 135  | 271  |
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| 19.                 | Campfie                  | 1400                                                | 2517   | 1117 | 314  |
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| 21.                 | Glencrofs                | 557                                                 | 385    | 172  | 435  |
| 22.                 | Alford                   | 990                                                 | 663    | 327  | 447  |
| 23.                 | Kilbarchan               | 1485                                                | 2506   | 1021 | 482  |
| 24.                 | Kirkmichael              | 2689                                                | 2200   | 489  | 506  |
| 25.                 | Redgorton                | 1074                                                | 2123   | 1049 | 523  |
| 26.                 | Kirkmabreck              | 858                                                 | 1088   | 230  | 543  |
| 27.                 | Bedrule                  | 297                                                 | 259    | 38   | 556  |
| 28.                 | Foulis Wester            | 1706                                                | 224    | 482  | 594  |
| 29.                 | Avoch                    | 1457                                                | 1380   | 77   | 610  |
| Totals,             |                          | 34,367                                              | 39,692 | 7805 | 2480 |
| Increase in 1792-4, |                          |                                                     | 34,367 | 2480 |      |
|                     |                          |                                                     | 5,325  | 5325 |      |

\* This is supposed to be the population in 1755.

† This was the population in 1772.

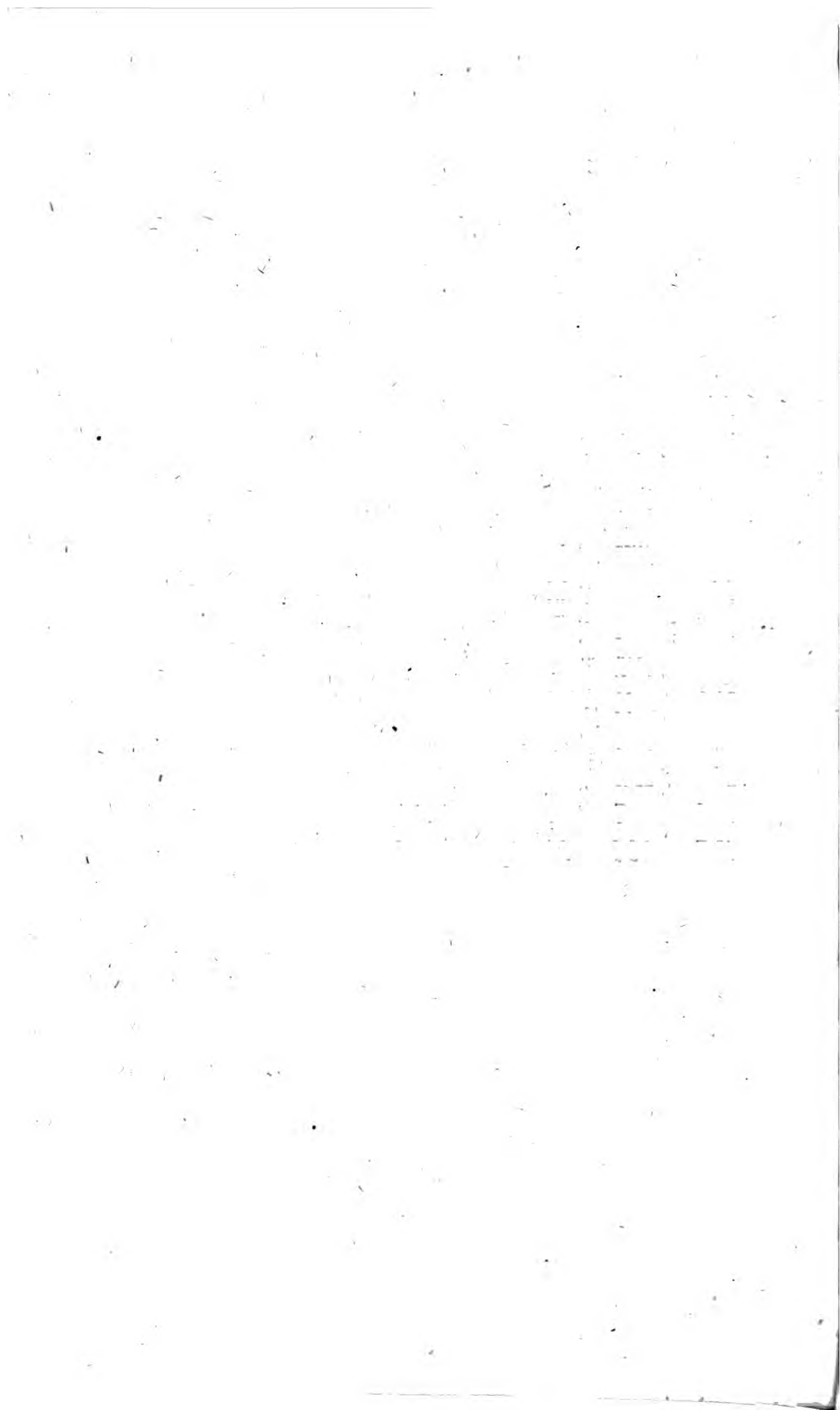


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## ERRATA.

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|         |          |                               |
|---------|----------|-------------------------------|
| PAGE 46 | Line 28, | for 1824 read 1784.           |
| — 134 — | 9,       | coast read parish.            |
| — 135 — | 21,      | Rothsay read Rattray.         |
| — ib. — | 30,      | Auchines read Auchiries.      |
| — 136 — | 25,      | after illam add medietatem.   |
| — 138 — | 6,       | for 1200 read 400 barrels.    |
| — 145 — | 28,      | reprinted read uprinted Acts. |
| — 147 — | 12,      | his right read her right.     |
| — 150 — | pen.     | Forbat read Torbol.           |
| — 156 — | 32,      | sparrs read parrs.            |
| — 277 — | 18,      | Garrick read Carrick.         |
| — 321 — | 17,      | Dartick read Partick.         |
| — 322 — | 1,       | proprietors read tenants.     |
| — 326 — | 1,       | 7th read 1st.                 |
| — 332 — | 23,      | fixty read fix.               |
| — 340 — | 6,       | 1 read 10 before 100.         |
| — 354 — | 28,      | 17 read 7.                    |
| — 361 — | 2,       | 1792 read 1793.               |
| — 363 — | 12,      | 110 read 150.                 |
| — 368 — | 26,      | read York Building Company.   |
| — 369 — | 3,       | for Sunday read Saturday.     |
| — 373 — | 8,       | 28 read 38.                   |
| — 376 — | 9,       | a few read few.               |
| — 377 — | 18,      | basked read baked.            |
| — 379 — | 22,      | 1793 read 1703.               |
| — 558 — | 27,      | Toner read Tower.             |
| — 561 — | 25,      | is read it.                   |



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THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

PART XV.

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NUMBER I.  
PARISH OF LANARK.

(County, and presbytery of Lanark, and Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By MR. WILLIAM LOCKHART OF BARONALD.

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*Situation, Extent, and Surface.*

THIS Parish is situated in the shire and presbytery of Lanark, and Synod of Glasgow and Ayr ; is between 4 and 5 miles in length stretching along the Eastern bank of the Clyde, and about three in breadth. The generality of the parish consists of pretty flat and improvable land ; but along the Clyde from Bonniton-fall downwards for the space of more than 3 miles, the banks are high, precipitous, and rocky, which however are pretty generally fringed with natural wood and planting. The banks

banks of the Moufs, the only other river of any size, and which running from East to West, separates the parish into two distinct parts, are equally precipitous and rocky, but also clothed with natural wood, and plantations of forest trees.

The highest ground in the parish, for there is no hill, is Lanark and Lee moors, both being pretty equal in height, and about 760 feet above sea level. The town of Lanark itself is 656 feet 5 inches above the quay at the new bridge of Glasgow.

The parish may contain above 6000 acres. There are probably upwards of 600 acres of coppice wood and plantations, and 1800 acres of moor ground, which leaves about 3600 acres for cultivation. The moory grounds, which also contain some little moss, belong to two different proprietors. Lanark moor, consisting of about 1500 acres, is the property of the community: and Lee-moor consisting of about 300 acres belongs to the estate of Lee. About 50 years ago the magistrates of Lanark, let to the inhabitants of the burgh on leases of 57 years, several small lots, at the extremity of their moor or common, at from 6d. to 1s. 8d. per acre, with the view of getting them inclosed and improven; but the distance from town, about two miles, and other circumstances, prevented much improvement from being made upon them: such lots however as were situated nighest the town, and have been kept fencible, now let from 10s. to 20s. per acre. About 20 years ago, the town planted about 60 acres of this moor, mostly with Scots pines, which are in a very thriving condition; and their seeds, scattered by the wind have of late produced a natural and extensive crop of young pines in the moor.

William Honeyman of Grømsay Esq. Advocate, has lately feued from the magistrates between 2 and 300 acres  
of

of this moor at 5s. per acre; and has begun to plant\*, and improve it, so that what formerly afforded a small pittance to a few half-starved cattle, will soon be enabled to maintain families. The expences he has been at are already very considerable, but do not intimidate him from being still willing to possess and improve more of it, which although beneficial to the manufactures of Lanark, and to the nation at large, is opposed by a few burghesses, who say that they have an immemorial right of servitude upon this moor for the pasturage of a certain number of cattle, and for fuel, seal, and divot; and therefore, that it cannot be disposed of without being liable to such burdens,—as to which *vident jurisconsulti*; but it must be matter of great regret to every well-wisher of his country to see so great an extent of improvable ground in the neighbourhood of a populous and manufacturing town, abandoned to heath and bent-grass.

Lee-moor† is in the like rude and uncultivated state, although equally improvable, and much nearer to coal and lime, than the former. This however is the fault of the proprietor, or rather owing to that bane of all improvement, an entailed estate \*. It is considerably  
less.

\* He has planted about 80 acres with Scots pine, larch, beech, ash, &c:

† In travelling through Scotland, whenever the stranger meets with any large portion of improvable land in a state of nature, he may rest satisfied that the ground is either under a strict entail, or that the proprietor has an overgrown estate. In short the fact is so glaring, that for the good of society and the nation at large, it were to be wished, that some measure could be thought of either to oblige such proprietors to improve those grounds themselves, or to feu or sell them by public roup, at least to let them, to people willing to improve them, on such terms as may be fixed by the Board of Agriculture lately established. Such a plan would soon bring the  
country.

less in extent than Lanark-moor, and thence would require less expence to bring it under tillage: It is to be hoped however from the promising appearance of the young proprietor, that it will soon be brought into a state of cultivation and improvement.

The South and East parts of the parish, excepting the burrow lands, which consist of a rich loam, are in general inclined to be light and gravelly. The estates of Lee, Cleghorn, Jerviswood, the Namphlars, and the rest of the parish, consist of a very improvable clayey soil, adapted for wheat, provided there were spirit enough in the country to promote the erection of a flour mill; but, as at present there is no flour mill nearer than Hamilton, 12 miles off, there is no encouragement towards the culture of that profitable and useful crop.

*Minerals.* There is no coal in the parish hitherto discovered; but in the neighbouring parishes of Carluke, Carmichael, and Lesmahago, there are plenty of coal-pits. Coal at Lanark sells in general at about 3s. or 3s. 4d. the 800 weight: Cannel coal from Lesmahago parish, sells somewhat higher, which being of a very bituminous nature,

country under cultivation, increase its population and manufactures, prevent in some measure emigrations, and would have the tendency of always preserving peace and good order in the country. The greater the number of proprietors in a kingdom so much the more numerous will be the friends and supporters of its government, as it increases the number of those who are materially interested in its welfare. But whenever the whole lands of a kingdom, as was the case in France, are absorbed by a few, it is only those few that are more peculiarly interested in its welfare; for people, whose property is in money or the produce of their industry, may leave the kingdom at pleasure, and cannot possibly take that warm interest in the fate of the country which the proprietor and colonist, who in some measure may be said to be chained to the soil, must necessarily do.



ture, and approaching near to jet, is used by the poorer sort of people in place of candle.

There is little or no freestone in the parish. A quarry has some time ago been opened in Lee-moor; one lately at the Boathouses in the S. E. corner of the parish; and a coarse kind of freestone is to be had upon the Moufs on the Jerviswood estate, but hitherto has been discovered no where else. Limestone is wrought in Lee-moor and Kilncadzow on the borders of the parish, in considerable quantities; and underneath it, is generally found a thin seam of coal, often sufficient to burn what is dug out, into lime. The rocks in the parish consist generally of a brownish micaceous moor stone, which splits and breaks into thin pieces unfit for any thing but rubble work. Clay fit either for bricks or pottery work, may be had in several parts of the parish.

The only appearance of mines is in Jerviswood grounds, where there has lately been discovered a thick seam of quartz, baseting out to the day, intermixed with small veins of rich iron ore, but, as such, by no means worth the working. As however lead mines frequently put on similar appearances at the top, there is no saying what may be discovered on going a little deeper. Pieces of very pretty jasper have been picked up, in the bed of the Moufs, in detached and water-worn nodules; as also great plenty of ochres, but no iron stone excepting about the coal pits at Gillfoot on the skirts of the parish. Close by the old bridge of Lanark have been found in a detached and water-worn piece of limestone, petrified *pholades* and cockle shells; which bridge, by general Roy's measurement, is 362 feet 5 inches above the quay at the new bridge of Glasgow, and 24 miles distant from it.

*Etymology*

*Etymology, Language, and Antiquities.* The Damnii of Ptolomy among other counties, most certainly possessed all Lanarkshire. Ptolomy however makes no mention of the word Lanark, or any of a similar sound. Baxter, with others, have deemed Lanark to be the *Ugrulentum* of the anonymous geographer of Ravenna, and not without some degree of probability. Baxter's derivation however of *Ugrulentum* from the Welsh *uger lent*, which as he says, signifies *ripa humidi, vel aquæ*, is totally inapplicable to the situation of Lanark, it being situated on a dry and elevated situation, 292 feet 1 inch above the level of the Clyde. He is equally unhappy in his etymology of Lanark, which he derives from *Lan ærig, i. e. ripa fluminis*, this town not being situated within view of the river, nor upon its immediate bank, but about half a mile from it.\*

It is true we have a late author, (Mr Pinkerton) who defends the fabulous kingdom of the Strathclyde Britons of Lanarkshire, and the Welsh derivation of Lanark; but he, in aid of his hypothesis is obliged to resort to assertions totally void of foundation. Thus he tells

\* Jones in his origin of language and nations, (a whimsical book,) says that Lanark, "is the same as the Welsh *Lanerch*, an upper or higher yard or "inclosure", which is hardly so improbable as the other. Indeed in the Welsh language we find many etymons such as *Llanerch*, a green or a bare place in a wood; and *Lanherch*, a forest, as Lluyd tells us. *Lanerch* is actually the name of a town on the Clwyd in Wales: and *Lan* in Welsh as in Gaelic, signifies a church, churchyard, or inclosure. But the same Lluyd in his Welsh preface to the *Archeologia* tells us, and proves it pretty clearly, that a very great many of the names of places in Wales itself, can only be derived from the Gaelic, the Gael being the original inhabitants of Great Britain as well as of continental Gaul, which is farther proved by the tracts published in 1737, by Mr Malcolme, minister of Duddingston, and of late by the two Messrs. M'Phersons, so that the etymology of Lanark falls rather to be sought for in the Gaelic than Welsh.

tells us,\* that, " In Clydesdale at present if you will ask the common people about any ancient castle or the like, they will tell it was erected by the *Brets* or the *Piks*." Now although they ascribe some of their ancient buildings, such as the high church of Glasgow, to the Picts, or Peghs, as they call them, yet it is matter of notoriety that the word *Bret* is utterly unknown to the common people of Clydesdale. This he has advanced merely for the purpose of supporting a favourite system, and to mislead in the same way that he, in a former publication, had averred that scraps of the second part of his own *Hardyknute* were sung immemorially by the common people of Clydesdale. Mr Pinkerton also avers that the language of this part of Scotland still retains something of the Welsh accent. This is equally groundless, nor can he point out one single instance of it; and although numerous words used in the county are Gaelic, yet none are Welsh, unless in common with the Gaelic.

Indeed Mr Pinkerton in his edition of the *Vitæ Sanctorum Scotiæ*, furnishes us himself with evident proofs of the fallacy of his own averments. In the life of St. Kentigern or St. Mungo of Glasgow, who flourished in 580, collected from an old copy in Gaelic, and another in Latin by Josceline, about anno 1180, we learn, cap. 4, that this Saint was called "*Kyentyren* quod interpretatur "*capitalis Dominus*," which is pure Gaelic at this day; and not Welch. His other name of *Munghu* " quod (says Josceline) Latine dicitur *carus amicus*," is not Welsh but more probably Gaelic; thus *Eun caomh* may have been spelt *Munghu*, the Gaelic pronounciation being pretty similar, the literal signification of which is *Dear bird*

\* Inquiry into the hist. of Scotland, vol. I, p. 81.

## Statistical account

*bird*; and dear bird, or my bird, is still used familiarly to a young friend or youth, which Kentigern was when he received that epithet from St. Servanus the *Pictish* Abbot of Culrofs. In cap. xi. we learn that *Glasgow*, formerly *Cuthbures*, was in the Saint's time, from the monastery therein situated, called "*Descbu*, quod interpretatur "*cara familia*." Neither is this Welsh:—But the Gaelic words *Paisde caomb*, i. e. dear children or family, have nearly in that language the sound of, and may have been spelt *Descbu*, in that early age, in the same way that *Descbu* is now pronounced and spelt Glasgow. And in cap. xxii. we learn that the *Burn*, a Gaelic word used in this county for rivulet, and at present called *Molendinar*, that runs by the High Church of Glasgow and behind the College garden, was called *Mollendonor* in the Saint's time. Now *muilean* is a mill in Gaelic, and *dombar* signifies water; from which it is evident, that the language of Glasgow in Kentigern's time, was not Welsh, but pure Gaelic; and that at this early period the *Molendinar burn*, as it now does, drove a mill.\*

Such

\* We shall, in farther proof, and to illustrate the language of this parish and county, adduce some words, among many hundreds, that might be mentioned, which are pure Gaelic. Thus *Bink*, a stone or green sod or seat before a door, is pure Gaelic. *Cromie* a cow with crooked horns, also a crooked stick, from *Cromadh* bended. *Body*, a clown or silly person, *Bodach*. *Pluck*, a carbuncle on the face, *Pluain*. *Eirack*, a chicken, *Eirag*. *Stock-in-horn*, a pipe with a horn used by the shepherds, from *Stoc* a pipe. *Kinning*, a Rabbit, *Coinain*. *Brock*, a Badger, *Broc*. *Brat*, a cover or scurf, also a piece of cloth, *Brat*. *To toom*, empty, *Taomam*. *To ding*, overcome, *Dingam*. *Glar*, puddle or filth, *Gaor*. *Ingle*, the fire, *Aingeal*. *Gairtain*, garter, *Gairtain*. *Groset*, gooseberry, *Grosaid*. *Guitar*, a gullyhole, *Guitar*. *Haggis*, a dish, *Taiggis*. *Inch*, invariably used for an island, *Innse* or *Innis*. *Clachan*, a village, *Clachan*. *Loch*, a Lake, *Loch*. *Caramelle* or *Caparcile*, the orobus *tuberosus*, being the root so much used in diet by the ancient Caledonians

Such being the case, and as in Lanarkshire there are no Welsh words in use, except such as are in common with the Gaelic, we may venture to affirm that the Strathclyde kingdom of Cumbric Britons is a mere dream; and that to derive our proper names from the Cumbric is idle. Indeed we cannot resort to the Welsh language for the etymon of Lanark, seeing we have a Lanark in Stirlingshire, where no Cumbric Britons were ever settled; and a Drum-Lanark and Lanarkland in Dumfriesshire, also without the bounds of the fabulous Strathclyde kingdom.

Lanark, or as locally pronounced Lanerick, or Landerrick, is therefore more probably Gaelic. *Lan*, in Shaw's dictionary, signifies land, a house, repository, or a church. *Dearc* is the Gaelic for the Billberry, or Blaeberry, so common on high and dry grounds. *Landerick*, or *Lan na dearca*, appears therefore to denote the land, house, repository, or church of the Billberries. *Lan dearcach* signifies also Billberry land or repository, pretty descriptive of all the Lanarks. But farther, *Lan arc* signifies a full ark, or granary, and Lanark is spelt *Lan-arc* in the old charters, so *Lan arc* may be the true etymon. These etymons, though probable, may not be just, yet are less liable to objection than any former one; nor would we have dwelt so long upon this article, had we not wished to remove the mist attempted to be thrown, by the author above-mentioned, over the history of Clydesdale.

All the other names of the parish are Anglo-saxon, unless we except Cartlane, Baronald or Baronel, Nemphlar,

*cindum*

VOL. XV.

B

Caledonians, *Caramaile*, *Salich* and *Saugh*, the Willow, *Seileach*. Kist, a chest, *cisde*, (the C sounding like K in Gaelic,) and *Kistie*, the diminutive of Kist, *Cistag*. Indeed the Gaelic diminutives are very common in the lower parts of Clydesdale, as *Jamock* for little James, Willock, &c.



and Cleghorn; which last place may have been the *Croucindum* of Baxter's *Glossarium Antiquitat. Brit.* as not only the Roman road passes by it, but the remains of a Roman station are still evident in one of the parks to the East of Cleghorn house.

The station or camp at Cleghorn, General Roy thinks was the work of Agricola. It measures 600 yards in length by 420 in breadth, capable of containing two Roman legions on the Polybian establishment, or 10,500 men; or it would hold one legion with its auxiliaries on a much higher establishment. Near the S. W. angle of this camp, there is a small post or redoubt, that seems either to have joined to the camp itself, or to have been connected with it by means of a line.

On the opposite side of the Mous from Cleghorn, and in Lanark-moor, was situated another small exploratory camp of the Romans; and, within about a mile of it, there is another of a later construction at Castle-dykes, in the parish of Carstairs, through which runs the great Roman road from Lugballum, or Carlisle, to the wall of Antoninus.\* The Roman road from Castle-dykes runs through part of Lanark-moor, thence passes the river Mous a little to the Eastward of Cleghorn-bridge, hence it goes through the inclosures of Cleghorn, leaving Agricola's camp on the right, and so on by Colly-law, Killcadzow,

\* General Roy tells us that near the kirk of Carstairs some remains of a bath and other antiquities have been found; so that Carstairs may be the *Corda* of Ptolemy; and the Castledykes the *Coriotitar* of the Geographer of Ravenna. At the latter place Roman bricks and coins have frequently been dug up. The late Sir George Lockhart was possessed of some of those coins, particularly a beautiful silver one of Nero's; and within these few years a considerable number, mostly of Adrian, were discovered, the bulk of which I believe are now with the Antiquarian Society. One of them is in my possession.

cadzow, Coldstream and Zuilshields, to Balstane near Carluke, bearing the name of Watling-street, or rather Biggar road; and from thence to the wall.

About a mile North of Lanark, and upon the very brink of Cartlane rocks, on the North of the Moufs, are the vestiges of an old stronghold, called by some Castle-dykes, and by others the castle of the *Quaw*. Perhaps from the Gaelic *Uaidh*, a cave, in allusion to the caves or strange artificial archways afterwards to be noticed. There are still evident traces of a wide, or rather a double ditch on the land side, which incloses about half a rood of ground, and on the side next to the river is a precipice upwards of 200 feet of perpendicular height. The well was very evident about 40 years ago, but is since filled up. There are at present no remains of any building, excepting some slight traces like a foundation, and some artificial caves or arched ways of a very singular construction: one of them, which I saw opened, was about 7 or 8 feet in length, and 4 feet wide, running in a bending direction towards the center of the inclosure from the brink of the rock; the height about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet. This archway was composed of huge blocks of freestone, rude and unpolished, intermixt with the common moorstone of the country. It was not arched at top; but the stones laid horizontally one above another, still approaching nearer and nearer, till the sides formed a junction, and united at the top. In the bottom of the archway was a fat black earth intermixed with some bones in the state of ashes. Several other archways, or holes like the above, running in different directions, still exist, although not hitherto explored. The most remarkable thing attending these vestiges is, that no lime or mortar, nor the smallest appearance of lime rubbish is to be found  
among

among the ruins ; so must have been erected before the introduction of mortar by the Romans.

*Arthur's Oven*, a Roman work, was no doubt built without mortar ; but this castle, if a heap of narrow archways can be called so, seems by no means a Roman work, as no tool, nor the smallest art, has been used upon the freestone employed in it. I see by the Statistical Account, that subterraneous buildings of a similar kind have been discovered in the parishes of Applecross (vol. iii. p. 378.) and Tealing (vol. iv, p. 101.); and as last autumn, there was discovered in Lesmahago parish, near the fall of Stonebyres, at a place called Cairny Castle, similar archways, in which were found two querns, or hand-mills for grinding corn, amongst deers horns and bones of animals, I am led to believe that those archways and subterraneous passages were the temporary abodes of the ancient Britons ; that no stone building was erected above them, but, if any, only temporary wooden huts, from which, in case of being set on fire by an enemy, the inhabitants might escape through the subterraneous passages, or secure themselves in them by covering their narrow mouths with stones. Indeed it would seem that Gildas had such strange and fox-like habitations in his eye, when he wrote of the third vastation of the Scots and Picts, (anno 448.) as he brings them, "*De arctifsimis foraminum caverniculis, fuscis, vermiculorum, cunei, &c.\**"

It

\* The next piece of antiquity is the Castlehill, close by, and on the S. W. side of Lanark. It has the appearance of an artificial mount ; and perhaps was originally fortified by the Romans, as General Roy makes mention of a fine silver *Faustina* that was found here. Upon this hill there formerly stood a castle, which tradition ascribes to David I. The charter by William the Lion in favour of the town of Ayr, is dated from this castle, or at Lanark,



It does not appear when, or by whom, the old parochial church of Lanark, now in ruins, which stands about a quarter of a mile to the S. E. of the town, was erected. It has been an elegant Gothic building of hewn stone, divided in the middle, from one end to the other, by a wall supported upon pillars, forming 5 or 6 fine arches: and around it, is the burial ground and cemetery of the town and parish. This church appears from Blind Harry's History of Sir William Wallace, to have been the only church of the town in his days. Thus *ad ann.* 1297, he makes mention of Wallace passing

“ On from the kirk that was *without the town.*”

There is a charter, noted in the general Index of charters, in the Signet office, “Willielmo Clerkson Capellano monasterio ad altare gloriosissimæ Virginis Mariæ, infra ecclesiam parochialem de Lanark.” Granted by James iv. and dated at Lanark 18th October 1500.

The monastery of Franciscans, or Grey Friars, founded here by Robert I. in 1314, was situated to the West of the present parochial church. In the burial ground belonging to it, still called the Friar's yards, there lately existed a beautiful conical hill or *tumulus*, which has been recently taken

Lanark, anno 1197; and there are still in its neighbourhood places called *Kingsons know*, *Kingsons stane*, and *Kingsons moor*, which favour the tradition of its having been a royal residence. That it belonged to the crown, appears from the negotiation between John Baliol and Philip of France in 1298, where Philip agrees to give his niece, the eldest daughter of the Duke of Anjou, in marriage to the son and heir of Baliol: and in security of the lady's jointure, which was 1500l. sterling a year, Baliol mortgaged his estates in France, and some of the crown lands in Scotland, viz. the Castle and Castellany of Lanark, Kadzow, Maulsley, &c. This castle was frequently in the hands of the English during the 13th century, and I have seen several coins of the first Edward that were found here. A bowling green is now erected upon the site of the Castle.

taken down on building the new Inn, in which a great number of human bones was discovered, particularly a human skull of a remarkable large size.

A general chapter of all the Grey-Friars of the kingdom was held at this monastery 11th July 1490; where the Wardens capitulary being assembled, they confirmed an indenture made between the Lady Beatrice Douglas, Countess of Errol, and the Grey-Friars of Dundee, and ordered it to be put in execution.\*

There was also in Lanark, a chapel dedicated to St. Nicholas, but where situated I do not know. Mention is made of it in a charter granted by James IV. “Steph-  
“ano Lockhart, de loco de Clydesholme, et de cymba  
“super aquam de Clyde, mortificat. Capellano ad al-  
“tare Sanctae Katharinae fundat. in capella Sti. Nicolai  
“de Lanark,” dated 7th March 1491.

About half a mile to the Eastward of the town are the ruins of the Hospital of St. Leonard's, probably founded by Robert I. In 1393, Sir John Dalzell, a predecessor of the Earl of Carnwath, obtained from Robert III. to himself in liferent, and to Walter Dalzell his son in fee, the whole revenue belonging to St. Leonard's hospital within the burgh of Lanark, upon condition that he and his  
heirs

\* The purport of the Indenture, which is dated in 1482, is as follows: In the year preceding the date of the indenture, provisions being very dear, the Grey-friars of Dundee not having wherewithall to maintain themselves, were obliged to pledge their books, cups and utensils. The Countess commiserating them, gave them 100 l. Scots or £. 8 : 6 : 8 Sterling to support them in their extremities, and to enable them to repair their monastery; and in return the Friars obliged themselves and their successors to celebrate daily at the great altar a mass, *submissa voce, vel cum nota*, which mass was called *missa Domini* pro anima dictae Beatricis (Comitissae,) ac pro animabus Willielmi, olim sponsi sui, et Willielmi com. de Errol, fil. ejus, &c. and if the Countess should, as she designed, build an altar within the church of the three kings at Cullen, then the mass should be said at that altar, &c.

heirs shall provide a qualified person to celebrate 3 masses once every seven years for the salvation of Robert III. Anabella his Queen, and all their children *for ever*. The ruins of this hospital have lately been dug up and plowed. Some human bones, carved stones, and an urn, was discovered among them. The Hospital lands now belong to the Burrow, and are held by them of the family of Carnwath, for payment of 20 merks annually, which, by the charter, is declared to be for the use of the poor.

*Agriculture.* The land rises from the town in a gentle ascent to the East, and consists of a light dry soil, upon a gravelly bottom, with a few acres of moss in the common which lyes to the East of the town. There is a considerable declivity from the town upon the South, West and North, to the rivers of Clyde and Moufs, and an acclivity from those rivers. The soil here is partly loam upon a rocky bottom, and partly clay.

The Burrow lands consist of above 600 acres of fine rich loam, exclusive of the common. These are in general the property of the inhabitants of the burgh, few of whom possess more than 2 or 3 acres, are mostly unclosed, and when rented, generally yield from 2 l. to 3 l. the acre. Burrow acres sell at from 50 l. to 70 l. the acre. Preceding the year 1750, the burrow acres were kept in constant tillage, under a rotation of bear, oats and pease; each burghers kept one or two cows, and some of them a horse or two, which pastured promiscuously upon the common in summer, and upon the burrow croft stubble in winter. Since that period, potatoes have been introduced instead of the pease crop, and have been  
planted

planted in great quantities, being reckoned a more beneficial crop than pease. They are generally planted, about 4 bolls to an acre, with a dibber; and are three or four times hand-hoed during the summer. Each acre produces from 60 to 100 bolls Linlithgow barley measure, without dung, which is here seldom or never applied to the potatoe crop, as they are found to be much drier, and supposed more wholesome without it. Many people however have observed that the repeated culture of potatoes is injurious to the soil: and that the burrow lands do not now bear such quantities of good oats and barley as formerly.

Some time ago winter herding upon the common was adopted here, and since that happy period, clover and ryegrass have been introduced in considerable quantities, and the inhabitants now find it more for their advantage to teather their cows upon their grass fields than to send them to the common. An acre of sown teathering grass has been known to let as high as 5*l*.

The lands of the out parish, till within these 30 years, were generally let in small farms for 19 years, the rents paid in victual, and the labour performed by the tenant and his own family. The mode of agriculture was that of keeping a few acres adjoining to their houses in constant tillage, upon which all the dung of the farm was laid; and the outfields were kept alternately for three years in oats, and three years in pasture. Each farm kept 4 horses, and a few milk cows, the produce of which was entirely consumed in the family; a few colts and young cows were also reared, the sale of which furnished the farmer with what little money was needed.

Since that period, the victual rents have been abolished, and a spirit of industry and improvement has diffused itself over the parish. About 20 years ago, a few farms  
were

were let in tack for 38 years, with some little encouragement towards inclosing : Some of these have been inclosed partly with stone fences, and partly with ditch and hedge, and kept in a fencible condition. Dung is now applied to the outfields, and a regular rotation of crops carried on over all the farm. The most approved rotation seems to be oats from lea; a green crop of pease, turnips, or potatoes; barley sown with grass seeds; two crops of hay, and three in pasture. By this mode the dung is equally distributed over all the farm, and the land kept in good condition, being dunged once in eight years.

Some years ago, a considerable quantity of oat-meal was yearly carried from this parish to the Glasgow market; but now, since the introduction of cotton manufactures, it is all consumed at home; and frequently Irish meal is sent up from Glasgow to supply the demand at the cotton mills; nor is this parish any longer able to maintain itself. Oat-meal sells generally at a penny a peck higher than either at Edinburgh or Glasgow; a circumstance that ought to encourage the agriculture of the parish, and stimulate proprietors in this and the neighbouring parishes, to bring their waste and moor grounds under cultivation.

The Scotch plough drawn by 3 or 4 horses; the common harrow of 4 bulls and 20 iron teeth; the roller, and single horse carts, are the most general implements of husbandry here. A few light ploughs, made in the parish upon *Small's* model, are also in use; and two harrows of 3 bulls each, with long teeth joined together by a hinge in the middle, and two chains at the end, are used with effect,



fect, in reducing rough land. They likewise use two light harrows for grafs seeds. Mr Honyman employs two oxen and two horses in breaking up his moor grounds; but no oxen are used any where else in the parish, excepting at Bonniton, although the saving of oats ought greatly to encourage them in a parish where oatmeal gives so high a price.

Lime is in pretty general use as a manure\*; where it has not been too frequently applied, it produces fine crops; but where the land has been often limed, it is found to succeed best when made up into compost dung-hills, and when led out in harvest and laid upon lea grounds, it is attended with great advantage. There is some very good marle in the estate of Bonniton, but at present it is not dug out for sale.

There is very little wheat sown in the parish, either owing to the want of a flour mill, the scarcity of inclosures, or the high situation of the district. Some years ago, several acres were annually sown with flax, which yielded from 24 to 40 stones per acre; but the trouble attending the different operations, and the distance from watering places, prevent it from being sown in quantities; so that the general crops in use are barley, oats, potatoes, pease, and rye grafs and clover.

Turnips, though a most profitable crop, are by no means in common use. When the old crofts are laid out in pasture for milk cows, great quantities of butter and cheese are made; and the produce of each cow, under proper management, yields from 4 l. to 6 l. sterling annually.

Oats and pease are sown from the first of March to the middle of April, potatoes from the middle of April

\* The price of a full heaped kiln of lime is 36 shillings; and it generally yields from 9 to 12 single horse carts of shells.

April to the second week of May, and barley from the first to the end of May. In common seasons, harvest begins about the first of September, and ends about the middle of October. Even in the year 1782, there was little or none to cut down after the first of November, and the crop for the most part was got in. Harvest 1792 was almost equally late, and the crop as unproductive: The great rains prevented the corns from ripening, occasioned their running to straw and lodging, by which the grain did not fill; and it was no uncommon thing to send two bolls of oats to the mill, and get only one boll of meal in return, although in ordinary seasons and in ordinary land we have generally boll for boll.\*

*Climate and Diseases.* This parish, from its high, dry, and airy situation, is perhaps as healthy a one as in Scotland. Being situated in the centre of the island, it is equally free from the Eastern fogs and the violence of the Western rains, so that the air is always pure and clear. The climate, although drier than about Glasgow, or even Hamilton, is certainly somewhat wetter than about Edinburgh, but is more than compensated by the absence of the Eastern fogs, so disagreeable in the neighbourhood of that city. Spring droughts frequently retard the crops very considerably, and sometimes spring frosts. Heavy rains in July and August, which are pretty common here, have a similar effect in keeping back the harvest; but in general the crops are earlier than in the neighbouring

\* All plants and vegetables common to Scotland are to be found here. The sycamore, *vulgo* the plane tree, seems here to be indigenous, and grows among the natural woods, as do the holly and barberry. There are few or no sheep kept in this parish.



bouring parishes, and even more so than those lying much lower and farther down the Clyde.

In Autumn fevers and fluxes are pretty frequent, which have been imputed to living too much upon potatoes; but there is no disease peculiar to the parish. The inhabitants are in general stout and healthy, and it is no uncommon thing to meet with people walking about, nay even working, at the age of 80. Two or three have died, within these few years, aged above 90; one of them, a blacksmith, died at the age of 97; but I do not at present recollect of any person who ever reached his hundredth year.

*Natural Curiosities, and Romantic Scenery.* This parish contains as much curious, romantic, and varied scenery, as any in Scotland. The falls of Clyde principally interest the stranger, and we shall begin with the uppermost one, although to come at it, we are obliged to pass the second fall, or Corra Lin. The uppermost one is somewhat above  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Lanark, and from the estate in which it is situated is called the Bonniton Fall or Lin.\* From Bonniton house, a very neat and elegant modern building, you arrive at the Lin, by a most romantic walk along the Clyde, leaving the pavilion and Corra Lin upon your right hand. At some little distance from the fall, the walk, leading to a rock that juts out and overhangs the river, brings you all at once within sight of this beautiful sheet of water; but no stranger rests satisfied with this view; he still presses onwards along the walk, till from the rock immediately above the Lin, he sees the whole

\* The word *Lin* has not hitherto been explained by any writer. It is no other than the Gaelic word *Leum*, i. e. leap or fall, differently spelt and pronounced.

whole body of the river precipitate itself into the chasm below. The rock over which it falls is upwards of 12 feet of perpendicular height, from which the Clyde makes one precipitate tumble, or leap, into a hollow den; whence some of it again recoils in froth, and smoking mist. Above, the river exhibits a broad, expanded, and placid appearance, beautifully environed with plantations of forest trees. This appearance is suddenly changed at the fall: and, below it, the river is narrow, contracted, and angrily boils and thunders, among rocks and precipices.

The same beautiful and romantic walk conducts you back again, along the precipice that overhangs the river, both sides of which are environed by mural rocks, equidistant and regular, forming, as Mr Pennant expresses it, a "*stupenduous natural masonry*;" from whose crevices choughs, daws and other wild birds, are incessantly springing. You descend along the river for about half a mile, till you arrive at the *Corra Lin*, so called from an old castle and estate upon the opposite bank. The old castle of Corra, overhanging a high rock that overlooks the fall, with Corra house, and the rocky and woody banks of the Clyde, form of themselves a beautiful and grand *coup d'oeil*; but nothing can equal the striking and stupenduous appearance of the fall itself, which when viewed from any of the different seats placed here and there along the walks, must fill every unaccustomed beholder with awe and astonishment. The tremendous rocks around, the old castle upon the opposite bank, a corn mill in the rock below, the furious and impatient stream foaming over the rock, the horrid chasm and abyfs underneath your feet, heightened by the hollow murmur of the water and the screams of wild birds, form at once a spectacle both

both tremendous and pleasing. A summer-house or pavillion is situated over a high rocky bank, that overlooks the Lin, built by Sir James Carmichael of Bonniton in 1708. From its uppermost room it affords a very striking prospect of the fall, for all at once, on throwing your eyes towards a mirror, on the opposite side of the room from the fall, you see the whole tremendous cataract pouring as it were upon your head. The Corra Lin, by a late measurement, is found to be 84 feet in height. The river does not rush over in one uniform sheet like the Bonniton Lin, but in three different, though almost imperceptible, precipitate leaps. On the southern bank, and when the sun shines, a rainbow is perpetually seen forming itself upon the mist and fogs, arising from the violent dashing of the waters.

The next curiosity, on descending the Clyde, that attracts the stranger, is New Lanark, or the cotton mills. The situation of this village is at the western extremity of the Bonniton ground in a low den, and within view of another beautiful and romantic fall called Dundaff Lin, signifying in Gaelic *black castle leap*; and no doubt formerly some fortress has been situated hereabouts, although no traces now remain, excepting in tradition; which still points out a rock called Wallace's Chair, where that patriot is said to have concealed himself from the English. This fall is about 3 or 4 feet high, and trouts have been observed to spring up and gain the top of it with ease. This fall, the village, four lofty cotton mills, and their busy inhabitants, together with the wild and woody scenery around, must attract the notice of every stranger. Below these are the romantic rocks and woods of Braxfield, the seat of the present Lord Justice Clerk, who influenced alone by the good of his country, very  
frankly

frankly feued the site of the village and cotton mills to the benevolent Mr David Dale, at a very moderate feuduty.

The next fall of consequence is the Stonebyres Lin, situated about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles below the Corra Lin. It is so called from the neighbouring estate of Stonebyres, belonging to Daniel Vere Esq; but the grounds adjacent to the fall, on both sides of the river, have lately been feued or purchased by Mr Dale. This cataract, which is about eighty feet in height, is the *ne plus ultra* of the salmon, as none can possibly get above it, although their endeavours, in the spawning season, are incessant and amusing. It is equally romantic with the others; and like the Corra Lin, has three distinct, but almost precipitate falls. Wild rugged rocks are equally visible here, and they are equally fringed with wood; the trees however are by no means so tall and stately, being composed of coppice wood. Salmon, pars (samlets,) horse muscle, or the pearl oyster, though numerous below, are never seen above this fall.

The next piece of natural curiosity is Cartlane Craigs, upon the river Moufs, which enters Clyde about a mile below the town of Lanark. This is a curious and romantic den, about a quarter of a mile in length, bounded on either side by a reef of lofty precipitous and rugged rocks, which are fringed with coppice wood on the north side, and with coppice wood and thriving plantations on the south. The rocky bank on the north side is about 400 feet in height, and it is not much lower upon the south side. Both banks are finely varied with the different appearances of rock, wood and precipice. At the bottom runs the river Moufs, which scarcely leaves room for the lonely traveller to traverse the den; however, here the celebrated botanist, Mr Lightfoot, clambered

clambered in search of plants, and discovered some rare and uncommon ones, as may be seen in his *Flora Scotica*. At every reach of the Moufs, of which there are many, the scenery varies, and wherever you find a prominent rock upon the one side, you are sure to meet with a regular recess on the other. Caverns in the rocks are here and there observable, but none of them worthy of any particular description. One, still called Wallace's cove, tradition tells us, was the hiding hole of that patriot. Another equally trifling, but which bears evident marks of the chisel, is said to have been the abode of a hermit in former times, but must have been a miserable habitation, hardly affording room to lye down in. Considerable veins of the *spatum ponderosum* run through these rocks ; but no other mineral has hitherto been traced in this dreary den of foxes, badgers and wild birds. It is somewhat singular how the Moufs, instead of following its direct course, by Baronald house, where the ground is lower and unobstructed by rocks, should have penetrated the high hill of Cartlane, and formed a bed through solid rock. It seems presumable that this vast chasm has originally been formed by some earthquake, which, rending the rocks, allowed the water to pass that way.

*Lakes, orchards, and mineral springs.* There is only one lake of any consequence in the parish, which is on the Bonniton estate, and upon which there is a bleachfield, particularly famous for bleaching thread. It is called *Lang Loch*, although hardly 500 feet in length ; and contains both Pike and Perch.

There are no Orchards of any consequence excepting about Holmfoot, in the lower part of the parish. Small ones have been lately planted at Castlebank, and at Baronald in  
the



the neighbourhood of the town, which thrive tolerably well; but in general the fruit does not succeed so well in the higher parts of this parish, owing to the great elevation. Small fruit, however, such as gooseberries, yield considerable returns, and I have known some cultivators of them draw from 20 l. to 25 l. for a crop, independent of other vegetables growing among them. Wild fruits are here in great abundance, such as crab apples, hazel nuts, geens, bird-cherry called here hagberry, rasp-berries, Roe-buck-berries, and strawberries, &c. The fruit of the bird-cherry, (*prunus padus*), or the bark in winter, is an excellent astringent, and a specific in Diarrhœas and fluxes. The disease common to cows in some pastures, called the *moor-ill*, is cured by it, of which I have been assured by an excellent surgeon now deceased. The *Rubus Saxatilis*, and *Rubus chamaemorus*, are to be found along the rocks of Cleghorn wood, and at Bonniton, by the falls.

There are no mineral waters in the parish other than the common chalybeate springs, which are found almost every where in Scotland.

*Roads, Bridges, and Improvements, already made or proposed.* The distance to Edinburgh is about 30 miles; and a most excellent turnpike road was made some years ago to that metropolis.

The present road to Glasgow, which is 24 miles from Lanark, is in bad repair; and on account of the great declivity to the water of Moufs and acclivity from it, it has been found expedient to change the tract of the road altogether; and instead of crossing the Moufs, a new one is finishing, that crosses the Clyde at the old bridge of Lanark, and from thence runs along the southern banks

of



of that river by Dalserf and Hamilton to Glasgow. This road, which leads through woods and orchards, and keeps the Clyde pretty generally in view, bids fair to be the most beautiful one in Scotland; and were it continued southerly as once proposed, by the Howgate mouth to Carlisle, (thereby shortening the present road from Glasgow to that place,) it would be of considerable advantage to Lanark, as at present there is no thorough-fare through Lanark to any town in Britain. It will however be matter of regret, if some attention is not also paid to the old road by Carluke, as it is the ordinary one to coal and lime.

There are two bridges over the Clyde in the parish. The old bridge of Lanark, consisting of 3 arches, was built in the end of last century, and is at present strong and sufficient; but from the late great weight of earth laid upon the abutment next the town, it is somewhat doubtful whether it may not be hurt by it. The other bridge is the Hyndford bridge on the high road from Lanark, and from Edinburgh to Ayr. This bridge, consisting of 5 arches, was built a few years ago, under the direction of Mr Steven, and for elegance and simplicity may challenge any bridge of its size in Scotland. There are three bridges over the Mous, Cleghorn bridge, Lockhart-ford bridge, on the Carluke road; and Mous-mill bridge.

If ever the proposed canal should take place between Edinburgh and Glasgow, and should the people of Ayrshire think of a canal to join it, the southerly tract of the Glasgow and Edinburgh canal, pointed out by *Lucius* in the Edinburgh Herald, would be the most accommodating one towards such junction. The Glasgow canal would enter the parish from Carluke; and passing close on by Cleghorn, might there be joined by the branch  
from

from Ayr, which could be carried across the Clyde a little above Hyndford bridge, and from thence by Douglas to Ayr. This would not only accommodate the thriving manufactures of Lanark, and the Cleugh iron works, but, as it would pass over grounds containing coal, lime-stone and iron-stone, would greatly promote agriculture and manufactures of every kind; besides the more general advantage arising from the expansion of trade from sea to sea.

*Rental and heritors.* The valued rent of the parish is L. 4217 : 19 : 10 Scots, and the real rent upwards of L. 3000 Sterling. The principal heritors are Charles Withart Lockhart, of Lee Esq; Allan Lockhart of Cleg-horn, esq. Lady Rofs Baillie, and the honourable George Baillie of Jervis-wood. Besides those named, there are six or seven lesser heritors, 55 small ones in the out parish, and 98 proprietors of burrow lands. There are only about 3 or 4 heritors that are non residents.

*Population.* The population of the parish, as returned to Dr Webster in 1755, amounted to 2294 souls. On May 15th 1792, the number of examinable persons, i. e. all above seven years of age, by the late incumbent's examination roll, amounted to 2693, exclusive of New Lanark, or the cotton mills, to which when we add one fifth more for the children under 7 years of age, we shall have the sum total of 3231; so that the population of the parish including New Lanark will stand as under.

In

|                                         |       |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|
| In the town of Lanark, and burgh lands, | 2260  |
| In the village of New Lanark,           | 1519  |
| In the country,                         | 972   |
|                                         | <hr/> |
| Total No. of souls,                     | 4751  |

Increase since the year 1755, or rather since 1785,  
the aera of the Cotton works, 2456

The medium of births in the parish for 20 years preceding the year 1786, amounts to 68, and the medium for 10 years back from 1786, to 73. Marriages since the erection of the Cotton mills have greatly encreased, so that from being formerly at a medium about 19 annually, they are now doubled. Of the deaths in the parish, there seems to be no regular record kept: besides the kirk session, who ought alone to have the care of the mortcloths, there is one kept for the country heritors of the Western parts of the parish, another kept for the Barroony of Lee, another by the deacons of crafts, and of late the Guildry has deemed it necessary to keep one.

*Burgh.*—Lanark is an ancient royal burgh erected by Alexander I. whose charter, together with the after ones of Robert I. and James V. are confirmed by Charles I. 20th February 1632. Lanark is classed with Linlithgow Selkirk and Pebles, in sending a representative to Parliament. The electors consist of the Common-council and Deacons of Crafts. The number of counsellors are 17, including the Provost, two Bailies and Dean of Guild, and there are 7 Deacons of Crafts. The Crafts-men are the Smiths, Shoemakers, Wrights, Taylors, Weavers, Dyers, and Skinners. The Deacons form a separate body, called the Deacon's seat; and have no voice in council, except

except in the election of Provost, Bailies, Dean of Guild, and delegate for electing a member of Parliament.

The number of inhabitants amount to 2260; among whom are the following handicraftsmen, exclusive of journeymen and apprentices :

|                     |    |                 |    |
|---------------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Smiths,             | 11 | Stockingmakers, | 60 |
| Shoemakers,         | 80 | Watchmakers,    | 2  |
| Masons and Wrights, | 30 | Bakers,         | 5  |
| Tailors,            | 11 | Butchers,       | 4  |
| Weavers,            | 60 | Gardiners,      | 5  |
| Dyers,              | 2  | Tanners,        | 1  |
| Skinner,            | 1  |                 |    |

I do not know the exact number of Merchants or Shopkeepers, but there are four Surgeons, seven Attornies, or writers, and 50 Innkeepers or publicans !

The town is delightfully situated upon the slope of a rising ground, 292 feet above the level of the Clyde, and 656 feet 5 inches, above the quay at the New bridge of Glasgow. There are in it, five principal streets, besides lanes and closes. The houses formerly were almost all of them covered with turf and straw, and the rooms without ceilings. Since the erection of the Cotton works, many houses have been covered with slate, and ceilings are now pretty generally in use. In short the town has, within these two or three years, put on a decent appearance. A neat additional Inn has lately been built, which was much needed, as the resort of strangers to see the falls of Clyde, the Cotton works, &c. is very considerable.

There is here a very good meal-market; and within these two years, a neat market for butcher meat has been erected, together with a slaughter house at some considerable distance from it. The only other market requisite

site for the inhabitants, would be one for garden stuffs, which might also answer for potatoes, fish and salt. At present garden stuffs are only to be bought at the gardens. As to fish, were a particular market once established, such as are peculiar to the place, as salmon, trouts, pikes, perches, and pars, would more readily be exposed to sale; besides it would encourage the sale of herrings and other fish from Glasgow, &c.

*Church.* The church stands in the middle of the town; is a tolerable neat modern building; but no great compliment can be paid to its steeple. The steeple contains 2 bells, the largest has 3 different dates put upon it at the different refoundings; the oldest date is 1110. The church, tho' large, is rather inadequate to the encreasing number of the inhabitants, which circumstance in part gave rise to the building of a seceding meeting-house within these two or three years. This meeting-house has from 90 to 100 communicants, and the examinable persons will amount to one fifth more. The seceders here are a very orderly set of men; and they and their pastor possess more solid religion and good sense, than to listen to the wild schemes of anarchy and disorder, said to be inculcated by some of their sect, in imitation of the atheists of a neighbouring kingdom.

*School.* The grammar school here has always been in great repute; and many gentlemen at the head of the learned professions have had their education at it. The school has two established teachers; and English, Latin and Greek are taught in the same room. The Rector's salary is L 16: 13: 4: and the second master's is L 8. The scholars are from 70 to 80. The fees for English are, 1s. 6d. per quarter, and for Latin 2s. 6d. The present school-house, consisting of two stories, and slated,

was

was built from the munificence of the late William Smellie, M. D. well known from his publications on the obstetric art, who bequeathed L. 200 towards rebuilding the school-house, and also left to it his library of books, which are kept in the room immediately above the school-room.

*Manufactures.* There is a considerable manufactory of stockings here, between 75 and 80 stocking frames, being constantly employed. The workmen's wages in all are about L. 35 weekly. This business has increased considerably within these 7 or 8 years. About 20 years ago, there were no more than 5 or 6 frames in the town.

Previous to the American War, a very great quantity of shoes was manufactured here for exportation, and sent to Glasgow weekly, but since that period the demand is considerably decreased.

*Fairs.* There are at Lanark 7 fairs in the year, all of them well frequented. Lammas fair is an excellent market for lambs and young colts. This fair some time ago supplied the Highlands with lambs and sheep; but of late the demand from that country is considerably lessened. Martinmas fair is a good market for black cattle, lint, yarn, and coarse linnen.

*History.* About anno 978, Buchanan informs us that Kenneth II. held an assembly, or parliament, being the first mentioned in history, at Lanark; a circumstance about which Fordun, our oldest author now extant, is silent.

Anno 1244, Fordun tells us that Lanark among some other towns was burnt to the ground, but does not mention the circumstances.

Anno



Anno 1297, the same author adds, that Sir William Wallace began here his first great military exploit by defeating the English sherriff of Lanarkshire, *Willam de Heslope*, and putting him to death in this town. Blind Harry relates this event at greater length, affixing the same date to it. He tells us Wallace having married a lady of the name of Braidfoot, the heiress of Lammington, lived with her privately at Lanark; that while there, a scuffle ensued in the street between Wallace and a few friends, and a body of Englishmen. Wallace being overpowered, fled first to his own house and from thence made his escape to Cartlane Craigs. The sherriff *Hesilrig*, or as Fordun calls him *Heslope*, seized upon his wife and put her to death. To revenge which, Wallace gathers a few friends together, attacks *Hesilrig* in the night, and kills him and 240 Englishmen. Tradition tells us, that the house where Wallace resided was at the head of the Castlegate opposite the church, where a new house has lately been erected. It also acquaints us that a private vaulted archway led from this house to Cartlane Craigs, but seemingly without the smallest probability.

Anno 1310 Bruce, finally recovered Lanark from the English.

By act of parliament 20 June 1617, anent weights and measures, the care of the weights was committed to the burgh of Lanark; "In respect that the keeping and out-giving of the weights of old to the burrows and others, &c. was committed to the burgh of Lanark." Standard weights were transmitted to Lanark from London at the union, but whether they exist at present or not is unknown\*.

#### *Ancient*

\* The price of provisions is as follows. Oat meal and grain in general sells somewhat higher here than in the Edinburgh or Glasgow market.

Oats

*Ancient families and great men.* The families of Lee and Cleghorn are the most ancient in the parish. Sir William Lockhart of Lee, the great statesman and general under the protector, and Charles II, and who was also Lord Justice Clerk, was born in this parish, and had his first rudiments of education in Lanark school. Dr William Smellie author of the treatise on midwifery, though born in the neighbouring parish of Lesmahago was educated here. The present Lord Justice clerk, (Robert M'Queen of Braxfield,) so justly esteemed for his abilities as a lawyer and a judge, was born in the parish, and had his education at Lanark school. The late learned and ingenious general Roy, received also part of his education here, and was born in the neighbouring parish of Carluke. William Lithgow the noted traveller was born in the parish, died in it, and is buried in the church yard of Lanark, though no vestige of his tomb can now be traced.

E

Cotton

Oat meal is for the most part 1d. a peck higher than at Edinburgh. Beef and mutton sells from 3d.  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 4d.  $\frac{1}{2}$  the pound English; veal from 4d. to 6d. lamb 5d. hens from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. butter from 8d.  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 10d. and eggs from 4d. to 7d the dozen. There are few swine kept in the parish, although very profitable; and are seldom seen in the markets. Sweet milk is 2d a Scotch pint, and churned milk has been lately raised to  $\frac{1}{2}$  per pint. No salmon can get above the Stonebyres fall, and are seldom brought to market. Trouts are to be had almost every day, and are pretty reasonable. And vegetables are to be had at the gardens very reasonable. The flour baked here into bread comes all from Edinburgh or Glasgow, which greatly enhances the price of bread: About 30 years ago, potatoes were 2d a peck, eggs 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  the dozen, and butter 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  the pound.

*The rate of labour is as follows.* Masons wages are from 20d. to 2s. carpenters 1s. 6d. day labourers from 1s. to 1s. 2d. Taylors 8d. and their diet, when in the employers house, a custom now almost discontinued: plowmen get from 8l. to 10l. annually with maintenance, or L14. 10s. and a free house and garden without it. Maid servants from 3l. to 4l. a year.

*Cotton Mills, and Village of New Lanark.* New Lanark, where the cotton mills are situated, is about a short mile from Lanark; and is the only village in the parish. It is entirely the creation of the enterprizing and well known Mr David Dale; and as it originated with the erection of the first cotton mill, we shall begin our account with the mills.

*Mills.* In 1784, Mr Dale leased the site of the Mills and village of New Lanark, from the present Lord Justice Clerk, with some few acres of ground adjoining. This spot of ground was at that period almost a mere morass, situated in a hollow den, and of difficult access. Its only recommendation was the very powerful command of water, that the Clyde could be made to afford it; in other respects, the distance from Glasgow and badness of the roads were rather unfavourable.

The first mill was begun in April 1785, and a subterraneous passage of near 100 yards in length, was also formed through a rocky hill for the purpose of an aqueduct to it\*. In Summer 1788, a second one was built, and was nearly roofed in, when on the 9th of October, that year, the first one was totally consumed by accidental fire, but was again rebuilt and finished in 1789. The proprietor has since

\* In September 1785, while digging the open part of this aqueduct, there was found the skeleton of the *Bison Scoticus* or *Urus*, described by Cæsar Lib. vi. which has been extinct in Scotland for above 300 years. The cores or flints of the horns are still preserved, one in the college of Glasgow: and another in my possession; the last though not entire is 2 feet in length, and next the head measures above 15 inches in circumference.

since erected other two, all of which are meant to be driven by one and the same aqueduct.

In march 1786, the spinning commenced, and notwithstanding of the severe check by the total destruction of the first mill, the manufactory has been in a constant progressive state of advancement. In March 1791, from an accurate account then taken, it appears there were 981 persons employed at the mills whereas there are now (November 1793) 1334.

As already said, there are four houses built for the purposes of spinning, the dimensions of which are as under.

|                        | f. long, | f. wide, | f. high, |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| The first built one is | 154      | 27       | 60       |
| The second,            | 154      | 27       | 60       |
| The third,             | 130      | 30       | 60       |
| The fourth,            | 156      | 33       | 70       |

The second is the only one as yet completely filled, and contains about 6,000 spindles. The first one which was burned, and now rebuilt has only at present 4500 spindles. In the third mill, a considerable number of patent jennies are now going bywater, being the first of the kind in Great Britain: This invention, and for which, a patent, has lately been obtained, we owe to the genius and spirited industry of Mr William Kelly of New Lanark \*. There are about

\* This gentleman has also lately discovered a new method of erecting the great gear or large machinery of cotton mills, so as to require one fourth of less water than commonly needed: and which is also applicable to corn mills. This mode is not only less expensive but requires less trouble than the old one. It also has the benevolent tendency of preserving the lives of children and others that may be entangled by the drum or shaft. He has been honoured with the thanks of the Board of Trustees, with whom he has deposited a model of his improvements.

about 55 common jennies also at work in this mill. The 4th Mill is about to be filled in the same way; at present it is occupied as store rooms for cotton wool, as work shops for the different tradesmen employed; and as a boarding house for 275 children, who have no parents here, and who get their maintenance, education and cloathing for their work.

Below is a state of the numbers at present employed, distinguishing their different employments, &c.

Masons, Carpenters, and labourers, employed in erecting buildings, for 7 years past. 90

Mechanics employed in making, and repairing Machinery viz.

|               |    |                    |    |
|---------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Smiths,       | 20 | Turners,           | 10 |
| Clockmakers,  | 12 | Founders,          | 2  |
| Mill-wrights, | 9  | Hammermen and Hag- |    |
| Joiners,      | 19 | men, &c.           | 15 |
|               |    |                    | 87 |

Persons employed in carrying on the manufactory viz. in cleaning cotton, carding, drawing, roving, winding, spinning, and reeling viz.

|        |     |        |      |
|--------|-----|--------|------|
| Men,   | 145 | Boys,  | 376  |
| Women, | 217 | Girls, | 419  |
|        |     |        | 1157 |

Total number employed, 1334

Of these last, 32 men, 71 women, 52 boys, and 51 girls, reside in the burgh of Lanark, all the rest live at New Lanark. 109 of the women work at picking cotton in their own houses, and for the most part have families, some of whom are employed at the mills.

The



The ages of the young people employed are as follow.

|                    |    |                     |    |
|--------------------|----|---------------------|----|
| Of 6 years of age, | 5  | Of 12 years of age, | 99 |
| Of 7               | 33 | Of 13               | 92 |
| Of 8               | 71 | Of 14               | 71 |
| Of 9               | 95 | Of 15               | 68 |
| Of 10              | 93 | Of 16               | 69 |
| Of 11              | 64 | Of 17               | 35 |

The proprietor likewise employs in the parish and neighbourhood 324 persons in weaving winding &c.

The quantity of Cotton wool manufactured weekly amounts at an average to 6,000 libs. The yarn is partly manufactured into cloth here by the weavers above mentioned, and others in the proprietors employ; and partly sold to the manufacturers in Glasgow

With regard to the health of the work people, it is sufficient to say that of all the children provided with meat and clothing by the proprietor amounting this and last year, to 275; and for 7 years back, never fewer than 80, only 5 have died during the period of seven years: in mentioning so extraordinary a fact, it may perhaps be expected that something should be said of their diet and treatment.

The former consists of oatmeal porridge, with milk in summer or sowens, i. e. oat-meal flummery, with milk in winter twice a day, as much as they can take, barley broth for dinner made with good fresh beef every day; and as much beef is boiled as will allow 7 ounces English a piece each day to one half of the children, the other half get cheese and bread after their broth, so that they dine alternately upon cheese and butchermeat, with barley bread or potatoes; and now and then in the proper season they have a dinner of herrings and potatoes. They as well as the others, begin work at six in the morning,



morning, are allowed half an hour to breakfast, an hour to dinner, and quit work at 7 at night.; after which they attend the school at the expence of the proprietor till 9. They sleep in well aired rooms, three in a bed; and proper care is taken to remove those under any disease to separate appartments:

The great improvement arising from Mr Kelly's invention of Jennies going by water, reduces very considerably the number of men that formerly were necessary in working the common Jennies. Such being the case, widows with large families are much wanted here, as children can manage the patent Jennies with great ease, while their mothers are employed in other branches.

Great attention is paid to the morals of children and others at these mills, of which the late incumbent was perfectly sensible. Large manufactories have sometimes been considered in another light, but Mr Dale and all concerned, must here have the voice of the public to the contrary. Marriages have greatly increased in the parish since their erection, as the benefits arising from a family are obvious. Indeed the anxiety of the proprietor to have proper teachers and instructors for children will ever redound to his honour.

*New Lanark.* Has been entirely built by the proprietor of the mills for the accomodation of his work people and the following is a state of its population at present:

|                      | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Married persons.     | 181          | 184            |
| Widows and widowers. | 4            | 34             |
|                      | Unmarried    |                |

|                                        |     |     |
|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Unmarried persons above 22 year of age | 15  | 22  |
| Between 21 and 22                      | 1   | 3   |
| 20 and 21                              | 2   | 3   |
| 19 and 20                              | 14  | 21  |
| 18 and 19                              | 10  | 11  |
| 17 and 18                              | 15  | 18  |
| 16 and 17                              | 17  | 27  |
| 15 and 16                              | 30  | 29  |
| 14 and 15                              | 32  | 36  |
| 13 and 14                              | 27  | 36  |
| 12 and 13                              | 29  | 30  |
| 11 and 12                              | 51  | 47  |
| 10 and 11                              | 31  | 31  |
| 9 and 10                               | 42  | 54  |
| 8 and 9                                | 34  | 40  |
| 7 and 8                                | 40  | 37  |
| 6 and 7                                | 39  | 32  |
| 5 and 6                                | 20  | 16  |
| 4 and 5                                | 12  | 18  |
| 3 and 4                                | 17  | 10  |
| 2 and 3                                | 9   | 22  |
| 1 and 2                                | 12  | 14  |
| Between $\frac{1}{2}$ year old and 1.  | 11  | 12  |
| under $\frac{1}{2}$ year old.          | 19  | 18  |
| total.                                 | 714 | 805 |

total No. of souls 1519

Among thes are 54 Jenny 7 Clockmakers,  
 spinners, 5 Weavers,  
 45 Labourers, 3 Schoolmasters,

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| 11 Smiths,  | 3 Shoemakers, |
| 10 Wrights, | 3 Turners, &  |
| 8 Taylors,  | 2 Merchants,  |
| 7 masons,   |               |

A great proportion of the inhabitants are Highlanders mostly from Caithness Inverness and Argyleshires. Few of those from the west understand English. In 1791 a vessel carrying emigrants from the isle of Sky to North America, was driven by stress of weather into Greenock; about 200 were put ashore in a very destitute situation. Mr Dale whose humanity is ever awake offered them immediate employment, which the greater bulk of them accepted: And soon after with a view to prevent farther emigration to America he notified, to the people of Argyleshire and the isles, the encouragement given to families at the cottonmills; and undertook to provide houses for 200 families in the course of the 1792, these were all finished last summer, (1793) and a considerable number of Highlanders have of late come to reside at New Lanark.

Families from any quarter possessed of a good moral character, and having three children fit for work, above nine years of age, are received,—supplied with a house at a moderate rent, and the women and children provided with work. The children, both those fit for work and those who are too young for it, have the privilege of attending the school gratis, the former in the evenings the latter through the day. Three professed teachers are paid by Mr Dale for this purpose, and also seven assistants who attend in the evenings, one of whom teaches writing. There is also a sunday school at which all the master's and assistants attend.

In New Lanark there is a small congregational meeting-house for those of the sect commonly called Independents. The Highlanders have sometimes, though rarely, been favoured with a sermon in Gaelic, by preachers of the church of Scotland : and it has been for some time in contemplation, to erect a church for constant worship in that language, at least for one half of the day. The Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge has been applied to for some assistance, which probably will be granted, seeing the want of public worship and instruction, among so great a body of people, must have a tendency to hurt the morals of the present, as well as to discourage future settlers from the Highlands, and of consequence must promote emigration.

Before leaving this article of cotton mills, I cannot help noticing a circumstance peculiar to such manufactures, which may afford a useful hint to poor widows with families. In most other manufactures, a woman who has a family, and becomes a widow, is generally in a most helpless situation. Here the case is very different, for the greater number of children the woman has, she lives so much the more comfortably ; and upon such account alone, she is often a tempting object for a second husband. Indeed, at cotton mills, it often happens, that young children support their aged parents by their industry.

Mr Dale has set apart, and inclosed a piece of ground close by the village, for a burying place.

*Character of the People, &c.* The people are, in general, industrious, though not remarkably so. They are naturally generous, hospitable, and fond of strangers, which induces them sometimes to make free with the bottle ; but drunkenness, among the better class of inhabitants, is of late rather unusual. It is less so among the other inhabitants ; but, upon the whole, they are a decent and orderly people ; and

crimes are feldomer committed here, than in any other parifh of equal population. The author knows of no native who has ever been tried for a capital crime. In fhort, they are generally honeft, decent, religious, and ftrict in their attendance on divine worfhip. Perhaps, there may be one or two individuals, who, either from ignorance, or, from violence of temper, will not liften to the cool voice of reafon, who chime in with the ravings of the *Friends of the People*, as they call themfelves; but the reft, although fome may wifh for a moderate reform, have too much religion and found fenfe not to fee, that thofe people have neither experience nor knowledge in matters of that nature, and only grasp at feating themfelves in power upon the ruins of their country; nor are they fo weak, as not to profit from the example of a neighbouring kingdom, where *Anarchy* fits triumphant upon the guillotine, with *Murder* at her back, trampling upon law, liberty, and religion, and treading the rights of mankind under her feet.

*Ecclefiaftical State.* The King is patron of the parifh. Lord Douglas is titular of the teinds of the borough lands, and Mr Lockhart of Lee and Carnwath of the reft of the parifh. The church, being built in 1777, is in very good repair. The manfe and office houfes, being erected at the late incumbent's entry in 1757, are not in fuch good order. The manfe, offices, and garden, cover about a rood of ground. The glebe is fcrimply 4 acres; but the incumbent is entitled to the grafs of the church-yard, and to common pafturnage in the moor.

The ftipend payable at prefent is as under,

|           | B.     | F.  | P.   | L.              |
|-----------|--------|-----|------|-----------------|
| In meal,  | 87     | 1   | 2    | 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ |
| In bear,  | 9      | 3   | 1    | 2 $\frac{1}{3}$ |
| In money, | L. 493 | 3s. | 10d. | Scotch,         |

which,

which, with L. 35 6s. 8d. Sterling of augmentation, obtained during the winter session 1792, will, at the common conversion, amount in whole to about L. 90 Sterling.

Mr James Gray, the late incumbent, succeeded Mr John Orr and was translated from Rothes to this parish in 1756. No minister ever conducted himself with greater propriety. He never meddled with borough politics, but attended only to the duties of religion; and his pious and exemplary conduct will long be remembered by his parishioners. Mr WILLIAM MENZIES has of late obtained the presentation, is agreeable to all the parish, and has been favoured with an unanimous call.

A very accurate and distinct record of births and marriages is kept by the session clerk, commencing in 1648.

*Poor.* The poor's funds have been carefully and attentively kept, perhaps more so than was absolutely necessary. When the funds for the poor are very considerable, they become in some degree an encouragement to idleness and dissipation; besides, people do not give alms for the use of after generations, but to supply the necessities of the present. It is true, the Session may err in giving too much to the poor, yet surely objects will always occur, among industrious manufacturers and tradesmen burdened with great families, where the bestowing of a very small pittance will not only benefit the receivers, but the whole parish, and even the nation at large.

The number of town poor upon the session roll amounts to 45, including 3 orphan children and a lunatic. The interest of 400l. the sum amassed by the session; the collections at the church doors; the rent of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acre of land, with the fines from delinquents, and a considerable proportion of the fees for proclamation of banns, *i. e.* marriages, have hitherto formed the fund for their supply.



The heritors of the landward part of the parish meet half yearly, and assess themselves for the maintainance of their poor. The number of their poor at present amounts to 11; and the assessment, including clerk's salary, for last year, to about 27*l*. This mode of providing for the poor, in the landward parish, has been adopted since the year 1750. Dr Anderson, the editor of the Bee, inveighs warmly against this mode of providing for the poor, alledging that it is contrary to law, and invariably followed by a gradual increase of the number of poor. Whatever it may be in other places, from the record of this charity, it does not appear that it has been the case in this parish. The lands belonging to St Leonard's hospital, formerly noticed, are under the administration of the magistrates, and yield, *communibus annis*, about 35*l*. yearly, divided among 40 poor persons monthly. The different incorporations likewise divide some money quarterly among the families of their deceased brethren: 30*l*. Scotch are divided by the minister and magistrates, on the morning of the first day of the year, among the poor burghesses. This is a mortification by James Lord Carmichael in the year 1662. His lordship, in those days, had his town residence in this burgh, and observing the better sort of tradesmen and inhabitants, celebrating the new year's day with feasting and merry making, he, from the benevolence of his disposition, as tradition says, mortified (gave) a sum of money, the interest of which is to be given to the poor, that they may likewise have it in their power to buy a *hot pint*, and partake in the general festivity.

*Miscellaneous observations*\*. The inhabitants of the parish are somewhat above the middle size, strong built, and of a hale

\* A native of Lanark, one Robert Alexander, a wigmaker, and formerly a councillor and town treasurer, has kept a regular register of the weather, seasons, and public occurrences within the burgh, from 1755 downwards.

hale complexion. Their dress is considerably altered within these 20 years. A blue or black bonnet is now a singularity; hats are in general use; and both sexes appear at church, or at a ball, with almost as much elegance as the inhabitants of the capital. The dialect of the upper ward of Clydesdale, as to pronounciation, is the same with that spoken in Edinburgh, differing materially from that of the middle and lower wards.

Two customs, almost peculiar to the burgh of Lanark, perhaps may here be noticed. The first is a gala kept by the boys of the grammar school, beyond all memory, in regard to date, on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. They then parade the streets with a palm, or its substitute, a large tree of the willow kind, *salix caprea*, in blossom, ornamented with daffodils, mezereon and box-tree. This day is called *Palm Saturday*; and the custom is certainly a Popish relic of very ancient standing. The other is the riding of the marches, which is done annually, upon the day after Whitsunday fair, by the magistrates and burgeses, called here the *landsmark*

or

He is now about 78 years of age, and, notwithstanding all his past services, the only office he now can reach is that of parish beadle. His annals consist of 5 or 6 M. S. octavo volumes; and although some of them are trifling, yet in general they are a curious and useful repository.

An improvement, which may be followed with advantage in other places, took effect here about 30 years ago. A country fidler, but a man of penetration, having made some money, purchased about 3 or 4 acres of ground, of a dry gravelly soil, consisting mostly of sloping banks, which did not yield above 3l. 10s. altogether of yearly rent. These grounds were situated at the bottom of the town, within 30 or 40 feet of a rivulet, which, passing through the town and butcher market, conveyed away a deal of manure, garbage, &c. The new proprietor, conscious of the advantages derivable from this source, was at a considerable expence in driving a mine through those 30 or 40 feet of ground, (a high bank,) by which, in two or three years time he so enriched his grounds, as to draw 14l. annually of rent; and now 40l. Sterling a year has been refused for these very lands.

or langemark day, from the Saxon *langemark*. It is evidently of Saxon origin, and probably established here in the reign of, or sometime posterior to Malcom I.

The manners of the inhabitants, as to diet and drink, are considerably changed within these 20 years, which may be exemplified from the public entertainments of the magistrates. Formerly their debauch was a moderate meal, with a few bottles of ale or porter, and a dram or two; and, in gala days, a little punch. Now, they have superb entertainments, with punch, port, and even claret. The common fuel of the parish is coal. The statute labour is commuted. All animals, common to the south of Scotland, are to be found here. Rabbits, however, are now entirely rooted out: pheasants, supposed from Hamilton house, have sometimes been shot in the parish.

There are few pigeon houses in the parish. Crows are numerous, and do a great deal of mischief; as do also hares, particularly to the fruit trees. The laws, made for the preservation of game, were certainly never meant to prevent proprietors or tenants from defending their property against such depredators; and little scruple need be made of destroying any one of those animals, when hurting the property of individuals, though it certainly would be a violation of the law, to do it for the sake of game alone.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.* Perhaps no single parish in Scotland affords more eligible situations for mills of all kinds than this parish. Sir Richard Arkwright, when here in 1824, was astonished at the advantages derivable from the falls of Clyde, and exultingly said, that Lanark would probably in time become the Manchester of Scotland; as no place he had ever seen afforded better situations, or more ample streams of water for cotton machinery.

Lanark,

Lanark, however, has two obstacles to manufactures. The first, the poverty and uncultivated state of the country around, and indeed of the whole upper ward of Lanarkshire, from which circumstance meal, and almost every other article, is dearer than at Edinburgh or Glasgow, coals and potatoes excepted. But were the country in an improved state, and did proprietors and husbandmen do their utmost to improve the soil, this drawback, in the course of a few years, might be got the better of. The next obstacle is the great distance, that raw materials are to be carried; and the badness of the roads. Lanark is 24 miles from Glasgow, and 30 from Edinburgh: the road to Edinburgh is an exceeding good one, but that to Glasgow, which is the principal market, is exceedingly bad; besides, it encounters with a very deep ravine, formed by the Moufs within a mile of Lanark. This disadvantage is in some measure doing away, by a new road now forming by Lanark bridge; over which it crosses to Lefmahago parish, and from thence runs along the immediate banks of the Clyde by Hamilton to Glasgow. The pulls here are considerably less than in the former road, and, when finished, which will be in spring 1794, it will form one of the most beautiful and romantic roads in Scotland. This, however, is a partial remedy, nor can any thing effectual be done to overcome the disadvantage, unless the southern tract of the canal between Edinburgh and Glasgow were to be adopted.

The want of a flour mill not only obstructs improvements in agriculture, but puts the inhabitants under the necessity of using oat and barley bread, or of buying wheaten bread at a great price; all which could be easily remedied. The community of Lanark has a corn mill upon Moufs water, which, at a very little expence, might be enabled to grind both wheat and oats. Encouragement would there be given

to

to the introduction of wheat crops; and the inhabitants would be enabled to live more comfortably, wheaten bread being of all others the most wholesome.

It is of great disadvantage to manufactures, that Lanark moor, so improvable and so near the town, should remain in a state of nature: we already owe a great deal to Mr Honeyman; and if the magistrates cannot dispose of any more of it, on account of the servitude of the burgeses, they may follow the example of the town of Ayr, and inclose that portion of it which is nearest the town, to answer for this servitude; and were it divided into two inclosures, the cattle could pasture alternately in both; the south moor would be fully adequate for this purpose,\* and after setting aside part of the north moor for fuel and divot, the rest of it may be either disposed of to one proprietor, or, which would be of greater consequence to the burgh, the magistrates may feu small lots to the weavers and others, especially along the high-way leading from Lanark to Edinburgh, very favourable to the erection of a village or villages. Those parts nearest the town would certainly yield equal feu duty with those at Kirkfield bank, viz. 6l. or 8l. the acre; besides, if a village was once erected, a demand for ground in the neighbourhood would naturally follow; so that the magistrates would be enabled to let pieces of their moor at least as high as 5s. the acre, and the whole remainder of the moor would in time be brought under culture.

\* This plan would save the necessity and expence of two common herds; the fees, however, ought still to be paid to the magistrates, and the money arising therefrom should be laid out on lime, to be spread upon the heathy parts to sweeten the pasture. Nor would it be deemed an improper exaction, were the magistrates to ordain, that every burges, on getting a cart of divots or turf from the moor, should, in return, lay a cart of dung upon the inclosed common.



NUMBER II.

PARISH OF SHOTTS,

(COUNTY OF LANARK, PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON;  
SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.)

*By the Rev. Mr ARCHIBALD BRUCE, Minister.*

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*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

THIS parish, in the public records, is called BERTRAM SHOTTS. The name seems explanatory of nothing peculiar to the place, and the accounts of tradition are so apparently fabulous, as far to exceed the belief of even the most credulous antiquarian. Shotts is situated in the north-east point of Lanarkshire. It is one of the largest lowland parishes in Scotland, forming nearly an oblong square, 10 miles in length, and 7 in breadth.

*Soils and Value.*—The lands which lie towards the corner of the parish are a mixture of clay and sand; will yield 5 bolls an acre, and may be rented at 9 s. Those towards the S. E. are of a black soil, and will yield 4 bolls an acre; rent 7 s. Along the greater part of the S. and the whole



W. side of the parish, the soil is chiefly clay, and will yield  $4\frac{1}{2}$  bolls an acre, rent 8 s. By travellers passing along the great road, Shotts is reckoned but a barren and bleak part of the kingdom. There is, however, on the S. W. boundary of this parish, a tract of ground, 2 miles square, that is little inferior to great part of the land upon the Clyde. It yields at an average 6 bolls an acre; rent 13 s. The lands in the centre, and along the north side of Shotts, are of a black soil, and chiefly fitted for pasture; when plowed they may yield from 3 to 4 bolls each acre; the grain is but of an inferior quality; the rent 5 s. an acre. That part of the country lying on each side of the great road, at the entry into this parish from the East, was not many years ago nearly in its original state. This the traveller now sees is subdivided, and by stones raised from the surface of the land enclosed, in a way which promises to last for ages to come. The proprietor, \* by continuing his operations, with the true spirit of an improver, has at once beautified the country, and nearly tripled the value of his estate. A little west from the kirk of Shotts, and upon the great road, the traveller sees a small tract of country neatly inclosed. Its produce, within these few years, was little more than the Thrash; but by the well directed industry of its proprietor†, it has for some seasons past yielded crops which vie with those of a much better soil. Round the mansion-house, which stands in the middle of this lately improved field, there are several belts of planting, which continue to thrive beyond expectation. Were the like spirit transfused into neighbouring proprietors, a country, hitherto but bleak, might be made more comfortable to its inhabitants, and have a better name abroad.

*Manure.*—The manure, which suits all the soils of this extensive parish, is lime and compost. The full half of this compost should consist of dried turf, the remaining part of  
dung.

\* SIR JOHN INGLIS of Cramond. † MR DAVID YOUNG of Little Hairshaw.

dung. This mixture the experienced farmer prefers to pure dung, as it is a much better security against worms, continues longer in the field, and encreases the soil, where the till or gravel comes near the surface. The industrious farmer here casts each season a quantity of turf, the more ben-ty the better; this, when properly dried, he stacks up, and after it has been used a competent time in byre and stable, below and around the cattle, it is carried to the dunghill. When from this it goes to the field, it is so completely rotten, that it yields a manure much superior to the compost mixed in the field. By alternate strata of this turf and sheep's dung, much excellent manure is carried from the fold to the field.

*Crops*—Upon the summer fallow, or field to be broken up, the spirited farmer lays on nearly four chalders of flacked lime, with a hundred single carts of the compost above described. The 2d, or perhaps the 3d crop of corn, he lays down with rye-grass. This for the first year does very well; but should the field be cut a second time, through the luxuriance of the natural grass the sown scarce appears. In the lower parts of the parish, a crop of pease comes in between the two crops of corn. With the rye-grass also a proper quantity of clover is here sown. The produce the first year (and there ought to be no more,) may be 200 stones. The ground, after this succession of crops, being pastured 3 years, the same rotation again commences. Lint is often a profitable crop in this parish, either after the first crop of corn, after pease, or upon potatoe land. A peck of seed will yield 4 stones of sheaf lint. The bear crop through Shotts has of late been much discontinued: for this the stiffness of the soil in part accounts; but there is another reason which weighs more with the farmer. Bear requires that quantity of unmixed dung, which prevents him from making compost for his outfields, a circumstance of late much attended to in this country.

*Rivers.*—There are two *Calders*, both of which have their sources in this district. The one of these rises in the N. E. corner of the parish, and in its progress westward, dividing Shotts from Torphichen and Newmonkland, falls into the Clyde 5 miles above Glasgow. The other Calder rises in the S. E. corner of this parish, and moving towards the Clyde nearly in the same direction with the former, in its course divides Shotts from Cambusnethan. The waters also of Avon and Cramond have their first rise in this parish. The Avon, soon after leaving Shotts, bends its course northward, and empties itself into the Firth of Forth near Borrowstownness. The Cramond, between its source and Mid Calder, crosses the great Edinburgh Road three times, and empties itself into the same Firth at the village and kirk, to which, in all probability, it gave the names.

*Hills and Prospects.*—The *Hirft* hill lies a mile E. from the Kirk of Shotts. Over this hill the road leading from Glasgow to Edinburgh has, for time immemorial, continued to pass. Here it is supposed are the highest cultivated lands in Scotland; this however is thought to be only a popular mistake; according to General Roy's mensuration, the Hirft is upon a level with the Clyde 5 miles above Lanark. There are two causes which seem to have led into this mistake; the waters here issuing from their sources, at a small distance from each other, run in quite opposite directions; it follows not, however, from this, that the Hirft rises to the height supposed; but only that in this precise point, the Hirft is the highest land between the Friths of Forth and Clyde, the two seas into which all these waters empty themselves. In every direction also from this hill, the country not only begins to fall, but wherever one turns his eye, for upwards of 20 miles, no object comes in to mar the view. All the space therefore between the Hirft, upon which the spectator stands, and the

the range of mountains which, in opposite directions, bound his prospect, seems sunk beneath him; though in fact, at a certain point southward the country begins to rise, and the Clyde, 5 miles S. E. of Lanark, is upon a level with the spot on which he stands. The *Tilling* and *Cant* hills, the one a little north, and the other a little south of the kirk of Shotts, should here also be mentioned, not so much on account of their apparent magnitude, as for the wonderfully extended prospect, which in common with the *Hirft* they afford. From the *Cant* hills, 6 complete shires, with a part of 8 more, are seen. Here the whole country, from Arthur's Seat to the hills in Arran, and the western termination of the Grampian Range, fills the eye. While the observer turns round, carrying his eye from S. to N. the whole space from the Pentland, Tinto and Loudon hills, on the one hand, to the Lomond, the Ochil, and Campsie heights, on the other, successively comes under his view. Into this extensive prospect, with the hills already mentioned, enter the towns of Glasgow, Paisley, and Hamilton, with villages and gentlemen's seats not to be numbered. This great stretch of country, a few miles S. E. of Shotts excepted, has the appearance of much richness and cultivation.

*Proprietors\* and Rent.*—By various sales on the part of the feuers, the number of heritors now in the parish of Shotts have arisen to 45. The chief of these are the Duke of Hamilton, Gavin Inglis of Murdison, Sir John Inglis of Cramond, and Col. William Dalrymple of Cleland. Of these

45

\* The whole of this extensive parish, the lands of Blairmucks excepted, which formerly were the property of the Laird of Dundas, but now of Sir John Inglis of Cramond, from the year 1378, down to the year 1630, belonged to the family of Hamilton. The Marquis of Hamilton, at the last of these periods, sold out the greater part of this extensive Barony.

45 there may be about 11, all of whose property does not annually yield 1000 merks Scotch. The valued rent of Shotts is 6566l. Scotch. The real rent exceeds 4500l. Sterling.

*Roads.*—The great road, which at present leads from Glasgow to Edinburgh, passes through this parish, and divides it nearly into two equal parts. In this, as in the other roads formed at that period, a straight rather than a level line was sought. To this absurd and inconsiderate idea, are many of the pulls in it to be ascribed. A bill has been lately obtained, to carry a road from Glasgow to Edinburgh, by the villages of Ardrie and Bathgate. In this bill there is also a clause, empowering Colonel Dalrymple of Cleland to make a line, which leaves the Shotts road at Bells-hill, and returns to it at the confines of Whitburn parish. Each of these pass through this parish, the first, two miles N. of the Church, the second, two miles S. of it. In self defence, the trustees upon the Shotts roads have now in many places eased the pulls in it greatly; and to avoid the Hirst altogether, the road is now carried nearly in a dead level, round the north end of that hill. The advantages derived by the public, from the late wonderful improvement upon roads, are indeed astonishing. The journey which, 40 years ago, the traveller could only accomplish in two days, he now executes in five or six hours. The expedition, and encreased burden of draught horses are equally striking, and still more beneficial. The statute work of this parish, though it be commuted, and very regularly levied, is far from being sufficient to keep the many roads, in so wide a district of country, in any tolerable repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The present kirk of Shotts is a long narrow building, situated due E. and W. What changes it has undergone, since its erection in 1450, do not appear



pear \*. It got a few repairs some years ago; much remains still to be done in this way. The manse was built in the year 1700. Before Mr Bruce's admission, it had undergone repeated repairs. At that period 100 guineas were laid out upon it, which have rendered it, though in a very exposed situation, abundantly snug and convenient. The glebe consists of 44 acres. It might rent as a small farm at 13l. or 14l. Sterling. In it there is a seam of coal, of the splint or parrot kind, fully 3 feet thick. There are here two strata of iron stone, the one resting immediately upon the coal, the other a foot nearer the surface, each from 4 to 6 inches thick: there is, at a small distance from this, another seam of coal upon the glebe, of the smiddy or drofs kind; this being only two feet thick, would, in a country like Shotts, (though it be of an excellent quality) nearly exhaust its value in working. The living of Shotts, manse, glebe, and fire included, is worth 140l. Sterling. The Seceders are much more numerous than the members of the Established Church †.

*School.* The school-master of Shotts, as in many other places of Scotland, acts as session-clerk. The emoluments, annexed to his office, may be about 3l. 10s. The quarterly allowance for each scholar taught English is 20d. writing 2s. Latin  
and

\* Anciently the parish of BOTHWELL extended from the Clyde, (washing along its S. W. borders) all the way to the confines of West Lothian. To accommodate the inhabitants in the Eastern parts of this great parish, the first Lord HAMILTON, in the year 1450, built a chapel where the kirk of Shotts now stands, called *St Catharine's Chapel*, being dedicated to ST CATHARINE of SIENNA. It was not, however, till after the Reformation, that the country round this chapel was totally detached from Bothwell, and erected into a separate parish.

† After a struggle which lasted upwards of six years, the settlement of Mr LAURENCE WELLS, late incumbent in Shotts, was at length effected in the year 1768. Soon after this, a meeting-house was built, to which the great majority of the people called a Burgher clergyman.



and Arithmetic 2s. 6d. During the harvest vacation, which lasts about two months, the schoolmaster receives no wages. Supposing the scholars at an average to be 25, each at a medium yielding 2s., the teacher earns yearly by his school 8l. 6s. 8d.; besides an offering given by the scholars at Candlemas, with a free house, 2l. 10s.; these, with a yearly salary of 100 merks Scotch, give the schoolmaster 19l. 17s. 9d. *per annum*, a provision too scanty, for the comfortable subsistence of one qualified to discharge the duties of this important office. There has, for this reason, been these 30 years past a succession of teachers in Shotts, unknown, it is supposed, in any other part of the kingdom. It is painful to add, that, either through the total want of a school-master, or the carelessness, the imprudence, or incapacity of those in this office, the rising generation, for these ten years past, have, in the golden season of youth, been in a great measure prevented from acquiring that knowledge, and those habits, which, in the subsequent part of life, can render them good men, and good citizens. For the same reason, connected with the carelessness, if not obstinacy of Seceders, the parish records of Shotts are so extremely inaccurate and deficient, that no decision, even for the smallest average, could rest upon their evidence.

*Poor.*—The poor in Shotts, for many years past, have been supported by assessment. Upon the first Tuesdays of February and August, agreeable to act of Parliament, the heritors and elders meet in a conjunct body. After the number to be admitted upon the roll, and the supply to be granted each claimant, are settled, the sum wanted for the ensuing six months is laid on. This the treasurer is authorized to levy, the one half from the heritors, the other half from the tenants, in proportion to their several valuations. At each meeting a standing committee is also appointed, to superintend the operations of the treasurer, and to give advice  
or

or supply upon extraordinary emergencies The number upon the poor's roll of Shotts may be, *communibus annis*, from 20 to 28. The allowance granted to individuals may be each month from 2 s. to 6 s: It often happens that there are persons standing in need of temporary relief, who wish not to be put upon the roll. Their case at each meeting is also considered, and a reasonable allowance granted. The sum, annually requisite for all the above mentioned purposes, may be about 50 l. Sterling; of which, 40l. or thereabout, is raised by assessment; the mort-cloths and kirk-dues make up for the rest. This plan, in a parish like Shotts, where the Sectaries are so numerous, and the heritors of the greatest valuation do not reside, seems to be the only equitable one which can be adopted.

*Population.*—The enlargement of farms has produced the same effects in Shotts that it has produced in other places. Along the N. and E. sides of this parish, the property of the Duke of Hamilton, and Sir John Inglis of Cramond, the number of inhabitants is much diminished. Of this, the ruins of many cottages, and even of some farm steadings, afford the most satisfactory proofs. The parish, however, it would appear, has of late been upon the increase: Within these 12 years there have been built in it, and are now possessed, 35 cottages and 3 farm steadings. For this the late increase of travellers upon the great road, and the *Omoa Iron work*, sufficiently account. The total decrease within these 40 years is stated, along with other particulars, in the following table:

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF SHOTTS.

|                                                 |         |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|
| No. of souls in 1755, as returned to Dr Webster | 2322    |
| Ditto in 1793                                   | 2041    |
| Decrease                                        | 281     |
| VOL. XV.                                        | H AGES. |

| AGES AND SEXES.                | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Persons under 15 years of age, | 384    | 324      | 708    |
| Ditto above that age, -        | 601    | 732      | 1333   |
|                                | <hr/>  | <hr/>    | <hr/>  |
| In all                         | 985    | 1056     | 2041   |

## PROPRIETORS, ARTISTS, &amp;c.

|                                     | Masters. | Journeyman or Apprentices. | Total. |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|--------|
| No. of heritors, resident           | -        | -                          | 29     |
| —Ditto, non-resident                | -        | -                          | 16     |
| —Clergymen, -                       | -        | -                          | 2      |
| —School-masters, -                  | -        | -                          | 3      |
| —Surgeons, -                        | 1        | -                          | 1      |
| —Weavers*, -                        | 23       | 19                         | 42     |
| —Licensed ale and spirit sellers, - | -        | -                          | 10     |
| —Smiths, -                          | 4        | 2                          | 6      |
| —Shoemakers, -                      | 10       | 4                          | 14     |
| —Tailors, -                         | 12       | 2                          | 14     |
| —Coopers, -                         | 1        | -                          | 1      |
| —Colliers, -                        | -        | -                          | 16     |
| —Miners employed at the iron work,  |          |                            | 80     |

## RELIGIOUS PERSUASIONS.

|                                                      |       |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| No. of families belonging to the Established Church, | 122   |
| Ditto Burgher Seceders, -                            | 363   |
| Ditto Antiburghers, -                                | 16    |
| Ditto Cameronians, -                                 | 17    |
|                                                      | <hr/> |

Total number of families, 518

*Climate.*—The climate varies considerably, in the different parts of this widely extended parish. In the low parts of it, stretching South, and South-West, the air is sensibly milder than

\* Of these 19 are employed in factory work, and 23 in country work.

than in the country round the church. An impenetrable till, lying at the bottom of a thin spongy black soil, keeps the surface generally moist; this, with the want of shelter from inclosures, and belts of planting, renders the air more penetrating and chill than in other parts of the country, even of the same height, where these improvements have been so happily introduced. The inhabitants, however, of Shotts are equally, if not more healthy, than those who live in a warmer climate\*. From the quantity of fuel with which people of all ranks are here so plentifully supplied, dampness within doors produces none of these rheumatic disorders, so prevalent in warmer climates, where this necessary article is, from its expence, almost denied to the bulk of the people. The renowned and immortal DR CULLEN, (who began his career in this parish,) when talking upon this subject, used to say that Shotts was the Montpelier of Scotland.

*Collieries.*—By several late trials, connected with former discoveries, it now appears, that the whole country along the South side of the great road, from the confines of Whitburn parish, is, for 10 miles West, and 6 South, all covered with coal. In the parish of Shotts, which occupies a considerable part of this great space, there are 4 collieries. The first of these is *Benbar*, the property of Sir John Inglis of Cramond: with this coal, which is of the best quality, the whole country west of Edinburgh upon the great road is chiefly supplied; nine miners have here constant employment. These bring annually from the pit 12,000 carts, weighing each cart nearly 7 cwt. The price at the hill, within these few years, has risen from 1s. to 18d. a cart; the total annual product of this work is 900l. Sterling, of which sum, at 6d. each cart,

H 2

300l.

\* Within these 4 years, three old persons have died in the parish of Shotts; the first, at his death, was entered into the 90th year of his age, the other in the 92d, and the third in the 88th year of his age.

300l. Sterling goes to the miners. *Hellis Rigg* coal, the property of Colonel William Dalrymple of Cleland, lies 3 miles west of Benhar. The seam is only 22 inches thick; the proprietor here employs 3 miners, more with a view to two strata of iron stone, of an excellent quality, than to the coal, which, partly from its inferior quality, and partly from want of market, sells at 1s. the cart, the purchaser pleasing himself as to quantity. Mr Cleland of Auchinlee, and Mr Cuming of Cross-hall, towards the West end of the parish, have great fields of coal upon their lands. Mr Cleland's seam is upwards of 3 feet thick. Mr Cuming's in some places is 3, and in other places 9 feet thick; each of these gentlemen at present only employ two miners; but did the sale prosper, it would give bread to a much greater number. Mr Cuming's coal is connected both with the ball and stratum iron-stone.

*Fuel.*—Plentiful as the coal is through this parish, yet, in the middle, and along the north side of it, peat is chiefly used. This is almost at every man's door, and is prepared at a time when, according to the mode of farming here practiced, little else is done.

*Proposed Canal.*—A canal leading from Edinburgh to Glasgow was last season the subject of much conversation. Of the three tracts proposed, if coal be the leading object, the one South of the kirk of Shotts surely merits the preference. Beds of free-stone, some of them of a very fine grain, are frequent in this parish, and the whin-stone in the centre of it may be said to be inexhaustible.

*Iron Works.*—The Omoa iron work, the property of Colonel William Dalrymple of Cleland, lies on the confines of this parish, towards the South-West. It was erected in 1787. The situation of this work is peculiarly eligible. The Colonel has throughout his estate here, which is of considerable extent, a seam of coal 2 feet 5 inches thick; 2 feet above the coal,



coal, ball iron-stone is found, the balls lying pretty near each other. This stone is superior to any thing of the kind, hitherto found in this part of the country: 3 cwt. of calcined stone yield 1 cwt. of metal; it smelts also without the help of iron ore. Two feet nearer the surface there are two strata of iron stone, each from 6 to 9 inches thick. Below the 2 feet 5 inches of coal, there is another coal 9 feet in thickness, of an excellent quality. There is here each day raised 36 tons of coal, 26 tons of which go to the furnace; the other ten, from their smallness, being unfit for charring, either serve to blow the engine, or are sold to the country. Nine tons of calcined stone a-day go to the furnace, which casts at the interval of 18 hours, and yields about two tons of pig iron, generally of an excellent quality. There is here a cupola blown by the engine, which produces cast work of any form employers please. Orders of this sort, answered by Colonel Dalrymple, have given great satisfaction. The coal is raised here from 18d to 20d per ton, (the coal falling below 4 inches square excepted), which brings the miner only 9½d. a ton: Ball iron stone in raising 2s. 6d: Stratum iron stone 18d. There are employed here 40 miners, besides other 40 smelters and persons otherwise engaged, and 12 horses. The weekly expence at this work is 80l Sterling, which finding its way to farmers and workmen of every class in the neighbourhood, improves their situation beyond what hitherto they had experienced, in this inland country. Another iron work is, against the ensuing spring, (1794,) to be erected upon Mr David Young's lands of Little Hairshaw, which ly about a mile S. W. of the kirk of Shotts. The gentlemen engaged in this work say, there is throughout the parish of Shotts such a profusion of coal and iron stone, as might, and in all probability soon will employ several such furnaces as the one now blown in it.

Should



Should this prophecy be verified, what a change in the appearance and product of Shotts may be expected !

*Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—An expert ploughman gets 12l. Sterling annually ; an assistant about 18 years old, 6l. Sterling ; a herd about 12 years old, through the herding season, 20s ; a dairy maid, or house servant, annually, 3l. 16s ; each of these have bed and board furnished ; a day-labourer from March to November 14d a-day ; the four remaining months 11d a-day. During the harvest season, men receive 14d. women 10d. with provisions furnished. A tailor gets 8d. with his victuals ; a mason and carpenter, each finding their own provisions, 20d. Each of these classes of labourers have, within these last eight years, risen one third in their demands ; at present, however, wages seem rather to be moving in an opposite direction.—Meal throughout this country may be rated at 1½d. a peck below the Glasgow market. The great quantities of Merse meal brought from the Dalkeith market, and carried through this parish to Glasgow, contribute chiefly to produce this effect. Fresh butter sells at 8d. a pound ; salted butter per stone 12s ; skim'd milk cheese 5s. 4d. a stone ; butter and cheese weight 22 oz ; a hen 14d ; chickens from 8d. to 10d. a pair, eggs 5d a dozen. Carriers picking up and carrying these articles, either to Glasgow or Edinburgh, heighten their prices very much to those who dwell upon the great road.

*Eminent Men.*—Shotts has given birth to two persons still alive of very distinguished merit ; viz. GAVIN HAMILTON Esq ; of Murdison, the most celebrated history painter now in Europe, and JOHN MILLER, Esq,\* professor of law, in the university of Glasgow, well known to the world by his ingenious publications.

\* This gentleman is by mistake represented as a native of Hamilton ; Stat. Account Vol 2. page 202.

*Antiquities.*—There is upon the great road, immediately below the church, a copious fountain of excellent water, known by the name of *Cate's or Kate's Well*. This name it no doubt got from St. Catharine to whom it was dedicated. About a mile South-West from the kirk, there is a small conical mount, called Laws-castle. This name seems to indicate, that some fortrefs had once stood upon it; but if there ever did, there is no vestige of it now remaining, except perhaps a quantity of stones of enormous weight and size.

*Character of the People.*—Although there are 10 houses licenced to sell malt and spiritous liquors of home manufacture, they are chiefly supported by the travellers on the great road. Even in those parts of the parish, where public houses abound most, intemperance is not a prevailing vice. The people, with a few exceptions, are industrious and sober. Since the present minister's connection with Shotts, and he believes for many years before that period, criminal prosecutions have been unknown, one prosecution for murder excepted, where the libel was not proven. Each, it would appear, sober and contented with the fruits of his own industry, feels but little of those passions whose indulgence terminate in ignominy and death.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The perfect command of fuel is the principal advantage which the inhabitants of this parish enjoy. It is rather surprising that this circumstance, connected with so easy an intercourse between Glasgow and Edinburgh, has not, long ere now, paved the way to the introduction and growth of manufactures in Shotts. This, however, had not trade lately received so severe a check by the war, would in all probability soon have been the case. The fields of moss with which, for two miles on each side of the great road, this parish is intersected, are a disadvantage from which the proprietors of Shotts can promise themselves

no deliverance. The flatness of the fields, and the barren hill, which lies at the bottom of the mofs, exclude every idea of cultivation, from the mind even of the most adventurous improver. It may be added, as another disadvantage, that throughout this extensive parish there are but two or three small villages, and that in other parts of it the houses are so distant from each other, that the education of children cannot be obtained, without much fatigue to the young ones, and expence to the parents.

NUMBER

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF LOCHWINNOCH,

(COUNTY OF RENFREW, PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY, SYNOD  
OF GLASGOW AND AYR.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES STEVEN, Minister.*

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*Name, Extent, Soil and Surface, &c.*

**L**OCHWINNOCH seems to be derived from the large loch or lake, which is nearly in the center of the parish, and *St. Winnoch*, or *Winnioch*, under whose protection it was supposed to have been placed in the dark ages, and whose name still remains, although his history is buried in oblivion. This parish extends to about 6 miles square. The soil is extremely various. The higher grounds, exclusive of muir, consist of a light dry soil on whin-stone, or rotten rock, and produce a great quantity of very rich grass and natural white clover. The lower grounds consist of clay and loam, and produce good crops of every kind.

*Climate, Diseases, Hills, &c.*—The air is rather moist, from the frequent rains which prevail in the western parts of Scotland, but this circumstance does not appear to affect the health of the inhabitants, many of whom die of old age. Consumptions, fevers, and sore throats, are the most common diseases in this parish. The most remarkable hill in the parish is the *Misly-Law*, which rises to the height of 1240 feet above the level of the sea; and commands from its summit an extensive and varied prospect over 12 counties, including the Frith of Clyde, and the islands of Arran, Bute, Ailsa, &c. This hill is surrounded by the muirland part of the parish, which abounds with game, and affords tolerable pasture for sheep.

*Lakes, Fish, Birds, Rivers, and Mills.*—There are two lakes in this parish, *Castlesemple Loch*, and *Queenside Loch*. The former was, some time ago, attempted to be drained without success, and is now made a most beautiful piece of water, containing above 400 acres, in which there are plenty of pikes, perches, and eels. It also abounds with swans, geese, ducks, teals, bitterns, and other kinds of wild fowl. The beauty of this piece of water is considerably increased, by the well dressed grounds and good quantity of wood which surrounds it. *Queenside Loch* is situated in the muirs, and contains about 21 acres; it forms an excellent reservoir, for supplying two large cotton mills in the village of Lochwinnoch. The principal rivers are the *Calder*, whose banks, from a union of wood, water and rugged rocks, exhibit a variety of romantic and picturesque scenery, and the *Black Cart*. The *Calder* flows into *Castlesemple Loch*, and the *Black Cart* is the inlet from it. On these two rivers, 7 very large cotton mills have been erected within these few years.

*Woods.*

*Woods.*—There are not above 30 acres of natural wood in this parish, but the proprietors of Castlesemple have made very extensive plantations, which, from the goodness of the soil, and the attention paid to them, are in a very flourishing state. They extend at present to above 400 acres, and will probably receive considerable additions from the present proprietor. It may be worthy of remark, that in thinning some plantations at Castlesemple, from 29 to 35 years old, each larch sold at from 12 s. to 22 s, and the best of any of the other trees did not bring a higher price than 5 s.

*Roads.*—The roads were some years ago in a wretched state; hilly, narrow, and almost impassable in wet weather, but many of them are now excellent, and great improvements may immediately be expected, from two new lines of turn-pike road, proposed to be carried through the parish to Kilbirnie and Port-Glasgow. The turn-pike roads in this parish are connected by private roads, to the making and repairing of which last the conversion of the statute labour, amounting to above 100l. Sterling a year, is solely applied.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The greater part of the inhabitants attend the established church, and there are not above 100 Seceders, Burghers, &c. in the parish. William M'Dowall, Esq; of Garthland is patron. The stipend consists of 127 bolls of meal, and 2l. of vicarage; and although the glebe contains only six acres, yet from its situation it is worth about 11l. Sterling yearly. An augmentation has been lately proposed to the heritors by the patron, to which they have unanimously agreed. The church is very well finished, and contains about 1300 people; the manse is beautifully situated about 300 yards from the village, and 320l. have been lately ex-



pended in putting it into complete repair, and building a new set of offices.

*School.*—The school, which is situated in the village, is commodious, and the salary of old amounted to 200 merks; but as the parish is divided by the lake, the proprietor on the south side wished to have a school in that district, and obtained 50 merks. The people erected a school-house at their own expence, and the emoluments of the teacher employed by them are about 17l. Sterling yearly: the salary and emoluments of the parish schoolmaster amount to about 30l. annually.

*Poor.*—The number of poor on the parish roll is at present 20, and they receive from 1s. 6d. to 4s. each, per week. This supply arises from 70l. or 80l. collected annually at the church door, and from the interest of a few donations, and of a small fund belonging to the poor. There are two societies established in the parish, for supplying the necessities of indigent members, and their institution has been productive of much advantage.

*Antiquities\*.*—The old *Chapel*, or college of *Castle-Sem-  
ple*

\* A very fine brass cannon, with the arms of Scotland, and J. R. S. engraved on it, was found many years ago in the lake, where other 6 are reported by tradition to have been lost. Several canoes have been lately found in the lake, about 5 feet below the surface, which evidently prove the large forests that must have formerly existed, in this part of the country, as they have been formed in a rude manner, like the Indian canoes, out of single trees. About 60 years ago, a ladle of Corinthian brass was found within a mile of the village, and the handle still remains entire, at the end of which there is a beautiful ram's head. It is in the possession of Mr Barclay, inn-keeper at Lochwinnoch.

ple, ¶ still remains entire, is completely covered with ivy, and is used as a burying place. *The Pail*, or *Pele*, an old castle, stands in an island in the lake, and has been formerly a place of considerable strength, to which the lairds of Semple retreated in feudal times, when unable to hold out in the castle of Semple against their powerful enemies.

*Minerals, Magnetic Rock, &c.*—Coal, lime, and freestone abound in different parts of this parish, and a very singular magnetic rock has been discovered two miles from Castle-Semple. The compass was sensibly affected all round the rock, to the distance of 150 yards. The effect was most remarkable on the east and west side of it, and in every direction it was greater, as the compass was nearer to the rock itself. In its immediate vicinity, or nearly in a perpendicular direction above it, the position of the needle was very unsteady and irregular, and as the compass was gradually brought nearer the ground, the deviation from the magnetic meridian was more remarkable, and the vibrations more rapid. When the compass was set on the ground, the north pole of the needle invariably directed itself to one very small space of the rock, on whatever side of it the needle was placed.

*Houses and Manufactures.*—When the present incumbent was settled in this parish, no new houses were building in the village; and although from its vicinity to Paisley, several people were employed in weaving silk, gauze, and lawns, as well as in the manufacture of thread, which is carried on to a consider-

¶ This chapel was founded by JOHN first Lord Semple, in the year 1505, “in honour of GOD, and the blessed Virgin MARY; and for the prosperity of King JAMES IV. and Margaret his queen, and for the salvation of his own soul, and the souls of his two wives,” &c.

able extent, yet it had a very poor appearance. Since that period 53 new houses have been built; many additional feus have been granted by Mr M'Dowall the proprietor; and the population, the wealth and the industry of its inhabitants have been increased in a most surprising degree, within a very short time. The local situation of Lochwinnoch is extremely favourable, from its being in the neighbourhood of coal, lime, and freestone, and from its being abundantly supplied with fine spring water; but its rapid increase has been principally occasioned by the erection of two large cotton mills, by Messrs Henston, Burns and Co. and Messrs Johnstons and Co. The mill erected by Messrs Henston, Burns and Co, employs at present 140, and when finished will employ about 350 people. The wheel is 24 feet diameter, and is supplied with water from a circular dam, built across the river Calder, 19 feet 8 inches high, and 85 feet in circumference: the number of spindles in this mill will amount to 9144. The mill erected by Messrs Johnstons and Co, which is 164 feet long, 33 feet wide, and 35 feet high, is supplied with water from the mill of Messrs Henston, Burns and Co, employs at present 240 people, and when the machinery is completed, will employ 600: the wheel is 22 feet in diameter and 10 feet broad; the spindles in this mill will amount to 19,485. A cotton mill has been erected half a mile from the village, on a smaller scale, which will employ about 80 people: Messrs Johnstons and Co. are at present procuring a very large field, adjoining to their cotton mill, for bleaching, which is carried on with great activity and spirit by Mr Henry Wilson, in a different part of the parish: 339, 612 yards of dimities, muslinets, jaconets, and booked muslins, from 10d. to 20s. per yard, and, 4000. spinels of thread and yarn, were bleached by him in 1791, and 45 people were employed in the work.

*Ale-*

*Ale-Houses.*—In this parish, there are 14 ale-houses, which should be considerably diminished. It is to be expected from some resolutions lately published, that the justices of the peace, to whose superintendence this material object of police is committed by the Legislature, will take this subject seriously into their consideration, and apply an effectual remedy to an evil, which is productive of the most pernicious consequences to the health, the morals, and the industry of the people.

*Population and Employments.*—The following table exhibits, at one view, the great increase of the population of this parish, as well as the various employments of the inhabitants.

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF LOCHWINNOCH.

|                   | No. of Families. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-------------------|------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| In the year 1695, | 290              |        |          |        |
| In———1791,        | 557              | 1289   | 1324     | 2613   |
| In———1755,        |                  |        |          | 1530   |
| Increase,         |                  | -      | -        | 1083   |
| In the village,   |                  | 557    | 557      | 1114   |
| In the country,   |                  | 732    | 767      | 1499   |

PROFESSIONS.

|                               |   |   |     |                 |   |   |    |
|-------------------------------|---|---|-----|-----------------|---|---|----|
| Farmers,                      | - | - | 148 | Wrights,        | - | - | 39 |
| Employed in the cotton mills, | - | - | 380 | Masons,         | - | - | 17 |
| Weavers,                      | - | - | 135 | Smiths,         | - | - | 31 |
| Tailors,                      | - | - | 19  | Surgeons,       | - | - | 2  |
| Shoemakers,                   | - | - | 14  | Minister,       | - | - | 1  |
| Grocers,                      | - | - | 2   | Writer,         | - | - | 1  |
| Bakers,                       | - | - | 2   | School-masters, | - | - | 2  |
| Butchers,                     | - | - | 2   | Ale-sellers,    | - | - | 14 |

ABSTRACT of BIRTHS and MARRIAGES for the last twelve years.

| Years. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Marriages. |
|--------|--------|----------|--------|------------|
| 1780   | 22     | 16       | 38     | 26         |
| 1781   | 20     | 29       | 49     | 23         |
|        |        |          |        | 1782       |

|                 |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1782            | 24  | 16  | 40  | 22  |
| 1783            | 25  | 30  | 55  | 20  |
| 1784            | 29  | 23  | 52  | 28  |
| 1785            | 33  | 26  | 59  | 31  |
| 1786            | 31  | 19  | 50  | 18  |
| 1787            | 31  | 39  | 70  | 26  |
| 1788            | 23  | 24  | 47  | 11  |
| 1789            | 36  | 24  | 60  | 21  |
| 1790            | 33  | 26  | 60  | 19  |
| 1791            | 29  | 39  | 68  | 19  |
| <hr/>           |     |     |     |     |
| Total,          | 336 | 312 | 648 | 264 |
| Annual average, | 28  | 26  | 54  | 22  |

*Longevity.*—MARGARET PATTON, who was born in this parish, is mentioned by Lynch on health, as a remarkable instance of longevity. Her picture and a print from it, which the writer of this account has seen, were done from the life, by J. Cooper in 1739, with the following inscription: “Margaret Patton, born in the parish of Loghnugh, near Paisley in Scotland, living in the work-house of St Margarets, Westminster, aged 138 years.”

*Rent and Proprietors.*—The valued rent of the parish is 6692l. 6s. 8d. Scotch, and the real rent about 7600l. Sterling. Mr M'Dowall is proprietor of a considerable part of the parish, and the remainder holds of him as superior, with a few exceptions. The other proprietors amount to 120, and the uncommon number of them seems to have arisen, from the feus granted by the families of Dundonald and Semple, who were formerly proprietors of the greater part of this parish. They reside in general in the parish, marry into each other's families, and cultivate their own property,

to which they are particularly attached. Their houses are comfortable, many of them extremely good, and the old woods of plane and ash trees, with which they are universally surrounded, contribute much to the beauty of the country.

*Agriculture, Farm Rents, Produce, &c.*—The arable land of this parish amounts to 5476 acres, of which 1494 are yearly in tillage; and it is all enclosed with stone walls, hedges, or sunk fences, with a hedge planted at a proper distance from the bottom, which is a very strong and beautiful fence. The rent of the land is from 12s. Sterling to 2l. per acre; and the farms are generally let for 19 years, at from 15l. to 110l. annually. A certain proportion of the arable land is likewise let to the manufacturers in small lots. The tenants are bound, by their leases, to plow 2, and rest 4 years, and to have only one third of the farm in tillage. They put their whole manure on the first year, and lay down the second crop with rye-grass and clover, which is a considerable improvement, though it has only become a common practice within these few years. Oats, (which are sown in March and reaped in September,) and potatoes, are the principal crops in this parish. Barley, or rather *beal*, is likewise raised in small quantities; and the culture of flax has been attended with success, and has entitled many of the farmers to premiums. From the nature of the soil, which produces very fine pasture, worth from 5s. to 30s. a great quantity of butter and cheese is annually made; and the farmers principally depend on the sale of these articles, and the rearing of cattle, to the breed of which they are particularly attentive.

*Horses, Cattle, Sheep, &c.*—The horses are remarkably good, and the milk cows sell at from 6l. to 12l. The total number of these, and the other live stock, are as follows:



|         |   |     |              |   |      |       |   |      |
|---------|---|-----|--------------|---|------|-------|---|------|
| Horses, | - | 270 | Milk cows    | - | 1102 | Bulls | - | 43   |
| Mares   | - | 63  | Fat ditto    | - | 426  | Sheep | - | 2866 |
| Colts   | - | 77  | Young cattle |   | 574  | Swine | - | 42   |

*Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—Men fervants hired by the year receive from 10 l. to 12 l. ; maid fervants 4 l. ; mafons *per day*, from 2 s. to 2 s. 2d ; wrights from 1s. 8d. to 2s, and mill-wrights as high as 2s.-6d ; a day-labourer from 1s. 4d. to 1 s. 8d ; oat meal fells at from 16s. to 17s. 6d. *per boll* ; beef and mutton from 4d. to 7d, *per lb* ; butter from 10d. to 11d ; cheefe, made of skimmed milk, from 2d. to 3d, and of sweet milk, from 4½ to 6d ; eggs at from 5d. to 9d. *per dozen* ; potatoes from 10s. to 11s. *per boll* ; hens from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d ; and chickens from 4d. to 6d. each.

*Advantages and Hints for Improvement.*—The advantages of this parish arife from the plenty of coal, lime and free-ftone in the greateft part of it ; from its vicinity to Paisley, Port-Glafgow and Greenock ; from the good roads already made, (including the new lines of road to be immediately fet on foot) and from the rapid increafe of manufactures, which muft very confiderably augment the value of the land. With thefe advantages, it is hoped that many of the feuers and farmers, who perfift in the old fashioned fyftem of agriculture, may be induced, from the example of others, and a regard for their own intereft, to ufe better implements of husbandry, to follow a proper rotation of crops, and to attempt the culture of turnips, which are particularly adapted to the foil of this parish.

NUMBER IV.

UNITED PARISHES OF TWYNE-  
HOLM AND KIRK-CHRIST

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF  
GALLOWAY.)

*By the Rev. Dr. JOHN SCOTT, Minister.*

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*Origin of the Name.*

**T**RADITION hath handed down a report, that nigh to the church, a great battle was fought, and a king slain. A large single block of granite, set up upon one end, is shown as the monument of the unfortunate monarch; and some derive the name of the parish from the vanguard being obliged to *Twynehame*, that is, to return homeward in a winding direction.

*Form, Extent, and Situation.*—The form of the united Parishes of *Twyneholm*, or *Twynehame*, (as it is anciently and perhaps more properly wrote,) and *Kirk-Christ*, is oblong;

the extent is about 9 miles by 2 ; though, from the remotest house in the one end to the remotest house in the other, the direct distance will not be much above 6 miles. The river *Dee* divides them from Kirkcudbright, upon the S. S. E. and S. E. and the water of Tarf from Tongland upon the E : A small bay of the sea washes the coast from the W. to the S.

*Surface and Soil.*—The surface is mostly high-land, and, seen at a distance, looks like an elevated plain ; but when entered upon, it rises into knolls and arable hills, with small valleys and some merse land upon the borders of the Tarf and the Dee, until you approach the extremity towards the N. W. by N., when the view is bounded by hills covered with heath.—The soil is various, and generally formed from *rag*, and what is called in this country, *rotten stone*, decomposed by the influence of sun and air, &c. and fallen into earth. A great part of the soil lies upon this kind of rock, and some of it upon a till bottom. There are clay, moss, gravelly, and sandy soils, though very little of this last. In general, the soil is light, dry and rich, and, when properly managed, repays the industrious farmer with exuberant crops of grass and corn.

*Climate and Diseases.*—A good deal of rain falls generally upon the west coast, and these parishes have their share of it, but not more than what is necessary, considering the dryness of the soil.—Bordering upon the Western Ocean, our frosts in winter are of short continuance, and snow very seldom lies so long, as to do material damage to the store farmer. The height of the ground in general, the dryness of the soil, and the sea air, all contribute to the health of the inhabitants ; so that for 31 years, no epidemical disease \* has  
soil,

\* About 30 years ago, the ague prevailed, but for many years it seems to have

been known to prevail, except the small-pox and meazles. Inoculation is almost universally practised amongst all ranks, which prevents the ravages of that loathsome disease the small-pox.

*Lakes, Rivers, Fjß, Mills, &c.*—The variegated surface, and the rising hills, make this parish, for we shall now consider them both as one parish, under the name of Twynholm, abound in rivulets and springs. There are two lochs or lakes, the one upon the extremity of this parish, and dividing it from Girthon, called *Loch-Whinnion*, abounding in yellow trouts; the other called the *Loch of Trostrie*, abounding in pikes. The river *Dee*, (which is navigable the whole way it runs along this parish, and upon which there is a ferry boat between it and Kirkcudbright) abounds with salmon, grilse, trouts, sea-trouts, and hirlings; and at the southern extremity of the parish, there are some small cod and whittings taken by lines. The water of *Tarf*, (navigable for vessels of 50 tons burthen up to its lower bridge, upon which, in this parish, there are a flour, a barley, and a corn \* mill,) has some salmon, abounds in yellow and sea trouts, hirlings, and pars, a small red spotted trout never found but where there are salmon. The burn of *Twynholm*, which divides this parish in the middle, and which drives a corn and a barley mill, abounds in all the species of fish found in the water of *Tarf*, except salmon. Another stream of water, which runs along almost

have left this corner. The slow, nervous, and even an epidemical putrid fever, frequently, during the above period, surrounded these parishes, and some belonging to them were brought home from neighbouring parishes, in the worst kind. But no fever, for the above period, has either spread or become epidemical.

\* By corn is always meant oats in this country.

almost the whole S. W. extremity of the parish, abounds in trouts, and also drives a barley and a corn mill. The *Lake of Glengape* abounds in large yellow trouts. The three mills above mentioned are remarkably well situated for exporting their flower, barley, and meal. The corn mill lies close upon the small bay of the sea. The other two lie, the one within a mile, and the other within half a mile of the harbour above mentioned, upon the water of Tarf, and not above two miles from two harbours upon the water of Dee, where vessels of considerable burthen can easily come.

*Population.*—As the session records have never been regularly kept, the ancient state of the population cannot now be ascertained. The variations, however, of the number of people within these 40 years, will appear from the following statement. A late act of Parliament, now repealed, prevented the registration of births, marriages and burials, so that none has been kept for some years.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE UNITED PARISHES OF TWYNE-  
HOLM AND KIRK-CHRIST.

No. of souls in 1755, as returned to Dr

|                |   |   |   |     |                         |
|----------------|---|---|---|-----|-------------------------|
| Webster,       | - | - | - | 519 |                         |
| Ditto in 1763, | - | - | - | 510 | Decrease in 18 years 9  |
| Ditto in 1791, | - | - | - | 611 | Increase in 8 years 101 |
| Ditto in 1794, | - | - | - | 620 | Ditto in 3 years 9      |

Exact increase within these 40 years 101

| AGES and SEXES, &c.                   | - | Anno    | 1763 | 1791 | 1794       |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------|------|------|------------|
| No. of souls 8 years old and upwards, |   |         | 408  | 493  | about 500* |
| Ditto under that age,                 | - | about * | 102  | 118  | 120*       |
|                                       |   |         | 510  | 611  | 620        |
|                                       |   |         |      |      | No.        |

\*\*\* These numbers are stated upon the usual average. All the rest in the above table were taken from different accurate enumerations.

|                                 | Ann 1763 | 1791 | 1794 |
|---------------------------------|----------|------|------|
| No. of males, - - - - -         | -        | 288  |      |
| — Females, - - - - -            | -        | 323  |      |
| — Widowers, - - - - -           | -        | 2    |      |
| — Widows, - - - - -             | -        | 20   |      |
| — Persons under 10 years of age | -        | -    | 147  |
| — — — Between 10 and 20         | -        | -    | 86   |
| — — — — 20 and 30               | -        | -    | 303  |
| — — — — 30 and 40               | -        | -    | 68   |
| — — — — 40 and 50               | -        | -    | 12   |
| — — — — 50 and 96               | 12       | -    | 2    |

In all 620

| CONDITIONS, PROFESSIONS, &c.        |    | COUNTRY and RELIGION.              |       |
|-------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|-------|
| No. of proprietors, resident,       | 8  | No. of Persons born in Ireland, a- |       |
| — ditto non-resident, -             | 7  | bout -                             | 35    |
| — farmers and cottagers, and        |    | — — — in the life of Man, 3        |       |
| their families, -                   | 44 | — Antiburgher Seceders,            | 12    |
| No. of tailors, -                   | 10 | — Roman Catholics,                 | 2     |
| — weavers, -                        | 7  | RENT, STOCK, &c.                   |       |
| — masons, - - -                     | 5  | Valued rent in Scotch money, L.    | 2796  |
| — joiners, -                        | 5  | Real ditto—Sterling ‡,             | 2960  |
| — Smiths, -                         | 2  | No. of horses, - - -               | 130   |
| — Millers, -                        | 3  | — Black cattle, -                  | 914   |
| — Shoe-makers, -                    | 2  | — Milk cows, -                     | 343   |
| — Ministers, -                      | 1  | — Sheep, -                         | 2300  |
| — Surgeons, -                       | 1  | — Goats, -                         | 80    |
| — School masters, -                 | 1  | — Ploughs, - - -                   | 50    |
| — Scholars, - - -                   | 60 | — Carts, -                         | 70    |
| — Poor on the roll, -               | 7  | — Ditto in 1763 ¶,                 | 4     |
| — Houses possessed by families, 129 |    | — Bushels of oats fold annual-     |       |
| — Ditto by individuals, 10          |    | ly out of the parish, 10,520       |       |
| — Twins born in the parish †, 10    |    | — Ditto of barley, -               | 1,220 |
|                                     |    | — Ditto of potatoes,               | 160   |

### Manufactures

† Five women were delivered of these twins within the course of two years.

‡ In this estimate, the grounds possessed by the proprietors are calculated in proportion to the rents at which the others are let.

¶ At that period, though marl had long been used as a manure, it was carried in bags on the backs of horses.



*Manufactures and Village.*—Several years ago, a gentleman generally esteemed, and of a remarkable mechanical genius, under the patronage of LORD DAER, built a house in this parish, not far from the river Dee, for distilling British spirits. An alteration in the distillery laws, and other circumstances, occasioned him very soon to drop this branch of business; upon which he proposed to convert the house into a manufacturing house for cotton; but the stagnation of this branch of business put an immediate stop to that undertaking also. It is now, by the same gentleman, joined in company with others, under the same patronage, converted into a woollen manufacture; and they have erected a teasing, or scribbling, and a carding machine, which are driven by a small stream of water; they have also several hand jeanies. Upon account of some improvements made in the machinery, they have greater demands for their yarn, than others engaged in this branch of business: and if the war now raging, the failure of credit in general, the scarcity of money, or the increasing value of that article, do not put a stop to this manufacture, a village begun nigh the above building will rapidly increase, and increase not only the population of this parish, but that of Kirkcudbright also. There are, properly speaking, as yet no villages in this parish; for a few houses built upon the military road below the church, and the begun village above mentioned, do not deserve that name.

*State of Property, Rents, &c.*—More than the one half of the parish in value, though not in extent, belongs to the Earl of SELKIRK. His Lordship's rents, however, amount not to the one half at present. Eight of the proprietors, either farm the whole, or a part of their own lands. The average rent of the arable land, except three farms in the N. part, runs  
from

from 10s. to 1l. Sterling per acre. There are two farms let for grazing, without the liberty of plowing, for 1l. 1s. and 1l. 3s. Sterling per acre. Since 1763, the arable land yields above four times the rent it drew then: And one farm, belonging to the Earl of SELKIRK, yields 14 times the rent it paid in the year 1761; yet the rents are better paid, and the farmers live better, than they did at that period.

*Cultivation, Inclosures, &c.*—This is a country fully better calculated for grazing than for the plough, though it produces large crops when properly rested and manured. Hence the best farmers have constantly in view the melioration of their grafts. Though sensible of the benefit of inclosures, and even willing to pay  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. *per cent per annum* of the money laid out upon them, very little as yet is effectually done in that way, owing to our stones being hurt by the action of the sun and air, which makes the fences soon give way; our ground, interrupted by rocky and gravelly knolls, renders hedging and ditching ineffectual, unless a degree of labour, care, and attention be given them, which the farmer has neither time nor inclination to bestow. The want of wood for coping exposes the young thorns to the ravages of cattle; and a polled Galloway cow, if once she can thrust in her nose, with shut eyes will force her way through a strong hedge. To remedy these defects, Lord SELKIRK plants his hedges in a stone facing, and builds up the stones for coping and fencing. One thing is still wanting; viz. that his Lordship should agree with a gardener, or skilful workman, to keep his hedges in proper order, at so much per rood, the tenants paying the expence along with the rent; this he has already done with respect to clearing his estate of moles.

*Manures.*—The manures used are shell marl, sea shells, water lathing, paring and burning the surface, and dung. Shell marl, as a manure in this part of Scotland, was first discovered and used in this parish, it being above 60 years since it was applied for that purpose. Of all manures, when the ground is gently used, and not worn out by the plough, it remains the longest; its effects are most conspicuous upon the grafs, producing the different clovers, particularly the white, and grasses of the best quality and kinds; and causing a great luxuriance in their growth, and deepness of green in their colour. The quantity laid upon an acre is from 40 to 60 cart loads, drawn by two horses. There is still a large quantity of this excellent manure in the parish, particularly in Lord SELKIRK's grounds. Sea shells are of two kinds; those that are brought in by every tide, into the small bay at the S. corner of the parish, and carted off at the ebb; and a pretty large bank running along the side bay, and beneath an arable field, called *dry land shells*. The first, wet with a considerable mixture of sand, are heavier to lead, but speedier in their effect. The quantity laid upon an acre of each is from 20 to 30 tons. Lime brought from England, and landed at the side of the Dee, or the Tarff, costs the farmer 1s. Sterling, the Carlyle bushel of shells, equal to three Winchester bushels. From 30 to 70 bushels unslacked are laid upon an acre. Leading a stream of water over the surface of a ley field with the plough or the spade, called *water-tathing*, prevailed very much formerly in this parish, before the use of the forementioned manures became so general, and produced excellent grain and grafs. It leaves the land hard bound, and unfit for the other manures, which produce little or no effect upon water-tathed land; and it cannot be repeated with any profit but at a considerable distance of time, except  
upon

upon meadow and grafs grounds. Paring and burning is in general the worst husbandry, except upon a deep mossy soil, with a clay bottom, when so much of the moss is burnt as to allow the plough to reach the clay, and mingle it, moss and ashes together ; then it produces luxuriant crops of grain and grafs. Dung, the principal manure in farming, is too little attended to in this country : The want of inclosures and straw yards, most of the cattle lying out in winter, are all reasons why so little attention is paid to this valuable article. What is collected is generally expended upon our third crop ground, in producing potatoes and a few turnips. One of the three first are generally laid on ley, or ground unbroken up ; and if laid on at least one year before it is plowed, they gradually sink into the ground, mix with the roots of the grafs, are productive the first year, and do not so soon sink out of the reach of the plough. Sometimes they are laid upon a fallow, and the author has known them laid in the month of May upon the springing corn.

*Ploughs, Crops, &c.*—Our ploughs, light, drawn by two horses, or three when old ley is broken up, without a driver, are mostly of the English kind, with the Scotch head, which is found to answer best in stony ground. Though formerly the ox plough generally prevailed, yet it was totally laid aside, till Lord DAER revived it, by using both oxen and heifers on a farm which he is improving in this parish. One of the three first kinds of manure above mentioned being laid upon the ground, it is sown with oats the first two years. The third year dung being laid upon the field, if the farmer can procure this article, it is partly planted with potatoes, and sown with turnips, and the rest of the field either sown with pease and beans, or left fallow. The fourth year, it is sown with

L 2

Barley,

barley, rye grafs, rib'd grafs, and the different clovers, cut for hay one year, and pastured 8, then again broken up for corn. Wheat seldom turns out a profitable crop, owing to the wetness of our climate, and other causes.

Experiments tried with our rotten-stone quarries, where the three first kind of manures are not to be obtained, might have a happy effect. In many places remote from these artificial manures, moss and turf are plenty. Kilns made of fods or turf might be erected, and the half dried peats burnt to ashes, at no great expence, which are well known to be an excellent manure for turnips, grafs and grain. There are different opinions, with respect to the quantity, to be laid upon an acre, of the manures of the first three classes mentioned; some thinking a smaller quantity, frequently repeated, best; others, a large quantity laid on at once, and not repeated for some considerable length of time. This depends in a good measure upon the soil, and upon the manner of cropping the land. When the ground is treated, as above mentioned, and is kept so long in pasture, the large quantities are, perhaps, best, as having the most effect upon the grafs; and as it is by fermentation these manures operate, such a quantity, as will fully promote this, will be found necessary, while a smaller quantity will only produce a partial fermentation; as beer, not having a sufficient quantity of yeast, is always muddy, fluggish and never clears.

*Prices of Labour and Provisions.* A farm servant receives from 6l. to 9l. Sterling yearly, besides lodging, washing, and food. A cottager's benefit, when converted into money, amounts to about 15l. Sterling yearly. A reaper in harvest receives from 17s. to 1l. 5s. during the season. A woman servant from 2l. to 4l. Sterling yearly. A day-labourer's wages



wages are from 10d. and 1s. in winter, to 1s. and 1s. 6d. in summer, without victuals : A mason's and joiner's per day, without meat 1s. 6d : A taylor's 8d. with victuals. The prices of all sorts of provisions frequently vary, and depend very much upon the Whitehaven, Liverpool, and Glasgow markets, to which we have ready and easy access by sea.

*Horses and Black Cattle.*—There are a good number of horses bred in this parish, both for use and sale. They are mostly of the draught kind. The old breed of Galloways, so highly valued for spirit and shape, and which continued a long time after the wreck of the Spanish Armada, when several stallions were thrown upon this coast, is almost entirely, if not totally extinct. The price of our horses is from 10l. to 30l. Sterling. Our cattle, so highly valued by the Norfolk farmers, are for the most part polled, long haired, short and thick legged for their height, straight backed, round bodied, well spread at the loins, and deep dew-lapped. Our calves suck their mothers ; none are sold to the butchers ; the males are cut young, the females generally about one year old ; and when cut, or *spaved*, they then with us obtain the name of *heifers*. At one year old, they will bring from 2l. to 5l. Sterling ; at two they will bring from 4l. to 9l ; at three from 6l to 10l. The best of our two-year-olds are almost always sent with our three-year-olds to the English market. Our farmers cannot be too careful to preserve this breed ; for any trials to meliorate it by *crossing* with other bulls, have hitherto failed. A gentleman in this country, who had a large dairy, remarkable for rearing the best cattle, and who kept and fed them till a proper age, when he sent them with other cattle which he bought from his tenants, to the English market, to try an experiment,



periment, bought one of Mr *Bakerwell's* bulls. He put the half of his cows to this, and the other half to a Moorland bull, bred upon his own estate. He fed the product equally, till they were sent to market at Norfolk, when those bred from the Galloway bull, brought considerably more money than the others, besides being easier to feed.

*Sheep and Wool.*—Our Sheep are of five kinds. In the upper part of this parish, where there are two sheep farms, the flocks are of two different kinds: the one, a small sheep, with flecked or sprittle face and legs, and fine wool. This breed has been from time immemorial in the country. The other, black faced and black legged, with large coarse wool, brought lately from the head of Nithsdale. The wool of the first kind sells at from 8s. to 10s. per stone; the wool of the other at from 4s. to 6s. In the lower part of the parish, there is the long legged English *Mug*, with wool, long, fine, and fit for combing; and the broad short legged, fine, short woolled kind, called the *Culley* breed. There is a fifth breed, of the small, white faced, short fine woolled species, which differ in nothing from the Cheviot breed. The wool of these different kinds sells at from 12s. to 16s. per stone: 28lb. Avoirdupois makes our stone of wool. Lord DAER, who, in many instances, has materially contributed to the advantage of this country, has introduced a breed from a Spanish ram in his possession; but as yet, there has not been time to reap the benefit of this improvement.

*Woods and Plantations.*—The old timber found in our mosses shows plainly, that woods had formerly abounded in this parish, though they are now entirely gone, except the above mentioned wood at the old Castle of Cumpston. There are  
some

some other small plantations, in different parts. But, in a few years, the rising grounds along the Dee side opposite to St. Mary's isle will be covered with wood, Lord DAER having already planted with different kinds of trees a great many acres of ground, and designing to adorn Lord Selkirk's extensive estate, in this and the neighbouring parishes, with scattered plantations. Wood, indeed, unless sheltered from the W. or S. W. winds, does not thrive. Northern and Eastern exposures are the best in this country, for planting every kind of trees.

*Fuel.*—Peats, turfs, and furze, or whins, were the general fuel of the inhabitants of this parish till lately. The mosses in the lower part of the parish being exhausted, and the improvement of the land having in a great measure banished the furze, coals from Whitehaven, the duty being now taken of, are the fuel already used by a great number of the inhabitants of this part of the parish. The Northern part still make use of peats and turfs, as the mosses abound in that quarter. The coals are sold for a guinea *per ton*, as it is called, though it consists of 36 cwt.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The church, which is placed exactly in the center of the parish, at the side of the military road, where three other roads meet, was built in the year 1730, and the manse in 1763. The stipend is 59 l. 17s. 6d, all paid in money. The glebe consists of near 30 acres, being the two glebes of Kirk-Christ and Twynehame joined together at the church. The Earl of Selkirk is patron.—There is an established school hard by the church; the number of scholars is about sixty. If once a house was built, and other funds, provided for the school-master, were settled, the living  
will

will be worth between 30 l. and 40 l. Sterling yearly.—The poor are liberally supplied by the weekly collections, and by the private charity of the inhabitants, who are oppressed by Irish beggars and other vagrants; owing to the military road, from the border of England, to Port-Patrick passing through the midst of the parish. There is no sunk money belonging to it.

*Roads and Bridges.*—In the year 1763, there were no good roads in this parish; a little after that period, the military road from the border of England to Port-Patrick was made, which passes through the midst of the parish, and has contributed greatly to the improvement of the country. After this, a road was made to Kirkcudbright, by the bridge of Tongland, which parts from the military road at the church of Twynholm, and another road from the military road at the Gatehouse of Fleet to Kirkcudbright, by the ferry boat over the Dee, which passes through this parish. An Act of Parliament to convert the statute labour, contributes in some measure to keep all these roads, except the military one, in repair. But the best directed roads in the parish, are two from the church of Twynchame, (the one to the ferry boat of Kirkcudbright, and the other to the bay at the extremity of the parish); and a third from the ferry along the side of the Dee, till it joins the latter one at the said bay; opening an easy communication from Kirkcudbright to the parish of Borgue, and a spacious bay called *Balmangan Bay*. These last mentioned roads were planned and directed by Lord DAER, and executed mostly at his expence. As good roads are the first and most necessary improvement in any country, though much hath been done, yet there still remains much to do, not only in this parish, but in every part of the country; and as  
the

the conversion money at the present rate is totally inadequate, some other method must be adopted. Upon these accounts, the above mentioned noble person proposed a bill to the county for their approbation, drawn up on the most liberal, and at the same time the most equal plan. Opposition was made to it through mistake, through prejudice, and through party, and a clamour raised against it, which obliged it to be dropt for the present; but till some such plan is adopted, our roads will go to ruin, and will never be conducted upon a liberal plan. The bridges are four; one over the Tarf, near the foot of that river, one over the Kirk-burn of Twynholm, upon the military road nigh the church, and two others over smaller streams.

*Antiquities* †.—There are the remains of two old buildings in this parish, both of them belonging to the Earl of Selkirk. The one, called *the Castle of Cumpstone*, is placed in a pleasant situation, nigh to the junction of the rivers Tarf and Dee, surrounded with a small spot of natural wood, the only one indeed in the parish. The other old building is situated in the farm of Nuntown, opposite to St Mary's Isle. There are two

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Doons,

† A gentleman who lived in this parish, and possessed an estate in it, and who died some years ago upwards of 80, acquainted the writer, that in the old burial place of Twynholm, which was situated about a gun-shot from the present, nigh one of the doons, and not far from three of the moats, (but of which no vestige now remains, it being part of a corn field,) there was turned up by labourers employed by him to remove part of an old fence, a round piece of gold which he supposed to be the handle of a coffin. This piece he sent to Edinburgh, and received for it only three guineas, the person that bought it alledging that it was not gold; but, as he observed, if it had not been of that metal, the dealer would not have given so much.

*Doons* ‡, five moats, and a hill opposite to two of them, called the *Gallows-Hill*; but, as the figure, use, and design of these relicts of antiquity have been so often explained by others, a repetition here is unnecessary.

*Proposed Improvements.*—There is a creek at the side of the Dee, very nigh the manufacturing house formerly mentioned, that might easily be turned into a good harbour, sheltered from every storm. The adjacent field is commodious for wet and dry docks, such as they have at Liverpool; the stream of water that drives the machinery would serve to clean them; spring tides 30 feet perpendicular; and there is at the same time considerably more than 17 feet of water upon the barr at the mouth of the river. A great road opened from the kirk of Twynholm to the N. N. W. through an opening in the hill of Glengape, would give access to manure landed in the Tarf or the Dee, for wild and barren grounds.

*Disadvantages.*—The wetness of our climate, the scarcity of fuel, and no rock salt upon our coast, with other causes, render that necessary article at times scarce and dear. For these two years past, the scarcity of this article has been so great, about the term of Martinmas, as materially to hurt the sale of our fat cattle. This might be easily remedied by allowing rock salt to be imported, or salt ready made from Liverpool, at the Scotch duties. One of these measures ought to be

‡ Some time ago, there was raised from beneath a heap of stones, not far from that spot, what appeared like a coffin made up of different stones, in which was found an instrument resembling a hammer, and some coins; but of what metal the instrument was made, or where to be found, or of what kind the coins were, no information can now be obtained. There have been several coins found nigh to these moats, but none of them are preserved.



be adopted, or smuggling will become general. The variety of *weights and measures*, which universally prevails both in England and Scotland, demands the attention of the Legislature. In London a stone weight of several commodities is 16 lbs avoirdupoise; in Liverpool, or Whitehaven, the *same nominal quantity* of the same goods is only 14 lbs ditto; in Dumfries, or in that part of this county that lies upon the other side of the river Urr, a Scotch stone of any commodity is 24 lbs; in New Galloway, which is in the same county, it is 26lb, and in all this part of the country round Kirkcudbright, it is 28 lbs. ditto: In other places, only 22 lbs. make the stone. Almost every county in England has its *busbel*, and every county in Scotland its *peck*, all differing one from another. The Winchester busbel is now generally used in this county, to measure all sorts of grain; and an hundred weight of potatoes and a peck are the same.

*Character and Manners.*—The people in general are cheerful, sober, industrious, and humane; of an aspiring and independent spirit. There are not at present above four men in the station of servants, that were born and educated in this parish. Seventeen young men, if not more, within these few years, have gone to England, America, and the West Indies, in the mercantile line; three to the sea; besides several families that emigrated before the commencement of the American war. Since the year 1763, there is a vast difference in the houses, dress and manner of living. There were then only two houses covered with slate; now there are about thirty. English broad cloth, and fancy vests of cotton, are the dress of the men, when they go to church or market. Silk cloaks and bonnets, printed gowns, and cotton stockings, the dress of the women. In the year 1763, there



were only three families in which tea was occasionally drunk. Now it is used in every family. In 1763, at Martinmas, there were not more than three beeves killed in the parish, our remoteness from public market making it necessary to salt provisions for winter; now there are about forty, besides a great many swine, a pig being kept and fed by almost every householder, together with lamb and mutton in summer and harvest; butcher meat, of one kind or another, making a great part of the diet of the farmers and their servants, which, perhaps, is cheaper upon the whole, than the low diet upon which they were formerly fed.

NUMBER

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PARISH OF URQUHART,

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY.)

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM GORDON, Minister.*

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*Name, Extent, and Situation, &c.*

**T**HE etymology of the name cannot be ascertained with precision. If it be of Gaelic extraction, some information may be received from those quarters where that language is understood. There are other two parishes of the same name, the one a few miles from Inverness, and in that county; the other in Ross-shire. This parish extends about 4 miles from E. to W. and 3 from N. to S; and lies at an equal distance from Elgin on the W. and the river Spey on the E; the post road passing along it on the S.

*Surface, Sea Coast, Fuel, &c.*—That part of the parish which lies to the N. W. is flat and low, rising a few feet only above the level of the sea, and has probably, at some former

mer period been covered by water, as there are evident marks of the sea having receded from the coast: The rest is a good deal more elevated, and of an unequal waving surface. The sea coast, which is about 4 miles in extent, is low and sandy; it contains no creek nor landing place of any kind. Our grain, which is our only article of exportation, is shipped from Speymouth or Lofsiemouth; and our great article of importation, which is coals, is imported at the same harbours; the former of which is at the distance of 4 miles, and the other of 6. It is proper here to mention, that this, as well as several other neighbouring parishes, was formerly ill supplied with fuel; but now, that article is rendered much less expensive, by taking off the high duty on coals, that was laid on with little attention to political economy, and which has lately been abolished by the exertions of a great statesman; to whom this country is more obliged on account of that measure, and many others, than to any other native of this part of the united kingdom.

*Climate, &c.*—The air is dry and salubrious, and the people in general healthy; there are, however, few instances of remarkable longevity to be met with. The climate here, like that of all that narrow tract of land, which lies along the south side of the Moray Firth, is mild and temperate to an extraordinary degree: Its superiority, in that respect, over the high country, is most remarkable in the spring months. Often in that season, while all the operations of husbandry are going forward in the low parts of Moray, there are many places in the high country, distant only a few miles, where these operations meet with a total interruption, from the intemperateness

tenfeness of the frosts, and from deep falls of snow. \* Our winters likewise, in general, are so open, that several plants commonly ranked amongst the hot-house division, stand throughout that season in the gardens of Innes, exposed to the open air, and lose little of their verdure.

*Soil and Cultivation, &c.*—The soil is various, and, though in general light and sandy, is of a kindly and fertile nature, exceedingly well adapted for raising turnips, potatoes, barley, and all kinds of artificial grasses. And a considerable part of it would be extremely fit for wheat, if there were any opportunity of procuring sufficient quantities of manure. Notwithstanding the mildness of the climate, and the kindliness of the soil, agriculture has made but slow advances. Some patches of turnips are indeed to be seen, and a few acres are sown with grass seeds; but the fields in general are rather in a state of bad cultivation. This seems to be occasioned, in a great measure, by the expence and difficulty of constructing sufficient inclosures; there being no stone quarries in the parish, nor any stones in the fields fit for this purpose; and thorn hedges are so long of coming to perfection, and so difficult to be fenced when they are young, that no tenant, on a lease of ordinary endurance, can attempt them with any prospect

\* It may likewise be observed, as a farther proof of the excellency of this climate, that in the end of the last, and beginning of the present century, while there was so great a deficiency in the crops, in many parts of Scotland, as bordered on a famine, owing to the cold and wet seasons; in Moray, at that period, the land was so productive, as not only to supply its own inhabitants, but also to spare considerable quantities of grain for the subsistence of their neighbours. And it is a fact well ascertained, that in those years of scarcity and dearth, people came from the shire of Angus, to purchase oat meal in this country, for which they paid at the rate of 30 s. *per* boll.

prospect of success. The farms also are of too small extent for carrying on any substantial improvements in agriculture. There are a few that may contain from 60 to 100 acres ; but the common run is from 20 to 30.

*Farm Rents and Ploughs, &c.*—The rent of land varies according to the nature of the soil ; there are some fields let for 20s. *per acre*, while others are below 10s. ; the average rent may be from 10s. to 15s. The ploughs, of which there are above 100, some of English, some of Scotch construction, are drawn chiefly by a pair of horses. In this branch of farming, an improvement has been introduced about 20 years ago, which now begins to be pretty generally adopted ; that is, plowing with two oxen, harnessed in the same manner as horses. This method is warmly recommended, and the advantages of it fully explained by the late Lord KAIMES, in his book called *The Gentleman Farmer*.

*Produce, Exports, &c.* The produce of this parish, consists principally of barley and oats ; besides supplying the inhabitants, it exports annually a considerable quantity of grain ; which must increase yearly, partly by the increasing improvements of agriculture, but chiefly by the use of potatoes, which are now almost universally cultivated, and during a great part of the year, are, in a manner, the principal subsistence of a considerable number of the inhabitants. This food, which at first was not in general use, becomes more and more so every day, from the various modes that have been discovered of dressing it, by different seasonings, at little or no expence. They make an excellent dish with milk, but above all with onions, which are raised in abundance in this county, and sold at such a moderate price, as to come within the reach of the poorest inhabitant.

*State*

*State of Property, Plantations, &c.*—Four fifths of this parish are the property of the Earl of FIFE \*, whose plantations are executed with uncommon taste and judgement, and add much to the beauty and ornament of the country. In some places, he has planted moors and hills of great extent, but what makes the most beautiful appearance, is a number of little rising grounds, all of which he has covered with singular good taste, and so as to make their appearance with relation to each other extremely beautiful. In all these plantations, the Scotch fir at present predominates; but his Lordship every year causes a great many of these to be cut down, and the voids to be filled up with beech, oak and other deciduous trees †. Besides these plantations, Lord FIFE has planted hedges, and hedge rows in particular places along the high ways, that shew much fancy, and will afford considerable utility and warmth; the hedge rows, before they were planted, were pollards of a considerable size, and are thriving exceedingly well. A small plantation, at the place where the road to the house of Innes leaves the high road, two miles east of Elgin, from the beauty of its lines, must strike every traveller, and the hedge rows are continued a considerable length along the high road. In mentioning the high road, it is but justice to Lord FIFE to let it be known,

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that

\* About 26 years ago, his Lordship purchased the estate of Innes; and being at that time proprietor of considerable estates in the adjacent parishes; the estate of Innes, and the lands of Urquhart, lately acquired by an exchange with the family of Gordon, he became possessed of so large a tract of property all contiguous, and comprehending a great variety of ground, that he has been enabled to execute plantations of very large extent.

† Previous to the year 1779, at which period about one half of these plantations were formed, there were always planted in each acre 3000 Scotch firs: Since that time the proportion has only been 1200 to each acre.



that since he became proprietor of Innes, all the highways within the parish have been properly attended to, judiciously directed, and, by a regular application of the statute labour, kept in a state of good repair †. The only other heritor is Mr INNES of Leuchars ‡, who has about one fifth of the real rent of the parish. He is at uncommon pains to raise and fence hedges; he has planted stripes and belts about the ground round his house to a very considerable extent, besides several clumps similar to those executed by Lord FIFE. These clumps, like his Lordship's, at present consist chiefly of Scotch firs; but the plantations around his farm, and about his house, are all deciduous trees of the best kinds; oak, ash, and witch elm, with a proper mixture of larix, which are all uncommonly well preserved, besides being kept under the hoe for several years after they are planted. The water of Lossy runs through the property of this gentleman; that river swells sometimes to a great height, and frequently flooded the low ground on each side; but of late, with great industry and merit, embankments have been constructed, that will contain the river, and in a great measure prevent future inundations: By this circumstance the value of his lands is considerably raised.

*Lakes,*

† The house of Innes, one of Lord Fife's numerous seats, had been many years ago partly destroyed by accidental fire. Since his Lordship became its possessor, it has been repaired at a very considerable expence, and fitted up in the most fashionable stile; a large addition has been made to the gardens, and the grounds about the house, have been laid out in the best taste; the whole makes now one of the most pleasant and elegant places of residence in the North.

‡ Before Mr INNES succeeded to this estate, it had been in the possession of a gentleman who paid very little attention to improvements of any kind. Since the present gentleman became proprietor, it has undergone a very great alteration to the better.

*Lakes, Fish, Water Fowls, &c.*—There is one lake in this parish called the *Loch of Cotts*. Pike is the only fish it contains: In winter it is frequented by a considerable number of swans, and, in the spring and autumn, by flocks of geese, ducks, and other water fowls. At the upper part of the parish, there is another lake called *Lochnabeau*, partly in this parish, and partly in Lhanbryd. Lochnabeau is in the middle of what was formerly an extensive bare moor; about 20 years ago Lord FIFE planted the moor, and particularly carried his plantations round the verge of the lake. These plantations are now far advanced, and by their vicinity to the water, which is uncommonly limpid and clear, form a most beautiful and delightful scene.

*Stags.*—This improvement, however, has been attended with one inconvenience. In some severe winters, several years ago, a few stags and hinds came down to the low country from the Duke of Gordon's forests of Glenfiddich and Glenavon; of late years they have taken up their residence in the neighbourhood of Lochnabeau, and the plantations around it, and are become so fond of their new habitation, that they have never returned to their native forests; on the contrary, they increase every year, by breeding, and by the addition of fresh emigrants. These animals make a very fine appearance, and afford much pleasure and amusement to the sportsman; it is therefore to be regretted that they are so hurtful to plantations and agriculture. Throughout the summer, they pasture in the night time on the corns; in the winter on turnips; and in the spring, as the winter crops of rye and wheat are then farthest advanced, they are particularly destructive to them; but the stems of potatoes seem to be their favourite food, as they are known to pass through fields of corn in order to browse on them. Upon the whole, it were

much to be wished, that they were either driven back to their antient habitation, or utterly exterminated. The last measure has been successfully followed by a worthy nobleman in the western part of this county, celebrated for his extensive and flourishing plantations, who kept hounds for the sole purpose of extirpating those destructive animals. I need hardly say that the nobleman I mean is the Earl of MORAY. If these plantations have attracted the deer to this corner, it has been remarked that they have not been favourable to the increase of hares and partridges: this may be owing to the protection which they afford to beasts and birds of prey. Were gentleman to give small premiums for the destruction of these vermin, it would prove more effectual in preserving the game and increasing its numbers, than all the game laws that ever were, or ever will be enacted.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The present incumbent, who is a bachelor, had his presentation from the Duke of Gordon; but the patronage of the church has since been conveyed to the Earl of Fife, at the time that the exchange of lands took place between his Lordship and the family of Gordon. The stipend, by a decree obtained February 1793, is 8 chalders victual and 40*l.* Sterling, including 5*l.* for communion elements. The glebe consists of 5 Scotch acres. Some years ago, the minister entered into a contract with the heritors, for keeping the manse and offices in repair during his incumbency, for which he receives an annuity of 15*l.* Sterling, besides 30*l.* paid per advance. The church was completely repaired about 18 years ago.—A new school-house was then built; the school-master's salary is 12 bolls of oat meal, and 6 bolls of barley.—The average number of poor in this parish is about 20. The funds for their support arise from the weekly collections at church, which amount to 10*l.* yearly

yearly, together with some mortifications that produce 2l. 11s. 4d. of annual interest.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants has decreased within these 40 years, as appears from the following statement :

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF URQUHART.

|                                                  |   |                                   |         |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------|
| No. of souls in 1755, as returned to Dr Webster, |   | -                                 | 1110    |
| Ditto, in 1793, males 506, females 544.          |   | -                                 | 1050    |
|                                                  |   | Decrease                          | 60      |
| Annual average of baptisms,                      |   | -                                 | 30      |
| CONDITIONS, PROFESSIONS, &c.                     |   | Dissenters † from the Established |         |
| Proprietors,                                     | 2 | Church,                           | 20      |
| Minister,                                        | 1 | LIVE STOCK, RENTS, &c.            |         |
| School-master,                                   | 1 | Horses,                           | 310     |
| Gardeners,                                       | 6 | Black Cattle,                     | 900     |
| Smiths,                                          | 3 | Sheep, §                          | 1570    |
| Tailors,                                         | 5 | Valued rent in Scotch money,      |         |
| Joiners,                                         | 6 | L. 5567 : 15 : 6                  |         |
| Masons,                                          | 6 | Real ditto in Sterling,           |         |
| Weavers,                                         | 6 | about 1800 : 0 : 0                |         |
| Shoemakers,                                      | 3 | No. of acres, planted by the Earl |         |
| Millers,                                         | 5 | of Fife,                          |         |
| Ale and spirit dealers,                          | 8 | Deciduous trees,                  |         |
|                                                  |   |                                   | 230,835 |

*Manner of Living.*—Though the progress of agriculture has not been so rapid as might be wished, the increasing comfort of the people is very observable. Within these 20 years, a great

† These consist chiefly of Seceders, of the Antiburgher persuasion.

§ Since the moors were planted, the number of the sheep has considerably decreased, there having been formerly in the parish more than double the above number. The farmers are every day becoming more reconciled to the want of these animals, which cannot be kept with any advantage in an improving country, without sufficient inclosures.

a great difference to the better may be remarked in their clothing, their cleanliness, and every other circumstance that tends to make life more agreeable. Their habitations have likewise been very much improved; within less than the period above mentioned, there have been upwards of 50 neat farm houses built in this parish, either by the landlord or the tenant.

*Character.*—Though the number of ale-houses, mentioned in the table, may, at first appearance, seem to bear hard upon the sobriety of the people, it is to be remarked, that only two of these houses retail any considerable quantity of ale or whisky. The people in general are very sober, and diligent in their several occupations; their efforts of industry being as well directed as their situation and circumstances will permit.

*Antiquities.*—The site of the old priory ¶ has lately been converted into an arable field; and the name of *Abbey-well*, which the country people still give to the fountain that supplied the Monks with water, is the only memorial of it that now remains.

*Proposed*

¶ In the 11th century, the whole of this parish was King's property. As early as the year 1125, a priory, dependent on the Abbey of Dunfermline, was erected at Urquhart. It was very liberally endowed; all the lands now called the Lordship of Urquhart, the lands of Fochabers, as well as several others in this county, together with a part of the fishing on Spey, appertained to it. It appears that about the year 1345, this cell, as well as that of Pluscardene fell into disorder; and the Roman Pontiff having commissioned the bishops of Scotland, to enquire into those irregularities, it was soon after separated from Dunfermline, and conjoined to Pluscardene, with which it continued united till the Reformation. At and before that period, the priors began to feu out the lands, reserving only in their own possession the manor places and mills; the revenue which by that method they drew from thence, if we take into the account the teinds, multures, and services, would even at this day



*Proposed Bridge.*—This account ought not to be concluded, without mentioning the satisfaction entertained in this parish, and the rest of the country, at the late prospect there was of a BRIDGE across the Spey. At present the ferry is extremely troublesome, attended with some danger, and necessarily very expensive to travellers. If there were a bridge thrown across that river, the commerce and intercourse of the country would be very much increased; travelling would be rendered much more easy and comfortable; and, above all, it would be singularly useful for the march of the King's troops; this, in the winter, being the only road by which they can pass either South or North. For these reasons it is universally hoped, that measures for a bridge across the Spey, which have been begun, and generously promoted, by a most illustrious family † in the neighbourhood, will be taken up by government, and aided by the subscription of every person

day be nearly adequate to a moderate rent. The priory was situated a little to the east of the present church, in the midst of a morass, and probably went to ruin soon after its union with Pluscaddene. In the year 1654, the greater part of the materials were carried off to build a granary near the shore at Garmouth; the remainder, soon after that period, was employed in repairing the manse, and inclosing the church-yard.

In the year 1160, the *Moravienfes*, or inhabitants of Moray, (for what cause is not now known) took up arms; they were met in the moors of Urquhart by the King's army, which was sent to quell the insurrection, and, as we learn from some of our historians, were, after an obstinate resistance, defeated there with great slaughter. As the inhabitants of Moray were at that period, according to Buchannan, of a restless and turbulent disposition, all the families engaged in this rebellion were dispersed through the different provinces of Scotland. It is said that those who were then removed into the Northern Counties, received the name of SUTHERLAND, which their descendants still retain, and that those who were sent to the South, assumed the surname of MURRAY, which they likewise have transmitted to their posterity.

† The family of GORDON.



son who wishes well to his country. A great part of the said road, from that to Elgin, will, in a short time, be bounded with wood on each side. The large plantations of his Grace the Duke of Gordon begin where Lord Fife's end, and are likely to be continued East-ward to the river side.

NUMBER

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF OYNE.

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

*By the Rev. MR ALEXANDER CUSHNY, Minister.*

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*Name, Form, Extent, Rivers, and Fish.*

**T**HE origin of the name of this parish is unknown. It is commonly pronounced *Een*. Its extent varies from 3 to 4 miles in breadth and length, and its form is very irregular. The river *Don* divides it from Monymusk on the South. The rivers *Ury* and *Shevock* bound it on the North and N. E. And the small river *Gady* runs into the *Ury* at the Eastern extremity of the parish. The *Ury* and the *Gady* produce eels and trouts, but there are no salmon found in these small rivers, except in the spawning season.

*Soil, Cultivation and Roads.*--The soil of the greater part of this parish is, in general, extremely fertile. The lands near the church are very rich and early; the harvest commonly begins eight days sooner here than in any of the neighbouring parishes. A small part of the parish lies South of the high

mountain of Benochie, and the lands there are neither so early nor so fruitful as those on the North side. The new plan of farming is gaining ground here, but very slowly, and is far from being general. This perhaps is owing in some measure to the farmers being attached to the old husbandry, but more to their being at a great distance from the means of improvement, and to the roads being exceedingly bad.

*Proposed Canals.*—A canal from Aberdeen to Inverury along the south side of the Don, and another from Inverury to Old Rayne, is at present projected. If these public spirited enterprises succeed, they will be of very great importance to the district of Garioch, whatever profits the first supporters of the scheme may derive from the undertaking. Before lime and marle were used in agriculture, the lands in this parish, and in the whole district, were considered as the best lands in the county, and the Garioch was commonly called *the Granary* of Aberdeen. But of late years the parishes on the sea coast, which were not naturally so fertile, have been more improved; and this district, for which nature had done so much, has received but little assistance from art. But if the canals take place, it is probable, that the district of the Garioch will become one of the most fertile and most valuable districts in Scotland.

*Obstructions to Improvement.*—The farmers are in general not opulent. The leases are too short: And very high *multures* at the mills are a great bar to agriculture, in this and several other neighbouring parishes. In this parish the eleventh peck of corns ground at the mill is sometimes paid; and commonly the thirteenth peck is paid for multures and services. One of the heritors in this parish proposes to take off the  
multures

multures, and it is hoped he will be imitated by the other proprietors in the neighbourhood.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The air, in general, is pure and very healthy, and few epidemical diseases prevail. The rheumatism is the most common disorder, which, in this district, is felt more by people of better station, than by the poorer sort of people.

*Forest and Fruit Trees.*—There is a great number of large ash, plane, beech, birch, elm, oak, pine, fir, walnut and chesnut trees, all above 60 years old, near the house of Westhall. There is likewise a very great number of apple, pear, cherry, geen and plumb trees, which, though much neglected for these 40 years, commonly bear fruit. There are some very large old Scotch firs near the house, \* and, half a mile distance from it, there are two thriving plantations of young Scotch firs.

There is likewise a large plantation of Scotch firs on that part of the estate of Pittodry, which lies in this parish. At Tillyfour there is a considerable number of fruit and other kinds of trees, besides two large plantations; the one of Scotch firs, and the other of hazel. It is a most beautiful romantic place, and a very pleasant summer seat.

*Population.*

\* Mr JOHN HORN, Advocate, about 90 years ago, beautified this place very much with several plantations of firs, which throve so well, that it is said he himself was buried in a coffin, made out of a fir tree of his own planting. He likewise made out a fine avenue from the entry of his house, which at last ascends a pretty little green hill, on the top of which he built a small lodge, of two rooms, and called it PARNASSUS. He ornamented his seat with a great number of pleasure walks, with statues in them, which show a great deal of taste, considering how long it is since these walks were laid out.

*Population.*—The population, at present, is nearly the same that it was 40 years ago. The number of the males and females is almost equal.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF OYNE †.

|                                                  |   |          |     |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|----------|-----|
| No. of souls in 1755, as returned to Dr Webster, | - | -        | 640 |
| Ditto in 1793,                                   | - | -        | 630 |
|                                                  |   |          | —   |
|                                                  |   | Decrease | 10  |

| CONDITIONS and PROFESSIONS, &c. |    |     | STOCK, RENTS, &c.                 |            |       |
|---------------------------------|----|-----|-----------------------------------|------------|-------|
| No. of Proprietors *,           | -  | 3   | No. of Black cattle,              | -          | 600   |
| — Minifters,                    | -  | 1   | — Horses,                         | -          | 150   |
| — School-mafters,               | -  | 1   | — Sheep,                          | -          | 1000  |
| — Scholars in fummer, about     | 20 |     | — Carts,                          | -          | 50    |
| — Ditto in winter,              | -  | 30  | — Ploughs,                        | -          | 46    |
| — Epifcopalians,                | -  | 14  | — Corn mills,                     | -          | 5     |
| — Members of the Eftablifhed    |    |     | Valued rent, Scotch               | L. 2300 10 | 4     |
| Church,                         | -  | 616 | Real ditto, Sterling, about       | 1000       | 0 0   |
| — Wrights,                      | -  | 5   | Rent of 1 farm per annum,         | 80         | 0 0   |
| — Weavers,                      | -  | 3   | Ditto of another,                 | 40         | 0 0   |
| — Wheel-wrights,                | -  | 2   | Ditto of 5 or 6 others,           | 34         | 0 0   |
| — Tailors,                      | -  | 1   | Ditto of the reft, from 4l. to 24 | 0          | 0 0   |
| — Smiths,                       | -  | 4   | Average rent of in-field          |            |       |
| — Merchants,                    | -  | 2   | ground per acre, from             |            |       |
| — Mafons,                       | -  | 1   | 15s. to                           | -          | 1 0 0 |
| — Shoe-makers,                  | -  | 5   | Ditto of out-field, 5s. to        | 0          | 10 0  |

*Manufactures.*—Most of the women in this diftrict are employed in knitting ftockings, and very few in fpinning at the

† The principal enumerations and calculations in this table were made up at Whittfunday 1793.

\* None of thefe gentlemen refide in the parifh. About 80 years ago, there were 12 proprietors.

the lint wheel. The stocking manufacture brings in from 300 l. to 400 l. a year, according to the price of stockings, which varies.

*Fuel.*—The fuel is peats and turfs from *Benochie*.—There are 4 or 5 parishes which get their fuel from this high mountain. Men and horses are employed at least 2 months in summer in providing this fuel. It is wished the canal may take place, and then all these inconveniences will be obviated.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The stipend was formerly 3 chalders of meal, 1 of bear, and 32 l. 15s. in money. An augmentation was obtained two months ago, (March 1794 :) The manse was built in 1717 ; but there is no record of the time when the church was built. Both are nearly in a ruinous state. Colonel Knight of Pittodry is patron.—There is only one school in the parish. The school-master's salary is 11 l. 2s. 6 ; but he has neither house nor garden belonging to the office.—There are at present on the poor's roll 9 families, who get regular, but scanty supplies. There are no funds but 20 l. Sterling ; the interest of this sum, and the collections in the church, throughout the year, will not exceed 7 l. 10 s.

*Character and Antiquities.*—The people, in general, are regular and industrious, and mostly employed in farming. There is not one ale-house in the parish.—The only antiquities in this district are two Druidical temples.



## NUMBER VII.

## PARISH OF RAYNE,

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

*By the Rev Mr PATRICK DAVIDSON, Minister.*

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*Situation, Form, Extent and Surface.*

THE parish of Rayne is situated in that district of the county of Aberdeen, called *Garioch*, anciently *Garviach*. The church, built in 1789, for 360 l. Sterling, lies 23 English miles north from Aberdeen, and 9 from Inverury; and the road from Aberdeen to Huntly passes through Old Rain, a post town on the Southern extremity of the parish. The river Urie divides it on the S. W. from the parish of Oyne. The figure of the parish is nearly a square, each side of which is about two miles, and the church is very central. There is a hill upon the north side of the parish covered with heath and hard weeds; and the rest of the parish is pretty flat, with a few gently rising spots.

*Scil*

*Soil and Cultivation.*—The in-field soil is generally a rich loam, with a clay bottom ; and, when well managed, produces good crops. The present minister has often had a return, after a crop of turnips, of 14 bolls of good bear, upon an acre sowed with ten pecks. The out-field, which constitutes more than two thirds of the arable ground, is generally of a light loamy soil, and, when dunged and limed, produces grain of a sharper and better quality, than the in-field. The large farms, which are very few, are plowed by oxen, of 8 or 10 in a plough. But the greatest part of the parish consists of crofts, or small holdings, plowed by two horses, and sometimes two horses and two cows, and that very imperfectly. The tenants are at no pains to clean their grounds of a great deal of weeds, such as *runches* or wild mustard, knot-grass, couch-grass, and wild oats. Indeed there are too many small crofts ; and the occupiers of them are so poor, that their cattle have not strength enough to plow and dress them properly. As there is plenty of peat moss, which most of the parishioners have a right to, the proprietors have by this means broken down the possessions, and raised their rents ; but this has been a bar to the improvement of the ground. A better mode of farming, however, has of late got in among some of the tenants, who bring lime from Aberdeen, and lay down an acre with turnips yearly, and the year after sow it with bear, and red clover and rye-grass seeds. They already see the great advantage of these little improvements, and they will doubtless soon extend them farther ; and others will be led to follow their example. Their great distance from lime or manure of any kind is no small obstacle to improvement.

*Produce, Seasons and Wages.*—The principal grain raised in the parish is bear and oats ; of the in-field, generally one  
third

third is bear and two thirds are oats. Every tenant plants as many potatoes as serves his own family, and sometimes a few more, which are sold at 6d. the peck of 16 lib. weight; but there is little demand for that article. We generally sow our oats about the middle of April, and our bear from the beginning to the middle of May. Our potatoes are planted about the beginning of May. In an ordinary year, our bear is ripe by the 20th of August, and our oats by the first week of September. We have very few labourers. A man servant's wages is from 6 l. to 8 l. a year; and a maid servant's from 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l. Sterling.

*Fuel and Plantations.*—On the N. E. side of the parish there is an extensive peat-moss, which affords excellent fuel, though it consumes a great deal of the farmer's time in casting, drying, and bringing home his peats, and which might be applied with more profit to the other purposes of agriculture. This moss seems once to have been covered with oak, alder, and hazle trees; as oak trees of a large size are still found at a great depth, and so fresh as to be of some use. There are at present but a few acres planted with trees in the parish, and these are the common Scotch firs. There are also a few ash, elm, and plane trees, on different spots of ground.

*Minerals, Roads and Wild Quadrupeds.*—Such stones as are in the parish are of the hard iron kind, but they are easily blown with gun powder, and dressed for building. Our roads are kept in tolerable repair. As there is a great deal of broom in the out-fields, hares are very common, and there are also some polecats and foxes.

*Climate.*—The air is dry and remarkably wholesome, as the whole county of Garioch is, and many of the people live

to

a great age. Rayne lies in an open country, having one ridge of hills to the S. W. and another to the N. E. The dryness of the air is owing to this local situation of the parish. The clouds are attracted by these ridges of hills on each side, and fogs often rest upon the tops of them, while the inhabitants enjoy a clear and dry air in the open country. Sometimes again, when the clouds break into rain on the hills, or on the sides of the hills, the skirts only of the shower reach us in the open country.

*Diseases.*—We have no epidemical diseases.—In spring and autumn some fevers appear among the poor people, who live upon a low diet. These are generally of the nervous kind; but when the patients apply timeously for medical assistance, the fever often gives way to wine and bark, and good attention to air and cleanliness. We have many slight sore throats, that are relieved by blistering and gargling. Many of the parishioners are subject to scurvy, and other cutaneous disorders, which appear upon their faces, hands and legs. This perhaps arises from the poorness of their food, consisting of pottage, brose and fowens, oat-meal cakes, kail, potatoes, turnips and milk. They use little ale, and that not of a good quality. But the most fatal disease is *pneumonia*, or consumption, which cuts off 7 or 8 young people every year. And what is very melancholy, there are at present more than 20 persons afflicted with real scrophula, and the number of such has increased of late; while the parishioners intermarry with one another, they never pay attention to this matter. Religious prejudices against inoculation for the small-pox are wearing away, and the practice of inoculating children is getting in. But till it universally prevail in a country like this, it will not be a real blessing. The infection is communicated from the inoculated to the children of those who

still retain their old prejudices; and thus we have the small-pox raging every year in a place where, (as the writer here-of remembers,) about 30 years ago, the distemper used to come about only once in 4 or 5 years. Among the female sex, who are mostly employed in the sedentary work of knitting stockings for the Dutch market, chronic or low hysteric complaints are very common.

*Population.*—The population of this parish has been almost stationary these many years, though there is a small increase on the whole, since the return made to Dr Webster, as appears from the following table.

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF RAYNE.

|                               |     |      |                                      |      |
|-------------------------------|-----|------|--------------------------------------|------|
| No. of souls in 1755,         | -   | 1131 |                                      |      |
| ———— in 1760,                 | -   | 1143 | Increase in 5 years,                 | 12   |
| ———— in 1794,                 |     | 1173 | Ditto in 34 years,                   | 30   |
|                               |     |      |                                      | —    |
|                               |     |      | Total increase within these 40 years | 42   |
|                               |     |      | Annual average of Births,            | 24   |
| SEXES, BIRTHS, &c.            |     |      |                                      |      |
| No. of males,                 | -   | 522  | ————— Marriages,                     | 10   |
| ———— Females,                 | -   | 651  | ————— Deaths                         | 17   |
|                               |     |      | No. of Episcopalians,                | 60   |
| Majority of the latter        | 129 |      | Members of the Established           |      |
|                               |     |      | Church,                              | 1113 |
|                               |     |      |                                      |      |
| AGES.                         |     |      |                                      |      |
| Persons under 10 years of age |     |      |                                      | 148  |
| —— Between 10 and 20          |     |      |                                      | 159  |
| —— 20 and 30                  | -   |      |                                      | 218  |
| —— 30 and 40                  | -   |      |                                      | 204  |
| —— 40 and 50                  |     |      |                                      | 225  |
| —— 50 and 60                  |     |      |                                      | 138  |
| —— 60 and 70                  |     |      |                                      | 44   |
| —— 70 and 80                  |     |      |                                      | 35   |
| —— 80 and 90                  |     |      |                                      | 1    |
| —— Aged ——— 93                |     |      |                                      | 1    |

In all 1173

*Manufactures.*—

*Manufacture.*—The only manufacture is the knitting of stockings, in which all the women are employed, and some of the boys and even old men. It is supposed, that this article may yield to the parish about 400*l.* Sterling. The hose are of that coarse kind, which bring for working the pair 12 or 14 pence Sterling; and some of the women will knit two pairs, or two pairs and a half in the week. If it were not for this last article, the rents of the small crofts could not be paid, as the crofters have no other way of earning money, but by annually rearing a young ox or cow.

*Exports and Cattle.*—There is annually about 200 bolls of meal carried out of this parish to the Aberdeen market; and, as nearly as can be found, 180 cattle, young and old, bought up and driven to the south country, by dealers in that article, worth at an average 3*l.* a head. There are very few horses reared, and not above 200 sheep kept in the parish.

*Proprietors, Rents, &c.*—The gross rent of the whole parish in money, and meal at 10*s.* per boll, is about 1300*l.* Sterling, and the valued rent 2544*l.* Scotch. The proprietors are Alexander Leith of Freefield, James Horn Elphinstone of Logie, John Forbes of Blackford, Alexander Leslie of Wartle, and Alexander Stewart of Loanhead, Esquires. The medium rent of the in-field is 20*s.* Sterling per acre. There is meal paid for the out-fields, at the rate of from 2*s.* to 8*s.* or 9*s.* the acre. Some of the small crofts are rented as high as 30*s.* per acre.

*Church, and School.*—The present stipend is 42*l.* Sterling, 32 bolls of meal, and 16 bolls of bear; but a process of augmentation is in dependence. The manse was built in 1751 for 1000*l.* Scotch. The school-house was lately built



for 16l. Sterling, and the school-master's salary is but eight bolls of meal. The heritors in general are averse to the giving of a legal salary.

*Poor.*—The average number of poor that receive alms is from 15 to 20. The annual sum expended for their relief is about 20l. Sterling, which is all produced by the collections in the church on Sundays, excepting the interest of 90l. Sterling appropriated to them. These 15 or 20 persons live in houses of their own, and there is not one in the parish that begs from door to door. Notwithstanding this, we are much troubled with beggars, especially from the Highlands in summer, when we must sometimes serve half a dozen of them in one day.

*Obstacles to Improvement.*—There are here, as in the neighbouring parishes, great bars to improvement. The lime is distant 23 miles. Many of the tenants have no leases. Since 1782, some have fallen a little in arrears with their rents, and seem to want that sense of security which stimulates industry. When a possession is vacant, there is not always the proper distinction made between a good and substantial tenant, and one who promises a great rent, but often fails to pay it.

*Mills, Multures, Services, &c.*—There are five mills in the parish. At first the construction of a mill was a work of ingenuity, and the proprietor obliged his tenants to grind all their corn at his mill. But it requires no great genius now-a-days, to construct a mill. The tenants pay thirlage, and are restricted to a particular mill. This sometimes amounts to the 17th peck. They pay also multures, or the price of grinding, which is often the 32d peck. They pay also to the  
the

the miller a *lick* of *goodwill*, or a *bannock*, which tenants have sometimes allowed to be measured; and there are instances where another *unmeasured lick* has crept in. Even the *seeds* sifted from the bannock are sometimes paid. When all these *items* are added together, they amount at some mills to a twelfth or eleventh part of the whole corn carried to the mill. This is a severe tax upon the industry of an improving tenant. Sometimes too the corn that grows on farms thirled to a mill, is obliged to pay *multure*, whether the corn be ground at that mill or not. Except the expence of grinding, all thirlage should be commuted to the tenant, in order that he may reap the benefit of his own industry. But we have one instance here where even this is prevented, the tenants of one estate being thirled to the mill of another. Another absurdity is, that *shillen*, *i. e.* shealing, or hulter corn, is measured by the tacksmen of the mill, and is paid, not in shealing, but in meal. There are accordingly great complaints that the corn is not well shealed. Another evil is, that there is a *mill peck*, which generally holds as much shealing as will grind to three and sometimes four pecks of meal. For the shealing of the stock, the tenant pays meal measured with a *cog*, or wooden dish, that pays for a certain quantity of shealing. There is also another cog for small quantities of shealing. And if all these measures were accurately fixed and proportioned, there would be less injustice; but that is not the case. The multurer is allowed to mend them or make them anew, or alter them as he pleases. There ought to be a book kept by the proprietor of the mill, and signed by him and the multurer, and the principal tenants, in order to ascertain the exact contents of these several measures. We have also some *Gothic* services done by the tenants, that ought to be abolished, such as reaping, earing, plowing,

ing, harrowing, driving out dung, and bringing home lime and other articles to the landlord *gratis*.

*Antiquities and Character.*—We have no antiquities, excepting two Druidical temples, which are common in every parish of this county; and some cairns, under one of which there is a tradition that *Irvine*, the laird of Drum, lies buried. It is reported that he was slain in pursuing Donald Lord of the Isles, after the battle of Harlaw, in the year 1411. The bishop of Aberdeen had formerly a house at Old-Rain in this parish. The people in general are sober, regular and industrious, and are as contented with their condition as most people.

NUMBER

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF KIRKBEAN,

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

By the Rev. Mr EDWARD NEILSON, Minister.

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*Origin of the Name.*

THE antient name of the parish is said to have been *Caerben*. It is evidently derived from the Celtic or Gaelic, and signifies *the high fort or town*. *Caer* in that language signifies a fortified town or place, and *ben*, high. Doctor CLAPPERTON of Lochmaben, a gentleman well known for his knowledge of antiquities, is of opinion that Camden, the English antiquary, with his followers, are mistaken, when they make *Caerleveroch* the *Caerbentorigum* of Ptolomy, while others, from mere conjecture, make it the *Uxellum*. That Horsely, another English antiquary, has misled the late Rev. Doctor HENRY of Edinburgh, to *Bardenna* in the parish of Keir, which he makes the *Caerbentorigum* of Ptolomy, or the *Carbantium* of the Geographer Revennas. Nothing, he asserts, can be more absurd, as *Caerben* is obviously pointed out, both in the *Caerbentorigum* of Ptolomy, and in the  
*Carbantium*

*Carbantium* of the Geographer Revennas. The *Caer bentorigum* of Ptolomy was situated at the mouth of the *Novius Fluvius* or *Nith*. Agreeably to this, there is, close upon the shore, where the river now empties itself into the sea, about a mile and a half to the S. E. of the church, a high rising ground, called *the Borron Hill*, upon which has stood a Castle or Fort, still known by the name of *the Castle-Hill*, or *McCulloch's Castle*; and, about a mile and a half to the West, there is a place called *Torrerie*, in both of which the word *Caerbentorigum* is still retained.

*Situation, Hills, &c.*—It is situated on a promontory in the S. E. corner of Galloway, in lat. 54. 55 m. It is bounded on the N. E. by the parish of *Caerleveroch* in *Nithsdale*, from which it is separated by the *Frith* of *Nith* about 3 miles. On the S. E. the first land to be seen is the county of *Cumberland*, in the North of England, from which it is separated by the *Solway Firth*, about 10 miles. On the West, it is bounded by the united parishes of *Colvend* and *Southwich*; and, on the North, by the parish of *New-Abbey* or *Sweet-heart*. It was anciently within the diocese or bishopric of Galloway, and now, with 9 other parishes, lying betwixt the water of *Urr* and the river *Nith*, is within the *Presbytery* and *Synod* of *Dumfries*, from which it is distant about 11 miles. From the North, where it joins *New-Abbey*, it stretches about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the West, and upon the shore, which is nearly parallel, it runs about 6 miles. Its breadth may be about 3 miles, but it varies. From West to North there is a ridge of hills, which terminates in *Crofell*, or *Crowfell*, which is the highest hill in the S. of Scotland, and a considerable part of which is within the parish. The height of it has been accurately ascertained,

ascertained \*. From this ridge of hills, the parish inclines towards the shore, and presents to the eye a rich, beautiful, and extensive prospect, fields well inclosed, and in a high state of cultivation; with several clumps and belts of planting.

*Climate and Diseases.* The climate is healthy. The inhabitants are not subject to any local disease. Formerly the ague is said to have been frequent; now it has almost entirely disappeared. This, by some, has been attributed to the necessary operations of agriculture, the wet and morass grounds being now mostly drained. By others, however, of more knowledge and experience, it has been attributed to another cause. Formerly, many of the inhabitants went into Lincolnshire for employment during the harvest, and returned infected with this disease; now they have work sufficient to employ them in the parish, and the disease is seldom a complaint. Innoculation is frequent and successful.

*Soil and Produce.* The soil is various. Upon the N. W. and W. a considerable tract lies upon lime-stone. Upon the

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S. E.

\* In 1784, ROBERT RIDDELL, Esq; of Glenriddell, employed Mr William McCartney land-surveyor, to take for him the height of this hill. The following is a copy of Mr McCartney's letter to him. " Sir,—Being the other day at Crofell, and recollecting the conversation we had about its height, I resolved to ascertain it. I made my observations from a base on the shore, of a mile in length, and the result was as follows: viz. Douglas Cairn, on the summit of the mountain, 1875, say 1900 feet in round numbers, and Knockendoch, or the north wing of the mountain, 1500 feet above high water mark. I adjusted the level before observation, for, by an experiment, I found that it pointed two feet too low, in every hundred yards."

In 1440, William Earl of Douglas, the last warden of the west marches, assembled the *hail lairds*, freeholders, and eldest borderers of his wardenship at Lincluden. There he corrected and improved the border laws; a copy of which is to be found in the Lord Maxwell's manuscript of the laws of the marches. In these laws, this hill is mentioned as one of the beacons for alarming the country, during the frequent incursions made by the English into Scotland.



S. E. there is a rich and deep clay and loam; and upon the S. W. there are 1000 acres of salt and whinny pasture, in some places light and sandy, but mostly arable, and considered as capable of being improved by tillage, to advantage. The soil in general is fertile, and produces wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, beans, peas, turnips, rye and clover seeds. There may be annually in the parish.

|                                     |   |   |           |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|-----------|
| Under wheat,                        | - | - | 133 acres |
| Barley,                             | - | - | 140       |
| Oats,                               | - | - | 600       |
| Beans, peas, turnips, and potatoes, | - | - | 150       |
|                                     |   |   | 1023      |

*Exports.*—The crops are more than sufficient to supply the inhabitants. Wheat is generally carried to Dumfries. A considerable quantity of barley, oats, and potatoes, is exported to the Whitehaven, Lancaster, and Liverpool markets, and frequently to the ports of Clyde. Potatoes were first exported from this, in any considerable quantity, in December 1774, by the late Peter Greggan, tenant in the farm of Kirkhouse. For several years since, a quantity has been raised, equal in value to the whole rental of the parish about 40 years ago.

*Black Cattle and Horses.*—The cattle are generally of the Galloway breed, and when fattened for the butcher, or for the South of England, they weigh well for their size. It is certain, however, that the parish is capable of feeding in proportion, cattle of a larger kind. This has been proved by WILLIAM CRAIK, Esq; of Arbigland, who made the experiment; whilst a considerable part of his estate was kept in pasture, he introduced the Bakewell breed, and found that the

the same number of these cattle, upon the same field, fattened equally with those of the Galloway kind. Their number are as follows :

| HORSES                       | BLACK CATTLE.       |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Employed in agriculture, 141 | Milk cows, 229      |
| Ditto bred, 37               | Cattle grazed, 1171 |
| <hr/>                        |                     |
| Total, besides carriage      | 1400                |
| and saddle horses, 178       |                     |

*Sheep and Wool.*—The number of sheep of the black-faced Scotch breed, kept upon the salt and whinny pasture, and mostly fattened for the butcher, is about, 17 scores, or 340  
—Of the same kind upon the high land,  
and mostly kept as a breeding stock,  
about 40 score or 800

Total of this kind, 57 1140

The management of this kind of sheep is such as is generally followed in other parts of the South of Scotland. Their lambs are sold at 4l. per score, and their wool at 7s. 6d. per stone, being 24lb English to the stone. Of the *Spanish* kind, there are a few in the parish, but of them little at present can be said, as they were but lately brought into this part of the county. The kind of Sheep that produces the best wool, and appears to be of most advantage to the farmer, is of the *Bakewell* breed. They were first brought into this parish by the late PETER GREGGAN formerly mentioned ; and with regard to wool, have since been much improved. Their wool was lately compared with that of a Spanish ram, sent to WILLIAM CRAIK, Esq; by SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, and found to be equal to that of the Spanish, if not finer in quality. The wool of these sheep, upon the farm of Kirkhouse, was  
Q 2 fold,

fold, last season, at 11. per stone. Their lambs sell at 12s. each; and, when above two years old, weigh 17lb or 20lb per quarter. They are fed upon good land.

*Agriculture.*—This parish is generally allowed to have been the first in the South of Scotland, in an improved state of agriculture. This must as generally be ascribed to the superior knowledge, and unwearied attention of the present WILLIAM CRAIK, Esq; of Arbigland, formerly mentioned, whose example has had a most useful influence.

#### IMPLEMENTS of HUSBANDRY.

|                                            |   |    |
|--------------------------------------------|---|----|
| Number of Scotch and English ploughs       | - | 47 |
| — ditto Drill for sowing different grains, | } | 3  |
| besides turnip drills,                     |   |    |
| Total,                                     |   | 50 |

The common plough, with the round sock, is generally used in the high land of the parish. The English plough, with the broad ock, and broad and pot-metal moulds, upon the low and level land. The drill, where the land is level, and free of large stones. This plough, in its present state, was constructed by WILLIAM CRAIK, Esq; and has been used upon his estate for many years past. It is drawn by one horse only, and sows four rows at once. Three Winchester bushels of oats to the acre, sown by this plough, are found to be sufficient, whereas 8 and sometimes 9 Winchester bushels to the acre, are generally sown by broad cast. Barley and oats sown by this plough are allowed to be better headed, and of superior quality, to any sown by broad cast. This has already been experienced by some of the farmers in the parish, who have followed Mr CRAIK's example; and it is expected, that, where the land is suitable, self interest will make it more generally

generally prevail. Ploughs of this construction are made in the parish, at 6l. 6s. each. Mr CRAIK has used the same plough, in sowing all kinds of grain, excepting pulse, for these 30 years past, and it is still in good repair. Four oxen, with two horses, and two men, were formerly used in ploughing. Now, two horses, with one man, who holds the plough, and drives the horses himself, are found sufficient even for the heaviest land.

*Rotation of Crops.*—Common rotation, two crops of oats, a green crop, potatoes, beans, pease, or turnips, with a dressing of dung: Then a crop of wheat, or barley, sown out with rye and clover seeds, to lie 3 or 4 years. The following rotation has been tried, but its effect has not yet been fully ascertained; 1st, oats upon stubble; 2d, horse beans, in rows, about 20 inches distant, with a full dressing of dung, horse and hand hoed; 3d, wheat upon one furrow; 4th, turnips, potatoes, cabbage, &c, horse hoed, on four feet ridges, giving the crop half a dunging; 5th, barley with red and white clover seeds, to ly one or two years, and then return to oats. This rotation is proposed, to make a summer fallow unnecessary. It is suited for a good loamy soil, and where there is access to lime, marl, or any natural manure. Where to these there is no access, there might be difficulty in finding a sufficient quantity of dung. There is now no distinction made between the *croft* and the *out-field*.

*Proprietors.*—The proprietors are William Craik, Esq; of Arbigland, Richard Alexander Oswald, Esq; of Auchencruive, Alexander Dickson, Esq; of Ladyland, with James Duff, William M'Kie, and John Liddle, portioners. Mr Craik is the only residing heritor. Of this gentleman, it is not easy to say too much, in the opinion of his acquaintance, or too little, in his own. For general knowledge, for liberality

rality of sentiment, and for his exertions in promoting the improvement of his country, he has had few equals. Through a life prolonged to the extraordinary length of above 90 years, he has cultivated these virtues; and, even at this advanced age, he has the rare felicity of being still capable of communicating, and of enjoying the pleasures which arise from conversation, and from the society of his friends.

*Division and Value of the Parish.*—The parish, as at present possessed, is divided into 36 farms, and of these, one is generally kept in pasture. The whole land of the parish is twice doubled in rent within these 40 years. The estate of Arbigland is at present five times the rent that it was 37 years ago. This great advance evidently proves the attention and industry of the proprietor and tenants.

*Villages.*—*Kirkbean.*—There are 3 villages in the parish, Kirkbean, Preston, and Salternefs. The village of Kirkbean formerly consisted of farm houses chiefly, with a joiner's and a blacksmith's house. At present, there are two joiners houses, one blacksmith's house, two grocery shops, two ale-houses, with several others, inhabited by the labourers and cottagers belonging to the neighbouring farms. This village is pleasantly situated. It stands upon a place almost surrounded with little hills, and rising ground, covered with wood. From the W. descends a small rivulet, which, among the wood, forms a beautiful cataract, and then, running gently through the village, in the centre of which there is a bridge, it empties itself into the sea. The proprietor Mr Oswald, in the late set of a neighbouring farm, has reserved a part of this village, to accomodate the poor on his estate, with free houses; a mark of that benevolence and humanity which alone can add dignity to affluence, and of which, during



during the late residence of the family in this parish, the indigent have so liberally received.

*Preston.*—This village takes its name from the estate of Preston, upon which it stands. It formerly belonged to the regent Morton, and is now the property of Mr OSWALD. It is said to have been a burgh of regality, and had the privilege of 4 fairs in the year. A cross, of about 7 feet in height, raised on a base of stone wall, about 4 feet square, is still standing. Nothing now remains of its ancient privileges, but at this cross points have lately been comprised. Some years ago, this village was inhabited by 24 farmers; at present there are only 3, with their cottagers.

*Salterness.*—This village stands close upon the shore, due south of the church. It was built by the late RICHARD OSWALD, Esq; of Auchencruive, with the view, it is said, of a coal trade. A trial for coal was made in its neighbourhood, but without success. It is now chiefly inhabited by persons who keep furnished rooms, to accomodate such as, during the season, come to it for the benefit of sea bathing.

*Sea Coast, Tower, Lime-stone, &c.*—The points of land, are Salterness and Borron. Salterness, from whence the above mentioned village takes its name, has been considered by some seamen, notwithstanding the charts now published of the South-East, to be the southmost point of land in Scotland. The name now appears to be corrupted. It is said to have been originally, *Southwickness*, i. e. the southermost point, probably from a parish in its neighbourhood, called *Southwick*. Upon this *ness*, or point of land, a tower is erected for a land-mark for vessels on their way along this coast. A part of it was built many years ago, by some merchants

in



in Dumfries, then carrying on a considerable trade with Virginia. It was afterwards raised to its present height, by the late Mrs OSWALD of Auchencruive. This tower, at present, is of great advantage to the navigation of this coast, and would still be of greater advantage, were lights placed in it. As limestone abounds in its neighbourhood, the sea, every tide, washing that kind of rock, it is believed, that if here a small harbour was built, a considerable trade in that line might be carried on. Vessels often come to anchor at Salterness, in 3 or 4 fathoms, at low water, in the language of seamen, "to *stop* the tide."

*Bay.*—CARSETHORN bay on the east shore, and at the mouth of the river Nith, is considered as a safe anchoring place. Several palls of wood for vessels to make fast to, have been put in the beach by the town of Dumfries, who levy a sum for tonage, from all vessels discharging their cargoes upon this shore. All vessels from Dumfries, when meeting with contrary winds, anchor in this bay. Vessels bound for Dumfries frequently lye in the bay, until the spring tides furnish them with water sufficient to carry them up. Ships from the Baltic, laden with timber for Dumfries, generally unload here, as vessels, drawing 11 or 12 feet water, cannot always with safety go above this. There are 3 fathoms water in the bay, and out in the channel the water rises 5 fathoms perpendicular.

*Tides.*—The courses of the tides are as follows. Out of the Nith, the tides run nigh south to the Borron point, formerly mentioned; they then take their course westward. Upon this shore the tides flow 5 hours, and ebb 7. It is high water on the full and change days of the moon, at half past eleven o'clock. Many sand banks ly off this coast, and such is the rapidity of the tides, that vessels getting aground  
upon

upon them, have been *up-set* and wrecked. The flood, indeed, is more dangerous than the ebb, as it has been known to tumble a ship's anchor over and over. It is the general opinion of the inhabitants, natives of the parish, that this frith is gradually shutting up. This opinion is not founded on the tradition of their fathers only; it is founded on their own observations. The navigation of the frith they find is becoming daily more difficult; new sand-banks frequently appear; and, upon the S. W. of the parish, many acres are now excellent salt pasture, which not long ago the tides covered, when they consisted of fleach and sand.

*Fish.*—Several kinds of fish abound on this coast, such as flounders, skate, cod, soles, shrimps, &c. Turbot are rare. It is an observation of the inhabitants, founded on experience, that herrings frequent this coast periodically. About 6 years ago, they were found in vast shoals; from that period till lately, few could be seen; at present (1793) they every where abound.

*Ecclesiastical State*—The manse was built about 1730, and enlarged about 1769. Like many public buildings of this kind in the country, it was not sufficiently executed; and now the heritors propose to give it some repairs. The church was built in 1776, and, in its structure, it is elegant, convenient, and sufficient. The glebe, which at present lies separated, but a part of which is now proposed to be exchanged, consists of about 13 acres. The stipend, by decret of 1st February 1650, is 4 chalders of grain,  $\frac{2}{3}$  meal and  $\frac{1}{3}$  bear, Linlithgow measure; 500*l.* Scotch in money, with 50 merks for communion elements. The Duke of Queensberry is patron and titular.

*Schools and Poor.*—The parochial school funds amount to 1008l. 4s. The interest of this sum supports two separate free schools; the one under the direction of the heritors and minister, 608l. 4s. The other, 400l. ‡ The school supported by this sum, is left to the management of “5 honest, upright men, of good report in the parish, appointed to lay out the capital upon good and sufficient security; and to take care of the subject; and that the school-master do his duty to the children under his care, by instructing them in the principles of the Protestant Reformed Religion, and to read and write well; and also good manners and good morals.”—The parochial poor’s funds amount to 265l. besides the weekly collections, which, with the interest of this sum, support annually about 12 persons on the roll, and supply occasionally the wants of others. There has not been a beggar in the parish in the memory of man.

*Population.*—As there has been no regular register kept in the parish, of baptisms, marriages, or deaths, either before or since the late Act of Parliament, imposing certain duties upon each, therefore, no account of these can now be given. The following is the present state of the population, and the number of dissenters and mechanics in the parish.

POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF KIRKBEAN.

|                                       |   |   |       |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|-------|
| No of souls in 1793                   | - | - | 660   |
| Do in 1755, as returned to Dr Webster | - | - | 529   |
|                                       |   |   | <hr/> |
| Increase,                             |   |   | 131   |
|                                       |   |   | AGES, |

‡ This last sum was a donation of the late Mr ANDREW MARSHALL, merchant in Glasgow. He first gave 300l. and afterwards, at his death, left 100l. being, as it is expressed by himself, in the deed of his first donation, “Freely and cheerfully given, I think, for the best purposes, namely, the farther promoting of genuine Christian knowledge, true piety and virtue towards God, and uprightness towards all men.”

| AGES, SEXES, &c.           |   |     | RELIGIOUS PERSUASIONS.     |   |     |
|----------------------------|---|-----|----------------------------|---|-----|
| No. of souls under 8 years |   |     | Members of the Established |   |     |
| of age                     | - | 170 | Church *                   | - | 650 |
| — above that age           | - | 490 | Roman Catholics            | - | 3   |
| — Males                    | - | 314 | Antiburghers               | - | 3   |
| — Females                  | - | 346 | Episcopalians              | - | 3   |
| — Families                 | - | 130 | Quaker                     | - | 1   |
| — Houses inhabited by one  |   |     |                            |   |     |
| person only                | - | 14  |                            |   | 660 |

| MECHANICS.         | Masters. | Apprentices. | Journeymen. | Total. |
|--------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|--------|
| No. of joiners     | 3        | -            | -           | 3      |
| — Masons           | 3        | -            | -           | 3      |
| — Slaters          | 1        | -            | -           | 1      |
| — Tailors          | 4        | 2            | -           | 6      |
| — Shoe-makers      | 4        | 2            | 2           | 8      |
| — Black-smiths     | 2        | 1            | -           | 3      |
| — Stocking-weavers | 6        | 1            | -           | 7      |
| — Seamen           | 4        | -            | -           | 4      |
| — Revenue do.      | -        | -            | 8           | 8      |

In all, 43

*Distinguished Men.*—The late Admiral JOHN CAMPBELL was the son of the Rev. Mr John Campbell, for some time minister of this parish. He was born in the manse of Kirkbean, 6th Februray 1719. The account of his life, lately published in a London Magazine, is in many circumstances erroneous.—JOHN PAUL, who some years ago, took the name of JOHN PAUL JOHNS, (for what reason let the world

R 2

judge,)

\* Some families attend a RELIEF meeting-house in the neighbouring parish; but as this society was lately established in this part of the country, and as none of those who attend it say they have renounced the established church, therefore their number cannot be at present ascertained.

judge,) was the son of John Paul, a gardener by trade. He was born in Kirkbean, about the year 1745. Of this person's character, this parish cannot boast. His pillage of the house of the Earl of Seikirk; his attempts to burn the town of Whitehaven, out of whose harbour he had served his apprenticeship, and his conduct to his native country, during the American war, are instances of ingratitude and want of patriotism, generally known, and over which, for the honour of humanity, we would wish to draw a veil.

*Antiquities.*—The castles of *Cavens*, and *Weaths*, a part only of each now standing, were once the property of the Regent *Morton*\*, and by him frequently inhabited. The whole of that barony, excepting two farms, is now the property of Richard Alexander Oswald, Esq; of Auchencruive, who, while occasionally in this part of the country, resides at the castle of Cavens. Upon the N. W. on the farm of Ardrie, at the foot of that ridge of hills formerly mentioned, which terminates in Crofell, there is a Druidical circle still entire †.

#### *Advantages*

\* Upon his forfeiture, these castles, with the barony of Preston, upon which they stand, were granted to the family of NITHSDALE, one of whom gave to a second son the chief part of that Barony, and fewed out the rest.

† At a little distance to the east of this, there was lately discovered a *Kist vaen*, or stone coffin, in which was found an urn. The sides and ends of it were built with small stones, and covered with thin broad ones. The stones are still in useful preservation; they make a part of a division dyke, upon the farm. To the south of this, another was found, but of its construction the writer has not yet been informed. In the centre of the parish, nigh the public road, stood a Druidical temple, which was lately destroyed, for the purpose of clearing the ground, and building farm houses. Several urns have been turned up by the plough. One was found in the foundation of the present manse.



*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—From the natural situation of the parish—the extent of sea coast, upon which there is plenty of fleach and some sea weed, with the bays and harbours formerly mentioned, it must possess many advantages. No farmer in the parish is above two miles distant from the harbour, where he can ship the produce of his farm, and receive the highest prices given in the country. The want of fuel is the only disadvantage under which this parish labours. Coal brought from Cumberland, in the north of England, is the common fuel, which, to the farmer, and more particularly to the labourer and the indigent, is a very grievous expence. This, however, in some measure has been lessened, by the late repeal of the duty upon coal carried coast-ways, for which this parish, in particular, is much indebted to the the right honourable HENRY DUNDAS.

*Character of the Inhabitants.*—A considerable number of the inhabitants of different ranks and conditions of life, are industrious, sober, active, and charitable. In their religious sentiments, they are rational and liberal, and, in their political opinions, they are manly and loyal. As a proof of their loyalty to his Majesty, and their attachment to the present form of government, they have already subscribed 10 l. to be applied in furnishing with shoes, made in the parish, their brave and gallant countrymen now on the continent, “ supporting order, regular government, true liberty and religion.” It is expected that a very liberal subscription will soon appear.



## NUMBER IX.

## PARISH OF St. FERGUS,

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

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN CRAIGIE, Minister.*

*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**T**HIS parish was anciently named *Inverugie*, and often *Longley*, the church being situated not far from the old place of Inverugie, on those pleasant and extensive downs called *the Link of St-Fergus*. The church was removed from this site *anno* 1616, when the church and parish assumed the name of its patron saint, to whom the 17th of November, according to the Scotch callendar, was sacred. This parish, though it belongs to the county of *Banff*, is situated in that district of *Aberdeen*, called *Buchan*. \* The coast is washed on

\* The male line of the old Earls of BUCHAN, to whom this country originally belonged, failing in the person of FERGUS, the last Earl of the ancient race, his only daughter married WILLIAM CUMINE of the family of Badenoch,

on the East by the German Ocean, and on the South, by the small river of *Ugie*, which separates it from the parish of Peterhead : The extent is as under :

*Acres.*

noch, who in her right became Earl of Buchan, about the beginning of the 13th Century. The parish of St Fergus, and some other small estates, seem to have been given off by the ancient Earls, but there still remained an immense estate, situated in Banff and Aberdeen shires, to which William Cumine succeeded by his marriage.

The Cumines continued to enjoy their vast fortune until the year 1308. This name, then one of the most powerful in Scotland, violently opposed the succession of King ROBERT BRUCE to the Crown, but were completely overthrown by him at Inverury. The king, according to FORDUN, pursued the Cumines as far as Fyvie, where, having dispersed them, he encamped for some time, until the parties which he sent out had burnt the Earl of Buchan's estate. In the Parliament holden at Perth, *anno* 1320, the King divided the Earl's lands among his own friends. To the family of DOUGLAS he gave the greatest part of the parishes of Crimond and Longmay, and a part of the parishes of Tyrie and Aberdour. This appears from a charter, which ARCHIBALD the 10th Lord DOUGLAS obtained from King Robert, "*Dilecto et fideli nostro, ARCHIBALDO DE DOUGLAS, pro homagio et servitio suo*" of the lands of Rothsay, Crimond and Cairnglass, &c. in Buchan. Upon the family of CRAWFORD he bestowed the barony of Kelly, comprehending part of the parishes of Tarves, New-Deer, Old-Deer and Longside. These lands reverted to the Crown by the forfeiture of ALEXANDER Earl of CRAWFORD, and a considerable part of them was bestowed by King JAMES II. on JAMES GORDON of Methlic, Ancestor of the Earl of Aberdeen, (*Charta in pub. archiv.*) King ROBERT gave to the family of ERROL the parishes of Cruden, Slains, and part of the parishes of Logie, Ellon, and Udney. To the MARISCHAL family he gave the parish of Peterhead, part of Longside and Old-Deer, the lands of Auchines in the parish of Rathen, Pittendrum in Pitfligo parish, and Troup, in the parish of Gamrie. JOHN CUMINE, the fourth Earl of Buchan of that name, had, before his forfeiture and out-lawry by King Robert, given the barony of Philorth in portion with his daughter MARGARET, who was married to Sir JOHN ROSS, second son of the Earl of Ross, who disposed these lands to Hugh Earl of Ross, his brother, by a charter, dated at Inverness 1316. This barony was then of great extent, comprehending the parish of Frasersburgh, most part of Tyrie, Aberdour,

|                                              | Acres. |    |
|----------------------------------------------|--------|----|
| Arable ground - - -                          | 4439   | 31 |
| Links, arable, but not allowed to be plowed, | 435    | 50 |
| Mofs - - -                                   | 795    | 52 |

*Soil and Surface.*—The soil in general is a rich clay, and when properly cultivated is abundantly fertile. The appearance of the parish is an alternate succession of little rising grounds and valleys, but no moor or barren ground. The piece of ground called *the Links of St. Fergus*, is perhaps one of the most pleasant plains in Scotland, extending along the

dour, Pittfigo, and Rathen, (which last comprehends the greatest part of Strichen parish,) together with several lands in the parishes of Turriff and King-Edward. This, together with the whole estate of Ross, was entailed by WILLIAM Earl of Ross, on his eldest daughter Eupham, who was married to Sir WALTER LESLIE, and the heirs of her body; whom failing, to Janet his second daughter, who was married to Sir ALEXANDER FRASER of Cowie, ancestor of Lord SALTON. By this marriage Sir ALEXANDER FRASER got this barony, a considerable part of which continues to be the property of Lord Salton.

A part of the ancient Earldom of Buchan was situated in the Thanedom of Formartine, which is that district of Aberdeenshire, that is bounded by the river Don on the South, and the Ythan on the North. This part of the Earl of Buchan's property remained with the Crown, until DAVID II. gave it to his brother in law WILLIAM, the 5th Earl of Sutherland, as appears by a charter of that King, dated at Dundee, 30th July, 1366. *Totam illam ——— thanagii nostri de Formartine, cum pertinentibus, jacen. in vice-comitatu de Aberdeen, &c.* Thereafter the Earl disposed of these lands to William, eldest son of William, the 4th Earl of Orkney, as appears by an investiture produced in Parliament, given by James II. *Dilecto consanguineo suo, Gulielmo de Sancto-Claro, filio & heredi apparenti comitis Orkney & Caithania*, of the land and barony of Newburgh, and several others in Aberdeenshire, together with the salmon fishing on Ythan, 16th March 1459, (*Records of Parliament*) This WILLIAM was progenitor of LORD SINCLAIR, whose family enjoyed these lands for 200 years, and then disposed of them to Uday of that ilk, Turin of Foveran, and others.

the coast several miles, but of unequal breadth. It produces abundance of short sweet grass, white clover, wild thyme, and other herbs, which are thought to contribute much to that delicacy and fine flavour, for which the mutton fed upon them is remarkable. Between the links and the sea there is a range of little hills, mostly clay, all covered with bent, which, as it is carefully preserved, is still encreasing, and proves an excellent defence against the blowing of the sand, which, on a low shore, without such a barrier, would do very material damage to the pasture ground of the links, and also to the adjacent fields.

*Sea Coast, Minerals, &c.*—The shore in the parish of St. Fergus forms two segments of a circle; the one, beginning at the mouth of the Ugie, terminates at the Scotstown Craig, and the other reaches from this Craig to Rattray-head, the property of Mr Harvey of Broadland. The rocks both at Rattray and Scotstown afford plenty of lime-stone, which at low water is easily quarried. At Scotstown as well as at Craig-Ewan, hard by the mouth of the Ugie, there is abundance of excellent granite; and, all along the coast, an inexhaustible quantity of shells, which are now used as manure with great advantage. From these two rocks of Craig-Ewan and Scotstown, a very trifling quantity of kelp is made every second year.

*Fishery, Proprietor, &c.*—All kinds of fish, found on the E. coast of Scotland, are caught here in great abundance, such

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as

† The proprietor, upwards of 20 years ago, attempted to establish a fishing town in this parish; and if there were a proper landing place for the boats, it would be an excellent station for fishers, being so near to Rattray-head, which has long been esteemed the very best fishing ground for cod and ling.

as ling, skate, flounders, cod, haddocks, crabs, lobsters, &c. Mr FERGUSON of Pitfour, the sole proprietor of this parish, has the salmon fishing in the Ugie, for which he receives 100l. Sterling yearly rent from Messrs Arbuthnot in Peterhead. The quantity of salmon taken here in a season, has sometimes exceeded 1200 barrels; but in one season, they only amounted to 14 barrels and a half. It very often happens, that the mouth of the river is almost shut up, by large quantities of sea weeds, so that the salmon cannot enter it; and this obstacle generally remains until the sea weeds are carried off by a land flood.

*Light-House and Canal proposed.*—It is the opinion of ship-masters, who sail along this coast, that a light-house on Rattray-head is highly necessary. Within the last twenty years, several vessels with their cargoes have been dashed to pieces on the rocks of Rattray and Scot-floyn, which would have been saved, had there been a light-house at Rattray-head. A canal might also be made at a small expence, from the mouth of the Ugie, along the south side of this parish, and might be extended to the distance of several miles through the country westward.

*Agriculture.* †—No sown grass or green crops were produced here, until the proprietor, and some other gentlemen, formed

† About 25 years ago, a most execrable mode of farming was practised in this parish. Four, and often six horses dragged after them the old Scotch ploughs. As there were at that time but few black cattle or sheep, the only manure was the dung of the horses, excepting that a few farmers in the S. E. part of the parish, laid sea-weed on their grounds; the first crop after the dung, or sea-weed, was bear, which was succeeded by two crops of oats, and a crop of beans or pease, and this was followed by a crop of bear, sometimes without sea-weed or dung. This was the manner of treating the in-field. The *out-field*, that is the ground which had never any manure laid upon it, carried



formed a society for encouraging agriculture, and gave premiums for fallow, sown grafs, and turnips. By this encouragement, and by observing the great advantage that accrued from early grafs, hay, and green crops, the farmers were induced to fallow, sow turnips, and lay down their fields in grafs; and at present, some of them have generally one third of their farm in grafs, and a very considerable number of cattle are every year fed on turnips. Although improvements in agriculture have made but little progress, as yet, in this parish, it is a curious fact, that until the greatest part of the leases were expired, there was nothing done in that way. This is chiefly owing to a well-placed confidence in the proprietor, who has never yet ejected a tenant, although many of them have had no leases for upwards of 20 years. Many offers of an increase of rent have been made for every farm, as soon as the lease expired; but the possessors, or their heirs, if they inclined to remain, have been allowed to continue in their farms, and no rise of rent has been exacted. The proprietor, wisely judging that improvement should precede a rise of rent, has been at great pains to lead them to better management; and although the encouragement given has not had all the effect that

carried oats for three or four years. The fourth year, the return seldom doubled the quantity of seed that had been sown. The fifth year, they fallowed the out-field, but gave no manure of any kind; and the sixth year they had a tolerable crop of oats. The ground was then allowed to rest for some years, and it was seldom before the 4th year, that it got a green surface. It no sooner had this appearance, than it got one plowing in winter, and was suffered to remain in that state for a year, and then had a second plowing, and was sown with oats. If there was any part of the field, that had not undergone the first plowing, the surface was dug up with the spade, and therewith dykes were made of 2 or 3 feet in height, which having been exposed to the winter frost and rain, were in spring pulled down and spread upon the ground, from which the surface had been taken. This ground was then plowed, and seldom failed to produce one good crop of oats.



that might have been expected, the mode of farming is much changed. Instead of 6 horses in a plough, they never use more than 4, and many use only 2, without a driver. Some plow with 6 oxen, some with 4, and some with 2; but the horses and oxen are of a much larger size than formerly, and the Berwick-shire plough is now generally used.

*Produce, Seasons, &c.*—The crops now raised are oats, weighing from 14 to 16 stone, Amsterdam weight; bear from 17 to 19 stone; beans, pease, turnips, potatoes, and a little flax. The season of sowing is from the latter end of March to the beginning of June; and the harvest commonly begins after the middle of September, and is finished about the end of October. The rotation of crops, followed by the best farmers, is turnips or fallow, bear laid down with grass seeds, and after 3 or 4 years in grass, two crops of oats are taken. If, after this, the ground is clean, beans are sown, but if otherwise, turnips or potatoes, and then bear and grass seeds. Wheat has been neglected, although it is well adapted to the soil; but as the heritor has kept some good farms in his own hand, (when the tenants have died, or removed of their own accord,) to accommodate farmers from those countries where wheat is cultivated, it is to be hoped, that this grain will in a few years make a principal part of the crop of this parish. The greatest part of the soil here being a strong clay, and all of it on a rich clay bottom, it is clear, that the carse mode of plowing and cropping would succeed well here. When this mode is introduced, the true value of this soil will be known.

*Farm Rents and Improvements.*—The tenants being numerous, the rents are various. Some pay 90 l. in money and grain; and some 2l. or perhaps even less. Every man who has

a horse has also a cart. Some use no horses, but do all kinds of farm work with oxen. One farmer, JAMES CLARKE in Nether-hill, uses oxen for his threshing machine, which is the only thing of the kind, that has as yet been introduced in this part of the country. It is to this industrious honest man, that we are indebted for introducing the shell sand as a manure, which now turns out to so great account, that many acres, which would not formerly have produced double the quantity of the seed, now produce weighty crops both of grain and hay.

*Exports.*—This parish always produces more grain than is sufficient for the support of its inhabitants; and even in the year 1782, had the produce been kept within the parish, there would have been no need of any foreign supply. About 1600 bolls of grain are exported annually; butter and cheese to the value of 600 l. Sterling; fat cattle, horses, and sheep, to a considerable amount; and a small quantity of hay and potatoes.

*Population.*—The population of this parish is somewhat less than it was 40 years ago. The following table shows the decrease, as well as the ages, professions, &c. of the inhabitants.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF ST FERGUS.

No. of souls in 1755, as returned to Dr

|                |   |      |      |              |
|----------------|---|------|------|--------------|
| Webster,       |   | 1271 |      |              |
| Ditto in 1775, | - | -    | 1254 | Decrease, 17 |
| Ditto in 1793, | - | -    | 1240 | Ditto 14     |

Total decrease within 40 years, 31

| AGES, SEXES, BIRTHS, &c.        |     | No. of persons between 50 and 70, 272 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|
| No of persons under 10 years of |     | Aged 70 and upwards, 221              |     |
| age,                            | 108 | No. of males,                         | 559 |
| Between 10 and 20               | 230 | Females,                              | 681 |
| 20 and 50                       | 409 |                                       |     |
|                                 |     | Majority of females,                  | 122 |
|                                 |     | No.                                   |     |

|                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Annual average of births †, for 7 | Valued rent in Scotch mo-            |
| years preceding October 1792, 28  | ney, - L. 3000 0 0                   |
| Ditto of marriages, 8             | WAGES §.                             |
| Ditto of deaths, - 22             | A man servant, per annum, when       |
| CONDITIONS, PROFESSIONS, &c.      | maintained‡, from L. 6 to L. 8 0 0   |
| No. of proprietors, - 1           | A woman ditto from L. 3, to 4 0 0    |
| ----- Ministers, - 1              | A reaper in harvest, with main-      |
| ----- School-masters, 1           | tainance - 1 5 0                     |
| ----- Farmers, - 181              | Ditto when hired per day, 10d or 1 0 |
| ----- Shop-keepers, - 2           | A female ditto, per season, 1 0 0    |
| ----- Weavers, - 43               | Ditto per day, from 6d to 0 0 8      |
| ----- Smiths, - 7                 | A wright per day, maintained,        |
| ----- Wrights and Coopers, 12     | from 8d to 0 1 0                     |
| ----- Shoe-makers, 5              | A tailor, ditto 0 0 6                |
| ----- Tailors, - 5                | A mason, without maintainance,       |
| ----- Masons, - 3                 | from 1s. 8d. to 0 1 10               |
| ----- Inn-keepers, - 2            | A day labourer with meat 0 0 6       |
| ----- Millers, - 6                | Ditto without it, 9d or 0 0 10       |
| STOCK, RENTS, &c.                 | RELIGIOUS PERSUASIONS.               |
| No. of Horses, - 265              | Members of the Established           |
| ----- Black Cattle, 785           | Church, - 1145                       |
| ----- Sheep, - 908                | Antiburgher Seceders, 25             |
| ----- Mills, - 3                  | Scotch Episcopalians, - 70           |
| ----- Ploughs, - 70               |                                      |

*Manufacturers.*—The bleach-field at Inverugie, belonging to Messrs Forbes, Scott, and Co. employs a good many hands. There is every apparatus for bleaching thread ; and the

† ALEXANDER ANDERSON, miller at Inverugie, aged 70, has 40 grandchildren, all under 20 years of age.

§ The prices of provisions are the same here as at Peterhead.

‡ When the man servant lives out of the family, he has, besides the above wages, 6 bolls and a half of meal, at 8 stone per boll Amsterdam weight, and 1 boll ten pecks of malt, Aberdeen-thirc measure with vegetables.

the value of the thread whitened here annually, is about 5000 l. Sterling.—A considerable quantity of linen yarn is spun in this parish, by which a woman can earn about 4d. per day.—The weavers here are kept in employment by working for Messrs Kilgours, woollen-manufacturers at Kinmundy, in the parish of Longside, and Alexander Dalgarno and Co. Peterhead. The beer and porter brewery at Inverurie is carried on by Mr Seller with success; and a distillery of whisky, by William Lillie, and Co. at the same place, turns to good account.

*Diseases.*—The small-pox carried off great numbers formerly; but as inoculation is now become general, this disease is less fatal. The scurvy, with which many people here were affected, is not so general, owing perhaps to the more liberal use of vegetables. Fevers, and often consumptions, prove fatal in this and the neighbouring parishes; but the most terrible disease, that has been known in this part of the country for a century, is the putrid sore throat, which was not known here before December 1790. The number of deaths were more than double that year, owing to ravages made by this disease.

*Language and Etymologies.*—The dialect called broad Buchans is spoken here. It is thought to approach nearer to the ancient Gothic, than the language of any other district in Scotland. As the Picts were the antient inhabitants of the East coast of Scotland, they imposed names on the different places, expressive, (in their language,) of their situation or some particular property. It is not easy to assign any good reason, for attempting to derive the names of places in this country from the Celtic, as there is no evidence, that it was inhabited by the Celts. The names of all the places in this  
parish

parish, and the adjacent country, plainly appear to be Gothic, Saxon, or Danish. For example, *South-essie*, *Middle-essie*, and *North-essie*, signify the South, Middle, and North pasture, or feeding place, from the Teutonic *Essen*, to feed. *Pittin-heath*, compounded of the Saxon *Pit*, and *Heath*, the name of a well known shrub. *Pitfour*, the hollow trench; *Pitligo*, anciently *Pitligach*, the slaughter hollow. *Cruden*, was certainly a part of the ancient *Cruthenica*, or Pictish kingdom, so called from *Cruthen* the first king of the Picts. *Deer*, the name of a neighbouring parish, signifies a valley, and is very expressive of the situation of that place. *Broadland*, the land of bread. *Crinnond*, anciently *Creichmont*, the low or little mount. *Lenmay*, anciently *Longmay*, the long green, &c.

*Woods*.—At present there is no wood in the parish, except a few old planes at Inverugie.† The proprietor has paid much attention to the raising of wood on his other estates, particularly in the parishes of Deer and Longside, where he has planted 940 English acres. They were all planted with Scotch firs, which succeeded in about one fourth of the whole, and that part has been filled up with barren timber of different kinds. Where the Scotch firs have failed, the larch and spruce have come forward; and it seems probable, that  
by

† There is clear evidence, that, at some former period, a great part of this parish has been covered with wood, chiefly oak, aller, birch, hazel, and willow, the remains of all which are found in the mosses. No roots or trees, however, of the Scotch fir have been found, which shows that this kind of wood is not proper for this part of the country. It would appear that the woods in this country had, at one time or other, been destroyed by fire, as the marks of that element are visible on many of the roots and trees that are dug up in the mosses. It may not be an improbable conjecture, that this happened anno 1308, when King ROBERT BRUCE defeated CUMINE Earl of Buchan, near Inverury. Fordun,¶ after narrating this defeat, adds, "*comitatum de Busban igne consumpsit*."

¶ Fordun, vol. II. p. 241.



by draining, and planting larch and spruce firs for nurseries, other trees may be brought up. Many drains have already been made, and several thousands of larches and spruces have been planted, and the same improvements are carrying on through the whole.

*Roads and Bridge.*—The principal roads, through this parish, are those leading from Peterhead to Frazerburgh and Banff, and from Peterhead to Old Deer. They are kept in tolerable repair by the statute labour, but will never be good roads until turnpikes are established. It is not to be imagined that any man will work a day on the roads, when he may redeem his labour for 3d. If ever a mail coach be established, for the accommodation of the country north of Aberdeen, the course must be by the coast side, at least in winter, as the other road by Fyvie is often impassable, on account of the depth of the snow; and the certainty of passengers, from the towns on the coast, especially at Peterhead, where there is always a great resort of company for the benefit of the mineral well, will make the road by the coast side eligible in summer. The only bridge in this parish is that over the Ugie, on the road from Peterhead to Frazerburgh and Banff. It consists of two arches. This bridge was built, in consequence of an act of Parliament for that effect, in the reign of James the VII. of Scotland, and II. of England.\*

*Ecclesiastical State.*—This parish is one of the 32 the tithes and patronage whereof belonged to the Abbey of Arbroath. §  
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\* Reprinted Acts of Parl. JAMES VII. Par. I.

§ The minister of St. Fergus formerly supplied the charge at Fetterangus, by preaching there every third sabbath, until 1618, when Fetterangus was annexed to Deer. Fetterangus, as well as St. Fergus, is in Banff-shire; and the reason



The family of Panmure acquired a right to those tithes and patronage; but, by the attainder of the Earl of PANMURE, who unfortunately engaged in the rebellion in 1715, the patronage fell to the Crown. The stipend is 90 l., including one chalder of bear, and three of meal, valued at 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. *per* chalder. The glebe is about 8 acres of good land. The church was built in 1763, and the manse in 1766; and both are in good repair. There is no dissenting meeting-house in the parish.

*Schools.*—The school-house was built *anno* 1786. The salary of the school-master consists of 10 bolls of meal paid by the parishioners, and 3 l. 9 s. paid by heritors. He draws 2 l. from the kirk-session as their clerk, besides what he receives at baptisms and marriages. As there are generally some private schools in the parish, the number of scholars attending the parochial school seldom exceeds 30. Such as are taught Latin pay 2 s. 6 d., arithmetic, 2 s., reading and writing, 1 s. 6 d., and reading English, 1 s. *per* quarter.

*Poor*—The number on the poor's roll in the parish is 30; and the funds, from which they are supplied, arise from 120 l. at interest, the profits of a herse for burials, which, at an average, produces 3 l. *per annum*; seat-rents, 2 l. 14 s. 4 d.; &c. the weekly collections 24 l. *per annum*; amounting in all to 35 l. 14 s. 4 d. JAMES FERGUSON, Esq; of PITFOUR, the sole proprietor of the parish, gives annually a liberal donation to the poor, by which, and the above funds, they are so well supplied, that there are no beggars in the parish.

*Eminent*

reason is said to be, that the CHEYNES of Inverugie, the ancient proprietors, who were heritable Sheriffs of Banff, obtained an act of the Legislature, declaring their own lands to be within their own jurisdiction. St. Fergus, Fetterangus, and Strolach, in New-Machar parish, which also belonged to the Cheynes, pay the land tax and window tax, as parts of Banff-shire, but in every other respect are subject to the jurisdiction of the Sheriff of Aberdeen.

*Eminent Men.*—It might be proper, under this article, to give a short account of the most eminent family in Scotland, the CUMINES, who were Earls of BUCHAN, \* and either pro-

T 2

prietors

¶ The chief of this family was CUMINE Lord BADENOCH, of whom were descended the Earls of Buchan and Monteith, and 32 knights §. This faction, with the Earls of MARR and ATHOLL, with whom they were connected by marriages, ruled the kingdom as they pleased, during some years in the latter part of the reign of ALEXANDER the II. and during the first part of the reign of ALEXANDER III.

The male line of the antient Earls of Buchan failing in the person of FERGUS ¶, the last Earl of the ancient race, his daughter MARJORY married WILLIAM CUMINE of the house of Badenoch, who in his right became Earl of Buchan about the beginning of the 13th century. His posterity continued to enjoy this great estate for 100 years, and were the most powerful subjects in the kingdom. This Earl founded the abbey of Deer, and endowed it with a considerable revenue in lands situated in the county of Aberdeen, Anno 1218. He was constituted great justiciary of Scotland by ALEXANDER II. in 1220; and his brother WALTER was by the same King created Earl of MONTEITH, he having married the heiress of that family, by whom he got a large estate. The CUMINES being now so rich and powerful, they became formidable, not only to the nobles, but even to the King. They were called to answer before the King and Estates, anno 1255, for their various acts of tyranny, oppression, murder, and sacrilege, and not appearing, a sentence of outlawry and forfeiture was pronounced against them; but Government was too weak to put this sentence in execution. The faction, greatly irritated by this sentence, resolved to take the first opportunity of getting the king's person into their power †. WALTER, Earl of Monteith, was the principal actor in this plot; and having along with him WILLIAM, the 2d Earl of Buchan of the

§ FORDUN and MAJOR:

¶ A charter granted by FERGUS Earl of BUCHAN to JOHN the son of UCHTRED, is to be seen in the Advocates library. From the charter it appears that Fergus had exchanged the lands, situated betwixt Gicht and the Bank of Behilch, with John for the lands of Slains; and John was obliged to give attendance at the courts held by the Earl his superior at Ellon.

† FORDUN:

prietors or superiors of all that Earldom, besides many considerable estates in other parts of the kingdom. But as it would

the name of Cumine, the Earl of ATHOL, Lord BADENOCH, the Earl of MARR, and others of their adherents, they entered the royal apartments at Kinross, early in the morning of the 28th of October 1255, and made the king a prisoner before he was awake, and carried him to Stirling. They then dismissed his Majesty's servants, and filled all places of trust with their own adherents. So great was their power, that the king, after he had recovered his liberty, thought it prudent to give them a full pardon.

ALEXANDER, the 3d Earl of Buchan, of the name of Cumine, was Justiciary and Lord high Constable of Scotland, and was appointed one of the six governors of the kingdom, after the death of King ALEXANDER III. He founded an hospital at Turriff, *anno* 1272, for twelve poor husbandmen, and another at Newburgh, both in Aberdeenshire. JOHN, the 4th Earl of Buchan, constable of Scotland, was one of the arbiters chosen on the part of JOHN BALIOL, in the competition for the Crown between him and ROBERT BRUCE. At this time, JOHN CUMINE, Lord BADENOCH, commonly called the *Black Cumine*, claimed the Crown of Scotland, as being descended of HEXASILDA, daughter and heiress of GOTHERIC, son and heir of DONALD king of Scotland. It is well known how this affair was determined by EDWARD I. of England. To the Black Cumine succeeded his son JOHN CUMINE, Lord of Badenoch, commonly called the *Red Cumine*. Scotland had now for a considerable time groaned under the yoke of English servitude : Baliol had meanly given up his pretended right to the Crown to Edward ; and Bruce had secretly intimated to his friends his intention of asserting his title to the royal dignity. CUMINE, ever mindful of his own interest, made a solemn engagement with ROBERT, to aid him with all his power in mounting the throne, provided he should be restored to the large possessions which his family had formerly enjoyed ; but, after deliberating upon the affair, he began to doubt the event : If the attempt failed he was undone ; and he did not know how to retract : His own black heart suggested the detestable remedy : His hopes of great rewards from England induced him to divulge the whole scheme of the Scottish patriots to EDWARD ; and BRUCE, finding that he was betrayed, with difficulty escaped to Scotland, where, discovering clear proof of the villany of CUMINE, he pursued him to the church of Dumfries, whither, from conscious guilt, he had fled for refuge, and punished him as his crime deserved, on the tenth of February 1306. Having no issue, he was the last Lord Badenoch, of the name of CUMINE. The slaughter of the *Red Cumine* by BRUCE inspir-

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would greatly exceed the limits of a statistical account to notice, even briefly, the many illustrious characters in this great

ed the whole clan with a desire to revenge his death. They continued violently to oppose BRUCE; but, by defeating the Earl of Buchan at Inverurie, *anno* 1308, he put an end to the greatness of this too powerful family. BRUCE pursued the Cumines to Fyvie, where they were entirely dispersed. He encamped there, until the return of the parties which he had sent out to burn the Earl of BUCHAN's estate: The Earl was then forfeited and out-lawed. ¶.

At what particular period the CHEYNES became proprietors of this parish, is not certainly known; but it would appear, that they were in possession of this estate before the Cumines succeeded to the Earldom of Buchan. Sir REGINALD CHEYNE of Inverurie was the founder of the Carmelites house in Aberdeen; and, besides other revenues, bestowed upon it 40s. † yearly out of his lands of Blackwater, in this parish. He had, by his wife, a daughter of Cumine, Lord Badenoch, two sons; Sir REGINALD, who, in 1267, was promoted to the office of Lord Chamberlain of Scotland‡; HENRY CHEYNE, the Chamberlain's brother, was elected Bishop of Aberdeen, *anno* 1281. He was one of those who swore fealty to Edward, *anno* 1296. As he was nearly related to the CUMINES, he adhered to that party, and was obliged to leave this country, and take refuge in England, where he remained in exile until King ROBERT was pleased to recal him. He was so happy in being allowed to resume his functions, that he applied all the revenues of the see, which, during his absence, had increased to a very considerable sum, in building the bridge over the Don at Aberdeen. This bridge consists of one Gothic arch, 72 feet wide at the water, and the height, from the water to the top of the arch, is 60 feet. He died *anno* 1329, having been bishop of Aberdeen 48 years.

¶ *A silver seal, used by this Earl in his father's lifetime, was lately found at the monastery of Tungland in Galloway. It bears a shield embattled at top, and containing three garbs or wheat sheaves: The Legend, S. JONIS COMIN, Fel. Com. de Buchan. An impression of this seal was sent to that most ingenious antiquary Captain HENRY HUTTON of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, who it is hoped will soon favour the Public with his valuable collection of Antiquities.*

† *Writes of King's College.*

‡ *Ferdun, vol. 2 p. 106. and Lives of Officers of State.*

great family ; and, as, indeed, such disquisitions belong more properly to the department of the *historian* or *biographer*, than to

years. The direct male line of the CHEYNES ¶ of Inverugie failed in the reign of DAVID, II. and the parish of St Fergus, with the other estates belonging to the family, fell to two heiresses, † the eldest of whom, MARIOTHA CHEYNE, married John Keith of Ravenscraig, second son of Sir EDWARD KEITH, great Marischal of Scotland, who in her right became proprietor of this parish about the year 1360. The direct male line of JOHN KEITH failed in the person of Sir WILLIAM KEITH of Inverugie, who fell in the battle of Flowden. He left two daughters, the eldest of whom was married to William the 4th Earl Marischal, sometime before 1538. By this marriage Earl MARISCHAL became proprietor of St Fergus. He was possessed of one of the greatest land estates at that time in Scotland. In the years 1530, and

1540,

¶ *The parish of St Fergus made but a small part of the property of this ancient family. Nisbet says, (Heraldry, vol. I. p. 130) that he saw a charter granted by Reynold Cheyne, son of Reynold who was the son of Reynold, of the lands of Dury. King ROBERT BRUCE gives the lands of Dalmeny, which formerly belonged to ROGER MOUBRAY, to REGINALD CHEYNE, as that king's charter bears in the Earl of Haddington's collections. REGINALD CHEYNE gives the lands of Aralogie, in the parish of Fyvie, for supporting a chaplain in the priory of Fyvie, which was subordinate to the abbey of ARBROATH. (Chart. of Arbroath.)*

*From CHEYNE of Inverugie, were descended the Cheynes of Effelmont, Arnage, Pittfichie, and Straloch, all which are now extinct.*

CHRISITAN CHEYNE, a daughter of Straloch, was married to Sir ALEXANDER SETON of that ilk, who bravely defended the town of Berwick against King Edward and the whole English army, anno 1333. Edward having summoned the town to surrender, threatened, in case of refusal, to put to death Sir ALEXANDER's two sons, then in his hands, the one as an hostage, and the other as a prisoner; but nothing could prevail with the brave Sir Alexander to give up the town as long as it was possible to defend it. The perfidious Edward, thereupon, most barbarously executed the two young men, WILLIAM and THOMAS SETONS, in view of their father and mother; which shocking spectacle they bore with a most uncommon degree of fortitude.

‡ *The youngest of the co-heiresses of Cheyne of Inverugie was married to NICOL SUTHERLAND of Forbat, and brought with her the lands of DUFFUS in Moray. This NICOL was ancestor of the Lords DUFFUS.*



to that of the *statistical philosopher*, we shall content ourselves with giving in this place only a brief sketch of the character of the great Field Marshal KEITH, brother to GEORGE, last Earl of Marischal; and with throwing a few anecdotes of his most illustrious

1540, he got charters || on many lands lying in the counties, Caithness, Inverness, Moray, Banff, Aberdeen, Kincardine, Angus, Fife, Linlithgow, &c. It is said, that after QUEEN MARY's captivity, he took no concern in public affairs, and by living a retired life in his castle of Dunottar, he got the name of WILLIAM IN THE TOWER. He so much improved his estate, that at his death it was reckoned worth 270,000 merks Scots, or 14,208l. 6s. 8d. Sterling. This estate was so situated, that in travelling from the north point of Caithness, to the borders of England, he could sleep every night on his own ground. †

This noble Lord died in an advanced age in 1581, and was succeeded by his grandson GEORGE, the 5th Earl Marischal, one of the most eminent men of his time. After having studied at Geneva, under the famous THEODORE BEZA, he travelled through Italy and Germany, where he visited the Landgrave of HESSE, Prince of the CATTI, who, understanding who he was, received him kindly, and treated him with great magnificence, as a Scotch descendant of the ancient CATTI. In 1589 he was sent ambassador extraordinary to the court of Denmark, to espouse the Princess ANNE in name of James VI. of Scotland, and I. of England. Being possessed of a great estate, he appeared with all the lustre and magnificence with which the wealth of Scotland could adorn him, and that chiefly on his own expences. In 1593, he made a noble foundation of a college at Aberdeen, and obtained from the Crown, for the support of it, the lands and houses belonging to some of the religious at Aberdeen, which had not been sued off before the Reformation.

|| *Pub. Records, and Haddington's Collections, page 92, 93, &c.*

† *This Earl was a zealous promoter of the Reformation, but opposed all violent proceedings in that affair. When the Confession of Faith was presented to Parliament, in 1560, the Earl of Marischal stood up, and said, "It is long since I carried some favour to the truth, and was somewhat zealous for the Roman religion; but this day hath fully resolved me of the truth of the one, and the falsehood of the other; for, seeing (my Lords) the bishops, who, by their learning, can, and for the zeal they should have for the truth, would, as I suppose, gainsay any thing repugnant to it, say nothing against the Confession we have heard, I cannot think but it is the TRUTH OF GOD, and the contrary of it is false detestable doctrine".*



illustrious ancestors into the notes. This great man was born at INVERUGIE, in this parish, and was baptized 16th June 1696, by the names of JAMES FRANCIS EDWARD. \* He early entered into the military service abroad, rose to the highest rank in the army, and was inferior to no general of his time in military capacity. He accompanied his brother Earl Marischal to the battle of *Dunblane*, and afterwards went abroad to seek preferment at the Spanish Court; but not finding a quick promotion there, he entered into the Russian service, and was by PETER the Great promoted to the rank of a general officer. He afterwards entered into the service of FREDERIC III. King of Prussia, who raised him to the rank of Field Marishal. He commanded that king's armies sometimes alone, and at other times along with his Majesty, until the fatal battle of Hochkirchen, on the 14th October 1758. The Field Marshal, returning from a separate command, found that the King had encamped in a very improper place, and instantly told his Majesty that DAUN would surprize them that night. His prediction proved too true; and the Field Marshal, making a glorious defence, was unfortunately killed. He was buried in the church-yard of Hochkirchen, but the King of Prussia had his corpse taken up, and sent to Berlin, where he was again interred with the greatest military honours. ‡

*Antiquities.*

\* *Baptismal Register of parish of St. Fergus.*

‡ The Field Marishal, with all his great qualities was a very bad economist; and sometimes absented himself from Court when he could not pay his debts. On one of these occasions, the Great FREDERIC called for him, and found him in his garden, employed in pointing paper cannon at 1500 pins of wood in different directions, so as to discover how he might pour the greatest quantity of fire upon them, as their position changed. The King paid his General's debts, was delighted with the discovery of his amusement, and augmented the number of pins to 12,000; after which, he and his general had many a *keen engagement* in the garden, which proved of great service afterwards in the field.

*Antiquities.*—As this parish has, for upwards of 500 years, been only a part of a larger estate, and never divided into small properties, we cannot expect to find stately mansions here. Some peices of stone and lime are to be met with, hard by the mouth of the Ugie, where it falls into the sea, and here, it is said, was the ancient residence of the family of Cheyne. They afterwards built another castle, to which they also gave the name of INVERUGIE, \* at the distance of more than a mile westward, on the same side of the river. The site of this castle does honour to the judgement and good taste of its founder. Here the Ugie forms a semicircle before the castle, and the area of this semicircle is terminated, by *Mount-Pleasant*, a steep rising ground on the opposite side of the river. The castle is now in ruins, but the two courts are almost entire; part of them serves as a granery, and part is used as a brewery for porter and beer. Within a few paces of the wall of the North court, are the remains of an *ice-house*, which perhaps was the first of the kind in this country.—On an eminence N. W. from the castle, there is an artificial moat, where, it is probable, the ancient proprietors held their courts for the distribution of justice.

*Character and Manner of Living.*—The people in general are very hospitable, kind to strangers, intelligent and contented. They have such an attachment to their native soil, that few of them chuse to leave it. From Buchan there never were any emigrations, and indeed there can be no reason for

VOD. XV.

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any,

\* This continued to be the residence of the succeeding proprietors, until the attainder of Lord Marischal, who unfortunately engaged in the rebellion 1715. The precise time when this castle was built is not known; but as one part of it, now in ruins, was called the *Cheyne's-Tower*, it is probable that it was built by that family.

any, as every man, who is disposed to work, can always have good employment and good wages, either as a mechanic or a labourer. Although few of the farmers have leases, from many years experience, they consider themselves as perfectly secure, and in no danger of being removed, while they live peaceably and are punctual in the payment of their rents, which are very moderate, when compared with those of the neighbouring estates. They are sensible the heritor could have more rent than he draws from them. He has abolished all customs and services; and, if any of them build good houses, a proper allowance is made. The kind and indulgent manner in which they are treated by the proprietor, has strongly attached them to him. They are sensible that he is happy in beholding their prosperity, and will not from thence take any advantage to raise their rents above what they can bear. The manner of living here is greatly changed within the last thirty years. The farmers now appear at church and market dressed in English superfine cloth, and many of their wives and daughters in cloaks and bonnets. The man-servant is as expensively arrayed as his master, and the dress of the maid-servant is little inferior to that of her mistress. The food of the inhabitants formerly consisted chiefly of oat meal, and sometimes of fish, but these generally salted and dried; owing to this cause, the scurvy was a common disease. They raised few vegetables, and turnips were often brought by sea from Aberdeen. Every cottager now has his turnips, cabbages, potatoes; and many of the farmers have their mutton, fed by themselves for summer food, and the greatest part of them kill a fed ox or cow, for winter provision. †

## NUMBER

† From the middle of November 1792, to the first of January 1793, 42 fat cattle, weighing from 14 to 24 stone, were killed in this parish for food during the winter, besides a considerable number of sheep.

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF DOLLAR,

(COUNTY OF CLACKMANNAN, PRESBYTERY OF STIRLING;  
SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN WATSON, Minister.*

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*Origin of the Name.*

THE word DOLLAR is said to be Gaelic. According to some it was formerly spelt *Dollard*, from *doll*, a plain, or vale, and *ard*, a hill, or high land. This is perfectly applicable to its real situation, the principal part of the parish being a beautiful plain or valley, of about an English mile in breadth, lying along the foot of a high range of hills, known by the name of *the Ochil-Hills*. According to others, it may be expressed *Doil-lar*, signifying a hidden or concealed place. This also is expressive of its real situation; which is low and not seen at any great distance, when one approaches it in any direction.

*Situation, Extent, Form, and Appearance.*—It is supposed to be equally distant from Stirling, Kinross, and Dumfermline; and is reckoned about 12 English miles from each. The

middle and principal part of the parish, in which both the church and the town stand, is an extensive and gently sloping plain, beautifully interspersed with small villages, farm houses, and inclosures; and, taking in with it a small part of Muckart on the East, and Tillicoultry on the West, it forms a kind of amphitheatre, of an oval figure, of about 3 miles in length, and one in breadth; bounded by the Ochil-hills on the North, and a rising ground on the South. This beautiful plain would seem to have been laid down, and smoothed by the great hand of nature, to be the scene of sports and exercises, such as those of the ancient Olympic games. It is of a southern exposure; and, when viewed from the rising grounds, particularly on the South, the pleased and admiring beholder would be ready to pronounce it the most delightful spot in the world.

*River and Fish.*—The water of *Dovan*, which runs from E. to W. nearly divides the parish. The *Dovan* is not navigable, being a small but beautiful stream of pure limpid water. Its channel, at a medium, may be about 100 feet in breadth. Here it gently glides over a bed of pebbles, where, finding itself at ease (as it were,) after having been dashed and broken in its narrow and rugged channel, through the parishes of Glendovan and Muckart, it seems to sport itself in many beautiful meanders; winding from side to side of the valley, as if loth to leave the delightful haughs of Dollar. But at times, when swelled by heavy rains, which come down in torrents from the hills, it suddenly overflows its banks to a considerable extent, to the no small damage of the farmer, whose lands are situated by the side of it. The river, being small, does not admit of many kinds of fish; yet there are very fine fresh-water trouts, of a considerable size, taken in it, as well as sparrows, in great numbers. In harvest,  
 sea



sea trouts are likewise killed in it, from 2 lib. to 4 lib. weight. And, in the season, salmon are caught from 5 lib. to 20 lib. About 20 or 30 years ago, salmon were found in Dovan in great plenty; but, from the illegal and murderous manner of killing them with spears, at an improper season, their numbers of late have greatly decreased. As there are but few or none killed now, but by gentlemen in the way of sport, or by some of the poorer sort of the people, for the use of their families, the prices cannot well be ascertained.

*Bridges.*—There was a very good stone bridge over the Dovan nearly opposite to the church; but some years ago it was carried down by a flood. At present, a wooden bridge is about to be put over it, near the same place, by the voluntary subscriptions of a few public-spirited persons in the neighbourhood; which will be of very great convenience to the people in this place, particularly upon the sabbath; as many of the parishioners have to cross the Dovan in their way to church. The want of a bridge would not have been felt so much here 20 or 30 years ago, as the people in this place were very expert at crossing the river on *stilts*. † And there are still some who cross it in this way. But since the time that the bridge was built, this practice has been generally laid aside.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The air in this place is remarkably pure and healthy; the country being free and open, neither  
cumberd

† These stilts were two branches of a tree, of a proper strength, with a cleft or small branch preserved in each, of a sufficient wideness to receive a person's foot, about 18 or 20 inches from the root end. Upon which the person being mounted, with a foot on each cleft or projecting branch, and the top or small end of the stilt in each hand, they stalked through the river at the fords. This they called *stilting*.



cumbered with woods, nor infected with marshes. The purity and sweetness also of the water, (which, perhaps, is exceeded by none,) coming through rock or sand, and free of metallic substances, must also contribute greatly to the health of the inhabitants; and this blessing they usually enjoy in an uncommon degree. As a remarkable instance of this, the minister, in the whole course of his parochial visitation from house to house, did not find one single sick person in the parish; and scarcely any complaining of ailments, such as coughs, shortness of breath, &c.; though it was in the month of December, when complaints of this nature are more frequent; especially among such as are advanced in life. Some few were indeed labouring under the natural infirmities incident to old age; there being several who were arrived at the advanced age of 80 and upwards. The salubrity of the air is also much owing to the dryness of the soil, which readily imbibes the rains that fall upon it; while the many small rivulets, which come down from the higher grounds, carry off the superfluous waters, without allowing them to stagnate on the surface, and to breed noxious vapours to be exhaled into the air. Epidemical diseases are therefore unknown here; except those which are of a common and general nature. Such as the small-pox, chin-cough, &c. The small-pox, at times, carries off many of the children; inoculation not having yet got much into practice.

*Soil and Surface, Sheep, Wool, and Cultivation.*—The soil in this parish is of various kinds. That of the Ochil-hills, which lie towards the North, is partly rocky, partly mossy, and partly gravel. The hills are covered with a beautiful green; but part of the soil being now washed off by the storms, in the course of time, the rocks in some places begin to appear. They afford excellent pasture for sheep; of which

which about 1640 are fed upon that part of them belonging to this parish. The mutton, and especially the wool, produced upon the Ochils, (as they are sometimes called,) is considered as of a superior quality; particularly that upon the farm called *Craiginnan*, which is the property of the Duke of ARGYLL. Towards the foot of the hills, the soil, in general, is light and gravelly, causing a quick vegetation. In dry seasons, it is indeed apt to be parched; but in wet seasons, the crops are moderately good. The greater part of the flat-lying ground in the bottom is likewise of a light gravelly nature, and usually yields rather an early harvest. Along the banks of the Dovan, the soil is mostly of the haugh kind; and some of it a deep clay. Upon the south side of the Dovan, the ground is rather wet and clayey, but, with proper attention and culture, it is capable of very considerable improvement. And some of the farms, which are under proper management, make very good returns.

*Produce, Seasons, &c.*—The ordinary crops raised in this parish, are barley, oats, pease, beans, and potatoes. There is also some wheat and hay; but not much. The usual time of sowing oats, pease, and beans, in this parish, in ordinary seasons, is the months of March and April, and the barley in May. It is usually over by the 20th of the month.—The harvest commonly begins towards the end of August, or beginning of September; and, excepting some late spots, is over by the tenth of October. As soon as the barley, oats, and pease are got in, the potatoes are taken up and housed, which concludes the harvest work.

*Improvements.*—Agriculture, in this parish, until within these few years, has continued much in the same state that it was about 150 years ago; the feuers, who possess the  
greatest

greatest part of the parish, following the same system of farming, that had been handed down to them by their fathers. What indeed proved an insurmountable bar to improvement, was, the lands of different proprietors lying interspersed with one another, commonly called *run-rig*, which was a case that very much prevailed through many parts of Scotland; but it is now hardly known in this part of the country. About 16 years ago, a very considerable part of the best lands in the parish, which lay in that state, were divided; when the different proprietors got their respective proportions of ground laid together, each by itself. This has been productive of several very desirable consequences; such as, cutting off endless quarrels and disputes, that were continually taking place between the different proprietors, or their tenants, about their encroaching or trespassing upon one another; and so establishing peace and harmony amongst neighbours, instead of strife and variance. It has also opened up a door to improvements of every kind. For, immediately upon the ground being divided, the different proprietors inclosed and sub-divided, with ditch and hedge, their respective proportions of land. And the several inclosures are now alternately under oats, barley, hay, pasture, &c. to the no small benefit of the proprietors, and the pleasure of the traveller. Some late purchasers are carrying on very considerable improvements in the modern style; the agreeable and beneficial effects of which are daily appearing.

*Minerals.*—This part of the country abounds in coal, of different qualities. Three coal-works are going on at present in this parish; two upon the South side of the Dovon; the one at Mellack, the property of the Duke of ARGYLL; the other closely adjoining to it, but belonging to Lord ALVA. Upon the North side of the Dovon, and near to the town  
of

of Dollar, there is another coal-work, belonging also to the Duke of Argyll. These works employ in whole about 18 working people; besides a horse gin for drawing the coals. From these coal-works, and those of Blarngone, (in the parish of Falloway, but immediately upon the border of this parish on the S. E.) very great quantities of coals are annually carried many miles into Strathern, on the North side of the Ochil hills.—Iron-stone is also found in different parts of the parish, and said to be of very excellent quality. It is working at present by the Dovan Company, who are now erecting a public work at Sauchie, some miles to the westward, in the parish of Clackmannan.\* The Ochil hills consist chiefly of whin-stone; but free-stone also is found in different places of the parish.

*Hills, Rivulets, &c.*—The only hills in this parish, are the Ochils. They begin in the parish of Dumblane, immediately East from the Sherriff-muir, and stretch in an eastern direction many miles into Fife. In this parish they are of considerable height; perhaps some thousand feet. They are, as already observed, of a beautiful green; afford excellent pasture for sheep, and produce mutton of the finest flavour.

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From

\* Some time ago, a vein of LEAD was discovered in the Ochil hills, a little above the town of Dollar; and wrought by a Company for several years. From this work, a considerable quantity, both of Lead and of Copper Ore, is said to have been shipped off for Holland. But it is said that the Company, somehow disagreeing among themselves, gave it up. Nevertheless, it is believed, that if a Company of spirit were to make a thorough trial, it might turn to good account. SILVER ORE, in considerable quantities, is likewise said to have been found in the Glen of Gare, or rather of Cairn, on the West of Castle-Campbell; but that it did not answer the expence of working it. PEBBLES, of considerable value, have also been found upon the top of a hill above Castle-Campbell, called the *White Wisp*.

From their verdant sides, many beautiful rivulets of the finest water are daily gliding down, for the health and refreshment of the inhabitants who dwell below.

*Roads.*—There are two high-ways passing through this parish, leading from Stirling to Kinross. The one is upon the south side of the Dovan; and the other upon the north side. That upon the south side of the Dovan is only in part formed, but not gravelled; and as it passes through clay grounds, it is scarcely passable in winter. But that upon the north side of the Dovan, as it passes along the foot of the Ochil hills, where the bottom is a hard channel, is equally firm and passable at all seasons; and therefore is most frequented. The proper stage upon that road, between Stirling and Kinross, is Dollar. The greatest fault of it is, that it is too narrow; for, in some places, two carriages meeting can do no more than pass. Were it only widened a little, nature has sufficiently gravelled it. They who have marked it out at first, humouring the nature of the ground along the foot of the hills, have formed it much after the manner of a serpentine walk. It is very much frequented, not only by those who travel from Stirling to Kinross, but also by those who go to Perth, Dundee, &c.

*Population.*—The population of this parish has decreased very little within these 40 years.

#### POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF DOLLAR.

|                                                  |     |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|
| No. of souls in 1755, as returned to Dr Webster, | 517 |
| Ditto in 1792,                                   | 510 |
|                                                  | —   |
| Decrease                                         | 7   |



| FAMILIES, &c.                          |    |                        | No. of Mechanics, |                              | 24   |
|----------------------------------------|----|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------|
| No. of families in the town,           | 51 | (viz.) — Smiths,       | -                 | 3                            |      |
| — Ditto in the country,                | 71 | — Mafons,              | -                 | 2                            |      |
| — Seceders of all denomina-            |    | — Wrights, or joiners, |                   | 2                            |      |
| tions,                                 | 17 | — Weavers,             |                   | 5                            |      |
| AGES, and SEXES. <i>Mal. Fem. Tot.</i> |    | — Tailors,             |                   | 4                            |      |
| Children under 5                       | 27 | 25                     | 52                | — Shoe-makers,               | 2    |
| — Between 5 and 10                     | 30 | 38                     | 68                | — Dyers,                     | 2    |
| Between 10 and 20                      | 31 | 37                     | 68                | — Coopers,                   | 1    |
| Persons aged 20 and                    |    |                        |                   | — Bakers,                    | 1    |
| upwards,                               | -  |                        |                   | — Butchers,                  | 2    |
|                                        |    |                        |                   |                              | — 24 |
|                                        |    |                        |                   | — Carters,                   | 1    |
|                                        |    |                        |                   | — Excise officers,           | 1    |
| CONDITIONS, PROFESSIONS, &c.           |    |                        |                   | — Keepers of public houses,  | 2    |
| No. of proprietors,                    | -  | 19                     |                   | — Male servants,             | 30   |
| — Minifters,                           | -  | 1                      |                   | — Female ditto,              | 29   |
| — School-masters,                      | -  | 1                      |                   | — Servants, chiefly men, em- |      |
| — Merchants,                           | -  | 2                      |                   | ployed at the bleach-field,  |      |
| — Miners,                              | -  | 18                     |                   | in the heat of the season,   | 30   |
| — Muficians,                           | -  | 4                      |                   | — Poor on the roll, yearly,  | 9    |
| — Corn millers,                        | -  | 2                      |                   |                              |      |

EXTRACT from the REGISTER of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, and DEATHS, for the last ten years, viz. from the first of January 1783, to the first of January 1793.

| YEARS.         | BIRTHS.          | MARRIAGES.      | DEATHS.           |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1783           | 13               | 3               | 14                |
| 1784           | 14               | 4               |                   |
| 1785           | 16               | 4               | 16                |
| 1786           | 9                | 2               | 14                |
| 1787           | 12               | 2               | 14                |
| 1788           | 16               | 4               | 10                |
| 1789           | 19               | 6               | 6                 |
| 1790           | 12               | 6               | 11                |
| 1791           | 11               | 4               | 17                |
| 1792           | 21               | 0               | 9                 |
|                | —                | —               | —                 |
| Total          | 143              | 35              | 119               |
| Annual average | 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ | 11 $\frac{9}{16}$ |

*Provisions*



*Provisions and Labour.*—The price of barley, oats, meal, &c. are regulated by the fiars of Clackmannan, the head town in the county. The price of butcher meat is usually from 3d. to 4½d. *per* lib. Dutch weight; a good hen sells at 1s; chickens from 4d. to 6d. each, according to their age and size; eggs from 3d. to 4d. *per* dozen. † The ordinary price of butter at present is 6d. *per* lib; cheese 3½. The wages of men labourers are from 10d. to 1s. *per* day; in harvest, they receive 13d. or 14d. *per* day; and for cutting hay, 1s. 6d. The wages of women who work without doors, at hay-making, weeding potatoes, &c. are 6d. *per* day; except in harvest, when they receive 10d. *per* day: out of which wages, both men and women furnish their own provisions. The average annual wages of farm servants, of men that are able to hold the plough, thresh the barn, &c. when they eat in the house, are 6l; and 2l. 10s. for women. A mason's wages are from 1s. 8d. to 2s. *per* day; a wright's, or joiner's wages, from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d; a tailor's wages, 8d; and a slater's, 2s. *per* day.

*Bleachfields and Mills.*—There is a very fine bleachfield in this parish beautifully situated on the banks of the Dovan. It was erected by Mr WILLIAM HAIG, the present proprietor, in the year 1787. The machinery, which is excellent, is driven by water from the Dovan, while the canals, boilers, &c. are plentifully supplied, at all seasons, with the finest filtrated water from the hills. The trade of this field has much increased since its first commencement. For the first and second years, there were scarcely 6 acres of ground under cloth. Whereas, in the present year, 1793, there are 20 acres covered with it. The greatest part of the cloth, bleached at this field, is the diaper, or table linen of Dunfermline, the first

† Till within these two or three years, a hen might have been bought for 9d; chickens for 4d. *per* pair; and eggs for 3d. *per* dozen.

first town in *Britain*, (we may even say in the *World*), for this manufacture; the table linen made there being, both in point of quality and variety of patterns, incomparably superior to what is to be found any where else. Nor can any place supply the demands to London, and other places for that article, upon the same terms. Besides, the author is well informed, that improvements are daily making in several branches of that business, which promise to be of great service with regard to the elegance of the patterns \*. The new chemical method of bleaching, by the *oxygenated muriatic acid*, has been tried at this field with much success. In the year 1790, Mr Haig gained a premium from the Honourable Board of Trustees for that method of bleaching. Since that time, he hath made several valuable discoveries, both as to the preparation and application of this acid, and finds it very useful; particularly at the end of the season, when the sun so greatly loses its influence. He then finishes off goods by this method of bleaching, which otherwise could not be done until the next year. By this method, he bleaches cotton goods through the whole season; and finds it much better adapted for cotton than for linen. In this parish there are two mills for grain, one of them has machinery for making barley, and rollers for grinding malt. There are also two waulk mills for scouring cloth, &c.

*Church, School, and Poor*—The Duke of Argyll is superior and patron \* as well as titular of the tithes. The value of the

\* Some light cotton goods have, for some years past, been sent here from Glasgow; and, by reason of the exceeding fineness of the water, have been returned with a most excellent colour; very much to the satisfaction of the employers.

\* The greatest part of the parish was formerly the property of that family. But in the year 1605, it was feued out by ARCHIBALD Earl of ARGYLL, and

the living, exclusive of the manse and glebe, has, for some years past been considered, at an average, to be about 80 l. The church was rebuilt in the year 1775, and is considered as very neat for a country church. The manse, at present, is out of repair.—Mr John M'Arbrea, the parish school-master, teaches English, Latin, writing, arithmetic, &c. and is much respected. His fixed salary is only 100 l. Scotch, but he draws the interest of 560 merks Scotch, of fund money, besides perquisites, as precentor and session clerk, &c.—The poor upon the roll, are supported by the public collections on sabbath, and the interest of several sums of money, fund by different persons† for that purpose. They receive their stated allowance monthly, which amounts to about 17 l. Sterling *per annum*; besides occasional supplies persons or families in distress, which amount to about 4 l. or 5 l. Sterling more. There have been no beggars in this parish in the memory of man.

*Antiquities.*

and Dame AGNES DOUGLAS, Countess of Argyll, reserving only Castle-Campbell, and two farms in the neighbourhood.

‡ The schoolmasters, established in this parish, have, from time immemorial, been men of a liberal education, and several men of eminence have been taught at this school. Many of Mr M'ARBREA's scholars fill respectable places in the church, both in the establishment and the secession. The school was erected in the reign of King CHARLES I. as appears from the decret of locality, dated 1640, for 100 merks Scotch. In 1766, the heritors added 50 merks. The above 500 merks were fund by one ARCHIBALD PATERSON, merchant in Edinburgh July 18, 1652; and the other 60 by one KIRK, in Dollar.

† Mr JOHN GRAY was ordained in the year 1709. He was the first that was settled in this parish after the Revolution. He was commonly stiled *the Baron*; from his having, while minister here, purchased two baronies of land: First, that of Teafles in Fyfe, for which he paid upwards of 3,333 l. Sterling. Afterwards he purchased the barony of Foffoway, in Perthshire, for which he paid

*Antiquities.*—In the neighbourhood of the town of Dollar, there are two little round mounds \*, about a quarter of a mile distant from each other. But the principal antiquity in this parish, is the venerable remains of CASTLE CAMPBELL † :  
anciently

paid upwards of 1,611 l. Sterling. At his death, he left for the use of the poor in this parish, 300 merks Scotch money.—Miss JEAN GRAY, his only child, of respectable memory, some few years before her death, which happened in the year 1792, sold both of these baronies of land; that of Teaffies for 13,500 l. Sterling, and that of Fossaway for 6,500 l. Sterling; amounting in whole to 20,000 l. Sterling. At her death she left many considerable legacies: among these there was 50 l. Sterling to the poor of this parish, and a very elegant folio bible to the kirk-session, for the use of the minister.

\* In the one of these, some years ago, were found two urns, filled with human bones; but upon what occasion, or by whom they were deposited there, is not known. The other mound remains in the same state it hath been time immemorial.—Towards the end of the last century, a man was burnt for a wizard, at the foot of the Gloom Hill, not many yards from the town of Dollar.

† It would seem not to be now known, *when* or *by whom* this venerable pile of building was first erected. But the ruins plainly shew, that it had been designed for a place of strength; and therefore was probably built in the turbulent days of old, when family feuds so unhappily prevailed among the Scotch barons. Nor can we discover the precise period when it came into the possession of the family of ARGYLL: But, from the inventory of their titles, that family appears to have possessed that barony, and the lands belonging to it, called the LORDSHIP OF CAMPBELL, so far back as the year 1465. The lands were then held of the bishop of Dunkeld. Formerly, it went by the name of the CASTLE OF GLOOM: but for what reason, we are not certain. Tradition, indeed, which wishes to inform us of every thing, reports, that it was so called from the following circumstance: A daughter of one of our Scotch Kings, who then resided at Dunfermline, happening to fall into disgrace for some improper behaviour, was, by way of punishment, sent and confined in this castle; and she, (not relishing her situation, which probably might be in some vault or other) said, that it was a *gloomy prison* to her. Hence, says tradition, it came to be called the Castle of Gloom. Very near to  
it

anciently the occasional residence of the Noble Family of Argyll : a family which, for ages, has been eminently distinguished

it on the Coast, there is a green hill, which still goes by the name of *Gloom-Hill*, the property of Mr John Moir, writer to the signet.

And now that we have mentioned tradition, we shall present the reader with an anecdote concerning this place, from the same source, which, perhaps, may be more curious than true. In going down from the castle, towards the point of the rock which overhangs the glens, there is a passage cut down through the rock to the side of the burn, in the bottom of the glen. This passage is said to be from top to bottom more than 100 feet deep, and six feet wide. The design of it was to get water conveyed, or brought up from the burn or rivulet below, in the time of a siege. This seems the more likely, as it appears to have been cut out with steps, which are now mostly filled up with earth. This passage, partly from the trees, and partly from the frightful rocks overhanging it, is now become so dark and gloomy, that a person can see but a very little way down into it : and indeed, to look into it, would be sufficient to make a person of weak nerves shudder. It is called KEMP'S SCORE or CURT, from its having been made by one of that name ; who is said to have been a man of gigantic stature and strength, and at the same time of a very bold and resolute temper. It is reported, that he had committed many depredations, and at last was so daring as to enter the palace at Dunfermling, and carry off the King's dinner ; but that a young nobleman, who happened to be in disgrace for improper behaviour towards the King's daughter, hearing of it, pursued the said Kemp, and having cut off his head, threw the body into the water of Doyan, a little above the back mill, and, as his name was WILLIAM, so the place where this happened, is called WILLIE'S POOL, to this day. But on his carrying the head with him to Court, he obtained his pardon, and was received into favour again.

But to return to the castle, that ancient seat of the Argyll Family : The name was, by an act of the Scotch Parliament, in, or before the year 1493, changed to that of the *Castle of Campbell*, by which name it has ever since been denominated. It is reported, that this was amongst the first of those places in Scotland, where the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed, after the Reformation. And it is certain, from his own history, that the famous JOHN KNOX, the Scotch reformer, did preach here. For he tells us, that, upon his being called over by the English Congregation at Geneva, who had chosen him for their pastor ; he sent over his family before him, but he him-

self



guished for their attachment to religion, liberty, and patriotism. And the present worthy head, and representative of that noble Family, treading in the steps of his illustrious ancestors, dignifies and adorns the exalted station which he fills. By the lapse of time, and the violence of storms, a very considerable part of Castle-Campbell is now fallen down; and other parts of it are nodding over their foundations. The tower is yet nearly entire. The ascent is by a spiral stair, which is continued to the top. It is visited by most strangers who come here; and though it is a pretty fatiguing walk up to it, yet when they reach the top of the tower, which is of considerable height, they are much pleased, not only with the

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view,

self remained behind in Scotland, for some time; during which, he passed to ARCHIBALD, whom he styles "the Old Earl of ARGYLL," then residing at the Castle of Campbell, and there he taught, or preached, certain days. It is not improbable, therefore, that he dispensed the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper there, at the same time. One of the company, who was then staying with the Earl at Castle Campbell, was the laird of Glenorchy, one of the ancestors of the present family of BREADALBANE; who importuned the Earl to desire Mr KNOX to stay some time with them; but Mr KNOX could not consent to it. This ARCHIBALD was the 4th Earl of ARGYLL; and is said to have been the first man of quality who embraced the Protestant Religion in Scotland, and contributed all in his power to bring about the Reformation.

The Castle of Campbell continued to be the occasional residence of the family of Argyll, as appears from the services which the vassals were obliged, by their charters, to perform to the family, when residing there; until that magnificent building was burnt down by the Marquis of MONTROSE, about the year 1644; and ever since it has been in ruins. And not only the Castle of Campbell, but the whole of the parishes, both of Dollar and Muckart, were burnt, the inhabitants being vassals of the family of Argyll, excepting one house in Dollar, which they imagined to belong to the Abbey of Dunfermline. There was likewise only one house saved from the flames, in Muckart; which they imagined to be in the parish of Falloway; being nearly adjoining to it. Besides that, there was a sheep-house that escaped the general conflagration. Every other house in both parishes was, by the Grahams, burnt to the ground.



view, but more particularly with the surrounding scene, which is truly enchanting.

*Romantic Scenery around the Castle.*—The situation of these venerable ruins is somewhat retired backwards amongst the hills, with a beautiful opening before it, as it were a kind of vista, through which to view the plains below : And being pretty high, it commands a considerably extensive prospect towards the Forth, and the adjacent country. It is situated upon the top of a round mound, which would seem to have been partly formed by the hand of nature, and partly finished by art. It stands a little back from the point of a high rock ; having a deep ravine or glen upon each hand ; with very steep banks, whose declivity commences from the very foot of the walls on both sides, and is almost wholly inaccessible. In the bottom of the glens, run murmuring rivulets of the purest water, which come down from the mountains behind, and unite their streams immediately below the castle. Each of the rivulets furnishes a beautiful cascade, to entertain the eye of their visitants, and somewhat reward them for the fatigue they have had in climbing the hill. The mound on which the castle stands, was formerly disjoined from the mountains behind, with a fossè, or ditch, shelving down to the bottom of the glen on both sides, which renders it almost inaccessible on every side ; the entry, then, being by a draw-bridge, which was let down or taken up as occasion required. The banks of the glens, on both sides, are beautifully adorned with natural woods, which nearly cover the faces of the rugged rocks with which this romantic scene is interspersed. It is almost surrounded with hills. Immediately behind it, is the hill called the *White Wisp* ; which so much overtops all its fellows, that it furnishes a rich and extensive prospect. From this elevated situation, looking towards the  
South,

South, may be seen the Frith of Forth, with the adjacent country, as far as the hill of Tintoc in Clydesdale. Then turning to the North, one sees the most part of the shires of Perth and Fife, as far East as Dundee, and the German Ocean; with the Lothians on the opposite side of the Forth. A little to the South-West of the White Wisp, is the place called the *King's Seat*; where, according to tradition, the kings of Scotland, then residing at Dunfermline, sat, and viewed the hunting of the wild bears, which then haunted amongst these hills; whence several places, particularly in the farm of Craiginnan, immediately above the Castle, are named, some of them, *the Bear's den*, and others, *the Bear's Know*, to this day. Thus, the scene around this ancient seat of Campbell, consisting of rocks, and woods, and glens, and mountains, contains a pleasing mixture of the beautiful, the picturesque, and the awfully romantic.

*Literary Shepherd.*—There is living at present in this parish, in a very advanced age, a man who was bred up, and lived merely as a shepherd, and who received only a common education; and yet possesses a valuable library of books, containing upwards of 370 volumes; consisting of folios, quartos, octavos, duodecimos, and decimo-quartos. They are upon many different subjects, as divinity, history, travels, voyages, &c. besides magazines of various kinds, such as the Scots, the Universal, and the Christian magazines; a complete set of the Spectator, Guardian, Tatler, Rambler, &c. They are all of them his own choosing and purchasing. They are neatly bound, and lettered on the back. His name is upon a printed ticket, and pasted on the inside of the board of each volume; with a mark, generally of blue paper, cut on purpose, and placed in each volume, to prevent folding in the leaves. The books are all clean, and in excellent order. Be-

fides these, he has several volumes of pamphlets, &c. lying in numbers unbound. His name is JOHN CHRISTIE: he was born in this parish, and baptized on the 12th of October 1712, and has lived in it from his infancy. His brother William, and his sister Margaret, who are a few years younger, live in the same house with him, and all the three remain unmarried.

*General Character, &c.*—The people are sober, regular, and industrious in their different professions and employments; and live in peace and harmony with one another. The common employment of the women, except such as are engaged with farmers for husbandry work, is that of spinning wool for the manufacturers in Stirling, Bannockburn, &c. They all enjoy, in their respective stations, a reasonable share of the conveniences and comforts of life; and some seem well contented with the condition in which Providence has placed them. They are much of the ordinary size, and speak the English language tolerably well, without any remarkable provincial dialect.

NUMBER

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF MORDINGTON.

(COUNTY OF BERWICK, PRESBYTERY OF CHIRNSIDE, SYNOD  
OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.)

*By the Rev. M GEORGE DRUMMOND, Minister.*

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*Situation, Form, Extent, Erection, Etymology, &c.*

**T**HIS parish is situated in the S. E. corner of the county of Berwick. Its borders are washed on the South by the river Whitadder, and on the East by the German Ocean, near which it joins the lands belonging to the town of Berwick upon Tweed, commonly called *Berwick Bounds*. Its form is irregular, much resembling the letter g.—Its length from S. to N. is between 3 and 4 miles; its breadth towards the northern extremity is above two miles, though at one place, towards the South, it is only the breadth of the minister's glebe, which is all that separates the parish of Foulden from the Berwick bounds. Its original extent was very small, consisting only of the barony of Mordington, and the estate of Edrington, till the year 1650; when the lands of Lammer-ton, (of much greater extent than the whole of what before  
that

that period constituted the parish,) were disjoined from the parish of Ayton, and annexed to Mordington. Lammerton had originally been either a separate parish, or a chapel of ease to Ayton.\* The building in which public worship was performed still remains, and is now the burying place of the family of Lamerton. The writer of this article has not been able to learn the etymology of *Mordington*. *Lammerton* is probably derived from the French, *la mer*, expressive of its situation, being immediately on the sea side,

*Surface and Soil.*—On the South, towards the river Whitadder, the ground is flat, and rises by a gentle and gradual ascent to the North, for more than half the length of the parish; when it attains a very considerable elevation above the level of the sea, to which the lands again gradually descend on the east of this ridge. For some space from the Whitadder, the soil is a stiff clay, well adapted for wheat and beans; from thence to the sea side, the land is a light loam, on a rotten rocky bottom, which renders it excellent for raising turnips and found for grazing sheep. The most elevated part of the ridge is thin and poor, though the greatest

\* The church or chapel of LAMMERTON, is noted to have been the place where King JAMES IV. of Scotland was married to MARGARET, daughter of HENRY VII. of England, in the year 1503; which paved the way for the happy Union, first, of the two Crowns, and afterwards of the two kingdoms. Some alledge, that it was built on purpose for the celebration of that marriage. A tradition has long prevailed in this part of the country, that, on account of the ceremony of his marriage having been performed in this chapel, the King of Scotland granted to the clergyman of this parish, and his successors, in all time coming, the liberty of *marrying people without proclamation of bans*. It does not appear, however, from any of the histories of these times, which the author has consulted, that there is any foundation for this tradition.

est part of it has been plowed, and it seems all capable of cultivation.

*Climate and Seasons.*—The dryness of the soil, and its vicinity to the sea, render the air pure and healthy, and occasion a quick and early vegetation. There are no diseases peculiar to this district. In the lower part of the parish, as in most of the flat grounds in this part of the country, the ague was formerly prevalent among the lower classes of the people. The cause of that distemper, which arose chiefly from the exhalation of the vapours from the stagnated water, in wet and marshy grounds, being now in a great measure removed, by the mode that is so generally adopted through this county of draining and inclosing the fields, the disease is less frequent. And the same reason may perhaps be given for the decrease of consumptive complaints, throughout the whole of the lower parts of Berwick-shire. The prejudices of the country people in this quarter, against inoculation for the small-pox, are gradually wearing away; and consequently that distemper is becoming much more mild, and less destructive than formerly. Though the inhabitants in general are healthy and robust, yet there have not been many remarkable instances of longevity in this parish. Some however have appeared.

*Agriculture.*—The situation of this district, as well as the soil of a very considerable of it, is peculiarly favourable to the purposes of agriculture; the lands, in general, being of a dry and manageable soil, which the skilful farmer can turn to the greatest advantage; and the climate being so favourable, that grain of every kind, even in the latest and most backward seasons, is commonly brought to full maturity. Besides which, it has the command of two of the best and most



most useful manures, lime and dung ; both of which are to be got in the town and neighbourhood of Berwick, which is only 4 miles distant. These local advantages have not been unattended to, by those persons who occupy the lands. Great quantities of lime are annually bought, and are employed both in improving the waste lands, and in manuring those that are already improved. And even dung is now beginning to be brought in considerable quantities from Berwick, a practice which, if persevered in, must in time greatly add to the fertility of the soil ; and, notwithstanding the expence, with which the purchasing and driving of it is attended, will, without doubt, ultimately turn out to the advantage both of the proprietors and tenants.

*Produce and Exports.*—Nor is less attention paid to the management than to the manuring of the lands. Unfettered by those prejudices, and that obstinate attachment to ancient customs, which are so great a bar to cultivation, and have so much retarded the progress of agriculture in other parts of Scotland, a spirit of improvement as well as of industry is discernible among the farmers in this and the neighbouring parishes : In consequence of which, every species both of white and green crops are raised, and, in general, in the greatest perfection ; particularly barley, oats, pease, turnips, and artificial grasses. Though the soil is, in many places, suitable for wheat and beans, yet they are raised in smaller quantities than the other kinds of grain ; probably because the former does not so readily fall in with a rotation, in which green crops are chiefly studied, and because there is not, in this part of the country, a ready market for the latter. Potatoes are raised not only for home consumption, but great quantities from this neighbourhood are also annually shipped

shipped at Berwick, and sent to London, Newcastle, and different parts of York-shire. This parish also produces a much greater quantity of grain, than is sufficient for the subsistence of its inhabitants, which is either disposed of in Berwick, where it generally meets with a ready market, or sold to the millers in the neighbourhood; many of whom carry on a great trade in meal, barley, &c.

*Turnip Husbandry.*—The time of sowing and reaping the different kinds of grain, is the same with that of most of the other parishes in the lower part of Berwick-shire, with the advantage of being as early as any of them. Turnips are generally sown from the end of May to the beginning of July. Though they are sometimes sown in what is called *broad-cast*, that is on ridges made up in the same manner as those on which barley, oats, or any other grain are commonly sown; yet they are more frequently raised on drills, from 24 to 30 inches wide. This latter method is preferred, on account of its giving an opportunity for horse hoeing, and thus occasioning less manual labour, and consequently less expence in thinning and cleaning them. When they are brought to maturity, which is generally about the month of October, they are made use of for feeding cattle and sheep, either on the grounds on which they are raised, or on neighbouring grass fields, into which they are carried; or they are brought home for the purpose of feeding black cattle in houses or shades. On the light and dry soil, the feeding of sheep on the ground where the turnips grow, is reckoned a most valuable improvement, as the land, loose and friable, both by nature and by the frequent plowing necessary for raising the turnips, attains, from the constant trampling of the sheep, a substance and solidity which makes it highly fit for

plowing ; and from the great quantity of dung left on the surface, insures a luxuriant crop of grain and hay in the following years. When the turnips are brought home for feeding cattle in the stall, they likewise become a useful and a valuable crop, not only from the immediate profit which arises from them, but also from the great return of manure which they afford for succeeding crops. From the favourable nature of the soil, the turnip-husbandry is conducted on an extensive scale in this, and many of the neighbouring parishes. And as great attention is paid to the cultivation, so great improvements have of late been made in the construction of the utensils for sowing and for facilitating the operations of the husbandman, in rearing this useful plant. The greatest enemy to the culture of turnips, is a small insect, which in size and shape very much resembles the flea. It commonly attacks the plants at a very early period, immediately after they begin to vegetate ; and in some seasons makes such dreadful havock among them, as not only to injure, but frequently totally to destroy the crop. The best remedy against this evil is to sow them early and very thick ; 4 lib. at least or 5 lib. of seed to the English acre. This seems a method well calculated to insure a crop of turnips. The fly seldom remains many days on the ground, and when such a quantity of seed is sown, though the first growth may be destroyed, yet as every succeeding shower, or even dewy night, for a considerable time, occasions a fresh vegetation of seed that has been buried deeper in the ground ; it is next to a certainty that some one of these growths will escape the ravages of the fly, and produce a sufficiently plentiful crop. Many have been the instances of the propriety of this theory, in this parish, within these few years. In their more advanced state, turnips are in some seasons attacked by a caterpillar. Though the injury which they receive from it is frequently considerable,

ble, yet it is seldom so great as to occasion a total failure of the crop.

*Swedish Turnip.*—It may not be improper in this place to mention that the *Ruta Baga*, or the *Swedish turnip*, has been cultivated with considerable success by the two heritors of this parish. In a country like this, where stock occupies so much attention, and renders such benefit to the farmer, some root or plant seems wanting to give to the cattle, between the time that the turnips begin to shoot, and of course, to cease to afford nourishment, and the coming in of the grass. The *ruta бага* seems admirably calculated for that purpose. For besides being later of shooting than the turnip, it loses not its nutritive qualities after it has shot, but retains all its juices and solidity: Whereas it is well known that a turnip, after it has put forth its flower, becomes dry, light, and reedy, and in every respect unfit for feeding either cattle or sheep. Horses too seem very fond of it; and one of the gentlemen above alluded to, has this winter given them to his out-lying young horses, who eat them with great eagerness. He was led to try this experiment, from observing that when these young horses broke out of the field, they constantly fed on the *ruta бага*, though in the same field there was a large quantity of turnips, which they never offered to touch. Another extraordinary quality of the *ruta бага* is, that it seems impossible to make it rot; though bit or trod upon by cattle or horses, it never rots, but whatever part of the root is left, nay, if scooped out to the shell, it remains perfectly fresh, and in spring puts out a new stem. It is needless to observe that the opposite of this obtains with the turnip. The culture too of this valuable root is perfectly simple: When first attempted in this parish, the gentlemen

followed the rules laid down in the news-papers, viz. Raising the plants in a hot bed, and then transplanting them into the field. This method never answered; they rose to no size; but on their trying them by the seed sown in the field, and managed in every respect the same as turnips, (only sown a month earlier) all their expectations were gratified, and good crops followed. Both roots and leaves are also excellent for culinary purposes; and for that cause, numbers of people in this neighbourhood now raise a few in their gardens for the pot. Before concluding this article, it is worth mentioning, as an example of what feeding will do, when carried on according to the above system, by a constant succession of green food: There is an ox at present in the parish, bred by one of the heritors, which, though only 4 years old, is allowed by all judges to be above an hundred stones weight; *i. e.* the weight of the four quarters only. He never has been housed, and never got any thing but turnips, grafs, and a little hay. His dam, when in calf of him, was bought for 6l. Sterling.

*Rotation of Crops* — The usual rotation of crops is, first oats, then turnips; after these, barley with grafs seeds, which makes the succeeding crops hay; and the ground, upon which it is raised, is commonly allowed to remain in grafs for pasture some years; after which it is again taken up, and managed according to the above rotation. Two crops of oats are sometimes allowed after the land has lain long in grafs: But in no other case are two white crops allowed to succeed each other, and the tenants are seldom permitted to have more than the half of their lands in tillage. Wheat is generally sown on the strong clay lands after plain fallow; and on the dry grounds it is sometimes sown after clover, ley, and some times on the lands where the turnip crop has failed. There is  
always



always, however, a great proportion of the lands in grafs; and as the fields are generally laid down in good order, they not only afford greater profit to the farmer in this state, than he could derive from the scanty produce of a constant fucceffion of corn crops, but also amply repay him for the reft he gives them, by the luxuriant crops which they yield when taken up, after having been paffured for fome years. By this mode of management, to which the tenants are bound down in their leases, the lands are not only kept clean, and freed from thofe noxious weeds, which are fo prejudicial to the grain fown, or the plants raifed on them, but are alfo prevented from being impoverished by over-cropping.

*River, Fish, and Mills.*—The river Whitadder, which washes the fouthern boundary of this parifh abounds in trouts, eels, &c. And at certain feafons of the year, large quantities of falmon, and falmon trouts, come up, which afford good fport to the anglers. In spawning time, great numbers of falmon go up the river, even almoft to its fource, to deposit their spawn. Till of late years, great havock ufed to be made among them at that feafon, by the country people; but fince the paffing an act of the Legiflature, for preferving the fish in the river Tweed and the fstreams running into it, thefe practices have been greatly checked, by the exertions of the magiftrates and proprietors, to the great benefit of the valuable fifhings on the Tweed. On the eftate of Edington, befides a mill for other kinds of grain, there are two mills for grinding wheat, in which about 300 bolls are every week made into flour.

*Coaft, and Sea Fish.*—On the coaft, which, towards the Eaft of the parifh, is very bold and rocky, there are abundance of  
all



all the kinds of fish that are to be found in the mouth of the Frith of Forth, which are sold at very reasonable rates. Lobsters and crabs are in plenty, but there are no oysters or muscles. The lobsters are almost all carried to London by smacks that come along the coast for that purpose, at stated intervals.

*Minerals, Game, &c.*—In the rocks on the coast, great quantities of lime-stone are to be found, though not of a good quality: Coal and iron ore also make their appearance, and immense blocks of free-stone of the finest sort. The usual kinds of game, which are to be found in the lower parts of Berwick-shire, are here in great plenty. On the higher grounds in this parish, dotterels are supposed to appear sooner than on any parts in the south of Scotland. Woodcocks are often found in the early part of the season, poor, weak, and exhausted, probably from their long flight across the German Ocean.

*Population.*—If, as is generally supposed, the monopoly of farms, and the abridgement of labour, in consequence of the improved state of agriculture, uniformly operate to the diminishing the number of the inhabitants, certainly the decrease of the population of this parish ought of late years to have been considerable; as the whole lands, except what are in the possession of the proprietors are, at present, farmed by three tenants, one of whom is not resident, but farms to a considerable extent in a neighbouring parish. From any enquiries, however, which the incumbent has made, he does not find that the decrease has been so great as might have been expected. And he should imagine, that, if a full investigation were made of the matter, there would be less cause than is generally supposed, for regretting that union of farms, which

which now so generally prevails in this and many other parts of Scotland. It would indeed be unlucky, if a mode of farming, which must be allowed greatly to increase the most useful and most necessary commodities of a country, should have a tendency to diminish the number of its inhabitants. For there cannot be a doubt, that by the present system of husbandry, which prevails in this part of the country, the grounds produce a much greater quantity of every species of grain, and afford sustenance to double the number of cattle, sheep, and stock of every kind, than they did before this mode was adopted. Its being carried on by fewer hands, in consequence of the abridgement of labour, and a greater proportion of the lands being thrown into grass, though it must no doubt diminish the number of the people employed in the purposes of agriculture, and in many parishes, where that forms the sole employment of the inhabitants, render such parishes less populous; yet it does not follow, as a just inference from thence, that the number of inhabitants in the country at large is thereby diminished. It has only the effect of making the superfluous hands betake themselves to other occupations, and thus become the means of increasing the number of our manufacturers, and furnishing labourers for other useful and important purposes; such as making and repairing the public roads, inclosing and draining the fields, &c. And there cannot be a doubt, that even in this county, where the monopoly of farms is perhaps carried to a greater length, than in any other county in Scotland, it will be found, when the extent of its whole population is ascertained, that the number of its inhabitants is rather increased than diminished: And that the diminution in many of the parochial districts, from the causes above mentioned, is more than counter-balanced by the additional increase in the towns and villages. This reasoning will appear the more conclusive,

five, when the fact is stated, that the population, whatever decrease it may have suffered within these 20 years, is actually nigh doubled, since the late eminent Dr Webster made up his estimate of the whole population of Scotland:

|                                                     |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| For the number of souls at present in the parish is | 335 |
| Whereas the whole population, in 1755, was only     | 181 |

|                                                  |     |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Hence there is a clear increase, of no less than | 154 |
| Of these there are males,                        | 148 |
| ————— females,                                   | 187 |
| The number of families is exactly                | 62  |

*Employments.*—Like most of the other parishes in the county of Berwick, the chief employment of its inhabitants is husbandry. 'Till of late, there were indeed two manufactures carried on within the bounds of the parish, though none of them on an extensive scale, the one a starch, and the other a soap manufacture. They are both, however, given up, at least for the present. Besides those employed in the purposes of agriculture, there are, as in all other country parishes, a few who follow such mechanical occupations, as are requisite for the accommodation of the inhabitants; such as joiners and smiths, for manufacturing the utensils of husbandry—tailors, weavers, &c. There is one fishing boat belonging to the parish, which gives employment to 5 fishermen, who are as active and industrious as any in this part of the coast.

*Prices of Labour.*—The wages of men servants who get their board in the house, are from 7l. to 8l. a year; of women servants, from 3l. to 4l. Servants who have families, and live in separate houses, are not paid in money, but receive a certain quantity of meal or grain, have a cow grazed, their

their coals brought home, and several other perquisites, the whole of which may amount to 16l. a year. Day-labourers commonly receive 1s. 4d. per day in summer, and 1s. in winter, except in hay-time, and during harvest, when there is a considerable advance in their wages. Those who take work by the piece generally earn a considerable deal more. There has, for these some years past, been a gradual rise on the price of labour for weeding turnips, probably owing to the gradual extension of the turnip-husbandry, which requires a greater number, and consequently makes a greater demand for labourers. The wages are now 10d. per day; whereas, a few years ago, they seldom exceeded 6d. This species of labour is generally performed by women and boys, who are very expert at it.

*Roads.*—The great post road from Edinburgh to London, by Berwick and Newcastle, runs through the East side of this parish. The road from Dunfermline to Berwick passes through the South part of it. This, as well as all the other great and leading roads through Berwickshire, is made and repaired by the money which is levied at toll-bars, which have lately been erected. The institution of turnpikes has been of the greatest utility to this country. Formerly, the roads were often in such a situation, as to render impossible, either for carriages or horses to get through; whereas, there is now an open and an easy communication, at all seasons of the year, for horses and carriages of every description. The cross roads are also in a rapid state of improvement; they are made and up-held by the statute labour, which is commuted.

*Heritors, Rent, &c.*—There are only two heritors in this district, both of whom reside. The real rent of the parish is about 2000l. Sterling. The valued rent is 2,045l. 18s. 6d. Scotch. The monthly cess is 32l. 14s. 8d. Scotch.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The church was built in the year 1757, and the manse a considerable time before. The latter has lately undergone a complete and thorough repair, and is now comfortable and commodious. The stipend is paid partly in money, and partly in grain; the amount of the whole, including the glebe, is, *communibus annis*, from 85l. to 90l. ALEXANDER RENTON, Esq; of Lammerton is patron. The author of this account has been greatly indebted to this gentleman, for his obliging information and assistance in drawing it up. The school-master's salary is 7l. per annum. The poor are maintained chiefly by assessments on the heritors and tenants, the collections in the church being trifling. Until within these 10 years, there never was a person on the poor's roll. Since that time they have not been numerous. At present there are only two that receive a weekly aliment.

*Antiquities.*—Monuments of antiquity are not very numerous in this parish: We have, however, a camp of considerable extent, which, from its form, is unquestionably Danish. It is situated on the N. W. extremity of the parish, and commands a beautiful prospect over a vast tract of country. It seems to have been a well chosen station for the predatory excursions of barbarous ages, and also for keeping up a communication with the sea, from which it is at no great distance. It is surrounded by two deep trenches, which are still very entire; the mounds of them seem once to have been faced with stones. Many of these stones have been carried away for different purposes: what is remarkable, a kind of stone has been found there, which is not to be seen in any other part of the country, except in the bed of the river Whitadder, from whence they must have been brought, a distance of near 4 miles, and all up-hill, which in those days must have been



been a work of much toil and labour. The hill on which the camp stands is called *Hab* or *Hobcheffer*. A little to the South-East of this camp is a hill of no great height, but rising abruptly, on which several unfortunate women were burnt for witch-craft, so late as the beginning of this century. It is still called the *Witch's Know* §. EDINGTON CASTLE, the ruins of which now show its former strength, also demands our notice. It is situated on the banks of the Whittadder, near the southern extremity of the parish, on a steep rock, totally inaccessible from the West; at the foot of which the river flows. In feudal times, it was an excellent protection against the inroads and depredations of our neighbours, on the other side of the Tweed. It has been a solid and substantial building, as what remains of the walls are composed of immense stones, strongly cemented together.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The advantages, attending the situation of this parish, greatly overbalance any disadvantages to which it may be liable. Situated within 4 miles of Berwick, (to which there is an excellent road,) the inhabitants can with great ease procure whatever may be wanted, either for convenience or luxury. There also they find a ready market for whatever they have to dispose of; the farmer, in some degree, for his fat stock of every denomination, and always for his corn; and the cottager for his eggs, butter, cheese, or fowls. And, in like manner, they can be supplied with whatever they stand in need of, as well and as cheap in Berwick, as in any place in the North of England. Whatever else the farmer has to dispose of, he there meets

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with

§ The spot on which the execution took place was plainly to be seen about 4 years ago, but is now plowed up and cropped with the rest of the field; a sort of superstitious veneration for the spot, where human blood had been shed, seems to have preserved it for many years.



with his buyers, whether it be wool, cattle or sheep; Berwick being on the straight road to Morpeth, Sunderland and Shields, the great marts of our stock; and Yorkshire, in the same way, for our wool; the jobbers in these different articles repair thither at particular seasons, and carry off whatever we have to part with. 'Tis difficult then to say, what would meliorate the situation of the inhabitants of this parish. Fuel presents itself as the readiest means of making their state more comfortable. At present they are, 'tis true, 7 miles from coals; but as it is good road, and the tenants drive so many loads to each cottager, this inconvenience is the less felt, more especially as the prime cost is very moderate. But there is a reasonable hope that even this drawback may shortly be removed; as there is no doubt, that, on the northern extremity of the parish, there is a workable coal, which, it is understood, the proprietor intends ere long to open up, and which will be of the greatest benefit to the parish, as well as to the neighbourhood.

*Character.*—Actuated by a sense of these advantages, the inhabitants of this parish are industrious, frugal and orderly, submissive to the laws, and attentive to the wish of their superiors. No inhabitant has been convicted of a crime before a Court of Justice, in the memory of man. And what shews the regularity of their conduct in the most conspicuous light, is, that in July 1792, when the most atrocious riots prevailed in this county, on account of the institution of turnpikes, not one inhabitant of this parish was carried before a magistrate, or even suspected of being concerned in those shameful enormities which disgraced the county: though perhaps the burden, (if there be any,) falls heaviest on them, being situated at the eastern extremity of the county, and though they, who pay toll, do not travel ten yards on the road, on their way to Berwick.

NUMBER.

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF TILLICOULTRY.

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

*By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM OSBURN, Minister.*

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*Etymology of the Name.*

THE origin of the name is generally supposed to be Gaelic, and Tillicoultry compounded of the three words, *Tullich*, *cut* and *tir*. These words signify literally, the *mount* or *hill at the back of the country*, and seem to refer to the Kirk-hill, and the Cuninghar; a rising ground, which begins near the house of Tillicoultry and the old kirk, and runs in a S. E. direction till it reaches the Dovan. This rising ground has a strikingly romantic appearance, as one approaches it, either from the East or the West. And as it intersects a beautiful plain, which begins at the Abbey-Craig near Stirling, and extends to Vicar's Bridge, it has justly been distinguished as the termination of the plain, or strath. But the author of this account hopes he will not be accused of affectation, if he ventures to give a Latin derivation, and considers Tillicoultry as compounded either of *Tellus culta*, or *Tellus cultorum Dei*.

*Dei.* If the first be adopted, we may suppose the name took its rise, from the place having been once in a high state of cultivation, probably from the introduction of the Italian agriculture. But if the second, it may denote the residence of some of the *Culdees*, or a place appropriated to the worship of God, either by the Culdees or the Druids. For on the south end of the Cuninghar, the rude remains of a Druidical circle are still to be seen, and on the north-east extremity of the rising ground, the old church was situated. The writer hereof is no admirer of the Gaelic; but as Gaelic derivations are at present fashionable, and as every place in this country is supposed, by our learned antiquarians, to have an old Gaelic name, he is afraid little attention will be paid to these *Latin* etymologies. It must, however, be allowed, that *Tillicoultry* is no great corruption of *Tellus culta*, or of *Tellus cultorum Dei*.

*Situation.*—*Tillicoultry* is an inland country parish, and presents little uncommon or splendid for description. It comprehends a considerable part of the Ochils, where these hills are highest; but the principal part of the parish lies at the foot of the hills, verging towards the south. The river *Dovan* washes its banks on the north.

*Appearance, Form, &c.*—The appearance of the parish, whether we view the hills or the plain, is beautiful and pleasant. A great part of the low ground is enclosed, and affords a variety of agreeable landscapes, and the beauty of the scene is much increased by the windings of the *Dovan*, which in miniature resemble those of the *Forth*. The shape of the whole parish is a rhomboid or an oblong, which has the two longest sides on the E. and W. each measuring almost 6 English miles. The S. side of the oblong measures  
near

near  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and the N. side one mile. The low grounds taken alone form also an oblong, the length of the sides from E. to W. being rather more than  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles, and the breadth from S. to N. about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile.

*Extent and Elevation.*—Tillicoultry consists of more than 6000 Scotch acres, of which quantity, 4000 are in the Ochils, and the remaining 2000 acres form the low arable ground at the foot of the hills, and to the south of the bank dykes. About 1100 or 1200 acres of arable land, by far the best and most valuable in the parish, lie between the bank dykes, at the foot of the hills, and the lowest part of the banks of Balharty and Coalsnaughton, south of the Dovon, and about 800 or 900 acres lie south of the river, from the foot of the banks. The hills, according to an actual survey, exclusive of the Mill-Glen farm, contain 2902 acres. The elevation of the ground, on the north banks of the Dovon; at the bridge, is not more than 20 feet, or at most 30 feet above the level of the Forth, at spring tides; and the S. W. corner of Tillicoultry, which approaches nearest to that river, is distant from it about 3 miles. The ground at Coalsnaughton is near 300 feet above the Dovon; and at Balharty it is about 300 feet.

*Soil and Surface.*—The soil is in general *dry-field*, rich in quality. When properly taken care of, it bears excellent crops, both of corn and hay, and gratefully repays the labour of the husbandman. At the foot of the hills, the soil is a fine quick loam, but not very deep. The crofts are, in many places, covered with stones almost innumerable, smooth in their surface, and in general twice as large as a man's fist. They appear to be natural to the soil, and not brought thither by any inundation; but many entertain a different opinion.

nion. Some farmers think them an advantage to the crops, as in hot dry summers they keep the ground moist and cool, and in winter warm. Vast quantities have been gathered, which, in labouring, proves a great ease both to the plough and the ploughman. The haughs, near the Dovan, present a deep loam mixed with sand, and the soil is very different from that of the crofts. The farm of Gutters is in part clay, and bears fine crops of wheat as well as other grains. The lands south of the Dovan are much inferior to those on the north side. In some places, the soil is a clay, of a cold nature; in others it is a light loam, mixed with sand and gravel, on a till bottom, and in others it is a deep rich loam. A considerable part of the ground is covered with heath, and would not be easily improved, either for tillage or pasture. Perhaps the best improvement would be, to enclose the moors, and to plant them with Scotch firs, larches, and other forest trees.

*Agriculture.*—In the county of Clackmanan, agricultural improvements are much attended to, and have been brought to great perfection. Richer crops of wheat, barley, or hay, are seldom to be met with; and the ploughs used, and the mode of ploughing, are no where surpassed. A plough and ploughman were sent this summer from Clackmannanshire to Windfor, to give a proper specimen of plowing on his Majesty's farm.

*Crops and Maltures, &c.*—The farmers in Tillicoultry do not pretend to take any lead in agricultural improvement. They profit, however, by the observations and the practice of others. Two horse ploughs are getting into general use, which are a great improvement in husbandry. The crops principally



principally attended to, are oats and barley. Wheat is too much neglected, except by Mr Johnston, and even pease and beans. Crops of turnips are seldom to be met with, and cabbages are never raised in our fields. It is difficult to ascertain the rent and produce of the land *per* acre. The farms are commonly let at a certain rent *in cumulo*, and the farmers, not knowing the measure of their fields, seldom pay attention to the produce of particular acres. The result of many enquiries is, that an acre of the best land, well manured, will produce from 7 to 10 bolls of oats, each boll weighing 14 or 15 stone, yielding about a boll of meal. The oats generally produce 14 pecks of meal, besides paying the multure, and all other mill-dues. The multure is no less than the 13th peck. An acre of the same land will yield from 7 to 11 bolls of barley, each weighing about 18 or 20 stone. At an average, however, an acre will not yield above 6 or 7 bolls, whether of barley or oats. Our dry-field barley is remarkably good, being very thin in the rind; and is reckoned, by maltmen and distillers, equal to any raised in the Carse. A good deal of wheat has of late been sown in the farm of Gutters, and an acre commonly produces from 8 to 10 bolls. Forty bolls of potatoes have been raised on an acre, and one farmer in particular had 18 bolls on the 4th of an acre. The writer of this account had access to see a remarkable crop of potatoes, raised in Mr Barclay's garden, the produce being no less than 105 pecks, or 6 bolls and 9 pecks, raised from one peck planted.

*Farms, Rents, Pasture, Stock, &c.*—The farms are in general small, and there are only 5 tenants whose rent exceeds 50 l. Sterling *per annum*. A great part of the parish is inclosed, and laid down in grass, and is let annually for summer graz-



zing. The rent of farms fluctuates, but grafs parks commonly let well. \* The grofs rental of the parifh is above 1700l. Sterling, and the valuation is rated, in the old cefs books of the county, at 3389 l. 5 s. 10d. Scotch. There are in Tillicoultry employed in plowing, carting, and other country work :

|         |   |     |                 |   |     |
|---------|---|-----|-----------------|---|-----|
| Horfes, | - | 116 | Milk Cows,      | - | 132 |
| Ploughs | - | 36  | Cottagers ditto | - | 63  |
| Carts   | - | 89  |                 |   |     |

*Hill Farms, Sheep and Wool.*—The hills have a verdant and beautiful appearance. They afford excellent pafture for fheep, and are divided into 5 farms. They will maintain about 3500 fheep ; and, at an average, an acre will not only maintain, but fodder one fheep. The pafture is grafs, interperfed with heath, bent and ling. The heath is fhort and wearing out. The Mill-Glen and Fore-hill farms are inferior

\* For 15 years paf, almoft all the farms, which have been let, have been taken by ftrangers from other parifhes in the neighbourhood, and who are Seceders. If the prefent fyftem prevail for other 15 years, the greateft part, if not the whole of the parifh, will be poffeffed by perfons not belonging to the eftablifhed church. It is but doing juftice to a worthy man, (whole fweetnefs of temper, benevolence of heart, and gentlemanly behaviour, will be remembered with pleafure, at leaft while the prefent generation lafts,) to mention, that Mr BARCLAY MAIFLAND improved and beautified the parifh in a high degree, by his numerous inclofures and plantations. His tafte and attention every where appear. Mr TAIT alfo merits praife for his improvements on the lands of Harviefton, which he has wholly inclofed. He has carried on his improvements, for many years, with much fpirit and judgment, and, it is prefumed, with great advantage to himfelf. His uniform practice has been to fallow his fields, and, after manuring them well with dung and lime, to fow them with barley and grafs feeds. One of his inclofures, which contains 5 and a half Scotch acres, has been let this feafon for grazing, at 4 guineas per acre, the rent being 23 l. 2 s. Sterling.

rior to none in the Ochils, for producing excellent mutton and fine wool. The wood of these farms is much superior to that of Bruich and the back hills, as the pasture is naturally much finer. The farms are commonly supplied from Tweeddale with young sheep of the black-faced kind: the farmers sometimes breed young sheep, which, on the whole, they find better, stronger and more profitable, than those from Tweeddale. But as the hills are stormy, they cannot keep the lambs in winter. All the Mill Glen farm is good pasture, but in the rest of the hills, there are near 400 acres of little or no value, as they are covered with channel and moss. The very best white fleeces yield about 4 lib. of wool, valued at 10d. *per* pound; and the best smeared fleeces 6 lib. at 5d. or 6d. The average weight of a white fleece is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lib. and of a smeared one, 4 lib. The whole of what was formerly a common† is now the property of Mr BRUCE, except *Bruich*, which belongs to Mr TAIT, and as much as will maintain 48 sheep.

*Hills and Minerals.*—BENCLEUGH, the property of Mr Johnston, is the highest in the Ochils, and is 2300 feet above the level of the Forth at Alloa. The Ochils present a considerable variety of strata. The summits of the central parts, particularly Bencleugh, are composed of granites, both red and gray. Many varieties of these are extremely beau-

B b 2

tiful,

† When LORD COLVIL feued the estate, he gave his vassals a right of pasturing sheep and other cattle on the hills. Some of them had a limited number of sheep assigned them, and others an unlimited number. In the year 1769, Mr BARCLAY MAITLAND commenced a process against the feuers, for a division of the common hill, which contained about 300 acres. The process was withdrawn from the Court of Session in 1774, and referred to arbiters, and all the feuers disposed of their property for low ground, or a diminution of their feu-duty. The *Mill-Glen* was no part of the common hill.

tiful, and contain large distinct crystals of black *Schort*. The next chain, of which the *King's Seat* is the highest, and belongs to that class called secondary mountains, consists of strata of *Argillaceous Schistus*. Below this, in various parts, are found crags or rocks of *Basaltes*, or whinstone. The Castle Craig is of this sort, and is peculiarly interesting to the naturalist, as it is in part composed of nodules of whinstone, exhibiting concentric crusts of decomposed basaltes, like the coats of an onion, surrounding a harder nucleus. Garnets are not uncommon in the micaceous Schistus, which forms the shade between the granitical and argillaceous Schistus. There are many veins of copper in the hills. \* Iron-stone, of an exceeding good quality, has been found in many different places. Some veins in *Watty-Glen* are as rich as any discovered in Scotland. The Dovan Company have a lease of the iron-stone belonging to Mr Bruce, and have employed, during the greatest part of this year, 64 miners and 10 women bearers. At an average, each miner gains 1 s. 6d. *per* day, and a bearer 8d. A great many *strings*, or veins of rich iron ore of the kidney kind, have been discovered in the hills, equal in quality to any discovered in this country, and by no means inferior to what is brought from England. Some small trials have been made with one of the veins, and it is to be regretted that they are discontinued. Besides copper, there is a great appearance, in the hills, of different

\* Some of these were wrought near 50 years ago, to a very considerable extent in the Mill-Glen. Four different kinds of copper ore were discovered, the thickest vein of which was about 18 inches. The ore, when washed and dressed, was valued at 50 l. Sterling *per* ton. A Company of gentlemen at London were the tacksmen, and for several years employed about 50 men. After a very great sum of money was expended, the works were abandoned, as unable to defray the expence.

ferent minerals, such as silver, lead, cobalt, antimony, sulphur, and arsenic, but no proper trials have yet been made. A small edge stratum of dark blue clay,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick, was lately found, which, it is thought, will prove exceeding good for building furnaces, and making fire bricks. There is plenty of free-stone of a good quality for building; and stones have been cut in the quarries from 8 to 10 feet in length.

*Coal.*—The whole parish, south of the hills, abounds with coal, which is the property of Mr Bruce, except in Mr Johnston's estate. The coal has not been wrought to any great extent, unless where it is drained by the present level. There are 4 different seams of coal which the level drains. The first is a mixed cherry coal, 3 feet thick, and 12 fathoms from the surface. The 2d is a rough soft coal of an excellent quality, 6 feet thick, and 15 fathoms deep. The 3d is a remarkably good clean splint,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick, and 20 fathoms deep. And the 4th, which is reckoned the principal seam, is about 5 feet thick, and lies at the depth of 30 fathoms. It is a hard durable splint well adapted for exportation and the foreign market, particularly Holland. Only the 2d and fourth seams have been wrought; † the roofs are all good, except that on the 2d seam, where it runs towards the crop. But it is very valuable, as it contains balls of iron-stone in the roof, of an exceeding good quality. Eighty acres of the 2d seam, and 20 of the fourth, may still be wrought by the level; but by erecting a steam engine, an immense quantity may be gained. The Devon company have been tacksmen

† Twenty pickmen used to be employed in the coal-work; and about 3000 chalders of great coal were exported annually from the harbour of Alloa; but for 4 years past, the working of the coal has been discontinued. There is no doubt, however, but that, in process of time, the coal will be a most profitable concern, as there are inexhaustible fields of it to be found.

tacksmen of the coal for more than a year and a half, but have wrought none, except a very small quantity for land sale. The design of taking a coal, without working it, is *incomprehensible*. While coals remain under ground, they are of no value, either to the proprietor or the tacksmen.

*Gate Mail*.—The great coal, when led to the shore of Alloa for exportation, pays a tax of fourpence Sterling per chaldier to the family of Mar, called *Gate Mail*. It was originally demanded, for the liberty of exporting the coal from the *Port of Alloa*, and because the road leading through the estate to the harbour was a private one, though used by the public. This road is repaired by Mr Erskine at a considerable annual expence; at the same time it seems extraordinary, that there is not a public road leading from Tillicoultry to a public harbour, and to a market town, in which a custom-house is established by authority.

*River, Floods, Fish, Pearls, Swans, &c.*—The Devon is a beautiful river, but not navigable. After running in the Ochils about 8 miles in an easterly direction from its source, it makes a wide circuit round Muckart. Then taking a westerly course at the Crook, and forming the romantic fall at the Caldron Lin, it divides the arable land of Tillicoultry, into two almost equal parts. The valley, through which it passes, is distinguished by *Newte* in his Tour, as being one of the most pleasant places, or, as he expresses it, the *Tempe* of Scotland. The Devon frequently swells with rain, and overflows its banks †. It abounds with excellent trout and

† A very remarkable and uncommon flood happened in September 1785, which carried away a prodigious quantity of corn, broke down a stone bridge at the Rack mill in Dollar, and occasioned other very extraordinary damage.

The



and parr, which afford much amusement to the angler. In the deep pools, pikes and eels are found. Salmon come from the Forth in great numbers to spawn; and we have plenty of delicious sea trouts, both white and grey, in the harvest and spring. In some places, the banks of the Devon present singular concretions of hardened clay, in a great variety of fantastic shapes. Pearls of a small size have been found in the bed of the river; and, in very severe winters, swans have been known to resort to its banks.

*Rivulets and Burn Trouts, &c.*—The hill burns, or rivulets, abound with trouts of a very delicious quality and flavour, and are taken in great numbers after rain. None were ever discovered in the *Glooming-side Burn*, though it has plenty of water, and remarkably fine streams and pools. Trouts have even been put into it, but without the desired effect. This is supposed to arise from some bed of sulphur, or other mineral hurtful to fish, over which the burn passes.

*Birds and Quadrupeds.*—The birds are the same as in the neighbourhood, and it is needless to specify them, as they are enumerated in the statistical account of Alloa §. Till of late, the bulfinch was a stranger here, but he is now frequently to be met with. The woodlark ought to be particularly mentioned, as one of our sweetest warblers. He begins to sing early in the spring, and continues till late in harvest. Like the nightingale, he is frequently heard singing in  
thr

The river rose in 4 or 5 hours more than 13 feet above its usual height, at Tillicoultry bridge. A woman, who was assisting a farmer in removing his corns, on the south side, was forced away by the rapidity and violence of the stream, and brought in safety to the opposite bank. Her clothes had made her float on the surface of the water, though she was carried down about a quarter of a mile.

the most melodious, enchanting manner, in the clear, still summer evenings. On these occasions, he commonly prolongs his song till midnight, and sometimes till the morning. For two or three years we were visited with a *magpie*, which was not variegated with black and white plumage, but was *entirely white*,—" *Rara avis in terris*". The other magpies associated with him, and did not consider him in any degree as strange. In the hills there are muir-fowls, plovers and dotterels. The muir-fowls are not so frequent as formerly, as the heath is wearing out, and in consequence of this the shelter is not so good. The birds of passage are swallows, cuckoos, fieldfares and woodcocks; and we are also visited at times with herons, ducks, and sea gulls. Eagles are sometimes seen on the hills. The wild quadrupeds are, hares, rabbits, foxes, hedge-hogs, weasels, polecats, badgers and otters. The skin of the otter is valuable as a fur, and fetches a good price.

*Orchards and Plantations.*—There are two small orchards, planted chiefly with apple trees, which contain about six acres, and, some years, bear considerable quantities of fruit. Above 100 acres are planted with forest trees, and many of the inclosures are surrounded with single rows of planting. All kinds of forest trees thrive well, particularly oaks, elms, ashes, beeches, planes, and Scotch firs \*.

*Climate.*—The air is healthy, dry, and warm, subject neither to fogs nor damps. Snow does not lie long on the low ground, particularly between the Devon and the hills, which is probably owing to the natural warmth of the air or soil. The healthiness of the two villages, at the foot of the hills, is undoubtedly

\* About 60 years ago, the common broom grew so tall and luxuriant near the manse, that the crows and magpies built their nests in the branches.

doubtedly much encrease, by their being well supplied with plenty of excellent water.

*Diseases.*—There are no diseases any way peculiar to Tillicoultry, § or that can be said to be prevalent. Epidemic diseases, such as fevers, fluxes, the small-pox, the measles, and the chincough attack us at times, but not more frequently than they do others. Rheumatisms are not uncommon, as the people are much exposed to rain and cold, in following their employments in the fields. ¶ Within these 25 years, a great many young persons have died of consumptions, but the author is not able, either to ascertain the number, or point out the causes. Slow fevers some times are prevalent. And people have been known to recover, after remaining in them 30, or even 40 days. The ague used to be frequent, but it is now almost unknown. This happy change is perhaps owing to the lands being better drained than formerly, or to the houses being kept more cleanly,

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warm,

§ The last time the plague was in Scotland, it did not reach Tillicoultry, though a good many persons died of it at Alva. One man however having died suddenly in the Wester town, the people were afraid to touch the corpse, or even to enter the house. It was pulled down, and the small eminence, which this occasioned, was called Botchy Cairn.

¶ It is worth mentioning that one WILLIAM HUNTER, a collier, was cured in the year 1758, of an inveterate rheumatism or gout, by drinking freely of new ale, full of barm or yeast. The poor man had been confined to his bed for a year and a half, having almost entirely lost the use of his limbs. On the evening of *Handsel Monday*, as it is called, (*i. e.* the first Monday of the New Year, O. S.) some of his neighbours came to make merry with him. Though he could not rise, yet he always took his share of the ale, as it passed round the company, and, in the end, became much intoxicated. The consequence was, that he had the use of his limbs the next morning, and was able to walk about. He lived more than 20 years after this, and never had the smallest return of his old complaint.

warm, and dry. The dysentery was unknown here for many years. It has, however, appeared of late three different times, and carried off a good many persons, chiefly women. As this alarming malady always broke out in the end of harvest, some have been apt to imagine, that, if it was not caught by infection, it arose from the colds and damps to which the people were exposed in reaping, or to a frequent use of potatoes not brought to a proper state of maturity. The people have in general an aversion to inoculation for the small-pox, yet this prejudice is beginning to wear away ‡.

*Population.*—Tillicoultry is a small parish, yet pretty populous for its size.

#### POPULATION TABLE OF THE PARISH OF TILlicOLTRY.

|                                                                                                                                                                                |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| For these 18 years past, the annual average number of souls has been                                                                                                           | 874 |
| The highest real number of any year during that period, was                                                                                                                    | 919 |
| And the lowest,                                                                                                                                                                | 829 |
| <hr/>                                                                                                                                                                          |     |
| Difference,                                                                                                                                                                    | 90  |
| In the year 1789, the number of souls was                                                                                                                                      | 903 |
| Of these there belonged to the Established Church,                                                                                                                             | 742 |
| And to the Secession,                                                                                                                                                          | 161 |
| The following <i>Lists</i> were taken in January 1792, and shew the <i>Numbers</i> , <i>Ages</i> , <i>Conditions</i> , and <i>Employments</i> of the inhabitants at that time. |     |

#### NUMBERS

‡ Many children took the small pox, last year, in the natural way, only one of whom died, being a sickly child. Were the small-pox to be always equally favourable, inoculation would fall into disuse. The author has some times remarked, that when the same diseases, such as dysenteries, fevers, and the small-pox, have prevailed in Alva and Tillicoultry, more in proportion have died in Alva than here. This was probably occasioned by the houses being more crowded together in the one place than the other, and the air being more confined, and the infection more liable to spread.

| NUMBERS, SEXES, and AGES,                        |     |   | No. of Shoe-makers,                                              |        |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|---|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Total number of souls,                           | 853 | — | — Tailors,                                                       | 3      |
| — Families,                                      | 212 | — | — Miners,                                                        | 8      |
| Males,                                           | 373 | — | — Labourers,                                                     | 4      |
| Females,                                         | 480 | — | — Gardeners,                                                     | 51     |
|                                                  |     | — | — Millers,                                                       | 1      |
| Majority of females,                             | 107 | — | — Dancing masters,                                               | 1      |
| No. of persons under 10 years of age,            | 238 | — | — Male house servants,                                           | 1      |
| — Between 10 and 20,                             | 163 | — | — Female ditto,                                                  | 12     |
| — 20 and 50,                                     | 301 | — | — Male labouring servants,                                       | 25     |
| — 50 and 70,                                     | 124 | — | — Female ditto,                                                  | 12     |
| — 70 and 85,                                     | 27  | — | ANNUAL AVERAGES, for 21 years.                                   |        |
| CONDITIONS, COUNTRY, RELIGION, &c.               |     |   | No. of Marriages ¶,                                              | 7      |
| No. of married persons,                          | 278 | — | — Baptisms for ditto,                                            | 30     |
| — Widowers,                                      | 9   | — | — Burials for ditto ¶,                                           | 18     |
| — Widows,                                        | 54  | — | — Males born for ditto,                                          | 15½    |
| — Bachelors who keep house,                      | 11  | — | — Females born for ditto,                                        | 14     |
| — Persons residing but not born in Tillicoultry, | 200 | — | — Persons in each family,                                        | 4      |
| — Born abroad,                                   | 5   | — | — Ditto in each farmer's family,                                 | 5      |
| — Heritors,                                      | 10  | — | PROPORTIONS.                                                     |        |
| — Clergymen,                                     | 1   | — | Of males to females, nearly as 3 to 4                            |        |
| — School-masters,                                | 1   | — | Of married men and widowers, to Bachelors who keep houses, about | 13 1   |
| — Communicants of the Establishment,             | 359 | — | Of widowers to widows,                                           | 1 6    |
| — Ditto of the Secession,                        | 97  | — | Of males born to females,                                        | 20½ 19 |
| — Episcopalians,                                 | 2   | — | Or about,                                                        | 13 12  |
| — Cameronians,                                   | 1   | — | Total number of males born during the last 21 years,             | 329    |
| OCCUPATIONS.                                     |     |   | Ditto of females within that period,                             | 304    |
| No. of Farmers,                                  | 34  | — | Majority of males born,                                          | 25     |
| — Weavers,                                       | 21  | — | Annual average of more males than females, 1 to 1 and a fifth    |        |
| — Wrights,                                       | 6   | — |                                                                  |        |
| — Masons,                                        | 7   | — |                                                                  |        |
| — Smiths,                                        | 3   | — |                                                                  |        |

INCREASE

¶ For 12 months preceding November 1789, there were only two grown up persons buried in the church yards of Tillicoultry; and for 12 months preceding June of the present year 1793, there have been neither marriages nor proclamations.



| INCREASE.                       |     |           |       |      |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----------|-------|------|
| No. of souls in 1755,           | -   | 787       |       |      |
| —— Ditto in 1782, (as above,)   | 853 | Increase, | -     | 96   |
| —— Ditto in 1793                | -   | 909       | Ditto | - 56 |
| Total increase in 38 years, 152 |     |           |       |      |

*Causes of the Increase.*—By comparing Dr Webster's list with the number of inhabitants during the two last years, there is an evident increase. It is perhaps owing to the establishment of the Devon company in the neighbourhood of, and the working of iron-stone in Tillicoultry, that the number of the inhabitants has so greatly increased since the beginning of the year 1792. It is somewhat remarkable, that when the lists were taken in January 1792, all the masons, miners, and labourers were employed, but there were scarcely any of the labourers employed in the parish.

*Prolific Mothers.*—There are at present living in Tillicoultry eleven married women, who have been delivered of twin children. One of them has had twins two different times, and another, in the year 1765, about three years before the birth of her twins, brought forth THREE children at one birth, all boys and of a good size. Two of the children died in the first month, and the third, a healthy child, died of the small pox when two years old. But what is still more uncommon, in the year 1752, Katherine Hunter, the wife of George Sharp a labourer, brought forth FOUR CHILDREN at one birth,—two males and two females. They were all baptized, but being small and weakly, none of them lived above three weeks.

*Villages and Houses.*—Tillicoultry contains three villages, *Westertown, Earlstown* and *Coalsnaughton*, and all the inhabitants

stants live in these except 36 families. Of these families only three reside in the Ochils. The houses consist of nothing but the ground floor, except 8, of which, 5 houses have only one story raised above the ground floor, two have 2 stories, and one has three stories, and there are only three houses, the manse included, which are subject to the duty on window lights.

*Manufactures.*—Tillicoultry has been long famous for weaving a coarse woollen cloth, called *Tillicoultry Serge*. It is a species of shalloon, having *worsted* warp and *yarn* waft, and is reported to have been wrought here, as early as the reign of MARY Queen of Scots. The average price is 18. Sterling per yard. Though the manufacture has now, in a great measure, left us, and gone to Alva, (*like the arts and sciences, from East to West*,) yet all the cloth of this kind is sold in the markets, under the name of *Tillicoultry Serge*. It is much to be regretted, that more attention is not paid to this manufacture in the place where it was invented, or at least brought to the greatest perfection. About 50 years ago, a serge web from Alva would not sell in the market, while one from Tillicoultry remained unsold. But this is by no means the case at present. The author of this account can give no precise statement of the quantity of serge wrought here, as the stamp master keeps no list. He supposes, however, that he stamps annually 7000 ells of serge, and an equal quantity of plaiding. Some of the weavers are now employed in making muslins, but as this branch is still in its infancy, it is impossible to say with what advantage it may be attended.

*Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—The prices of labour, and of many of the necessaries of life, have risen much, and  
are

are still rising. It may be said to be nearly double of what it was 50 years ago. For example, the wages of a taylor per day, besides his diet, was 4d. Sterling, now they are 8d ; of a day labourer, 5d. or 6d. now 10d. or 1s ; of a mason, 1s. now 1s. 6d. and 1s. 8d. or 2s ; of a labouring servant per annum, 3l. now from 6l. to 10l. The price of a fowl was 5d. now it is 1s. and sometimes more ; of a pound of butter, 5d., now 9d. or 10d. and of a pound of cheese, 2d. now 4d.

*Roads.*—The roads along the hill foot have a gravel bottom, and are tolerably good, and likewise the road which leads from the hill foot to Coalsnaughton by the bridge. But the south road, which comprehends a space of more than 2 English miles, is in a wretched state, having been much neglected of late years, and the greatest part of it never having been properly made, at least to the eastward Coalsnaughton.

*Church.*—The patron and superior of Tillicoultry, is JAMES BRUCE, Esq; at present a minor, and an ensign in the army. He is also titular of the teinds, and all the heritors and feuers hold of him. \* The present minister † is a bachelor ‡. The manse

\* His immediate ancestors were the late proprietors of Kinrofs. He is a descendent of the celebrated Architect, Sir WILLIAM BRUCE. It is supposed by PINKERTON, with a great degree of probability, in his collection of ancient Scottish poems, that Sir JOHN BRUCE of Kinrofs was the author of the well-known, and much esteemed poem, *HARDYKNUTE*, which has been commonly ascribed to Mrs WARDLAW. It is probable, also, that Sir John was the author of the *VISION*, and some other excellent Scottish poems.

† The names of his predecessors in office, as far as they are known, and the dates of their ordinations, are subjoined.

#### MINISTERS

‡ It may be accounted a singular fact, that none of the ministers of Tillicoultry have been married, since the Revolution 1688, except Mr Taylor.

manse was built in 1766, and is the second in the same place, since the year 1730. The new church is situated near the manse, almost equi-distant from the 3 villages, and was built in 1773. It is a small neat building, well lighted, but not very commodiously seated. There are two church-yards, one where the old church was situated, || and the other at the new church. The old manse has long been converted into

2

MINISTERS of Tillicoultry for the last 146 years.

|                                                                  | Date of admission. |            | Time of Incumbency. |         |       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------|---------|-------|
|                                                                  | Months.            | Years.     | Years.              | Months. | Days. |
| Mr Andrew Rhynd, (the precise date of his admission, uncertain), | -                  | 1648 about | 21                  | 0       | 0     |
| Mr John Forest, ordained                                         | 30 Oct.            | 1669       | 6                   | 4       | 0     |
| Mr Robert Keith,                                                 | 27 Feb.            | 1676       | 16                  | 1       | 15    |
| Mr Robert Gourlay.                                               | 13 Apr.            | 1692       | 22                  | 2       | 22    |
| Mr John Taylor,                                                  | 7 July             | 1714       | 13                  | 6       | 15    |
| Mr Robert Duncan ¶,                                              | 25 Jan.            | 1728       | 2                   | 4       | 0     |
| Mr Alexander Steedman,                                           | 27 May             | 1731       | 34                  | 4       | 0     |
| Mr James Gourlay,                                                | 25 Sep.            | 1765       | 8                   | 5       | 0     |
| Mr William Osborn,                                               | 24 Feb.            | 1774       | 20                  | 0       | 8     |
|                                                                  |                    |            | 145                 | 4       | 0     |

¶ Mr DUNCAN's *Lectures on the Epistle to the Hebrews* were published after his death, and are much esteemed for their piety, orthodoxy, and learning.

|| The old church and manse were situated near the house of Tillicoultry. The church belonged to the Abbey of Cambuskenneth, having been granted to it by King MALCOLM, together with the tythes and pertinents. But after the Reformation, the family of MARR became heritable proprietors of the church, parsonage, vicarage, and 10 acres of gebe. And as the abbot and convent of Cambuskenneth had set the teinds in tack to the COLVILLS of Culrofs, the proprietors of Tillicoultry, JOHN Earl of MARR, May 30th 1628, ratified the tacks, and also the feu charters, and infestment of the glebe; and granted procuratory for resigning the same into the hands of his Majesty, in favour of JAMES Lord COLVIL, and his son.

a stable, and the old glebe is an orchard. The stipend consists of 120l. Scotch, including communion-element money, 34 bolls of oats, 24 bolls of barley, and 6 bolls of meal. It commenced in the year 1648, and since that time there has been no augmentation. The minister has the privilege of getting his coals for paying the collier the price of working, and he has also property in the hills, for maintaining 7 or 8 sheep. The glebe was exchanged in the year 1730, when the manse was removed to its present situation. It lies in 4 different pieces, and ought to consist of 13 acres.

*School.*—There is a parochial schoolmaster, whose salary is 100l. Scotch. He has also a dwelling house and garden. His annual income, including salary, and all emoluments, both as school-master and session clerk, is extremely small, and seldom exceeds 20l. Sterling. The school is kept in the Westertown, which is by no means central or convenient for the rest of the parish. The school wages are low, and English, writing, and arithmetick are taught for 2s. per quarter, English alone being only 1s. 3d.

*Poor.*—The poor are maintained without any assessment, and there are no beggars. The capital of the poor's money is 212l. Sterling, and the annual average collection at the church door, has been about 12 guineas, for 18 years past. The interest of the capital, together with the collections, and the profits arising from the mortcloths, proclamations of marriages, and incidental fines, constitute the funds by which the poor are maintained. The number of persons at present regularly supplied from the public charity is 7. But, besides these, the kirk session occasionally assists a great many more, ‡  
by

‡ It is said that about 40 or 50 years ago, people were very shy in receiving money from the poor's funds, but this delicacy seems now to have entirely vanished.



by giving them money, buying cloths, paying their house rents and school fees for their children. Till within these 4 years, interest at 5 *per cent.* has been received for the poor's money, but the rate at present is only 4 *per cent.* The annual average of the mortcloth money is 2l. 4 s. Sterling ; of the proclamations, 14s. 10d ; of incidental fines, 13s. 6d ; of persons occasionally assisted, 11s ; and of children whose school wages are paid, 5 s or 6s. The lowest stated weekly allowance is 6d, and the highest is from 1 s. to 15d.

*Proprietors.*—Besides Mr Bruce, there are other 9 heritors, namely, Lord Cathcart, John Johnston, Esq; of Alva, John Tait, Esq; of Harvieston, John Harrower, John Paton, Hugh Hamilton, Marion Drysdale, James Ure, and Robert May. All the heritors have houses in Tillicoultry, and reside in them, except Lord Cathcart and Mr Johnston, who have splendid seats in the neighbourhood,

*State of Property.*—The estate of Tillicoultry has been in the possession of 7 different families since the commencement of the last century, and has been 6 times sold §. The advance of the price, at the two last sales, deserves to be noticed ; the

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price

§ It came into the possession of the ancestors of Lord COLVIL of CULROSS, in the reign of JAMES III. *anno* 1483, and continued in that family till the year 1634, when it was sold to WILLIAM ALEXANDER of Menstry, a POET of great genius, and afterwards created EARL of STIRLING. Several of his poems are printed in DRUMMOND of Hawthornden's Collection, and his *Parænesis*, or exhortation on government, which is dedicated to Prince HENRY, the son of King JAMES VI. does great honour, both to the prince and the peer. The estate was next purchased by Sir ALEXANDER ROLLO of Duncrub, in the year 1644 ; by Mr JOHN NICOLSON of Carnock in Stirling-shire, in 1659 ; by Lord TILlicoultry, one of the senators of the College of Justice, and a Baronet, in 1701 ; by the Hon. CHARLES BARCLAY MAITLAND, of the family of Lauderdale, in 1756 ; and by JAMES BRUCE, Esq; of Kinross, in 1780.

price paid by Lord TILlicouLTRY being 3,494 l. Sterling; by Mr BARCLAY MAITLAND 15,000 l. and by Mr BRUCE 24,000. Before the last sale, a part of the estate was sold to Mr JOHNSTON of Alva; but the feus, † which Mr Barclay purchased at different times, were fully equivalent to this part. This estate, which, for a century and a half, has been always floating in the market, and has so frequently changed its proprietors, is now strictly entailed, and will remain in Mr Bruce's family, the entail of the estate of Kinross having been transferred by act of Parliament to Tillicoultry. The number of the old feus, or parts, was 40, but they are now mostly bought up, and again united with the estate, or in the possession of Mr TAIT. The lands of Killtown, where Tillicoultry house is situated, and the lands of *Colerstown* or *Collintown*, belonging to Mr JOHNSTON, were not feued. It is difficult to ascertain the quantity of land belonging to each of the feus, as more or less seems to have been given, according to the quality and value of the soil. One original 40th part at Drimmy contains at present, nearly as much arable land as a 40th part and a half at Ellertown, and near as much as two 40th parts at Cairnstown. ¶ Tillicoultry pays an annual feu-duty of 7 l. 6s. Sterling, and 166 bolls of salt, called *King's malt*. This is a part of the Lordship of Stirling, having been originally paid at the castle of Stirling, for the use of the King's family, but was transferred, at an early period, to the Earl of MARR, as a security for some money lent to the Crown.

*Ancient*

† Lord Colvile feued the greatest part of his estate to his tenants, whom he distinguishes in his charters, as *auld, kindly, native tenants*, and reserved to himself a certain annual feu-duty, which appears to have been the old rent.

¶ It appears from the meal paid as feu duty by the feuars of Cairnstown, and the money paid by the other feuars, that a boll of meal, and 3s. 4d. Sterling, were considered as being of equal value, in the conclusion of the 16th, and beginning of the 17th centuries.

*Ancient Charter.*—Between 500 and 600 years ago, Tillicoutry belonged to the family of MARR; and an original charter, granted by King ALEXANDER III. of Scotland, in the 14th year of his reign, is still in the possession of Mr ERSKINE of MARR, who has obligingly favoured the author with a copy. This charter is twice referred to by Bishop KIETH, in his history of the Bishops. It is elegantly written on parchment, with a very fair hand, and fine ink, and is in every respect a remarkable curiosity. The whole parchment is near a square of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and the writing only measures 6 inches by 8  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

D d 2

*Eminent*

§ As this charter is no less a curiosity than many of those contained in ANDERSON'S *Diplomata Scotiæ*, the subjoined copy will be an acceptable present to antiquarians: "ALEXANDER, Dei gratia, Rex Scotorum, omnibus probis hominibus totius terre sue—Salutem. Sciant presentes et futuri quod ALEUMUS de MESER, filius et heres quondam ALEUMI de MESER, totam terram suam de TULLICOULTRY, cum pertinentiis, in feodo de Clackmanan, quam de nobis tenuit hereditarie, per defectum servitii de dicta terra nobis debiti, coram pluribus nostri Regni magnatibus, scilicet, ALEXANDRO CUMYN, Comite de Bouchan, tunc Justiciario Scotie, HUGONE de ABERNETH, Magistro, W. WISCHARD tunc Cancellario, FERGUSIO CUMYN, WALTERO de ABERNETH, WILLIELMO de LYSURSER, et NICHOLAO de RUTYRFORD, ac multis aliis, die Sancte Trinitatis, anno gratie millesimo ducentesimo sexagesimo primo, apud Castrum Puellarum, per sustum et baculum nobis reddidisset, et totum jus suum quod habuit in dicta terra cum pertinentiis, vel habere potuit pro se et heredibus suis in perpetuum quietum clamasset, nos totam dictam terram de TULLICOULTRY, cum pertinentibus, WILLIELMO Comiti de MARR, dilecto nostro et fideli pro homagio et servitio suo, dedimus concessimus, et hac presenti carta nostra confirmavimus, sine aliquo retinemento, tenendam et habendam eidem WILLIELMO, et heredibus suis, de nobis et heredibus nostris in feode et hereditate per easdem divisas per quas WALTERUS, filius ALANI Senescalli, tunc Justiciarius Scotie, et ROGERUS AUENEL, tunc vicecomes de STRIVELYN, predicto ALEUMO, patri dicti Aleumi, ex precepto inclito recordationis domini ALEXANDRI Regis, patris nostri carissimi, assignauerunt et tradiderunt, cum incremento quod per eisdem WALTERUM filium ALANI, et ROGERUM AUENEL factum fuit, MA-

THEO

*Eminent men.*—Lord COLVIL, who was raised to the peerage by James VI. in 1609, was a man of a military genius, and served with much reputation, in the wars under HENRY the IV. of France. Returning to Scotland, loaded with honours, he resided at Tillicoultry, and in his old age, revisited the French court. As he appeared in the old fashioned military dress, which he had formerly worn in the wars, the courtiers were all amazed when he entered the royal presence. But no sooner did HENRY observe the old warrior, than he clasped him in his arms, and embraced him with the greatest affection, to the utter astonishment of all present. After his return, Lord COLVIL spent much of his time at Tillicoultry, and was particularly fond of walking on a beautiful terrace, at the north end of the Kirk-hill, and of reposing himself under a thorn tree, the venerable trunk of which still remains

THEO CLERICO de Tullicoultry, in nemore, in saltibus, in planis et asperis, in terris et aquis, in pratis et pascuis, in moris et mareis, in stagnis et malendis, cum focco et sacca, cum furca et fossa, cum *Tol et Them et infandethes*, et cum omnibus aliis justis pertinentiis suis, et cum omnibus natiuis ejusdem terre, qui die collationis facte predicto Aleumo patri dicti Aleumi, in dicta terra manentes fuerunt, libere, quiete, plenarie et honorifice, per seruitium unius militis, saluis nostris eleemosinis. Concessimus etiam eidem WILLIELMO, ut ipse et heredes sui, habeant et teneant dictam terram in liberum forestum. Quare firmiter prohibemus, ne quis sine eorum licentia in predicta terra faciat, aut venetur super nostram plenariam forisfacturam decem librarum. Testibus, venerabili patre GABELINO, episcopo Sancti Andree, ALEXANDRIO CUMYN, Comite de Bouchan Justiciario Scotie, WALTERO Comite de MONTETH, JOHANNES CUMYN, WILLIELMO de BREECHYN, EUSTACHIO de Turribus, REGINALDO LE CHEN, apud Forfar, viceesimo primo die Decembris, anno regni nostri quarto decimo."

After the granting of this charter, Tillicoultry remained for a considerable period in the possession of the family of MARR; but on account of a pretended succession to Lady ISABELLA DOUGLAS, Countess of MARR, was seized by the Crown, notwithstanding an express declaration and promise, by ROBERT III. under the Great Seal, that he would accept of no lands belonging to that lady.

mains. It unfortunately happened, that standing one day on a stone, and looking up to the thorn tree, describing his battles, he fell down the sloping bank of the terrace, and, it is said, was killed on the spot, in the year 1620. It may not be improper to add, under this article, that in the popish legends, Tillicoultry is mentioned as having been visited by St. SERF or SERVANUS, and the scene of some of his pretended miracles. St. Serf lived in the end of the 6th century, and there is a particular account of him in *Winton's Chronicle* ||, a manuscript in the Cottonian library †. Notwithstanding the very remote antiquity of St Serf, his memory is still, in some degree, preserved, though his name is almost entirely forgot; but he is represented, by tradition, as a holy man, who travelled about the country, with a *Scape Goat* ‡, which was unfortunately killed. There is a heap of stones, called *Cairn Cur* or *Gur*, which seems to have been intended to perpetuate the story of the goat. The name has an evident affinity to the Latin word *Caper*, and to the Gaelic, *Gobhur*, which signifies a goat.

*Antiquities.*

|| WINTON, the author of the chronicle, was canon regular of St Andrews, and prior of the monastery of Loch Leven, and lived in the end of the 14 century.

† An excerpt from this chronicle was lately published by PINKERTON, in the Appendix to his collection of Old Scottish poems. One of the miracles reported to have been performed by St Serf, was, the raising two young men to life, who appear to have been brothers. The account given of this in the chronicle, if not very elegant, has at least the merit of being abundantly brief :

“ In Tullycultry, til a wif

“ Two sonys he raisit frae ded to lyf.”

‡ In WINTON's chronicle, in place of a scape goat, mention is made of a *ram*. The killing of the ram occasioned another miracle. The story is abundantly ludicrous, and as ludicrously related by the poetical biographer :

This



*Antiquities.*—There are few curiosities, or remains of antiquity\*. The rude Druidical circle, on the south end of the Cuninghar, deserves some small notice. It is composed of granites about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, and its diameter is near 60 feet. The spot was covered by the late proprietor, with a circular thicket of Scotch firs, and is marked by Stobie, in his splendid map of Perth and Clackmannan shires. On the castle Craig, the foundations § of a round circular building are still visible.

*Character,*

This holy man had a ram,  
That he had fed up of a lam :  
And oysit hym til folow ay,  
Quherevir he passit in his way.  
A theyf this schepe in Ackien stal,  
And et hym up in pecis smalle.  
Quhen Sanct Serf his ram had myst,  
Quha that it stal was few that wist :  
On presumption nevirtheless,  
He that it stal arestyt was ;  
And til Sanct Serf syne was he broucht.  
That scheipe he said that he stal noucht ;  
And tharfor, for to swer an athe,  
He said that he walde nocht be laythe.  
But sone he worthit rede for schayme,  
The scheype that bletyt in his wayme.  
Swa was he taynetyt schamfully ;  
And at Sanct Serf askyt mercy.

\* It is reported, there was a Roman station on the north end of the Cuninghar. About 50 years ago, the place was dug by order of Sir Robert Stuart, and several urns, containing human bones, were found.

§ Between these and the hills, there has been a ditch by way of defence. The vulgar tradition is, that the *Peychts* had a strong fortification in this place, and that the stones of the edifice were carried away, when the castle of Stirling was built. A large stone coffin, neatly cemented with whitish clay, was discovered about 8 years ago, in the midst of a great cairn or heap of stones in Wertertown, anciently called Cairntown. It was filled with fine earth, and contained two small bones.

*Character, &c.*—We have our good qualities as well as our bad. Publicly to expose the one might give offence, and could do no good. To praise the other might appear ostentation and flattery. It is, however, but justice to mention, that the people are sober and industrious, and attached to the King and Constitution, and to the Presbyterian form of worship and Church Government. The men mostly betake themselves to country work, or to employments connected with husbandry. Few of them enlist in the army, and not many of them engage in the seafaring line. The women are thrifty and laborious, attentive to their families, and are much employed in spinning worsted and woolen yarn; particularly the latter. All ranks dress better and finer than they formerly did. And as an instance of refinement in the furniture of the houses, it may be mentioned, that in the year 1764, there were only 9 or 10 clocks in the parish, whereas, at present, there are above 60.

*Disadvantages.*—It is apprehended, that Tillicoultry will decrease in the number of its inhabitants, from the following causes:—1st The division of the common in the hills.—2d The sale of many of the feus, each of which maintained families;—3d The neglect of the coal; and, 4th, The small attention and encouragement which is given to the weaving of Tillicoultry serge. It must be acknowledged, however, that the establishment of the Devon Company, in the immediate neighbourhood, will, perhaps, overbalance all these apparent disadvantages, though the writer of this account is by no means sanguine in his expectation of that effect.

*Sources of Melioration.*—The following particulars are humbly subjoined, as probable sources of improvement, and melioration:—1st, If the public school were situated more in the  
centre

centre of the parish, or if a school were established at Coals-naughton. 2dly, If a bridge were built over the Dovan, below the Westertown. 3dly, If the farmers were to fallow more of their land, and to pay more attention to sowing wheat. 4thly, If some encouragement were given to the weaving of Tillicoultry serge. 5thly, If the coal were to be wrought as extensively as formerly, for supplying the country and the foreign markets. 6thly, If a waggon-way were made for carrying the coals to Alloa harbour. 7thly, If a navigable canal were made by means of the Devon to join the Forth. 8thly, If some public works, such as an woolen manufactory, or a cotton mill, or a printing field, were erected at the Westertown, as the situation is thought highly convenient and advantageous for such useful works. But the great sources of improvement and melioration are, honesty, industry, sobriety, and a regard to religion, without which, and the blessing of God, all human schemes will be nugatory and vain.

NUMBER.

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF BENHOLME.

(COUNTY OF KINCARDINE, PRESBYTERY OF FORDUN, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNES.)

*By the Rev. MR. JAMES SCOTT, Minister.*

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*Extent and Surface.*

**T**HIS parish is about 3 English miles in length, and nearly as much in breadth. The German Ocean bounds it on the S. E. The face of the country is considerably diversified. Close upon the shore lies a narrow strip of land almost level with the sea: Adjoining to this, a bank or rising ground, of considerable height, extends the whole length of the parish. Above this ancient boundary of the ocean, which is steep in some places, and slopes gently in others, the ground rises by an unequal ascent towards the N. W. A chain of little hills, whose summits are covered with heath, run along the S. W. boundary, and a rising ground, some hundred yards above the level of the sea, terminates the view on the N. E. The interior parts of the parish consist of hill and dale.

*Rivulets, Cascades, Mill, Cave, &c.*—Two small rivulets, arising on the side adjacent to Garrock, at some distance from each other, add not a little to the agreeable variety. In some places they form deep gulfs, in others beautiful cascades; now they are seen meandering amidst corn-fields or pasture grounds, then they run under two stone arches; and afterwards, dashing among craigs and fragments of rock, unite their streams a little below the church. Having contributed to diversify and adorn a tract of some miles, they add to the conveniences of life by supplying with water the only corn mill within the parish. Down the stream, in a sequestered retreat, where there is scarcely any thing to be seen but the firmament, and a wide expanse of ocean, there is a cave of sufficient height to admit a man in an erect posture. This subterraneous abode gradually turns lower towards the extremity, and seems originally to have been formed by the dashing of the waves, though it is now distant from the shore a full quarter of a mile, and more than 12 feet above the present bed of the rivulet.

*Villages, Sea Coast, Shipwrecks, &c.*—The opening of the land here bears a strong resemblance to a creek or harbour, which tends to mislead such as are unacquainted with the coast, which is flat and rocky. A small village of 15 houses, built upon the beach, contributes to this mistake, and while it seems to promise assistance to the distressed mariner, allures him to destruction. Several vessels have suffered shipwreck by attempting to run ashore at this place; and the utmost exertion of the people at land has seldom been effectual to rescue their crews from the fury of the waves. This place is called the *Hatghs of Nether Benholme*, lies almost in a direct line with the church, and is nearly situated in the middle between the fishing towns of *Gurdon* and *Johnsbaven*;  
one



one of which is in the parish of Bervie, and the other in this parish.

*Fish, Kelp, &c.*—The coast abounds with fish of various kinds. Cod, ling, skate, halibut, and some turbot are caught from March to the end of July: Haddocks, small cod, whittings, and a few flounders, are taken all the year round, but in greatest plenty from October to the middle of February. Crabs and lobsters, limpets and periwinkles, are likewise in abundance. Numbers of porpoises, seals, and sometimes whales, are seen close upon the coast. The rocks produce dulce and tangles, with various sea-weeds, which are converted into kelp. What quantity of this article may be annually exported is uncertain. It cannot be inconsiderable, however, as the people employed in making it are able to pay a yearly rent of 12l. to the proprietors, for liberty to crop the growth of their rocks.

*Climate.*—The climate varies considerably in different parts of this parish, according to the exposure and height of the ground. It is often mild and temperate upon the shore, when it is cold and piercing in the more inland parts. During the spring and summer months, thick mists frequently arise from the sea; so that the air along the coast is damp, though not unhealthy, being purified by the North and West winds. These winds are both so frequent and strong here, that young trees are generally observed to incline towards the S. E.

*Soil.*—The soil upon the shore is light and gravelly: in some places, nothing but naked stones appear; but where these have been covered with earth brought down from the higher grounds, either by human industry or the winter rains, good crops are produced, when the season is not remarkably dry. Farther up, the soil is deeper and more fer-

tile. A few farms on the S. W. side of the parish are light and gravelly. Of some the soil is a deep rich loam; but in the middle, and on the N. E. side, it chiefly inclines to clay. Part lies on a cold tilly bottom, and part on rock; but having the advantage of a southern exposure, and being sheltered by the rising grounds from the North, it produces luxuriant crops, when properly cultivated. In the interior parts lies a considerable tract of moor, where the qualities of the soil are various. Some places are wet and spongy, others dry and gravelly; but the greatest part is capable of being cultivated.

*Plantations.*—The number of acres occupied in planting, both of moor and pleasure grounds, does not exceed 50. The Scotch fir is not found to thrive here; but the larch and other forest trees make considerable progress in dens, and such places as are sheltered from the sea air. Close upon the coast, great trouble and expence is necessary to raise trees. They require to be planted very thick, and after all seldom come to any size.

*Agriculture\* and Produce.*—None of the proprietors of this parish, who cultivate their own grounds, strictly adhere to any particular rotation of crops. Nor are the tenants bound to follow what their masters do not practise. In husbandry, where

\* In so little repute was farming before the year 1712, that the proprietor of Brotherston found it necessary to give premiums in order to induce tenants to rent his farms. To one he gave a present of 500 merks Scotch, and farm-stocking to the value of 2000 merks, free of interest for three years; to another the same sum in a present, and 3000 merks value of stock for his farm, free of interest for 4 years. There is no necessity now for holding out pecuniary temptations to the farmer. Since the above mentioned period, the rents are tripled, and numbers are still ready to offer a considerable advance, when the lease of a farm expires.

where much depends on the season, it is perhaps better to leave the practical farmer unfettered. If he is possessed of discernment, he will naturally adopt that mode of cultivation, which, on a soil similar to his own, he observes to succeed best: if he is bound to follow a certain rotation, he can profit but little either by his own or his neighbour's experience. Some restrictions towards the end of the lease, to prevent the land from being over-cropped, are doubtless necessary, and generally made by every proprietor, when he lets a farm. The general practice of the farmers in this parish, when the soil is light, is to sow wheat after fallow which has been limed and dunged; then barley, to which succeeds pease; and then barley again, with clover and grass seeds, which are allowed to continue in the ground from 2 to 5 years. Oats are generally sown, when the *ky* or sward is broken up; next succeeds barley and then fallow. Where the soil inclines to clay, the common rotation of crops is wheat, beans, barley and grass seeds, which are seldom allowed to continue longer in the ground than two years; oats, barley, and then a fallow. Besides the crops already mentioned, a considerable quantity of turnips is annually raised; but very little flax, except what is necessary for the use of private families. This may be owing in some measure to the want of lint-mills in the neighbourhood, or more probably to the nature of the soil, which in general is not adapted to the growth of this useful plant. Potatoes, yams, and cabbages, are likewise planted in the fields, and turn to good account. Some attempts have been made of late to introduce early oats, and it is to be hoped their utility, in a soil which is naturally late, will soon recommend them to general use. Seed time and harvest greatly depend on the season; when that is favourable, they begin here to sow in March, and to reap about the first of September. Wheat is generally sown in  
October.

October. A greater quantity of every sort of grain is raised within this parish than is necessary for its support. The principal extraneous manure made use of here is lime, which is chiefly brought by land carriage, from a quarry in the parish of St Cyrus, not two miles distant. Many farmers, however, find their account in importing it from the Frith of Forth, and even from Sunderland. All agree that it is an essential requisite in farming. Forty bolls have commonly been allotted to an acre; but many begin to think that a much greater proportion is necessary for strong land.

*Ploughs, Cattle, &c.*—There are from 36 to 40 ploughs in this parish. About 6 of these are drawn by oxen, which are chiefly made use of where the land is rugged. When it is in an improved state, horses are employed, and 2 are thought sufficient for a plough. The Scotch plough is generally used here, and seems best adapted to the nature of the soil; though several Norfolk wheel-ploughs are employed with advantage on such farms as are free from stones, and in a high state of cultivation. Considerable attention is bestowed on rearing, but very little on feeding black-cattle, though the demand for butcher meat daily increases. Nor has this inducement hitherto prevailed on the farmer to feed more sheep than is necessary for the use of his own family.

*Rents, Inclosures, Leases, &c.*—By a survey of the county, taken in 1774, this parish contains 4721 English acres, of which nearly a fifth part is uncultivated. The rest is divided into 20 farms. Twelve of these yield from 50l. to 210l. the other 8 from 20l. to 50l. Sterling of yearly rent. The best arable land is let at from 1l. to 1l. 17s. an acre: And, when it is divided into small portions, from 2l. to 2l. 6s. Land of an inferior quality is not let by the acre, but by the piece,

piece, as parties can agree. There may be about 4 or 5 small farms let in this way, the yearly rent arising from each of which will not amount to 20l. Sterling. Several farms are inclosed, but a greater number still lie open. In this respect there is great room for improvement here. The farmers, indeed, are not insensible to the advantages of inclosing, but it is scarcely to be expected that they will lay out the necessary expence to make inclosures, on so short a lease as 19 years. Unless proprietors hold out some inducement, either by increasing the length of their leases, or advancing the necessary sums at a moderate interest, it is to be feared that many of the fields will continue long in their present naked and exposed state. The valued rent of the parish amounts to about 3980l. 9s. 8d. The real rent may be about 1800l. Sterling.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The patronage of the church was, some time after the beginning of last century, vested in the proprietors of the estates of Benholme, Brotherston, and Nether Benholme, who continue to exercise their right by turns\*. Two of these gentlemen constantly reside in the parish, and a third, occasionally. The church, which stands nearly in the centre, and most agreeable part of the parish, is an old irregular Gothic building. On the East end, a part is raised

\* About the beginning of the last century, the greatest part of the property within this district belonged to Earl MARISCHAL, whose ancient dominion, in these parts, can now only be traced from records and monumental inscriptions. Not long after that period, all this parish, except BALANDRO, formed the estate of Benholme, and belonged to a proprietor of the name of KEITH, who was probably a younger branch, or near relation of the Marischal Family. It was afterwards divided among his heirs into four portions, which now compose different estates of Benholme, Brotherston, Nether-Benholme, and Knox.



raised higher than the rest, which formerly served for the choir, and still retains the name, though it has been long used as a burying place. The remains of a font are still to be seen at one of the church doors, and other relics of superstition, which evidently show that the whole has been built before the Reformation. The manse was built about 58 years ago, and repaired in 1791. The living consists of 128 bolls of bear and oat-meal, in equal portions; 30l. in money, and a glebe of 6 acres. It is difficult to say what the original number of Seceders in this parish was; but they now amount to about 100 ||. The other dissenters belonging to the parish, are, 12 Episcopalians, 2 Bereans, and 1 Roman Catholic.

*School.*—The school is near to the church, and well attended. Reading, writing, arithmetic, Latin, book-keeping, and navigation, are all taught by the same master, whose emoluments are as follow:

Yearly

|| All the inhabitants of this parish, except a few, who continued their attachment to the Episcopal religion, were regular attendants on public worship, as established in the Church of Scotland, till about the year 1763. At that time, the minister's anxiety to improve the church-music, led him to adopt the more approved method of singing without intermission, or *reading the line*, as it is called. This gave umbrage to many, who had been accustomed to hear every line separately given out by the precentor or clerk, before the congregation joined in the psalm. They were forced to acknowledge that the psalmody would be improved by singing without interruption; but they urged, that many who could not *read*, would, by that means, be entirely excluded from joining in this part of public worship. Whether a regard to the good of others, was the *real*, or only the *ostensible* cause of this opposition; or whether it proceeded from a dread of *innovation*, they persisted in it. They remonstrated again and again; and when their remonstrances were not attended to, abandoned the church, built one for themselves in Johnshaven, and invited a minister of the Secession to settle among them.

|                                                                                 |    |    |    |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|------------------|
| Yearly salary,                                                                  | L. | 6  | 18 | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Donation for teaching poor scholars,                                            |    | 1  | 5  | 0                |
| Session-clerk-fee, -                                                            |    | 2  | 0  | 0                |
| Perquisites for registering marriages<br>and births, at an average of 10 years, |    | 3  | 3  | 0                |
| Quarterly payments, &c. -                                                       |    | 12 | 0  | 0                |
| <hr/>                                                                           |    |    |    |                  |
| Amounting altogether to                                                         |    | 25 | 6  | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

Two occasional schools, one for boys, and another for girls, are kept in Johnshaven. The number of scholars attending each may be from 20 to 30.

*Poor.*—The number of poor in this parish is considerable, owing to the variety of aged and infirm persons, who come from neighbouring parishes, and take up their residence in the town of Johnshaven, when they are no longer fit for country work. Scarcely fewer than 30 receive a monthly allowance from 2s. to 4s. and sometimes 5s. each, according to their necessities. Small sums are likewise occasionally distributed among such as are in straitened circumstances, yet not so indigent as to require a regular supply. It is generally understood, that the members of the Session have a claim on whatever effects may be left by any one, who has been admitted on the poors-roll, to the full amount of the sum advanced; so that few solicit this assistance, except those who are really in want. The means of relieving such are derived from various sources, of which the chief are, the collections in the church on Sundays, which last year exceeded 35l. Sterling; the interest of different sums, bequeathed for the use of the poor, in the lands of Benholme and Knox; the savings of former contributions; with better than 8l. annually for seat-rents, amounting altogether to more than 60l. Sterling. The distribution of this sum falls within the pro-

vince of the minister and elders, who make it their business to become acquainted with the situation of the parishioners, to supply such as are in want, and to discountenance begging. Few beggars of course belong to this parish; but it is much infested by vagrants, especially from the North. Besides the other charitable donations, under the management of the kirk-session, there is a fund for teaching poor scholars, and supplying them with books. An annual collection is likewise made at the church doors, for the Infirmary of Aberdeen, which entitles the poor to medical advice and assistance, when they labour under any bodily distress, and likewise to proper accommodation, while their cure is performing. In few places, perhaps, are the industrious and deserving poor better provided for than here. Besides the sources of assistance already enumerated, they find a continual supply in the charitable disposition of their more opulent neighbours.

*Population.*—The population within this parish, during the last 40 years, has been fluctuating. The total number of inhabitants, was

|          | <i>In the Country.</i> | <i>In the Town.</i> | <i>Total.</i>              | <i>Difference.</i>         |
|----------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| In 1753, | 598                    | 753                 | 1351                       |                            |
| In 1755, |                        |                     | 1367                       | Increase in 2 years 16     |
| In 1773, |                        |                     | 1715                       | Ditto in 18 years 348      |
|          |                        |                     |                            | —                          |
|          |                        |                     |                            | Total in 20 years 364      |
| In 1793, | 538                    | 1019                | 1557                       | Decrease last 20 years 158 |
|          |                        |                     |                            | —                          |
| Decrease | 60                     | Increase 266        | Total increase in 40 years | 206                        |

But as the ordinary estimate in the Statistical Account is only made from Dr Webster's report, the increase between 1753 and 1755, must be deducted

Which makes the exact increase within 38 years 190  
From

From the above statement it appears, that though the numbers in the country part is diminished 60, yet the town of Johnshaven being 266 more numerous than it was in 1753, the population has increased on the whole 206 since that period. It is evident, however, from the following table, that the population has been gradually diminishing since the year 1773. The union of several small farms into one has contributed to thin the country, and increase the number of town's people. But while one class of inhabitants was becoming more numerous in Johnshaven, various causes conspired to disperse another. It appears, from undoubted authority, that the sea-faring people, with their families, in that town, about the year 1753, were equal to a third of the whole inhabitants of the parish; but in 1793, they did not exceed a-sixth part of that number; so that this class of inhabitants has been rapidly declining for the last 40 years.

TABLE OF POPULATION IN THE PARISH OF BENHOLME,  
*collected from private Bills of Mortality, kept by the late Reverend MR ROBERT YOUNG.*

| YEARS. | No. of SOULS. | MARRIAGES. | BIRTHS. |      |      | DEATHS. |      |      |
|--------|---------------|------------|---------|------|------|---------|------|------|
|        |               |            | Mal.    | Fem. | Tot. | Mal.    | Fem. | Tot. |
| 1753   | 1351          | 9          | 19      | 22   | 41   | 18      | 21   | 39   |
| 1754   | 1382          | 8          | 28      | 18   | 46   | 21      | 16   | 37   |
| 1755   | 1367          | 11         | 29      | 26   | 55   | 6       | 16   | 22   |
| 1756   | 1398          | 10         | 31      | 30   | 61   | 19      | 18   | 37   |
| 1757   | 1385          | 5          | 29      | 13   | 42   | 11      | 15   | 26   |
| 1758   | 1414          | 10         | 27      | 26   | 53   | 21      | 31   | 52   |
| 1759   | 1425          | 9          | 19      | 22   | 41   | 9       | 14   | 23   |
| 1760   | 1491          | 10         | 32      | 22   | 54   | 13      | 13   | 26   |
| 1761   | 1516          | 8          | 27      | 17   | 44   | 18      | 19   | 37   |
| 1762   | 1494          | 12         | 15      | 32   | 47   | 27      | 29   | 56   |

## STATISTICAL TABLE OF BENHOLME CONTINUED.

| YEARS. | No. of SOULS. | MARRIAGES. | BIRTHS. |      |      | DEATHS. |      |      |
|--------|---------------|------------|---------|------|------|---------|------|------|
|        |               |            | Mal.    | Fem. | Tot. | Mal.    | Fem. | Tot. |
| 1763   | 1499          | 15         | 26      | 21   | 47   | 29      | 29   | 58   |
| 1764   | 1513          | 11         | 23      | 18   | 41   | 6       | 12   | 18   |
| 1765   | 1543          | 19         | 37      | 24   | 61   | 11      | 11   | 22   |
| 1766   | 1575          | 11         | 19      | 23   | 42   | 11      | 7    | 18   |
| 1767   | 1613          | 10         | 24      | 27   | 51   | 19      | 15   | 34   |
| 1768   | 1607          | 13         | 24      | 22   | 46   | 19      | 22   | 51   |
| 1769   | 1659          | 10         | 28      | 23   | 51   | 24      | 35   | 59   |
| 1770   | 1655          | 11         | 31      | 26   | 57   | 15      | 15   | 30   |
| 1771   | 1713          | 12         | 22      | 11   | 33   | 22      | 15   | 37   |
| 1772   | 1666          | 15         | 30      | 26   | 56   | 25      | 24   | 49   |
| 1773   | 1715          | 10         | 26      | 19   | 45   | 29      | 21   | 50   |
| 1774   | 1676          | 14         | 17      | 21   | 38   | 16      | 14   | 30   |
| 1775   | 1638          | 7          | 23      | 31   | 54   | 14      | 18   | 32   |
| 1776   | 1657          | 17         | 24      | 16   | 40   | 22      | 28   | 50   |
| 1777   | 1668          | 10         | 31      | 25   | 56   | 15      | 18   | 33   |
| † 1778 |               | 14         | 25      | 21   | 46   | 21      | 20   | 41   |
| 1779   |               | 14         | 23      | 39   | 61   | 19      | 14   | 33   |
| 1780   |               | 15         | 21      | 23   | 44   | 20      | 28   | 48   |
| 1781   |               | 15         | 26      | 28   | 54   | 10      | 13   | 23   |
| 1782   |               | 18         | 26      | 23   | 49   | 19      | 17   | 36   |
| 1783   |               | 8          | 20      | 18   | 38   | 19      | 22   | 41   |
| 1784   |               | 15         | 30      | 32   | 62   | 32      | 29   | 61   |
| 1785   |               | 7          | 18      | 23   | 41   | 21      | 21   | 42   |
| 1786   |               | 9          | 22      | 19   | 41   | 22      | 25   | 47   |
| 1787   |               | 13         | 21      | 26   | 47   | 12      | 23   | 35   |

## STATISTICAL

† The number of souls from the year 1778 to the year 1789 cannot be found among the bills of mortality. In these years died

|                              | Mal. | Fem. | Total |
|------------------------------|------|------|-------|
| Between the age of 70 and 80 | 23   | 26   | 49    |
| 80 and 90                    | 18   | 15   | 33    |
| 90 and 100                   | 6    | 0    |       |

In 1777, the number of widows in the parish amounted to 94 of widowers 49

In 1793, the number of widows were 44 of widowers 18



STATISTICAL TABLE OF BENHOLME CONTINUED.

| YEARS. | NO. OF SOULS. | MARRIAGES. | BIRTHS. |      |      | DEATHS. |      |      |
|--------|---------------|------------|---------|------|------|---------|------|------|
|        |               |            | Mal.    | Fem. | Tot. | Mal.    | Fem. | Tot. |
| 1788   | .             | 8          | 14      | 22   | 36   | 19      | 21   | 40   |
| 89     | 1573          | 7          | 26      | 31   | 57   | 23      | 20   | 43   |
| 90     | 1594          | 12         | 20      | 19   | 39   | 18      | 25   | 43   |
| 91     | 1560          | 10         | 23      | 19   | 42   | 19      | 18   | 37   |
| 92     | 1559          | 18         | 19      | 24   | 43   | 25      | 25   | 48   |
| 93     | 1557          | 14         | 24      | 19   | 43   | 18      | 11   | 29   |

LIST of DISEASES, and of the NUMBER of PEOPLE who died under each, from 1778 to 1788, inclusive: Drawn up by the late Reverend Mr ROBERT YOUNG Minister of Benholme.

| Years. | Fevers. | Rub Fevers. | Consumption. | Decay. | Dropsy. | Palsy. | Old Age. | Small-pox. | Chincough. | Child bed. | Casualties. | Asbma. |
|--------|---------|-------------|--------------|--------|---------|--------|----------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| 1778 † | 5       | 0           | 5            | 4      | 1       | 0      | 6        | 0          | 2          | 1          | 3           | 0      |
| 79     | 7       | 0           | 0            | 7      | 2       | 3      | 2        | 2          | 0          | 0          | 1           | 0      |
| 80     | 6       | 0           | 2            | 9      | 1       | 0      | 4        | 13         | 0          | 0          | 1           | 0      |
| 81     | 2       | 0           | 0            | 10     | 3       | 0      | 0        | 0          | 0          | 2          | 0           | 2      |
| 82     | 6       | 2           | 0            | 6      | 5       | 0      | 5        | 0          | 0          | 0          | 2           | 1      |
| 83     | 4       | 0           | 0            | 10     | 2       | 1      | 3        | 0          | 0          | 0          | 4           | 2      |
| 84     | 4       | 0           | 0            | 7      | 1       | 1      | 4        | 24         | 0          | 1          | 3           | 1      |
| 85     | 10      | 0           | 1            | 9      | 2       | 1      | 2        | 0          | 0          | 2          | 3           | 1      |
| 86     | 7       | 0           | 7            | 7      | 1       | 2      | 3        | 0          | 6          | 1          | 4           | 0      |
| 87     | 4       | 3           | 1            | 7      | 3       | 2      | 3        | 4          | 0          | 0          | 3           | 0      |
| 88     | 5       | 0           | 5            | 1      | 8       | 1      | 3        | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0           | 1      |
| 60     | 5       | 21          | 77           | 29     | 11      | 36     | 43       | 8          | 7          | 24†        | 8           |        |

‡ From 1789, the births and deaths of those belonging to the Secession are omitted. Whether they have been inserted in the previous years, is uncertain; though it is highly probable, from Mr YOUNG's accuracy, that they would.

† Of the 24 under casualties, 6 were drowned, 2 suffocated, 1 killed in battle, 1 by a fall from a horse, 1 by a bite of a mad dog, and 1 by falling into the fire. In the bills are several other diseases, which are omitted on account of the small number that died of them.

*Fishery.*—About the year 1722, JOHNSHAVEN seems to have ranked among the first fishing towns in Scotland; 26 boats were then employed in the fishery, 13 of which carried each from 8 to 10 tons burden, the other 13, from 5 to 6 tons. A large boat's crew, including one or two boys, generally consisted of 10, a small boat's, 8. Three of the crew were called *skippers*, who had a share in the boat, kept her in repair, and became bound to indemnify the proprietor of the town for the sum of 100 ‡ merks Scotch, which he advanced to assist in building the boat; and also to pay a yearly rent of 2l. 10s. Sterling. To defray this expence, the skippers were entitled to every fifth fish taken, besides their own deal or share. Large boats were employed from the beginning of May till the first of August, in catching cod, ling, &c. or in what is called the *out sea fishing*, from the fishing ground lying at the distance of 40 or 50 miles from shore. In favourable weather, they generally continued one, two, or three nights at sea. During the months of August and September, they brought a sufficient quantity of coals and peats from the Frith of Forth to supply the neighbourhood through the season: after which these large boats were laid up for winter. The small boats were then employed in catching haddocks, whittings, &c. till the end of February, when the *near great fishing*, about 8 or 10 miles from land, commenced. In this they were engaged, always leaving their lines at sea one night or more, according to the weather, till the beginning of May, when the large boats were again launched into the deep. The great fish were purchased by Montrose merchants, salted and sent up the Mediterranean. The  
small

‡ This money only became payable when the boat was no longer fit to go to sea.

small fish found a ready market in the Frith of Forth, and the price of them formed a stock for the fishers to trade with in Autumn.

*Causes of its Decline.*—In this manner was the fishing successfully carried on till the year 1743, when two of the boats foundered at sea. This was a severe stroke, and followed by another, a few years after, equally destructive to the fishing, though not so fatal to the crews. As the boats were returning from the sea in 1756, a tender intercepted 3 of them, and impressed the stoutest of their men. A demand from government of every *fifth* man to serve on board the fleet soon followed. The fishers were obliged to comply with the necessity of the times, by either going themselves, or bribing others in their stead: and thus purchased protections for those who remained, at a great expence. Reduced in men and money, they were unable, by the end of the war in 1763, to fit out more than 8 large boats, and as many small. In 1768, they were harrassed by *Press-gangs*, and forced to raise a new levy, at the rate of 10l. or 12l. a man. Distressed with so many demands, and deprived of the means of supplying them, many stout young men abandoned the fishing, and bound themselves apprentices to colliers, in order to avoid serving on board the navy;—a service, from which the impolitic, though sometimes necessary, measure of *impressing* is calculated to create aversion. The boats were now poorly mann'd, and unable to go to sea, unless in very favourable weather. Through the poverty of their owners, they fell to pieces, one after another, till the year 1776, when they were reduced to 5. The commencement of a new war created a new demand for men. Tenders and press-gangs persecuted them at sea and shore, and prevented them from earning bread to their families. It therefore be-

came

came necessary to strain the last nerve, which many of them did, by raising the enormous contribution of 15l. for every man who was demanded, in order to procure protections for the rest. But now, by an unwarrantable breach of good faith, protections served only as a *passport to the Navy*. One of the boat-masters was impressed with his protection in his pocket, and died on board the *Salisbury* ship of war going out to the West Indies. The exactions made on the fishers, during last war, gave a decisive blow to the fishery at Johnshaven; and deprived the nation of a valuable nursery for hardy seamen. It is now reduced to one large boat in summer, and 4 or 5 yawls in winter, whose crews consist of old men and boys, scarce fit to manage an oar. Thus do the unjustifiable means, which are had recourse to for the temporary support of any state, frequently tend to its final destruction. Had greater moderation been used in demanding levies from Johnshaven, during former wars, it might still have retained its rank among fishing towns, and been able, on the present emergency, to contribute to the general support of the nation.

Another cause concurred in depopulating the sea-faring part of the town, though the ruin of the fishery can only be ascribed to the hardships imposed on the fishers by levying and impressing them. Many no doubt returned from the wars richer than when they went away; but, after being accustomed to a navy life, they returned with ideas *above* fishing, as may be supposed, when the case of handling a sail is compared with the labour of tugging at the oar. The prize money and wages many of them had gained, served to purchase small vessels, which they employed in the coasting trade; and their habits of industry, acquired in early life, by degrees raised them to larger. But the harbour of Johnshaven being unsafe for vessels of any considerable burthen in winter

winter, it became necessary for them to quit their native place, where their property could not be protected, and to take up their residence where ships might be secure in all seasons. Owing to this cause, 15 masters of vessels from 50 to 150 tons burden, with their families, have removed to Montrose since the year 1766. An equal number of vessels, about the same burthen, still belong to Johnshaven, which cannot be brought there with safety during winter. The masters of these have hitherto struggled with the inconvenience of having their families in one place, and their property in another, nearly one half of the year; but it is more than probable, that they will follow the example of their neighbours, unless some material improvement is made upon the harbour.

*Pier and Proposed Improvement.*—A small pier or wharf has been erected of late, by means of which vessels may load and unload at any time of the tide, in favourable weather; but till a bulwark is raised to break the force of the sea, it never can become a place of safety; and any thing short of that can add little to the prosperity of the town. The expence necessary for this purpose, according to an estimate made by an architect, who viewed the ground in 1754, would not exceed 900 l. Nature has indeed laid the foundation, and likewise furnished the materials for building a proper harbour. On the east side, a ledge of free stone rocks, about 30 yards broad, reaches from high water, at neap tide, to low water at spring tide, which are seldom overflowed except in severe storms. On the West side, a number of flat rocks run out from the beach S. S. W. into the open sea, close by the side of which there is 6 or 8 fathom water. The South end of these is covered by half tide, when small vessels may enter the harbour, though they cannot, until near full sea, reach the



present wharf. In ordinary tides the depth of the harbour is from 10 to 12 feet, which might be farther increased at no great expence, as the bottom is a soft marly rock.

*Probable Advantages.*—Were the advantages arising from a safe harbour at Johnshaven confined to the town or even neighbourhood, they might be thought scarcely equivalent to the expence necessary to procure them: But when it is considered that a great part, one half at least of the county, would profit greatly by this improvement, the expence must appear inconsiderable. If the utility of the design were attended to, it is highly probable that the time of its execution might not be very distant. Many obstacles, which have hitherto prevented manufactures from flourishing in this part of the county, would then be removed; and the expence of land carriage, which is more or less a draw back upon every branch of trade, would be greatly diminished. To vessels employed in the coasting trade it would prove of the utmost consequence, as they might find an easy and safe retreat here from the storm, in certain winds, when it would be destruction for them to attempt landing on any other part of the coast, betwixt the Frith of Forth and the Murray Frith.

*Trade and Commerce.*—The trade here chiefly consists in importing coals and exporting grain. A sufficient quantity of the former article is brought in summer from Sunderland, and the Frith of Forth, to supply the town and neighbourhood through the year. Some cargoes of lime are also brought from the same places, for the use of the farmer. Till of late, Montrose was the only market for grain in this neighbourhood, when two merchants in Johnshaven were tempted, by the situation of the place, to commence dealers in grain

grain. The adventure has not only proved advantageous to themselves, but highly beneficial to the neighbourhood. The farmer being enabled to deliver his grain in less than one half the time which was formerly required, has it more in his power to embrace a favourable season when it offers. This is of the utmost moment here, where the nature of the soil, in many places is such, that it can only be plowed to advantage between wet and dry. The short carriage, therefore, gives them a decided preference above other merchants, who live at a greater distance, so that they purchase most of the barley produced for many miles around, which they either convert into malt, for the Norway market, or send to the Frith of Forth. From 3000 to 4000 bolls of grain are annually exported

*Manufactures.*—A manufacture of sail cloth has of late been established in the town of Johnshaven, by a Company of Dundee merchants. This affords employment at times to about 50 men, besides a number of women. To form a fair opinion of any undertaking in its infancy is difficult, but were the harbour improved, there is every probability that this would succeed, as it would then labour under no local disadvantage.

TABLE of TRADESMEN, MECHANICS, &c. within the Parish.

|                 |   |    |                          |    |
|-----------------|---|----|--------------------------|----|
| Merchants,      | - | 2  | Inn-keepers in the town, | 4  |
| Surgeon,        | - | 1  | Ditto in the country,    | 1  |
| School-masters, | - | 2  | Smiths,                  | 8  |
| Shore-master,   | - | 1  | Masons,                  | 14 |
| Excise-officer, | - | 1  | Ship-carpenters,         | 3  |
| Tide-waiter,    | : | 1  | House ditto,             | 10 |
| Shop-keepers §, | . | 18 | Cabinet-maker,           | 1  |
|                 |   |    | Wheel-                   |    |

§ Most of these give out flax to be spun.

|                               |    |                         |    |
|-------------------------------|----|-------------------------|----|
| Wheel-wrights,                | 2  | Malt-men,               | 4  |
| Weavers,                      | 63 | Barbers,                | 2  |
| Stocking ditto,               | 1  | Male domestic servants, | 3  |
| Shoe-makers,                  | 12 | Female ditto,           | 20 |
| Tailors,                      | 14 | Male farm servants,     | 56 |
| Butchers,                     | 4  | Female ditto,           | 28 |
| Millers,                      | 2  | Farms above 50l.        | 10 |
| Bakers,                       | 3  | Ditto under that rent,  | 14 |
| Gardeners,                    | 4  | Overseers,              | 2  |
| Slaters,                      | 2  | Country day-labourers,  | 23 |
| Flax dressers,                | 5  | Ship-masters,           | 15 |
| Chapman,                      | 5  | Seamen and boys,        | 40 |
| Carriers,                     | 4  | Two-wheel carts,        | 48 |
| Penny post between Bervie and |    | Draught horses,         | 96 |
| Johnshaven,                   | 1  | Four-wheel carriages    | 3  |

*Prices of Labour and Provisions*—Of late the price of labour and provisions has greatly increased; 5 *l. per annum* would have been considered as high wages for the best ploughman a few years ago; now 8 *l.* would be offered in vain. From 30 *s.* to 2 *l.* were the common yearly wages of female servants; of late they receive from 3 *l.* to 4 *l.*; a day-labourer within these few years thought himself well paid with 8*d.*, but now expects 1 *s.* per day. Except among house carpenters and masons, who daily receive from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.*, the advance of wages has not been so rapid in other occupations. As many employed in these, however, are paid by the piece, their income cannot be mentioned with certainty. Butcher meat, within the last 30 years, has risen from one 1*d.* to 3½ *per pound*, and many other articles of provision in a higher proportion.

*Minerals.*—In this parish there are several quarries of free stone, and one in particular upon the estate of Benholme, of an excellent quality. All the rocks on the coast chiefly consist

fit of this sort of stone; but what is found within flood mark, being impregnated with saline particles, always retains a moisture, and is therefore improper for building dwelling houses. Mill stone of a good quality is found in many places along the shore.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The post road leading from Montrose to Aberdeen runs through this parish, in a line almost parallel with the coast, and nearly at the distance of a mile from it. Not far from the church, and near to each other, there are two stone bridges upon this road, which contribute much to its improvement. A different direction, however, would be necessary to render it completely easy, as the ground, both on the East and West sides of these bridges, rises to a considerable height. From the nature of the soil, and the difficulty of bringing gravel from the shore, the high way has hitherto been deep in winter. Nor are the cross roads in a better state. The statute labour is insufficient, and is performed with reluctance. A turnpike has often been proposed through this county, and will doubtless in the end be found the only means for promoting social intercourse, by rendering travelling more comfortable.

*Disadvantages.*—Deep roads and a bad harbour are the only material disadvantages under which this district labours. *Fuel* is no doubt scarce; but were the harbour improved, the opportunity of landing coals at all seasons, would prevent the want of any other kind of fuel from being felt. At present many poor people frequently pay an exorbitant price for this necessary article, and are often obliged to endure the rigour of the cold, from not being able in summer to lay in a sufficient supply.

*Antiquities.*

*Antiquities.*—Among the few antiquities in this parish, may be mentioned a square tower, which was the ancient residence of the family of Benholme, and is still kept in repair, though not inhabited. From its peninsular situation, thickness of walls, and battlements on the roof; this building seems to have been originally intended for a place of strength; and before the use of artillery, was probably not ill calculated to resist the sudden attack of an enemy. When this strong hold was built is uncertain. On the summit of the nearest hill to the sea, except one, bordering with the parish of Cyrus, and commanding an extensive prospect, stands a rough stone, in the circumference of a stony circle, commonly called *the Cloach Stone*. It is more than a foot thick, measures 8 feet along the ground, and rises nearly 6 above its surface, in an inclined direction towards the North. ‡

*Character*

‡ As there is no place in the neighbourhood, except one at the South corner of the parish, close by the shore, where stones of the same quality are found, it appears to have been brought from thence, not without considerable difficulty, the intervening space being a pretty steep ascent of more than a mile. It would seem therefore to have been erected for some useful purpose, perhaps with a view to perpetuate some memorable event. Tradition says, a battle was fought near the place, and the number of flint heads of arrows, found on the side of the hill where it stands, affords some reason to credit this report. Between this and the coast, a great quantity of human bones has been dug up, in the course of improving the land, for nearly the space of a mile along the rising ground above Johnshaven. The bottom and sides of the graves, containing these bones, were all lined with rough stones. It is difficult to account for so great a space being occupied by dead bodies, on any other supposition than that of an engagement: At the same time, it seems doubtful whether such a degree of attention would be bestowed in burying all the dead slain in the field of battle, unless we consider it as mark of regard from the survivors, to those who had probably fallen in defence of their country. There were no arms in any of these graves; but one or two have been found,

in



*Character and Manners.*—Smuggling, which formerly tended to debauch the morals of the sea-faring-people, is no longer carried on within the bounds of this parish. Drunkenness and fighting are consequently little heard of. Any petty squabbles, that now happen, seldom proceed farther than high words. A few prosecutions for scandal have reformed the obnoxious practice of abusive language, which was much in use, and taught the generality to *bridle their tongues*. Frugality, sobriety, and industry, are the distinguishing characteristics of the country people. The inhabitants of Johnshaven are not deficient in the two first of these virtues, though there is still room for amendment with regard to industry. Among every rank, however, both in country and town, there is *charity* enough to “cover a multitude of sins.”

To Conclude.—About 50 years ago, the Excise officer's family was the only one in Johnshaven that made use of tea; when the tea kettle was carried to the well, to bring in water

ter

in stone coffins of about 4 feet long, at a place called MOAT HILL, not far from the mansion house of Benholme. On an eminence bordering with Garvock, called *Kinchet*, or, more properly, *King's Seat Hill*, there is a large heap of stones or *Cairn*, where, according to tradition, a King sat in judgement; among other complaints, many were lodged against MELVILE of Allardice, at that time Sheriff of the county, for his oppression. The Royal Judge, either wearied with the complainers, or enraged at the offender, said, probably in a peevish humour; “I wish that Sheriff were foddin and supped in brose.” Such was the savage barbarity of the times, that the Barons, who were little accustomed to the formalities of a trial, laid hold on these words, and put them literally in execution. The place where the deed was perpetrated, lyes at the bottom of the hills, on the side next Garvock, is not unlike the cavity of a kiln for drying corn, and still retains the name of the SHERIFF'S KETTLE.

ter, numbers both of children and grown people followed it, expressing their wonder, and supposing it to be "*a beast with a horn.*" In those days of simplicity, a watch or an eight day clock would have created equal surprise. Now the tea kettle has lost the power of astonishing, having become a necessary piece of furniture among the meanest : and one can scarcely enter a house where he is not put in mind of the fleeting of time from some one corner of it.

NUMBER.

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF MONZIE,

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

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE ERSKINE, Minister.*

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*Origin of the Name.*

**A**LL competent judges of the Gaelic agree that the name *Monzie* is derived from that language. But they differ a little about its orthography or signification. Some think it should be wrote *Monieu*, which signifies *Deer Hill*, as probably at that period the hills abound with that species of game. Others think it should be wrote *Monini*, which signifies *hill foot*, and is very expressive of the situation of the habitable parts of the parish. But a third class maintain, and with the greatest probability, that it should be wrote *Moeghe*, which signifies *good plain*, as the low lying grounds are pretty fertile.

*Extent, Form, and Situation.*—The extent of this parish is very considerable, being from E. to W. 7 English miles, and  
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from N. to S. at the greatest breadth, 12 miles. Its figure is irregular, perhaps somewhat similar to the cross. It is distant from the town of Perth 14 miles, and from the town of Crieff, 3 miles. The parish is a mountainous district. It lies on the south side of the Grampian hills. The habitable part of the parish is divided into *the back* and *the fore part*, by a ridge of very high hills 4 miles in breadth. Each of these habitable parts is a narrow valley, enclosed by hills all the length of the parish, from E. to W.

*Soil, Surface, Cultivation, and Produce, &c.*—The soil of this parish is various, in general it is light, dry and good, but shallow. Part of it is gravelly; much of it mossy, and some of it clay. By far the greatest part of the parish consists of hills and sheep farms. The hills are partly green, but mostly covered with heath, and the interjacent flats are covered with bent, and rather swampy. On the whole, not above a third part of the parish is arable: In the lower part of the parish, they are introducing the English ploughs, drawn with two horses, and the man who holds, also drives it. In the more steep ground, they use the Scotch plough, drawn by 4 horses, all a-breast, because they think it answers better for going up hills. About the middle or end of the month of March, they sow oats and pease, then their flax; after which they set potatoes; and last of all they sow their barley. The earliest barley is ripe about the middle of August; the harvest becomes general in September, and is finished about the end of that month.

*Climate, Diseases, and Longevity.*—The climate of this parish is good but various. Mild, gentle and dry in the vales, while the hills are hid in fog, or covered with snow, or washed with rains. A very common disorder here, is the chronic rheumatism,

rheumatism, seizing the poorer sort of people, especially those more advanced in life; and this chiefly is owing to their miserable mode of living, the coldness and dampness of their houses, and the scarcity and high price of fuel. Slow fevers too attack them about spring and autumn, but seldom prove mortal. Some, though very few, die of consumption and palsy. The small pox raged much here formerly, but is now much mitigated by the general introduction of inoculation. The air on the whole being salubrious, there are a number of instances of longevity in the parish. One man died lately aged 100 years; one is still alive aged 92, who was formerly a day-labourer, and who is still able to walk about, and see his friends; and there is a considerable number of healthy people, aged 70 and 80.

*Rivers and Fish.*—The *Amon*, or *Almon*, is the principal river. It runs through the East part of the parish, and intersects it about 12 miles. The river *Skaggie*, runs through the centre of the parish, and divides it for about 3 miles. The river *Keltie* runs through the parish, towards the West end, intersecting it for about 2 miles: And, the small river *Barvie* separates this parish from that of Monivaird, for about 2 miles. All these rivers have their sources in the northern part of this parish, and, after a variety of meandering circuits among the hills, they run directly South. The *Amon*, after approaching near the South side of this parish, runs eastward, until it empties itself into the Tay above Perth. The rest of these rivers meet near the West end of the parish, whence they run still farther westward, in one stream, which empties itself into the river *Earn*, a little above Crieff. Each of these rivers, as well as a number of burns, which descend from the hills, and run into them, abound with good black trouts; and the *Amon* has a peculiar



liar species of fine white trouts. Some have been taken, which weighed from 3lb. to 4lb ; and measured from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  foot long. Salmon grilfes have also been taken, from 7lb. to 10lb. weight ; and at the spawning time, salmon have been got, (though contrary to law) weighing 20 lb.

*Woods.*—About 50 years ago, this parish abounded a great deal more in wood than it does at present. The back part of the parish, called *Glenalmon*, seems to have been once one continued forest, whereas now there is only one large pine tree to be seen in the whole of it. There is a considerable quantity of woodland still in the fore part of the parish ; it consists of oaks, elms, beeches, birks, planes, and large saughs. There are 5 woods upon the estate of Monzie, two upon that of Calendar, and one upon that of Cultoquhey ; and all of them are very thriving. Besides these, there are beautiful and tall plantations around the mansion-houses of Monzie and Cultoquhey. These woods were cut and sold within these few years, and brought a high price. Upon the banks of the rivers and burns, as well as in the dens, there is a considerable quantity of shrubs, which are both useful and ornamental.

*Wild Animals.*—The wild quadrupeds are hares, badgers, rabbits, roe-bucks, deers, foxes and otters. All the wild fowls and birds of prey, which are natives of the North of Scotland, frequent the woods : Thrushes, linnets, black-birds, finches, starlings, patridges, wild ducks, herons, muir fowl ; hawks, ravens, hooded crows, and water crows ; and sometimes we are visited by the eagle. The birds of the migratory kind are the swallow, cuckow, plover, feldtfare, and at times the king's-fisher.

*State of Property, Services, &c.*—During these last 30 years, there has been no transfer of property in the parish.

A considerable part of it is inclosed, but the greater part of it still lies open. The tenants are fully convinced of the great advantage of inclosing, and would very willingly give the proprietors interest for such sums as might be necessary for that purpose. However, as many of them have no leases of their farms, such are discouraged even from that. The dread of being removed, where an avaricious neighbour offers an augmentation, or an unfeeling master accepts the bribe of iniquity, binds up the hand of industry, and bars the way of improvement. As the arable ground is of very different quality, so we find it let at very different rents. As to the *pendiclers*, they rent their grounds at 10s. to 25s. an acre. Those who have large farms, rent the arable ground at from 8s. to 10s. an acre. The hill part of the parish, is let by the lump to those farmers who are nearest to it, and they pay a separate rent for it; grass parks have been let in this parish at 2l. 2s. per acre. A great deal of services are still performed by all of them to the proprietors, which increase the value of the rents. These services are chiefly farm work, with carriages of peats and coals. In the cess book, the valued rent of the parish is 2900l. Scotch; the real rent is nearly 1700l. Sterling. As there never was any survey taken of this parish, the exact number of acres in it cannot be ascertained. None of the land is common. Every proprietor knows exactly the marches of his own estate. The most of the hilly part is pasture, because of its steepness, but the lower parts are cultivated and produce very well. There is but a very small part of the parish thirled to their lairds mills, they being exempted from that bondage, and free to grind their corn where they please, upon conditions of their paying to the proprietor a sum among them, equal to the rent of the mill, and this in proportion to their own rents.

*Produce,*

*Produce, Exports, &c.*—The principal crops raised in this parish, are oats, barley, flax, and potatoes. Of late, they have sown some pease, rye, wheat, grass seeds, and turnips, all of which do very well. As the produce, especially of the fore part of the parish, is much greater than is necessary for the consumption of its inhabitants, considerable quantities of butter, cheese, meal, mutton, beef, pork, oat-meal, barley, and potatoes, are disposed of in the towns and places adjacent.

*Horses, Black-cattle, Sheep, and Wool.*—The cattle are all of the small kind, but good of their sizes. All the high priced cattle belong to the low part of the parish, and are reared in gentlemen's parks. Grazing cattle is now become more common than it was formerly. The farmers in general, rear their own cattle, of every species, and thus *keep their Stock* (as they term it,) *alive*. They keep from 2 to 6 working horses, each, and from 3 to 6, and some even 10 or 12 milk cows. It is believed, that there are 10,000 sheep in the parish. They are of the Scotch breed, and very hardy. Their wool is good, and their flesh very sweet. The average prices of cattle, wool, &c. are as follows :

|                                             |          |
|---------------------------------------------|----------|
| Working horses sell at from L. 3 0 each, to | L. 8 0 0 |
| Milk cows ——— 2 0 ———                       | 8 0 0    |
| Cattle for slaughter ——— 1 10 ———           | 7 0 0    |
| Sheep ——— 0 5 ———                           | 0 18 0   |
| Wool ——— 0 10 per stone,                    | 0 12 0   |
| Ditto smeared with tar ——— 0 6 ———          | 0 8 0    |

*Population.*—There is every reason to believe, that the population of this, as well as of some of the neighbouring parishes, has greatly diminished, since the beginning of the present century. The remains of uninhabited houses, the emigrations

grations of young people of both sexes, who, thinking their parents oppressed in their farms, go away to other parts, and other employments; fewer of those who remain joining in marriage now than formerly; and, above all, the monopoly of farms, which so much prevails; some individuals renting and farming lands, formerly possessed by 6, 8, or 10, and some even possessed by 20 tenants; these, and many other circumstances, account for and prove the great decrease of the population. No enumeration of this parish, however, previous to the one drawn up in 1755, at the request of Dr Webster, has been made; or, if it was, can now be discovered. Upon comparing that report, however, with the result of an enumeration made by the present incumbent in 1792, the decrease within these 40 years does not appear so great, as, from the above causes, might have been expected:

|                                      |   |      |
|--------------------------------------|---|------|
| For the number of souls in 1755, was | - | 1192 |
| Ditto in 1792,                       | - | 1136 |

|                            |   |    |
|----------------------------|---|----|
| Hence the decrease is only | - | 56 |
|----------------------------|---|----|

|                                         |     |   |      |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|---|------|
| Of these there were examinable persons, | 703 | } | 1136 |
| Children under that age,                | 433 |   |      |

|                                 |     |   |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|---|-----|
| Married persons,                | 326 | } | 703 |
| Widows and widowers,            | 83  |   |     |
| Bachelors, and unmarried women, | 294 |   |     |

|                             |   |     |
|-----------------------------|---|-----|
| Inhabitants in the village, | - | 112 |
|-----------------------------|---|-----|

|                   |   |    |
|-------------------|---|----|
| Poor on the roll, | - | 10 |
|-------------------|---|----|

|                                                               |   |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|
| The No. of births *, from December 1792 to December 1793, was | - | 30 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|

|                                    |   |   |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| —— Marriages * within that period, | - | 9 |
|------------------------------------|---|---|

|              |   |    |
|--------------|---|----|
| —— Deaths *, | - | 29 |
|--------------|---|----|

\*\*\* No record of funerals had ever been kept in the parish previous to December 1792; nor, for a long time, was there even any register of births or marriages; but, upon the most accurate enquiry that can be made, the above appear to be the average numbers for many years past.

*Conditions and Occupations.*—All the inhabitants of this parish are either proprietors, farmers, tradesmen, or day-labourers. The great part of the farming work, is done by the farmers themselves, their wives, their sons, and their daughters. There is a great number of pendiclers and cottagers in this parish. The former class are those who rent a house and a small piece of ground from the proprietor; the latter rent it from the tenant, and are obliged to work to him during the harvest, and even at other times, if it be needful.

|                     |    |                         |     |
|---------------------|----|-------------------------|-----|
| No. of proprietors, | 6  | Black-smiths,           | 4   |
| — Weavers,          | 54 | — Masons,               | 2   |
| — Coopers,          | 4  | — Millers,              | 4   |
| — Fleshers,         | 8  | — Licensed ale-sellers, | 7   |
| — Wrights,          | 8  | — Farmers,              | 81  |
| — Sawers of wood,   | 6  | — Pendiclers,           | 61  |
| — Shoe-makers,      | 10 | — Cottagers,            | 86  |
| — Tailors,          | 12 | — Servants,             | 116 |
| — Gardiners,        | 2  |                         |     |

*Manufactures.*—The principal one in the parish is that of weaving. They weave all kinds of plain and tweeled linen, and woollen cloth; and these not only for their own use, but also for sale; the chief kinds of cloth made by them are plaiden, linen and scrims. The plaiden they sell at from 10d. to 14d. per yard. They make a very large quantity of linen cloth, and bleach it excellently themselves; it is of various degrees of fineness, and they sell it at from 1s. to 4s. per yard. Some families, where there are only two looms, have made and sold 1000 yards *per annum*. The scrim is a narrow linen cloth, of different degrees of fineness, and which they sell without bleaching it. It is all exported, perhaps for trowsers. The women spin a great deal of yarn, which they  
make



make into cloth for sale, and thus by their industry raise a part of their rent.

*Prices of Provisions and Labour.*—Owing to the wet harvest in 1792, provisions rose much in their price. Work here is generally done by the piece. The wages of domestic servants are nearly the same with those of farm servants. The following are the average prices at present, (1793) both of provisions and labour :

| PRICES OF PROVISIONS.         |         |        | to November, per day, from            |   |          |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------|---------------------------------------|---|----------|
| Oat meal, per peck,           | L. 0    | 1 0    | 1s. to                                | - | L. 0 1 6 |
| Barley ditto,                 | -       | 0 0 8  | Ditto from Nov. to March,             |   |          |
| Oats, per boll, from 16s. to  | 0       | 18 0   | 8d. to                                | - | 0 1 0    |
| Bear per ditto,               | 16s. to | 1 0 0  | Ditto during harvest and              |   |          |
| Potatoes per peck,            | 3d. to  | 0 0 6  | hay-making,                           | - | 0 1 6    |
| Beef, mutton, veal, and pork, |         |        | A woman, at farm work in              |   |          |
| per lb.                       | -       | 0 0 3½ | summer,                               | - | 0 1 0    |
| A pig,                        | -       | 0 4 0  | A joiner,                             | - | 0 1 6    |
| A goose,                      | -       | 0 2 6  | A slater,                             | - | 0 2 0    |
| A duck,                       | -       | 0 1 0  | A tailor, with maintenance,           | 0 | 0 8      |
| A turkey,                     | -       | 0 3 0  | A man servant <i>per annum</i> , with |   |          |
| A hen,                        | -       | 0 1 0  | ditto, from L. 3 to                   | 8 | 0 0      |
| A chicken,                    | -       | 0 0 3  | A woman, per ditto with               |   |          |
| Butter ‡, per lb.             | 0       | 0 9    | ditto, L. 3 to                        | 4 | 0 0      |
| Cheese ‡ per ditto, from 2d.  |         |        | A man in harvest, for the             |   |          |
| to                            | -       | 0 0 3  | season,                               | - | 1 10 0   |
| PRICES OF LABOUR.             |         |        | A woman in ditto, for ditto,          |   |          |
| A day labourer, from March    |         |        | 15s. to                               | - | 1 0 0    |

*Ecclesiastical State, Heritors, &c.*—All the inhabitants are of the established church, excepting 1 Berean; 5 Episcopalian, and 30 Antiburgher Seceders. There are no Roman

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I i

Catholics

‡ ‡ Butter and cheese are sold by the tron weight, all other articles either by English or Dutch.

Catholics in this parish. All of these come occasionally to the church, excepting the Antiburghers. The King is patron, but the family of Monzie have always had sufficient interest to secure the presentation as they wished. The living consists of 22 bolls of meal, 10 bolls of bear, and 53l. 6s. 6d. in money. The stipend is paid by 5 heritors, viz. Col. Campbell of Monzie, Mr Drummond of Logieamond, Mr Graham of Balgowan, Col. Robertson of Lawers, and the Earl of Kinnoul. Col. Campbell is the only one who has a mansion house in the parish. The manse and offices were all built within these 3 years. The glebe consists of two parts; one near the manse, containing about 5 acres of good arable ground; the other about a mile from the manse, upon a small eminence, containing about 3 acres of very bad ground. The church is 60 feet long, and 20 feet wide. It was built in 1685. It was lately repaired, is well seated, and very commodious. The pulpit, which is made of oak, bears date 1617. That part of the parish called *Glenalmon* is annexed *quoad sacra* to the chapel of *Amblerie*. There is a village near the church.

*Schools.*—Until of late there were 4 schools in this parish. One in the North part, another in the East, a third in the South part, and the established school near the centre. In all of these were taught English, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping. The first of these schools, owing to the union of farms, is given up, the teacher not being able to support himself. The other 3 still continue. The salary of the one at the East end of the parish is 5l. *per annum*, with a house and garden. It is paid by the Duke of ATHOL out of the bishop's rents. His fees, however, for each of the branches taught are only 1s. per quarter. The number of scholars are from

40 to 60. The school on the South side has no fixed salary, only a house and garden, given to him gratis by Mr Maxton of Culltoquhey. The fees are the same as above, for each branch only 1s. per quarter. The number of scholars are from 30 to 50. As to the established school, the number of scholars attending it are from 40 to 70. The master's salary and emoluments from the kirk session, and keeping the registers, is about 12l. per annum; he has a free house and garden. The fees for English are 1s. per quarter, for writing 1s. 6d. per quarter, for arithmetic 2s. per quarter, and for a complete set of book-keeping 10s. 6d. All of these schools are very convenient for the parish, and the teachers are careful and diligent. Learning is now more generally diffused than formerly.

*Poor.*—The amount of the weekly collections is about 20l. a-year. Besides this, there are the dues arising from the use of two mort-cloths, the interest of 120l. sunk money, and penalties exacted from delinquents. The regular poor receive 2s. a-month, and the occasional poor receive 5s. 10s. and sometimes even 20s. at a time. All the poor are either maintained in their own houses, or, when necessary, are boarded. The greatest number of the poor earn about two-thirds of their maintainance. None belonging to the parish are allowed to beg, although many stranger vagrants infest it not a little.

*Language and Etymologies.*—This parish being situated on the borders of the Highlands, and having much intercourse and connection with the natives, we need not be surprised to find that the Gaelic is spoken in the back part of it, and the old Scotch dialect in the fore part, pronounced with the Gaelic tone and accent. There are, however, very few persons in

the whole parish, who do not either speak or understand Gaelic. Most of the names of places are evidently derived from that language, and are expressive of their local situation. The following may serve as a specimen; *Lethbentys* signifies the broader country. *Kinnighragon*, the end of the rock. *Cultoquhey* is the English name for its original Gaelic name, *Comhal-cults*, i. e. Comhal's battle.

*Bridges, Roads, Ale-houses, Mills, and Markets.*—Over the river *Almon* at Buchandy, there is a bridge of one arch, laid over another, and bearing date 1639. It was built by the Earl of Tullibardin when he had his summer residence in this place, the remains of which residence are still to be seen. His arms are cut on it, and the initials of his own and his lady's names. The proper name of the bridge, however, is *M'Bean's bridge*, because of a chapel originally near it, called *St M'Bean's chapel* ¶. On all the public roads there are good bridges. Those upon the county road built by the county, and the others by subscription. The roads here were kept up formerly by the statute labour, which is generally very ill performed, and therefore it is now commuted. They pay from 8s. to 10s. each plough, and the pendiclers and cottagers pay 1s. 6d. a year. There are 7 licensed ale-houses in the parish. There are 5 oat meal mills, and two flax mills.

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¶ Near the N. E. corner of the parish, there had been another chapel, but no vestige of it is now to be seen. There is still a burying ground in that place, and its situation is most romantic. Tradition says, that the evening before the battle of Lunkarty, 60 men took the sacrament here, who all went to the field, and only 6 of them returned. In digging for marl a little to the west of Monzie, a part of a deer's horn was found, 7 inches in circumference; and the barrel of a gun, 5 feet long, 4 inches in circumference at the one, and 7 inches in circumference at the other end, 2 stones in weight. It had evidently been used before the invention of the locks, as the match hole is entire and plain.

The meal mills make very good pot barley, without any additional machinery. There is only one yearly market in the parish, when every house, hut, and shade, is converted into a dram-shop; it is held in the middle of August.

*Romantic Scenery, Cascades, &c.*—This parish is remarkable for romantic scenery, and chiefly that part of it called *Glenalmon*. Near the West end of the fore part of the parish, the river Barvie runs through a deep den, where it forms several small cascades. The den is clothed with natural wood, and at some places 100 feet deep. Near a mile North from the place of Monzie, upon the river Keltie, there is a remarkable den, with various cascades. The uppermost cascade, called *Spout-bay*, is in breadth at the top 5 feet; the river falls over a smooth sloping rock, the height of which is 90 feet, and the breadth at the bottom 43 feet. The river then contracts into its former narrow channel, runs through the thick wooded den, 150 feet deep. Here there are some other water falls, 5 feet wide at top, and 10 feet perpendicular, with basons cut by nature out of the solid rock, one of which is 12 feet diameter, and 9 feet deep. At the mouth of the den, the river seems to have made a path for itself in the solid rock, 6 feet in breadth at the top, and 10 feet in height; the bason itself is 12 feet diameter. From this fall to the front of the rock is 24 feet; but the opening, out of which the river begins again to run, is only about 4 feet wide. All the way from Monzie mansion-house to Spout-Bay, along the banks of the river, there is a foot path made and repaired by the family; at the top of which, on the side of the den, and in full view of Spout-bay, there is erected a hermitage, for the reception of the admiring visitors of this cascade. About a mile above the village of Monzie there is another beautiful cascade, upon the river Shaggie; the breadth  
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of the river at the top is 18 feet, the height of the fall 55 feet, and the breadth at the bottom 43 feet. It falls over very rugged rocks. One would think the path had been made by the hand of art. Near the bridge of Buchandy, there is a cascade 10 feet broad, and 16 feet high.

*Artificial Mount, Large Trees, &c.*—Opposite to the foot of the principal entry into the mansion-house of Monzie, there is an artificial mount, near 70 feet high, in shape a truncated cone, upon which stands a Chinese temple. This temple is hexagonal, and almost entirely open, except the pillars which support the roof. It is 14 feet long, 12 broad, and 14 feet high. The roof terminates in a point, upon which there is a balcony with a bell, about 4 feet high. In the garden of Monzie there are 4 larch trees, said to be the finest and largest in Britain. They are not yet 60 years old. One of them is 80 feet high; its circumference at mid-height is 7 feet, and its circumference at the ground 16 feet; its branches extend all around 30 feet on each side. The other two are about the same height, but the circumference of the one at the ground is 15 feet, and that of the other is only 9 feet; the fourth is 90 feet high, and 8 feet in circumference at the ground. They are all in perfect vigour, sending forth fresh shoots every year. Besides these, there are among the planting, and near the house, a good deal of spruce, silver fir, balm-of-Gilead fir, &c. 60 and 80 feet high, and not in the least decaying,

*Mineral Spring, Echo, Caves, Whirlwind, &c.*—There is one spring in the parish whose waters were held in great esteem, until about 20 years ago, when two trees which grew over it, fell, and the virtue of the well fell with them. In a particular part of Glenalmon, among the hills, there is an echo  
which

which repeats distinctly every word. There are many caves here, but the most remarkable one is at the back of *Glenturret*, which is sufficient to hold 60 men under arms. It is situated in a rock, named *Eagle's Rock*, inaccessible on all sides, except one narrow path. It is said to be the cave into which GARA fled, after burning FINGAL's house. Near this cave there is a high PINE TREE \*, which is remarkable, because there is not another tree at present to be found in all that part. This hill country is much exposed to tempests, and especially to the whirlwind. It unroofs the houses, overturns the stacks, tears up the heath and broom, and even sweeps large stones before it. A most remarkable thing in this wind is, a noise it makes, so like thunder that strangers cannot but believe it is so. It makes this noise in a certain hollow part of the glen surrounded by rocks on all sides.

*Natural Phenomena.* ¶—There is a great curiosity, called *The-Kirk-of-the-Wood*, not far from the Eagle's Rock. It is composed of large stones, divided into several apartments, with arches and trances, and each stone resting so on another, that one would imagine it were the work of art. Near  
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\* Tradition says, if any person cut a branch from this tree *he dies*, and that *it lives* !!!

¶ In the year 1756, a *water spout* broke in the hills above Monzie; it took its course down the river Shaggie, and raised it 20 feet perpendicular at the bridge; it swept entirely away a bank near Monzie, which cost 500*l.* Sterling, and it cast out upon the sides such quantities of fish, that the inhabitants carried them home in baskets; the river subsiding so quickly, that they were left behind. In the year 1758, during a heavy rain in the hills, the water collected on the top of the brae near Monzie, and carried down such a quantity of the earth into the Shaggie, as left a den 200 feet long, above 100 feet broad, from edge to edge, and 70 feet deep. For several years past, some shocks of an *Earthquake* were felt here, and in the neighbouring parish; their direction was from E. to W.

New-town there is a stone, on which are the figures of people's feet, with those of the hooves of horses, cows, and sheep.

*Antiquities.*—As the Romans and ancient Caledonians continued their contests long about the front of the Grampian hills, we find a vast number of camps, forts, &c. and similar relics of antiquity. About 2 miles east from the church, at the country called *Findochs*, there is a large camp. It is situated opposite to the only proper passage through the hills found in them, for about 40 miles: It stands on a high ground, defended by waters on two sides, and a moor with steep ground on the others. The trenches are still entire, and in some places 6 feet deep. It is about 180 paces in length, and 80 paces in breadth, and was surrounded by a strong-earthen wall, part of which still remains, and is near 12 feet thick. Those who are connoisseurs in such matters, say it could contain 12,000 men. Within the camp there is a large plain, called *Rathmore*, *i. e.* *fortification*, which, however, seems to be of a later date. Near this there are many ruins, burrows, cairns of stones, some of which have been opened, and were found to be graves. Near this camp stands a village called, in Gaelic, *Fianteach*, *i. e.* *FINGAL's house* †. Within two miles North from this, stands the high hill of *Dunmore*. On it there is a strong fort, which had the complete command of the passage through the hills. This fort incloses the summit of the hill; and is inaccessible  
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† Tradition says, FINGAL's house stood here until it was burnt by *Gara*. Comparing the names of places, and the names of the princes as mentioned in history, it is probable, this camp was occupied about the year 300. Tradition says, Fingal dwelt for some time in this country, and we know both his father and his son are buried here. When digging lately among the ruins, plates of lead, curious bead-stones, dog's-collars, &c. were found.

on all sides but one. It is defended by a deep trench without the walls. It is 30 paces in breadth within the inner wall, and 180 paces around the fort. Each wall is 20 feet thick, and 20 feet distant from each other, and from the outer wall to the trench is 30 paces. This is said to have been FINGAL's habitation, after GARA burned his house \*. The walls are built with stone but no cement, and some of the stones would weigh 300 stones weight. About 2 miles East from Fiantiach, there is another fort, called *Lenè*. It is twice as large as the one above, exceedingly strong, and appears to have been built by the same persons: It is surrounded with two walls. The inner wall is 240 paces round, the distance between the walls is 20 feet, and each wall is 20 feet thick. On the contiguous muir there are many cairns, *tumuli*, and burrows, which are thought to be monuments of heroes, but even tradition is silent about them. One, however, is called *Cairn-Comhal* †, in memory of FINGAL's father. In the same moor there are also 2 cairns, 50 feet in circumference. On the top of a hill, on the other side of the passage through the hills, and opposite to Dunmore, is another cairn, where the stones seem to be a fallen arch; it was probably a small fort, and is so near that of Dunmore, that persons could converse with each other across the glen. There is a small camp on the South side of the parish, near to Cultoquhey, called in Gaelic, *Comhal cults i. e.* Comhal's battle ‡.

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\* Some large teeth were found lately, and a *quern*, i. e. a hand mill, which was made of the hill stone, and did not bear the mark of any tool.

† This Cairn was opened lately, and contained a large stone coffin, the stone covering the lid of the coffin, was 4 feet 10 inches long, 2½ feet broad, and 2 feet thick.

‡ Tradition says, that COMHAL fought here, but lost the battle. Some urns with ashes were dug up here lately. In the register of St Andrew's we  
are

we have every reason to believe, that some great men have been buried in this place, and we are certain, that the famous Caledonian bard, OSSIAN, lies here. His tomb is well known, and often visited. It is a coffin of 4 stones set on edge, about 2 feet long, 2 feet deep,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet broad, and over it is laid a great stone, about 8 feet high, and 21 feet in circumference. General Wade's servant discovered it, when making the King's high way.

*Character and Manners, &c.*—The people of this parish may be said to answer the general character of the Scotch; for they are sober, honest, humane, industrious, and respectful to their superiors. They have a reasonable measure of the comforts and conveniences of life, are contented with their lot, attend most regularly upon public worship, and behave with a becoming decency in the house of God. Not one instance of suicide, or of any person belonging to this parish being judicially convicted of any crime, has occurred these 40 years. In general, they dress better than formerly. They meet together at times, and make merry. Their chief amusement at public meetings is dancing; and, upon these occasions, there is a pleasing cheerfulness and innocence among them. They are not however entirely free of superstition. *Lucky* and *unlucky days* and *feet* are still attended to, especially about the end and beginning of the year. No person will be proclaimed for marriage in the end of one year, or even quarter of the year, and be married in the beginning of the next. The power of an *evil eye*, too, is still believed, although

are told, that CONSTANTINE the son of CULLEN was killed by KENNETH, the son of MALCOLM I. at Rathmore, in the year 992. And it is probable he is buried in one of those cairns. HOLLINSHED tells us, that king Culen was killed by EADHARD at Methven castle, almost in the middle of his way to Scone; and Methven signifies mid-way in the Gaelic, and it is situated between Rathmore and Scone.



although the faith of the people in witchcraft is much enfeebled. The people have nothing remarkable in their size, strength, or features. They are generally of the middle size, and of a dusky complexion. There are some, however, 6 feet in height.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The principal disadvantage this parish labours under, is its great distance from fuel. The nearest coal to Monzie is 20 miles distant. The common people burn turf, heath, peats, wood, shrubs, and broom. Last winter, coals were sold here at 3d. a stone; and even in summer, they are 2d. the stone. Another disadvantage is the want of lime; for although it can be got at no great distance, yet the expence of fuel for burning it, renders it useless. Marl is near us, but said not to be very good; besides it is extremely dear, and the farmers would all give the preference to lime. Great advantages, however, are expected from the improvement and extension of the roads. In particular, from that excellent one now opened between Perth and Crieff, and which is intended to be carried forward to Stirling. There are also some other roads in contemplation. Great honour is due to the public spirit and activity of those Gentlemen, in this and the neighbouring parishes, for the attempts they are at present making to discover coal in this part of the country. We hope, by perseverance, these attempts will at last be crowned with success.

## NUMBER XV.

## PARISH OF DALGETY,

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

*By the Rev. Mr PETER PRIMROSE.*

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*Situation and Extent.*

**T**HE parish of Dalgety is situated in the county of Fife, and in the presbytery of Dunfermline. It is bounded by the parish of Aberdour on the East and North, by Inverkeithing on the West, and by a small part of the parish of Dunfermline on the North West: On the South, it is bounded by the Frith of Forth, along which it extends in a straight line about three miles; but as the coast in this place is intersected by many bays, its circuitous extent is considerably more. It is of an irregular form, but approaches nearest to the triangular, being about four miles long from South to North, but its breadth gradually diminishes towards the North, and in some places it scarcely exceeds half-a-mile.

*Soil, Surface, and Produce.*—The soil is various. In some places it consists of a light loam, and is dry; but the greater part

part of the parish consists of a deep strong loam, mixed with clay, naturally wet and stiff, but productive in general of fertile crops. The ground, in most places, rises considerably above the level of the coast; but there are few hills in the parish, and these are neither high, nor much covered with rocks. The surface in some places is covered with heath, and a few little hills with furze: there are also some small mosses and swampy ground; but the space which these occupy is of so little extent, that there is not above a sixth part of the parish which is not arable. The principal crops raised in the parish are wheat, barley, oats, pease, and beans. Potatoes too are cultivated in considerable quantities, and, in some places, partly used for feeding cattle. Turnips are also raised for this purpose, and grow to a considerable size; but, on account of the wetness of the surface, and the injury which the land might sustain in winter, by being cut with horses and carts when they are carried off, they are not generally used. Tares are sometimes sown, and produce abundant crops: Flax is seldom raised but for private use. A great part of the parish consists of grass grounds, which have been laid down in good order, and, when let to graziers, yield considerable rents. From some inclosures, a proprietor has been known to draw 2l. 5s. per acre; but the average rent of the land in grass may be from 1l. 5s. to 1l. 10s. annually, per acre. A considerable number of black-cattle, and about 900 sheep, are usually grazed in the parish.

*Prices of Grain and Provisions.*—The price of wheat and barley is frequently regulated by the fiars of Mid Lothian. Some farmers get the highest fiars for their grain, and others in the Northern part of the parish, where the land is usually of an inferior quality, sell somewhat lower. Few oats are sold in the parish, and the price of oat meal is generally the same

same with that of the Edinburgh market. Though the number of inhabitants is not large in proportion to the extent of the parish, yet, on account of the great quantity of land in grass, besides what is allotted to the production of other crops, the oats raised in the parish are far from being sufficient to supply the consumption of meal. The average price of beef, mutton, and veal, is 4d. the pound, Dutch weight. The price of a hen is from 1s. to 1s. 3d. and chickens are sold from 8d. to 10d. the pair. Butter is usually at 9d. the pound Tiron weight. Cheese varies according to its quality ; but the ordinary kind is 3d. the pound. Eggs are sold at 4d. and in the season of scarcity, at 6d. the dozen. During these two last winters, herrings have been caught in great plenty upon this coast, and the fishermen are encouraged to bring very considerable quantities of them to St David's, a harbour in the parish, both for the purpose of curing, and of supplying the people in the neighbourhood. They prove a very beneficial article of food to this part of the country, and are sold at an easy rate, being frequently at 6d. the hundred of six score. It is thought by many, that shoals of herrings have, for a long time past, come into this Frith in winter, without being generally discovered or looked after ; whether they were in such great quantities as they have been these two years, it is impossible to ascertain : but a fisherman in the neighbourhood, has, for many years, caught some during the spring season, in a net little accommodated for the purpose, from the wideness of its interstices, and which he had spread out near the coast, where there were runs of fresh water, in order to catch salmon trouts. It is therefore much to be wished, that fishermen would be diligent in searching the Frith occasionally every winter, to discover if there are any herrings in it, and upon what part of the coast they principally lie, that they may lose no opportunity of being

ing employed in a fishery at once so profitable to themselves, and so beneficial to the community. Perhaps the offer of a standing premium or bounty to the crews of the first boats, who shall, after a particular season every year, carry a certain quantity caught in the Frith to the Edinburgh market, might prove an useful incentive to their diligence in this respect,

*Number of Proprietors, Tenants, Amount of Rent, &c*—There are three proprietors who possess all the land in the parish, and have houses in it, where some of them usually, and others of them occasionally, reside, viz. the Earl of Moray at Donibristle, Sir John Henderson at Fordel, and Dr Robert Moubray at Cockairny. The two first of these retain in their own hands a considerable part of their estates in the parish, and they have of late highly improved their grounds, and adorned them with thriving plantations. The farm Cockairny is the largest that is let in the parish; and there are eleven others of smaller extent. There are about 190 inhabited houses in the parish, of which only 12 are feus, the rest belonging to the proprietors; and by far the greatest number to Sir John Henderson, for the accommodation of the people employed in working his coal. As a great part of the land in the parish is not at present let, the real rent cannot be ascertained; but its annual value, it is supposed, would amount to 2,000l. Sterling, or upwards. The valued rent, as stated in the cess-roll, amounts, according to the old valuation, to 5394l. Scots.

*Population*.—In 1755 the numbers were rated at 761. By an enumeration lately made, there were 869 persons in this parish, of whom there were

Under



|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Under 10 years of age   | 202   |
| Between 10 and 20       | 163   |
| Above 20 unmarried      | 180   |
| Married persons         | 276   |
| Widowers or widows      | 48    |
|                         | <hr/> |
|                         | 869   |
| Number of souls in 1755 | 761   |
|                         | <hr/> |
| Increase                | 108   |

There are no particular instances of longevity in the parish at present. A few of the oldest inhabitants may be about 80 years of age, and some have lately died, who were supposed to be upwards of 90. In the year 1770, James Spital Esq; of Leuchart died in this parish, reported by some to have arrived at the age of 102 : he had been in the Scotch Parliament; and, for a considerable time before his death, was supposed to be the only surviving member.

*Climate and Diseases.*—In the lower part of the parish, which is upon the coast, it is considerably warmer and milder than in the upper, and the difference is very perceptible when the wind blows from any northern direction; but during the Easterly winds, which particularly prevail in the spring season, it is sharp and cold, almost over the whole parish. The air however is generally dry, and, during the continuance of the East wind, is usually more free from fogs or damp than the shore on the opposite side. There are no diseases that can be said to be peculiar to the inhabitants, or that prevail here more than in the neighbouring parishes. I have observed indeed a few more instances of rheumatism, and other complaints arising from cold, among the colliers, than among the other parishioners, but these are to be attributed, not so much to the climate, as to the damp situations in which they have some times to work. An epidemical dis-

temper

temper, which made its first appearance in the village of Aberdour in summer 1790, and created no small alarm, got into this parish in the autumn, and two or three people died of it; but as the weather turned colder, it became less fatal and infectious, and in the winter it altogether abated. The small-pox sometimes makes great ravages; and it is to be lamented, that the prejudices against inoculation are so strong among the generality of people in this part of the country, that no persuasion can remove them; nor can the evident instances of its salutary effects, often exhibited by the medical gentlemen in this quarter, reconcile them to the practice, even when the disease is gathering ground, and proving very fatal in the natural way.

*Language and Etymology of Names.*—The language commonly spoken in the parish is the Old Scotch dialect, and there seem to be no peculiar words or phrases which are not in general use throughout most parts of the kingdom. The words are pronounced with a broad accent; and I have often heard in this part of the country a sound given to the diphthong oi, which is not, I believe, so usual in other places: it is frequently pronounced as if it consisted of the letters ou, as for *boul* boil, *pount* for point, *vouce* for voice, &c. Many of the names of places are derived from the English, and are expressive of their particular or relative situations, as Hilland, Seafeld, Bankhead, Broomside, Boghead, Crossgate, &c. Others are probably derived from the Gaelic, and denote greater antiquity in regard to their names, as Donibristle, Fordel, Cockairny, Lethem, &c.

*Character of the People.*—The people are in general sober and industrious; and, with a few exceptions, regular in attending, and paying respect to the public institutions of re-

ligion. Though, in regard to the doctrines of Christianity, many of them, as in other places, are yet perhaps too fond of hearing speculative propositions, and abstract reasoning; they also listen with attention to discourses which represent religion as a moral science, whose doctrines and precepts are all calculated for the improvement of the character. It is pleasing to observe that the colliers, who compose a considerable part of the inhabitants of the parish, and who, in former times, were less enlightened and civilized, have, for a long while, been making progress in religious knowledge and moral improvement; and so attentive are they to give education to their children, a duty formerly among this class of people too much neglected, that for many years they have maintained a teacher by subscription, as they are at a great distance from the parochial school.

*Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.*—There is no church but the established one in the parish. The Seceders who reside in it are mostly Burghers, and attend a meeting-house in Inverkeithing. The church is an old building, very much out of repair, and not well adapted, either in respect of construction or situation, as a place of worship for the parish; the situation is peculiarly inconvenient, being upon the coast, and the most populous part of the parish almost at the other extremity. The manse is about a quarter of a mile West from the church: it is also an old house, but there is a prospect that another one will soon be built. The following is a list of the ministers of this parish, as far back as the Session records give information. Mr Andrew Donaldson was settled in 1644. Upon the introduction of Episcopacy into this country, he was obliged to retire, and Mr John Corfar was settled in 1669; Mr John Lumsdaine in 1680, and Mr George Gray in 1687. After the Revolution, Mr Donaldson, though

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at an advanced age, was called to resume his pastoral charge, and continued to officiate as minister here till the time of his death. It is reported, that during the time he was laid aside, which might be about twenty years, he lived in a building on the West end of the church, which is now partly used as a session room, supported by presents from the parishioners, and undisturbed by the above mentioned Episcopal clergymen, which does credit to the steady attachment of the former, and to the liberality and forbearing spirit of the latter, in those times of intolerance and persecution. Mr Archibald Campbell was settled in 1696; Mr William Henderson in 1717; Mr James Bathgate in 1738; Mr John Hoyes in 1778; and, upon his translation to another parish, the present incumbent was settled in 1787. The stipend, by a decret granted in the year 1650, consisted of 67 bolls, 2 firlots, 3 pecks, and 1 lippie of grain, and 37l. 6s. 5  $\frac{4}{12}$ d. Sterling. By an augmentation lately obtained, the stipend is now raised to 115 bolls, 2 firlots, 3 pecks, and 1 lippie of grain, and 42l. 6s. 5  $\frac{4}{12}$ d. Sterling. The glebe consists of about 12 acres. The Earl of Moray is patron. There are two schools in the parish, one established and provided with a salary, the other, as formerly observed, maintained by subscription. With respect to the parochial school, the salary, as in most other places, is too small, being somewhat below 7l. There is indeed a prospect of its being a little increased here, from a voluntary offer lately made; but there is much need of a general increase, not only in humanity, and it may be said justice to such as are engaged in the practice of teaching, but for the sake of those who are to be benefited by their instructions. It must be admitted, that the desire of acquiring independence and fame operates chiefly on the minds of men in regard to the choice of their pursuits in life; and in the improved and improving state of things in this country,  
where

where so many paths lie open to these by following the various arts, it is easy to foresee, that, while the provision allotted to such an useful class of men as school-masters, is in general so small, and inadequate to the purposes of a decent maintenance, few persons of liberal education, and possessed of that spirit which a mind enlarged with knowledge has a tendency to inspire, will turn their views to a profession that may reduce them to straits, and of course sink them into contempt. The difficulty of obtaining proper teachers in country schools begins already to be felt; and it is much to be feared that learning will soon come to decline, if encouragement be not given to fit persons to diffuse and promote its growth. Many who at present submit to this laborious task, cannot earn more than a daily labourer; and must not the rising generation and posterity suffer in an education conducted by those, who may hereafter turn their thoughts to such an ungainful profession? Ignorance, among the bulk of the people, would certainly be attended with the most pernicious effects, and it is to be hoped that all who are interested in the honour and welfare of their country, will have discernment to foresee, and patriotism to guard against, such an evil before it comes to any alarming height: and what can contribute more successfully to this beneficial purpose, than to encourage the diffusion of knowledge by competent rewards?

*State of the Poor.*—There have been usually, of late, 10 or 12 persons upon the poors roll, who receive aid from the weekly collections, and from the interest of 130*l.* arising from legacies appropriated for their support. In the year 1783, the heritors and session bought 60 bolls of oatmeal, part of which was given to families in indigent circumstances, and the rest sold to others that were less needy, at reduced



duced prices, which contributed much to the relief of the parish, during the scarcity which then prevailed.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The parish, as was before observed, extends along the Forth about three miles; and the banks are in many places so beautifully skirted with trees, and diversified with such a variety of prospects, both of nature and art, as present many scenes truly picturesque and sublime. There is also a small loch at Otterston, about a mile from the coast, which for its situation is universally admired; on its banks stand three gentlemen's houses, two of which are still inhabited; and it is so surrounded with rising ground and trees, as to furnish a pleasing miniature scene. There are few antiquities in the parish, and concerning those which are, such as the remains of what is supposed to have been a camp, a Druidical temple, and one of those marks commonly called a *Standing Stone*, there is no consistent tradition, nor certain account. The house of Donibristle was formerly the residence of the Abbot of St Combe, but it has since been greatly enlarged and improved. Opposite to the eastern extremity of the parish, and within a mile of the shore, is the island of St Combe, the description of which, and of the monastery upon it, have been given in the Statistical Account of the parish of Aberdour. The Earl of Dunfermline's seat formerly stood at a little distance from the church of Dalgety, but little of it now remains. The church itself is a very ancient building. The exact period of its erection cannot be ascertained; but there are documents which show that a grant of the ground on which it stands, was made to the Abbot of St Combe, as far back as the 14th century. Additions however have been made to it, which bear the marks of a later date.

*Trade.*—There is no particular branch of trade in the parish, except what arises from the coal and salt works, carried on to a considerable extent on the property of Sir John Henderson. The various branches of these works afford maintenance to several hundred people of one description or other. The greatest part of the coal and salt is exported from St Davids, a spacious harbour situated at the Western extremity of the parish in Inverkeithing bay, where vessels of any burthen, not exceeding 500 or 600 tons, can load in safety. The distance from the pits to the shore is near 4 miles, along which the coals are carried in waggons that contain 48 cwt. It is well ascertained, that this coal has been known and wrought for upwards of 200 years, and a considerable field of it still remains. The surrounding district, lying in the parishes of Dunfermline and Aberdour, contains also many seams of coal of an excellent quality, sufficient it is thought, to supply the usual demand for centuries to come.

NUMBER

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF BALDERNOCK.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNBARTON, COUNTY OF STIRLING, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND Ayr.)

*By the Rev. MR. JAMES COOPER, Minister.*

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*Name.*

**I**N the beginning of the reign of Alexander the II. the lands of Cartonbenach were conveyed to Maurice Galbraith by charter from Malduin Earl of Lennox. Soon after, in the year 1238, we find the same barony granted by a new charter, under the name of *Bathernock*, to Arthur son of Maurice Galbraith, with power to seize and condemn malefactors, on condition that the convicts should be hanged on the Earl's gallows. From the Galbraiths of Bathernock, chiefs of the name, descended the Galbraiths of Culcruich, Greenock, Killearn, and Balgair, which estates have all, except the last, passed, by females, long ago into families of other names. The family of Bathernock ended also in an heiress, and the estate, about the beginning of the 14th century, passed by marriage to David, son of Lord Hamilton, and

and ancestor of the present John Hamilton, Esq; of Bardowie. From that time, the proprietor of the barony appears to have taken the title of Bardowie; and the title of Bathernock (now written Baldernock,) dropped by the family, was probably revived and perpetuated by bestowing it on the parish, when it came to be erected. But when that erection took place, or when the name Bathernock came to be written Baldernock, as at present, is uncertain. If a conjecture may be hazarded with respect to the name, we should rather suppose, that Baldernock was not a new name, but the original one revived, of which Bathernock was a corruption; and that Baldernock is also a corruption of Baldruinich, (*i. e.* Druidstown) it being highly probable, that this was a Druidical place of worship, as will appear from a remarkable monument of Druidism to be mentioned afterwards.

*Situation and Surface.*—It is situated within the county Stirling, in the presbytery of Dunbarton, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr. The surface is various. On the South, where it is bounded by the river Kelvin, there are six or seven hundred acres of rich flat land. The inundations of this river frequently blasted the hopes of the husbandman, by damaging, or sweeping away his luxuriant crops. To prevent such disasters, the proprietors, about 16 or 18 years ago, united in raising a bank upon the brink of the river: but there are seasons still, when it breaks over, or bursts through its barriers, to resume for a little its former desolating sway. From South to North there is a gradual ascent, pleasantly diversified by round swelling hills. The flat ground, before mentioned, is a rich loam; the rising grounds towards the East, are a clayey soil over till; and those towards the West, a light sharp soil over whin rock. On the North side there is some moorish ground, but the greater part of the parish is arable.

arable. Towards the South West lyes Bardowie Loch, covering about 70 acres. In it are plenty of pike and perch, of a good size and quality. The banks are pleasant, upon which is situated the house of Bardowie, within a few paces of the lake.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The air, on the high grounds especially, is extremely salubrious, and the inhabitants healthy. There are no diseases uncommon, or peculiar to the place, nor any, for a long time past, that could be called epidemical, unless we should rank flow fevers under this class. They make their appearance sometimes in the spring, but more frequently in the autumn, and spread through whole families, and from family to family. This is observed to happen chiefly among those whose houses are small, dirty, and not properly ventilated. It is to be regretted that the absurd, and not altogether innocent practice, of exposing themselves and their families, by unnecessary visits to those who have been seized with this infectious disease, but too much prevails. And it is also a subject of just regret, that the prejudice against inoculation of the small-pox still keeps hold of the minds of many in this part of the country. The poor children are thereby exposed to the danger of that disease in what they call the natural way; but the inoculation is equally well entitled to be called the natural way. The one way differs from the other in this only, that, by the inoculation, the infection is, by the tender and prudent care of the parents, communicated in that way which, by long experience, has been found most safe and easy; whereas, without the inoculation, the infection is, by careless and superstitious parents, left to be communicated from their own cloaths after visiting children under the disease, or by accidental intercourse of their children with persons who have the infection about their



cloaths, in that way which experience shows to be most severe and fatal.

*Population, &c.*—In the month of April 1794, the number of families was 137, of persons 620, of whom there are,

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Under 10 years of age | 136 |
| Between 10 and 20     | 133 |
| — 20 and 50           | 242 |
| — 50 and 70           | 98  |
| — 70 and 85           | 11  |

Total 620

There are at present in this parish no instances of remarkable longevity.

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Bachelors from 20 to 40    | 45 |
| — — 40 to 60               | 7  |
| — above 60                 | 2  |
| Widowers from 20 to 60     | 0  |
| — Upwards of 60            | 10 |
| Yearly average of baptisms | 18 |
| — — — Marriages            | 6  |

*Occupations.*—The greater part of the inhabitants of this parish devote their time to that most innocent and most useful of secular employments, the cultivation of the earth. There are 45 farmers, including 12 feuars, who cultivate their own grounds; 36 labourers, 43 male servants, all labourers, 38 female servants, almost all labourers, 10 weavers of household cloth, 1 taylor, 3 shoe-makers, 3 masons, 3 carpenters, 2 millers, 2 gardeners, 2 smiths, 1 engraver, 1 flax-dresser, 4 miners, and one man who exercises the several occupations of weaver, constable, physician, surgeon, apothecary, and man-midwife.

*Character.*—The people are, in general, remarkable for a sober and regular deportment; an advantage, in a great measure,

measure, to be ascribed to their occupation, and to want of manufactures, whose boasted benefits make but a poor compensation for their baneful influence on the morals of the people.

*Rent of the Parish.*—The valuation of the parish is 1744l. Scots. It is not easy to ascertain the real rent, because a number of the proprietors cultivate their own ground ; but it is supposed that it will not be over-rated at 3000l. Sterling. Arable land is rented from 10s. to 2l. per acre : and besides their rent to the landlord, the tenants are generally bound by their tacks to pay all the public burdens upon the lands they possess. Most of their farms are also thirled to a particular mill, and pay, some of them so high as the 16th or 17th part of all the grain which they have occasion to grind ; a discouragement to industry now altogether unnecessary, and which every landholder, who wishes to advance the value of his property, by encouraging the industry of his tenants, ought if possible to remove.

*Mode of Cultivation.*—The farms are in general small, inclosed and subdivided ; and the present race of farmers are supposed to surpass their fathers in skill and industry. Clearing the ground of stones, draining, levelling the inequalities of the surface, straightening the ridges, laying on lime, and guarding against the common mistake of overcropping, may be esteemed the chief improvements. The Scotch plough, drawn by 3, and sometimes by 4 horses, is that in most common use. Oats and barley are the kinds of grain chiefly cultivated. The plough goes little before the beginning of March ; and the farmers seem not anxious to have the sowing of oats finished before the end of April, and the barley before the 20th of May. After liming their ground, they generally take two

crops of oats, and one of barley. With the barley, rye-grass and clover are sown, of which hay is made in the ensuing summer, and sometimes for two summers. They afterwards pasture for two or more years, as they judge requisite to give the ground a sufficient rest, before the same rotation be repeated. In the flat lands, wheat has been tried with success, and has been found to suffer less damage than other crops, by the floods, from which these grounds are, notwithstanding the embankment, not yet effectually secured. Potatoes are raised sufficient for home consumption, and some to spare for the Glasgow market, where they generally draw from 8d. to 1s. per water peck. From the few trials that have been made, there is much encouragement for the cultivation of turnip. The black cattle are mostly small, and the farmers not very attentive to improve the breed of their milk cows.

*Roads.*—The multiplicity of roads renders it impossible, by the conversion of the statute labour, to put them all in a proper state of repair. It deserves therefore the attention of both masters and tenants, how far the improvement of the country, and their own private interest, might be promoted, by shutting up some of the roads that are of least public utility, and by making an extraordinary exertion for a year or two, to put the rest once in good repair, after which the road-money would be sufficient to keep them so. A good turnpike road has lately been made, passing through the skirts of this parish, from the thriving and now populous village of Balfrone to Glasgow. It is thought that, by directing it nearer the centre of this parish, a saving of a mile and a half at least might have been made in a distance of nine miles.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—A good ploughman receives, besides his board, from 5l. to 7l. per half year, and a  
servant

servant woman from 35 to 50 shillings. The common wages of a labourer are 14d. per day ; and when they work at piece work, they generally earn from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per day. They are better cloathed and lodged, and in every respect live more comfortably than those of the same rank, half a century ago. Old people remember that, in their early years, there was not a cow killed for beef by any one in the parish, excepting in gentlemen's families, and by one or two more ; but now there are few families that cannot attain to half a cow at least. The price of all kinds of provisions is nearly the same with that of the Glasgow markets.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—There are 110 families belonging to the Established church, 11 to the Relief, 10 to the Burghers, 2 to the Antiburghers, 3 to the Cameronians, and 1 to the Bereans.

The present incumbent was admitted in 1783. His predecessors, since the Revolution 1688, were Messrs Wallace, Colquhoun, Garrick, and Taylor. The King is patron of the parish. The living consists of 63 bolls of oat-meal, 33l. in money, a manse, and a glebe of 10 acres, whereof 7 are arable. The church has been built at different times. The last enlargement was probably made before the beginning of this century, with a view to accomodate the inhabitants of the lands annexed by decret 1649. The manse was built about 50 years ago, and has undergone several repairs.

*State of the Poor.*—The average number of poor in this parish is about six. They are supported, according to their exigencies, in their own houses, from the weekly collections at the church door, and from the interest of a capital of 420l. which has accumulated by the donations of charitable persons, and from the surplus of the weekly collections. None of the poor of  
this

this parish are disposed to beg, either in this or neighbouring parishes; but much is given away by the inhabitants in alms to beggars which swarm from other places, especially from manufacturing towns and villages.

*Minerals and Fuel.*—This parish abounds in coal and limestone. The coal resembles that of Newcastle, caking together, and making a strong fire, when properly put on, and allowed to rest three or four hours before it be stirred. It is generally found in a stratum of from 3 to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick, between two strata of lime-stones. The upper stratum of limestone is called the *blue lime*, and the lower the *white lime*, which last has generally been esteemed of an inferior quality to the blue. These useful minerals, in places where there is no great thickness of strata above them, are come at by removing the superincumbent soil: but where they lie deep, the coal is wrought first by miners, and afterwards the upper or blue lime is separated from the roof by wedges or gunpowder. The coals are sold at the pit for 3d. per hutch, five of which may be drawn in a cart, by an ordinary horse, and six by an able bodied horse. The only coal in the parish wrought for fuel, is the property of Robert Dunmore, Esq; of Ballindalloch, whose exertions for the improvement of his own estate, and of the country in general, cannot be mentioned with too much praise. He works the lime also to a very considerable extent. Besides his, there are three other limeworks going in the parish, but upon a smaller scale; and there is lime-stone, more or less, through almost all the high grounds. In it are found petrified shells of a variety of kinds, stimulating the conjectures of naturalists concerning the revolutions of this globe. There is abundance of freestone of a good quality for building, and a little iron-stone; but, at the place where it hath been observed, the stratum is so thin



as not to be worth working. A small rivulet in the East end of the parish makes a very plentiful deposition of ochre, which, if proper means were used to collect it, might turn to some account. Peats can easily be procured for fuel, but few of them are used, the coals being found less costly. A considerable quantity of them was formerly required by the farmers for kiln-drying their victual; but by the introduction of kilns with brick heads, they have become less necessary, coals answering the purpose equally well.

*Antiquities.*—Upon the high ground, in a commanding situation, at the North West corner of the parish, stands an old ruinous tower, being all that now remains of the mansion house of the Galbraiths of Bathernock, which appears to have been a large building furrounded with a ditch. Its antiquity must be very considerable, but how great, even tradition does not venture to determine. Not far from thence, to the eastward, are several of those large loose heaps of stones called Cairns, some of them oblong, and others of a circular shape. One of the circular ones, which has not yet been broken up, is about 80 yards in circumference. From two that have been broken up, it appears that they are composed of loose stones carelessly thrown together; but at the bottom are large flags placed on edge, in two parallel rows, at the distance of between 3 or 4 feet, lidded over with flags laid across, the cavity thus formed is divided by partitions into cells of 6 or 7 feet long. In one of the long cairns lately broken up, were found several fragments of a large coarsely fabricated urn, and some pieces of human bones. Tradition says, that in this place, called Craigmadden moor, a battle was fought with the Danes, in which one of their princes was slain. The farm in which these cairns are, is named Bloch-airn, which may be a corruption of Balcairn, *i. e.* the town  
of

of the cairns. But the most curious remain of antiquity in this parish, is a structure called the *Auld wife's lift*. It is situated near a mile North from the church, on very high ground, in a little flat of about 100 paces diameter, surrounded by an ascent of a few yards in height, in the form of an amphitheatre. It consists of three stones only, two of which, of a prismatic shape, are laid along close by each other upon the earth; and the third, which was once probably a regular parallelo-piped, and still, notwithstanding the depredations of time, approaches that figure, is laid above the other two. The uppermost stone is 18 feet long, 11 broad, and 6 deep, placed nearly horizontally with a small dip to the North. Its two supporters are about the same size. It can hardly be matter of doubt, that this is one of those rude structures erected by the Druids in their sacred groves. Its situation, in a very sequestered spot, on an eminence, surrounded by a grove of oaks, stumps of which trees are still visible, corresponds exactly to every description we have of these places of worship. The figure of the stones themselves, and their position, bear a strong resemblance to others which antiquarians have not hesitated to pronounce monuments of Druidism. The name by which they are called seems no small confirmation of the truth of this opinion. A Druidical stone in Ireland, mentioned by Camden, is called the *lifted* stone; and there are some in Poitiers in France, known by the name of *Pierres levées*. But besides that the stones under consideration have the name of lift, which appears to be the general appellation of such Druidical stones, the specific part of their name, viz. *Auld wives*, is easily accounted for, on the same supposition. Upon the authority of Tacitus and Mela, we know that female Druids, generally pretty far advanced in years, lived together in sisterhoods, in sequestered spots, devoting their time to the offices of the Druidical worship.

These

These were by the people held in high esteem, and called *Senæ*, or *venerable women*, words nearly synonymous to the Scots word *Auld wives*. Hence we are induced to conclude, that this is one of those lifted stones, *Pierres levées*; and that it is called the Auldwife's lift, because it was the lifted stone where the *Senæ*, or sisterhood of venerable female Druids residing here, paid their devotions. Upon the supposition, also, that this was a seat of the Druid worship, we have suggested to us a very probable etymology of the name of the parish. *Bal*, in the Gaelic language signifies *town*, and *Druinich*, of or belonging to the Druids. The present name, Baldernock, is not a greater corruption of Baldruinich, *i. e.* Druidstown, than might be expected in the lapse of eighteen hundred years.

## NUMBER XVII.

## PARISH OF LONGSIDE.

DISTRICT OF BUCHAN, COUNTY OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF DEER, AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.

*By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM GREIG, Minister.*

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*Situation and Extent.*

THE parish of *Longside* is situated in that district of Aberdeen-shire called *Buchan*. It is an irregular square, of about 5 English miles, and is bounded, on the North, by the parishes of Old Deer and Lonmay; on the East, by those of St. Fergus and Peterhead; on the South by Cruden; and on the West by Old Deer. It is, like Buchan in general, very level; there being no hill of any consequence in the parish. As a proof of this, it may be mentioned, that the Ugie, which divides it in the direction of W. and E. frequently overflows the adjoining ground to a very considerable extent, from almost one side of the parish to the other; and, in the hands of our neighbours in the Netherlands, would be embanked like the Maese or the Rhine. This has suggested

suggested the idea of a canal along its banks, from its mouth near Peterhead, to the village of Old Deer ; a distance of about 10 miles. The plan might be executed at a very inconsiderable expence ; and would contribute much to the improvement of a very valuable district. It is, in general, a light soil, easily improved, and lying at the distance of only from 4 to 9 miles from Peterhead, enjoys almost every advantage for the exportation of its produce, and the importation of lime, coals, and other necessary articles.

The present state of the parish, as well as its susceptibility of farther improvement, may be inferred from the following particulars :

*Population.*—It contains, according to a very accurate list, taken by the writer of the present article, in the end of the year 1790 and beginning of 1791, 1792 inhabitants\*.

Of these 817 are males, and 975 are females.

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Under 10 years of age there are | 270 |
| From 10 to 20                   | 334 |
| From 20 to 50                   | 743 |
| From 50 to 70                   | 323 |
| From 70 to 100                  | 122 |

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1792

They are divided into 473 families ; which is not quite 4 to a family. Of these families, about 100 are employed in *farming* ; 60, as *weavers* ; 100 as *spinners of flax, and wool-combers*, &c. from 40 to 50, as *day-labourers*. Nearly 40 are poor families, occasionally supplied from the public funds of

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the

\* By Dr Webster's Report in 1755, I find that the number of inhabitants was 1979, or nearly 200 more than the above. As no satisfactory reason can be assigned for this diminution, from the history of the parish, I am inclined to think that the account sent to the Doctor must have been inaccurate.



the parish. The remainder are masons, taylor, &c. &c. Almost all have a few acres of ground, which they cultivate, at the same time that they pursue their other occupations. From this circumstance, it may be inferred, that the different branches of labour above enumerated are still in an unimproved state. Some approaches, however, towards a regular division and simplification of labour have been made of late; particularly at *Nether Kimmundy*; which will be mentioned afterwards.

From an inspection of the register of births, marriages, and deaths, for 6 years, from the year 1783, it appears that the average of baptisms, during that period, is 29; that the male births are to the female as 4 to 3; that the average of parishioners married in the above period, is only 21; that the average of burials is 20; that the whole number of interments, including persons brought from neighbouring parishes, is 208; whose ages amount to 9444 years; and that of consequence the average of an age is somewhat more than 45.

*Agriculture.*—When I say that 100 families and upwards are employed in farming, or that there are 100 farms in the parish, it will readily be inferred that many of these farms must be small: And when this is the case, it is impossible that lands can be improved to any considerable extent. Many of them are what are called crofts; which do not admit of the tenants having a plough. Two, or three, and sometimes four, are obliged to join for this purpose: which is, in other words, saying, that the work is ill-performed, and at a great expence of time and labour. No simplification of the different branches of agriculture can be accomplished in a very small scale: And yet, when this is not done,—when one man must do 8 or 10 different sorts of work, little knowledge

or

or dexterity can be expected on his part, and little profit on the part of the employer. The number of acres in the parish amount to about 12,000, (rented for little more than 2000*l.* Sterling) of which above 7000 are at present in a state of cultivation; 1800 are mofs, (a considerable part of it very deep) only 257 are planted; and the remainder is uncultivated. Though there is but a small proportion which is not susceptible of cultivation, yet, owing to the improper modes of agriculture adopted, perhaps 3000 bolls of oat-meal and bear are all that are exported annually; and the whole produce not much above 7000 bolls. Supposing the attention of farmers and proprietors confined to the 7000 acres above-mentioned, and no more than 3500 to be under a grain crop; from 15,000 to 20,000 bolls, at least, might be reasonably expected under a judicious plan of management. A person interested in the welfare of the country must be hurt, when he remarks the state of our corn farming; fields ploughed, from which scarcely twice the seed can be expected, and species of grain sometimes growing, which require two bolls to produce one of meal. Nor will he be less hurt, when he remarks the necessary consequences of this management with regard to hay and pasture; extensive ranges of country, where these ought to be found in great abundance, yielding a scanty subsistence to a few sheep.

The parish is divided among six heritors. Nearly the half belongs to one of them †. And by granting no leases for many years past, he has at present much in his power, with regard to new-modelling his farms, and putting them upon a proper footing. With this view, he has paid particular attention to the different modes of farming, both in England and in the South of Scotland. But to introduce so complete a change as either of these modes, all at once, (if at all practicable)

† Mr FERGUSON of Pitfour, Member of Parliament for the County.

ticable) is attended with great difficulties : and gradual reformation is perhaps here, as well as in most other departments of human labour, the preferable plan.

From the observations already made, it is evident that we stand much in need of improvement. If the small farms could be united, and many of the present possessors of them converted into day-labourers, under tenants who could afford them constant employment ; and if a few tenants from the Southern counties, of substance and knowledge, were encouraged to settle, as patterns to our native tenants ; both classes would be benefited, and live infinitely better than these do at present. Proprietors ought at least to have this in view, if they wish to see their estates improved, or the tenants on them comfortable. It admits of proof, notwithstanding the complaints which we frequently hear of the difficulty of finding servants, and of the unjust preference which is given to manufactures, that there are inhabitants sufficient in the country for the purposes of its improvement, if a certain indolence and want of spirit (which is one of the characteristic features in the lower ranks in this part of the kingdom) could, by proper motives and encouragements, be removed : And this depends on landlords, and on the choice which they make of tenants.

Besides the 3000 bolls of grain already mentioned, about 300 black cattle are exported annually ; and butter, cheese, and eggs, to the amount of about 1000*l.* Sterling. The prices of the last mentioned articles are from 6*d.* to 8*d.* for 20 ounces of butter ; from 3*s.* to 4*s.* for the stone of cheese ; and from 2*d.* to 6*d.* for the dozen of eggs.

*Manufactures.*—This branch of industry has made very considerable progress in the parish within these few years. Besides the spinning of flax to a very considerable amount for the

the thread-manufactures in Peterhead, a manufacture of *Woollen cloth* at *Nether-Kinmundy* (the property of Francis Garden of Troup, Esq;) has, of late, become very considerable for an infant manufacture. It is conducted by *Messrs Thomas & Robert Kilgour*, and deserves to be particularly mentioned.

About 40 families are employed by them constantly; to whom they give houses and gardens. But far the greater number whom they employ, are scattered in this and the neighbouring parishes, and work for the company only occasionally. The articles manufactured here are narrow cloths, from 2s. 3d. to 5s. per yard; and jemmys from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 6d. per yard. They are used mostly at home. For the higher priced sort of narrow cloths, the demand is daily increasing. Men, thus employed, earn from 4s. to 10s. a-week; and women from 1s. 6d. to 3d. And in this manner about 2000l. Sterling is disbursed annually. It is with pleasure the writer of the present article adds, from his own observation, as well as from the express testimony of their employers, that both men and women are peaceable, sober, and attentive. As a proof of this, it deserves to be mentioned, that during the space of 15 years, not a single person has been dismissed. Living in a healthy county, and not crowded together, as in towns; and having, moreover, all gardens for the employment of their spare hours, they, in general, enjoy good health, and have numerous families. Of late, the labour of carding, teasing, &c. has been much facilitated by the introduction of machinery moved by water. The raw materials are brought from the N. of England, and not unfrequently from the London market.

*Religious Sects and Principles.*—Public institutions, whether religious or civil, are fertile sources of moral principles.

In

In this parish, neither our civil, nor our ecclesiastical establishments have been without their effect. The inhabitants are peaceable and good subjects; and the spirit of our religion is, in general, understood and felt to be, what it ever ought to be, a support to sound morality. An opposition between speculation and practical religion, is a common error among the more unenlightened ranks of every country. Its influence is in some degree felt here. But a more rational spirit seems to be gaining ground. With regard to *forms*, and opinions of *secondary* importance, the parish has been long divided; and where this happens, some degree of illiberality is to be looked for. In the year 1790, the writer of this article found 908 belonging to the Established Church; 723 belonging to the Episcopal Church of Scotland, and 85 to the Church of England; 63 were Seceders; 6 were Roman Catholics; and the remainiug 7 were either insane, or belonged to no religious community. But, in general, all these sects maintain a peaceable and friendly intercourse with one another. It might gratify curiosity, and illustrate some of the leading principles in human nature, to trace the operation of those causes which have concurred to produce so great a number of Episcopalians in this and in some of the neighbouring parishes. But such an enquiry would swell this part of the Statistical Account too much. It may be observed, in general, that, as the lower ranks are incapable of forming religious creeds, which can stand the test, even of their own reflections, for any length of time, we must look for the causes of a long established attachment to opinions and forms, in the influence of authority, interest, and habit. If opposition and persecution unhappily lend their aid to that influence, impartiality is generally banished, and the effect becomes much stronger.

Peer



*Poor.*—The fund for the support of the *poor*, arises from the weekly collections, and the interest of a small sum, begun by charitable donations, and encreased by an œconomical management, particularly during years when the necessities of life were easily acquired; about 20 l. Sterling is distributed annually among about 30 families, but is, by no means, found sufficient to assist industry in procuring a comfortable subsistence :—With no other view ought money to be given; and with this, a very small sum will do more service than ten times its value, when it is depended on as a substitute for industry. Of the 20 l. above mentioned, 5 l. Sterling is given annually by one of the heritors\*; and the distribution of it is confined to the poor on his own estates :—A practice which deserves to be imitated; particularly in a parish where, in the present case, there is not a single resident heritor to attend to the wants of the poor in extraordinary cases. *N. B.* The members of the episcopal congregation support their own poor.

*Manse, Stipend, School, &c.*—The parish of Longside was erected in the year 1620, from the parishes of Peterhead and Crimond; with which last mentioned parish there seems to have been formerly a communication in the N. E. corner, where now the parishes of St Fergus and Lonmay meet each other. The original stipend was 120 l. Scots, and 400 merks of vicarage-teinds, which are still drawn by the minister, but do not produce above 260 merks. In 1668, it was augmented with 4 chalders of grain; and, in 1791, with 3 chalders more, and 60 Scots for communion elements. At the time of the last mentioned augmentation, an application was made to have the *vicarage teinds* converted, on account of the deficiency above mentioned, and the disagreeable

\* Mr Ferguson above alluded to.

cumstances attending their collection (circumstances frequently incompatible with the usefulness of a clergyman,) but failed.

The family of Marischall, which had formerly very considerable property in the parish, were the original patrons; probably in consequence of the canonical rule; *Patronum faciunt, dos, ædificatio, fundus*. The right of presenting is now annexed to the Crown. The present incumbent has no manse, but receives in lieu of it an annuity from the heritors. The original church still remains; but has been repaired at different times.

Under this head, the situation of the school ought to be mentioned; as being (the writer of the present article would gladly hope) singular. The salary is only *nine bolls of meal*; which the schoolmaster has to collect from the tenants in very small quantities, and of consequence at a great loss. The emoluments arising from teaching, owing to the very low price of education, (for the schoolmaster is acknowledged to be well qualified for his office) are, at an average of eight years, 4 l. 6s. 7d. a year. Perquisites arising from his offices, as precenter and clerk to the session, do not exceed 4 l. Sterling. Of consequence, his whole living does not amount to more than 12 l. Sterling annually; a sum not equal to the wages of an ordinary farm-servant. When it is considered of how much consequence it is to society (particularly, at a period when the principles of the lower ranks are of infinitely more consequence to its welfare than ever they were before,) to have persons properly qualified for the education of youth appointed in the different parishes, the circumstances above mentioned seem to demand attention from heritors, and others whom the law authorises to provide for the proper maintenance of schoolmasters.

*Planting.*—The want of woods and shelter in this corner of Aberdeenshire, is one of the circumstances which seems to operate most powerfully to its disadvantage, in the opinion of our southern neighbours. Such extensive tracts of country as those of Cruden, Longside, Peterhead, &c. without either trees or hedges to diversify the landscape, are, to be sure, not very gratifying to the eye. And this sameness is the more to be regretted, that the fields are far from conveying the idea of barrenness, and that nature by no means intended them to be thus naked and unprotected. It is very evident that Buchan was, some centuries ago, remarkably well wooded. Its extensive moorlands contain the remains of very magnificent trees. No good reason, therefore, can be assigned for *the same sorts of wood* not thriving in it again, if judiciously managed. But few attempts (comparatively speaking) have been made to renew its woods; and those which have been made, have in general been confined to the hilly and most barren parts of the country; where the plants have not only had no shelter, but little soil to bring them forward. It deserves attention, that in the moorlands, where so many trunks of large trees are every year dug up, none of the Scotch firs are ever found. Yet this is the tree which has generally been planted. It commonly rises to a sufficient height to afford shelter to other plants; and this seems to be all that ought to be expected. There are several instances in the parish, of the ash, the plane, the birch, laburnum, larch, spruce, and even the oaks thriving well, if we make allowance for the disadvantages under which they labour, with regard to shelter. The only plantation of any consequence in the parish, is one of about 250 acres; to which the above observations are very applicable. When the interstices between the Scotch firs shall be filled up with other trees more suited to

the different soils, and some of the wet places drained, (which is the intention of the proprietor,) some hopes may be entertained of his success in wiping off the reproach of nakedness from this part of the parish.

*Leases and Rents.*—I have already mentioned, that a considerable part of the parish is held without leases. The tenants, who have any, generally have life-rent ones; and scarcely any have more than 19 years. When this circumstance is considered, and at the same time the smallness of the farms, the backward state of improvement will be easily accounted for. The rents are generally paid in meal and money; besides which, there still remain some reliques of the ancient feudal servitudes, under the name of customs; such as the payment of peats, poultry, a certain number of day-labourers, &c.

*Moss.*—From the great extent of moss, it will readily be inferred that fuel is to be had in great abundance. In general it is so. But when it is considered, how much of the best season of the year is spent in preparing it, how difficult it is to be obtained in rainy seasons, and how ill provided particular estates are with this necessary article; the wise policy of repealing the late high duties on coals will appear evident.

*Natural History.*—Under the head of natural history, may be mentioned various sorts of *granite*, with which the parish abounds. A very beautiful species of a dark blue colour is found in the N. E. corner of it, which appears to great advantage in a very elegant house building by one of the heritors

tors \* at Cairness, in the parish of Lonmay. Another species of a lighter colour, but also very beautiful, is found at Cairngall; frequent specimens of which are to be seen in London and other parts of England. Of both species very large pieces are frequently cut out, fit for pillars of 12 and 15, and sometimes 20 feet high. Their hardness, however, renders them unfit for any, except the plainer orders of architecture.

*Diseases.*—About 3 years ago, the putrid sore throat cut off a good many (principally young persons); in some instances 4 out of a family. Gravelish complaints are also frequent, which perhaps may, in some measure, be attributed to the great quantities of beer used, and to the little pains taken in preparing it. Rheumatisms, too, are common. Frequent fogs in the summer, arising from the low wet grounds and mosses in the parish, and sudden changes of weather, occasioned by our peninsular situation between the German Ocean, on the one hand, and the Murray Frith, on the other, seem to point out their causes. But notwithstanding these mementos of frailty, the climate, on the whole, may be termed healthy. And though no very extraordinary instances of longevity can be mentioned, few parishes can produce a greater number of persons above the age of fourscore.

*History.*—This article would be almost entirely confined to the history of private families, and of the changes which landed property has undergone in the parish (circumstances too minute and uninteresting, to merit a place in a Statistical Account of a country) did not one part of it give some indications of its having been the scene of *public and national contest*.

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\* Charles Gordon of Bughlaw, Esq;



This is the part of the parish where it joins Cruden. On the declivity of a hill, which separates the two parishes, there are still visible a great number of *tumuli*, or small cairns, in which are found square apartments, formed by rough stones, of from 18 inches to 2 feet, and containing ashes or red earth. At a small distance from these, and nearly on the highest part of the hill, is a cairn of a much larger size, of an elliptical form, and measuring in circumference about 400 feet at its base. It is well known by the name of *Cairn Catto*; and some traditionary legends connect its history with similar cairns in the parish of Cruden, and in some of the neighbouring parishes, along the Murray Frith, as well as with the idea of a foreign invasion. At the bottom of the hill are some springs, known by the name of the *Kemp*, or *Camp-wells*; and a little farther to the West, on the opposite rising ground, is a field, which still bears the name of the *Battle-fauld*.

*Language.*—The Buchan dialect has been long famous for the want of that neatness of articulation, and of that elegance of sound and accent, by which the Southern and more cultivated nations have characterised their respective languages. In proportion as language becomes more refined, the uncouth *guttural* is either entirely excluded, or very much softened. In the English and French, and indeed in all the Southern languages, it is not to be found. In German, Dutch, and Scotch, and the other northern dialects of Europe, it is constantly recurring, and seems to point out their common origin, independent of etymology. But where any attention has been paid to the cultivation of these dialects, the guttural and harsh sounds of the *g* and *ch*, have been almost entirely done away, and either softened into the resemblance of *j*, or hardened into that of *k*. Any person will be sensible of this, who

who has heard the pronounciation of Dutch from the mouth of a well educated Dutchman ; and still more, if he has attended the theatre at Dresden or Leipfic. In this corner we retain all the broadness of articulation, and, I am sorry to add, all the vulgarity of idiom, metaphor, and accent, which is to be met with in any part of the world. And it is probable that we shall retain these peculiarities of language longer than most places equally distant from the capital ; because, except the resort of strangers to Peterhead, during the water-season, few visit us ; and, of consequence, little of that intercourse is enjoyed, by which language is so materially affected. If the degree of mental cultivation in a country be commensurable by the state in which a language is found, (which is not a very uncommon rule) then we must not state our pretensions very high. But the phrase, mental cultivation, is not very definite ; and many minds might be pointed out, to whose improvement their language would be a very imperfect index. That selection of agreeable metaphors, and that polish of articulation and accent, which are too often considered as the most essential ingredients in good language, are rather the effect of a cultivated taste, than of a cultivated understanding. And though we may be obliged to give up the former, it is not necessary, on that account, to give up all pretensions to the latter. On the contrary, the parish contains a body of men very respectable for their knowledge and education, if their circumstances and pursuits in life be properly attended to.

*Provincial Character.*—The character of the inhabitants of Buchan, in general, seems to differ considerably from that of the inhabitants of the other counties, and even of the other districts of the same county. They have not their liveliness of imagination, nor their warmth of feeling. They seem to  
occupy

occupy a place in the scale of national character nearer the phlegm of Dutchmen, than the other inhabitants of Scotland in general. The writer of the present article was forcibly struck with this observation, when he first settled in the parish; and its truth has been confirmed by a few years experience. He has frequently attempted to account for it. Although political institutions have a greater influence on general character than almost any other cause, yet the appearance of a country operates with an uniform and unceasing, and therefore with a very powerful effect on the minds of its inhabitants. And it is to this cause that the peculiarity of character above-mentioned may, perhaps, in a great measure, be ascribed. A constant uniformity in the appearances of nature around us, gives no scope for that violent agitation, which so frequently takes place in the breasts of Swifs and Scotchmen, when they contemplate their mountains, their woods, and their precipices. Our mental constitution, therefore, naturally settles into a species of uniformity, analogous to the country which we inhabit; and the less elevated and romantic emotions, raised by interest and mutual intercourse, take the lead in forming the character. Such seems to be the case with the inhabitants of this corner of Scotland. The consequences are, fewer characters very strongly marked, and more difficulty in changing mental habits. In this respect, there exists a strong similitude between the character of the boors in Holland, and that of the peasants in this part of Scotland. The latter, however, possess a greater share of general knowledge; the former a far more intimate and accurate acquaintance with their own particular department. It is between these two classes that a comparison, with regard to provincial and national character, can be instituted with the greatest propriety. Because  
knowledge

knowledge and extensive intercourse generally bring the higher ranks nearly to a level in all countries ; except in a few particulars, which are not very essential to character. It will be readily perceived that this is a subject perfectly distinct from that of moral and religious character, which is mentioned in another part of the present article.

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NUMBER.

## NUMBER XVIII.

UNITED PARISHES OF SOUTH  
RONALDSAY AND BURRAY.(PRESBYTERY OF ORKNEY, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ORK-  
NEY.)*By the Rev. Mr JAMES WATSON, Minister.*

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*Situation and Extent.*

SOUTH Ronaldsay is a populous island in the most southern extremity of the county of Orkney, about 6 miles long and 3 miles broad, in which there are two parishes, called South parish and North parish of South Ronaldsay. It probably derives its name from Ronald, a Danish Count, and South is prefixed to distinguish it from North Ronaldsay, the most northern island in Orkney. South Ronaldsay is bounded by the Pentland Firth on the South and West, by the German Ocean on the East, and by the Ferry of Water Sound, about a mile broad, which divides it from Burray, on the North. There is a small island, about a mile long, and half a mile broad, called Swinna, lying near the middle of the Pentland Firth, containing 21 souls, which makes a part of the South parish South Ronaldsay. It is separated from South Ronaldsay



say by a branch of the Pentland Firth, through which ships of any burden may pass. Swinna is a barren inhospitable island, exposed on all sides to the utmost rage of the Pentland Firth. What probably induced any person at first to dwell in it, was the hope of high wages from pilotage. Though, at new and full moon, the tide runs against this island at the rate of nine miles an hour, yet there are few instances of wrecks on it: For the resistance which the rocks give to the violence of the large current, produces a small current running along its shore to each end of the island: Thus, it gives to many a trembling mariner a most agreeable disappointment. When the strong large tide carries him so near, that he every moment expects his bowsprit to strike against the rocks, and his vessel to fall to pieces under him, he is delightfully surprised to feel a current coming from Swinna, which turns him about in a moment, and safely conducts him round its terrifying rocks.

*Burray* is an island about 4 miles long and one mile broad, bounded by Water Sound on the South; Holm Sound, 3 miles broad, which separates it from the parish of Holm, on the North; and the German Ocean on the East. These parishes are a part of the presbytery of Kirkwall, and synod of Orkney. Besides the three inhabited islands above mentioned, there are, within the bounds of these parishes, three uninhabited green islands called Glemsholm, Horda, near Burray, and Pentland Skerry, about 6 miles South from South Ronaldsay, near the middle of the East end of the Pentland Firth. On these isles, each of which is about a mile long, and half a mile broad, sheep and cattle are fed. There is a light-house to be erected this year on the Pentland Skerry, which will unquestionably be attended with manifold advantages to the shipping, coming to the Pentland Firth, through

which, it is computed, there pass, at an average, nine vessels daily. Near this Pentland Skerry, there are two or three other skerries or rocks, on which there is not nourishment for any tame living creature.

*Soil and Produce.*—The arable ground in these isles is situated along the shores. The soil in Swinna is shallow, composed of some black earth, gravel, and sand. The soil of Burray may, in general, be called a light dry sand, mixed in a few places with some coarse clay. In the month of July, the bear and oats in it promise a rich crop; but in August or September, when the ear demands a greater degree of nourishment, it is refused; the consequence of which is, that the grain is ill filled, small, and hungry. But in no part, perhaps of the kingdom, can there be seen a richer or more beautiful crop of natural grass mixed with white and red clover. Potatoes, turnips, pease, onions, carrots, cabbages, grow on it to great perfection. It is the sole property of Sir Thomas Dundas, and it is let in tacks to his factor, who has very much improved his breed of cattle, by raising a great abundance of as excellent turnips as can be found in Scotland. Glimsholm, and particularly Burray, abounds with rabbits. It is computed, that they produce annually about 2000 skins. The soil of South Ronaldsay is extremely various in different parts of the island, and even different in the same field. It consists of clay, black loams, sand, and moss. In some places, the soil is of an excellent quality, but almost every where shallow. In all the Orkney isles, the plough generally touches a rocky or gravelly bottom. For want of inclosures, there is no sown grass:—But large quantities of ground have, from time immemorial, been left to produce natural grass, on which the horses and cattle are tied throughout the summer,

mer, a part being reserved for natural hay, which is used in winter and spring.

*Present State of Agriculture* —In these isles farming is in a very rude state indeed. The hand of art gives little assistance to that nature. Almost every farmer is a fisher, and a kelp manufacturer. The same man may be seen, in a July morning, carrying earth to his dunghill; in the forenoon, catching fish in the sea; and, in the afternoon, burning kelp on the shore. Some of the poorest people dig their ground with a bit of iron about 3 inches broad, fixed on the end of a long stick. Fallowing is not used: there is no change of seed: there is no proper rotation of crops. Small bear or big, and black oats, have been sown alternately on the same field for several hundred years. The seed-oats never enter into a riddle, but are held up to the wind either in a man's hands, or in a creel, called a cosie, made of straw. The bear seed is put through a riddle, but the small grains are not separated from it with any degree of care. Every farmer has a ridge of potatoes, which he plants with skill, and weeds with great care; and he is abundantly repaid. One half of his farm is sown with oats, which being generally full of weeds, gives a very poor return; the other half with bear, which, being manured with plenty of rich farm dung or sea-weed, yields a tolerable crop. The plough has two stils, and is drawn by four horses yoked in pairs. Many of the farmers use harrows with wooden teeth, which are drawn not diagonally, but with the broad side foremost, by a rope fixed in the middle of the harrow. The plough, which is so light that a man can lift it in his hand with ease, turns the ground very imperfectly. It requires all the ploughman's strength to keep it in the ground. And the force which he  
applies.

applies for this purpose, occasions as hard a pull to the horses as if the plough was of a heavier make. If two or three horses or oxen be yoked in the harrows, there is a person appointed to lead each horse or ox. Sometimes the horses, and sometimes the women, carry out on their backs, in creels made of straw, called casies, the dung to the fields. Though the post goes weekly South and North through these parishes of Ronaldsay and Burray, yet there never was a road made in either. Of consequence few carts are used. It is no uncommon thing to see six persons with six horses, carrying to the mill three bolls of bear.

The tenants in general are tenants at will. South Ronaldsay belongs to 33 different proprietors, few of whom reside in it. In the mixture of their property, there is a kind of regular confusion, which bids defiance to inclosures, and stifles the very idea of improvement. In winter, the horses and cattle wander through, and poach the fields, and many hundreds of hogs are digging holes and ditches in them, and in the meadow ground, by night and by day. Some farmers in Burray sowed some of their fields about two years ago with oats, without any other ploughing than what they received from the noses of the hogs. And they were of opinion, that as it was a light sandy soil, they had a better crop, and fewer weeds, than if they had turned it up with the plough. The season for sowing oats is generally in April, for bear in May; and they are reaped in September and October. Amidst all the errors in farming already mentioned, there is one practice in harvest prevails in these parishes, which the writer gladly begs leave to recommend to the attention of those in the Highlands of Scotland, or wherever the crop is in danger of being rotted by rain; and it is this: every sheaf, after it is cut, is bound, and set on its end, in a kind of triangular position, the crop broke gently down; if they

they are tumbled over by a gale of wind, they are set up as before ; when tolerably dry, they are put together in one, two, or three thraves, more or less, according to the dryness, and built on the field in the same round form, as in the barn-yard, but more loosely, for admitting air ; on the top they are placed very compact, and fastened to each other, to prevent their falling. By these means, the invention of necessity, in a damp, rainy climate, an Orkney farmer, though it should have rained in the forenoon, can carry his grain from his field to his barn-yard in the afternoon ; and he often does it with safety.

*Climate.*—It admits of no doubt that small isles, in such a high latitude, are blessed with a pure air, and a wholesome climate. Of consequence, the inhabitants enjoy perhaps a better state of health, without the physicians aid, than those of Mid-Lothian or Middlesex. The climate of Orkney differs not much from that of other places on the East and North East coast of Scotland, but owing to some local causes, it is more uncertain and variable. For three months in summer the weather is generally settled, and the sea serene. Every creature by land and water is in motion, and appears happy. In June, the rays of the sun seem unwilling to depart. They retire not above half an hour. At this season, when the sun dips into the Atlantic, the appearance of numerous rocks and isles scattered through the ocean, the motion of boats and ships innumerable, thousands of cattle grazing on the land, and many more thousands of fishes, great and small, jumping in the water, presents a scene truly delightful, and awfully grand. But sometimes, in August or September, a strong gale of wind suddenly changes this scene into sadness. The same force of wind, which, in the interior parts of Scotland, produces no bad effect, is, among  
narrow



narrow islands, washed on all sides by the German and Atlantic oceans, attended with material injury to boats, ships, and the growing corn. The sea, arising from its bed, dashes against the rocks:—the winds waft its spray over the surface of the isles:—and thus the crop, *Bonum Labores*, the husbandman's support and hope throughout the year, is blasted in an hour. Boats are overset, ships are wrecked, and the hardy mariners perish.

White are the decks with foam, the winds aloud  
Howl o'er the masts, and sing through every shroud;  
Pale, trembling, tir'd, the sailors freeze with fears,  
And instant death on every wave appears.

Lands on a West or South West exposure are most liable to damages from this cause. After a storm of this kind, the stalk of oats or bear whitens, consumes, and dies. But if the storm has not been very violent, and if it be immediately succeeded by rain, many of the stalks recover their colour, and part of their former vigour. Even the natural grass escapes not altogether unhurt. There is less frost and snow, and a more equal temperature, as to heat and cold, in Orkney, than can be found perhaps in any other county of Scotland.

*Harbours.*—Widewall bay lies on the West side of South Ronaldsay, and has a good opening to the Pentland Firth and to Stromness. Ships of 500 or 600 tons burden, particularly those from the Baltic, Westward bound, frequently ride in it with safety. On the North end of the same island, there is another harbour, called St Margaret's Hope, which, for small vessels, is one of the safest and best in the kingdom. It is much frequented by lobster smacks, belonging to Mr Selby and Co. London, and to the Northumberland Fishing Society. For a considerable time past, different English Companies have prosecuted this fishery, and, strange to tell! it is  
the

the only fishery that is prosecuted in Orkney. This fishing generally begins in March, and continues until June; begins again in October, and continues until December. Orkney-men are employed to catch the lobsters, and the smacks call weekly to receive them. They cannot be caught in the day time. Two men in a small boat, in the night, may catch from 50 to 100, more or less, each night, and they receive for each 7 farthings. This fishery unquestionably brings money into the country; but as the fishers are employed in it a part of the year, and learn, during the other part of it, habits of idleness and extravagance, it is, upon the whole, doubtful whether it be useful or not to the country.

*High Rocks and Curious Stones.*—In South Ronaldsay there are three headlands or rocks, presenting a bold front to the ocean, called Barfick Head, on the west side; Halero Head and Stores Head, on the east side, each about 250 feet perpendicular above the level of the sea. There is a small stone erected in Sandwick, another near Stores, and a large one near the manse, about 14 feet high, 2 feet broad, and 8 inches thick. About these stones conjecture is silent, and even tradition tells not a lie.

*Antiquities.*—The Roman Catholic Religion had once a firm footing in these isles. In those days, South Ronaldsay was the deanery of Orkney, and its clergyman provost of the cathedral. There are yet to be seen in this island the ruins of 7 old chapels. It is believed that some of them were erected by mariners, who, despairing of life in tempests at sea, vowed to build a church on their arrival at the first harbour.

At the chapel near St Margaret's Hope, burnt earth and stones, pieces of deer's horns, and human bones, have been

frequently dug up. There are also some remains of Pictish houses, and watch-towers, in different parts of the island. But, in treating on this subject, the inquisitive mind every where meets with darkness visible.

*Mill.*—There is plenty of good spring well water in these parishes, but not so abundant as to form a lake or river. About 5 or 6 months yearly, the mills are supplied with water by rain from the heavens. There is one water mill in Burray; but that island is so dry that it is seldom able to grind much of the subtenants grain. For this purpose, they must cross over seas; and, to comfort them in this labour, they must pay multure at the mill where they grind, and also at their own, where they cannot grind. There are 4 water mills in South Ronaldsay, at which the 12th part of oats, and the 14th of bear, are paid. The two wind-mills, lately erected in it, grind bear only, and are paid with the 16th part. Kelp is made from the weeds which grow below the flood water mark, of which there are 4 different species, technically named, and accurately distinguished, by Linnæus. As the sea ebbs, these weeds are cut with hooks, carried above the flood water mark on barrows, and, after being spread and dried, they are burnt in a round hole dug in the earth, built about with stones. The substance extracted by burning from these weeds, in its liquid state, somewhat resembles tar, or melted lead. When cool, it becomes hard as the solid rock. It is used in the manufacture of soap, allum, coarse and fine glass, &c. There are about 125 tons of kelp made annually in these parishes. This is a valuable source of wealth to these isles; and could a method be found out, during the burning operation, to preserve the kelp in a sound state, and at the same time free from impure mixtures of earth, sand, and stones, it would very considerably extend its use, and enhance

hance its price. This is a great desideratum, for which Orkney ought to give a thousand guineas as a premium.

*Ecclesiastical State of these Parishes.*—Sir Thomas Dundas of Kerse, Baronet, is patron. There is a new manse and offices building, by the authority, and under the direction of the Court of Session. The church of the South parish was rebuilt about 5 years ago. The church of Burray needs some repair. The North parish church walls have for several years stood without a roof, exposed to all the winds of heaven. There never was a parochial school in the charge.

Lady Charlotte Dundas has, within these last seven years, with a liberal humanity, exerted herself to promote some useful plan of education. For this purpose, she has repeatedly sent quantities of writing paper, and a variety of well chosen books to the minister, to be distributed among the poor and ignorant. William Jamison, Esq; a native of South parish South Ronaldsay, who went about 34 years ago to Hudson's Bay, where he still resides as a factor for the Company, wrote last year to Andrew Graham, Esq; his friend and agent in Edinburgh, and also to the minister, to appropriate 20 l. Sterling a year, as a salary to a schoolmaster in the parish where he was born. There are no dissenters or sectaries of any kind in these parishes. No mischief is dreaded here, either from the flame of fanaticism, or the fire of sedition. Instead of sectaries, eager about building new churches, there is generally a law suit, at the instance of the minister, for repairing or rebuilding the old ones. The greatest part of the minister's stipend is paid in kind, principally in bear and butter. The yearly average value of it may be called 85 l. Sterling.

## POPULATION.

|                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| No. of families in South Ronaldsay, | 274  |
| — souls in ditto                    | 1615 |
| — souls in Burray                   | 318  |
| — souls in Swinna                   | 21   |

|                                                             |     |                            |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|------|
|                                                             |     | Total number in the charge | 1954 |
| No. of baptisms in South Ronaldsay for 1791                 | are | 44                         |      |
| — — — — — for 1792                                          | are | 36                         |      |
| — — — — — for 1793                                          | are | 41                         |      |
| — Marriages in it for 1791                                  | are | 10                         |      |
| — — — — — for 1792                                          | are | 4                          |      |
| — — — — — for 1793                                          | are | 8                          |      |
| In the South parish of South Ronaldsay the No. of souls are |     | 567                        |      |
| In the North parish of ditto                                |     | 1048                       |      |
| Males                                                       |     | 378                        |      |
| Females                                                     |     | 482                        |      |
| Children under 8 years of age                               |     | 188                        |      |

*Valued Rent, Stock, &c.*—The valued rent of South Ronaldsay, Burray, and Swinna is 3512 l. Scots. It is extremely difficult to state with precision the real rent, as it is paid in money, in bear, malt, meal; in butter, oil, hogs, geese, hens, and services. By a rough calculation, the present yearly rent of these parishes, including kelp, may be called 1500 l. Sterling.

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| The No. of horses in South Ronaldsay are          | 674 |
| No. of carts in ditto                             | 23  |
| No. of cows in ditto                              | 455 |
| No. of sheep in ditto                             | 746 |
| No. of hogs in ditto                              | 240 |
| No. of fishing boats in ditto                     | 51  |
| No. of flocks and geese                           | 20  |
| No. of ankers of spirits consumed yearly in ditto | 100 |

*Prices of Labour, Provisions, &c.*—The wages for a principal man servant for farming, is yearly from 3 l. to 4 l. Ster-



ling; for an ordinary man servant, from 2 guineas to 50 s.; for a boy, from 20 s. to 25 s.; for a female servant for farming, a guinea. In harvest, a man servant 12 s. to 15 s.; a female servant, for harvest, from 5 s. to 7 s. There is little or no demand for day-labourers, and when there is, few or none can be found. Sometimes they are paid with 4 d. sometimes with 6d, and victuals four times each day.

The small horses, generally brought to these parishes from Caithness, and Strathnaver, only one year old, are bought at from 2 l. to 5 l. Sterling; and they are begun to work when two years old. After eight years of age, or more, they are generally sold again at nearly the same prices to the inhabitants of the countries from whence they came. The price of an ox, when young, that will weigh about 18 stone, is from 3 l. to 4 l. Sterling; of a young cow that will weigh about 15 stone, from 50 s. to 3 l. Sterling; a wedder 5 s. or 6 s.; a lamb 20d. or 2 s.; a hog from 6 s. to 10 s.; a goose 1 s. or 1 s. 2d; a hen 5d. or 6d; a dozen of eggs 2d. and 2½; a stone of potatoes 3d; a stone of oatmeal 1 s. 4d; of bear meal 1 s. 2d; a stone of malt 1 s.; a stone of wool 10 s. or 12 s.; a stone of butter 6 s.; a stone of cheese from 3 s. to 4 s.; a pound of beef, which can only be got from Lambmas to Martinmas, at 1½.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—There is one floop belonging to South Ronaldsay, which each spring carries salt beef, pork, hides, tallow, yarn, butter, geese, value about 60 l. Sterling, to Leith, the produce of these parishes, and brings back merchant goods. During the summer she is freighted with kelp to Dundee, Leith, New Castle, Hull, &c.

There are 3 or 4 merchants at the village of St. Margarets Hope, in South Ronaldsay.

There is one Robert Cromarty, an excellent weaver of table cloths and fine linen: There are 6 other weavers of coarse  
rishes

stuff: There are four blacksmiths, and 6 or 7 cobblers. But the employers of the former must furnish iron and coals, and of the latter, hemp and leather. There are in these parishes 2 indifferent, and 2 tolerably good inns; the houses for selling ale and spirits are by far too numerous. There are also one good square wright, and 3 or four of inferior skill: There are 2 fiddlers, and one piper, who professes by means of his music, to banish the rats from their habitations. There is one notary public, who has property in South Ronaldsay, and occasionally resides in it. Corbies, crows, and often eagles, are found in these parishes: They often do considerable damage to the corn, lambs, and poultry. Gulls, scarfs, kitty-weaks, rock-pidgeons, plovers, snipes, solon geese, larks, rails, and ducks of all kinds, abound. There are no hares or foxes to be found, and it is said they cannot live in Orkney. There is no instance remembered of a dog being mad: Muir fowl are numerous in many isles of this country, but for want of heath, few or none can be found in these parishes:

*Fishes.*—Cod, ling, skate, turbot, haddocks, fillocks, quiths or cuddens, lobsters, cockles, are found around these isles in such abundance, that almost every person supplies himself, and few or none are sold. The price offered by the purchaser is not a sufficient compensation for the labour and expence of the fisher. On account of the high duties on salt, very few indeed are cured for market. Consequently those who do not fish, or have no share of a boat, are at all times ill supplied, and in stormy weather, even those who do fish, must rest satisfied with the sour fish, which are dried by the sun and air, or by the smoke and fire in their houses. In July and August, shoals of herrings, numerous as the sand on the sea shore, are seen around these parishes; but for want of nets, salt, &c. none are caught or cured here.

*Character*

*Character and Manners of the People.*—There are few or no instances of any persons being convicted of capital crimes; but petty theft is very frequent. There are no Justices of Peace to punish this vice; and if there were, it would be extremely difficult to convict the delinquent; because there is a very general belief, that whosoever is concerned in bringing the guilty to punishment, will never thrive.

Within these last seven years, the minister has been twice interrupted in administering baptism to a female child, before the male child, who was baptized immediately after. When the service was over, he was gravely told, that he had done very wrong, for as the female child was first baptized, she would, on her coming to the years of discretion, most certainly have a strong beard, and the boy would have none. No couple chuses to marry except with a growing moon, and some even wish for a flowing tide. The existence of fairies and witches is seriously believed by some, who, in order to protect themselves from their attacks, draw imaginary circles, and place knives in the walls of houses. The worst consequence of this superstitious belief is, that when a person loses a horse or cow, it sometimes happens that a poor woman in the neighbourhood is blamed, and knocked in some part of the head, above the breath, until the blood appears. But in these parishes there are many decent, honest, and sensible people, who laugh at such absurdities, and treat them with deserved contempt. The passion of the young men for a sea faring life nothing can exceed, except their aversion to a military one. Four or five young men have this winter voluntarily entered on board his Majesty's navy. Every year several young men go to Greenland or Iceland fishing, to Hudson's Bay, or on board some merchant ship: All of them prove to be excellent sailors. And  
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it is believed, that they are more industrious abroad than at home. In no country are the people more tenacious of their old customs than here. There are 3 churches in the minister's charge, at which he preaches by turns; but few of the people are disposed to attend divine worship, except once in the three weeks at their own parish church.

*Means by which the Situation of the People could be improved.*—On this part of the subject, the writer enters with diffidence. For he is abundantly sensible, that it is much easier to find fault with what is, than to propose proper practicable remedies. Anxious, however, about the prosperity, and ardently wishing to promote the industry of these parishes, he begs leave to submit to the consideration of the discerning few, the following improvements:

1<sup>mo</sup>, A good road for the post, through the middle of the islands of Burray and South Ronaldsay.

2<sup>do</sup>, That the proprietors grant at least a nineteen years lease, to each of their tenants, for a certain rent, one half of which to be payable in money, the other half in kind; the money rent to be paid in 6 months after his entry, the rent in kind in 18 months after his entry, and so on during the the lease. Each tenant to receive from his proprietor one or two carts, at the option of the tenant, the value of which to be estimated by two persons mutually chosen, and paid by the tenant in such moities, and in such time as can be agreed on. No services to be demanded of the tenant.

3<sup>to</sup>, That the tenants be encouraged to labour rather with oxen than horses, many of which die yearly.

4<sup>to</sup>, That there be two schools erected in South Ronaldsay, and one in Burray, for the education of youth.

5<sup>to</sup>, That there be two houses in Burray, and three in South Ronaldsay, and no more, allowed to sell spirits and ale.

6<sup>mo</sup>, That every farmer shall keep his bestial throughout the year on his own ground.

7<sup>mo</sup>, That the proprietors shall instruct and advise their tenants, frequently to change their feed-oats and bear, and to dress both with skill and care.

8<sup>vo</sup>, That if a soapery, ropery, or herring fishery, were established near the harbours of Widewall Bay and St. Margaret's Hope, in addition to the improvements above recommended, the writer would not despair of seeing the inhabitants of these parishes, as industrious in their stations, and as comfortably easy in their circumstances, as could be found in this, or any other parish in the North of Scotland.



## NUMBER XIX.

## PARISH OF CAMPSIE,

(PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYE,  
COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

*By the Rev. MR. JAMES LAPSLIE, Minister.*

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*Situation and Name.*

**T**HE parish of Campsie measures eight English miles in length, and seven in breadth, following the two great lines of road which intersect the parish nearly at right angles; the mean length is about six miles, and the mean breadth six, containing 36 square miles; and allowing only 400 acres to every square mile, the amount will be 14400 acres; it contains 101 plough gates of land, and is valued at 6429 pounds Scots. §

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§ This parish, previous to the disjunction in the 1649, made a particular district of country by itself, not a little marked by peculiar manners and customs. It was bound on the North, by a range of hills running parallel to the Strath for near ten miles; on the South, by the river Kelvin, which, in these days, formed a swamp impassible in winter; on the East, the Gurrel Glen became another natural barrier; on the West, Craig-Maddie Muir and the Brawzet Burn separated this district from Strathblane and Baldernock.

Campsie

It is bounded on the North, by the parish of Fintry; on the West, by Srathblane and Baldernock; on the South by Calder and Kirkintilloch; and on the East by Kilsyth; forming a distinct commissariat along with Hamilton, styled the commissariat of Hamilton and Campsie.

It is presumed, that the winding appearance of the strath in general, and particularly of the glens near which the parish church is situated, has given rise to the name Campsie, or Camsi, which, in the Celtic language, is said to signify crooked Strath or Glen.—Of course, the Clachan of Campsie, is, the place of worship of the crooked glens.

Indeed, if we attend carefully to the appearance which this district presents to those who view it from any of the neighbouring stations, particularly the bending of the hills in the form of an amphitheatre, above the village of Clachan, from which five streams, pouring down from five winding glens,

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form

Campsie, in its original state, was eleven English miles long, from West to East; its breadth varied on the West march, from Calder house to the Earl's seat, it was at least nine English miles; whereas, on the East march, its breadth was scarcely six.

It contained 150 plough gates of land and was valued at 9670 pounds Scots. It may be observed that Campsie is situated in the Lennox, and formerly made the eastern division of that ancient territorial thaneship. In the year 1649, the Lords Commissioners for Valuation of Teinds, disjoined all that part which lay betwixt Inch-Wood Burn and the Garrel Glen on the East, annexing it to the parish Monniabrug, now better known by the name of Kilsyth, which portion contained 30 plough gates of land, and is rated at 2000 pounds Scots valuation. In like manner they disjoined all that portion on the South West, which is situated betwixt Balgrochan and the Brawzyet Burn, annexing it to the parish of Baldernock, containing 21 plough gates of land, and valued in the county books at 1241 pounds Scots. These two disjunct portions will no doubt be described by the ministers of the respective parishes to which they belong.

form the water of Glazert, this etymology of Campsie will not appear unnatural.

*External Appearance and Soil.*—It would not be easy to reduce the superficial appearance of this parish to any regular figure; it can neither be said that it is a square, a parallelogram, or a triangle; the irregular bending of the hills prevents the eye from comprehending it in one view, and the bounding lines of the parish have never been accurately measured: in loose terms, it may be said to consist of two hills, with a considerable valley or strath between them; the South hill being the continuation of the Kilpatrick Braes, sloping gently down upon the Glazert and Kelvin; the height is about seven hundred feet, arable to the top.—Between this South brae and the North hill, (better known by the name of Campsie Fells,) there is a considerable strath, narrow indeed on the West, but as it runs East, it widens into an open champaign country. The surface of the strath is uneven, excepting a few haughs on the Kelvin, and Glazert.—Not that the land can be styled rugged or broken; for almost on every side of the gentle swells, with which this strath abounds, some small rivulets collect the waters from the rising grounds; so that, even supposing the arable part of the parish to be in the highest state of cultivation, the husbandman would neither find it easy nor expedient to plow the ridges long in one direction.—One meets with boggy, stannery, croft, and clay ground, almost in every farm.—The haughs which ly upon the Glazert and Kelvin, are composed of carried earth, brought down from the hills in floods; of course, those upon the Glazert, as being nearer the hills, contain a considerable quantity of gravel, and are better calculated for raising potatoes, and turnip. The Kelvin haughs, on the other hand,  
being

being formed of the sleigh which the river deposits on overflowing its banks, must be better adapted for the culture of beans and wheat; and as the Kelvin, by the new cut which is making, will soon be confined within its proper channel, it is to be presumed, that the farmers will then make the most of the excellent soil which lyes upon that river. At the kirk of Campsie, there is a haugh of near three hundred acres, capable of producing all sorts of green crops, at least equal to any in the county. \*

*Climate.*—The climate of this parish, like every other part in the West of Scotland, consisting of hill and dale, is exceedingly variable; at the same time, there is reason to believe, that more rain falls at the kirk of Campsie than in any of the neighbouring parishes to the South and East: Nor is it to be wondered that the climate should be wet, when the situation  
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\* Although the soil of this parish be so exceedingly varied, nevertheless that part of it which contains coal and lime, uniformly appears to be clay, forming two belts of unequal breadth; the one upon the North of the water of Glazert, is nearly a thousand yards in breadth, commencing about a mile East from the church, and continuing all along the base of the hills to the eastern boundary of the parish. The other belt encircles the South braes, and its breadth is somewhat greater; such is the appearance of the surface in the Strath. As to the Campsie Fells, which make about two fifths of the whole parish, they run parallel to the Strath, from one end of the district to the other. The face of the hill is somewhat broken with craigs and glens; the summit and back part is a deep muir ground, interspersed with moss hags; the soil on the face of the hills produces a short feeding grass, equal to any brae ground in the kingdom; while the muirs are thought to be well calculated for the rearing of young black cattle in the more marshy parts, and for keeping stocks of ewes upon the drier ground. In general, it may be said, that the soil in the West end of the parish, and particularly North of the Glazert, is most adapted for pasture; whereas the land on the South and East side, seems fitter for grain.

of the place is considered ; the Campsie Fells being situated betwixt the Friths of Forth and Clyde, the vapours which collect from either sea, as they float along, are intercepted by the high ridge of the mountain ; and being thus compressed, they descend in showers upon the valley ; nevertheless, it being a light gravelly bottom, the Strath being well ventilated, and the streams of water, owing to the great declivity, running off quickly, the parish is, upon the whole, uncommonly healthy. Perhaps the great plenty of coal, which enables the meanest cottager to obtain a hearty fire, along with the uncommon purity of the spring water, may not a little contribute to the salubrity of a climate which in other respects might be prejudicial to health from its dampness. Whatever other observation one might be disposed to make on the weather in this district, it must be allowed, that it is remarkable for variety ; we have often seen snow in a morning, rain at mid-day, and frost in the evening, and this alternately for several days.—Of course, it would be impossible to say, as it is said in some parts of the island, that such a month is dry, or such a month is warm ; the drought of August we have often witnessed in November, and the tempestuous showers of February are often experienced in July.

*Water*

† Old people pretend to say that the seasons are altered, and particularly that they have become colder ; and in corroboration of their opinion, they adduce the very flattering but fallacious testimony of what they felt in their youth, and how the corn ripened sooner on the braes than now : The testimony of an old man, about what he felt in his youth, when his blood was warm, and his spirits high, can by no means be considered as an unequivocal proof of the state of the weather ; nor is the circumstance of the corns on the high ground ripening sooner than at present, an index of the alteration of the seasons. For we all know, that where the soil is thin, and often ploughed, the scanty meagre crop will be disposed sooner to whiten, even if  
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*Water, Wood, and Mountains.*—This parish may be said to be uncommonly well watered: In the greatest drought, the number of springs from the hills afford such quantities of water, that the machinery at the different print-fields have a constant supply. There is properly speaking but one river in the parish; and even this one is on a small scale; it is formed by three streams, uniting below the kirk of Campsie: it then receives the name of Glazert, which is said to signify in Gælic, the water of the gray, or green promontory, alluding perhaps to the greenness of the hills from whence the streams flow. The Glazert, allowing for all its windings, runs about five English miles, before it joins the Kelvin opposite to Kirkintilloch. It runs with considerable rapidity; the fall from the kirk of Campsie to the Goyle-bridge being somewhat more

the climate should be wetter and colder, than upon well-rested rich land. As far, however, as we can pronounce any thing certain, relative to the climate, it may be said that we have scarcely any permanent frost, till after Christmas: we have seldom wind from the North and East, except in the time of a storm of frost and snow, and usually for a few days about the beginning of May, when in general it is accompanied with an Eastland charr, very destructive to blossoms of fruit trees. Our rain in general is from the South West; and we scarcely ever fail to have our Lammas floods, and our Equinoctial storm, the first calculated to lodge our corn, before they are ripe, and the last to rot them in the stuke. Summer 1781 was remarkable for a cold drought, which continued several weeks withering the grass, and introducing a black fly upon the corns, which prevented the grain from being so plump as usual. 1782 was remarkable for being a backward season, so that some of our corns were buried below the snow on the 31st of October. Summer 1783 was remarkable for a thick fog, whereby the sun was scarcely visible for three weeks; we felt that summer a slight shock of an earthquake. Our summers, upon the whole, for these six years bygone, have been rather cold; our winters, on the other hand, have been open and fresh, as it is termed. So wet have our summers been, as almost to countenance the fanciful opinion of old people, that the climate was altogether changed. Summer 1794 has been remarkably warm.

more than 100 feet, above 20 feet per mile. Besides the Glazert, there are no less than 19 small burns which fall into it. Perhaps to people who have been accustomed to reside chiefly in a level country, few scenes will appear more truly picturesque than that of the streams of water rushing down the sides of the Campsie Fells in a flood, while the top of the mountain is perfectly hid in the blue mist. This stream of water, though highly picturesque, and exceeding useful, is still accompanied with some inconveniences: In the 1<sup>st</sup> place, when there is a great drought, the spring water is apt to be impregnated too much with mineral water coming from the coal-levels, which must prove highly prejudicial to the bleacher. In the 2<sup>d</sup> place, The least shower brings down such a quantity of moss from the hills, as to prove very troublesome in the finer operations of preparing the cloth: the manufacturers, however, have contrived in a great measure to remedy both defects, by filtrating the water through the fine beds of gravel, upon which their works are situated; there is one accident which happens, against the bad effects of which there is no guarding, but by turning off the water altogether from the works; and that is, when the stagnating water in some old coal-waste breaks out, it will tinge every stone in the river, for miles, and kill every fish which comes within its poisonous influence. We have seen the trouts, after such an irruption, floating on the surface, gathered in baskets full, and eaten by the country people, yet no bad effect following from eating such poisoned fish\*. This district originally must have been much better wooded than at present, as is evident from

\* The Glazert, in former times, was a great deposit for salmon spawn, whereby an uncommon quantity of fry was yearly produced, for recruiting the fisheries on the Clyde, the number of its fords and sand banks being well calculated for such a nursery. It is said that the raising of the Damhead at

from the remains of large trees occasionally dug up in the swamps, and of the scattered copse-woods in the glens and braes. There are still three considerable woods in the parish; the three together contain at least one hundred and ten acres of ground, and consist of oak, aller, birch, faugh, and ash; though the timber of these woods be reckoned good, they are but of slow growth; the woods upon the banks of Lochlomond arrive at fuller maturity in 18 years, than the Campsie wood in 28.

The different articles made from these woods are sold at the following prices on the spot: Stobs at 4s. the hundred, four feet long; kebbres for houses at 3s. per dozen, if made of birch, and 6s. of ash; cart-trees at 1s. and 1s. 4d. the pair. A woodman receives 1s. 2d. for cutting and making the hundred stobs; and peelers of bark, if men, 1s. per day, and women 8d. Bark sells at 15s. the boll, 12 stone weight; and

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Dartick mills, upon the Kelvin, is the sole cause why the fish come not up in rodding time to the Glazert. Perhaps there is some truth in saying that one great reason of the scarcity of salmon in the Clyde, is the little regard paid to the young fry.

It would at least be an object to the country at large, and particularly to that city, that greater attention should be paid to this article, so that the tributary streams which formerly supplied the Clyde with fry, should not be rendered totally useless. I have not heard of a single salmon being seen in our river for 18 years; whereas, in former days, they were so plenty in spawning time, that it was customary, though unlawful, for the country lads to go out with torches made of the dressings of lint, and with long spears to kill considerable quantities of these foul fish.

Although sometimes the water from the coal-wastes destroys the trouts in the Glazert, yet as the glen and burns, at the head of the parish, are well stocked, the river is quickly replenished.

Our trout seems to be of two distinct species; the muir trout, with the black back, is a poor, lank, insipid fish; the Kelvin trout is yellow in the skin, and much plumper and richer in the flesh. There is only one loch in the parish, containing about 32 acres, where there is a considerable quantity of perch.

the respective proprietors are bound by their leases to drive it to market. Although the strath of Campsie be remarkable for growing barren timber, there is much less planting, either in belts or in hedge-rows, than might have been expected: To say that the spirit for planting is only beginning in the end of the eighteenth century, in a country so calculated by soil and shelter to produce fine timber, is not saying much to the praise of our industry. As to fruit trees, it may literally be affirmed, that there is not one orchard in the whole parish; therefore it cannot be said, from recent experience, whether it be a soil adapted for the production of apples or not. Considerable attention of late, however, hath been paid by the gentry to their kitchen gardens; it is to be hoped, that the spirit of gardening, so long dormant, will exert itself in the formation of orchards, and the laying out of plantations: Indeed, in a country where grazing is so much practised, it is rather matter of surprise to the proprietors themselves, that self-interest long ere now should not have led them to form shelter for their cattle in winter\*.

*Wild Beasts, and Birds.*—There are two species of badger found among the loose rocks of Campsie Fells, the one somewhat resembling a sow, the other a dog; the first is more arched in the back, and is not so nimble in turning itself; there has occasionally been hams made of it in this place. The fox too is a native of this parish; the huntsman says, that the  
three

\* As to small vegetable productions, they are both exceedingly numerous and varied: most of the Scotch plants common to glens, woods, and rocks, are to be found in this district. Our ingenious friend, Mr David Ure, declares that he hath enjoyed considerable pleasure in searching for plants in our sequestered vale; and that his curiosity was not a little gratified. Particularly all the different species of the lichen is found here.

three different kinds peculiar to Britain are found here : The gray-hound-fox, with the long bushy tail, white on the top; skulks on the Fells, and is particularly destructive to the lambs. The other two species lurk in woods and old waste coal-pits; the one is low and thick made, of a very dark brown; the other very small, of a lively red and a black tip on its tail; the last are the most mischievous to our poultry. There are likewise weasles, otters, polecats, hedgehogs, wild cats; and, of late, several martins have been seen among the rocks. As to birds of prey, there are four species of hawks; one pair of the gentil falcon breed regularly every year, in the Craig of Campsie, a species much sought after by sportsmen; we have likewise the kistril, that species which we perceive so frequently in the air, fixed in one place, as it were fanning with its wings, and watching for its sport: The Goshawk, which builds its nest upon trees in sequestered places, is likewise a native of this parish; it dashes through the woods with vast impetuosity after its prey; and the sparrowhawk is so common in the upper parts of the strath, that the children of the villagers amuse themselves by taming them; both the sluggish inactive buzzard, and the soaring glade or kite, are natives of this district: So common is the glade with us, that its various modes of flight are considered as an almanack for the weather, and its note is a symbol of moral conduct; we observe, when it soars high in the air, it prognosticates good weather; and every boy will tell you that it is not for nothing that the glade whistles; alluding to the note of that bird when it glides through the air, watching for its prey. The golden eagle used formerly to build in our rocks, though of late it has discontinued the practice; but we have a visit of them annually for some months in the spring and early part of the summer; they are commonly known



among the shepherds, by the name of the earn, a visit of which amongst the flock is dreaded as much as that of the fox. But of all the birds of prey amongst us, the hen-harriers, or white aboon-glade, as he is called, is the most destructive to game, both partridges and muirfowl. They breed on the ground amongst rushes in the muirs, and fly low along the surface of the earth in search of prey; the corbie or raven, the hooded or carrion crow, rooks, jackdaws, and the red legged crow, are natives of this district. There are about six pairs of ravens, which breed annually in the rocks, and are exceeding destructive to young lambs in a bad spring. I have seen, again and again, a raven attack a lamb, beat with its wings about its head, till the poor creature fell headlong over a precipice; and before the shepherd could climb to the spot, the raven had picked out its eyes. The red legged crow is but scarce with us; we seldom meet with above a pair or two in the whole range of the Campsie Falls; when we do meet with them, it is amongst the jackdaws, of which there are a considerable number which haunt our rocks. A very curious scene is frequently exhibited in our hills. If it should happen that a fox leaves his hole, and basks himself in the sun, among the rocks, immediately all the birds of prey within a mile of him will assemble, and flutter, and scream over the spot where the thief is lurking; eagle and hawk, raven and kite, and jackdaw forget their animosities, seemingly combining in a mutual league to disturb the retreat of reynard, so that the huntsman considers these birds as infallible guides to his sport. It may be observed, that beasts of prey are every day becoming scarcer. Till within these two years, we had a regular bred huntsman, who hunted this district; his salary was paid by the tenants, at so much per plough, which huntsman and dogs were kept and fed by each tenant in his turn. The father  
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and son-in-law performed the office of public huntsman, from the year 1715, till 1792, a period of fourscore years: They were said to possess some of the largest fox hounds in the three kingdoms; they were slow but remarkably staunch.—The cry of the hounds, and the animating blast of the buglehorn, re-echoed by every rock along the range of Campsie Fells, will be long remembered by the natives of this strath.

Now there are scarcely as many beasts of prey in the whole district, as to afford amusement to the graziers in an idle winter-day; the only reason which has been assigned, is, the converting of sheep pasture into grazing for black cattle, whereby there is less food for such ravenous animals; of course, the large fox has migrated to the high lands, where his food is more abundant. In proportion as the beasts and birds of prey, have left this district, the singing birds have increased; several species have appeared of late, which were formerly unknown, particularly the bulfinch and the wood-lark. It is perhaps at the Clachan of Campsie, which is situated in the neighbourhood of copsewoods and retired glens, that a person is enabled to comprehend the meaning of a proverbial expression in this county, the screech of day light;—here and there, the lark begins the song, which is soon heard and accompanied by all the little feathered choiristers within reach of its note;—The air seems to vibrate with the sound.—As to our migrating birds, the statement in the following table is founded on the observations of ten years:

Names.

| NAMES.                              | ARRIVES.                        | DISSAPPEARS.                          |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| The <i>White Breasted Swallow</i> , | from the 7th to the 8th of May. | September 24th till September 28th.   |
| The <i>Cuckoo</i> ,                 | 27th of April to the 2d of May. | becomes silent about the end of June. |
| The <i>Wood Cock</i> ,              | about the 26th of October.      | about the beginning of March.         |
| <i>Gray Plover or Lophwing</i> ,    | about the 26th of March.        | about the end of July.                |
| <i>Water Wag tail</i> ,             | about the 1st of April.         | about the 1st of October.             |
| <i>Stone Checker</i> ,              | about the 1st of May.           | about the middle of August.           |
| <i>Curlew</i> ,                     | about the 1st of March          | about the 1st of October.             |

In former times, particularly during a hard winter, it was customary for wild ducks, wild geese, and even swans, to visit the swamps of this parish; these being now drained, such fowls are scarcely to be seen. There are plenty of grouse in the Campsie muirs; at the same time partridges have of late become uncommonly scarce; many causes have been assigned for the rapid decay of this species of game, such as the wet summers, and the pretended increase of the birds of prey, which is not fact.

Perhaps it will be found, that this country at present is rather in an unfavourable state for nursing partridges; the broom, and furze, and briers, being mostly grubbed out, and the land formerly waste, put under cultivation; whereas artificial shelter by belts of planting is not yet produced; while the number of idle boys, belonging to the public works, let loose upon a Sunday, strolling about the fields with their tarrier dogs, ferreting out the partridge nests by the smell, may be an additional cause of the uncommon scarcity of this game in the parish.

*Strata, Minerals, Lime and Coal.*—The hills of which in part the parish of Campsie is composed, are according to the distinction

tion of naturalists, of two species, *primary* and *secondary*; in the first, it is said that coal and lime are never to be found, whereas the second abounds with both.

The highest ridge of the Campsie Fells, is about 1500 feet above the level of the sea, and about 1200 from its base; where, properly speaking, the mountain commences, the ascent is very rapid; and from examining the glens, and gullies formed on its sides, it seems to be composed of the following strata: At the base of the hill, immediately after the coal is cut off, you meet with several layers of camstone, (as it is termed with us,) which is easily burned into a heavy lime. Immediately above the camstone, you find at least a dozen strata of ironstone, of different thickness, with a soft slate intervening betwixt the layers; it is said by those who have examined the ironstone, that it is of an excellent quality. These different seams make up 200 feet of the base of the mountain. Then 15 strata of muirstone rise above each other to the summit of the Fells, where they jut out; in the face of the braes, they go by the name of daffles or gerrocks. Betwixt these strata of muirstone, you meet with various coloured stuff, sometimes of a copperish, sometimes of an ironstone colour; and it is said, there are appearances of copper; but the working of it has not as yet been attempted. Lately, when forming the new turnpike-road along the side of the hills, several veins of spar and chrystal were found, not unlike those which accompany lead-mines; and persons who had wrought at the different lead-mines in Scotland, declared, that the appearances of that metal were both frequent and favourable: no attempt as yet hath been made to follow out these appearances. In the whole range of the Campsie Fells, there is only one place where the rocks assume a basaltic appearance; and by those who admire such columnar appearances,

ances, they are said to be very beautiful. Here and there, there were dug out, when forming the turnpike-road on the hills, several strata of most excellent clay marle, both white and speckled;—it has not as yet become an object of attention to the country people. Beautiful pebbles have been found among the rocks, of which a gentleman lately procured as many as, when polished, furnished a set of elegant buttons for a coat. About the middle of the strath, you meet with excellent quarries of free stone, calculated for all the purposes of the builder; but the minerals of which we have the greatest reason to boast, are the inexhaustable seams of lime and coal, which merit a particular description. The coal and lime in this parish are generally found in the same field: The coal, throughout the whole parish, possesses a caking quality; at the same time it is very foul and sulphurous, leaving, when burned, an uncommon quantity of rusty coloured ashes, which make excellent manure for certain sorts of land.

The coal on the North of the Glazert, takes on about a mile East from the Clachan of Campsie, and continues without much interruption to the eastern extremity of the parish; it runs parallel to the Fells, and seldom exceeds a quarter of a mile in breadth: The field on the South side of the river, which forms a belt around the South braes, is considerably broader, and is of much superior quality to the other. The coal is found of different depths from the surface; on the North side, from seven to fifteen fathoms; on the South, from fifteen to twenty two; the seam throughout the whole parish, is, at an average, from forty two inches to four feet in thickness, with two small bands, of an inch and an inch and half, running through it. The strata above the coal is found uniformly in the following manner: After the soil there is found a species of till, interspersed with stones; after which comes a blaze, as it is termed, and which continues to a considerable



ble depth ; then slate, which, at a medium, is from seven to eight feet in thickness ; after which, there is uniformly limestone, being a seam of four feet ; then a slate, and then the coal : Such is the regular strata in Campsie in sinking for coal ; with this difference, however, that the slate in the North of Glazert, betwixt the lime and coal, is fifteen feet in thickness ; on the South, it is scarcely four ; below the coal, there is eighteen inches of a stuff, which the workmen term *dalk* ; then the white lime, of an inferior quality to the other, and as yet but seldom wrought.

The coal in this district is full of irregularities, stiled by the workmen *coups*, and *hitches*, and *dykes* ; the truth is, the coal partakes a good deal of the irregularity of the ground above, which is very uneven. If one was to speak in general terms of the whole coal in the parish, as one field, it might be said, that the depth was to the South East, and the rise to the North West ; such really being the ascent and declivity of the lands in this district ;—but as there are a number of gentle swells in the strath, it will happen, that according as the pit is put down on this side of the swell, or upon the other side, the dip and rise of the coal will appear favourable, or the contrary.—The dip is sometimes so sudden as to be one foot in three, in other places, only one in twenty. Besides these coups and hitches, which are found where the strata above and below the coal suddenly approach, or retreat from each other, by this means coupling the coal out of its regular bed, there are complete breaks in the strata, termed dykes, which cut off the coal entirely in various directions ; these dykes are sometimes observed upon the surface of the earth, from which they sink down to an unfathomable depth ;—There are two of these dykes in this district, which are remarkable, and seem to be uniform throughout : *First*, There is a coup-dyke, which runs from West to East ; North

of this coup-dyke, the coal dips about fifteen feet, and then they may work about three hundred yards into the hill, where they seem to be cut off entirely by a whinstone dyke; so there are two great barriers which intercept the ly of the coal upon the North of the Glazert; the coal on the South of the coup-dyke, takes on almost within six feet of the surface, and is not above six inches thick, with something like a clay roof.

*Manner of Working.*—There is reason to believe that coal has been wrough in this district for several centuries; but the working of it seems to have been carried in a very aukward irregular manner, taking advantage of the ly of the ground: They used to make large excavations upon the surface, which they termed creeping heughs; from these excavations, they drove a road into the coal heads, and by this means brought the coals to the hill, dragging them on their small sledges up the declivity, which was not very great, as the excavation was always made as much to the dip side of the hill as possible: It is evident, that in this manner they could only work the crop of the coal, where the water created little disquiet; a method, however, highly prejudicial both to the landlord and the public; the next stage of working was by sinking perpendicular pits, stiled windlafs heughs. On the North of the river Glazert, these pits were in depth from sixty to ninety feet; but they so contrived it, that these pits were placed near some gully or burn, where, by running a level from a certain part of the burn, all the coal round the pit bottom became drained; and in the sinking of every new pit, they must always do it with a retrospect to their former level; still, however, the coal upon the dip side might be lying under water; for although the declivity in the ground favoured greatly

greatly these imperfect short levels, there were many fields of coal which could not thus be drained but at a most enormous expence, in driving subterraneous mines : In this stage of carrying on the work, there were employed at least two men at the windlafs, putting up the coals in skiffies, termed hutches ; and it is more than probable that they had likewise to pull up the water for a confiderable time every morning, before the workmen had got the coals raifed ; the coal bufiness in this diftrict was carried on in this flovenly manner during this century : The country was ill fupplied ; the landlords complained that they never made a fhilling of their coal, while every perfon was furprifed, that a diftrict, poffeffing fuch natural advantages, fhould make fo little good ufe of them. About two years ago, coal becoming exceedingly fcarce, and the price rifing fuddenly, there became an abfolute neceffity of working it in a better ftyle ; accordingly, Mr Dunmore of Ballindalloch, a gentleman to whole activity and patriotifm this part of Scotland is much indebted, becoming the leffee of feveral works in the parifh, he immediately erected gins, driven by horfes, for pulling up the coals ; which improvement is answering the purpofe, and is either already, or will be quickly followed by the other proprietors ; fo that now we have every probability of this neceffary article of life being wrought in a ftyle far fuperior and more expeditious than hitherto experienced.

All the coaliers in this parifh now work with the pick and wedge : this, however, is only a late improvement ; they pool in the middle of the feam, where a fmall band of ftone, about an inch of thicknefs, lyes, called the pooling band, and then fhear down what is above, ftiled the roof coal, and drive up the foal coals with wedges ; they carry on their drifts or rooms eight feet by fourteen, leaving floops eight feet by twelve ; but this

varies according as the coal is soft or hard ; every coallier may be said to be his own drawer ; seldom or ever has he any person to assist him ; they commonly go to their work at four in the morning, and continue until two in the afternoon ; formerly the coals were put out by the *dark*, consisting of twenty eight hutches, for which dark the coallier received one shilling and eight pence, and the proprietors had for lordship one shilling and ten pence ; an active workman could very easily put out two of these darks per day, making three shillings and four pence ; these hutches becoming more and more uncertain as to the quantity contained in them, both the landlord and public being imposed upon, it became necessary to adopt some new regulations relative to the measure ; which has been done accordingly ; so that now we compute by loads ; each load contains 2184 cubic inches, equal to twenty one Scotch pints and a half, water measure ; six of these loads make an exceeding good cart, which should weigh betwixt twelve and thirteen hundred weight ; the price, at the pit mouth, being eighteen pence per cart, or threepence per load ; a tolerable workman can put out twenty four loads per day, for which he has three shillings ; and the landlord the other three shillings. In order to ascertain the quantity of coals raised at the different pits, of which there are no less than sixty going this month of December 1793, we shall calculate the average out-put of the coaliers : There are, in all the different pits, forty six coalliers ; allowing three carts and a half per day to each, makes one hundred and sixty one carts per day, supposing them only to work five days in the week ; the out-put per week will be eight hundred and five carts ; reckoning the coalliers weeks in the year only to be fifty, the out-put in the year will be forty thousand two hundred and fifty carts ; supposing that the measure, at a medium, does not exceed eleven hundred weight

per  
1

per cart, the out-put in the year will be 22 135 tons and a-half; the price at the hill is somewhat better than 2s. 6d. per ton; the total value is 2750l. Sterling, of which the coalliers receive 1375l; the remainder goes for lordship, and to support the hills-men and gin-boys, along with the tear and wear of the work.

According to the calculation of men skilled in coal-mines, these 20,000 tons will at least exhaust three acres of coal annually, a waste, which, great as it may appear, we are able to support for 150 years to come; but in reality we are raising this season, at least, double of what was raised formerly, nay, 10 times more than what was put out about 20 years ago; this great quantity of coal is used in the following manner: The two printfields consume annually 3500 tons; above 2100 tons is used in burning lime; and the remainder in supplying the parishes of Campsie, Fintray, Balfrone, Kilmairn, Strathblane, Baldernock, and partly Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth. It is doubtful if even yet the coal in this district be wrought to advantage; in reality, we are as yet but working the crop of the coal; it being absolutely necessary that they should either drive their levels, or erect their steam engines upon the dip side, so that they might work to the rise. Many great fields at this moment ly buried under water, owing to this defect ¶.

It

¶ No map being made of these subterraneous works, and no documents being in the possession of the proprietors, to point out when and how such a field of coal was wrought, it is only by some vague tradition, handed down from one generation of coalliers to another, that we pretend to judge whether the ground be wasted or not; so that too often the pit is put down upon a trouble, or waste, to the great detriment of the adventurer; which mistake might be easily rectified, by each proprietor getting an accurate chart made out of these subterraneous works, for the benefit of posterity; besides many lives might



It has been observed that limestone is always found in the same field with the coal; it is in general a seam from three feet to five in thickness, and is wrought in the following manner: They take off the earth from the surface, called tiring, which is from 10 to 30 feet; seldom or never have they as yet wrought the lime-stone by mining. The probability is, however, that they will soon be compelled to it; the workmen take tiring at 3d. the square yard; they put out the lime-stone at so much per chalder, and by experience they know what number of square yards of broken stone, makes a chalder

might be saved, which are unfortunately lost by the workmen striking through upon old waste; as was the case February 1789, when five coalliers were killed in the Newk coal-pit of Campsie. I consider the wages of the coalliers, as by no means in proportion to the wages of other labourers in the parish; the labourer having only fifteen pence per day: Allowing the coallier a third more on account of the danger and disagreeable nature of the work, viz. two shillings, then there would be one third of the wages, which he receives at present, saved to the public.

Coal, in every inland district in Scotland, should not be considered as an article of commerce, which the landlord as a merchant, may speculate upon for his own advantage; It should be considered as an article of the first necessity: Proprietors of land should recollect, that every circumstance which increases population, ultimately benefits their estates; wherever water is plenty and firing cheap, there the manufacturer and labourer will always resort. Campsie, at present, is conspicuously blessed with both; and it will discover the folly of the landlords, if ever they permit coals to become much dearer; it is not the richness of the soil which always brings the highest rent to the proprietor; some particular local advantage acts in his favour; and perhaps there is none to surpass the advantage of cheap fuel.

A small farmer (such as we have in this district) considers good oat meal and a good fire as great luxuries; and while the tenants possess these, they will make a considerable shift to pay their dear rents.

It is with pleasure that we take notice of the public spirited attempts made by several gentlemen last year, to prevent the coals from rising in this district; and they have fully succeeded: They have perhaps sunk a little money, but their tenants and dependants have reaped the benefit, and the public hath paid them every respect which an elevated mind can desire.

chalders of lime; the lime is burnt chiefly in small kilns, holding from 10 to 15 chalders, the stone being more completely burnt, than in those of a larger size; the layers of stone and coal are made alternately in the following proportions: 1ft; Six inches of coal, then 20 inches of lime-stone, broken to the size of a two-penny-loaf. Two firlots (wheat measure) of burnt stone make four firlots of flacked lime; of course, 32 firlots make a chalders of lime, sold, till within these two years, at 4l. Scots, at the quarry, now, 8s. the ready money price; formerly it was sold with at least 6 months credit. It is doubtful if the state of the country as yet will permit this alteration, small as it is; it requires 6 or 7 loads of coal to burn the chalders of lime. There were employed this summer (1793) 40 workmen in the different lime quarries in the parish, who raised at least 3000 chalders of flacked lime; the Campsie lime is reckoned of an exceeding rich quality, much sought after by plaisterers; in common building, to every boll of lime one boll of sand is required, to make proper mortar. The great facts relative to our coal and lime work, are stated in the following table:

|                  |         |                                         |
|------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------|
| No. of COALLIERS | 46      | Wages, 3s per day, or 1375l. per annum. |
| — Carts          | 42,250  | per annum, at 18d. per cart.            |
| — Tons           | 22,135  | per annum.                              |
| Price            | 18d.    | per cart consisting of six loads.       |
| Weight           | 12      | hundred weight.                         |
| LIME-STONE       | 3d.     | per square yard, tiring.                |
| Chalders         | 1s. 8d. | the putting out.                        |
| Price            | 8s.     | per Chalders, when burnt at the kiln.   |
| —                | 8d.     | per ditto for setting and selling lime. |

Coal

|       |    |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------|----|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COAL  | -  | 3500   | Tons consumed by the printfields.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| ---   | -  | 2100   | consumed in the burning of lime.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| ---   | -  | 16,465 | consumed by this, and neighbouring parishes.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| VALUE | L. | 2750   | of out-pit this year 1793.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| LIME  | -  | 3000   | Chaldrons burned and sold in the year. 6 Loads of coal, to the burning of 1 chalder of lime: so that every chalder, besides tiring, costs the tacksmen in expence of putting out, in setting, and in coals, 3s. 6d. before he can bring it to market. |
| MEN   | -  | 40     | employed in working lime.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

*State of Property.*—This parish contains one hundred and one ploughgates of land, 73 of which are possessed by eight great proprietors; the other 28 ploughs are possessed by 37 feuars, or portioners, holding charter and seisin; the valuation of the whole parish, being 6429l. 4900l. is possessed by the eight great proprietors, in the following proportions:

|                                      | Valuation. |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| William Lennox of Woodhood           | 922        |
| John Lennox of Antermoney,           | 888        |
| Sir John Stirling of Glorat,         | 800        |
| Sir Archibald Edmiston of Duntreath, | 686        |
| John Macfarlane of Kirkton           | 537        |
| John Buchanan of Carbeth,            | 403        |
| John Kincaid of Kincaid,             | 417        |
| John Stirling of Craigbarnet,        | 300        |

They all reside in the parish, except Sir Archibald Edmiston, who possesses large estates in the parishes of Kilsyth, Strathblane;

Strathblane, Kilpatrick, and Dumbarton : Mr Buchanan of Carbeth, Mr Stirling of Craigbarnet, and Sir John Stirling of Glorat, possess, each of them, likewise landed property in other parishes ; of this property there are 2260 pounds Scots entailed, and in all probability there will be more added by the present proprietors. The small proprietors are feuers of the families of Montrose, Keer, Glorat, and Bardowie, and beame so at the following periods :

Feuers of Montrose 1632 ; feuers of Keer 1714 ; feuers of Glorat 1742 ; feuers of Bardowie 1713. Landed property in this district hath changed its masters as seldom as in most parts of Scotland ; whether this be an advantage to the country, or not, is a question upon which speculative men have differed ; but this at least is certain, that the following families ; viz. Kincaid of Kincaid, Stirling of Craigbarnet, Stirling of Glorat, Lennox of Woodhead, and Edmiston of Duntrath, were, in the year 1470, proprietors of the same lands which they possess at this day ; the estate of Auchinreoch fell by succession, in the beginning of this century, to the Buchanans of Carbeth, an ancient family in the parish of Killern : Macfarlane of Kirton, a cadet of the family of Macfarlane, became proprietor of Kirton in the year 1624 ; the estate of Antermoney is the purchase of Captain John Lennox of Antermoney, a younger son of the ancient family of Woodhead. Perhaps this circumstance, which may please the pride of family, is one great reason why the improvement of land is so very backward in this district ; wherever families resided long upon an estate in Scotland, the object of our Scotch ambition was to possess a numerous tenantry, live as they may. The laird sought other means of bettering his situation, than by the slow returns of agriculture ; whereas,

if an estate often changed its master, it became in reality an object of commerce, and every new proprietor made it somewhat better for his own interest.

It is curious to observe the progressive rise of the land rent in this parish, since the year 1642; the rent of the ploughgate in those days, was about one hundred merks, besides feu services: and there is reason to believe, that the valuation in Cromwel's time, in this district, was made as high as the land could really afford in rent; during the first years of the Restoration, land seems to have risen, (as appears from some old tacks :) From the 1680, till the year 1715, it appears that the rise was but trifling; after this period it rose considerably; and, in the year 1748, was about 1500 l. Sterling; the next rise was in the year 1763; and, considering the value of the land in the natural possession of the small proprietors to keep pace with the tenantry, it rose to about 3000 l. Sterling. The land-rent this present year, is betwixt seven and eight thousand *per annum*, upon leases, or in the natural possession of the small proprietors.

|        |      |      |      |      |      |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|
| YEARS. | 1642 | 1715 | 1748 | 1763 | 1793 |
| VALUE. | 500  | 800  | 1500 | 3000 | 7000 |

By this statement, it is evident, that land gives fourteen times more rent in money than it did 150 years ago; allowing for the services and other prestations paid by the tenants in those days, perhaps we ought not to reckon so highly; whether this rise, however, is to be ascribed to the gradual improvement of landed property, or the depreciation of money, becomes another question; and perhaps the landholders will not have so much reason to boast of their advanced rents, if the enquiry be fairly made; in this rental, that of cot-houses is not comprehended, which is at least five hundred



dred *per annum*; these houses have increased their rents four times the sum of what they were in 1745; even so late as 1760, four pounds Scots was the rent of a cottage with a small yard annexed to it; such houses rent now at twenty shillings; but, from the improvement made on cot-houses, the rent of a room and kitchen, or what in the language of the place is stiled a *but* and a *ben*, gives at least two pounds Sterling; so that the same class of people pay for lodging six times more than they did thirty years ago; this increase arises chiefly from the introduction of manufactures; now, if the rent of the coal and lime, together with that of the cot-houses, be added to the land, the total rent of the parish may be stated to be eight thousand four hundred pounds Sterling *per annum*.

*Present State of Agriculture.*—It is not possible to say exactly what number of acres there are arable, and what not, as there is no map of the parish, nor has the whole ever been accurately measured: If the parish contains fifteen thousand acres, it will be found that five thousand of these are arable; of the other ten thousand, consisting of brae, of muir, and pasture land, three thousand more may be made arable:—Of course, it is about fifty acres of arable land to each plough.

There are ninety-six heads of families, who live on this property, either as tenants or feuers; and whose employment is either grazing or agriculture; but it is to be observed, that there are eighteen heads of families in this list, who do not make agriculture their chief employment; possessing only a few acres of land, and who principally employ themselves as masons, or carriers, or road makers; there is another distinction to be made of these heads of families, who employ themselves in agriculture; 28 of them are feuers, who farm their

own lands, the remainder are tenantry; seven of these last make grazing their chief employment.

The following is a table of the rents paid by the different graziers and farmers in this district, in 1793.

|       |        |       |        |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| No. 1 | L. 600 | No. 1 | L. 400 |
| 1     | 167    | 1     | 100    |

comprehending the feuers who farm their own land. The rents of others run betwixt twenty and seventy pounds, excepting upon the forfeited estate of Bancloich, where some tenants pay as low as five pounds *per annum*, they having got leases of three nineteen years in 1748.

The labour of these hundred plough gates of land was performed in 1793, by seventy ploughs, drawn by 222 horses, yoked in the following manner:

- 20 ploughs drawn 4 horses. each.
- 24 ditto drawn by 2 horses.
- 26 ditto drawn by 3 horses.

The following table exhibits the manner in which the five thousand acres of arable land was cropped in the year 1793, viz.

- 2000 acres in tillage and sown grafs, of which were,
- 200 acres in barley.
- 100 acres in potatoes.
- 30 acres in lint.
- 200 in sown grafs.

1500 in oats; of which, we may deduct 20 for pease and beans; the remaining 3000 acres in ley pasture for milk cows, and young beasts.

There were not ten acres fallow, in the whole parish; neither were there above four acres in wheat or turnip. Perhaps there is no country in Scotland more calculated for raising

ing turnip than Campsie ; at the same time, I rather think they do not stand the winter well in this district ; I have sown 20 acres for pease and beans, the wet climate rendering these a very unprofitable crop with us, growing all to the straw, without any pods : The produce per acre, at an average, is about six bolls ;—small as this may appear, it is at least one third more than it was thirty years ago : If a stranger was to view our crop at Lammas, when growing, or even in the shock, he would be apt to conclude the product to be a great deal more ; the truth is, our moist climate produces much straw and little corn ; I believe, it may safely be affirmed, that at an average there is not above fifteen pecks of meal out of the boll ; the barley produces better, the soil being adapted for that grain ; and it is said to malt remarkably well ; but the fault lies more in the style of farming, than in the ground itself ; so late as the year 1763, the farms were possessed in run rigg ;—there was scarcely any inclosing ; the moment that the crop was separated from the ground, the cattle of the neighbouring tenants grazed in common, till next Whitsunday ; the distinction betwixt out-field and in-field, was kept up with the most scrupulous exactness ; there was no rye-grass and clover sown, for making hay ; and the bulk of the farmers ploughed their land with what is stiled the broad plough, the four horses yoked abreast : These peculiarities are now worn out ; at the same time, farming, both as to science and practice, is yet but in its infancy in this parish. \*

#### Tacks

\* It is true, that the climate is not good, but the soil is excellent ; and as the crops might be adapted to the climate, there are great hopes entertained, that we shall one day excel in farming : The following defects in our mode seem to be most flagrant : 1<sup>st</sup>, The land being full of springs gushing out, wherever any change of the soil takes place in the farms ;—of course, nothing

Tacks in this parish are commonly let for nineteen years, with a clause that the tenant shall bear the public burdens, which, considering the land tax, the statute labour, and sometimes the minister's stipend, at least the vicarage, and school-master's

ing but underdraining can clear the soil of such a nuisance ; and yet unfortunately it is but little practised : *2dly*, Our inclosures are little better than rickie dykes, built of stones, gathered from the land, without any mortar ;—of course, totally incapable of meliorating the soil by keeping it warm ; which would be the case, if the inclosures were made with of quick-set hedges, and belts of planting, for which the parish is so remarkably calculated ; these dykes give the parish a cold and uncomfortable look. *3dly*, A great proportion of our arable land is laid down in the most miserable manner without sown grass, and impoverished by three succeeding crops of oats ; by this management, it is in a most wretched condition, indeed, when broken up to sdergo anew the same rotation of crops of oats. *4thly*, Our land, from being in general a light soil, and situated in a moist climate, is much addicted to weeds ; it is foul even to rankness :—Of course, as the corns grow much to straw, the stalk of corn is kept constantly wet at the root by the weeds ; it soon rots, and the least blast of wind in August, lodges the corn on the croft-lands before they are ripe ; whereas, if summer fallowing was practised, there cannot be the smallest doubt, but our crops would be clean and much earlier ; yet summer fallowing is scarcely ever practised in this parish : Along with these defects, I must mention two other causes, which have not a little contributed to retard our progress in agriculture : In the *first* place, an over attachment to grazing ; which hath led the farmers to study more the raising of fodder, than the raising of grain ; by this means, the early-seed oats have never received much countenance in this district ; but, if we consider the moistness of the climate, there is no parish which requires them more ; and from the experiments we have had of sowing early oats, upon land well cleaned from weeds by summer fallowing, there is every encouragement to proceed ;—the grain was fully ripe and early housed. *2dly*, I am not sure but the proprietors themselves have, in some measure, contributed to the little progress which agriculture hath made in this district. From an opinion that land was always upon the increase, it has not been their object to grant such long leases, as to encourage the farmer to sink money in improving the land : The opinion that has gone abroad amongst land-lords,

master's salary; the poor man's rent is considerably augmented by such items.—These things I don't mention as grievances, for the tenant subscribes to them with open eyes; nor can the landlord be called an oppressor, because he receives them; they are all prestations of a fair contract; and of course, if the proprietor did not exact them, he would be entitled to more rent: I simply state them as defects in our mode of husbandry; and which it would be the interest both of landlord and tenant to have removed.—Let the tenant know determinately what he is to pay, and let him have the complete use of his time, and the complete management of the product of his farm. As to a regular rotation of crops, it is but little known in this district. The old mode of allowing the land to ly ley for three years, and then liming it, and taking three crops of oats, is, indeed, fast wearing out; but no regular system is as yet introduced in its stead.

The rent of the arable land per acre, is stated in the following table:

For

lords, that the raising the rents of their lands forced the tenants to be more active, might be productive of some good effect; providing that indolence was the only impediment to a flourishing state of agriculture in this parish: Compulsion is but a bad argument, when the object of that compulsion has not strength to obey: I could wish that such an idea was exploded; for it is no longer the interest of this country to consider the tenantry upon an estate, as part of that estate.

In England, things seem to be better managed. There are still several servitudes remaining in this parish, annexed to the leases of lands, such as kain hens, and the driving of the lairds coals; these are indeed but small to what took place about 30 years ago; but, even these are fetters upon the industry of the tenants;—of more hurt to them than of benefit to the landlord; and it is to be hoped, from the many instances of an enlightened mind which the present proprietors have shown, that all such casualities will be abolished on the first opportunity.



|                 |                           |                |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| For potatoes    | from 4l. to 7l. per acre. | A flying crop; |
| For lint        | ditto ditto               | ditto          |
| For good arable | a guinea and a half.      | on lease.      |
| Ordinary arable | 1l. per acre.             | ditto          |

There is scarcely any land in the strath of the parish let below 1l. per acre. The brae farms, and the pasture land, are let by slump; it is impossible to say what they rent per acre.

It may be proper here to take notice, that lime, though in such great abundance in this parish, was made but little use of as a manure till very lately; the inhabitants pretended even to say that it spoiled the ground by raising weeds: the truth is, the objection lay in their injudicious management; there is not the smallest doubt, where ground is foul, as is the case in the soil and moist climate of Campsie, that lime puts the weeds in vegetation; but if the land had been fallowed, or even permitted to lie long in ley, till the ground was properly swarded, there is no country in Scotland, where liming produces a better effect, than in this district: As some recent experiments have shown, we now lime at the rate of from six to eight chalders per acre. Such being the state of agriculture in this parish, it may be said, without disparagement, that it is, as yet, but in its infancy; and yet it is but doing justice, both to the proprietors and tenants, to observe, that the improvements are going on with great spirit and success.

*Grazing.*—There is considerable attention paid in this district to the management of black cattle, both for the purposes of the dairy, and likewise for that of the butcher. The following table exhibits the number of cattle and sheep kept in the parish in 1793.

Milk

|                                                                    |   |   |   |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|------|
| Milk cows,                                                         | - | - | - | 749  |
| Calves and queys                                                   | - | - | - | 503  |
| Fat cows and young beasts for the Falkirk market, and the butcher, | - | - | - | 917  |
| Winterers, being mostly grazed next summer for the butcher         | - | - | - | 300  |
| Sheep, being mostly brood ewes,                                    | - | - | - | 1600 |

These 749 milk-cows are kept by 177 people; there are ten principal dairies, which consist of betwixt 14 to 20 milk cows; the remainder are split down in small dairies, containing from 4 to 10 cows. It is not easy to say what milk at an average is given per day by the cows of this district; I should think from 7 to 11 Scotch pints; below 7 they are not thought worth keeping for the dairy: above 11 they are considered as remarkable.

About 60 of those persons who have cows, may be considered as tradesmen and manufacturers; it may be doubted, whether it be of any use to such a person to keep a cow or not; some are apt to imagine that it is calculated to instill habits of idleness into the minds of their children, who may be employed in herding them by the dykes-side: no doubt, it will be considered as an eye-sore by the farmers, to allow the children of tradesmen to feed their cows on the road-side, to the prejudice of his turnips and pease; on the other hand, it is of the utmost importance to the state at large, that the children of tradesmen and sedentary people should be healthy: I know of nothing more calculated to promote that end than plenty of fresh milk. Our milk cows, within these 30 years, have increased considerably in bulk; at an average, if fattened, they would weigh 20 stones, Tron weight. In general, they are the breed of Highland bulls; hence they have a tendency to take on flesh, more than to

give large quantities of milk ; at the same time it must be owned, that the milk is remarkably rich ; it being very common for a cow, which only gives 8 Scotch pints per day, to produce nearly a pound of butter from that milk per day. Campsie has been long remarkable for making excellent butter : Till of late, it was only skimm'd milk cheese which they made, of course it was not very rich : Now, however, there are several dairies, which make cheese equal to any from Dunlop ; and from the price which they receive for such cheese, they consider this plan as more profitable than to make butter.

There are about 1600 muir-ewes kept in the parish, whose lambs are sold to the Glasgow butcher in the season, from 6s. to 8s. per head ; they are commonly taken away by the butcher during the month of June, and the first two weeks of July. Perhaps we have the best stock of black faced ewes that are to be met with in Scotland ; they are completely muir ewes, and yet they weigh twelve Tron pounds per quarter, twenty two ounces and a half to the pound : They are sold at a guinea per head when fat ; the flock which I allude to belongs to Mr David Dun, grazier, and they are pastured upon the muir-lands of the estate of Kirkton, belonging to John Macfarlane, Esq ; In former times, there were at least 4000 sheep in the parish ; they were of two sorts : the black faced sheep, with coarse wool, bought at the market of Kilbryde and Linton ; and the small country sheep, with white and yellow faces, and remarkable fine wool. From what the writer of this account recollects, the country sheep must in a great measure have resembled the Shetland breed :—they were the common breed of the country ; it being wedder-hogs and Dinmonts alone, which were bought at Kilbryde and Linton market. By some strange fatality, this Southland breed hath crept in, though the creature is less hardy and

courser

courser in the wool ; at this moment there is not the smallest vestige of our country breed remaining, all the stock ewes in the parish being black faced and coarse wooled : Two causes have been assigned for the total neglect of the native breed : 1st, Since the rise of the flesh-meat took place, it hath been the object of the graziers to pay more attention to the bulk of the carcase than to the fineness of the wool. 2dly, About the year 1763, a new mode of grazing was introduced ; the face of the hills being appropriated to the feeding of black cattle, it was found that our native breed of sheep were not fond of the coarse grafs in the muir, constantly seeking after the short bite on the Campsie Fells, it became absolutely necessary, therefore, if we were to follow this system of grazing, to procure such a breed of sheep as were fitted for the muir ground.

At present, the wool in this parish I believe to be as good as any wool of the Tweedsmuir breed of sheep ; when smeared with tar and butter, it sells betwixt six and seven shillings per stone ;—white, as it is termed, sells at ten shillings per stone ; we expect eight pounds of clean washed wool out of the stone of that which was smeared ; and twelve pounds from the white wool. It is chiefly sold to the country people in the neighbourhood. The grazing of black cattle upon brae ground, is perhaps as well understood in this parish, as in most places of Scotland ; above 900 are fed annually in this district, either for the butcher, or the Falkirk market ; perhaps 300 of these may be wintered ; the remainder bought in at the Whitsunday markets.

The winterers graze in the open fields, during the whole winter season, and are fed once or twice a day with coarse hay, made of sprats and grafs,—gathered in autumn amongst the cows feet in their pasture ; the graziers commonly begin

to fodder, as they term it, about Christmases, (It is considered as a severe winter, when they are forced to begin before Christmas,) and continue till about the beginning of April, when the cattle refuse it. There are few cattle grazed with us but Highlanders, and we prefer those from Argyleshire, and the isles: North country cattle are rejected, as they are considered by the graziers as sour and difficult to feed: grazing of Highland cattle upon brae-ground in this district, owes much of the perfection to which it has been brought, to Mr David Dun, a native of this parish.—He has spent the better of his life in the profession of a shepherd, grazier, and breeder of cattle; and his countrymen acknowledge, with pleasure, the obligations they are under to him for his skill and attention in these particulars.—He has, with some propriety, been styled the Scotch Bakewell; for several years, he gave 1400 l. *per annum* for grass-lands, and at that time did not so much as grow a cabbage plant; at present, he pays about 800 l. *per annum* on current leases; he has been known, again and again, to sell cattle of the Highland breed, of his own rearing, at twelve and fourteen pounds Sterling *per* head, to the butchers;—he has brought his breed of muir ewes to such perfection, as often to sell his tup-hogs at a guinea *per* head, to the Highland shepherds for brood rams:—He has sold forty or fifty at this rate, in a season. Besides the uncommon skill, which, from long experience, he must have acquired in the judging of cattle and sheep; there are certain uniform principles which he goes upon in grazing, which may be proper to mention: In the 1<sup>st</sup> place, never to stock his land so heavily as his neighbours, or even perhaps as the land could bear; by this means, his cattle have always the choice of grass, and he is enabled to gather enough amongst their feet to fodder them in winter. The cattle by this means are fully fed, which gives him the option of merchants. 2<sup>d</sup>ly, By having farms



farms of different complexions, he has it in his power to fort his cattle in such a manner, as to suit each farm:—He has it in his power to vary their food, and to change them from farm to farm, as he perceives them healthy, taking on flesh, or the contrary. 3dly, In the manner of buying his cattle from the Highland dealers, he is very particular: he must have the worst and oldest, draughted again and again from the drove, before he will purchase it; by this means, he acquires none but healthy cattle; perhaps they may cost him a few shillings more *per* head, but it is soon repaid.—Scarcely ever any of his cattle die; and they are so evenly, that it is hardly in the power of the butcher to challenge a bad beast; by this management, his profits are uniform over the whole head; whereas, when cattle are shot, as it is termed, the profits are greatly diminished. §

We are not to imagine that the profits of graziers in our brae lands are very great; when the cattle are bought in at Martinmas, and kept for one year in the pasture, two guineas per head is expected as grafs-mail; when bought at the Whitfunday market and kept till Martinmas, one guinea is expected per head; when these profits are deficient, it is considered as a bad year by the grazier; and when they exceed, it is considered as good times. \*

*Roads.*

§ This gentleman hath been unfortunately killed by accident, since writing this account. It happened on the 27th of May 1794, as he was attending on sheep shearing:—Leading a sheep across a wooden bridge, the rail of the bridge gave way; and he was thrown into the river; falling upon a stone, he was killed on the spot.

\* Notwithstanding the district of Campsie seems to be so well adapted for the grazing of cattle, perhaps there are some defects attending their plan, which it may be proper to mention: 1<sup>st</sup>, It seems to be the misfortune of the Scotch in general, and particularly of the people of this district, that when they

*Roads.*—Great attention and skill have been shown in this article ; the parish is intersected by two great roads, the one a turnpike, leading from the military road at Kippin to Glasgow, the other from East to West, joining the great Edinburgh road

they observe their neighbours thriving in any profession, they immediately run into it, without considering whether they have industry or talents to succeed ; such has, of late, been too much the case in the grazing line ; so that now, the utmost industry and talents can scarcely enable them to live. The country banks afforded abundance of credit to every adventurer ; from such a competition amongst these *would-be-graziers*, the grass-farms are too high rented ; the cattle are dear bought from their rearers ; and the result has been, that notwithstanding the cry of the goodness of the times, very little profit has been made by the people embarked in this profession ; for these ten years past, many bankruptcies have taken place among that class of men ; It indulges the adventurous spirit of the people, and therefore will always be a favourite profession, let the profits be what they will. *2dly*, The rage for Highland cattle is too great, more so than these cattle deserve ; it is true, where ground is high and much exposed, such cattle is more adapted for the pasture, than the cattle which the low country produces ; but perhaps it would be the interest of the grazier, to turn all our brae ground in sheep pasture, and the grounds of the valley into grass farms, for lowland cattle, where, if once winter food were produced, and the land either protected by planting, or shades built where they might be fed with turnip in the open air ; the prospects of greater profits upon the fattening of beasts would be procured, than by the imperfect mode of buying either winterers at the Down markets, or lean cattle at Belting, and selling them at Martinmas. *3dly*, There is another defect which attends the present system of grazing in this country, and which tends to render the beef of Highland cattle too dear to the consumer ; there being no less than three different classes of people who must have their profits within the year : There is the drover, who collects these cattle in small parcels from the rearer, and sells them at fairs, at an advanced price to the graziers ; the grazier, again, very often sells his cattle to the *couper*, who runs them at fairs to the consumer, and sometimes exacts a profit almost equal to that of the grazier : In short, there is too much of the spirit of adventure in this profession, whereby both the grazier and consumer are losers.

road at Auchinreach house on the East, and the turnpike road by Strathblane to Glasgow, on the the West ; besides these two great lines, the turnpike road from Edinburgh to Glasgow by Falkirk, passes through Campsie for two miles ; and there are two cross branches which strike off to Kirkintilloch ; so that there are in all 20 English miles of road in this district, 10 of which are kept up by the converted statute labour : It will be easily believed that there are few districts more complicably intersected, and, it may be added, fewer still where the roads are better kept in order. The roads in this district, before the act for converting the statute labour took place, were miserable indeed ; for although the labour of 101 plough-gates, according to the mode of three days of a man and horse in spring, and as much in autumn for each plough, might appear adequate to the purpose ; still, from the awkward and careless manner in which they wrought, the roads were hardly passable in winter ; at the same time, I am convinced that this was as much owing to the want of skill in the overseers as to the want of dexterity in the labourers. As to any positive advantage gained to the public, from the conversion act, 12s. per annum is by no means equal to the labour of six days of a man and a horse. The sum levied in this parish varied exceedingly of late years, owing to the increase of inhabitants ; every cotter or householder paying 2s. per annum, it hath amounted to 70l. per annum, 50 of which is paid by the farmers and landholders, and the other 20l. by the cottars. Till within these 3 years, this sum was expended in making and repairing, and keeping up 18 out of the 20 miles of road the parish contains : Now, by one great line of road being made a turnpike, the whole money will be expended in future, in improving and keeping up 10 miles, and in making such cross-cuts to the  
great

great branches, as the farther improvement of the district shall suggest; one of which improvements is evident to the most careless observer; viz. in cutting a line of road from Campsie kirk to the Crow road, the distance is not much more than 600 yards, and yet to the people who travel to Stirling from this part of the county, it must shorten the road fully 3 miles.

Considering that the roads were made upon no determined plan, but sometimes altering and mending the old lines, as circumstances occurred, it is wonderful, that in a district where the ground is so uneven, and particularly when it is considered that one of the roads crosses part of a mountain 500 feet high, that there should be so few pulls in it; seldom or ever is the rise more sudden than that of one foot in 20||.

Upon

|| As sometimes it hath been proposed to carry a turnpike road from Kilfyth to the military road near Buchanan house, the seat of the Duke of Montrose, through the straths of Campsie, Strathblane, and Killearn; and if a bridge was thrown over the Leven, at the boat of Ballach, there cannot be the smallest doubt, that the great line of travelling from the West Highlands to Edinburgh, must be through the valley of Campsie, it being much nearer than either by Glasgow or Stirling: (since writing this account, a bill has passed, qualifying the heritors of Stirlingshire to carry this East and West direction through the valley of Fintray, to the North of Campsie hills, and through the valley on the river Blane. It may not be improper to observe here, that the people who grumble most in paying money instead of the statute labour, are the cottars and tradesmen; and yet they are the greatest gainers: They don't recollect, that wherever good roads exist, raw materials are easily imported, and manufactured articles have ready access to the market: such local advantages, along with the circumstance of cheap fuel, have been the great reasons of encouraging manufacturers to settle amongst us: the truth is, the public, or the trustees for the public, may be said to have made a bad bargain when they agreed (as the act of Parliament expresses) to receive two shillings from a cottar in lieu of four days labour, although  
the

Upon the different lines of roads, there are no less than 19 stone bridges, 4 of which are a-crofs the Kelvin. It may be observed, that there are several old causeways in the parish, on the line of road leading to the parish church, which, tradition says, were made by offenders in ancient times, by way of penance; particularly the causeways made by the seven brothers of the name of M'Donald; these shew the stile in which roads were formed in those early days; as far as can be perceived, they consisted of one large whinstone in the middle, with smaller ones on each side in rows, the breadth of the road being about six feet. There is one radical defect attending the roads of this district; the soil being gravelly, when a sudden thaw comes after a severe frost in winter, the ground becomes so spungy, as to be almost impassable, which can only be rectified by making a layer of beat whinstone below the water gravel, a practice seldom followed. The following table exhibits the state of our roads, and the prices levied at the toll-bar:

|                                      | Miles. | £. | s. | d. |
|--------------------------------------|--------|----|----|----|
| Total line of road                   | 20     |    |    |    |
| Turnpike road                        | 10     |    |    |    |
| Country road                         | 10     |    |    |    |
| Money levied per annum in the parish | -      | 70 | 0  | 0  |
| From the ploughgates                 | -      | 50 | 0  | 0  |
| From the cottars                     | -      | 20 | 0  | 0  |
| Price of cattle at the toll-bar      | -      | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Horse and cart                       | -      | 0  | 0  | 2  |
| Single horse                         | -      | 0  | 0  | 1  |
| The score of cows, sheep, lambs, &c. | -      | 0  | 0  | 5  |

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Z z

Manufacturers.

the act expresses, that all those receiving public charity shall be exempted; perhaps it might be an improvement, if women and men, after a certain age, should be excused from paying parish burdens; it would please them, and the public would not be great losers by such mitigation.



*Manufactures.*—At present the leading feature of this parish is its manufactures: Two very extensive printfields have been erected within these nine years; the one in the 1785, at the French mills, stiled the Kincaid printfield, the firm, Henderson, Semple and Company, upon a farm which they have rented from the laird of Kincaid, at three pound per acre: They have constructed not only the most elegant machinery for the calico printfield; but have likewise completed a set of works for the manufacturing all sorts of grain; the fall at this printfield is 22 feet; the grounds are laid out with great taste; and in order to obtain soft pure water, they have dug a reservoir of 120 yards in length, and seventy in breadth, with a small island in the middle, planted with shrubs.

The other was erected in the year 1786, containing a farm annexed to it of about thirty acres; likewise at three pound per acre, where works uncommonly commodious have been erected: The firm of this second, is Lindfay, Smith and Company; both fields are upon a lease of 99 years.

Both these works have been carried on with spirit, and, it is believed, with considerable success. Two circumstances induced the manufacturers to settle in this parish; viz. plenty of pit-coal, and the uncommon supply of water in all seasons; perhaps the circumstances of being situated in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, and of the Canal, might not a little contribute to fix their choice. There are about 306 persons, young and old, employed at each field; each employs 37 tables for block printing, and 17 copperplate presses; they in general bleach their own cloth for printing.

At the Lennox mill print-field, there is another field laid out for bleaching lawns, which there is every reason to believe will succeed perfectly well. The work people at the Wester field,

field, are commodiously lodged at the new village of Lenox-town; and at the Kincaid, or Easter Field, several of the printers have leased steadings on the grounds; so that there is every probability of a neat village being built, for the convenience of its servants. At first, (as was to be expected in all new works,) the operative people were a little turbulent; and considering that they were a collection from all the different corners of the country, enjoying high wages, and carried away by the licentiousness of the times, their turbulence was not to be wondered at; but that is now all over; and there are scarce any works in the country, where the people behave more circumspectly towards their employers, and are more regular in their deportment.

These public works employ each of them two Excise officers; and they pay of revenue to Government about four thousand pounds each per annum.

It may be proper to notice, that although the wages of calico printers seem to be the highest of any in the country; no doubt, when the long apprenticeship is considered, along with the unwholesome nature of the work, the wages perhaps should be greater than of most other operative people; at the same time, when it is considered, that the highest wages do not always make the wealthiest tradesman; perhaps, if some method could be fallen upon to reduce the prices, both the tradesman and the public would be gainers.

The following table exhibits the present situation of one field, as far as is known to the public. There being nearly the same workmen at both, the same table may apply to each.

| DESIGNATIONS.           | WAGES PER WEEK. |              |            |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| Block Printers . . . 36 | from            | 18s. to 21s. | per week.  |
| Copperplates ditto . 22 | from            | 17s. to 21s. | ditto.     |
| Pencillers . . . . 160  | from            | 4s. to 6s.   | ditto.     |
| Tearing Boys . . . 34   |                 | 2s.          | ditto.     |
| Bleachers . . . . 26    |                 | 8s.          | ditto.     |
| Engravers . . . . 16    | from            | 18s. to 22s. | ditto.     |
| Miln. Wrights . . . 2   |                 | 12s.         | ditto.     |
| Labourers . . . . 6     |                 | 7s.          | ditto.     |
| Furnace Men . . . . 8   |                 | 7s.          | ditto.     |
| Excise Officers . . . 2 |                 | 50l.         | per annum. |
| Revenue to Government.  |                 | 8000l.       | per annum. |

It may be observed, that as the greatest number of block printers at each field are apprentices, so, of course, their wages are small in proportion : Their masters are only bound, by their indentures, to allow them 3s. per week, for the first four years, and 4s. per week, the last three years ; but, owing to the briskness of trade for some years by gone, it was customary to allow the apprentices to work for as much as they could make, giving them the half of the journeyman's prices ; at present, the wages of the calico printers in this district are somewhat fallen, owing to the great number of turn-overs (as they are termed,) from those fields which have stopped payment. Whether this depression of their wages shall continue or not, the ebbs and flows of the trade must determine. These two printfields pay annually about nine thousand pounds Sterling in wages. This parish may now be said to possess a spirit for carrying on manufactures of different sorts ; there being no less than 105 operative weavers in it ; 9 of which are employed by private families ; the remainder weave to the manufactures in Glasgow, and, as far as can be well ascertained,

tained, earn, at an average, from twenty pence to two shillings per day. †

*Population.*

† It will not be improper, to take notice of a species of manufacture which has existed in this parish for some ages : We know that it was manufactured, to a considerable extent, as early as the reign of James the 6th, which goes by the name of the Campsie gray ; and was then considered as the staple of the country. It may be proper to describe it : It was spun about the grist of nine cuts out of the pound of wool, each cut consisting of sixty threads, six quarters long ; it was dyed a blue colour in the wool, and wove for a penny farthing the ell, in a ten porter or two hundred reed ; they seldom made it broader than half an ell and a nail of dressed cloth ; and they sold the double ell from half a crown to three shillings ; so that the weaver had for the single yard little more than fifteen pence : It was spun by the women in private families during the summer ; it being customary for each family to have two of these webbs, one of which was got dressed against Martinmas, and sold to pay the master's rent ; the other against New-years-day ; the profits of which went to supply the demands of the family. The fairs of Kilsyth were the great markets for the disposal of these gray webs ; the serving lads used to collect from all the neighbouring parishes, in order to supply themselves with suits of Campsie Gray ; which they would easily do, at the moderate expence of nine pounds Scots ; and perhaps, few countries ever supplied a more cheap, decent, and profitable cloathing for working people — It was all spun, as it is termed, upon the *muckle* wheel ; and a woman used to earn three pence per day besides her victuals : It would be improper to pass over the breaking of the gray web, a scene of joy and gaiety, which will not soon be forgot in this part of the country : If a private family was to have their wool prepared for spinning, a number of country lasses were invited in order to card it ; they generally assembled in the barn ; during the day, a large piece of cheese was cut from the kebbok, and wrapt up in a white cloth, and hid by one of the damsels ; at the gloming, the young lads used to assemble, in order to search for this cheese, and peculiarly fortunate was that young man considered to be, who (having received a watch word from some of his fair friends,) found out the cheese, and had the opportunity of dividing it amongst the simpering damsels. Both the manufactures and days of innocent amusement are gone ; nor has the manners introduced by public works repaired the loss ; it must be owned, however, that since manufactures were introduced, there is an uncommon degree of activity which pervades this district, and which accompanies the people in all their operations ; and perhaps, indeed, I would rather be disposed to pronounce the character of the people in this place inclined to merchandise and adventure.

*Population.*—This present year, 1793, when the numeration was made, there were 2517 souls. The population of this parish has increased 900, since December 1783, the number then being 1627. In Dr Webster's account it is given up at 1400. From several facts in the possession of the writer of this account, the population of this parish seems somewhat to have declined from the Revolution till the year 1763. The chief cause which has been assigned for this circumstance, was the throwing several small tenements together, making one large farm, whereby a number of families were thrown out of bread, and obliged to emigrate to large towns for their daily subsistence. The number of householders or reeks, previous to the 1783, I cannot mark positively; in that year there were 317; population then being somewhat better than five to a family; in the present year, there are 609 householders, or people who keep reeks, so that the number of souls have not increased in the same proportion as that of householders: the reason is obvious: several young people, printers and pencilers, at the different printfields, keep house, either singly, or perhaps, though married, have not as yet more than one child; so that the population in this parish, even supposing the householders not to increase, is not come to its just level. To shew the proportions from the Revolution to the year 1763, I have subjoined the following table; each statement containing the average of baptisms for five years:

It

| Years. | Baptisms. | Average. | Years. | Baptisms. | Average. |
|--------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------|----------|
| 1696   | 49        |          | 1734   | 32        |          |
| 1700   | 47        |          | 1733   | 43        |          |
| 1701   | 47        |          | 1734   | 28        |          |
| 1704   | 41        |          | 1735   | 44        |          |
| 1705   | 49        |          | 1736   | 43        |          |
|        | —         | 46       |        | —         | 38       |



| Years. | Baptisms. | Average. | Years. | Baptisms. | Average. |
|--------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------|----------|
| 1750   | 37        |          | 1773   | 33        |          |
| 1751   | 51        |          | 1774   | 39        |          |
| 1752   | 39        |          |        | —         | 37       |
| 1753   | 42        |          | 1781   | 38        |          |
| 1754   | 37        |          | 1782   | 40        |          |
|        | —         | 41       | 1783   | 42        |          |
| 1760   | 37        |          | 1784   | 50        |          |
| 1763   | 26        |          | 1785   | 46        |          |
| 1764   | 44        |          |        | —         | 43       |
| 1765   | 34        |          | 1789   | 94        |          |
| 1766   | 29        |          | 1790   | 79        |          |
|        | —         | 34 *     | 1791   | 75        |          |
| 1770   | 36        |          | 1792   | 89        |          |
| 1771   | 44        |          | 1793   | 115       |          |
| 1772   | 35        |          |        | —         | 90       |

It may be observed that the register of marriages seems to confirm the same opinion, that the population had decreased from the Revolution to the year 1763 †:

| Years. | Marriages. | Average. | Years. | Marriages. | Average. |
|--------|------------|----------|--------|------------|----------|
| 1696   | 17         |          | 1790   | 26         |          |
| 1697   | 19         |          | 1791   | 34         |          |
| 1698   | 22         |          | 1792   | 27         |          |
| 1706   | 18         |          | 1793   | 26         |          |
| 1707   | 28         |          |        | —          | 28       |
|        | —          | 21       |        |            |          |

It is not so easy to ascertain the average of deaths, as no register seems to have been kept, previous to the year 1790, but for these last four years it stands thus:

Years.

\* This period seems to have been the lowest, as is likewise evident from the register of marriages.

† It appears, as far as the register of marriages is entire, that the number decreased to about 12; it is now about 28 annually, as appears from the list of the 4 last years.

| Years. | Deaths. | Average. | Years. | Deaths. | Average. |
|--------|---------|----------|--------|---------|----------|
| 1790   | 38      |          | 1792   | 32      |          |
| 1791   | 41      |          | 1793   | 34      | 36       |

Allowing our registers to have been accurately kept, which I believe to be as much the case as in most country parishes; it is evident that they are regulated by no general rule: The sudden influx of inhabitants have varied these registers exceedingly. The following table exhibits all the facts relative to the present state of population:

| DESIGNATIONS, &c.   |      | Of the three last years of burials, the |    |
|---------------------|------|-----------------------------------------|----|
| Householders,       | 609  | diseases stand thus:                    |    |
| Inhabitants,        | 2527 | Died of fevers,                         | 8  |
| Males,              | 1234 | Small-pox,                              | 15 |
| Females,            | 1292 | Consumptions,                           | 26 |
| Below 10 years,     | 882  | Palsy,                                  | 2  |
| Born in the parish, | 1334 | Asthma,                                 | 1  |
| Incomers,           | 1190 | Chinacough,                             | 6  |
| Baptisms,           | 90   | Bowelhive, (vulgarly stiled.)           | 1  |
| Marriages,          | 28   | Measles,                                | 6  |
| Burials,            | 36   | Child-bed,                              | 1  |
| Above ninety,       | 0    | Still-born,                             | 1  |
| Above eighty,       | 5    | Mortification,                          | 1  |
| Above seventy,      | 100  | Old age,                                | 26 |

What is now stiled consumption, seems to have been unknown in this district about 60 years ago; and I believe generally unknown in Scotland: Many causes have been assigned for this fact, by medical men. Where people were cloathed in plaiding, which somewhat resembles flannel, as was the case till very lately in this district, and where they seldom were confined to work in warm houses, as is now the case, great colds, the forerunners of consumption, would not easily affect them.

Of

Of this population we have subjoined the following table, shewing how they were employed spring 1792

|                                                                                                        |                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Of the 882 below ten years of age, there were, at the four different schools in this parish, . . . 200 | Block-printers . . . . 74         |
| The remaining were infants in their parents houses, capable of no employment, . . . . 682              | Stocking-makers . . . . 6         |
| The remaining 800 males above ten years of age, are employed in the following manner :                 | Copperplate press-printers 22     |
| Gentlemen who live on their rents 8                                                                    | Tearing boys . . . . 70           |
| Minister of the Establishment 1                                                                        | Coalliers . . . . 46              |
| Minister of a Relief meeting house 1                                                                   | Lime-quarriers . . . . 40         |
| Surgeon . . . . 1                                                                                      | Hill-men at the different pits 10 |
| Farmers and graziers . . . 96                                                                          | Carters and Carriers . . 10       |
| Weavers . . . . 105                                                                                    | Labourers . . . . 20              |
| Tailors . . . . 8                                                                                      | House servants to the gentry 11   |
| House-carpenters . . . 11                                                                              | Farmers and graziers servants 90  |
| Miln-wrights . . . . 6                                                                                 | Publicans . . . . 17              |
| Black-smiths in four shops . 9                                                                         | Schoolmasters . . . . 4           |
| Shoe-makers . . . . 5                                                                                  | Students . . . . 4                |
| Excise-officers who reside in the parish . . . . 2                                                     | Grave-digger . . . . 1            |
|                                                                                                        | Millers . . . . 7                 |
|                                                                                                        | Lint-dressers and glovers . 7     |
|                                                                                                        | Shop-keepers and chandlers 11     |
|                                                                                                        | Bleachers . . . . 60              |
|                                                                                                        | Dyers . . . . 16                  |

A TABLE,

*Shewing how the 800 females are employed in 1793.*

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wives to the different householders . . . . 410                                     | Midwives . . . . 3                                                                                                                                        |
| Daughters, residing in their parents families . . . 170                             | The remaining seventy-one are either widows or unmarried women, who reside in cot-houses 71                                                               |
| Servants in gentlemen's families 26                                                 | Of the married women and young persons, residing in their parents houses, there may be about one hundred and sixty who pencil calico to the print-fields. |
| Menial servants to the farmers and different householders in the parish . . . . 110 |                                                                                                                                                           |
| As sempstresses and mautua-makers . . . . 12                                        |                                                                                                                                                           |

*Poor.*—Every attempt hath been made by the heritors and session to discourage begging; as yet their efforts have proved abortive; and although at this moment there is not a single person in this parish understood to be a common beggar, we are still pestered with vagrants. The poor which we countenance as such, generally reside along with their children, or some near relation; they receive their allowance on the first Monday of each month; 6s. per month is the highest sum given; none receive less than three; at an average there are 20 constantly upon our list. The funds from which they are paid are the collections at the church door, the mortcloth fees and proclamation money, together with the interest of 570l. of which 500l. is secured on heritable property at 5 per cent interest, payable twice in the year: The other 70l. is lodged in bank, payable on demand in case of an emergency; from those funds we have been able as yet to supply the wants of our poor. The collections at the sacrament, including the preparation and the thanksgiving days, are applied to the relief of those indigent householders, whose situation is not so pressing as to make them objects of the ordinary charity. Although it is believed that the law allows kirk sessions to take possession of the effects belonging to the paupers, so soon as they grant them supply; we have anxiously avoided being too strict in this particular; for, callous as the relations of the pauper may be, it is still an inducement for them to assist a little; whereas, if they had no prospect of succeeding to the trumpery, small as it is, the whole care of their relation would be thrown upon the parish; and it is well known that 18d. per week is not adequate to all the necessities of lodging, clothing, and feeding a pauper. The English system is to support the poor, the Scotch to assist them.

The

The session in this parish has hitherto taken the complete management of supplying the poor; the heritors meet once in the year, or two years, as it suits them, to examine and pass their accounts; and it may be said here, as in every parish in Scotland, that it is the cheapest and best managed public fund in Great Britain; the only expence incurred with us is of one guinea per annum allowed to the session-clerk, for keeping the books. Besides the public parochial charity, there are two other charitable institutions, which have lately been founded in the parish, the one known by the name of the Campsie Benevolent Society, instituted in the year 1786, and whose capital already amounts to 110*l.* which Society allows 3*s.* to its members per week if bed-ridden, and 2*s.* per week if merely incapable of work; the other institution is connected with the Lennox-Kilwinning mason lodge; its capital is 70*l.*; it likewise allows liberally to its indigent members.

The annual disbursements by the session are between 60 and 70*l.* Sterling per annum. This parish, considering its riches and its population, could afford its poor a great deal more, providing an assessment took place; the mode of provision by collections at the church-doors, has been considerably hurt by a Relief meeting-house, which hath lately been erected in the parish; the collections made at these houses being either employed to pay their ministers, or to pay the debts incurred in building their chapels, none is given to support the regular poor; such houses, therefore, upon their present footing, are extremely prejudicial to the Scotch mode of providing for the indigent ||.

3 A 2

|| From the opportunity that the writer of this account has had, as a native of this parish, of attending to the state of the poor in this district, he cannot help taking notice of a remarkable trait of the degeneracy of the present age.



*Of the Church.*—Campsie was a parsonage ; the parson of Campsie was the Sacristan of the Cathedral of Glasgow ; of course, he must have been one of the residentiary canons ; he had a house in the Ratten-row of Glasgow, said to be still in existence ; and was accustomed to serve the cure at Campsie by a vicar. As this parish, in Roman Catholic times, contained above 150 plough-gates of land, from which the parson drew tithes ; the probability is, that the living was considerable.

Attending

age. About 35 years ago, it would have been considered as disgraceful to children to have allowed their parents to be supported by the session, or even the more distant relations of brethren or nephews, to have heard of their sisters or uncles cast upon the box, as they termed it ; it is now astonishing with what greediness people receive public charity ; they somewhat consider it as a pension, to which they are entitled. It is not uncommon to perceive children enjoying high wages, and indulging in many of the gaieties of life, neglecting their aged parents : such unnatural conduct was not congenial once with Scottish independence, and that dignified pride, which characterized our forefathers, in their more virtuous days. When a pauper dies, it is customary for the session to provide the coffin and winding-sheet, and mortcloth, gratis. And if there shall be no relation of the deceased in the parish, to contribute for the little entertainment necessary at the funeral, which seldom happens, 5s. is allowed for such expence. As it might tend to throw more light upon the political situation of a country, to examine at what age, and what are the class of people of which the paupers of a parish are composed, I have subjoined the following table, comprehending the different periods of admission, and the sums given.

|                                                                                                         |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| No. of paupers on our list,                                                                             | 25  |
| Of these there are females,                                                                             | 16  |
| Males,                                                                                                  | 9   |
| Above sixty years of age,                                                                               | 19  |
| The average of the years of their receiving charity,                                                    | 8   |
| Of this number of paupers, there are no less than five facile in their mind,                            | 5   |
| The highest sum given is per month,                                                                     | 6s. |
| It would appear that it is only the hundredth part of the whole inhabitants who require public charity, |     |
| Of these twenty five paupers, eight are unmarried women.                                                |     |

Attending to that distinction of bishops churches, and men's churches, it was one of the bishops churches gifted by Donald, Earl of Lennox, to the See of Glasgow, in the year 1270. Those who delight in magnifying the riches of the church of Rome, take particular pleasure in pointing out the yard where the parson of Campsie's corn-stacks were arranged, and the site of the mill which was constantly employed in grinding his grain. There is reason to believe, that he was not the least wealthy heritor of his parish. Previous to the Reformation, we know that Lamberton and Beaton were parsons of Campsie, and afterwards both of them bishops of St. Andrews, men who made some figure in their day\*.

The

\* Since the Reformation, the names of the clergy who filled that charge, and the dates of their admission, have been preserved in the presbytery records of Glasgow; and they furnish us with a pretty good specimen of the spirit of the times. There is reason to believe, that the clergyman of this parish continued Roman Catholic, and occasionally performed this sacred function in the parish, till the year 1572; he is said to have been a branch of the family of MARR: about that time, we find a Mr William Erskine, a relation likewise of the MARR family, parson of Campsie; he was afterwards titular Archbishop of Glasgow; he is said never to have been in holy orders: How long he continued parson of Campsie, we know not; but we find,

1<sup>st</sup>, Mr Stoddart, presbyterian minister of Campsie, on the 3d of November 1581.

2<sup>d</sup>, Mr James Stewart is settled assistant and successor the 25th of March 1607.

3<sup>d</sup>, Mr John Crichton was admitted the 23d of April 1623: He was deposed for what was called corrupt doctrine: There is a tradition in the parish, that he was such a remarkable stout, well breathed man, that he could walk in forty minutes to the top of the Campsie Fells, eating a pease bannock, to a spot which, to this day, goes by the name of Crichton's Cairn.

4<sup>th</sup>, Mr Alexander Forbes was admitted the 16th of December 1629; and was deposed for not conforming to the Synod of Glasgow, on the third of April 1639.

5<sup>th</sup>,

The progress of the stipends of this parish, I have not been able to ascertain accurately prior to the year 1618 : It is then declared to be two chalders of meal and 600 merks : In the  
year

5th, Mr John Collins was admitted the 2d of November 1641 ; he was murdered in returning from the presbytery about Martinmas 1648 ; the suspicion fell upon the laird of Balglaß, a small heritor in the parish, who was obliged to fly the country to avoid punishment.

6th, Mr Archibald Denniston was ordained the 30th of March 1649 : He was deposed by the protesters in 1655, about which deposition Principal Baillie, in his letters, makes the following remark : He was restored in the year 1661, and died 1679 ; there is a traditionary anecdote mentioned of him, which somewhat marks the character of the man.—In the year 1655 he had begun a discourse on a text, and half finished the first head.—In the year 1661, when restored, he took up the second, prefacing his discourse, by saying, that the times were altered, but that the doctrines of the gospel are always the same.

Principal Baillie, in his letters, speaking of Mr Denniston says, “ he was “ deposed by the protesters in 1655 ; for his part, he saw nothing evil of the “ man. The protesters, says he, put in his room a Mr John Law, a *poor Baxter callan*, who had but lately left his trade, and hardly knew his grammar ; “ but they said he was *gifted*.”

7th, Mr John Law was ordained by the protesters in 1656 : He was ejected 1661, and was restored 1688 ; he never officiated again in Campsie.

8th, Mr George Miln was instituted 24th June 1681 : He was turned out at the Revolution, and was exceedingly ill used ; the worthless part of the parish having risen in a mob and broke his furniture, and threatened his person ; this gentleman, however, by way of retaliation, carried away the records of the parish.

9th, Mr John Govan, who had been imprisoned in the Bais, in James the 7th's time, was ordained minister of Campsie on the 5th of December 1688 ; he died a bachelor the 17th of September 1729.

10th, He was succeeded by his nephew Mr John Forrester, a brother of Forrester's of Dinovan ; he died in September 1731, at the age of 25.

11th, He was succeeded by Mr John Warden, a son of the minister of Gargunnoch ; he was ordained the 3d of April 1732 ; which gentleman was translated to Perth, and afterwards to the Canongate of Edinburgh. He was succeeded by Mr William Bell, a native of Ecclesfechan, Dumfriesshire ; who

year 1649, an augmentation of a chalder of meal, and one hundred pounds Scots, was granted ; and in the 1785, a new augmentation was granted ; so that the stipend now is 80 l. Sterling in money, two chalders of meal, and one chalder of barley : It would appear, that very soon after the act passed, ordaining glebes to the reformed clergy, that four acres and a half of arable land was allocated to the minister of Campsie : In the year 1646, when a disjunction and annexation took place, three acres and a half more were allocated for pasture ; but, owing to the turbulence of the times which followed, the minister never seems to have been in possession of them ; so that at present the glebe of Campsie is deficient in pasture ; the heritors, about 30 years ago, bought an acre of land, adding it to the four acres and half, without specifying whether it was in part of pasture or not. Till lately, it was customary for the minister to use some overt act to prevent prescription running against him, anent the three acres and a half which had been allocated for pasture. For some time after the Reformation, it would appear that the clergyman had lived in the vicar's house. In 1627, a house was built alienarily for the purpose of lodging the minister ; it was a small house of two stories, thatched with straw : In 1727, a new house was built on the same site ; which house, along with the offices, was repaired in the year 1785, at the very moderate expence of one hundred and twenty nine pounds. The church consisted

was ordained the 24th of September 1747, and died the 8th of May 1783.

13th, He was succeeded by the present incumbent. Thirteen clergymen have therefore officiated in this parish since the Reformation, at least since the year 1582 ; which, at an average, is nearly 16 years to each incumbent ; but what is very astonishing, out of that number no less than five were ejected on account of the turbulence of the times, and one said to have been murdered ; facts, which should lead us to value the peaceable and happy times in which we live.

consisted originally of three parts : 1<sup>st</sup>, What they called the kirk ; 2<sup>d</sup>, the quire ; and, 3<sup>d</sup>, the vestry ; which corresponded to the uses required in the Roman Catholic times ; it was repaired in the year 1772 : At present it would be by far too small for the parish, if a relief meeting-house had not been erected. The kirk of Campsie, like most of the churches in popish times, is situated at the end of the parish ; whether this was from accident, or from choice of the clergy, to fix it in the most desirable spot, is not easy to determine. If, however, the population of this district continues to increase, there will be an absolute necessity of building a more commodious church in a more central spot, for the better accommodation of the inhabitants. I observed, that in the 1649 there was a disjunction and an annexation of considerable portions of this parish to Kilfyth and Baldernock ; it appears, however, by a dispute which lately took place betwixt the minister of Baldernock and the heritors of Campsie, anent the augmentation of the stipend of Baldernock, that the part disjoined was only annexed *quoad sacra* ; and the probability is, that the proportion annexed to Kilfyth is in the same predicament. All the lands in the parish are now valued, and the free unappropriated tithe is better than 600 l. Sterling annually, as the fund from which the clergymen may have future augmentations. Mr Campbell of Shawfield is titular, in virtue of his being the purchaser of the estate of Kilfyth, from the creditors of the York-building. There is an opinion entertained by some people, that if an act of Parliament does not render all ministers stipendiaries, that on account of certain peculiar circumstances, the minister of Campsie is still titular of the tithes.

The duties of this parish consist in visiting and regularly examining the congregation once in the year, besides preaching three discourses every sunday, from the 10th of April till  
the



the 10th of October ; and in winter, two discourses, one of them always a lecture : The sacrament is given once in the year ; three discourses on the fast day, two on Sunday, two on Monday : The action sermon in the church, and the evening sermon ; besides preaching at the tent. People have complained, that the tent preaching was prejudicial : I am inclined to believe the contrary from experience : 1<sup>st</sup>, On account of its bringing a considerable collection for the poor ; and, 2<sup>dly</sup>, it accustoms a number of people to meet together in a decent, cheerful, and respectable manner.—I have never heard either the sober, or the serious, or the industrious, complain ; and considering the simplicity of our service, in most other respects, I have all along been accustomed to consider these public religious meetings as beneficial to the manners of the country. The ecclesiastical discipline of this parish is still kept up. As for discipline against fornicators, two days doing public penance in the church, are required, besides a fine of a crown, for each guilty person, to the poor. There has been an opinion entertained, that this public penance has been productive of very bad effects in society ; so far has an idea gone forth of this sort, that, for this reason, some writers have pretended to say, that so long as doing public penance was permitted, no person should be put to death for child murder : I am inclined to believe, that it would be much more the interest of the community, in a political light, that the laws of discipline should be more rigidly adhered to ; for if once the vulgar of any country, consider incontinency as a venial fault, they are almost ready for the commission of any crime ; and as I can easily see, that the shame of doing penance operates to deter others ; in this point of view, it is to be considered as answering the ends of edification. Public baptism is regularly adhered to ; parents requiring pri-

vate baptism for their children, pay half a crown to the poor.

*Schools.*—There are in this parish two established schools. The parish school was erected in the year 1661, according to the form therein required, under the patronage of John, Archbishop of Glasgow; the legal salary was fixed at 100 pounds Scots: It is remarkable, that in the deed of erection, there is an express clause, declaring, that the schoolmaster, in all time coming, should teach Latin; and that the school should be constantly held at the Clachan of Campsie. There was another school erected in 1727, on a mortification of fifty pounds, left by one Young, a pedlar in Gloucestershire: It is situated at the distance of four English miles from the other. The heritors of Campsie have, somehow or other, permitted the half of the salary belonging to the parish schoolmaster, to be added to the further emolument of this school, of the eastern district.—It is to be expected, in a little time, this mistake will be rectified, and that the parish schoolmaster will receive his legal salary; and, at the same time, the other schoolmaster be sufficiently provided. Besides these two schools, there was a third erected lately at the new village of Campsie, for the benefit of the inhabitants; the teacher has no salary: at the same time, they have always found teachers ready to accept the office upon the bare emolument of the school wages: In the summer season, in the South quarter of the parish, there is commonly a fourth school taught by some young man from Glasgow, who finds it convenient to keep school during the vacation of the College; so that at, an average, there are somewhat above 200 children educated annually in the parish: There are at least one fifth part at school of those who are below twelve years of age. The inhabitants of this parish are, upon the whole, rather

rather disposed to give their children a good education ; at the time this account was wrote, there were thirteen Latin scholars at the two parish schools ; the other children are certain of being taught to read English, write and cast accompts ; the common style of education is carried on in the following manner : They learn the sounds of the letters, and the union of syllables, in the small spelling book ; then they receive the large spelling book ; then they get the New Testament, and the Bible, in which they commonly read some time ; and then the Collection : they get a question in the common catechism to repeat every morning : there is a public repetition on Saturday, with a psalm on Monday. There being several public works in the parish, the night-school is considerable, being wholly made up of grown persons, who attend for the purposes of writing and arithmetic, &c. The wages are fixed for the parish schools by the heritors and session, at 1s. 6d. per quarter for children, half-a-crown for writing and arithmetic, and 3s. for Latin per quarter, besides what they voluntarily give as a new-year's-gift. It is evident that the encouragement is too low ; perhaps it would be the interest of Government that they should have some little addition of salary given to them ; let the wages remain as low as possible, to induce the people to send their children to school ; from this circumstance of the want of encouragement, and likewise from being in the neighbourhood of an University, from whence students come to be our schoolmasters, who have farther prospects, there have been no less than thirteen school-masters in the parish school, since the year 1759. Upon the whole, I would style the common education of Scotland, partly religious, and partly philosophical ; It would not be our interest to see it violently broken in upon ; it is this mode of education which gives the Scotch nation such an attachment to speculation in religion ; it is only following out what they have been taught in the early period of their

lives. There are in this parish, three students of divinity, one preacher and two gown students\*.

*Character, Morals, Genius, &c.*—The inhabitants of this district, during the last, and early part of this century, were somewhat conspicuous for drinking and fighting with their neighbours : If any person in this parish, however mean his situation, had received an injury or affront from an inhabitant of another parish ; his neighbours considered themselves bound to support him, and to avenge his quarrel : such conduct, however, seems to have proceeded more from pride and

\* The peculiar customs of this parish are fast wearing out. It was customary, till within these few years, when any head of a family died, to invite the whole parish : They were served on boards in the barn, where a prayer was pronounced before and after the service, which duty was most religiously observed : The entertainment consisted of the following parts : *First*, there was a drink of ale, then a dram, then a piece of short-bread, then another dram of some other species of liquor, then a piece of currant-bread, and a third dram, either of spirits or wine, which was followed by loaves and cheese, pipes and tobacco : This was the old funeral entertainment in the parish of Campsie, and was stiled their service ; and sometimes this was repeated, and was then stiled a double service ; and it was sure of being repeated at the dredgy. A funeral cost, at least, a hundred pounds Scots, to any family who followed the old course. The most active young man was pointed out to the office of server ; and in those days, while the manners were simple, and at the same time serious, it was no small honour to be a server at a burial. However distant any part of the parish was from the place of interment, it was customary for the attendants to carry the corpse on hand spoked. The mode of invitation to the entertainment, was by some special messenger ; which was stiled bidding to the burial, the form being nearly in the following words : You are desired to come to such a one's burial to morrow, against ten hours. No person was invited by letter : and though invited against ten of the clock, the corpse was never interred till the evening ; time not being so much valued in those days. It was customary for them to have at least two lyke-wakes (the corpse being kept two nights before the interment) where the young neighbours watched the corpse, being merry or sorrowful, according to the situation or rank of the deceased.

and rustic gallantry, than from a settled malevolence of disposition. The more improved manners, and a more general intercourse with society, have, in a great measure, done away this turbulent disposition; still the natives of Campsie may be considered as a keen tempered people, by no means averse to expose themselves to bodily danger at any time: the young people have no objection to a military life, being fond of novelty and adventure; during the present war, no less than 28 have enlisted in the land service, and seven have entered on board the navy; these remarks chiefly apply to the lower class of people. The gentry, for at least these 40 years, have been remarkable for their sobriety, decent behaviour, and economical habits; of course, they are all in prosperous circumstances; rigid economy was not the virtue of their forefathers\*.

*Eminent*

\* About ten years ago, the sudden transition from strict to loose manners was felt very remarkably in this parish; a number of wandering people, from different parts of the kingdom, having settled amongst us at the different printfields:—people, to say no worse of them, not over attentive to regularity of conduct; these persons, however, have now for the most part, left the place. The more sober and industrious have been retained; the younger part of the workmen being now natives of the parish, and more immediately under the eye of their parents and relations—I consider therefore the morals of the manufacturing part of the community, as more regular than they were even five years ago.

The people of Campsie cannot be said to be of a litigious disposition: It is true, from their apparent keenness, you would be apt to imagine that they should be constantly engaged in lawsuits.—The reverse is the case: The higher born and better informed class of people, studiously avoid litigation. Amongst the other description of the inhabitants, much threatening, and a few hasty words, generally terminate the dispute. Neither writer nor messenger at arms reside in the parish; at the same time, considering the number of the transactions which must inevitably take place in a rich and populous district, (even though no law-suit intervenes) a great deal of business is afforded to both professions. Although I could not take upon me to say that the inhabi-

tants



*Eminent Men.*—This parish has produced no eminent men whose history hath arrested the attention of world, except Mr Bell of Antermoney, a gentleman well known to the learned, on account of his travels to China and Persia ; this gentleman possessed an uncommon faculty for speaking the modern languages of Europe ; nor was he less remarkable for an amiable simplicity of manners, in private life, and the most sacred regard to truth in all he said or did. He was a native of Campsie, having inherited a considerable paternal estate : he died in the 1780, at the venerable age of 89.

*Prices of Provisions and Labour.*—Provisions of every sort in this parish are regulated by the Glasgow prices ; the common people have such an inveterate custom of carrying their eggs, poultry, and butter, to town, that we could often buy these articles cheaper at the cross of Glasgow than in the parish of Campsie. I have subjoined a table of the prices of provisions and of labour, for the year 1794.

|                                                            | L. | s. | d.             |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----------------|
| Ducks per pair                                             | 0  | 3  | 0              |
| Hens per pair                                              | 0  | 3  | 4              |
| Eggs per dozen, for four months 8d ; for eight months, 6d. | 0  | 0  | 6              |
| Chickens per pair, ready for the spit                      | 0  | 1  | 4              |
| Butter per Tron lb. 9d ; during two months 11d.            | 0  | 0  | 9              |
| Butter-milk per Scotch pint                                | 0  | 0  | $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| Potatoes per peck, corn measure                            | 0  | 0  | $4\frac{1}{2}$ |
|                                                            |    |    | Best           |

tant of this district are fond of literary pursuits, it would be doing them injustice, if I did not say they were people of capacity and genius ; at the same time, the tendency of their mind is rather towards an active than a contemplative life.

|                                                                | L. | s. | d. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Best beef per lb. Tron weight, at an average                   | 0  | 0  | 6  |
| Ditto ditto in the spring months from 7d. to 8d.               |    |    |    |
| Lamb per quarter, at an average in the season                  | 0  | 1  | 8  |
| Fed veal no fixed price                                        |    |    |    |
| Oat meal, per peck, at an average these two years              | 0  | 1  | 2½ |
| Barley at an average per boll - - -                            | 0  | 18 | 6  |
| Straw per thrave for thatching - - -                           | 0  | 3  | 6  |
| Cheese of skimmed milk per stone - - -                         | 0  | 4  | 6  |
| Tarry-wool per stone - - -                                     | 0  | 7  | 0  |
| White-wool per stone - - -                                     | 0  | 10 | 0  |
| Milk new milked per mutchkin ½, and skimmed, at ½ per choppin. |    |    |    |

It will appear, that living of all sorts is equally dear with any of the great towns in the kingdom; and, I believe, from the following table, that labour will appear equally high.

|                                                       | L. | s. | d.   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----|----|------|
| Wages of a man servant per half year with board,      |    |    |      |
| &c.                                                   | 5  | 0  | 0    |
| Wages of a woman per half year, including ditto,      | 2  | 10 | 0    |
| A common labourer per day, 1s. 4d. in summer;         |    |    |      |
| in winter 1s. 2d.—average,                            | 0  | 1  | 3    |
| Taylor, besides board per day, - - -                  | 0  | 0  | 10   |
| Servants at the printfields per day, during the whole |    |    |      |
| year - - - - -                                        | 0  | 1  | 0    |
| Miln-wright, - - - - -                                | 0  | 1  | 8    |
| Mason, per day, - - - - -                             | 0  | 1  | 10   |
| Horse and cart per day, - - - - -                     | 0  | 3  | 6    |
| Digging ground, building dykes and ditching, is done  |    |    |      |
| at so much per piece, equally high with any part      |    |    |      |
| of Scotland,                                          |    |    |      |
| Women spin wool per day, with victuals,               | 0  | 0  | 4    |
| Linen yarn spun out of the house per spindle,         | 0  | 1  | 6    |
| Digging potatoes per peck, corn measure,              | 0  | 0  | 0½   |
|                                                       |    |    | Bark |

|                                                                               | L. | s. | d.   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|------|
| Bark-peelers per day,                                                         | -  | 0  | 0 10 |
| The hire of women per day is regulated by the prices given at the printfield. |    |    |      |

*Appearance of the Inhabitants, and Diseases.*—The inhabitants of this district may be considered as uncommonly healthy; they are a clean limbed, well made people, rather lean of flesh, in general from five feet seven to six feet high; one half of the young men being above five feet ten, scarcely any above six feet: There are a few who live to a very great age; although, in general, the heads of families live to the age of seventy; which circumstance would induce me to style the place more healthy than if we found extraordinary instances of longevity: there is one circumstance to be taken notice of, which is, the uncommon number of accidental deaths, being somewhat more than two per annum; during the last ten years there were no fewer than twenty three. †

A TABLE, pointing out the manner of their deaths.

|                                                             |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| † Killed in a coal pit by the choak damp, July 1783,        | 3 |
| Killed in a coal pit February 1785, by damp,                | 5 |
| Killed by falling down a coal pit,                          | 3 |
| Killed by the stroke of a horse,                            | 1 |
| Killed by the machinery of the different milns,             | 3 |
| Killed in a quarry,                                         | 1 |
| Killed by a falling of a tree when cut down,                | 1 |
| Killed by a the fall from a bridge,                         | 1 |
| Killed by the storms when travelling through Campsie Fells, | 2 |
| Drowned,                                                    | 3 |

Of course, one eighteenth part of the deaths in this parish may be styled accidental; and if we were to carry back the calculation for thirty years, there would be found the same proportion

*Antiquities.*

*Antiquities.*—There are few in this district which merit description, except two Caledonian Forts; and even these scarcely arrest the attention, unless so far as they prove that the Caledonians chose to occupy places of strength directly opposite to the Roman wall, no doubt with the design of watching the motions of the legionaries.—These mounds are perfectly circular, with regular fosses; the one is styled the *Meickle Reive*, in the language of the country, and is about a hundred yards in diameter: The other is styled the *Maiden Castle*, about twenty yards diameter: They are both situated at the foot of the Campsie Fells, to which the natives could easily fly, if attacked; and ly due North, at the distance of two computed miles, from the peel of Kirkintilloch, said be be one of the chief Roman stations on the wall.

There have been several urns found in the parish, containing ashes and burnt bones; the urns were about five inches in depth, and fifteen in diameter; made of coarse clay, apparently baked in the sun; a species of freize work encircles the lower edge; they have been found in cairns, generally placed between two flags.

It may not be improper to mention, that Campsie, (before the disjunction and annexation took place,) extended for eleven English miles along the Roman wall; and, of course, many skirmishes must have taken place in this strath, betwixt the legionaries and Caledonians: after a particular examination of the country, I have not the smallest doubt, but that the security of this Roman barrier, depended more upon the almost impassable swamp formed on the North side, than on the strength of its forts; even at this day, it would be no difficult matter to lay the whole valley under water from Bonny, to Balmully bridge, where Graham's dyke crosses the river Kelvin: And the names of the different farms in Camp-

tie, such as Inchwood, Inchterf, Inchbreak, and Inchbelly, evidently point out, that they were once surrounded by water: Inch, it is said in the Gaelic language, signifies an island: thus, the Caledonians would find it impossible to approach the wall on foot; and it is presumed, that the morafs was not sufficiently covered by water, to permit them to cross it in boats. Many people, unacquainted with the situation of the country, have expressed surprise that the Caledonians were so ignorant of the art of war, as to be unable, for so long a time, to penetrate through Antoninus's wall; the truth is, it could not be attacked, but at the extremities. The natives found it easier to pass over the Friths of Forth and Clyde, than to get across the almost impassable swamp opposite to Graham's Dyke; so that when any incursions were made into the Roman province, it is scarcely possible to conceive that these inroads could take place from that quarter which is now known by the name of the parish of Campsie; from the top of the Barrhill, where there was a considerable Roman Fort, any person at this day, taking a view of the country, will concur in the above opinion.

About five years ago, a considerable quantity of silver coin, chiefly of the coinage of Elizabeth, James and Charles I, mixt with a number of Danish and Dutch pieces, were found by one of the *portioners* of the lands of Birdston, when digging a ditch through a morafs; they were supposed to have been hid in the morafs, about the time when the battle of Kilfyth was fought betwixt Montrose and the Covenanters; the marauding parties of Montrose's army having stretched as far West as Birdston, the inhabitants, flying from their depredations, must have hid this treasure, and have forgot where it was deposited, when they came afterwards to search for it.

*Miscellaneous*



*Miscellaneous Observations.*—It may be here proper to mention a remarkable fact, which marks very much the turbulence of the times, and the impotence of the laws, so late as they ear 1744. The father of the present minister of Campsie paid *black mail* to M<sup>r</sup>Grigor of Glengyle, in order to prevent depredations being made upon his property; M<sup>r</sup>Grigor engaging, upon his part, to secure him from suffering by any *hardship*, as it was termed; and he faithfully fulfilled the contract; engaging to pay for all sheep which were carried away, if above the number seven, which he styled *lifting*; if below seven, he only considered it as a piking; and for the honour of this warden of the Highland march, Mr John Lapslie having got fifteen sheep lifted in the commencement of the year 1745, Mr M<sup>r</sup>Grigor actually had taken measures to have their value restored, when the rebellion broke out, and put an end to any further payment of *black mail*, and likewise to Mr M<sup>r</sup>Grigor's self created wardenhip of the Highland borders.

The last instance in this district of a Baron of Regality exercising the jurisdiction of pit and gallows over his dependents, is said to have been exercised by the Viscount of Killyth, in the 1793; having condemned one of his own servants to be hanged for stealing silver plate from the house of Bancloich: the fellow was executed upon a hill on the barony of Bancloich, styled the Gallow-hill; a part of the gibbet was lately found lying in a swamp, adjoining to this field of blood.

Lunardi, an Italian, the celebrated aeronaut, alighted from one of his aerial excursions in Campsie; having ascended in a balloon from St Andrew's church yard, in the city of Glasgow, upon the 5th of December 1785. At two o'clock in the afternoon, he descended in this parish, at twenty minutes

past two, the distance being about ten miles ; the spot where the baloon first touched the ground was upon the property of Sir Archibald Edmonston, Baronet, of Duntreath, on the farm of Easter Muckcroft.

Although this parish has been always conspicuous for its attachment to its sovereign ; whether of the Stewart family, as in the last century, or of the Hanoverian family, as in the present century ; having raised a militia both in the years 1715 and 1745,—still I cannot help taking notice, in this Statistical Account of a remarkable fact relative to the conduct of some of the inhabitants of this district, which one would almost say contradicts the opinion of their loyalty. In the midst of the most profound peace, and, I may say, of the most unparalleled prosperity ; all at once, as it were by enchantment, the operative part of this community conceived themselves to be groaning under the most abject slavery. They immediately associated themselves under the appellation of the Friends of the People : The first society was constituted at the Milton of Campsie, I think, upon Thursday the 8th of November 1792 ; the second was constituted at New Birbiston of Campsie, the Saturday thereafter : Two other societies were attempted to be formed in other parts of the parish : I believe, however, they did not succeed : The two former met often, kept books, subscribed small sums of money for purchasing political pamphlets, and sent delegates to the different Conventions met at Edinburgh. Concerning the impropriety of such societies, the laws of our country hath already given ample testimony. It may not be improper, however, in the Statistical Account of this parish, to give some description of the people which composed these societies : They were chiefly formed from amongst the journeymen and apprentices at the different print-fields, and a few operative weavers in the village of New Birbiston, mostly  
 lads

lads from 17 years of age to 30 : There might be amongst them a few half educated people, whose vanity consisted in raising the astonishment of their more ignorant companions, by a detail of political grievances, which had never entered into the hearts of the other to conceive ; various causes co-operated to render Campsie a proper hot-bed for such folly.

In the *first* place, a considerable degree of licentiousness had begun to prevail in this district, owing to high wages ; and as the influx of such wealth had been rather sudden, due subordination of rank was almost totally forgot. In the *second* place, a Relief meeting, about 10 years ago, being erected in this parish, which had drawn off a considerable number of people from the Establishment, and rendered them, in some measure, hostile to the powers that be ; and I am doubtful but the spirit of innovation was encouraged in a certain degree, by their public teachers, with a view to increase the adherents to their own tabernacle. In the *third* place, Mr Muir, advocate, the unfortunate gentleman who was tried for sedition, having some connexions, and being well acquainted in the place, was naturally induced to try the power of his eloquence upon the inhabitants ; and he succeeded. If to these causes we add the particular circumstance of the character of young people at the different printfields ; men, who have abundance of time in the evenings to cabal together ; men, too, from their profession, rather given to wandering, and fond of novelty, and somewhat naturally addicted to form associations against their master's authority ; we will not be surpris'd that Campsie should be so often mentioned as friendly to these Jacobin societies.

Nevertheless, I am entitled to say, that the farmers and the inhabitants in general, (there being no fewer than 2527 people in the parish,) were remarkable for their loyalty, and attachment to Government : They very early formed them-

selves

felves into constitutional societies, for the defence of Government, and published resolutions. Notwithstanding all the bustle which was occasioned by their folly, the different Jacobin societies in this parish altogether, never contained above sixty persons.

*Relative Situation of the Parish.*—If we compare the situation of the inhabitants this year with certain periods, either in the beginning or middle of this century, it will appear remarkably improved. I have subjoined a table, containing the most remarkable facts, relative to parish oeconomics, taken at four different periods: The two first I cannot speak of from my own observations; at the same time, from the opportunities I have had of being made acquainted with them, as a native of this parish, I can affirm that the facts are fairly stated.

Year 1714.

1<sup>st</sup>, Only three cows said to have been killed for winter beef in the whole parish, the gentry excepted.

2<sup>d</sup>, The wages of a man-servant for half-a-year, 9l. Scots; some of the best get 12l. Scots; a woman-servant, 6l. Scots for half-a-year.

3<sup>d</sup>, No wheaten bread eat in the parish.

4<sup>th</sup>, No inclosure whatever in the parish, except about gentlemen's gardens or woods.

5<sup>th</sup>, No cart or chaise; the gentry rode to church on horseback.

6<sup>th</sup>, All broad ploughs, the horses yoked abreast.

7<sup>th</sup>, The men wore bonnets and plaids, and plaiding waistcoats, and plaiding hose; no English cloth whatever was worn by the inhabitants, the gentry excepted.

Year

Year 1744.

1<sup>st</sup>, The better sort of farmers joined and got a cow for a winter mart, betwixt two of them; the price then being thirty five or forty shillings only for a fat cow.

2<sup>d</sup>, No chaise was as yet kept in the parish; some few carts, but these were only used to carry out manure in the spring; the wheels were not shod with iron; and the moment the manure was carried out, these timber wheels were taken down till next spring.

3<sup>d</sup>, Perhaps about five or six inclosures were made in the parish: it must be owned, though few, they were most substantially built; they remain entire and firm to this day.

4<sup>th</sup>, No wheaten bread, no English cloth used by the inhabitants.

5<sup>th</sup>, A man servant's wages were from thirty shillings to two pounds per half year; a woman's, from nine pound Scots to one pound Sterling; servants in this period uniformly got a pair of hose and shoes besides their fee.

6<sup>th</sup>, No potatoes, carrots, or turnips, &c. were used by the inhabitants, only a few kail were planted in their yards, for the pot.

Year 1759.

1<sup>st</sup>, Carts were become more numerous, there being then about twenty in the parish, their wheels shod with iron.

2<sup>d</sup>, The broad plough still continued in many places, though, in general, the horses were now yoked, two and two; still there were no fanners for the milns or barns, the farmers being obliged to winnow the corn in the fields.

3<sup>d</sup>, A man-servant came now to receive fifty shillings and three pounds Sterling per half year; and a woman twenty five or thirty shillings only per half year.

4<sup>th</sup>, There were now two wheeled chaises in the parish; and English cloth began to be worn occasionally by the better



ter sort of people, along with worsted stockings, and buckles in their shoes.

5th, Potatoes still were only cultivated in *lazy* beds.

6th, Very decent farmers thought it necessary to have some part of a fat cow or a few sheep salted up for winter store.

7th, By the leases granted by the proprietors of land at this time, the tenants were taken bound to inclose some part of the farm; still there was no sown grass in the parish, and the cattle grazed promiscuously in the winter season.

8th, There were no clocks in the parish, except in the houses of the gentry and principal inhabitants.

#### Year 1794.

1st, There are nearly two hundred carts in the parish, perfectly equipped for any draught.

2d, There are four post-chaises, and three coaches, and one two wheeled chaise, kept by the gentry, in the proper style.

3d, The wages of a man-servant is betwixt five pounds and six pounds per half year; and a woman's from two to three pounds ditto.

4th, Potatoes is now universally used by all ranks of people, for at least six months in the year.

5th, Wheaten bread is now universally used by every description of people; there being no less than two bakers stationary in the parish, besides some hundred pounds value of wheaten bread brought annually from Kirkintilloch and Glasgow.

6th There have been near three hundred fat cows killed annually about the Martinmas time for winter provision; besides the mutton, beef, and lamb, killed through the season, by two butchers residing in the parish.

7th,

7th, Every lad now dresses in English cloaths and fancy vests, with thread or cotton stockings; and every girl in cotton stuff, black silk cloaks and fancy bonnets.

8th, The quantity of liquor drunk in the seventeen public houses in this parish must be very great indeed; as, I have been told that four and five pounds, at a *reckoning*, have been collected from a company of journeymen and apprentices on a pay night.

9th, The houses of every decent inhabitant of this parish, consist at least of a kitchen and one room, generally two rooms, ceiled above, and often laid with deal floors, with elegant glass windows; and I believe, few of the tradesmen sit down to dinner without flesh meat on the table, and malt liquor to drink: Such is the relative situation of a parish in the year 1794, when some designing people used every effort to convince them, that they were poor, and miserable, and *enslaved*.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The advantages of this parish have been considered as of a very superior kind: The soil is naturally dry; the streams of water for bleaching and driving machinery are numerous; the quantity of coal and lime is inexhaustible; it is completely intersected by excellent roads; and, it is believed, that it is able to supply itself with all the necessaries of life; and, considering the number of strangers which take up their residence amongst us, we are led to believe, that few places are more comfortable to the inferior class of people; Glasgow affording a ready market for the produce both of their farms and their industry.

On the other hand, it may be considered as one of the dearest places in Scotland for all sorts of living, and particularly so for those who live upon fixed incomes; and I am likewise

inclined to believe, from the turn that the young people have taken to manufactures, that farmers have rather found it difficult to procure servants and labourers for the purposes of cultivating the land : Perhaps it will be the interest both of the landlords and the farmers, to fall upon some mode of management which may counteract this growing evil.

NUMBER

NUMBER XX.

UNITED PARISHES OF STRON-  
SAY AND EDAY.

(PRESEBYTERY OF NORTH ISLES, SYNOD OF ORKNEY, COUNTY OF ORKNEY AND SHETLAND.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN ANDERSON, Minister.*

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*Extent and Situation.*

THE Island of Stronfay is five computed miles long, and almost as broad from East to West, so indented with bays, that there is no part of the island above one mile from the sea. This, with the small island of Papa, the extent of which, round the shores, is about three miles; and with the Holms, or pasture islands, comprehends what is now termed the parish of Stronfay. The island of Eday, which is about the centre of the North isles of Orkney, has rapid tides, which wash the East and West sides of it; these occasion eddies on the North and South ends, to which circumstance, it pro-

bably owes its name. It is computed to be five miles long, and nearly a mile and a half broad †

*Sea Coast, Harbours, &c.*—The island of Stronfay has six principal neffes; viz. Huipsnefs, Gricenefs, Odnefs, Lamnefs, Tornefs, and Linknefs. The resemblance in sound which two of these, Tornefs and Odnefs, have to Thor and Woden, the Teutonic Deities, leaves room to conjecture their derivation.

There are two promontories, Borrowhead on the South East, and Rothesholm (Ronsum) head on the South West; this was of old called Rodneip or Rodnumhead.

The other parts of sea coast or shores about this island, consist partly of three sandy bays; one on the East, the Milnbay; one on the South, the bay of Holland; and one on West, the bay of Erigarth or West Wick. The sandy beaches of the two first mentioned, extend each a mile in length; that of the last not so much, except at low water of spring tides; and consist partly of skerries, (flat rocks, over which the sea flows and ebbs;) which, with the shores of the neffes, and

† This, with the Isle of Fairay, which is about one mile long, and less than half a mile broad, and with the Holmes, comprehends the parish of Eday. To the parish of Stronfay, the four holms called Aufkerry, Mukle Linga or Holm of Midgarth, Little Linga and Holm of Huip, do belong; and to the parish of Eday five; viz. Calf of Eday, Mukle Green Holm, Little Green Holm, Holm of Fairay and Red-holm. So the number of islands, great and small, in this district, amounts to no less than thirteen. This district has the island of Sanday on the North, the Fair Isle on the North East; (at the manse, situated on the N. E. side of Stronfay, this isle may be distinctly seen, when the sky is clear and wind easterly, although about thirty six miles distant;) the German Ocean on the East, the united parishes of Deernefs and St. Andrews on the South; the parish of Shapinfkay on the South West; the united parishes of Renfay and Eglishay on the West; and the united parishes of Westray and Papa Westray, on the North West.



and South West promontory above mentioned, produces great quantities of tang, or sea-weed, fit for the kelp manufacture.

On the East side of the island, little kelp can be made, as few skerries ly there to produce tang. The water is deep nigh the shore, and the rocks abrupt, owing perhaps to their having no shelter from the German Ocean.

The ridge or rising ground, which runs almost the length of the island from North to South, hath its surface covered with short heath, where it has not been cut up lately for turf or fuel; the soil is a dry, friable, blackish earth; the bottom clay, mixed with small stones, and in many places gravelly and shallow. The expence of cultivating such a subject, might perhaps nearly equal its value when improved. It is the common pasture or out-freedom of all the farms and houses adjacent to it. The Mill-dam divides this from the common pasture of the farms on the East side of the island, which common is covered with grafs of a mean quality; but as it has greater deepness of soil than the other common, and a bottom of tough clay, it might probably recompence more liberally the labour and expence of the improver ‡.

The

‡ Of old, the corn fields, and such grafs as was esteemed valuable, on this island, were separated from the commons, now described, by hill-dykes, (as they are usually termed,) built of seal or turf, which are kept up through Orkney in general to this day. A considerable proportion of the hill-dykes of this island were suffered to fall into disrepair, about thirty years ago, by the advice of Thomas Balfour, of Huip, an heritor in this island, who died about seven years ago. He was of opinion, that the expence of keeping up these dykes, was greater than the advantage derived from them; but this opinion is not universally acquiesced in by the inhabitants.

All the neffes above mentioned, except Linksnefs, (of which under the article state of agriculture, &c.) are appropriated for sheep pasture, on the respective isthmusses of which neffes, hill-dykes are still kept in repair, to prevent the

The small island of Papa Stronsay, lying flat with corn fields, which have been stimulated by plenty of ware, to raise luxuriant crops of grain, lies on the North East side of Stronsay, is separated from it by a narrow sound, over which two men can row a small boat in five minutes, and adds a variegated beauty to the prospect on that side.

The island of Eday, consisting chiefly of hills of a moderate height, and pretty extensive, had been much used of old for pasture, as appears from ancient rentals, (1598 and preceeding,) in which, a great proportion of its rent is charged in butter and flesh. Three fourths of it, at least, consist of out-freedom, or common pasture, to this day; this common is covered mostly with heather, which, in some places, though not in general, is pretty long, and is divided from the grass and corn fields, by hill-dykes, as in the days of yore. On this common, a considerable number of sheep, besides horses,  
black

the sheep from straying over the island in summer and harvest; (the new sheep have no herds;) but, during the winter, and more than half the spring, they have full freedom to graze at large over the island. Borgowhead, and Rothesholm are also sheep walks; the latter of which, being of great extent, comprehends the whole peat moss in the island of Stronsay, from which moss the inhabitants have, for time immemorial, been in use to cast peats or turf for firing, on paying a small acknowledgement in money or services, to the tenant or possessor of the farm of Rothesholm.

The commons, and sheep pasture above described, are reckoned to be nearly two thirds of the whole island. The other third forms the skirts or borders of it; where Nature's simple variety hath hitherto been but little encroached on by the regular uniformity of art. Corn fields, of different shapes and sizes, which fields, no man living ever saw in pasture, interspersed with a proportional extent of grass of different qualities, grass which bears no traces of having ever been in tillage; these exhibit a scene not unpleasant, in the months of summer and harvest.

The fields too, of natural grass, even in winter, retain a degree of lively verdure, superior to those in many of the interior parts of Scotland. It is observable, that the flatter any of those islands are found to be, the better, usually, is the quality of their grass, and the more lively their verdure.

black cattle, &c. graze at large. Their number, it is supposed, might be greatly increased, and the breed improved, were proper shepherds to take charge of them. The corn and grass fields which lie along the skirts of the island, are interrupted by the common pasture, which, in some places, runs a great way along the shores \*.

There are two commodious harbours or roadsteads, in the island of Stronsay, safe for shipping at all seasons, and in all weathers; viz. 1<sup>st</sup>, Ling, a sound on the West side well sheltered by Mukle Ling, or holm of Midgarth from westerly winds, and from all other winds by the island itself. This harbour has two entries, a South West and a North West entry; through the South West one, which is the widest, large vessels may easily pass, with the assistance of a pilot, and can ride on four fathoms water. 2<sup>d</sup>, Papa sound, on the North East side of Stronsay, sheltered by the small island of Papa Stronsay; there are two entries, one from the North

\* The sea coast is various, sandy, stoney, gravelly, and, in some places, on the South West and North sides, bold, from 40 to ten fathoms. The water, though not very deep, washes the feet of these precipices. The remaining parts of sea coast are low rocks or skerries, covered with tang, of which a considerable quantity of kelp is manufactured annually. Eday lies West from Stronsay. The sound which separates these islands is about three miles over at the Ferry.

Fairay lies West from Enay, at the distance of a mile and half, the West side of which is exposed to the Atlantic Ocean, which rushes with great rapidity through Westray Firth: This inlet of sea separates the islands of Westray on the North, and Rousay on the South: From this cause, the island of Fairay is much exposed to have its crops of grain damaged by the spray of the sea. This island, and two holms appertaining to it, are well adapted for the pasture of cattle or sheep; and tang grows on some of its shores, for the manufacture of kelp.

The three holmes which belong to the island of Eday; and the four which belong to the island of Stronsay, do all produce excellent pasture for sheep, for some small horses and for black cattle, which the tenants transport by boat, from the inhabited islands, in the beginning of June, and carry back by the same conveyance about the end of September.

North West, which is the widest and safest; and the other from the East; a stranger, however, would require a pilot, as the West entry is intricate, and the East one narrow and dangerous. Small vessels can ride here safely at all seasons.

There are bays also on the East, South, West, and North West sides, in which vessels may drop anchor, and ride safely, if the wind do not blow strong on shore. There are two good harbours or roadsteads in the island of Eday; Fairness Sound, on the West side, sheltered by the small isle of Fairay, and Calf Sound, on the North end, sheltered by the Calf of Eday. Vessels of great burden may ride at anchor safely in these roadsteads, each of which has the advantage of two entries. There is also a bay on the South end of Eday, where vessels may ride safely, if the wind do not blow strong on shore.

*State of Property.*—The islands of Orkney anciently belonged to the King of Denmark and Norway; but on the marriage of Margaret, the princess royal, about the year 1468, to the King of Scotland, with whom he was to receive 50,000 florins of the Rhine; the islands of Orkney and Shetland were mortgaged for that sum, and afterwards annexed to the Crown of Scotland. It was stipulated, that the laws and privileges of the inhabitants should remain inviolable.

That some traces of the manners, customs, language, and laws of the Norwegians, are still to be found in these islands, may be naturally expected; owing to which, improvements in farming, and other arts, have been severely checked or much retarded; and the state of property, of course, influenced in no small degree, even to this day.

Heritable property in Orkney may be considered as divided into Kings lands, kirk lands, and udal lands. The whole rents of the first mentioned, being demesne lands, were anciently

ciently paid to the sovereign : These, in process of time, were feued by the Crown or its donators, in parcels to the tenants, or others who had interest to procure them ; which feus they in general obtained for payment of the old rental. In some instances, for a small augmentation of the rental ; and in others, with a deduction therefrom : the reason assigned for which last, is, the lands were dear, and like to ly ley for want of tenants.

The kirk lands were in similar circumstances, and were feued in like manner of old, by ecclesiastics or church-men, for the old rental or thereby. Some of the udal lands pay a small proportion of yearly rent to the King, and to the kirk ; and some of them do not pay any thing to one or to the ther. Instances of all these specialities are to be found in this district\*.

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\* The truth of these observations will appear, by examining a complete rental book, of the whole lands in Orkney and Shetland, made up in 1598, by James Law, bishop of Orkney, which was entered and rented in Exchequer, on the 18th November 1617, and is still extant in the Register Office. More than 20 years after said rental was made up, namely, in the year 1621, Orkney heritors were denominated, in their public records, to be " men " men, and farmourers, and payers of the riggs of the rental." They had continued, it seems, to possess the farms, or parcels of lands, which they and their forefathers had feued, or had let them to their principal servants, or dependents, with the steel-bow ; that is, the stocking of the farms, such as horses, black cattle, sheep, labouring instruments, and even household furniture. For which farms and steel-bow, tenants of this description become bound to pay the old rental, or feu-duty, and such additional rent as the land could bear. At this period, and long after, the feuers lived in terms of social intercourse and familiarity with their tenants ; for maintaining and perpetuating of which, annual entertainments, consisting of the best viands which the farms produced, were cheerfully given by the tenants to their landlords, during the Christmas holy days : These entertainments, called bumacks, strengthened and confirmed the bonds of mutual confidence, attachment, and regard, which ought to subsist between these ranks of men. As an instance of which;



The practice adopted by many, of giving short leases of farms, by others of giving no leases, and by all of giving very scanty encouragement to meliorate the soil, on the part of the heritors; and, on the part of the tenants, a pertinacious adherence to old customs, and to the method of farming used in Orkney, more than a hundred years ago, have hitherto been found great obstructions to improvements in Agriculture.

Many Orkney estates are of small extent: Parcels of land, belonging to one heritor, ly interspersed, or run-rig with those belonging to other heritors, one or more. The udal tenures, by which many small portions of land are held, render their conveyance cheap and easy, and such property, in some respects precarious; for who can deny, that the poor man's little ewe lamb is much exposed to be carried off with the large flocks of his wealthy neighbours; or, to be secretly devoured by some beast of prey, or ravenous bird ||.

*Manufacture*

which, on the part of the tenants, the following practice was introduced; The tenants wives went regularly, about the term of Lammas, to the feuars wives, their landladies, with presents of butter, cheese, eggs, &c. hence called Lammas presents. The Christmas bummacks are almost universally discontinued; but, in some instances, the heritors have, in lieu of accepting such entertainments, substituted a certain quantity of meal and malt to be paid to them annually by the tenants. The practice of giving annual presents at Lammas is not universally kept up by the tenants wives; but there are not wanting instances where it is still found to subsist.

Heritors and tenants are now become more wealthy than their ancestors. The steel-bow, or stocking on the farms, hath, in general, been purchased by the tenants, and a recent influx of wealth, chiefly owing to the manufacture of kelp, hath occasioned a very great change in this country, on the state of landed property, mode of living, and manners of the inhabitants.

|| The ancient practice of erecting seal or turf dykes, which require annual repairs, around their grass and corn land, at the joint expence of the possessors

*Manufacture of Kelp*—This valuable, and, as it may now be considered, staple commodity of Orkney, (was first of all in this county manufactured in the island of Stronsay, by James Fea, heritable proprietor of Whitehall,) and Wadsetter of North Strynrie, in the year 1722. This was a gentleman of an enterprising spirit, who brought a man of the name of Meldrum, from Fraasersburgh, to introduce kelp burning in Orkney; Meldrum, taking the Orkney inhabitants to be an ignorant and superstitious race of men, pretended that the kelp ashes would not acquire such a hard and solid consistence as was requisite, unless a certain powder was thrown into the kelp kilne before it was raked, accompanied with certain mysterious words, to the use of which powder and mysterious words, he claimed an exclusive right in that island.

He, however, soon found, that the inhabitants of Stronsay had more penetration and less superstition, than to be long hood-winked in this manner; for they found, on trial, that the

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kelp

feffors, in order to keep off their own and their neighbours horses, yield cattle, swine, &c. in summer and harvest; is still adhered to more or less, in most of the Orkney islands. The general custom of allowing their corn land to ly unmolested, during the winter, and until the weather sets in fair in spring, which it seldom does before March or April; after which, their whole agricultural labour must be executed, before the kelp season begins, in the month of May, or be done afterwards in a very superficial manner; from which causes, an extra number of servants and horses become necessary, which tends greatly to increase the expence of labour to the Orkney farmer. The considerable heritors in Orkney, with very few exceptions, have either removed with their families, from their mansions in the country, to reside in Kirkwall, the only Royal Burgh in Orkney; or have, with their families, left the county altogether; and therefore, they find few opportunities of attending to the proceedings or rewarding the meritorious exertions of their tenants. From these circumstances, the present unimproved state of the country in general, may be easily accounted for.

Instead of improving the soil, the heritors and tenants in Orkney, have for many years past, directed their attention to the manufacture of kelp.

kelp ashes, merely by the labour usually adhibited posterior to this mystical application, became equally solid and good in quality, without, as with the aid of the magical words and powder.

This commodity sold for several years posterior to the date before mentioned, to a bottle-maker at Newcastle, for 3 l. Sterling per ton of 20 cwt.; but the manufacturers, or their employers, desirous to make as much as possible by this new concern, began to adulterate the kelp ashes, by mixing small stones or sand therewith; which imposition being soon discovered, the price was reduced to 2l. 10 s., and the ton fixed at 21 cwt., which hath ever since been held the weight of a ton of kelp. The last mentioned price continued for about 20 years, to be the rate for which it sold, at an average; during which period, the annual quantity did not exceed 400 tons.

In the year 1744, kelp fell so low, that Mr Thomas Balfour, then a merchant, and afterwards heritor of the lands of Huip and others in Stronfay, bought a small cargo of it, at 20 s. and 20 s. 6d. per ton in Orkney, carried it to Newcastle, and sold it there for the current prices; and, on balancing accompts, found, that he had lost 15 per cent by the adventure; as the author hath often heard him declare. For nineteen years afterwards, the average quantity was about 700 tons, price 2 l. 10 s. The heritors of this district had about one tenth of the whole quantity annually made in Orkney; for each ton of which, the heritors drew about 20s. the makers and purchasers the remainder.

In 1763, and for 15 years following, the average quantity made annually in Orkney, was 1800 tons. Of which, the heritors in this district have about 180.

The heritors, in general, during this period, became merchants of their own kelp, or sold it on commission. The annual

nual average price at market was 4l. 4 s. Sterling ; the price of making was raised to about 26 s. and freight 12 s. per ton.

The heritors and kelp proprietors of this district, drew annually about 350 l. The tenants and makers about 230 l. The remainder went for freight and commission.

In 1778, and for fourteen years after, the average quantity annually burnt in Orkney, was 3000 tons, at 6 l. per ton. The heritors of this district had about 300. The price of making was raised to 1 l. 15 s. per ton, of which rise the tenants chiefly reaped the benefit. The heritors and kelp proprietors of this district, drew annually about 1050 l. The tenants 527 l. The remainder went for freight and commission.

In 1792, the extraordinary good season for the growth of sea weeds, of which kelp is made, and for the manufacturing of it, produced in this district, to the incumbent's certain knowledge or best information, no less a quantity than 400 tons ; when, at the same time, the whole Orkney islands did not produce above 4,000 tons. It is in this ratio, therefore, that he has calculated the produce of this district from the year 1744, during the several subsequent periods above specified, and 60 tons, the average quantity annually produced preceding that date ; which, in the earliest period, is a somewhat larger proportion, which Stronsay (where kelp was first manufactured in Orkney,) may reasonably be supposed to have produced.

In 1793, the season proved rainy and unfavourable for kelp. This district did not produce above 300 tons, price in Orkney 4 l. per ton. The heritors and kelp proprietors drew 775 l. ; the tenants and kelp makers, 525 l. Sterling, clear of all deductions, being in the same proportions as the year preceding.

This

This season, 1794, being remarkably favourable for kelp burning, promises an abundant crop in Orkney, which may equal, or perhaps exceed that of 1792.

The quantities of kelp made, with the average prices at the different periods above specified, are taken, in a great measure, from the information given by the Orkney gentlemen in the year 1766 to Mr M<sup>c</sup>Tavish, who was directed by the Board of Trustees to procure information respecting that and many other particulars\*.

*Agriculture.*

\* By the above state it appears, that the heritors and parishioners of this district, have drawn from kelp, since the manufacture of it was introduced by James Fea of Whitehall, in the year 1722, no less a sum than 29,197 l. 10 s. during a period of 71 years; being 41 years purchase of the whole district at the present gross rent. Those of the other islands of Orkney have drawn nine times as much money; that is, 262,777 l. 10 s., being 36 years purchase of these islands, at the present gross rent; both sums amount to 291,976 l. Sterling, which is more than 36 years purchase of all the islands of Orkney; the gross rent of which is only about 8,000 l. Sterling annually.

In these calculations, the profits and advantages accruing to the traders and others in Orkney, by carrying this commodity to market, are not included. When, however, it is considered, that the ships belonging to Orkney have been almost the only carriers of it for many years past, the profits and other advantages derived from this branch of trade in these islands, must not only have been great to them as individuals, but also of no small importance to the nation at large, by extending its commerce, increasing its wealth, and producing a nursery of excellent seamen.

On this subject, the following remark, to many readers, will, it is presumed, naturally occur: That James Fea of Whitehall, of the island of Stronsay, in Orkney, (that is the name and designation of the man, who introduced so valuable a manufacture into his native country,) ought not only to be kept in remembrance, but that some permanent testimony of gratitude, from those who have reaped and still do reap such important advantages from his spirited exertions, ought to be devised, in honour to his memory, and for the encouragement of aspiring genius in succeeding ages. Premiums of this nature, conferred by societies, by districts, or by the public, honourable as they unquestionably would be to the memory of those on whom they were conferred, would certainly be no less creditable to those who bestowed them.



*Agriculture.*—The vicinity of all the cultivated lands in this district to the sea shore, induced of old and still induces the inhabitants to use sea-weed as their chief, and almost only manure. The great quantities of it thrown into their numerous bays, creeks, and about their nestles, enabled them to adopt a practice which is still continued, of putting one half of their laboured land to bear or bigg, [which half they put to oats the year following; this short rotation they have continued for time immemorial. They lay their house dung on the land designed for bear, usually before Christmas; the field on which this is laid, they keep perpetually at bear, except once in six or seven years, when it becomes too rich and spongy; they then having kept back the manure, take a single crop of oats, and go on as before with bear crops. The side plough, with four horses abreast, or in broad band, is most generally used. The plough-boy walks with a retrograde motion, having his face towards the horses faces. The extent of field which such a plough labours, is about fifteen acres Scots measure.

The number of returns of oats is from three to four, and of bear from five to six seeds, at an average. Potatoes were not generally planted fifteen years ago, when the present incumbent was admitted minister; and, where they were planted, it was on the green sward, in the lazy bed way. These are cultivated more generally, and are usually planted after the plough, in land which has been long in tillage. They thrive well, when kept clean from weeds. Few farmers have as yet been induced to plant them at so great a distance as to admit of their being horse hoed or cleaned by the plough; a successful example in this way, nevertheless, hath more than once been exhibited to them. Clover and rye-grass seeds, during the period before mentioned, have been sown as a hay crop

crop and for pasture, and succeeded very well ; but the farmers, in general, have not yet followed this example, chiefly for want of proper encouragement \*.

The

\* Thomas Balfour, before mentioned, after purchasing the estate of Huip, in the island of Stronsay, began about thirty years ago, to make some improvements in agriculture, particularly on his lands of Linkness above described, which had previously been used only as sheep pasture. He erected a steading of houses there, with a view of turning it into a corn farm, induced no doubt by the great quantities of ware or sea-weeds for manure thrown upon the shores of it annually. The soil was shallow and poor, for much of it had, before that period, been cut up for fuel or firing for cottars and sub-tenants. As it had a clay bottom, tolerable crops, when seasons were good, and manure plenty, were produced ; but a series of bad seasons having succeeded the year 1776, the heritor, after managing this new farm by servants on his own account, for ten or twelve years, was pleased to let it to a tenant, together with a much larger farm, of which it originally was a sheep-pasture-pendicle : But the farmer having found that Linkness, by being kept in tillage, did not give returns sufficient to indemnify him for the expence of labouring it, owing to a series of bad seasons and other unfavourable circumstances, thought proper to allow it to revert to its former state of natural grass, not much mended as to quality ; in which state it remains to this day. Mr Balfour, with a view to improve other parts of his estate in Stronsay, inclosed with earthen fences, to the extent of about 50 acres Scots measure ; and, adjacent thereto, built a steading of farm houses : But as these acres lay at a much greater distance from sea weeds than the farm of Linkness, and moreover had no title to such weeds for manure, but by favour of the farmers who had immemorably possessed the privilege of carrying them off to lay on their corn fields, a different mode of farming from that used in the island of Stronsay behoved to be adopted, and carried on, under the direction of a farmer or overfeer brought from a part of the country, where equal disadvantages subsisted. This was done for a considerable number of years ; but this laudable attempt failed of success.

Mr Balfour had such influence in this island, that, by his advice and example, he induced some farmers on other estates to inclose parcels of their pasture grounds in like manner as he had done ; these farmers, however, did not make any attempts to cultivate or improve the grounds which they had thus inclosed, prudently and patiently waiting the issue of Mr Balfour's experiments in this way.

Robert

The family of Tankernefs, one of the most ancient among the heritors of this district, began, about 40 years ago, to give a lease of their lands in Eday, and pasture islands, pertinents thereof, being the whole heritage they now possess in this district, to tenants for the space of nineteen years; viz. to a tenant named John Murray, and to his son James, who renewed it for other nineteen years, which last lease being nearly expired, he hath again renewed it for thirty years; on the condition of paying a species of rent, which in other counties would be deemed singular; namely, a certain quantity, (30 or 35 tons) of kelp yearly. His present landlord, Robert Baikie of Tankernefs, is a polite, well informed, hospitable country gentleman, who had the honour to be returned a member of the House of Commons, to represent his native county, at the last general election save one. This tenant hath built hundreds of fathoms of stone dykes for inclosures; hath repaired the farm houses at a great expence; some part of which, however, hath been defrayed by his landlord; and he hath made improvements on this farm by rearing more cattle, and of a better sort than in former years; by introducing the Scotch or two stilted plough, in stead of

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Robert Laing, another merchant in Kirkwall, did also purchase an estate, lying partly in Stronsay and partly in Eday, about 24 years ago.

He gave some encouragement to his tenant in North Strynzie, and Stronsay, to make improvements; this he did by engaging to pay part of the expence of inclosing certain parcels of that farm with stone dykes. These materials being more valuable than turf, and the grounds thus inclosed of a superior quality to such as were inclosed by Mr Balfour, rendered the benefit thus arising from inclosing grass fields greater and more permanent. This tenant, induced, in some degree, perhaps, by the example and advice of his neighbour the minister, began lately to inclose a few acres of laboured land, which he intends to prepare, without delay, for laying down with grass seeds, for hay and pasture.

the Orkney fide-plough, but without laying the latter altogether aside; he hath made experiments by levelling and improving uneven grounds, sowing grafs seeds, &c. which might perhaps entitle him to be ranked among skilful and spirited farmers in any part of Scotland.

Two other heritors of this district, merely by extending their tenants leases to twenty four years, without binding themselves to reimburse to their tenants any expence laid out on improvements, and without taking their tenants bound to lay out such expence, have the satisfaction to find a spirit of enterprise breaking the fetters of inveterate practices, which have been long ago exploded from other parts of Scotland; and gradually introducing the more pleasant and profitable ones of inclosing, sowing grafs seeds, making hay, feeding cattle, &c. and even of repairing, at the tenant's expence, the farm houses, in a manner at once useful and commodious to the tenant, easy and advantageous to the heritor. Gilbert Mason, merchant in Edinburgh, late proprietor of Rothesholm, now of Mordum; and Andrew Liddle merchant in, and one of the baillies of Kirkwall, now deceased, deserve to be mentioned with honour, as heritors who gave these leases some years ago to their tenants, and their tenants have exerted that vigour and industry which long leases encourage\*.

There

\* To these indications of industry and active exertion among the farmers of this district, the following ought not to be passed over in silence. A lease of the farm of South Strynzie, for a period of only fifteen years, was given sometime ago, by Mr John Scollay the proprietor, to Edward Chalmers the tenant, who has erected an earthen fence to inclose eight or nine acres of ground, which was partly in tillage and partly in natural grafs. He has not only begun to sow grafs seeds, of which his farm stands much in need for pasture, but he has removed the farm houses to a much more convenient situation than they occupied when he entered upon the possession. An allowance was indeed made to him of a certain sum by the proprietor; but this allowance did

There are in this district one farm of 80 l. rent, four of about 60 l., eight of about 30 l. yearly rent: The rest are each laboured by one plough, rent from 5 l. to 8 l. In some instances, two or more tenants join to make one plough to labour their small farms; and there are many small pendicles, particularly in the island of Eday, the possessors of which, instead of using a plough, delve the whole of their small farms with the spade; and even the harrow is frequently dragged by these tenants or by their wives or their children.

The preceding narrative will show the infant state of improvements in agriculture within this district, and that few and feeble attempts have hitherto been made to improve the soil\*.

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With

did not exceed one third of the expence incurred by this removal of the farm houses. The grass rent is about 40 l. yearly. Thus hath this tenant, in a very spirited manner, during the currency of a short lease, expended a considerable sum for his own interim accommodation, and for the permanent benefit of the farm.

\* An enquiry into the causes which contributed to frustrate some of those which were made, particularly by Mr Balfour, (from patriotic, it is believed, more than selfish motives,) might be interesting and useful, if the inquiry was made by one duly qualified for the task: but as there is little probability, at present, that this will engage the attention of such an one, unskilled and unexperienced as the writer may be held, he will presume on the liberty to mention briefly such as appear to him to have operated in this way: 1<sup>st</sup>, The subjects selected for improvement were of a poor quality; such, it is apprehended, require skilful management, great experience, and no little expence to render successful any attempts to improve them to advantage. Mr Balfour was, indeed, an experienced merchant, an intelligent, patriotic, and most hospitable gentleman; but, although, he had occasionally passed through many counties in Britain, and had been in other parts of Europe, yet it will be admitted, that he could not rank as a practical farmer. Besides, he lived in the town of Kirkwall, at about 15 miles distance by sea from the places in Stronsay where his improvements were carried on. 2<sup>dly</sup>, The labouring



With a view to guard against disappointments in reference to agricultural improvements, to communicate the success of experiments, and to remedy certain inconveniences to which this district is liable by its local circumstances; the principal farmers in the island of Stronsay, most cheerfully concurred to form themselves into a society; and they accordingly did form and constitute the society of farmers in Stronsay, about eighteen months ago, to which almost all the farmers in the island have thought proper to accede. This society agreed to such bye-laws as they judged necessary for regulating their future procedure. They resolved, that small sums should be contributed annually by the members, who were ranked in four different classes, according to the extent  
of

ing instruments which he adopted were different from those used in this island. The inhabitants, like all others who have little intercourse with strangers, were averse to innovations, and despised a mode of farming different in some respects from that to which they and their progenitors had immemorially been inured. The general opinion of the inhabitants, it is natural to conjecture, had its weight with Mr Balfour's servants, all of whom, being natives of Stronsay, except the grieves or overseers, soon manifested an aversion to use implements of agriculture different from those with which they had been acquainted from their infancy. Accordingly, these improvements were not carried on with such a degree of industry and perseverance as could reasonably be supposed to secure success. 3dly, The attempts made were merely to raise grain, for which purpose, the manure was found scanty. Sea-weeds were the only manure used on Linkanefs. When the seasons, therefore, were unfavourable, or if but little of this article happened to be cast ashore, the crops were not productive. In other places, where little or no sea-weeds could be got, horse dung, mixed with green fods or turf, was the only substitute.

The small quantity of this manure which could be procured from a new farm, behaved greatly to retard the progress of improvement of a soil so poor in quality as above described. Another obstruction to its melioration, was an ill judged anxiety to come as near as possible to the general practice in Orkney, of keeping corn fields under bear and oat crops alternately in equal proportions for ever.

of the farm they possessed, which constituted four different rates. It is proposed, that these sums shall raise and become a fund, for defraying the necessary expences of stated quarterly meetings of the society; and, after ten years accumulation, shall be a fund also for the relief of such widows and orphans of the members as may be left in indigent circumstances; and that in proportion to the rates contributed by their deceased husbands or fathers respectively. The society established certain regulations with respect to herding black cattle, sheep, swine, &c. They took the state of the crop of the island under consideration, ascertained the prices at which they judged the different sorts of victual ought to sell, during the quarter subsequent to each of their meetings, according to their knowledge and the best information which they could procure; and the members agreed to sell what they could spare at lower rates in Orkney than they could obtain for it from other places in Scotland. The success of such experiments in agriculture as had been made by the members, was reported to the society, &c. This society cannot entertain a doubt of their obtaining the approbation of, and all suitable encouragement from the public, and also from those of this district, whose patrimonial interest may be eventually promoted by the attainment of the objects which the society have in view.

A few hints for promoting agricultural improvements in this district, in conjunction with some attempts lately made by the tenants, as above specified, fall now to be submitted to the public eye; and, it is humbly presumed, that the comfort and emolument of all ranks in this district would be promoted, and the interest of the public most effectually secured, by adopting the following regulations:

1<sup>st</sup>, That the heritors be at the expence of putting the farm houses in good repair, and that they give leases of their lands to their tenants, at reasonable rents, for three times nineteen years, or for certain long periods.

2<sup>dly</sup>, That the tenants receive the farm houses on valuation, and become bound to deliver them in like manner at the expiry of their leases, on adequate payment made to them for melioration, or similar payment by them to the heritors in case of deterioration.

3<sup>dly</sup>, That inclosures, to a certain extent, on a plan annually agreed to by the heritor and tenant, be built by the tenant; the value of which to be reimbursed by the heritor at the conclusion of the first period of nineteen years, so that the tenant may be enabled to proceed with additional inclosures, or such other improvements as may have been specified in the lease.

4<sup>thly</sup>, That during the second period of nineteen years, a certain additional rent, about ten per cent. of the money so advanced by the heritor, be paid annually by the tenant; and that this increase of rent be doubled during the third period.

5<sup>thly</sup>, That no allowance be made by the heritor for any expence laid out by the tenant, in building inclosures, or other improvements, during the two last periods of the lease.

6<sup>thly</sup>, That a specific extent of arable and grass grounds should be ascertained by skillful men, to be competent for maintaining a sub-tenant's family, on the supposition that the same is managed by him, without the assistance of the principal tenant; and such extent allotted accordingly to all families of this description.

7<sup>thly</sup>, That one half, or thereby, of the before mentioned extent of arable and grass ground, should be allotted for a cottar's or a boll-man's family, each of whom may be considered, for more than one half of the year, as a daily servant

to the principal tenant, by whose ploughs these small farms should be laboured.

8thly, That in all respects, except those above mentioned, the stipulations be left to be mutually condescended on by the principal tenants, and by their subtenants and cottars, or boll-men, respectively.

9thly, That heritors, who incline to encourage manufactures, and increase the population of their country, may reserve in their own possession some small farm or parcel of ground on their estates, best adapted to the purpose, to let in very long leases, or to feu out to be houses and gardens for shop-keepers, kelp-makers, mechanics, fishers, day-labourers, &c. Such families might thus furnish a ready market for butcher meat or other provisions raised by the neighbouring tenants, or their dependents.

By adhering to these regulations, the heritors, or their heirs, at the expiry of 57 years, would find their estates in a high degree of cultivation; would have an additional rent well paid; a certain proportion thereof, one third or thereby, inclosed, and the best security afforded against loss by bankrupt tenants, which is found to be a great deduction from the rental in many districts in Scotland, with an increased price for such articles of rent as might be stipulated to be paid to the heritors in kind.

All these advantages, without any expence to the heritors, would doubtless contribute, in a high degree, to the comfort of the tenants and of their dependents; and also to advance the interest of the community‡.

#### *Rental*

‡ On this plan, agriculture, manufactures, and fisheries, in their several departments, would mutually support and cherish each other, to much greater advantage

*Rental, &c.*—Sir Thomas, now Lord Dundas, has no property lands, but has the superiorities of all the lands in this district.

The valued rents in 1653, according to the Orkney cess book, are as follows :

#### Rental

advantage than they can possibly do when jumbled together, as they have been in this district, for time immemorial ; here it is not uncommon to see a man one day acting the part of a tradesman ; another, that of a fisher ; a third, that of a kelp maker ; who, having found all these employments insufficient for the support of himself and family, must apply also to the tillage of the ground, in order to furnish (after all,) a scanty subsistence for him and them. The truth of the proverb, in such cases, is manifest ; “ Jock of all trades, good at none !”

It is moreover submitted, with all due deference, that the following incitements to industry, and to improvements, might with propriety be added :

1<sup>st</sup>, That one or more skilful farmers should be induced to come from well cultivated counties in Britain, to settle in such as are badly cultivated. This might be effected by means of an annual premium, to be paid by the heritors, jointly, of the last mentioned districts, for a certain number of years, to those willing to accept such terms ; or otherwise, as might be judged proper.

Under such examples, improvements in agriculture might reasonably be expected to advance with certainty ; and suitable inducements would thus be held forth to the other tenants of these districts, sufficient to influence them to adopt similar modes of cultivation, and of improvement, in the management of their farms.

2<sup>dly</sup> That a spirit of emulation should be raised among the heritors of different districts, by premiums, or honourable distinctions conferred by the public, on those heritors who are most active to introduce the before mentioned plan, or any other plan better calculated for promoting the public interest.

3<sup>dly</sup>, That heritors and tenants of each district, in collective bodies, should respectively excite a spirit of emulation among their dependants by annual premiums. And, 4<sup>thly</sup>, As this would infallibly increase greatly the national wealth and importance, that a certain sum, or number of medals, should be advanced to the heritors or tenants of such districts as exhibited proofs of great exertions in this way, to be by them distributed to the individuals un-

der



|                                          | Scots.                  | Sterling.    |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
|                                          | L. s. d.                | L. s. d.     |
| Rental of superior duties amount of      | 2624 15 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ | or 218 14 7  |
| Heritors or feuars, rental amount of - - | 2887 1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  | or 240 11 10 |
| Minister's stipend - -                   | 577 1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$   | or 48 1 9    |
| Valued rent of these united parishes - - | 6088 18 2               | or 507 8 2   |

|                                                                    | Scots.    | Sterling.                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
|                                                                    | L. s. d.  | L. s. d.                  |
| The above rental of superior duties consists partly of money, viz. | 235 14 11 | or 19 12 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| The heritors or feuars rental also partly ditto, viz.              | 366 15 4  | or 30 11 3 $\frac{4}{2}$  |
| Minister's stipend, partly of ditto. - -                           | 380 6 8   | or 31 13 10 $\frac{8}{2}$ |

The remaining parts of these rentals consist in malt, oat meal, butter, oil; and, in the stipend, some vicarage tithes are paid in kind.

|                                                                     | Scots.   | Sterling.              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|
|                                                                     | L. s. d. | L. s. d.               |
| The meal of malt, which is nearly 12 stone weight, is valued at - - | 3 6 8    | or 0 5 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ |
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der their immediate inspection, respectively, who might, on strict examination, be found to have the best claims.

Thus, a general union of all ranks would be formed, and a due subordination maintained; which, being supported on the solid pillars of agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, would resemble a well constructed arch, sufficiently able to sustain a fortification of such strength as might defy all the hostile attacks of its envious or ambitious neighbours.

|                                                                                                                                    | Scots.<br>L. s. d. | Sterling<br>L. s. d. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| The meil of oat meal of<br>ditto weight, at - -                                                                                    | 4 0 0              | or 0 6 8             |
| The barrel of butter, which<br>contains about 60 pints,<br>and weighs 200 weight,<br>is valued at - -                              | 20 0 0             | or 1 13 4            |
| The lispund of butter, which<br>is nearly 2 stone weight,<br>is valued at - -                                                      | 2 0 0              | or 0 3 4             |
| The barrelof oil, which con-<br>tains the fame quantity,<br>and is the fame weight as<br>a barell of butter, is valu-<br>ed at - - | 16 0 0             | or 1 6 8             |
| The lispund of oil is the<br>fame weight as a lispund<br>of butter, and valued at                                                  | 1 12 0             | or 0 2 8             |

The present gross rental of Stronfay and Eday, comprehending superiority, property, and stipend, amounts to only 746 l. 7s. 3d. Sterling, a small part of which is paid by stipulation between some of the heritors and their tenants, for liberty to the latter to burn kelp and to sell it on their own account.

The advance of rent, in these united parishes, during a period of no less than 140 years, appears inconsiderable, but this is accounted for by a very great proportion of the gross rental in 1653, being paid in kind; some part of which hath been converted into money by the heritors to the tenants, about 40 years ago, and such part as is still paid in kind, calculated at the then selling prices of the country, which did not much exceed the valuation prices in 1653.

There

There are, exclusive of Lord Dundas, thirteen heritors, of whom six have a large extent, and seven have a small extent of property lying in this district. There are no residing heritors except the heirs of Patrick Fea of Kerbister, whose property, at his decease, fell to be divided equally amongst his three daughters.

*State of Population, Parochial Records, &c.*—The ancient state of the parish of Eday cannot now be ascertained with exactness, as records of an old date for that parish are not to be found. Records for the parish of Stronsay, from the year 1673 and downwards, with chasms of several years at different periods, in a decayed state, as may be supposed, are yet in existence.

From these it appears, that during a period of 20 years subsequent to 1673, the number of baptisms in the parish of Stronsay was 382, of marriages 109. That during 20 years subsequent to 1743, the number of baptisms was 601, viz. of males 309, of females 292.

In the united parishes of Stronsay and Eday, during a period of 14 years subsequent to 1779, when the present incumbent was admitted, the numbers of baptisms, marriages, and burials, in the separate years of that period were as follow :

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES, IN THE UNITED PARISHES OF STRONSAY AND EDAY.

| STRONSAY. |           |     |            |          | EDAY. |           |    |            |             |
|-----------|-----------|-----|------------|----------|-------|-----------|----|------------|-------------|
|           | Baptisms. |     | Marriages. | Burials. |       | Baptisms. |    | Marriages. | Burials.    |
|           | M.        | F.  |            |          |       | M.        | F. |            |             |
| 1780      | 11        | 13  | 5          | 4        | 8     | 14        | 5  | 11         |             |
| 1781      | 18        | 10  | 7          | 27       | 11    | 5         | 6  | 30         |             |
| 1782      | 13        | 13  | 6          | 17       | 12    | 10        | 4  | 11         |             |
| 1783      | 9         | 8   | 8          | 16       | 11    | 8         | 4  | 12         |             |
| 1784      | 13        | 11  | 6          | 18       | 8     | 7         | 3  | 13         |             |
| 1785      | 7         | 6   | 6          | 21       | 9     | 9         | 3  | 6          |             |
| 1786      | 12        | 18  | 6          | 21       | 16    | 13        | 6  | 16         | B. M. B.    |
| Amount    |           |     |            |          |       |           |    |            | 302 74 224  |
| 1787      | 7         | 12  | 12         | 29       | 8     | 9         | 7  | 8          |             |
| 1788      | 12        | 8   | 10         | 18       | 11    | 5         | 3  | 15         |             |
| 1789      | 13        | 9   | 4          | 15       | 17    | 12        | 2  | 10         |             |
| 1790      | 7         | 11  | 7          | 17       | 7     | 11        | 6  | 13         |             |
| 1791      | 17        | 12  | 4          | 16       | 10    | 4         | 5  | 11         |             |
| 1792      | 17        | 10  | 8          | 15       | 7     | 9         | 3  | 14         |             |
| 1793      | 17        | 12  | 4          | 16       | 8     | 9         | 4  | 9          |             |
| Amount    |           |     |            |          |       |           |    |            | 291 79 206  |
| Total     |           |     |            |          |       |           |    |            |             |
| amount    | 173       | 153 | 92         | 251      | 143   | 124       | 61 | 179        |             |
|           |           |     |            |          |       |           |    |            | 593 153 430 |

Number of houses and of souls, in the united parishes of Stronsay and Eday, at different periods, as under :

| IN STRONSAY †. |         |        |          | IN EDAY. |        |
|----------------|---------|--------|----------|----------|--------|
|                | Houses. | Souls. | Married. | Houses.  | Souls. |
| 1761           | 170     |        |          |          |        |
| 1772           |         | 1015   | 160      |          |        |
| 1781           | 182     | 819    |          | 143      | 675    |
| 1787           | 178     | 887    |          | 126      | 601    |

† The number of houses, souls, and married in the parish of Stronsay, in the years 1761, and 1772, are stated in the report of certain of the parishioners ; but the numbers in 1781, and 1787, were taken up by the clerks of the parishes under the minister's inspection.

Of the above mentioned number of souls in the parish of Stronsfay in 1787, there were:

| Years.       |     |                  |
|--------------|-----|------------------|
| From 1 to 10 | —   | 223              |
| — 10 — 20    | —   | 101              |
| — 20 — 30    | —   | 57               |
| — 30 — 40    | —   | 105              |
| — 40 — 50    | —   | 97               |
| — 50 — 60    | —   | 78               |
| — 60 — 70    | —   | 81               |
| — 70 — 80    | —   | 37               |
| — 80 — 90    | —   | 9                |
| <hr/>        |     |                  |
| Total Number | 887 | As above stated. |

*Observation.*—During the period of seven years, preceding the present year 1794, the number of baptisms, marriages, and burials, in these united parishes, appear, by table first, to have been nearly equal to the numbers respectively during the like period of years, preceding 1787, so that, had the emigrations (which are not few,) from these parishes to other islands in Orkney, or to places more remote, been as few in the last seven years, as during the preceding seven years, the population would be nearly the same now, as it was seven years ago; but, from certain regulations or practices, lately introduced, unfavourable to the increase of population, and to the improvement of the soil of these parishes, there is ground to apprehend, that the population is decreasing, and will continue to decrease, if suitable remedies be not speedily applied, particularly with respect to fuel or peats; and the partial increase of servants wages.

*Fuel, Servants Wages, &c.*—The inhabitants of these parishes have used peats only, as their firing, for time immemorial;



morial; in which necessary of life they have been greatly restricted by the proprietors of mosses in both parishes, as to quantity, during the last period of seven years. Notwithstanding, there remains an inexhaustible fund of that article in this district; at least, conjecture itself is at a loss to ascertain the number of centuries which the mosses in the islands of Stronsay and Eday would supply their inhabitants with such annual quantities of peats as they were accustomed to provide for their families, before such restrictions were imposed §.

*Horses,*

§ The proprietors of peat moss in the island of Eday have been pleased, for some years last past, with a view to save their mosses, to prevent the meanest of the inhabitants, their own small tenants, sub-tenants, cottars, or delvers of their little spots of ground, to boil certain quantities of what they call salt, (of a mean quality, it must be acknowledged,) over the only fire burnt in their cottages, which fire is used also for all culinary purposes. The whole quantities of peats to supply which fires, are so inconsiderable as to be carried home by the indigent tenants of these cottages, on their backs in creels or casks made with straw; the extra quantity required for the said purpose must be small indeed! This salt, such as it was, used to be carried in small parcels by the makers of it to other neighbouring islands, where they received from the poorest of the inhabitants, who could not afford to purchase salt of a good quality, equal quantities of meal for the salt which they brought. By such traffic, the poor people of Eday procured, in a very laborious way, a scanty supply of meal for their families in the winter season, when the stormy weather did not permit their going a fishing, on which business many in this island depend chiefly for daily bread. This restriction has induced some, and, if not removed, or some other remedy provided, will probably induce many more of these poor families to migrate to other islands, if not to other countries.

The whole mosses in the island of Stronsay belong to the proprietor of Rothesholm, from which mosses the whole inhabitants of this island, for time immemorial, have supplied their families with peats, upon making small acknowledgements, in money or other articles, to the tenant of Rothesholm. This practice continued to the mutual satisfaction of the inhabitants, and of the

*Horses, Black Cattle, &c.*—The horses in this district, and through Orkney in general, are of a hardy nature and small size, the largest are seldom above 14 hands high; great numbers of them, when only one year old, are brought from the neighbouring

the tenant of said lands, (without any interference of the proprietor,) until the last general election of members of Parliament, when the election for the county of Orkney happened, (unfortunately for a great number of the inhabitants of this island,) to be disputed; for in consequence thereof, such tenants of the successful candidate, as live in this island, and the tenants of his political friends, by the express order of the proprietor of Rothesholm to his tenant, were strictly prohibited from casting in, and leading peats from his mosses on any terms whatever. These tenants, when laid under this intolerable hardship, conscious that they had not done any thing to merit this gentleman's displeasure, thought it exceedingly hard, and even unjust, that they should be so severely punished for offences of which they were not guilty; did venture, notwithstanding the foresaid order and prohibition, after previously having made offer to the tenant of Rothesholm of the usual acknowledgements, to persist in their possession of the said mosses, by casting, winning, and leading peats for the use of their families, according to custom, and ancient practice. But this conduct of these tenants occasioned a law suit before the Court of Session, which was lately decided in favours of the proprietor of the moss, at whose instance it had been raised.

This restriction and decision, will soon be found a great cause of diminishing the inhabitants of this island, as the tenants above mentioned, and their cottars, cannot live without such a necessary article as fire; and their circumstances in general, are not such as to enable them to purchase and carry coals from England or from the Frith of Forth, to supply their families, and the families of their sub-tenants and cottars, with firing.

Moreover, an improper practice hath crept into this district, of not only increasing the wages of unmarried men servants and boys, employed in farm work, to more than three times the amount of what they were satisfied with about thirty years ago; but certain portions of land have been given to many of them by their masters, from which they have reaped crops of victual, which they have sold for several years past, after defraying the expence of labour, at such sums, as, with other wages and perquisites, received by them annually from their masters, hath arisen to, and in some instances exceeded the

neighbouring county of Caithness, to the annual fair at Kirkwall in Orkney, in the month of August, which lasts about ten days: To this fair, not only horses from Caithness, but cattle, and all other saleable commodities, are brought from the different islands in Orkney, the annual business of all ranks is settled, horses, and such other articles, as country people require, are purchased and carried home with them to the islands of their respective habitations.

The best of the Caithness staigs, or year old horses, have, for several years past, sold for from 6l. to 7l. The best work oxen of the Orkney breed, for 4l., milch cows at 3l., sheep at 6s., swine at 10s., geese 1s. 3d., hens 6d. each, all Sterling money, in the town of Kirkwall, which is the only market place to which butcher meat, and other viviers, can be brought from this district, and the other North isles, and East parts of Pomona, or the mainland of Orkney.

Animals of inferior size, of the sorts above mentioned, are sold at proportionably lower prices. There are in this district to the number of about

|              | Horses. | Black Cattle. | Sheep. | Swine. | Geese. | Two-ox carts. | Boats. |
|--------------|---------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|--------|
| In Stronsay. | 500     | 900           | 3000   | 300    | 700    | 27            | 55     |
| In Eday.     | 120     | 300           | 2000   | 100    | 120    | 5             | 34     |
| Amount       | —       | —             | —      | —      | —      | —             | —      |
| of stock.    | 620     | 1200          | 5000   | 400    | 820    | 32            | 89     |

the amount of what a cottar or bollman, and his wife can earn annually for the support of themselves and family of young children. This injudicious practice, if persisted in, cannot fail of being a mighty discouragement of marriage and of population; but it may be rectified, in a great measure, by the united exertions of the tenants, or society of farmers in Stronsay, with the concurrence of the heritors, by adopting the plan explained under the 6th article.

The before mentioned grievances, under which many of the parishioners labour, are prejudicial to the general interest of the district; and to the community at large, it is presumable, therefore, that adequate remedies will be applied, as soon as circumstances will permit the necessary regulations to take effect.

*Minerals.*—A vein of lead was discovered, many years ago, on the estate of Huip. (John Balfour, Esq; present member of Parliament for Orkney, is landholder.) By order of Mr Thomas Balfour deceased, the late proprietor, and uncle to the forefaid John Balfour, specimens of ore from this vein were dug up, and sent to be examined by people of skill; but the report seems not to have been of a flattering nature, for no attempts have hitherto been made to work it.

*A mineral Spring*, (or rather three adjacent springs of Chalybeate water, all of different degrees of strength,) is to be found among the rocks; on the East coast of the island of Stronsay. The water, clear as chrystal, not unpleasant, is full of fixed air, as may be easily discovered by any who drink some glasses of it; for they will soon find themselves affected in the same way, as if they had drank some fine brisk bottled small beer \*.

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*Ecclesiastical*

\* This spring is called the Well of Kildinguie. Tradition says, that it was held in such high repute when the Orkney islands belonged to the Crown of Denmark, (above three hundred years ago,) that people of the first rank, came from Denmark and Norway to drink the waters. Towards the south east, at about two miles distance, the greatest part of the way consists of a flat sand along the sea shore; there is a place called Guiyidn, on the rocks of which, that species of seaweed called dulse, is to be found in abundance; which weed, is considered by many to be a delicious and wholesome morsel. The drinking of these waters, the moderate exercise of walking over two miles of dry level ground, gathering and eating dulse on the rocks, they being exposed to a wholesome sharp sea breeze, from whatever quarter the wind could blow; this happy combination of circumstances was found such a sovereign remedy for the numberless complaints of those, who in ancient times resorted to this famous watering place, that it gave rise to a proverb which is still retained in this island, viz. "The well of Kildinguie, and the dulse of Guiyidn, can cure all maladies except black death."—That is, can cure all maladies which are not absolutely incurable.

This

*Ecclesiastical State, Ancient and Modern.*—About the time of the Reformation, there were five parish kirks in this district. Three in the island of Stronfay, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, to St. Peter and St. Nicholas; the fourth in the island of Eday, dedicated also to the Virgin Mary; and the fifth in the isle of Fairy, to what saint dedicated, tradition gives no information.

There were also, in the island of Stronfay, at least four chapels, one of which is called St. Margaret's kirk; two chapels in the small isle of Papa, dedicated to St. Nicholas and to St. Bride respectively. St. Nicholas's chapel was almost entire twelve years ago; the dimensions within walls 15 feet by 12; the quire, 7 feet by 9; this quire is covered with a complete stone arch, but the chapel hath been lately demolished by the tenant, in order that he with the stones of it might build a new barn. St. Bride's chapel and Quire, now in ruins, are nearly of the same dimensions as those of St. Nicholas. About half way between these chapels, there is, on a rising ground, called the Earl's-know, the appearance of old ruins and graves; one of which graves, evidently defined by two stones, one at the head, the other at the feet, is eight feet and a half long; this grave was dug up to the deepness of about six feet, in the month of July 1792; the stones at the head and feet, which appeared about a foot above

This spring is at the distance of about half a mile from the minister's manse, in a pleasant healthy situation. There is a large commodious house in the neighbourhood, built about forty years ago, for the accommodation of a gentleman with a large family, one of the heritors, and at that time minister of this parish; but his heirs have removed from this island. This house, therefore, might be easily fitted up, and would be found very commodious for sea-bathing or water drinking quarters, for those whose constitutions or inclinations require the application of such harmless, safe, and useful remedies.



above the surface, reached to the bottom of the grave. Many human bones of an ordinary size were found, and, moreover, fragments of a human skull, and of a lower jaw bone, with the case of teeth, which were perfectly sound, and fragments of thigh bones; these were all of an enormous size, and afforded a convincing proof that the body buried there had required a grave of the dimensions above specified. There is an old chapel in ruins on the island of Eday, and one in each of the pasture isles, called Linga, Meikle, and Aukerry; in this last, there are also ruins of what seems to have been a small house, which retains the appellation of the monk's house, or monk's house; such recluses might no doubt have lived in this isle, as there is plenty of fresh water in it; the distance, however, at which it lies from the island of Stronsay, is no less than three miles. Thus we find there have been of old five parish kirks, and at least nine chapels in this district\*.

3 H 2

The

\* In the foundation of the Cathedral kirk of Orkney, confirmed by Cardinal Beaton, on the application of Lord Robert Steuart, (who was a natural uncle of Mary Queen of Scots and) Bishop of Orkney, it is recited, that before that period, "only six canons, and as many chaplains, were erected in the said Cathedral kirk of St. Magnus in Orkney, which are stated to be too few to bear the labours and incumbent burdens in singing praises in the hours of the nights and days in the said kirk, and for divine service, as becomes such a kirk." Accordingly, a provostry, a arch deaconry, chantory, chancellor, sub-deanry and sub-chantory; likewise seven other canons and and prebendarys, thirteen chaplains, named vicars of the quire, and six boys, who might be respectively admit in sciences, and otherwise qualified. These were of new erected, constituted, and founded. The deed proceeds in these terms: "By the tenor of thir presents, judges, statutes, and ordains, that which we judge belongs to every one: The first, the provost, Mr Malcolm Halero, bachelor in holy letters, the prebendary of holy Trinity, and vicarage of Ronald Shay, with holding up the kirk of Burwick. 2d. To the the

The value of the stipend of this district, in 1633, was formerly stated, the particular articles then paid, continue yet to be paid, with the exceptions of some vicarage and parsonage

“ the arch-deacon, Mr John Tayrie, the arch-deacon’s ancient rights, the  
 “ minister of Birsay and chaplainry of St. Olav within the cathedral kirk,  
 “ with holding up the kirk of Harry. 3<sup>d</sup>, To the chantor, Mr Nicol Halero, the prebendary of Orpher and vicarage of Stenhouse. 4<sup>th</sup>, To the  
 “ chancellor, Mr Alexander Scott, the prebendary of St. Mary of Sandy and  
 “ vicarage of Sandy. 5<sup>th</sup>, To the treasurer, Sir Steven Culrofs, the parsonage of St. Nicholas of Stronsay and vicarage of Stronsay. 6<sup>th</sup>, To the sub-dean, Mr Peter Howston, the parsonage of Hoy and vicarage of Walls. 7<sup>th</sup>, To the sub-chantor, Sir Magnus Strange, the prebendary of St. Colme. 8<sup>th</sup>, To the first prebendar, Sir Thomas Richardson, the parsonage of Cross kirk in Sandy. 9<sup>th</sup>, To Sir Hugh Halero, the prebendary of St. Magnus. 10<sup>th</sup>, To Mr Henry Barton, the chaplainry of St. John the Evangelist, in the said cathedral kirk. 11<sup>th</sup>, To Mr Walter Thomson, the chaplainry of St. Mary and vicarage of St. Mary. 12<sup>th</sup>, To Mr John Maxwell, the chaplainry of St. Laurence. 13<sup>th</sup>, To Sir David Christison, the prebendary of St. Catharine. 14<sup>th</sup>, To Mr Robert Malcolmson, the prebendary of St. Duthas. *Chaplains*,—The 1<sup>st</sup>, of St. Peter, shall be master of the grammar school. 2<sup>d</sup>, Of St. Augustine, shall be master of the song school. Which two masters shall be bound to teach freely all the boys of the quire and the poor willing to be present. 3<sup>d</sup>, The bishop’s quirister. 4<sup>th</sup>, The provost’s. 5<sup>th</sup>, The arch-dean’s. 6<sup>th</sup>, The precentor’s. 7<sup>th</sup>, The chancellor’s. 8<sup>th</sup>, The treasurer’s. 9<sup>th</sup>, The sub dean’s. 10<sup>th</sup>, The prebendary of Holy Cross. 11<sup>th</sup>, The prebendary of St. Mary. 12<sup>th</sup>, The chaplain of St. Catharine. 13<sup>th</sup>, The chaplain of Holy Cross. And every one of the quiristers shall have one last of victual and also ten merks Scots money for their stipend in the year, besides the daily distributions which shall be from the rents of vicarage of the cathedral kirk, and from the foundation of uncle Thomas, bishop of Orkney and Zetland; and twelve pounds from the foundation of the most illustrious late Kings of Scotland, James III. and James IV. paid by the bishop for the daily masses of St. Mary, the masses of the holy blood in first holy day, and the regimen of the second holy day though the whole year. An inferior servant, (*sacrista*), about holy things, shall ring the bells, light the lamps, carry the water and fire to the kirk, who ought to have the accustomed revenue, and forty shillings from the  
 “ bishop;

age tithes then paid in kind, which at different periods afterwards were converted into money at low rates, by mutual contracts between tenants or heritors, on the one part, and ministers

“ bishop; he should be clad with an honest surplice, and go before the procession with a white wand after the manner of a bedlar. But the first of the  
 “ six boys shall be nominate and sustained by the bishop. The 2<sup>d</sup>, By the  
 “ prebendar of St. Magnus. 3<sup>d</sup>, By the prebendar of St. John. 4<sup>th</sup>, By the  
 “ prebendar of St. Laurence. 5<sup>th</sup>, By the prebendar of St. Catharine. 6<sup>th</sup>,  
 “ By the prebendar of St. Duthas. And every one of them shall have twenty  
 “ shillings in the year. They shall be taper-bearers, and shall sing the responses. Moreover, we assign to the said provost, dignities, canons and prebendars, certain defunct lands for the manse of every one of them at the  
 “ said cathedral kirk. But our will is, that every one of them, within three  
 “ years after getting peaceable possession of their benefices, to build an honest  
 “ manse, according to the value of the fruits of the benefice in which he may  
 “ rest or sleep, otherwise he shall not be judged to reside among others.  
 “ Likewise, we will and ordain a vicar an continual pension of ten merks  
 “ Scots money, and an half last of victual every year, with the manse of every paroch vicarage erected in the present foundation, from the fruits and  
 “ emoluments nomned and imposed by us and our successors; who shall be  
 “ bound to serve his cure personally by himself as oft as it shall be vacant, if  
 “ need shall be. But the bishop shall be canon of St. Ollay, &c.; which application is attested and subscribed by the bishop and his chapter, on the  
 “ 28th October, 1544 years, before these witnesses, honourable, honest and  
 “ discreet men, viz; by (signed) *Robertus Orcadin*, Episcopus, *Nicholas Halero* de Orphar, manu propria; *Stephanus Culros*, rector de Stronsfay;  
 “ *Petrus Houston*, rector de Hoy; *Joannes Maxwell*, rector *Beate Mariæ*,  
 “ de Sanday; *Malcolmus Halero*, archidiaconus Zetlandiæ, ac prebendariz  
 “ Sanctæ Trinitatis, *Magnus Strang*, prebendarius Sanctæ Columbæ. After reciting fully the application above mentioned, with the attestations thereof, the foundation proceeds to the confirmation and erection above specified, and sanctions it in these terms: “ But if any one shall presume to contravene or infringe, as God forbid, this present foundation, in whole or in any  
 “ part thereof, directly or indirectly, by whatever colour or pretence, he shall  
 “ know, that he will incur the wrath of Almighty God, of the blessed Virgin Mary, and of all the saints, and especially of St Magnus our patron,  
 “ &c.

ministers for the time being, on the other ; therefore, the stipend, in stead of being augmented since the said year 1653, is actually diminished and made worse than it was in 1614, by

“ &c. Dated and done in the Castle of St Andrew's, at 11 hours forenoon, or thereabout, in the year of the incarnation of the Lord, Jaiv, and forty five, upon Tuesday the twentie and day of July, being the third indiction of the popedom of our most serene father and Lord in Christ, Paul the third, by the providence of God, the eleventh year. Venerable and circumspect men being present there, viz. Sir James Strachertsyne, &c. (Signed,) JOANNES MAIR, *Præpositus Collegii Sancti Salvatoris, manu propria.*”

The preceding excerpts were taken from a double or copy of said foundation, which appears to have been a long verbose deed ; a full copy of which could not be easily contained in less than fifty pages.

The following excerpt was taken from the register of assignations for the ministers stipends through Scotland, for the year 1574, which register was given in compliment by Bishop Keith to the Advocates library in Edinburgh, on 18th August 1746.

“ *Mary kirk in Stronfay, Peter kirk, St Nicholas Kirk.*

“ Minister, his stipend to be paid as follows, viz. The third of the feuwaric of Orkney, extending to ane chaldre nine bolls three parts bear, and eleven pounds eleven shillings one penny, and two parts silver, to be paid by the parishioners and tacksmen of St Nicholas, parochine of Stronfay and North Stronfay.”

*Elthay and Fairay.*

“ Mr James Maxwell reader of thir kirks, his stipend twenty pounds, to be paid furth of the third of his own benefice, the twa chaplainries St Catharine's, prebendary and vicarage of Stronfay, with the vicar's manse and gleib.”

By an act of Platt or provision of stipends, for the kirks of Orkney in the year 1614, which proceeding on, and referring to a contract of Excambion, betwixt King James the VI. on the one part, and Bishop James Law, and the chapter of the cathedral kirk of Orkney, on the other part, “ The provisions and assignations for the ministers in the bishoprick, are said to have left unexhausted not meikle more than two hundred pounds of the haill quantity of the thirds assumed, allotting to those particular kirks, within the bishoprick after specified, to wit.

“ 1. To

by means of said conversions, which are now found detrimental to the interest of the minister. The rise in value of the commodities paid in kind, was found to be so inconsiderable, that  
down

|                                        | Lasts, Meils. |    | Meils of Malt. |    |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|----|----------------|----|
| " 1. To Walls and Flotta,              | 1             | 4  | or             | 28 |
| " 2. Floy. 6 barrels butter, and ball, | 3             | 20 | or             | 92 |
| " 3. Stromness and Sandwich. 6 ditto   | 3             | 12 | or             | 84 |
| " 4. Orphir. . . 6 —                   | 3             | 12 | or             | 84 |
| " 5. Holm. . . 6 —                     | 3             | 14 | or             | 86 |
| " 6. Shapenstray. . . 6 —              | 3             | —  | or             | 72 |
| " 7. The reader in Kirkwall. 6 —       | .             | 12 | —              | 12 |

" And to the moderator. . . One hundred pounds.

" Then the haill remanent kirks, being of his Majesty's annexed property, are for most part altogether unprovided; and those who have any thing at all, has yet so small means of maintenance, as no honest man will undertake to serve them. Therefore resolved to unite and incorporate together, such paroch kirks as might be conjoined, so as to reduce the number of kirks and ministers, to such a few quantity, and their stipends such a moderate proportion, as might be the least diminution possible of his Highness rent, as well for the help and supply of such kirks, as are meanly founded, as for the provision of others, which have no stipends. To allow with the least detriment possible to his Majesty's rents, in the 1<sup>st</sup>, to the two parish kirks of South Ronaldstray, and parish kirk in Burray united, the the ministers stipend to be helped with 200 merks.

" 2<sup>d</sup>, The two kirks of St Andrews and Deerness, in the mainland of Orkney, united, the minister's stipend 400 merks money, with the glebes and vicarages of the said kirks.

" 3<sup>d</sup>, Birsay and Harray, twa parish kirks in the mainland, united, the minister's stipend 400 merks, with the glebes and vicarages of the said kirks.

" 4<sup>th</sup>, Evie and Rendal, twa parish kirks in the mainland, united, the minister's stipend 300 merks, with the manse, glebes and vicarages of the said kirks.

" 5<sup>th</sup>, The isle of Rousay and Eglistray, twa parish kirks united, the minister's stipend 300 merks, with the glebes and vicarages of the said kirks.

" 6<sup>th</sup>, The isles of Westray and Papa Westray, united, the minister's stipend to be helped 300 merks, with the vicarage, manse and glebes.

" 7<sup>th</sup>,



down to the date of the incumbent's admission, in 1779, this whole benefice, including stipend and glebes, was let for a period of ten or twelve years preceding, from year to year, at no greater sum than 54 l. Sterling; out of this small benefice, the minister is obliged to pay one shilling Sterling of freight every time he passes over the ferry to preach in the island of Eday. There is no fund for communion elements, as the stipend was never modified by the court of Teinds. Lord Dundas is patron.

The kirks were in a ruinous state in 1779. The kirk of Stronsay, which was built in 1726, got new slates put on its roof in 1685, but it still needs great repairs. The kirk of Eday, which was built about the year 1730, is in a ruinous state; it had not a pane of glass in any of its windows in the memory of any man living. As it is situated at seven miles distance from the manse, and in another island, and in so  
bad

" 7th, Burness and the isle of Sanday, and North Ronaldsray, twa parish kirks united, the ministers stipend 300 merks, with manse, glebes, and vicarage of North Ronaldsray.

" 8th, Stronsay, Eday, and Fairay, four parish kirks united, the minister's stipend to be helped with 200 merks.

" 9th, Firth, and Stenhouse, twa parish kirks in the mainland; to be provided with three hundred merks, of the surplus of bishops thirds, with the vicarage, glebes, and manse, of the said kirks.

" It being likewise therewith declared, that his gratitude for the help and supply, and provision of these kirks, extending in the year to the sum of two thousand four hundred merks, payable furth of his Majesty's rents; and duty of the tack thereof, set by his Majesty to Lord Ochiltree for certain years. The which sum divided among the said united kirks in manner above specified, by the said James Law, now Arch-Bishop of Glasgow, shall remain as a solid and constant assignation, enduring the time of continuance of the present tack, &c."

had a stæ, the minister will not be able to officiate there at all, if the heritors do not rebuild or repair it\*.

*Poors Funds and Schools.*—A house and small parcel of land was mortified to the poor of the parish of Stronfay about fifty years ago, into the possession of which one of the principal heritors slipt in a clandestine manner, during the vacancy of the parish, at least during the insane state of mind into which the minister had fallen, about twenty three years ago ; and that after this heritable subject had been many years in the possession of the minister and kirk session of Stronfay, as trustees for the poor. These trustees, several years past, have been using legal means, all others having proved unsuccessful, to recover their possession and property.

The kirk sessions of Stronfay and Eday have no other funds for the relief of indigent objects, except the weekly and sacramental collections, with some small penalties from delinquents ; in all, not exceeding 8 l. Sterling yearly, out of which, the session clerks and kirk officers salaries must be paid ; so that, after paying for coffins for those on the poor's roll who die annually, the pittance is very small, indeed, which remains to be distributed among the most destitute objects in these united parishes, whose number amounts, at an average, to twenty five.

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\* A decret of the presbytery of North illes went out in the year 1780, for repairing the manse, and building offices. But these repairs and buildings are not yet executed ; they are indeed far from being compleated.

The minister gave the heritors no charge on this decret, till seven years after its date, in hopes that there would be no necessity for charging them ; but these hopes were frustrated ; accordingly, he gave them a charge, which they instantly suspended, and they have litigated the cause for other seven years before the Court of Session, and before arbiters, whose final decret hath not as yet been given out.

As few or none of the heritors reside within the bounds of this district, and as not any of the non-residing heritors contribute any sum whatever for the maintenance of the poor; their support must depend on the families of the minister and parishioners.

The heritors of Stronsay agreed, about fifteen years ago, to give a salary of three pounds Sterling to a schoolmaster. But this salary, small though it be, hath not been regularly paid; and to procure, in terms of law, a salary and school-house, would infer greater expence than the minister can, in his present circumstances, afford. The heritors are unwilling, and the parishioners of Stronsay and of Eday are unable, to accomplish this desirable end. A society-school hath, for several years past, been a great benefit to the poor children in the parish of Stronsay. Such a school is highly necessary in the island of Eday; but numberless applications, at different periods, by the minister to the society for propagating christian knowledge, have been rejected, on account of a regulation which that society have long adopted; viz. to establish their schools only in parishes which have parochial schools or salaries paid by some of the heritors or by the parishioners.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The situation of this district, surrounded as it is by the sea, and at a moderate elevation above the level of it, is thus rendered wholesome and agreeable, particularly during the summer months, when the seasons are dry and warm; but as it is exposed to heavy rains and thick weather in winter, with gales of wind in spring and autumn, those who cannot easily put up with retirement, and to be confined within narrow bounds, for seven or eight months, must find it an uncomfortable place of residence.

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Some of the on-call work, or undefined services of ancient times, are still exacted ; which circumstance, with the great proportion of gloomy and wet weather to which the inhabitants are exposed, and the little encouragement given by the higher ranks of people to their inferiors, to excite a spirit of emulation, and to promote improvements in agriculture and manufactures, give the inhabitants, in general, and the lower ranks in particular, a demure aspect, and contribute, perhaps, in some measure, to introduce and propagate certain maladies, which have unfortunately become too common in this district ; particularly severe colds, rheumatisms, consumptions, paralytic complaints, and symptoms of insanity\*.

3 I 2

*Character*

\* The following case may perhaps appear singular. A young girl, in the island of Stronsay, named Jean Brown, the daughter of a poor labourer, in the year 1788, when about eleven years of age, was affected with pains all over her body ; these at first continued only a few days, but recurred each fortnight periodically, for a considerable number of months. Afterwards, the pains returned monthly, were of longer continuance and proved more violent, and her speech became greatly affected. In this state she remained about two years. After which period, her intervals of sickness and health gradually approached to an equality of duration, and succeeded each other quarterly ; that is, in spring and autumn, she was greatly distressed and lost her speech entirely ; her pains increased to such a degree, that she groaned and moaned perpetually when awake ; she could sit in a chair, and could move slowly about the sides of the houses, leaning to such things as she found in her way. In the summer and winter quarters her pains abated, and she recovered her speech. In this state she continued until the month of May 1793, which was the periodical season of her recovery ; in stead of which, she continued exceedingly distressed, for about six months ; when she again, to the great surprise and joy of her parents, recovered not only her speech, but likewise her health, in such a degree, as to be inclined to engage to go to service last winter, which engagement she actually performed. Whether her pains will continue to return periodically, and at increasing intervals of time, as formerly, is a subject for the medical faculty to discuss. This case baffled the  
skill

*Character and Manners of the Inhabitants.*—The narrow and restricted boundaries of the inhabitants of these islands, circumscribed as they are by the sea, have a tendency to elevate the minds of those who move in the higher ranks of

skill of all the doctors to whom this poor girl's parents had access; at least, every medicine which could be procured, was ineffectual to obtain for her any ease or relief from trouble.

Another extraordinary case, is, of a young girl in the same island of Stronsay, whose name is Isabel Sinclair: Her father possesses a small farm as sub-tenant: His affairs have been embarrassed, and his family reduced to straits by his daughter's illness. In November 1785, at eight years of age, when going to a well for water, she was instantaneously struck with what was supposed to be the palsy. She was carried to her father's house speechless, and almost totally destitute of the use of her limbs, and seemed to have little or no exercise of her mental faculties; she was afterwards entirely confined to her bed. During which confinement, she was sometimes lifted up and carried to an elbow chair, where she sat for some hours, and behoved to be carried back again to her bed. She could hardly lift up her eyes, and sometimes appeared to be in great distress. Her appetite, however, did not forsake her, and she advanced in growth, no less progressively than if she had been in health; but, unfortunately, for the mean station of her parents, there was little meat or drink of the produce of Orkney which she could receive into her mouth; and when she did receive and swallow the usual country fare, it did not rest on her stomach but came up again. Flour, barley, biscuit, pease, which are exotics, with potatoes and milk, of Orkney produce, were the provisions by which she was nourished. She eat so freely, that, though destitute of common exercise and fresh open air, the growth of her person advanced as quickly as if she had been in health,

In this distressed and dismal state she remained for nine compleat years. she was averse to take medicines of any sort, which, however, were often procured for her, in hopes that they would contribute to her recovery; and when she took them, they had no influence on her state of health. In the month of November 1793, after a violent and painful struggle one night, she, to the great joy of her parents, and to the astonishment of all who had seen or heard of her singular malady, recovered her speech and the exercise of her mental faculties; upon which she soon expressed desire for clean cloaths, and to be dressed, (which she had not been during her nine years illness,) that she might



of life, and to inspire them with a degree of importance, to which strangers are frequently inclined to dispute the justness of their claim. The heritors, in general, have not yet exhibited ready dispositions to encourage and reward an active spirit of industry and improvement, by lengthening the leases of their tenants, or otherwise; but, on the contrary, have overlooked such indications of spirit, when exhibited by their tenants, and have been ready to attribute their consequent success to the lucrative terms on which they held their possessions, and accordingly made this a pretence for exacting more rent; with which demand, however unreasonable, if the industrious farmers did not comply, others, less skilful, or less active, have been preferred, merely by showing a readiness to agree to terms, which, instead of being able to implement, they have found, on trial, that they were unable to pay up even the old rent exclusive of the additional rent.

This conduct tends greatly to discourage tenants, and hath contributed much to prevent any improvement of the soil, from a dread thus excited in the minds of the tenants of being dispossessed, or of being obliged to promise more rent than they could afford to pay. To this cause, a suspicious and distrustful spirit between heritors, tenants, and sub-tenants, may in a great measure be ascribed. Hence a desire to conceal their property and their gains, one from another, and to take undue advantages, when an opportunity occurs, by way of retaliation, for real or imaginary injuries done them.

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might get out of bed. She was then very weak and feeble, as might naturally be expected; she gradually recovered, though slowly; she now converses rationally, and appears to have suitable impressions of pious gratitude for her recovery.

Of those who have been affected or cut off by the other maladies above mentioned, it is unnecessary to specify instances, as their cases appeared to be of a common kind.

The inhabitants are, in general, of an obliging, kind, hospitable disposition to one another, and also to strangers; especially when, on particular occasions, as at weddings, baptisms, &c. they have it in their power to gratify that spirit of importance, which they possess, by furnishing entertainments in a stile superior to what might be expected from their stations and circumstances in life. On these occasions, the highest compliment which the guests can confer on their entertainer, is to sit to a very late hour, and to partake freely of the best things set before them. §

*Miscellaneous*

§ It is to be lamented that the heritors, not only in this district, but through Orkney, in general, are not so ready, as might be expected, to unite with the ministers of the gospel in promoting the cause of religion and virtue, with regard to parochial schools and a provision for the poor, as above stated; they, moreover, do frequently manifest a disinclination to build or repair suitable kirks and manses, and to make a decent provision for the support of the clergy, by which the interests of religion are materially injured, and the established clergymen, with their families, greatly distressed.

The issue of some tedious and expensive law suits, it is to be hoped, will not only open the eyes of the laity to their own interest, but the present state of public affairs will, it is presumed, effectually convince them, that the interests of the clergy, of the laity, and of all ranks in society, are so blended and mutually connected, that it is true wisdom and sound policy, to strengthen by combining, rather than to weaken by dividing them; especially as a suitable provision, and the accomodation of kirks and manses, are essentially requisite to the decent and regular discharge of a clergyman's office, which consists chiefly in explaining and in calculating the doctrines and precepts of our holy religion; which will invariably be found the most effectual means to secure a due subordination of ranks in society; which subordination is essential to the happiness of the community, as well as the best means to promote the spiritual and temporal interest of individuals.

The common people of this district remain to this day so credulous, as to think that fairies do exist; that an inferior species of witch-craft is still practised, and that houses have been haunted, not only in former ages, but that they

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The center of the Orkney islands lies in latitude  $56^{\circ}$  North. The weather is in general moderate,

they are haunted, at least noises are heard, which cannot be accounted for on rational principles, even in our days. An instance of the latter happened only three years ago, in the house of John Spence, boat-carpenter, which house stands within the distance of a quarter of a mile from the manse of Stronfay. In the month of April 1791, this carpenter had almost completed a boat, which he had on the stocks: He, his wife, his servant, and his children, one night sometime after they were laid in bed, heard a noise resembling what he had been accustomed to make when driving nails into the boat. It continued a long time. He supposed it to be boys, who having come that way at a late hour, were amusing themselves. At last he got up, and went on with an intention to reprove and dismiss them. The noise ceased on his going out of doors to the boat, which stood hard by his house; but he could neither see nor hear any body. The noise was heard by all the family, not only that night, but many nights after; not nightly, in constant succession, but at irregular intervals. Whilst the boat lay on the stocks, it was still apprehended that the noise proceeded from it, although no marks of strokes could be discerned, even after it had been newly covered over with tar, within and without, when the least touch will make an impression. The mistress of the house and the children were alarmed; at her earnest request, therefore, in order to remove effectually the supposed cause of the noise, the boat when finished, was sent home, which happened to be to a place on the other side of the island, from which place the noise could not reach the carpenter's house. Yet lo! and behold! the same noise continued, even when there was no boat on the stocks, and that for no less than four months; and as the time elapsed, the noise increased with still louder and quicker strokes, until it came to resemble the strokes of two men hard at work on a smith's anvil. It uttered at last, not only the sounds of much fatigue, when men are employed in such work, but moans of great distress.

All which seemed to this family to proceed sometimes from one quarter, and at other times from another quarter within their house. Some of the neighbours were brought to sleep in the house, in order to discover the delusion or imposition, if any such existed. The same noise, at the usual time of the night, was heard by these neighbours as well as by the family. The master of the house himself began at last to be somewhat alarmed; but, putting his trust in God, he resolved to address this supernatural disturber, and to ask

moderate, and the climate temperate. But gales of wind, in the end of July, or the beginning of August, have sometimes greatly

what it meant or what it wanted : Accordingly, in the month of August following, one night after he had lain sometime in bed with his wife and children, upon hearing the last mentioned aggravated noise, accompanied with dismal groans, he sat up in his bed, and solemnly conjured it, in the name of the Holy Trinity, to speak, if it had any thing to say to him. Inarticulate sounds of a faltering tongue unable to speak, accompanied with dismal groans, were heard.

The noise soon after ceased, and did not return any more to disturb this family. The preceding account the minister frequently heard from the said John Spence, and also from his wife, when separately examined by him on this subject, on which occasions they always appeared grave and serious.

In this eminently enlightened age, when atheism and irreligion have been very active in bringing, not only superstition and enthusiasm, but religion itself to the Guillotine, it is highly probable, that the traits of character now exhibited will be held in derision, and the drawer thereof exposed to infinite ridicule on account of the preceding narrative, by those who glory in being superior to vulgar prejudices. If this should be the case, he will not attempt to remonstrate, but only humbly propose the following queries. *1<sup>st</sup>*, Are the inconsiderable remains of superstition and enthusiasm, which do affect the character only in small and unimportant matters; or scepticism, which gives a new and totally different direction to the understanding and the will, least dangerous to our happy establishment in church and state? And whereas the human mind is a fruitful field, in which wholesome herbs, or noxious weeds, will spring up and flourish,—*2<sup>dly</sup>*, Is it wiser to pluck up at once the whole existing crop, before we have duly considered the nature and tendency of the seed to be substituted in its place; or to continue to cultivate the seeds of revealed religion, (which system hath been held in high estimation by wise men in all ages of world,) and at the same time, gradually to check and eradicate pernicious errors and immoral practices? A candid examination of these queries may possibly furnish some apology, why the minister and people of this district are not very hasty to exchange old prejudices for new and strange doctrines, which eventually may be, and in a neighbouring nation have been subversive of the principles of religion natural and revealed.

greatly injured the crop of the whole country. This was the case in the year 1778, on the 14th of August, when a gale of westerly wind, of not more than four hours continuance, drove the fray of the sea over the Orkney islands, which damaged the crop to such a degree, that it was found necessary to import about 18,000 bolls of meal and bear, which, with large quantities of biscuit, potatoes, pease, barley and malt, cost the consumers no less a sum than 15,000 l. Sterling, that is, nearly twice the gross rent of the country. Crops 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, were poor indeed, but not so bad as that of 1778. To supply the deficiency of the said four crops, nearly 20,000 bolls of victual were imported into Orkney. The crops for several years last past, have been so much better, that considerable quantities of victual have been exported.

The ferries in this district, and through all Orkney, except on the post road from Caithness to Kirkwall, are not under proper regulations. There are no stated ferry-men, the freights are accordingly imposed at the pleasure of the boatmen who cross over with passengers, which renders the expence and trouble of travelling through these islands very great, and difficult to be ascertained.

There are ale-houses in almost all the islands, but no inns; except in Kirkwall and Stromness, the only towns in Orkney; which circumstance makes it inconvenient for strangers to pass through this country; this defect, however, is well supplied by the most respectable people in each of the islands, who receive and accommodate travellers with great hospitality and kindness.

The inhabitants of Orkney are nearly the same in number now, (1794,) according to accounts lately given in by the several ministers, to the synod of Orkney, as they were found to be by like accounts given in to Murdoch Mackenzie, maritime surveyor of these islands, about the year 1750; viz. from 23 to 24,000.



There are eighteen parish-ministers in Orkney, (the parish kirks thirty two,) divided into three presbyteries, in each of which there are six ministers. Of those who filled these offices twenty five years ago, when the author of this article was settled, only three incumbents now remain, one in each of the presbyteries; viz. one in the parishes of Hoy and Guymfay, one in the parishes of Ronfay and Eglishay; all the other parishes in Orkney, have been vacated by the death of their respective pastors, some of them by the death of more than one incumbent.

This observation tends to show, that the inscription over the door of the minister first in order, in the burgh of Kirkwall, in Orkney, might very properly be put over the door of every minister's manse in the county, to keep the possessors in mind of the rapidity of succession, and shortness of the time which all and each of them can reasonably expect to hold their offices. The inscription is in a Monkish rhyme, as follows:

*Omnia terrena, per vices sunt aliena;  
Nunc mea, tunc hujus; post mortem nescio cujus.*

NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF GLENCROSS.

(PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH, SYNOD OF LoTHIAN AND  
TWEEDDALE, AND COUNTY OF MID-LoTHIAN)

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM TORRENCE, Minister.*

WITH ADDITIONS BY THE

*Rev. Dr JOHN WALKER, Minister of Colington,*

AND

PROFESSOR OF NATURAL HISTORY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF  
EDINBURGH.

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*Situation and Extent.*

THIS parish is situated about 7 miles West from Edinburgh: The roads leading to Biggar, Moffat, and Peebles, run through it. The extent of it is nearly about 3 miles from East to West, and the same distance from South to North. It is bounded on the East and South by the parish of Laffswade, and on the West and North by the parishes of Pennycuick and Colington. It had formerly been a part of the parishes of Laffswade and Pennycuick, and was erected into a separate parish in 1616.

*Population.*—There is reason to believe that the population of this parish has decreased considerably within these 40 years, on account of the union of farms. At present there are 385 souls, 73 families, 175 males, 245 unmarried.

LIST OF BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, and BURIALS, for 8 years.

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Baptisms.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> | <i>Burials.</i> |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1785 . .      | 6 .              | 4 . .             | 10 .            |
| 86 . .        | 10 .             | 4 . .             | 5 .             |
| 87 . .        | 7 .              | 3 . .             | 10 .            |
| 88 . .        | 9 .              | 3 . .             | 4 .             |
| 89 . .        |                  |                   |                 |
| 90 . .        | 14 .             | 2 . .             | 4 .             |
| 91 . .        | 3 .              | 5 . .             | 3 .             |
| 92 . .        | 11 .             | 1 . .             | 4 .             |

*Agriculture.*—The greatest part of this parish is adapted to pasturage, being part of the Fentland hills; and it is supposed that the farmers would find their account in directing their attention more to this object, in other parts of the parish. The most profitable crops are oats and grafs, and the most substantial improvements are draining and manuring with lime.

There are in this parish about 60 score of sheep, about 150 cows and oxen, and about 100 horses. The sheep in this parish are generally of the common black faced kind. The farmers have hitherto found no other kind so hardy and so profitable. Smearing is universally practised by the farmers. They think it defends from the cold, the rot, and the scab. They give 3lb of butter to 1 pint of tar, and about 6 pints of tar and 18lb of butter to the score. Lambs sell from 4s. to 6s.

6s. ; wool, from 5s. to 7s. per stone ; ewes with lamb from 10s. to 12s.

The multure paid by the farmers is 1 peck to 6 firlots of shilling, and about half a peck of meal to every boll of oats. The great complaint on this article, is,—that the multure is measured, not weighed, and that the measures are large and uncertain.

*Manufactures.*—In this parish there is one distillery, one bleachfield, two corn-mills, one barley-mill, three smiths, two masons, two wrights, two weavers, one taylor, two butchers, and one coallier.

*Fossils.*—The part of the Pentland hills which is in this parish, like all the rest of that range of mountains, consists of different sorts of whinstone, and other lapideous strata, which are commonly termed *primitive rocks*. The lower grounds in the parish, which form part of the valley of Mid Lothian, contain fossils of a very different kind, and which are known by the name of *secundary strata*. These are *sandstone, limestone, coal*, and its concomitant fossils, which are usually called *coal metals*.

Through Scotland, in general, these secundary strata occupy the lower parts of the country ; but the mountainous tracts are entirely composed of strata of the primitive kind. The secundary strata stretch through the valley of Mid Lothian, for about 15 miles, from Musselburgh sands, to the Caerlips on the confines of Tweeddale, where they are all cut off. In several places, they arrive at the skirts of the Pentland hills, but never ascend them. They terminate gradually, as they approach the mountains, and seem, at their termination, to over-leap, as it were, the primitive strata of which the mountains consist.

By

By the side of the river of Glencrofs, there is a vein several feet wide, entirely filled with that mineral substance called *heavy spar*. It is a fossil that abounds in many of the richest metallic veins, both in Scotland, and in foreign countries; and affords indeed a probable indication of metals, especially of lead. This vein appears to have been worked a little way in former times, but had soon been given up. It is not unlikely, that on some future occasion, it may be thought worthy of further examination. Of all fossils, this substance approaches nearest to the metals in specific gravity. It has even been presumed to be of a metallic nature. No metal, however, has yet been extracted from it, nor has it ever been applied to any use more profitable, than as a flux, to facilitate the fusion of the ores of metals.

*Trees.*—There is a silver fir at Woodhouselee, which is the oldest tree of its species in Mid Lothian, and has always been admired for its size and beauty. It was planted in a dry soil, in a garden, about the first year of the present century. In March 1759, at 4 feet above the ground, it measured 7 feet  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches in circumference. In March 1793, at the same height, it measured 11 feet  $1\frac{4}{7}$  inches. During these 33 years, it therefore increased in circumference 45 inches. Its greatest growth was in the year 1760, when it increased precisely 2 inches. During all the other years, its increase in circumference was from one inch, to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch annually. This fine tree, however, is now upon the decay. It is ascertained, from other instances, that the age of the silver fir, is limited, in this country, to within a century. It is in its greatest perfection, when about 80 years old; and if placed in a proper situation, it is capable, during all that period, of increasing upon an average, above a cubic foot of wood annually. From some full grown trees of this kind, lately felled



led in the South of Scotland, it appeared, that the timber is more valuable and useful than has generally been supposed.

About the year 1700, there had also been planted at Woodhouselee, and at Greenlaw in this parish, a considerable number of laburnums. Some of them were cut in the year 1762, and afforded a plank from 10 to 14 inches in breadth, of very beautiful timber. At both places, these trees grew in a high part of the country, in a meagre soil, and in an exposed situation. When they came to be worked into furniture, a remarkable difference appeared, in the quality of their wood, compared to that of laburnums of the same age, which grew at Panmure in Forfarshire, in a rich soil, and in a low and sheltered situation: carved work, in the Panmure laburnum, was executed by the cabinet maker with the ordinary tools; but in the Woodhouselee and Greenlaw laburnum, it required the assistance of steel files, from the greater closeness and hardness of the wood.

*Animals*.—The red squirrel (*sciurus vulgaris rufus* of Linnaeus;) has become extremely common of late years. In this neighbourhood, the woods abound with them, and they are pretty numerous at Woodhouselee. Though a beautiful animal, they are destructive of the small birds, by devouring their eggs, and are extremely injurious to young planting, by cropping and barking the tender shoots. The larch tree suffers particularly from this animal.

In the year 1749, when the coal was worked at Newhall, in the neighbouring parish of Pennycuik, it was remarked that the coaliers houses, and other cottages, in which nothing was burnt but coal, abounded with bugs. In the neighbourhood of that coal, there was plenty of peat moss, and there, as it happens in other parts of Scotland, many of the cottagers chose rather to use peat than coal for their fuel.

In

In those houses in which peat only was burnt, the bug never appeared, though they were immediately adjacent to houses where coal was burnt, and in which the insect prevailed.

In the year 1759, when the coal was worked on Glencroft muir, and in Goukly moss, in this parish, the same thing was observed. The houses of the lower people, who only used coal, were infested with bugs; while those in which peat and turf served as the only fuel, were entirely free.

The burning of peat in Edinburgh, came to be a sort of receipt against bugs, though it does not appear to have been of much avail. If peat smoak is at all a remedy against them, it appears only to be so, where no other fuel is used but peat; and where the smoak is at liberty, as is usually the case where peat is burnt, to pervade the whole house.

It is indeed remarkable, that the bug prevails only in those towns and parts of Scotland, where coal is burnt; and that it is unknown in the towns and districts, where peat, turf, or wood, are the only fuel. Some towns and villages of this kind, though they have always had much communication with Edinburgh and Glasgow, by means of goods, furniture, baggage, and apparel, still remain uninfested with bugs. This would insinuate, that they possess some antidote against these vermin. That this antidote is the smoak of the peat fuel, is not improbable; but that it really is so, has not been sufficiently ascertained.

*House-of-Muir Market.*—There is a market for sheep at House-of-Muir, at two seasons of the year, in the end of March and beginning of April; and there is a market for ewes with lamb. They come from Galloway and the Southern counties, and are bought up by the Mid-Lothian and East-Lothian farmers. In the end of October, there is a market for fat sheep from the same counties, which are  
bought

bought by the Edinburgh and Dalkeith butchers, during the whole summer; lambs are to be bought about the beginning of the week. The custom drawn from this market is paid to the family of Glencrofs, and the town of Edinburgh.

*Antiquities.*—There are some vestiges of camps at Castlelaw, from which the place has probably taken its name. At Rullion green, was fought the battle of Pentland-hill, in November 28th 1666. A stone is erected in memory of this battle, with a rude inscription. Old Woodhouselee was formerly the property and residence of Hamilton of Bothwell-haugh, and it was from this house that the Regent Murray turned out the Lady of Hamilton to the inclemency of the season; the resentment of which was the cause of the Regent's death. About a hundred and thirty years ago, the tower of Fulford, which was likewise a place of great antiquity, was repaired from the stones of this house, and took the name of Woodhouselee. It is the property of Alexander Frazer Tytler, Esq; Judge-Advocate of North Britain.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—There are six heritors in this parish. Mr Frazer Tytler is patron. The stipend is 35*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* in money, ten bolls two firlots and two pecks of barley, seven bolls two firlots and two pecks of meal, and ten bolls of oats. The manse, which was built within these 30 years, was, this year, 1793, repaired in a very complete manner, and is, at present, a very commodious and comfortable dwelling. The glebe, with the garden, which is a good one, consists of nearly five acres of ground, together with the privilege of grazing a cow with one farmer, and ten sheep or a cow with another. The poor are supported from the collections at the church door, from the dues from marriages, and mort-cloth, and from the interest of 20*l.* at 4 per cent. The

number of poor in this parish is small. Two only, have, for some time past, been upon the roll.

*Miscellaneous.*—The advantages peculiar to this parish, are its vicinity to Edinburgh, the goodness of the roads, and the neighbourhood of good coal. There are no diseases peculiar to this parish. The people, in general, are very healthy. There are, however, no instances of remarkable longevity.

It is not unworthy of particular remark, that the scene of that beautiful pastoral, *The Gentle Shepherd*, is generally supposed to have been laid in this parish. There is certainly a very strict coincidence between the actual scenery of this part of the country, and the local circumstances mentioned in the poem. The general description of the scene, as given at the beginning of the pastoral, is “A shepherd’s village and fields, “some few miles from Edinburgh.” The West-Port, mentioned in the first scene as the road from the village to market, fixes the bearing of the country to the vicinity of the Pentland hills. The first scene is

“ *Beneath the south-side of a craigy bield,*

“ *Where crystal springs the halefome waters yield :*”

As the second is,

“ *A flowery bowm, between twa verdant braes,*

“ *A trotting burnie wimpling thro’ the ground,*”

No description could more exactly characterise the scenery in the neighbourhood of Woodhouselee, and Boghall burns. A romantic fall at the head of Glencrofs water is termed, at this day, “*Habby’s-bow.*” The ancient tower of Fulford, or Woodhouselee, repaired immediately after the civil wars, and formerly the mansion house of a knight \*, may well counten-

ance

\* is William Purves his Majesty’s Solicitor.

ance the supposition of Ramsay's having here fixed the imaginary residence of his Sir William Worthy. After all, however, this appropriation must be allowed to be entirely conjectural, and to rest more upon fancy, pleasing itself in clothing its own pictures in the garb of reality, than upon any basis of evidence. This at least may certainly be affirmed, that if the poet intended at all to appropriate the scenery of his pastoral, farther than to the general aspect of the country in the neighbourhood of the Pentland hills, there are no actual scenes which so perfectly correspond to his descriptions, as those in the neighbourhood of Woodhouselee.

*Eminent Men.*—There were two gentlemen, formerly of this parish, whose names well deserve to be recorded, in a parochial account of this kind.

WILLIAM TYTLER, Esq; of Woodhouselee, writer to his Majesty's Signet, and vice-president of the society of Scottish Antiquaries. His *Enquiry into the Evidence against Mary Queen of Scots*, is allowed to be one of the most masterly pieces of historical criticism: and has been the means of producing a very general alteration, in the opinion of the world, concerning the conduct and character of that unfortunate Princess. Besides historical researches, he was also remarkable for his extensive learning and excellent taste, in other branches of the belles lettres. He rescued from oblivion that valuable fragment of antiquity, *the King's Quair*, a poem written by James I. of Scotland, during his captivity in England. This remarkable poem, written near 400 years ago, is mentioned by some old writers, but was supposed to be lost. Mr Tytler was so fortunate as to discover it among the Seldenian M. S. S. in the Bodleian library, and printed it for the first time, in the year 1783, accompanied with a very learned and judicious commentary. There are two fine Scots poems, formerly of uncertain ori-



gin, *The Eagle and Robin Red-breast* and *The Vyffon*, which, from careful enquiry, he restored to their genuine author, Allan Ramfay. From personal knowledge, he also ascribed to that poet, the whole merit of the *Gentle Shepherd*, of which, by detraction or by mistake, he had been in part deprived.

Mr Tytler was no less conspicuous for his science and taste in music. His dissertation on the Scottish music, is the work of a master in that fine art. He was one of the first and most zealous promoters of the gentlemen's concert at Edinburgh: A public entertainment, which, for liberality and elegance, is not perhaps excelled in any other great city. In his younger years, he used himself to be a performer in that assembly, on his favourite instrument, the German flute. The crowded funeral concert after his death, which was the highest exertion of the art in this country, showed the sincere and deep regret of the public, for the loss of this excellent man.

In Mr Tytler, the man of letters, and the man of business, were happily united.—A union, which has generally produced some of the greatest and best characters in life. To superior abilities in the profession of the law, he added the most unspotted integrity. Keen he was, and resentful, against every thing that was base or dishonourable: But an ardent friend to every thing that was good, and especially to unbelieved merit. His piety, and his virtues in every relation of life, were well known to his numerous private friends, who will ever have them in remembrance.

JAMES PHILP, Esq; of Greenlaw, in this parish, was educated as a lawyer under Heineccius, Vitriarius, and other eminent civilians, in Germany and Holland. Soon after his return from abroad, he was appointed judge of the High Court of Admiralty. His profound knowledge in maritime law, enabled him to execute this office, for many years, with  
much

much advantage to his country, and with much honour to himself. He was a man noted and beloved, for the mildness and urbanity of his mind and manners; but he was a man also of deep discernment, and of inflexible rectitude.

In the year 1754, the present Admiral Sir Hugh Palliser was commander of the Sea Horse man of war, lying in the road of Leith. A man, under indentures as an apprentice, had been enlisted as a sailor, on board this ship. On petition from his master, and on production of the indenture, Judge Philp granted a warrant to bring the man ashore to be examined. A macer of court went aboard to apprehend him; but was told by Captain Palliser, that he considered himself as subject only to the law of England; and that he would not suffer the man to go ashore. Upon this, the macer, with his blazon on his breast, broke his wand of peace, and reported this illegal act of deforcement to the Admiralty court. The judge then granted warrant to apprehend Captain Palliser himself, to bring him from aboard his ship; and to commit him to prison, which was accordingly done. Next day, he was brought into court; and, on refusing to submit to its jurisdiction, because he held his commission from the Board of Admiralty, he was again remanded to prison, there to remain, till liberated in course of law.

When the case was reported by the Earl of Findlater, then Lord High Admiral of Scotland, to chancellor Hardwicke, that great ornament of the law, and of human nature, the chancellor said, "he was a bold judge who had done this; but he had done what was right." This just and high toned decision, from a man so gentle and amiable as Mr Philp, was followed with the universal approbation and gratitude of his country. It resembled in this, the behaviour of the excellent

lent Lord Chief Justice Holt, who, in his court of King's bench, ordered the speaker of the House of Commons, with a committee at his back, to take himself away, otherwise he would commit him to Newgate, though he should have the whole House of Commons in his belly. It is the peculiar glory of this nation, that the laws are, as they ought always to be, predominant over every other power, superior to the executive ; and to any individual branch of the Legislature.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF ALFORD,

(PRESBYTERY OF ALFORD, COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABER-  
DEEN.)

*By the Rev. Mr THOMAS BIRNIE, Minister.*

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*Name and Situation.*

No accounts, but such as are merely conjecture, can be given of the origin of the name of this parish, though it bears the same with the presbytery, and a considerable tract of circumjacent country. Some say, that the name has arisen from the circumstance of the river Don, (which is the northern boundary of the parish, and which runs through the whole length of the county called Alford,) being almost every where, in this part of its course, fordable, when in its ordinary size. Others maintain, that the church was built upon a deserted part of the bed of the Lochel, a small river which passes very near it, and where there had been anciently a ford; and,  
from

from that circumstance, *auld fuirde* came to be the name of the church and parish; both these derivations seem to be of modern date, and entirely dependent upon the present manner of spelling; for the names of almost all other places in this county are of Gaelic original; and the name of the parish, in records two hundred years old, is written *Awfurde*, an orthography which corresponds with the present pronunciation.

The county of Alford is situated from 20 to 31 miles West from Aberdeen; and besides the parish of that name, which is the largest, and the subject of this account, comprehends four other parishes, Forbes, Keig, Gillynefsle, and Tough. It is surrounded on every side by hills and mountains, and there is no entrance to it, but by ascending considerable heights to gain the hollow passes between them. On the South, it is bounded by Coueny §; on the East by Menoway or Cainwilliam; on the North East, and North, by Bennachee \*, and the hills of Careen; and on the West by Calievar. These boundaries contain a country which, reckoning from the brows of the opposite mountains, is about 11 miles in length, and from 4 to 6 in breadth. A considerable portion of this space is a level country, especially in the lower parts; but the flatness is every where varied by gentle swells, and eminences, which in the upper parts rise to greater height. The climate of this country can neither be said to be very wet or very dry. Its distance from the ocean occasions more intense frosts, and longer lying snows; but, on the other hand, that, and the surrounding mountains, protect and cover this country from the North East fogs and winds, which are so unfavourable to vegetation in less sheltered situations, and places which are upon the coast. Besides several inferior

§ Both anciently royal forrests.



inferior streams, Alford is watered by the Dón, a river of some size, which, gushing through a narrow gullet, between the mountains on the West, winds its course in a direction from West to East, through the whole length of the country, and, after adorning several gentlemen's seats on its banks, flows away through a narrow valley, encompassed on the North, by Bennachie; which rises up into high and magnificent Alpine tops.

The parish of Alford is in length, from South-West to North-East, from 7 to 8 English miles; and from 3 to between 4 and 5 in breadth. It contains nearly 8000 Scotch acres; of which there may be 3600 arable, 3700 of hill, muir, moss, and pasture grounds, and about 700 of woods. These last consist of planted Scotch firs, intermixed with larixes, beeches, oaks, ashes, birks, and other trees of different ages, besides a good deal of grown timber about gentlemen's seats, and the tenant's yards.

*Soil.*—The soil on the banks of the Don, is generally a good light loam, very fit for corn crops, but better adapted for grass, because of the mildews arising from the river, which are hurtful to grain, especially to barley. In the Eastern parts of the parish, the soil is in some places a good deep loam, in others, a strong, but workable clay, and sometimes a mixture of both. In this quarter, and the adjoining parish of Tough, there was formerly a large marsh, now called the Strath of Tough, or Kincraigie, which was partially drained in the end of the last Century, when the proprietors are said to have gained immensely, by the rich crops which this new soil produced. That part of it which lies within this parish, is mossy; and, though there are some strong clay lands in it, they have, in general, a considerable mixture of moss. All these soils of lands, which, in this country, are called laighs, or laigh lands, yield precarious corn crops, as their wetness

and lowness subjects them, in late seasons, to frost ; but they would make excellent meadows, if they were properly drained.

All the mosses ly in this quarter of the parish, and they are very much wore out. The largest, called, for its extent, the meikle moss, was accidentally fired, about 1730, in the summer season, and being unluckily very dry at the time, was nearly consumed. The remains of it now afford no better fuel than turfs, which are very clayey, and not only give, but retain a strong heat. The soils in the centre and western parts of the parish, are dry and light, sometimes of a deep, sometimes of a shallow staple, well adapted for lime, and the turnip husbandry, and no less fit, with proper cultivation and manure, for raising heavy crops of corn and grass. The most westerly parts are hill grounds, and, with proper management, would make pretty good sheep walks.

*Farms.*—The size of farms it is difficult to average, as they differ prodigiously from one another, not only in the whole extent, but also in the quantity of the different soils of land which make up a farm in that country ; and they are in general still under the old divisions, with very irregular marches, as when antiquated notions of convenience, and no idea of inclosing, or regular fields, were in view. The rents run from 60*l.* and 70*l.* to 7*l.* or 8*l.* for those who are accounted farmers. Under that rent, the possessors of land are croppers, who frequently, however, have cattle sufficient to work a plough. A considerable part of the rent is paid in victual, by the farmers, and sometimes even by the croppers ; and they are in general desirous enough to convert the victual into money, though they will rarely give it's value. Miltures have generally been changed into paid rents, and the tenants only pay knaveships to the miller, besides the usual mill services. They are bound likewise to deliver poultry, &c.  
for

for which they are paid at an old conversion, which is from  $3\frac{4}{12}$ d. to 6d. for a hen, and so in proportion. On some estates, the tenants are still bound to perform services, such as ploughing, casting and carrying peats, carriages, &c. ; but as they are rarely, or very few of them, at least, exacted, the tenants are not desirous to convert them into money ; and, in general, they would give nothing in lieu of them. On one estate in the parish, the barony of Alford, the cotters and sub-tenants pay for their houses and firing, to the landlord only, a reek hen, and one day's shearing in harvest. Leases were formerly granted for long terms, and for lives ; but they do not seem to have given any spur to the industry of the people : When a lease dropped last Whitsunday, which had been granted in 1743, the son of the original tenant refused to give the same rent for the possession, which had been so long paid. Now, when improvements are commencing, they might be perhaps more beneficial ; but, at present, no leases longer than 19 years, are granted, and frequently they do not exceed 11 or 13.

*Agriculture.*—In this quarter of the country, all the old-fashioned prejudices of husbandry are still looked upon as sure and infallible rules of good management ; for no differences in extent of possession, or in rent, make any difference in the plans or exertions of the farmer ; and all possessors of land, of whatever description, pursue the same methods, and almost entirely in the same manner.

As agriculture is, perhaps, in this country, in as low a state as in any other part of Scotland, that has the advantage of a good soil, and not an unfavourable climate, it may not be improper to detail the mode of management practised here, which, it is believed, has at one time or other prevailed, even in those parts of the kingdom, which, by the pro-

gress of improvement, are now so well cultivated and so productive. Such a detail, while it presents the real state of this country to the reader, will, at the same time, hold forth a picture of the former state of Scotland; and, by comparison with what it presently is, shew that agriculture has arisen, from the midst of prejudices, supported by popular opinion, and sanctioned by long habit, to be an art practised upon reasonable principles, founded upon facts and experiments; and that the time may come, when the strength, and wealth, and power of the nation, will, by the resources of the soil, and attention to the interests of agriculture, be raised to the highest pitch of which they are capable.

Every farm in this county, is composed of land of different qualities, and managed in different manners, which are distinguished by the names of,—1. Infield, 2. Outfield, 3. Laigh-lands, 4. Pasture-grounds. Of these different species of land, there are no fixed proportions for a farm. The smaller possessions and crops generally consist altogether of in-field; but all the more considerable farms must be made up of the 1st and 2d sorts; and there are many who have no land of the 3d or 4th description; and there are some which are composed of all the 4 different kinds.

The in-field or in-town lands, are constantly in white crop, unless when the farm has very little or very bad pasture, and then, perhaps, a ridge or two is left untilled, to throw up the weeds which ages have nourished in it, to maintain the farmers cattle. One third of it is regularly manured yearly, with all the dung of one year's gathering; and thus, in three years, all the in-field on a farm has been once dunged. The in-field land is generally all stirred immediately after harvest, and the dunged third part is again ploughed in spring, and sown with bear about the beginning of May, and this crop is succeeded by two crops of oats, sown upon the  
winter

winter furrow, as soon as the season will permit; when the land comes again in course to be manured, and undergoes the same rotation. The in-field land is generally an excellent soil, full of manure, but stocked with destructive weeds, of which wild oats and knot-grass are among the worst. Without the intervention of grass and green crops, to destroy the weeds and recruit the soil, the produce of the corn crops cannot be supposed to be in any proportion to the goodness of the land. An average, in tolerable seasons, will not exceed from 4 to 5 bolls *per* acre.

The outfield lands are managed in different ways, either by folding or cropping, without manure, or by water falling. This last method can be practised only in particular situations, having the command of water, and where the ground hangs considerably \*, to admit of spreading the water easily over it; and it is intended to fertilize the soil, for a succession of three or four crops of oats. Though no great care or attention is bestowed, in spreading the water equally, the first and second crops are said frequently to equal those produced on the same lands by liming; but the two last are, as it may be supposed, *equally inferior*. After these corn crops, the land is left lee 2 or 3 or 4 years, to get a sward for another watering, and succession of grain crops. As this mode of cultivation is limited to particular spots, out-field lands are more generally managed, by folding and cropping, without any manure; and their extent, and the stock of cattle which the farmer possesses on the pasture on his farm, will enable him to keep all the circumstances, which lead him to follow either of these methods. Where the out-field is extensive, and does not produce better than ordinary grass, it is impossible in  
general

\* Land is watered in this county for cropping, and meadow grounds are never watered, as in England, for pasture.



general to fold upon the whole, unless the pasture grounds are of a proportionable extent ; and therefore one part is folded upon, and the other is not ; and where the out-field is small, it cannot be divided into folds, of which *eleven* † is accounted by the farmers of this country, the most proper number for their rotation. One of these folds is every summer surrounded with a seal (turf) dyke, and the cattle are inclosed in it during the night, till after harvest, when the dyke is knocked down ; the land is ploughed, and left in that state all winter. In spring, oats are sown ; and as soon as the crop is off the ground, it is again ploughed for a second, and so on till it has borne *five* ‡ successive crops of oats ; and then it is left five years lee, to throw up whatever poor grass such worn out soil will produce. The first two years the grass is as bad as possible ; and though, during the other three it thickens, yet even at the best, it gives but a scanty bite to the cattle. The sixth year it is again folded upon and dunged ; and thus, in eleven years, where the number of folds is eleven, a fold is 5 years in corn crop, 5 lee, and one in preparing for another similar succession. The out-fields, which are not dunged

† This number is thought the most proper, where 5 successive crops are taken ; but, upon some farms, the out-fields are in divisions of 9 and 10 folds.

‡ It is said that *three* crops only of oats, upon toothed or dunged out-field, were allowed by the ancient customary law of Scotland ; and that action for damages lay at the instance of the landlord, or of the incoming against the outgoing tenant, if he injured the possession by a more severe round of crops. Some documents of the use of this action, are said to be still extant, in the records of the Sheriff Court of Perth. It is certain, that where out fields were formerly managed by folding, and where they still are so, the most general practice is to take three crops only. In some places, five crops were probably allowed of old by the landholders ; and the record of a court of the barony of Alford, 11th May 1724, affords very good evidence that this was the case in this country.

dunged by folding, (or as it is here called, toathed,) are cropped with oats, upon the same plan as those that are, with the difference of being one or two years less in tillage, and one or two more lee. Under this division of the lands on a farm in this county, faughs or faughlands, (a corrupt pronunciation of fallow) are included. They are ploughed once in summer, and left in that state till spring, when they are sown with very inferior oats, of which they bear three or four successive crops; and are then left to the operations of nature for several years, to recruit them for another period of tillage. The soil of out-field land, in general, is inferior to that of in-field, only by the difference in cultivation, and being more stony. The bad usage of the untoathed out-fields and faughs, will easily account for their want of fertility, in raising grain crops; but more especially in producing grafs, the badness and poorness of which it is not easy to describe. The oats sown upon out-field lands, are in quality according to the goodness of the soil, and the state in which it is. In the best dunged folds, the white oats, and in the inferior lands, and on faughs, grey oats, called here hairy and barley corn, are generally sown. As, after folding, the land is only once ploughed, and frequently with a deep fur, the dung is buried the first year, and works its effects on the second and third crops; and, therefore, the first three crops are nearly alike, and will rarely run beyond four bolls per acre, on an average; and for the two last years, they dwindle down to betwixt two and three, and often less. The produce of the untoathed out-fields, is much inferior in quantity, as well as quality; and indeed the return from faughs in grain, will seldom defray the expences of labour and seed; and the farmers are tempted to plough them, though it is to their own loss, merely for the sake of the small quantity of straw which they

they yield ; and because, under their bad management, such lands will give no grass.

Laighlands are in general a strong deep heavy soil, and in this country are either alternately in oat crop, and lee, or 2 years in oats, and one or two in lee. In dry early seasons, they give good crops of good grain, and always a great quantity of straw ; but in wet and late harvests the grain is never fit for seed, and sometimes not good enough for meal, as these lands, owing to their lateness and wetness, (for they are not sufficiently drained in this country,) are liable to be frosted before the corn is perfectly ripe. They however through up abundance of good natural grass.

The pasture lands consist either of benty muir, marshy grounds, which cannot be ploughed, the banks of rivers and rivulets, or hill grounds. These lands have never received any manure to meliorate them, but that which drops from the cattle during the day ; but they have for centuries been wasted by the practice of cutting up the sward into turf, for the different purposes of mixing it with the stable and byre dung, (muck-fail\* ; ) of building the walls of houses, when it is called

\* The practice of cutting up sward for manure or muck fail, was prohibited by an Act of Parliament, made for the county of Aberdeen, as long ago as 1685, under a penalty of 100l. Scots bolls, *toties quoties*, to the masters of the ground ; and in case of their neglect to execute the Act, the sheriffs and justices were enjoined to put it in execution. There are still many places in this county where this law should be enforced. This Act shows that the Legislature was, even in those times, not ignorant of the bad consequences of continual grain crops, and the want of proper provender for cattle in winter, and that they knew green crops to be the proper remedy ; for it contains an enactment, whereby a certain proportion of the in field of every farm (valuable according to its Highland or Lowland situation) was ordered to be sown with pease yearly, and regulations for punishing persons who should steal the pulse. Pease was the only green crop known in those times.

led fail; of roofing houses, when the sward is pared thin, and for fuel, which they call troves. The hill grounds have been likewise much much injured by burning the heath in improper seasons and places; and no pains are taken, even where the situation will admit of it, to extirpate heath by watering. A considerable part of the pasture lands in this parish, might be made good arable soil, by draining, and the other means of improvement. The hill grounds might, by good management, be greatly bettered; and there are several tracts of ground which fall under the division of pasture lands in this district, that are only fit for plantations.

In this county, and indeed pretty generally over this country, farmers almost never change their seed, using always the produce of their own farms; but they are at some pains to have it as good and sound as the best of their corn with repeated winnowings will give. The best oats in this country are of an excellent quality; for in tolerable seasons, the boll † will yield 8 or 9 stones, and even more of meal, which is ground much smaller and better sifted than in the South of Scotland. The gray oats, or barley corn, neither give so much in quantity, nor of such quality; and they are sometimes so bad, as to require two bolls to produce eight stones of meal. In spring 1783, when there was great reason to apprehend that the crop of 1782 was too scanty and faulty to afford a sufficiency of good seed, a cargo of fine Dutch oats was sent to this country by the late Mr Farquharson of Haughton, for his own tenants and the neighbours, and they contributed to secure the next crop. These oats were, however, said to degenerate by bad cultivation, and they were liable to shake before they were perfectly ripe; and for these reasons they are not now sown. The Montgomery or Magbiehill oats have

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been

† Our boll is 9.767 per cent. better than the Linlithgow or standard measure.

been lately introduced by Mr Leith of Whitehaugh, upon his own very extensive farm, in the neighbouring parish of Tillyneshle; they possess the advantage of ripening three weeks before the common oat, and therefore the extension of their use will be a great improvement.

The bear grown in this country by common farmers, is all of the Scotch kind; and though the seed is procured in the same way as that of oats, weighs, in general, 18 stones per boll †, and will, in particular situations and seasons, even come to 20 and 21 stones. A considerable quantity of meal and bear, probably from 800 to 900 bolls, is annually sent from this parish to Aberdeen, our only or chief market for grain. Bear and oatmeal have given good prices of late years, though the smallness of our meal is a great disadvantage to it in the West country market, to which it was usually sent some years ago. Oats are never carried to market by our farmers, though there is a demand for them; a circumstance which must be attributed more to habit than the effects of thirlage. Potatoes are not much used here, though every person who rents land plants a small quantity. The common people are not very fond of them, and they think them unwholesome; nor will farm servants make a meal of them, or even eat them without milk or butter, so readily as in other parts of Scotland. To pease-meal or bear-meal they have rather a dislike; and in general, garden vegetables of all sorts are not so much cultivated or used as in other parts of the kingdom. Very little flax has been hitherto raised in this country; and as we have excellent soil for it, and the country people are under the necessity of buying all the linen, when they might get it much cheaper by manufacturing it at home, this want of flax must be attributed to the difficulty in dressing the lent; but

† One barley boll is 9.767 per cent above the standard.



but as that obstacle is now removed by the erection of a lint mill in the neighbourhood by Mr Leith of Whitehaugh, the culture of this plant is becoming much more general and extensive.

Field turnips and sown grasses, with ordinary attention, have answered remarkably well in this country ; and as the farmers are convinced, by small trials, of the benefits which attend that mode of husbandry, they are more desirous than formerly of improving in that way, though it is still no easy task to persuade them to abandon their old habits and prejudices.

The number of black cattle in this parish (in December 1793, when the year's sale is over) is 953. Of these 346 are oxen for the plough, of which there are 65 in the parish, almost all of the old Scotch construction. Every farmer is ambitious of having many pairs of oxen in his plough ; some have 6, many have 5, and few common farmers, with any extent of possession, have less than 4 pairs. Smaller tenants yoke oxen, horses, and even bulls, cows, and young cattle, promiscuously, to make up what they deem a sufficient strength. No difference in the nature of the soil is attended to in proportioning the strength and number of the cattle ; for a farmer, who yokes 10 or 12 oxen, employs them all, whether he plow his in-field land, or the most rugged stony out-field. Neither does this make any great difference in the quantity of land ploughed at a yoking, which is from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of an acre \*, and which corresponds with the poor feeding of the cattle. Oxen, which sold 40 years ago at 2l. or 3l. sell now from 5l. to 7l. and those of the best kind and size among common farmers, will even rise to 8l. and 9l. Every farmer sells one or two pairs of oxen yearly, and replaces them by others of his own rearing.

\* The country people compute land by the quantity sown with a boll of seed ; which may be very little more, if any thing, than a Scots acre.

Forty years ago, 1l. 5s. or 1l. 10s. was the price of a cow that will now bring from 3l. to 5l; but as they are poorly fed, they are of a small size, and will not give above 4 or 5 Scotch pints of milk per day, even in the best of the grafs. A farmer's dairy, therefore, is barely sufficient for family consumption, and as the milk is used sweet, little butter or cheese is made, and that little is rarely sent to market, but laid up for winter use, when milk cannot be had. The cows calve in the beginning of March or end of April, which is an additional reason for their giving little milk; but, on the other hand, early calving is thought, by the country people, to be advantageous to the calf, by giving it more time to acquire strength, before the approach of winter. For the same reason, calves are universally permitted to go at large through the fields, during summer, and pick up the grafs at the roots of the corn. This practice is occasioned by the want of proper food and inclosures; as the calves would be much injured by feeding or being confined with the large cattle in the folds, or in houses, during the summer season; and it is attended with much damage to the corns by their lying upon, and treading it down; and the calves get a restless habit, so that ever after it is impossible to confine them but by the strongest and most impenetrable fences. In winter, the calves and all other cattle, are housed, during the night, and fed with straw, which, when the land is overrun with weeds, is not a great deal inferior to coarse hay. After the first winter, they accompany the other cattle, till they are cows or oxen; for it is not usual to sell very young cattle in this country. In the spring season, all cattle in this country are in very low condition, the straw being by that time not only scarce, but dried, sapless, and less nourishing: and by want of shelter, and on account of the poor state of the land laid out for grafs, it is very late in rising.

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The number of horses in this parish is 172. They are well bodied and clean limbed, but they want a sufficiency of bone \*; and, as they seldom rise above 13, or  $13\frac{1}{2}$  hands high, they are under sized for draught. Their other characteristics are, a large ill-shaped head, with a thick neck and stiff mane; they are hardy, and easily fed, and, upon the whole, serviceable horses. In this country, horses are not generally employed in ploughing, but they draw the harrows, which here are only used to cover the seed, and are by much too light and unfit for any of the other purposes of agriculture, to which proper harrows are applied. They perform all the cart work, which principally consists in journeys to mill and market; in carrying home the corn in harvest, and preparing and carting out dung. Their food is the same as that of horned cattle, with the addition of the light corn; and this, with a little more attention to their cleanliness and bedding, (though they are not rubbed down or curry-combed) keeps them more in flesh, and in better condition, than other cattle. By the rise of price, † which, 40 years ago, was from 2l. to 3l. for a horse, that now costs from 9l. to 12l., the breeding of horses has turned a profitable use of land; and farmers endeavour, at least to supply themselves, by keeping mares. The number of carts in this parish, has increased greatly within these 20 years, and is now 79.

Creels

\* Some ill-judged attempts have probably been made, long ago, to raise the size of the native horses of the country, by crossing them with tall well bred horses, from other parts of the kingdom, without giving the progeny proper and sufficient feeding to keep them up to the standard; for the description does not correspond with the common unmixt breeds of Scotch horses.

† The rise of price lately, is owing to the demand from the Southern parts of Scotland, or North of England, where our small horses are said to work in the collieries.

Creels and crook-saddles are entirely in disuse. The ignorance and inattention of the farmers of this country, are more conspicuous in the management of their sheep, than in any other branch of rural œconomy. There are in the parish, at present, about 1300; but, in summer, there will be twice as many. The greatest part of these are the small white faced Scotch sheep, which seem to be natives of this country; but there are a few which are bred between these and the black faced Tweeddale, or Linton breed, here called bruiket sheep; and there are others, which, by the remoteness of the original, crossing and intermixing again with the sheep of the country, partake, more or less, of the two species.

This cross breed has probably been at first brought into the country, with a view to raise the size of the carcase; but, although the price of sheep has nearly tripled within these 40 years, neither the carcase nor the wool have been much attended to by our farmers, whose principal object, and, by their own account, chief gain, is in the dung which manures their folds. They are looked upon as prejudicial to cattle, because the country people think that they eat up a great deal of the grass; and, therefore, none but those who have extensive hill-grazings, keep any sheep.

The hill grounds are not, however, particularly kept for sheep; but young cattle and young horses are turned out upon them. The flocks of several tenants generally range the same pastures in common; and as every one is desirous to keep as many as he can, they are very generally over-stocked. When a farmer has not a sufficient stock of his own, or more pasture ground than is proportioned to his winter feeding, he takes in sheep during the summer, at the very moderate rate of 2d. *per* head for three months, though, as he looks upon the dung of the animal as his profit, they are allowed

to remain five. In the summer, sheep are turned out to the hill, to range at their own discretion, and, at night-fall, a boy is sent to drive them down to the folds, from which they are frequently not released till the morning is far gone.

As we have no shepherds, nor even good sheep dogs, so there are no divisions of the flocks, according to their sexes, or ages, nor any ground hained for winter. In this season, they are turned out upon the arable lands of the farm, which have not been in corn crop; and seldom sent to the hill, unless the weather is very mild; but during storms and falls of snow, their subsistence must depend upon heath || broom, or any thing else, which can be reached by scraping. No salve or smearing is used in this county; and if a farmer's stock is not very numerous, the sheep are crammed into small houses, built for the purpose, during the night, and what with the alternate heat and cold they thus undergo, and the poor scanty feeding of this season, they are in spring reduced to a very lean weakly state, which it requires a considerable part of the summer to restore. The grounds, however, are healthy, and no very mortal or difficult diseases prevail among the flocks on account of the pasture. The improper burning of heath grounds has been highly detrimental to sheep in this country; for the farmers never consult the proper situation of the place in regard to shelter, the nature of the soil, and the favourableness of the season for this purpose; nor do they herd the burnt ground, to preserve the tender grass, which springs up, from being plucked out at the roots, by the sheep.

|| In deep snows, the country people uncover the heath with spades, to enable the sheep to pluck it. Farther up the Don, in the country called Strathdon, which is more stormy, but where they have many more, and much better sheep than here, this is a common practice. There, likewise, the farmers cut off the heath, when it is in flower; and after drying them, lay them up for winter provision.



sheep. The bad consequences of improper burning are now felt, and likely to be put a stop to by the proprietors §. Swine are never kept here but by millers, who dispose of the refuse of the grain from these mills in feeding them. We have a good many markets round the country, at from 4 and 5, to 12 and 14 miles distance, where lean cattle are bought up by drovers, principally from the South country, and all for the southern markets. Horses are likewise bought and sold in these markets, as well as lean sheep. The Aberdeen butchers, in the autumn, buy the best grass-fed wethers, at from 10s. 6d. to 12s.; but few if any cattle are felled here for the shambles, as either by combinations among the butchers, or for some other cause, the price given by them is very low, and full 30 *per cent.* under that given in Angus. There were anciently weekly markets held at Meiklendovie, in this parish, and great yearly fairs at that place, and Kirkton of Alford. Those at Meiklendovie have been discontinued for many years; but there are still three fairs at the Kirkton, for the sale of cattle, horses, sheep, &c. and small wares; but they are of no great consequence.

The general manure in this county, is stable and byre dung, which the common farmers mix up with a considerable quantity of muckfail or clay. The muckfail is very poor turf, cut up in the nearest muir, a practice which was once in vogue, in every quarter of Scotland; and which is still looked upon in this country as a most important article in husbandry, and occupies a great deal of time. Where good clay is to be had, it is used in preference to the muirish fward; and it is certainly much better, though our in-field lands,

§ There are many laws, respecting the burning of heath grounds. They are all intended with a view to protect the game; but if they were chiefly enforced, they would be advantageous to sheep, though the ground cannot always be burned in proper season.

lands, those only which are manured in this way, do by no means stand in need of a claying every three years. All our farmers are most miserably defective in that grand requisite in good farming, the raising of manure; for the whole dung made on a farm in one year, even with the addition of muck-fail or clay, is barely sufficient for manuring one seventh, or, at most, one sixth of the land which produced the straw. All attempts to discover marle have hitherto proved unsuccessful; and the only factitious manure which has been tried in this country is lime; and as trials of it have been made to a very considerable extent, there is no doubt of the practicability, and value of the improvement. The late Mr Innes of Breda, by liming and inclosing, accompanied by proper husbandry, improved a property in this parish in twenty years, which was lately sold at triple the price he paid for it; nor are there wanting instances of proprietors, and even of tenants, though above the ordinary level, who have, with equal advantage, carried on similar improvements. The expence, however, though the returns with good management, in the long run, do much more than repay it, is very great. The cheapest method of procuring lime, is to bring it from Aberdeen, at the distance of from 25 to 30 miles: At that port the price is very high; for all the lime-shells imported there, are either from the Sunderland lime-works, in the North of England, or those at Charlestown, in the Frith of Forth, which belongs to Lord Elgin. Lime-shells, from the first, give 3 returns; and of the last, from 2 to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  of flaked lime. The Aberdeen boll of lime-shells is four corn firlots, or 128 standard Scotch pints  $\parallel$ , for which the merchants receive from 3s. 1d. to 3s. 3d. for Sunderland, and from 2s. 7d. to 2s. 9d. for Charlestown shells. The carriage from Aberdeen to this

VOL. XV. 3 O country;

$\parallel$  Seven cubic feet, and 150 cubic inches.

country, of so bulky and heavy an article, is the chief obstacle to improvements by means of lime. When Aberdeen carters are employed to transport lime-shells to this country, they are paid at the rate of 11s. or 12s. for every three bolls, according to the distance; three bolls weigh about 1300 cwt., and require two horses, as neither the roads nor the horses are good. Some reckon this the cheapest way, but others hire the carters to deliver the shells 15 miles from Aberdeen, where they take them up with their own cattle; and they pay at the rate of 20d. per boll; but it is not uncommon to send horses and servants to Aberdeen with grain, and even without a load, and to bring home lime-shells in return. As the Sunderland shells contain a greater quantity of calcareous matter in the same bulk, and in less weight, than those of Charlestown, they are generally used here, and at the rate of from 16 to 20 bolls per Scotch acre, which, when properly applied, have constantly worked great effects. The great expence of liming, especially in the carriage, which, with their weak ill fed cattle, the country people cannot avoid, has hitherto deterred them from using it as a manure to any extent; and, indeed, without a total alteration of their mode of cropping, it would be dangerous and hurtful to their farms. Heavy as the expence of procuring lime, in this country, is, the advantages of it in meliorating the soil, are so great, that it may be looked upon as an article highly essential; and necessary for attempting or carrying on improvements. The only means to diminish this expence, are either to discover tolerable workable limestone in the country, or to lower the expence of carriage. The attempts to discover workable lime-stone, have not hitherto been either general, or well conducted, and though there are many indications of it in the country, no regular quarry has been hitherto found. It is probable, that the gentlemen will soon turn their thoughts  
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with some effect, to that important object, and if they are successful, we shall have lime-shells as cheap, at least, as they can be purchased at Aberdeen, after defraying all expences, the heaviest of which will be the price and carriage of coals from Aberdeen to burn the limestone. If this great source of improvement fail, our only other alternative, is, to cheapen the carriage, by altering and mending the roads, which have lately begun to receive very great attention in this country.

There are few fields properly inclosed, but those which surround gentlemen's seats; and the only fences which may be called good, are stone dykes though there is little doubt that, upon a proper plan, with proper preparation and attention, thorns would thrive well, make good fences, and, consequently, a most valuable and lasting improvement in this country; but they have in very few places had a fair trial. The country people are not averse to inclosures, though they will neither build nor pay a per centage for building stone dykes, which cost from  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 4d. per Scotch ell §, according to the materials and height of the dyke; besides carriage of the stones; and they cannot bear the trouble of protecting or raising a thorn hedge. They seldom make a proper use of inclosures where they have them; for it is not uncommon to see an inclosed field in patches of corn and grass; the only real use of inclosures to them, therefore, is to serve as a barrier to the farm in winter, when, if the weather is open, the cattle of the great and of the small farmer, range promiscuously over the whole country, without regard to any farm or any boundaries. This practice has been prohibited || by the Legislature long

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ago,

§ A Scotch ell is little more than 37 English inches.

- || Winter feeding was strictly enjoined, and the practice of turning out cattle, to go at random, prohibited, under severe penalties, in 1606. The utility of the law is obvious.—Pity that it is not more rigorously executed.

ago, and it deserves very severe reprobation, as it is a most effectual bar to improvements of every kind; and especially to the culture of grass and corn crops.

The wages of farm servants have been very greatly raised within these few years in this country, owing to the great demand and high price of labour in Angus, the Mearns, and Southern parts of Scotland, together with that occasioned by the number of extensive manufactories, recently erected in Aberdeen. Forty years ago, a man's yearly wages were from 16l. Scotch, or 1l. 6s. 8d. Sterling, to 1l. 13s. 4d. and a woman's 16 merks, or 17s. 9½d. and they are now from 5l. 10s. to 6l. for a man, and 2l. 10s. for a woman. Though these wages do not appear high, when compared with those given in other parts of Scotland, they are very severely felt by the farmers of this country; and indeed, when it is considered that servants in this quarter do not work as in other places; that the extent of ground ploughed, harrowed, reaped, &c. is very great, when compared to the produce; that for these reasons many servants are required; and that the maintenance of them is a much higher article than their wages, especially where there are many mouths; and when, in addition to to these pecuniary disadvantages, the difficulty in procuring servants, their waste, indolence, carelessness, and insolence, are taken into account, it is not to be wondered at, that the expence of farm servants, in this country, cuts very deep upon the produce of the farm, or (as the tenants generally say) that it is a greater burden on them than their rent. Besides the ordinary servants of his farm, a farmer has to provide a number of extra hands for his harvest work. This work is never done by the piece or day, but an agreed-upon-sum, together with the reapers victuals, (frequently accompanied by

very



very ridiculous stipulations \*) are given as a harvest fee, during the whole time of cutting down and carrying home the corns. These harvest fees have been rising for some years, and are now 1l. 15s. or 2l. for a man, and 1l. for a woman, besides victuals; and the risk of bad weather, to protract the harvest, and lay hands idle, whom the farmer must maintain, and every thing else being taken into view, it will be found, that the expence of harvest work runs very greatly out of proportion to that of every other species of labour. This disproportion is the cause of many of the grievances we feel, with regard to ordinary servants; for these high harvest fees being nearly equivalent to a half years wages, not only deter the people, especially women †, from engaging to work to a master, but induces servants to desert their service upon the slightest pretences; and it is much to be regretted, that the dislike of getting what they call a bad word, among servants, generally ties up the farmer from applying for that redress which the law affords. The same silly idea leads them to give way to the grossest abuses in their domestic concerns. A farmer must often rise from bed at 3 or 4 o'clock, in a winter's morning, to admit his servants, who have been junketing all night in the neighbourhood; and he must perform all the morning work of a farm, in tending cattle, &c. long before they get up, to assist him; nor is it uncommon for a farmer to go with his cart and horses to Aberdeen himself, because he will not only take better care of his cattle, but perform the journey at less expence than his servant. In short,

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\* Such as, for example, that the reaper shall have such and such persons on the same ridge with him.

† Women, when they are not engaged as servants, spin, and make their own clothes, or work stockings, till the harvest approach; and thus are gainers by not entering into farmers service.

the common meaning of language here is totally reversed ; and servants do not so much serve, as rule and tyrannize over their masters. The subtenants and cottars do not work much to the principal tenants ; but they pay them higher rents than the principal pays to his landlord, and they ease him of a good many services ; and though this class of possessors of land add to the population of a country, they are not, here at least, always to be reckoned the most useful and industrious members of society. There are many of them, who, if their small piece of ground will barely find them subsistence, will not endeavour to better their condition by labour or industry, though there is always work enough for labourers ; and they lead an easy, indolent life, except in harvest, which is a season of general exertion. The wages of artificers here are as high as in any part of Scotland, and those of day labourers are 8d. in summer and 6d. in winter ; high enough, considering their work ; yet the high price of meal commonly proves a stronger inducement to make them work than these wages. Working by the piece, except at mason-work and dyking, is not general in this country ; nor will the country people undertake it even for common works, such as trenching, ditching, &c. unless they have an enormous profit.

The fuel of this country is peat, wood, turf, heath broom, &c. With the first, there are only two estates in the parish supplied ; and though the tenants of those properties are on a better footing than the others, still the labour of procuring peats is so great, that it admits of a doubt, whether coal, under the disadvantages of a high price, and a long carriage, would not be cheaper. Except the roots and crops of trees, wood is little used for fuel, as it is very expensive ; and broom and heath require much labour.

*Roads.*

*Roads.*—The roads in this county have been originally formed, either by the statute labour, or by the military, under the order of Government. Of this last description, there are two roads which cross each other, in this parish; the great Northern road, which leads from Fettercairn, over the Cairn of Month to Huntly, and the road which goes from Aberdeen to Corgarff, a military station on the sources of Don. Both these roads, since their formation by the soldiery, have been kept in repair by the statute labour of the several parishes through which they pass, as far as it would go, to maintain them jointly with other roads in the parishes. The statute labour has not been hitherto converted into money in this country; and, of consequence, as in every other country where the statute labour is performed in work by the country people, it is found inadequate to the support of the roads, both public and parochial. The last mentioned military road, forms the communication between a very extensive country and the city of Aberdeen, and has, of late, as well as on several former occasions, become almost impassable. In aid of the statute labour, the gentlemen whose estates lie in this country, have twice made very liberal subscriptions for its repair; but in 1792, when it was again in a very bad state, after mature consideration, its direction, for a considerable way, was found to be highly improper; and it was agreed, that a new road, for nearly 9 miles in length, with a view to obviate the disadvantages of the old track, should be undertaken. £. 600. has been subscribed for this purpose, and the work is considerably advanced. When it is finished, there is good reason to expect, that the improvement of this country will go on with additional briskness, as it will give us an excellent communication with our chief market place, and enable the farmer to bring home lime, coal, and the other necessary articles of country consumption, much more easily.

easily, and therefore more cheaply, than he has been wont to do.

*Manufactures.*—The only manufacture in this county worth mentioning, is that of knitting stockings, which has been long established in Aberdeenshire\*. The country part of the manufacture, is carried on entirely by women, to whom the wool is delivered out by the Aberdeen stocking merchants, who have fixed stations over the country, for giving out wool, receiving stockings, and reckoning with those whom they employ. The wool is almost all imported from England, and none of the growth of the country is manufactured; for which reason, our wool is very inferior, and the fleeces of a flock not worth more than 6d. each, on an average. It is spun and worked into stockings, at a price proportioned to their fineness or coarseness; and the average gain of a good worker, will be 2s. per week. This manufacture has contributed to keep hands in the country; but it admits of some doubt, whether these hands might not be more profitably employed, and whether the manufacture has promoted the interests of agriculture; but it certainly contributes little to health, and conduces less to morality.

*Antiquities.*—In this parish, the Marquis of Montrose, upon the 2d day of July 1645, won the battle of Alford, by defeating Baillie, one of the Generals of the Covenanters; but his cause sustained an irreparable loss, in the death of the Lord Gordon, the eldest son of the Marquis of Huntly, who fell

\* According to the accounts of the Aberdeen merchants, (who export all the stockings, either to Holland and the northern parts of Germany, from whence they are often sent to America) the sum circulated through the country in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, merely for spinning the wool and knitting the stockings, is from 70,000 l. to 90,000 l. per annum. These accounts are, however, in all probability, much beyond the truth.

fell by a random shot, in the pursuit, near a large stone on the field of battle, which is still pointed out by the country people. About 50 years ago, some men, in casting peats, dug up the body of a man on horseback and in complete armour, who had been drowned either in the pursuit, or flight from this engagement; and formerly, the country people were in use, when casting peats, to find ball, and pieces of money\*, which had, probably, dropped from the flying, and escaped the search of the victors. Upon the top of a little hill, there is an immense cairn, from which a small property in this parish takes the name of Carneveran, though the import of that word is not known. This cairn is 120 yards in circumference, and of a proportionable height. Of this great monument, there is no very distinct tradition, though some think that it marks the burial place of a brother of one of the Kings of Scotland. No more certain accounts can be given of a pretty large cairn, which lately stood at a place called Cairnballoch; but, when it was removed some years ago, there was found near the bottom, a sort of chest, composed of thin flat stones, containing an earthen vessel filled with ashes, which mouldered away upon being exposed to the air. In the parish, there is an eminence called the Gallow Hill, which had been anciently a place of execution; and nails, and other pieces of rusty iron, are turned over by the plough, near the summit, where the gallows had been erected. Many

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\* Some of the coins are in the custody of Mr Farquharson of Haughton; and as it may gratify a curious reader to know the coins which appear to have been then current, two of them shall be described. They are silver; and the first is a two florin piece of Maximilian, Count Palatine, &c having, on one side, his arms, surrounded by the *Poison d'or*, and, on the reverse, the *Patroness of Bavaria*, with the same legend which is still used. The other is a dollar of Phil. 4, of Spain, having on one side the arms of Spain and Austria, and the collar of the *Golden Fleece*, and on the reverse, a cross fleuri.



of the parishioners report, though without much credibility, that Gregory the Great was buried in the parish; and there are several predictions current among the country people, attributed by them to Thomas the Rhymer, which it would be unnecessary to recite. There are two old houses in the parish; one of them, Afstoune, was built between two and three hundred years ago, and seems to have been a place of some strength. It was a square building, with a round tower at each of two opposite angles, of which there is one still remaining, though the greater part of the house was pulled down 40 years ago. The first storey was all vaulted, and there was a well in one of the vaults; but the towers were a continuation of one vault above another to the roof.

About two thirds of the parish belongs to one proprietor, who is an occasional resident, and the remainder is divided among five others, two of whom reside constantly. The valued rent is 3126l. 12s. 8d. and the neat rent may be about 1500l. 19s. Sterling.

*Animals.*—The Don abounds with trout, and, after high floods, with salmon, which, when the river is low, cannot get up on account of the crieve dykes, near its mouth. There are no pikes, and few eels in this part of its course. A bridge over the Don in the line of the great northern road, would be highly serviceable to this country. Besides the Don, there are several inferior streams, which pass through the parish, well stocked with trout, &c. Upon one of them, the Lochel, a bridge was built by Mr Melvine, then clergyman of this parish, in the end of the last century, and it is still kept in good repair, by a mortification of 100 merks, which he left in the charge of the minister and kirk session, for that purpose.

In the parish there are a few Red and Roe Deer, lately attracted to the country by the extensive plantations; and we have foxes, polecats, weasels, the Scotch ermine, and the Mus-

covy

covey rat, who has travelled up the banks of the river from Aberdeen. We have likewise a few muir-fowl, and plenty of hares, partridges, snipes, plovers, and wild ducks; and, at particular seasons, curlews, woodcocks, dottrels, and scail drakes. Of other birds, the country is infested with hawks of almost all sorts; the falcon, sparrow-hawk, martin, and a rare species, commonly called blue sleeves, and with kites of different sizes and descriptions. The hooded crows are not so numerous, but rooks and daws are in prodigious numbers. Sometimes the great woodpecker has been found in our woods, and the king's-fisher on the river, though they are exceeding rare. In general, our woods have increased the number of the birds and beasts of prey, and consequently diminished the quantity of game in the country.

*Church, School and Poor.*—The church is old, and bears date 1603. The manse was built in 1718, and has been repaired, and is convenient. The stipend is 60l. 13s. 4d. including communion elements, and grass money; 2 chalders of meal, and 1 of bear, besides a glebe of 4 acres, and a garden. The last Episcopal clergyman in this parish was Mr Jeffrey, who was removed about the year 1715, and Mr Gordon, the first Presbyterian Minister (and a considerable leader in the Church of Scotland), was settled in 1717, and removed to Alloa in 1735. The present incumbent is his third successor.

The school-salary is 13 bolls of meal, and 2l. arising from a mortification, and 40 merks, or 2l. 4s. 5¼d. as the fee of a session clerk. The emoluments of the school will not much exceed 3l. The whole amount is too slender an allowance for any person properly qualified to discharge the important duties which this class of men owe to the public.

The funds for the maintenance of the poor, are the interest of 200l. of mortified money, and the weekly collections at church, together with the fines of delinquents. These funds  
are

are applied to the support from 12 to 17 paupers, none of whom are permitted to go about begging, though the country is overrun with people of that description. In the bad seasons of 1782 and 1783, the kirk-session were obliged to extend their charity more generally, and, with the consent of the heritors, laid out a part of their capital in purchasing grain to supply the poorer inhabitants of the parish, who were in those years reduced to great want.

*Population.*—The population in 1755 was 990.

The number of souls under 10 years of age

in the parish, are, - - 133

From 10 to 20 - 132

20 to 40 - 210

40 to 60 - 105

60 to 70 - 74

70 to 80 - 5

80 to 90 - 4

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Total, 663

Of these there are 310 males and 353 females.

The number of marriages and baptisms for 14 years from 1780, are as follows

|           | 1780 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | Tot. |
|-----------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Marriages | 7    | 2  | 9  | 2  | 5  | 5  | 4  | 4  | 4  | 1  | 4  | 6  | 3  | 6  | 62   |
| Baptisms, | 12   | 19 | 6  | 12 | 10 | 14 | 12 | 7  | 11 | 13 | 6  | 9  | 13 | 6  | 150  |

The register of marriages is very exact, and there are none irregular; so that the average may be stated at  $4\frac{3}{7}$  per annum. The register of baptisms is very inaccurate, and probably not one half of them entered, so that no conclusion can be drawn from it. There is no record whatever of deaths. Of artificers there are in the parish, 2 masons, 9 joiners, wrights, coopers, and turners, two of whom make a variety of musical instruments without any education for that purpose; 6 weavers, 3 black-smiths, 10 taylors, 6 country merchants, 4 millers,

millers, and 2 dyers; but they all have small possession of land to support them as well as their trade.

The parish-register goes no farther back than 1717, and is so very irregular, that it is impossible from it to procure any data for ascertaining the ancient population of the parish, not even at the time of the return to Dr Webster. But that the number of inhabitants in the parish has decreased very greatly, within a few years, is not to be doubted; and the principal cause seems to be the great encouragement given at Aberdeen by the manufactures to labouring people. This parish was, however, in all probability, much more populous 100 years ago, than at the time of Dr Webster's report; and the reason of the decrease seems to be, that by the wearing out of the mosses, fuel has become scarcer than it was at that time; a reason which will still tend to diminish the number of inhabitants, till a more improved state of the country enable the people to support the expence of coal.

There are no prevalent diseases in this parish, excepting the hooping cough, measles, and small pox, none of which are fatal; the danger of the last is much abated by inoculation, which is becoming very general. There are several mineral springs in the parish, and though their waters are not strong; some of them have been attended with advantages.

*Character.*—In their general character, the people are well entitled to commendation, for an obliging hospitable disposition, for their religious conduct, and regular attendance of divine worship, and for having laid aside that quarrellsome temper which once prevailed, without adopting in its stead the spirit of litigiousness that has succeeded it in many places; but candour must acknowledge, though they possess in general a laudable œconomy, they have not yet fully acquired those

those habits of labour and industry, that have bettered the condition of the lower classes of people, in other parts of Scotland; an acquisition which must always and every where be gradual in its beginnings, and which it is hoped, a few years will hasten on in this country.

That predilection and prejudice in favour of ancient modes of husbandry, which has still some strong roots in this corner, is not so blameable, as it has been so very general, and exerted itself so vigorously in every country, in the commencement of improvements; but when fair means are taken to open the eyes of the people, by examples and indisputable experiments, persevering in them is not so excuseable; and some degree of this censure must be applied to our farmers, in persisting in their old practices, when they see 10 or 12 bolls of grain raised by good husbandry, where they could only raise 3 or 4, and excellent crops of turnips and artificial grasses, where they denied the possibility of producing them. This censure, however, is much less merited than it was, some years ago; and the operations of a few years more may change it into applause.

This account cannot be concluded better, than by a paper, found in the charter chest of Mr Farquharson of Haughton, of a court of the barony of Alford, during the Usurpation of the Convention Parliament of Scotland.—The transaction which it records, shews, that the means which they or their adherents (for the then proprietor of the barony was a most zealous covenanter) employed, to supply their treasury, maintain their forces, and support their power, were not very dissimilar to those that have been so recently and tyrannically put in practice in a neighbouring Kingdom; for when the low state of agriculture, the general poverty of the country, and the slender means of the commonalty, at that time, are contrasted, with the heaviness of the taxation imposed, and the severity of the regulations for enforcing payment, it is well entitled to be compared to a forced loan.

It furnishes a strong proof, that in this, as in every other country, arbitrary exactions have followed hard, after the fall of equitable government; and it is a striking example of the burdens and oppressions, which, when lawful authority is overturned, must be born, not only by the rich and the great,

but



but by the humble and the poor, by the friends, as well as the enemies of those who subvert the order, the peace, and the justice of society.

This paper demands attention, also, as affording some proof of the ancient population of this district. All the persons taxed held possessions from the laird, and were heads of families, with cottars, grassmen, sub-tenants, and servants under them, from whom they were to receive some relief of the burden of the tax.

|                                                              |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| The number taxed by name is                                  | 61 |
| And for the Kirkton of Alford there may be allowed           | 3  |
|                                                              | —  |
| Total of families renting land                               | 64 |
| The number of those who hold of the proprietor at present is | 40 |
|                                                              | —  |
| Decrease                                                     | 24 |

This decrease is a diminution of the number of families; and, if we suppose the numbers of servants &c. and sub-tenants, was in proportion at that time to the number of tenants, the total decrease of the number of souls must be very great.

It is proper to observe, that this estate was formerly much better provided with moss than any other in the parish, or the country in general, which may have occasioned a more than ordinary number of inhabitants.

The Court of the landis and barronie of Petfluge, Meikle Endovie, Bandley, Badivin, and others pertinentts, with Aidgethen, Walhouse, Midnall, Kirktoone of Alfuird, and thir pertinentts, be the right honourable Jon Forbes of Lesly, heritor thereof, halden at Petflug, the tent day of Agust, laivi and fourtie and aught years. *Thomas Davidfone* portioner, of Aidgethen, bailzie; *William Reid*, clarke of court; *George Touch* in Dykeheid, officiar; *Dempster* the futtis, callit members prent, the court senfit in forme and maner as effeirs.

The said day compeirit George Touch, in Dykeheid, and hes givven his aith to be honest and trew in ye office officiarie, in ye ground and baronie of Pitfluge, ay and tyll he be dischargit.

The said day compeirit Alexander Wat, being persewit for to scheir in harvest to William Paterfone, in Bandley; and being accusit, hes givven his aith to be free of the said persute; and theirfoir, the said Alexander Wat most pay his teynd of beir and aitts: fine the said Alexander, his wyf is obleigt to scheir in harvest to William Paterfone in Bandley.

The said day, James Ingrahame in Mikill Endovie, is decerenit and ordenit be ye bailze, to go hame to Jon Couper, and muke his actuall residence

dence in his meilling and ground, and to pay for the same as he hes promeiffchet, and sic lyke to pay to James Winter, like deweties and ferm as he hes promiffit to him for this yeir, according as they ar agreeit ; or els to pay the failze as the bailze decerns.

The faid day it is decernit to pay be Jon Smyth in Cleymyr, 3 dollars for levie and transport moneyis to ye forces, betwixt this and the day aught dayes.

|                                     |   |                            |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Mr William Zong, in Cleymyr,        | - | twà dollers and ane half.  |
| Mr Patrike Innes, in Petflug,       | - | ane doller.                |
| Mr Alexander Smyth, in Shathheid,   | . | 4 dollers.                 |
| Mr George Touch, in Dykheid,        | . | 1 doller and ane half.     |
| Mr Andrew Smyth, in Bentts,         | . | fourtie shilling.          |
| Jon Baint, in Bentts,               | . | 2 dollers.                 |
| Jon Mitchell, yr,                   | . | 1 doller.                  |
| James Chalmer, in Mikill Endovie,   | . | ten mks.                   |
| Duncan Mitchell, in Bandley,        | . | 3 dollers.                 |
| Alexander Ritchie, in Bandley,      | . | ten mks.                   |
| Tomas Muschant, cordiner,           | . | 1 doller.                  |
| William Jamesone, webfter,          | . | 1 doller.                  |
| James Ingrahame, tailzeor,          | . | 1 doller.                  |
| Jon Mikie, smyth in Mekill Endovie, | . | 1 mk, peyit.               |
| James Edie, milliart,               | . | 1 doller, peyit.           |
| Robert Gib, in Petflug.             | . | 1 doller.                  |
| Mr Alexander Calder, in Famtowne.   | . | 1 doller.                  |
| Mr James Mar, yr,                   | , | 40 fs.                     |
| Mr James Marnoch, in Elriche,       | . | 1 doller.                  |
| Mr Jon Walker, yr,                  | . | 1 doller.                  |
| Walter Robertfone, in Cleymyr,      | . | 1 doller.                  |
| Tomas Galloway, Mikill Endovie,     | . | 1 doller.                  |
| William Forbes, in Mikill Endovie,  | . | fyvve mks.                 |
| Elfpit Wilfon, yr,                  | . | half doller.               |
| Adam Burnet, yr,                    | . | half doller.               |
| Elfpit Coupland, in Bandley,        | . | 1 mk.                      |
| Alexander Wat, in Bandley,          | . | fourtie schillings, peyit. |
| Jon Mitchell, in Badivin,           | . | 1 doller.                  |
| James Banie, in Badivin,            | . | 1 doller.                  |
| William Wyr, in Smiddiehill.        | . | 1 doller.                  |
| Alexander Mitchell, yr,             | . | 1 merk.                    |
| Jon Mikie, in Greyftane,            | . | 40 schilling, peyit.       |
| James Edwart, in Aidgethen,         | . | 2 dollers.                 |
| William Edwart, yr,                 | . | 1 doller.                  |
| Alexander Yuill,                    | . | half doller.               |

George

|                                         |                 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Georg Marnoch, in Mikill Endovie, . . . | 40 schillinges. |
| William Gillespie, in Elrike. . . .     | 20 schillinges. |
| William Ritchie, in Bandle, . . . .     | 40 schillinges. |
| Jon Anderfone, yeir, . . . .            | 1 merk.         |
| Andrew Barrie, Badivin, . . . .         | 20 schilling.   |
| Alexander Cristifone, yr, . . . .       | 1 mk.           |
| James Martin, in Aidgethen, . . . .     | 4 libs.         |
| James Mortimer, yr, . . . .             | 1 mk.           |
| James Couper, ye zounger, . . . .       | 1 mk.           |
| Jon Pailzeor, in Alfuir, . . . .        | 1 mk.           |
| William Perrie, in Walhous, . . . .     | 20 schilling.   |

Jane Scot, Mikill Endovie, and his nurish 20 schilling; Isobell Mill, in Elrike, 10 schillings; Kirstane Coutts in Bandle, 10 schillings; Margret Gleny yr, 10 schillings; Isobell Leang in Badivin, 10 schillings; Margret Edwart, in Aidgethen, 10 schillings; Kirstane Couper in Aidgethen, 10 schillings.

The said day it is statut and ordenit, be ye bailze, to pey and delyver peyit to James Wince in Mikill Endovie, 5 mks, 40 pence.  
*Item.* Elspet Storach in Bandle, . . . . 5 mks, and 40 pence.  
*Item.* the Leard himself for the manis, . . . . 5 mks, and 40 pence.  
*Item.* Patrick Mortimer in Greytane, . . . . 5 mks, and 40 pence.  
 James Couper in Aidgethen, . . . . 5 mks and 40 pence.  
*Item.* William Forbes in Middlehill, . . . . 5 mks, and 40 pence.  
*Item.* John Coupland in Bandle, . . . . 5 mks, 40 pence, peyit.

The said day it is ordainit and decernit, be ye bailze, that all the forsaide persons that peyis nocht the forsaide moneyis above written, betwix this and the day aught dayis, sal be poyndit for the dowbill.

*Item.* the Kirktoone of Alfuir, the haill of it, 5 merks, 40 pence, peyit.

The said day it is statut and ordainit, be ye laird and bailze, that the maisteris of the cotters, girsimen, and others, servents that dwells with them, sal be obleight for yeir servents; and gif the pey nocht their maisteris, they sal be pyndit for the dowbill, betwix this and ye daye aught dayes, of ye levie and transport moneyis, and the poyndis to be delyverit to ye maistries, and never to be relievyit agane.

The said it is statut and ordainit, that the forsaide act sal be extendit to ye Over and Nether Hach, to ye tennents, sub-tenents and occupiers thereof, and the execution to pass aganis yame for therr publick dewis, and levie money, and transport moneyis, monthly maintenance, putting out of fit and horse, conform to ye compt of debursments to be equalie devydid amang yame, as ye rest of ye ground hes done.

Continuis this court to seventie four hours warning.

*Gulielmus Reid, notarius publicus ac testis in premissis, rogatus et requisitus.*

DAVIDSONE, Belzie.

## NUMBER XXIII.

## PARISH OF KILBARCHAN,

(COUNTY OF RENFREW, PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY, SYNOD  
OF GLASGOW AND AYR.)

*By the Rev. PATRICK MAXWELL, Minister.*

*Name.*

**T**HE name *Kilbarchan*, seems to have originated from the person who first founded a place of worship here.

Some, however, think the name compounded of three Gaelic words; viz. *Kil*, signifying *chapel*, *bar* or *brae*, a *hill*, *chan* a *valley* or *plain*. According to this derivation, *Kilbarchan*, means the *chapel of the hill-bounded vale*.

This last derivation is exactly descriptive of the local position of the village, in which the church is situated. It is built upon a declivity, which terminates in a plain towards the South, through which runs a clear rivulet, of the same name. It is surrounded on three sides, with hilly grounds, having the Banks Brae to the South-west, the lands of Law to the North

North-west, and the Bar Brae to the East, all most beautifully adorned with thriving plantations of trees.

*Extent, Boundaries, Rivers.*—The parish of Kilbarchan is betwixt 8 and 9 miles in length, from West to East. Its greatest breadth is 5 miles, two where narrowest; and its average breadth about 3 miles. Its whole surface may amount to about 24 square miles. It is bounded on the South and East by the water of Black Cart, which runs from the lakes of Kilburnie and Lochwinnoch, on the West; on the North by Gryfe water, which takes its rise in Duchal muir, in the adjoining parish of Kilmacolm; these two streams form a junction at the North-east corner of the parish †.

3 Q<sup>2</sup>

*Climate,*

† There is also a considerable rivulet, named Locher, which has its source in Lochwinnoch muir, and divides the parishes of Lockwinnoch and Kilmacolm, before it enters this parish. It then runs nearly the whole length of the parish, parallel to the two streams above mentioned; forming, in its progress, several beautiful cascades, of which to convey a proper idea, would require the pencil.

The whole fall of the Black Cart is occupied with cotton mills, four of which are situated in the Abbey parish of Paisley, on the southern bank of the river, and one on the Northern bank, to be afterwards described.

From the Gryfe on the North, this county derived its most ancient name of *Strathgryfe*. The tide makes about a mile up both Gryfe and Cart, and they are navigable to that extent from their point of junction. But from the cotton mills erected on Cart, it is ascertained that the elevation of Kilburnie loch, above the level of the sea, does not exceed 84 feet. This loch runs indifferently, either Eastward or Westward, and might easily be conveyed Eastward by a canal to Paisly and Glasgow, or Westward to the ocean.

Gryfe, Cart, and Locher abound with salmon, pyke, trout, parr. The salmon are caught in June and July, weigh from 3 to 8 lb., and bring about 3d. per lb. The other fish are seldom sold.

The whole parish is abundantly supplied with springs and rivulets of very pure water, which is of great advantage to the bleachers settled here, in whitening their cloth. In the low part of the parish, where the soil is deep  
clay



*Climate, Surface, Soil.*—The climate is very wet, but is not esteemed unhealthy.

The eastern division of the parish is a flat, level country, the western is hilly and in part rocky. About one third of the East and North-east, consists of a very deep clay.

Of this eastern division, 500 acres are occupied by a moss from 7 to 9 feet in depth; the common property of Lord Semple, Mr Spiers of Elderflie, Mr Cunningham of Craighends, and Mr Napier of Blackstone. About an acre of this moss is annually taken off in peats, by the neighbouring inhabitants. The soil below is a deep white clay, where has formerly been a forest. The oak is perfectly fresh; the other kinds of timber are rotten. The stumps in general are standing in their original position. The trees are all broken over at about the height of 3 feet, and are lying from South-west to North-east. So wherever you see a stump, you are sure to find a tree to the North-east. How an oak tree could break over at that particular place, I never could understand. But we may be allowed to form a conjecture, that before the tree fell, the moss had advanced along its stem, and rotted it there. Wood, immersed in a wet body, is found to decay first at the ring between the wet and the dry.

The theory of mosses is now illustrated in a satisfactory manner. They have all been woods at a former period. These being cut, or falling down, hindered the water from getting off the ground where they lay. This encouraged the moss plants to grow over them. These plants, while rotting below, continue to grow above. Hence a moss continually increases in depth. The position of the trees in most mosses,  
from

clay, the springs are less frequent; and the rivulets become muddy in their progress. But the inhabitants have adopted the method of purifying their water, by filtering stones, which renders it as good as any in the world.

from South-west, to North-east, instead of being an objection, confirms this hypothesis ; for all our trees are bent in this direction, by the prevailing current of our winds. A tree, whether cut down or decaying, naturally falls in the direction to which it leaned while growing. The Romans produced many mosses by cutting down the woods, to which our ancestors fled for shelter. Others have doubtless been produced from woods allowed to fall through decay.

From what has been observed of the quick growth of moss, it should seem that this one is not very ancient. What confirms this opinion is, that many places round this, and other mosses in this country, still retain the name of *wood*. As Fulwood, Linwood, Birchenhead, Woodhead, Woodside, Oak-Shaw-head, (*shaw* is *wood*) Walkinshaw, &c.

Advancing westward from this flat and level part of the parish, where the soil is of a deep stiff clay, the surface becomes diversified with gentle risings. The soil here consists of a more friable and loamy clay, intermixed with stones. Two thirds of the parish westward is of a light and shallow soil, composed of the mouldered particles of whin rocks, on which it rests. This soil, where of sufficient depth, is extremely fertile. As you advance westward, the ground becomes more and more rocky, with patches of the same light shallow soil, interposed between the rocks. Among the rocks are several swamps, which proper draining would reduce to an excellent soil. In these higher parts, there is very little heath, and, with a little lime, these shallow soils produce grafs and corn of an excellent quality.

The rocks here are wholly composed of whin. Many of them have a basaltic appearance. The north side of the Barhill is a basaltic perpendicular rock ; though not very regular in its formation. All the low part of the parish abounds in  
excellent

excellent free-stone, and the north-west with Osmond stone, in great request for ovens \*.

*Antiquities.*

\* Mr Napier of Blackstone has planted about 15 acres of moss bent, that is, the stuff left after the peat is taken off, with trees of all kinds. They have been planted about 17 years, and are in a thriving condition, although growing upon 4 feet of moss.

In the year 1767, James Milliken of Milliken, Esq; planted a number of fir, with a mixture of other trees, on the Bar-brae, among tremendous and precipitous rocks, which he had enclosed for that purpose. He made a fine foot-passage from his house, around the bottom of the rocks, among the broken fragments of basalts, formerly impassable. It is amazing to see the progress the different kinds of fir have made among these rugged rocks. However, I find the pines answer best on a rocky soil, as their fibres find crevices in which they securely fix themselves, and often form a kind of net-work around the stones. Here they are better secured against the violence of the winds, and suffer less from the summer's drought, than when they are planted in a light gravelly soil. In this last situation, their horizontal fibres can have but little hold of the earth, and their perpendicular roots are so small that they are easily shaken with the wind. If they be planted where there is a clay bottom, the damp of it kills them. Upon this estate of Milliken, there are about 80 acres of thriving planting.

At Craigends, the property of Mr Cunningham, there are 30 acres of planting, in which are found some very stately old ash, elm, and plane trees, superior to any in the parish. One ash, in particular, deserves attention. It measures 5 feet in diameter at 18 inches above the ground. The trunk, which is perfectly straight, rises 45 feet without a branch, and its top is in proportion to the whole.

Dr Colquhoun purchased in 1787, upon the higher grounds, north west of the parish, 369 acres, on which there was then no planting. In 1789 and 1790, he planted about 16 acres with all kinds of trees, in large clumps. He thought this sufficient for an experiment; but as the plantations are thriving beyond his most sanguine expectation, he does not mean to stop.

This season, 1794, Mr McDowal of Walkingshaw is employed planting trees of every kind on some rocky spots on the north-west of the parish. Indeed it were to be wished the several proprietors would plant off all the rocky spots in the high and western parts of the parish. The experiments already made, shew that the planting would thrive. The intermediate spots, which admit the plough, should be kept as much in pasture as possible: for the soil

being

*Antiquities* — About 2 miles west of the village, on an elevated plain, is situated a huge stone, called Clochodrick. This name is supposed to be a corruption of the words *Cloch o' Druids*, the stone of the Druids. It consists of the same species of whinstone of which the neighbouring hills are composed. This stone is about 22 feet long, 17 feet broad, and 12 feet high. It is of a rude oval figure, extending East and West; but several fragments have been broken off, either from design, or by the injuries of the weather. It seems to rest in a narrow base below, and perhaps, like other druidical stones, was capable of being moved; but the lower part is now filled up with stones gathered from the land, over which the grass is growing. From the western side, there is a gradual ascent to the east, which is the highest part. At some distance round, are seen a few large grey stones; but whether they once made a part of a sacred inclosure, or are merely accidental, cannot now be ascertained, as the land where they lie is in tillage; and it is probable, the most moveable of them have been carried off. A small rivulet runs to the westward of the stone. There are no remains of a sacred grove, except a solitary tree.

It appears, that this stone has been hewn from an elevated rock, a little to the East, on which stands a farm house, called also, Clochodrick; but, by what mechanism it was brought

being very light, too much ploughing makes it move. Were it once well swarded, it were better to lop-dress the grass, and keep it in pasture as long as it remains good.

In the southern part of the parish, the property of Mr McDowal of Garthland, there are 40 acres of wood without, and 13 acres within this policy. But as this gentleman's extensive plantations are partly in the parish of Lochwinnoch, and partly in this parish, an account of them was given along with the particulars relative to Lochwinnoch, wherein his house is situated.

There are several beautiful and thriving plantations, to the West and North West of the village, belonging to the Messrs Barbours, and to Mr Spiers, which we had occasion to mention already.

brought to its present situation, exceeds our powers to determine.

All rude nations seem to have made use of some external objects, as incentives to their devotion. This practice was not peculiar to any sect of religion, but to a particular period of civilization and manners. A huge stone, detached from all others, was a conspicuous object, round which the people could assemble; and where they could see what was going on, while the priests offered sacrifice, or performed their sacred rites.

They were careful, also, to choose such situations as might either depress the mind with gloom and melancholy, or elevate by the magnificent scenery of nature. For this last purpose, the stone we speak of is well situated; for it commands a most magnificent prospect, eastward of the vale of Clyde, below, and westward of the lakes of Lochwinnoch and Kilburnie; while the bare rocks behind add to the grandeur of the scene.\*

#### *Mines,*

\* North from Clochodrick, on the other side of the hills, stands an old narrow castle, anciently the residence of the Knoxes. About 120 yards South East of this castle, on an elevated rock, which overtops the castle, is a green hill, all of forced earth. It is now named *Castle-hill*. The ascent from the South and East, is gradual; from the North and West, it is steep and difficult. This earthen hill is of a quadrangular form; the sides facing the four cardinal points. A trench, dug out of the solid rock, surrounds its base, on the East and part of the North and South sides. The West side, fronting the old castle, rests on the edge of the steep rock. Each side of this hill or mound, is about 30 yards at the bottom, and 19 at the top. It is 7 yards in height. The top, though in some parts defaced, seems to be a hollow square, with a parapet all round it. There has been an entrance into it on the Eastern side.

From this mount are seen five other artificial mounds, three in Houston and Killallan, and two in Kilmacolm, called *Laws*; owing, it is thought by the people here, to their having been places where justice was administered.

But most of these Laws are of a conical figure; and though, in feudal times,



*Mines, Coal, Limestone.*—There are seven different coal mines in the parish, all the property of the Milliken family, except one, the property of Mr Cunningham of Craigends. Lime-stone is found connected with the coal at each of these mines. Only 4 of them are at present wrought, and at 3 of them, no coal is sold but the splint, the rest being consumed in burning the lime. But the fourth produces more coal than is consumed upon the lime. The overplus is sold; but is

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not

times, they might have been used as places of rendezvous, where chiefs and vassals might settle their disputes, yet they appear to have been originally burrows, or monuments erected over the bodies of warriors.

I am inclined to think this mound has been a fort, or out-post of the Romans, when stationed at Paisley, and intended to keep the inhabitants of the mountains in check. It commands a full view of the Roman camp at Paisley, distant about 6 miles, and might communicate with it by signals.

A little to the East of the castle, there are the vestiges of an old Romish chapel; though nothing remains but the foundation, yet the present tenant, Robert Donaldson, says, his father remembered the walls 3 feet high. The floor was of clay, which being dug, contained human bones. The farm is called Prieston; and the house remains the same as when the priest lived in it.

On the top of Bar-hill, formerly mentioned, in a commanding situation, are the remains of an old Danish encampment. It consists of a semi-circular parapet of loose stones towards the South, and defended, on the North, by the perpendicular basaltic rocks, already mentioned. The tradition concerning it among the people here, is, that it was an encampment of the celebrated Sir William Wallace: and they shew a pinnacle of rock, where they say Wallace sat, while he enticed the English forces into a bog at the bottom of the rock, where they perished. But as our historians make no mention of this, I am inclined to think the fortification, from its circular form, of Danish origin.

There are two other ruinous castles, one to the West, anciently the seat of the Crawfords; but now demolished almost to the foundation. This castle, with the lands annexed to it, were called Achinames, which in Gaelic means the *field of butter*. The other, on the North-west, on the lands of Penneld, is said to be built by one of the name of Haic; but he being killed in the interim, it was never finished.

not in great request, as coal of a much superior quality is brought from the neighbouring parish of Paisley. This coal is furnished at 6d. each cwt.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church was built, or rather rebuilt, in 1724, and is very commodious. It is situated in the village. There is also in the village, a house of worship for persons of the Relief persuasion, and another on the hills, about a mile to the west, belonging to the Seceders.

The manse formerly stood in the village, and the glebe in different parcels around. But in 1752, the glebe and manse were excambiated, at the request of Mr Milliken of Milliken, the patron, who wished to acquire the glebe for the purpose of feuing it for building. The manse now stands on a beautiful eminence one-eighth of a mile south of the town, in the centre of the glebe, which is  $16\frac{1}{2}$  acres, all enclosed and subdivided. The stipend is 7 chalders of meal, 200l. Scotch in money, with an augmentation obtained in 1792, of 35l. Sterling. Computing the meal at 18s. per peck, the stipend amounts to 141l. 4s. 0½d. communion elements included. The patronage of the church is vested in the family of Milliken. The church formerly belonged to the Abbey of Paisley.

*Remarkable Persons.*—JOHN KNOX, the celebrated Scottish reformer, was descended from a very ancient family in this parish. His ancestors were originally proprietors of the lands of *Knock*, in the parish of Renfrew, from whence the family derived the surname of the *Knocks*, or *Knox*. They afterwards obtained the lands of *Craigends*, and of *Ranfurly*, both in this parish, and resided long at the old Castle of *Ranfurly* already described. In proof of what we here assert, we refer to Semple's history of Renfrew-shire. This family failed in  
the

the person of Mr Andrew Knox, a clergyman of the moderate party, in the reign of King James the VI. and much esteemed by men of all parties. On the restoration of bishops, King James translated him to the bishoprick of the Isles 1606; and in 1622, to the Episcopal see of Rapho in Ireland. He died 1632. This bishop had a son, Thomas Knox, who succeeded his father in the Episcopacy of the Isles, but died soon after his promotion\*.

3 R 2

Bridges

\* The Semples of Beltreés, whose residence was at Thirdpart, now the property of Mr McDowall of Garthland, were a very antient family in this parish, and descended from the noble family of Semple. From this family, several remarkable persons have sprung. As, 1st, Sir James Semple, who was a great favourite of James VI. while King of Scotland, and by him sent ambassador to Queen Elizabeth. There is yet extant, a letter, written by King James, dated Sept. 9th, 1599, to Mr James Semple of Beltreés, while ambassador at London, ordering him to pay Robert Fowles, from the first of his salary as ambassador, the sum of one hundred pounds sterling, for certain purposes, therein mentioned. There is also a passport for his return from the Court at Richmond, the 23d of February 1599, signed by "Thomas Egerton, George Hunfday, William Knollys, Thomas Buckhurfe, Robert North, Robert Cecyll," the ministers of Elizabeth. In the year 1601, after he had been made a Knight Bachelor, he was sent ambassador to France, and there is still extant, a passport, or order, from the Court at Richmond, the fourth of Oct. 1601. to have him conducted with all due respect, befitting the dignity of an ambassador, through England to Dover, on his way to France, signed Ro. Cecyll. These papers are still in the possession of his descendants.

This gentleman possessed a poetical talent, and was author of *the Puckman and the Priest*, a Satire on the absurdities of Popery, the great subject which then agitated the minds of men.

2d, Robert Semple, son, and successor of this Sir James, was author of an Epitaph and Elegy, on Habie Simpson, Piper of Kilbarchan,

Who on his bags, wore bonie flags,  
He made his cheeks as red as crimson,  
And bobbed when he blo'ed the bags.

This piece is too long for insertion; but it has acquired much local celebrity.

3d, Francis, son of Robert, was an adherent of the Stewart Family. He wrote several panegyrics on James II. while Duke of York and Albany; and

*Bridges, Roads*.—The bridges are in good repair, and the roads, though not the very best, are better than in any neighbouring parish. The roads are mostly made by private gentlemen, with the assistance of the statute labour. Any repair they get, is from the statute labour, which is paid in kind, and no commutation allowed, except for the inhabitants of the village.

A toll-road is now making from Paisley to Newport, Glasgow, by the bridge of Johnson, and Kilmacolm, which passes through this parish. Another is in contemplation, from  
Paisley

on the birth of his children; also, satires upon the Whigs, some of which still remain in Manuscript. He was also author of two pieces of considerable merit; the first intitled, *The banishment of Poverty*, and the second, the celebrated Scotch song—*She rose and let me in*.

4. Robert Semple, grandson of Francis, we mention, as a remarkable instance of longevity. He died 1789, aged 108 years. He was the first in the nomination of Justices of the Peace for Scotland, in the year 1708, being the year after the Union. Towards the close of life, his memory gradually failed him. Two anecdotes of his early life, remained impressed upon his memory, after every other circumstance was forgotten. The first was, his being present, while the witches were burnt at Paisley, the last detestable exhibition of that kind in Scotland, which happened 1697 \*. The second was, his having seen Peter the Great, Czar of Russia, at Archangel, who, amusing himself with some sea animals in a pond, one of them snapped at him, and bit the cock off his hat. This last occurrence he continued to repeat to the day of his death, after he had forgotten every other.

Among the remarkable persons connected with this parish, we may mention James Milliken, of Milliken, Esq. He was the first who introduced rural improvements into the parish, on an extensive scale. He adorned his estate with plantations, arranged with great taste. He inclosed, drained, fallowed, and reduced his lands into an elegant form. He first excited a taste for good roads in the parish, many of which he made at his own expence. In his improvements he spared no expence, esteeming nothing done, while any thing remained undone. He died An. 1776, much lamented by the poor, on account of his extensive charity.

\* Semple's History of Renfrewshire,

Pailley by Linwood, intersecting the eastern part of the parish, until it forms a junction with the new toll road from Glasgow to Greenock. These roads will be of great advantage to the parish, and make it the thorough-fare between the southern counties, and the ports of Clyde.

*Population.*—The numbers, as stated in Dr Webster's list in 1755, were, 1485.

ABSTRACT OF THE POPULATION OF KILBARCHAN PARISH,  
*As taken by actual Survey in the year 1791.*

| IN THE COUNTRY,         |   |   | IN THE TOWN, |   |   | TOTAL.  |
|-------------------------|---|---|--------------|---|---|---------|
| Number of Families, 172 | . | . | 391          | . | . | 563     |
| Males, . 440            | - | - | 762          | . | . | 1202    |
| Females, . 482          | . | - | 822          | . | . | 1304    |
| Under 10, . 194         | . | . | 465          | . | . | 659     |
| From 10 to 20, 209      | . | . | 285          | . | . | 494     |
| From 20 to 50, 380      | . | . | 598          | . | . | 978     |
| From 50 to 70, 132      | . | . | 202          | . | . | 334     |
| Above 70, . 7           | . | . | 34           | . | . | 41      |
| Servants, . 212         | . | . | 15           | . | . | 227     |
| Looms, . 34             | . | . | 383          | . | . | 417     |
| Horses, . 242           | . | . | 19           | . | . | 261     |
| Cows, . 1277            | . | . | 42           | . | . | 1319    |
| Acres, , 6684           | - | . | .            | . | . | 6684    |
| Rent, . L. 4542         | . | . | .            | . | . | L. 4542 |

From this table it appears, that the number of souls in the parish, when the list was taken, was, 2506, viz. 1202 males, and 1304 females. Of these, 602 belong to the established church; there are about 30 Cameronians; all the rest are of the Burgher, or Relief persuasion.

The population in the village, 1740, did not exceed 40 families. Since that time, there is an increase of 351 families, which, upon an average, is about 7 families yearly.

In



In the year 1774, when Semple took a list of the population for his History of Renfrewshire, there were, in the village,

| Families.                  | Males. | Females. |       | M. & F. | Ho  | Looms. |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|-------|---------|-----|--------|
| 304                        | 547    | 637      | Total | 1184    | 142 | 188    |
| In the country there were, |        |          |       | 1121    |     |        |

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Souls in the Parish are, 2305

From this statement, it appears, that the population of the country part of the parish, has diminished 199, since the year 1774; but the population of the village has increased 400. Increase upon the whole, 201.

From 1774 to 1782, there was an increase in the village of 180 looms, and 24 new houses. The villages had not increased much since that time, owing to the cotton mills erected within a mile of Kilbarchan, on Mr Houston's estate, in the parish of Paisley, which have attracted the population to that quarter.

The diminution of the country population, and increase of the town, may be ascribed to the immense demand for manufacturing labour, which took place soon after the conclusion of the American war. Yet the country has not suffered in its cultivation. A greater proportion has indeed been thrown into pasture, which, instead of being a loss, is an advantage.

One circumstance must strike every person, who peruses our table of population, that the number of females in the country, exceeds the males by 42, and, in the town, they exceed the males by 60. This may perhaps be accounted for by supposing that the farmer's keep more female servants than males, for the management of their dairies, while their younger sons are sent to towns, and trained to business. In the village, on the other hand, the bleachfields, and cotton manufactories, which have long prevailed, require more females than males.

The

The village is built of excellent freestone, procured from a neighbouring quarry of very great depth, on the western declivity of the Bar-hill, already mentioned. One remarkable circumstance attending this quarry, is, that the freestone has coal over it, and whinstone above the coal, next the surface. The northern side of the Bar-hill is perpendicular basalt, incumbent upon coal, which was formerly wrought to a considerable extent. This fact seems to overturn the prevailing theories of Natural History.

*Living, Drefs and Manners.*—All classes of people live better now than they did formerly. Oatmeal and potatoes make a great part of the food of the lower people. About 20 years ago, tea and butcher's meat were very seldom tasted by any of the lower ranks. Now they are more or less used by people of every description. The people are, in general, sober and industrious. If they indulge in any extravagance, it is chiefly in the article of drefs; in this they are much more gay and splendid than formerly. At the same time, they are daily acquiring more politeness and urbanity of manners.

*Emigration.*—There have been no emigrations from the parish these 14 years; but this year, 1794, 3 families have emigrated to America, and many more are preparing to follow, from the fatal decay of trade, and want of employment.

*Wars.*—In former wars, a number of tradesmen were wont to go to sea, particularly to privateers, where they expected better wages, and were more certain of prize-money, than in the navy. But they seldom remained longer than the war lasted. In the present war, 55 young men have gone from the village to the army, and 15 to the navy; besides others from  
the

the country, as they say, *from pure necessity*. It is remarkable, that those who formerly went to the sea service, on their return, generally turned out drunken and dissipated; those again, who returned from the army, generally proved sober and industrious.

*Charitable Societies.*—There are three charitable societies in Kilbarchan: 1<sup>st</sup>, The farmers society, which has accumulated a capital of 850l. Sterling: 2<sup>d</sup>, The general society, consisting of heritors, merchants, and tradesmen, has accumulated a capital of 400l.: 3<sup>d</sup>, The weavers society, has accumulated little capital, from excessive burdens; but has been of very great use, and relieved much distress.

*Poor.*—The poor, in so far as they are not relieved by these charitable associations, are supported by a voluntary assessment annually imposed, added to what arises from the sessions funds. Formerly the poor were supported by church collections, interest of money accumulated, money arising from mortcloths, marriages, &c. But, from the increase of trade and population, and, consequently, of the poor, these funds proved inadequate. In July 1785, the method of assessment was recurred to, and was levied as follows: The land paid at the rate of 3d. per Scots of valuation, one half being paid by the landlord, the other by the tenants. This produced 78l. 9s. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. There was levied upon the householders, in the town and country part of the parish 21l. 10s. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. The sessions funds produced from 10l. to 12l. The amount being from 110l. to 112l. then levied for the relief of the poor. The assessment has been gradually increasing, and now amounts to about 140l. a year.

This fund is managed by fifteen persons, annually chosen on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of November; five of whom are heritors,  
five

five tenants, and five householders. To these the kirk session are added. The poor are subdivided into classes, each class being under the inspection of an overseer. None can be received upon the poor's list, unless they make a disposition of their effects, to be sold after their decease, for the benefit of the poor : Any two overseers can draw upon the treasurer, for occasional relief, either to those upon the list, when unforeseen distresses come upon them, or to those who are not upon the list ; but whose situation may require a temporary relief.

LIST OF MARRIAGES AND BAPTISMS.

|      | <i>Marriages.</i> |   |    |   | <i>Baptisms</i> §. |
|------|-------------------|---|----|---|--------------------|
| 1781 | .                 | . | 22 | . | 49                 |
| 82   | .                 | . | 18 | . | 57                 |
| 83   | .                 | . | 23 | . | 60                 |
| 84   | .                 | . | 24 | . | 72                 |
| 85   | .                 | . | 17 | . | 86                 |
| 86   | .                 | . | 26 | . | 58                 |
| 87   | .                 | . | 24 | . | 47                 |
| 88   | .                 | . | 27 | . | 34                 |
| 89   | .                 | . | 30 | . | 32                 |
| 90   | .                 | . | 34 | . | 27                 |

*Deaths.*—The account of deaths has not been accurately kept ; only I noticed, that in the year 1790, they were 82 ; but I dare say, more than one third of them came from the towns of Johnston and Quarrelton.

*Agriculture.*—In giving an account of the agriculture of this parish, we must distinguish between the high and rocky division, and the low and level part, as in each of these the practice differs in several particulars.

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3 S

*Eastern*

§ Since the year 1786, when the Relief Meeting took place, the baptisms have decreased, as very few of that society, or of the burghers, register their children. But from the proportion of baptisms to marriages, I think their should be, at an average, between 90 and 100 births yearly.

*Eastern Division Fences.*—The Eastern, or low part of the parish, is mostly enclosed, in some places, with stone dykes, but chiefly with hedge and ditch. The thorns are either planted in the face of the earth, thrown from the ditch, or on the top. Another practice prevails here, of building a parapet of stone, about three or four feet high, on the edge of their ditch, and then they either plant the thorns perpendicular on the top, or stick them in the face of their wall, drawing the best of the earth to the roots. The last method answers very well, and the hedge requires no pailing, or weeding. These fences are either put up by the tenants, who have acquired new leases, or by the landlords, when they set the farms. It were to be wished, they were at greater pains to clean the ditches, and take off water from the roots of the thorns; and that sportsmen, and others, who go through the fields, would take the trouble of going round by a gate, and not cross a hedge, as trespasses of this kind have produced many insufficient fences, after years of care bestowed upon them.

*Farms.*—The medium size of farms here is from 40 to 60 acres. There is one farm, occupied by Mr Roger, of 222 acres, all in excellent order.

*Rent.*—Some spots are rented at from 50 to 60 s.; but the medium rent is from 25 to 30 s. per acre. It is thought, by persons of experience, that were the lands out of lease, they could bear an addition of 5 s. at an average.

About 50 years ago, the usual rent of good land was about 5 s. per acre. 30 years ago, it rose to about 10 s. 20 years ago, it rose to about 20 s. Yet the tenants are more wealthy, and live much more comfortably now, than at any former period. These facts shew, that the rise of rent has  
uniformly



uniformly kept pace with the progress of manufactures and population. Indeed land is of no value, without inhabitants to cultivate, and consume the fruits of it.

*Rotation.*—1st, oats; 2d, oats; 3d, potatoes, or barley, with dung. If barley, laid down with grass seeds. After potatoes, generally oats, with grass seeds, or 2 crops of hay, pastured 3 or 4 years. About one-third of the farm in crop, two-thirds pasture and hay.

It was formerly usual to interpose a crop of beans between the two first crops of oats, but the seasons have been so wet of late years, that they could not get them sown early enough in spring, or dried in autumn. From this circumstance, the practice has been generally abandoned. Some farmers have tried wheat; but after their ground was prepared, the excessive autumnal rains have either prevented them from sowing it, or they were obliged to sow it at a bad time, and it did not thrive.

It were much to be wished, that the proprietors of land would endeavour to introduce a more commodious system of cropping. Where the farmers depend chiefly upon one kind of crop, their labour comes upon them all in a hurry, and they are obliged to keep more horses and servants, than if their work were divided by a regular succession of objects.

I am apt to think, that the great population centered here by cotton mills, &c. points out the dairy, and fattening for the butcher, as proper objects of cultivation. Were farmers to manage so as to have a proportion of cows to calve before winter; or, in place of them, allot a few cattle for winter feeding, they might prepare for them a proportion of cabbages, carrots, turnips, and winter vetches; and, for house feeding in summer, a patch of red clover sown with barley, to be cut green, and given to the milch cows. These crops would

come in regular succession, and not overburden them with labour at any particular period. By feeding much in the house, great quantities of dung would be produced. Though potatoes grow here in perfection, and answer well for these purposes, they never think of giving them to cattle, as they have a ready market at hand for all they can produce. In wet seasons they might plough in wheat and beans, with a light horse, yoked in a drill plough, when harrows could not be used.

*Potatoes.*—On some spots round the mofs formerly described, they raise excellent potatoes in narrow lazy beds. They cover the sets with about eight or ten inches of mofs, dug from the trench early in the season. When drought comes on, they set fire to the lazy beds, and the ashes serve as manure. In other places, the potatoes are generally planted and dressed by the plough in drills.

*Manures.*—Their dung, accumulated in winter, generally goes to potatoes, or barley. They lime upon ley, at the rate of 3 chalders per acre, valued at 10s each chalders, and immediately plough it in. I should think it much better to lime upon the hay stubble, before they turned the ground into pasture. This would yield more than the value of the lime in pasture, and a greater crop when the lime was broken up. Some make composts of earth and dung; others make them by frequently ploughing a high head-rig in Summer, into which they put lime, and afterwards lay it on the field. Adjoining to the mofs, they make composts of mofs, dung and lime, which are found to be very beneficial for their strong clay soil.

*Horses and Ploughing.*—The horses here are of an excellent breed, both for strength and mettle. They are mostly purchased

chafed in the Lanarkshire markets, but a few of them are reared in the parish. They generally plough with three horses, sometimes with two, but always use a driver. The land is mostly formed into straight narrow ridges.

*Cows and Dairy.*—The cows most esteemed here, are those of a small mouth, head and neck long and small. With respect to colour, those spotted brown and white are preferred. In the best season, they give from 8 to 10 pints of milk daily, when well fed. Milch cows are supposed to produce from 5l. to 8l. yearly. Sweet milk sells at 2d. per Scots pint; skimmed milk at 1 penny; butter milk at  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. When near a market, they generally make the whole milk into butter, and sell the butter, with the butter milk, in a fresh state. When distant, they make sweet milk cheese or skimmed cheese, and salt the butter for winter sale. But, where markets are distant, grazing for the butcher is esteemed more profitable than a dairy.

*Western Division.*—In the high and rocky parts of the parish, we shall only note the practice where it differs from the lower parts.

They lay dung or lime upon their ley grounds about Martinmas, and plough it in spring. They take three or four crops of oats in succession, and then let the ground run back into natural pasture. They sow little or no grass. Now this is the very worst of practices, Pasture is the very best use to which they can turn their lands; yet they take care to exhaust them before they throw them into pasture. It were better to top-dress for the pasture, and sow it down with grass. I suppose, the reason why they don't sow grass, is, that the stones hinder them from cutting the hay. But, were they to sow down their fields with grass in a very rich state,

state, one gathering of the stones would serve for many years. Even if it were thought too laborious to gather all the stones they might admit cattle to pasture in the dry season, as soon as the grass was sufficiently rooted. The ground commonly lies 4 or 5 years in pasture. Potatoes are sometimes planted in lazy beds, on spots here and there among the rocks; sometimes with the plough; after potatoes, sometimes barley, sometimes oats. There are many fields well adapted for turnips, which have never been tried. The lands are mostly inclosed with rickle stone dykes, gathered from the land. The rent cannot be estimated by acres, as the land lies in patches among the rocks.

*Cows.*—The cows in greatest esteem here, are a light, active breed, yield about six pints of milk daily, in the best season, and produce from 2l. 10s. to 3l. per annum. The farmers depend chiefly upon rearing of cattle, butter, which they salt, and skimmed cheese. They also rear a few horses of the Lanarkshire breed.

There are few or no hogs in the parish, and few sheep, except what are kept by gentlemen for their own use. Some patches of lint are occasionally sown; but chiefly for the private use of the farmers.

*Mills and Thirlage.*—There is, in the parish, a lint mill of an excellent construction, and best frequented of any in the West of Scotland. There are also four corn mills, each of which had thirlages annexed to them. But this barbarous practice is wholly abolished at one, and mitigated at another. At the mill of Cart, the thirlage was bought up by the several proprietors bound in thirlage, and the interest of the purchase money charged upon the tenants, at the rate of 6d per acre. Yet, what is surprising, the mill set for nearly  
the

the former rent. Johnston mill, the property of the Milliken family, has the estate bound in thirlage; but, at renewing the leases, the thirlage was rendered more moderate. At the other 2 mills, the thirlage varies from the 12th to the 30th peck. At all, they must pay, even if they should sell their oats unground. All grain but oats is free. It is to be hoped that this barbarous Gothic practice, which produces on the one hand, constant complaints of evasion, on the other, of slovenly execution, will be wholly extirpated from Scotland.

*Manufactures.*—The Messrs Barbours first established a candle manufactory in Kilbarchan, which acquired great celebrity: afterwards, a manufactory of linens was attempted by them in the year 1739. In the year 1742, Mr Spiers and others introduced the manufacture of lawns, cambrics, &c. for the Dublin market, which branch still continues, with different variations in the quantity produced. When the Paisley silks came into vogue, a considerable proportion was wrought up here. Afterwards, the cotton manufactory almost superseded every other. In the year 1774, Semple, in his History of Renfrewshire, reckoning every weaver of linen to produce 65l. per annum, calculated the manufactures carried on by persons residing in Kilbarchan, at 23,400l. per annum. If we reckon the cottons and other stuffs at the same rate, in the year 1791, the value manufactured in the parish of Kilbarchan, would be 27,105l. This is not all done by people residing here, but a considerable quantity of muslins are sent from Paisley to be weaved. This year, 1794, all branches of business are in a very languid state. The only branch that still does a little, is the lawn, but even this is very dull, and the people seem much dispirited.

There are in the village, 3 bleachfields, which employ 30 hands, mostly women. There are also 2 candleworks, and a brewery.

*Cotton*



*Cotton Mills.*—At the bridge of Weir, on the north west of the parish, there is a cotton mill, which contains 2120 spindles ready for use, and might employ 70 hands if fully occupied. At present, from the dullness of trade, they only work with 1664 spindles, and employ 49 hands, chiefly women and children.

But the most splendid establishment in the cotton spinning business, perhaps in Britain, is the Linwood mill, on the south east part of this parish. The building is already finished, except one wing, which yet remains to be added. The length of building already completed, is 254 feet; the length when finished, will be 338 feet 8 inches; the breadth of the body is 37 feet; ditto, of wings 40 feet. The house is six storeys with garrets. It already contains 400 glass windows, and, when completed, will contain 540. The depth of fall is 17 feet. The tide makes up to the tail of the wheel; but when interrupted by tail water, they have another wheel, more elevated, which they can put in motion.

Mr Dunlop, the manager, has paid a very laudable attention to the health of the inhabitants, in the construction of this building. For this purpose, the roofs of the rooms are high; the machinery is much simplified in its construction, can be easily cleaned, and occasions little or no waste, or particle of cotton to fly about, and a large space is allowed, in proportion to the machinery; of consequence fewer workers will be crowded into the same space. The whole apparatus does not take above three half gills of oil daily: hence no bad smell arises from the oil. Add to all, that the whole building is subdivided by two vast stair-cases, which act as ventilators. If equal attention is paid to the instruction of the children, I should consider a work of this sort as a school, where the children of the poor, otherwise a burden upon  
their

their parents, may be trained to industry and virtue,

|                                                                   |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Number of spindles working at present,                            | 600    |
| Number when the present building is furnished,                    | 18,000 |
| Number when the whole plan is completed,                          | 25,000 |
| Number of hands at present employed,                              | 75     |
| Number (besides tradesmen) that will be required to occupy whole, | 1,800  |

A regular town, upon an elegant plan, is already begun, adjoining to the works, and there are houses built, sufficient to accommodate 400 workers. But the late deplorable decay of trade, has thrown a damp upon this, and every other scheme of manufacture ; and they are proceeding, as slowly as possible, in furnishing this extensive building.

## NUMBER XXIV.

## PARISH OF KIRKMICHAEL,

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

*By the Rev. MR ALLAN STEWART.*

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*Name and Situation.*

**T**HIS parish derives its name, like some others in Scotland, from the church having been dedicated to St Michael. It is bounded by the parishes of Logierait and Mouline on the West; of Braemar and Crathy on the North; of Glenisla and Alyth on the East; and of Blairgowrie, Kinloch, Cluny, and Caputh, on the South. It comprehends the greater part of Strathardle, the whole of Glenshee, and a district lying at the lower extremity of that glen, on the West side of the river, called Black-water, which gives name to the county through which it passes. Strathardle is about 10 miles long, and from 1 to 2 miles broad, and includes part of the parishes of Mouline, Kirkmichael, Blairgowrie, Bendochy and Kinloch,  
Glenshee

Glenishee is about 7 miles long, and less than a mile broad. At the head of this glen are two smaller ones, narrow, and about 3 miles long. The district bordering on the Black-water, is of a form nearly circular, measuring somewhat more than 2 miles in diameter. Though this parish is pretty extensive, there is no part of it detached. Its figure does not vary much from a parallelogram, being 17 miles long from North to South; and from 6 to 7 miles broad.

*Etymologies.*—According to tradition, Strathardle was anciently called in Gaelic, Srath na muice brice; *the strath of the spotted wild sow*; which name it is said to have retained till the time of the Danish invasions, when, in a battle fought between the Danes and the Caledonians, at the head of the country, a chief, named Ard-fhuil, *high, or noble blood*, was killed, whose grave is shown at this day. From him the country got the name of Srath Ard-fhuil, *Strathardle*. In tracing the origin of the name of Glenishee, the following conjecture is offered. It appears to have been the practice among the Druids, to hold assizes in the most convenient part of the country, to decide differences and administer justice\*. The persons who exercised this office were called Sith-dhaoine, or Sithichean, *peace-makers*. A round hill, at the head of the glen, called Sith-dhun, *the hill of peace*, may have been one of the places for holding these courts of justice; and hence the whole glen may have got its name. Another conjecture is, that Sith-dhun may have been the place of concluding and ratifying a peace, between two contending tribes or clans.

*Hills, Lochs, &c.*—A hill at the head of Glenishee, called Beinn-Ghulbhuinn, is distinguished by having been the scene  
of

|| See Cxf. Bell. Gall. lib. 6. cap. 13.

of a hunting which proved fatal to Diarmid, one of the Fingalian heroes. Here are shown the den of the wild boar that was hunted, a spring called Tobar nam Fiann, *the fountain of the Fingalians*; a small lake, called Loch an Tuirc, *the boar's loch*; also Diarmid's grave, where he was buried by his comrades\*. The highest hill in the country is Mount Blair, which

\* The eminence where Diarmid was buried, is called Tulach Diarmid, Diarmid's Hill, whence the late proprietor of the ground was called, Fear Tulaich Diarmid, laird of Diarmid's Hill. The story told of Diarmid's death is this: Diarmid and another of the Fingalians, were rivals in love. The lady, who was the object of their passion, gave the preference to Diarmid. The rival, who wished for some means of taking Diarmid off, proposed to the Fingalians to set a day for hunting a wild boar, which had often annoyed them, hoping that Diarmid's forwardness in the chase would expose him to destruction. Diarmid was warned by his mistress, that some evil was intended him; that the hunting was a pretext, and that he ought to avoid it. He gallantly answered, that nothing could prevail with him to decline any enterprize in which his fellows engaged. The hunting took place. The boar was killed by Diarmid's spear, and himself escaped safe. His rival, expressing his astonishment at the size of the boar, proposed to Diarmid to measure the length of its back with his foot, expecting that Diarmid would be wounded by the venomous bristles on the boar's back. Diarmid measured along the back from the head to the tail, and still remained unhurt. His adversary, disappointed, requested him to measure the boar's back again, proceeding in the contrary direction. Diarmid scorned to decline the task. The consequence was what his rival wished. The wounds he received from the boar's bristles, proved mortal.

Dr Smith, author of Gaelic Antiquities, in a note to the Gaelic edition of the poem on Diarmid's death, mentions a tradition that Diarmid was vulnerable only in the sole of the foot, and suggests that this circumstance is probably a fiction of late invention, as he has reason to believe that the oldest and purest editions of the poem, make no mention of it. If so, there seems to be a striking similarity between the story of Diarmid and that of Achilles. The circumstance of Achilles being vulnerable only in the heel, is nowhere hinted by Homer, and must, therefore, as in the story of Diarmid, be the invention



which divides this parish from Glenisla. The only lochs of note, are *Loch Shefbernich*, and *Loch nan eun*, situated pretty high among the hills. These abound in excellent trout. There are one or two medicinal springs, which are believed to be of an antiscorbutic quality.

*Climate,*

tion of some later fabulist. In both cases, the circumstance tended to lessen the reputation of those heroes for military prowess.

Dr Smith places the scene of Diarmid's death in a part of the West Highlands, on the authority of the tradition of the country, and of the names of places preserved in a beautiful Gaelic poem, which narrates the story of Diarmid's death. The opinion of its having happened in Glenshee, rests precisely on the same kind of evidence; besides the tradition of this country, there is a Gaelic poem extant, which relates the fate of Diarmid, with the same circumstances as those mentioned in the poem published by Dr Smith, and which expressly affirms the hunting to have been in the hills of Glenshee. If the merit of the poetry were to determine the degree of credit due to the bard, as an historian, there is no doubt that the poem in Dr Smith's collection, must be acknowledged the most authentic. But if this be reckoned an equivocal test of authenticity, it does not well appear how the two discordant narratives can be reconciled, nor how the credit due to either of them above the other, may be ascertained. From such a discrepancy between the different accounts of the same events, a sceptical enquirer might be led, perhaps, to question the authenticity of both, and pronounce the whole a mere fiction. Such an inference, however, may well be judged rash and unfounded. The existence of various traditions, respecting the same story, is a proof that it was once generally believed in many parts of the country. Their agreeing in many striking particulars, is at least a strong presumption that these particulars were true; their disagreeing in other particulars, only shows that the facts were obscured by the distance of time at which they happened. Many cities claimed the honour of giving birth to Homer, and supported their respective claims by various arguments and allegations. Though their claims were inconsistent, and their allegations contradictory, nobody ever thought of inferring thence, that Homer never lived, or had no birth-place, but only that the place of his birth, from the length of time since it happened, was become uncertain.

*Climate, Soil, Crop.*—The country being more elevated than Athole, on the one hand, and Marr on the other, and being in general open and unsheltered, the climate is colder than in either of these districts, and more exposed to the severity of a cold or stormy season. During nine months of the year, frosts are frequent, and sometimes fatal to the fruits of the earth. In 1791 and 1792, the crops suffered extremely from severe frosts, in the beginning of Autumn. The air, however, is pure and favourable to health and longevity. It is not uncommon to see men pursuing their ordinary occupations at 80 or 90 years of age. Within these few years, a woman died in the parish upwards of 100 years old. Chronical distempers are rare. The small pox has been often fatal. Inoculation, though not unknown, is far from being generally practised.

The soil on the banks of the Ardle, is thin and dry, having a sandy bottom, and yields in general light crops. In the higher grounds, it is wet and spongy, unfriendly to vegetation, except in dry warm seasons, when it yields a pretty good crop. The same description applies to the soil of Glenshee, and of the Black-water district.

The produce of the ground is seldom sufficient to supply the inhabitants. The culture of potatoes is of the greatest utility, as it is commonly the most productive crop. The kinds of grain generally sown are Cheshire bear, the common white oats, and a kind called barley oats. Flax, and pease, also, are grown, but in no great quantities, as the soil or climate is unfavourable to them. Field turnips have been lately introduced, and answer well, of which the tenants appear to be sensible. Some grass seeds have been sown; but as the season for vegetation is short, the farmer can seldom cut down more than one full grown crop of grass. Sheep being allowed to pasture at large in the fields all the time the

corns

corns are off the ground, is a circumstance very unfavourable to the culture of sown grass, which has not as yet been remedied. Oats are sown in April; potatoes are planted; lint-feed and bear, with grass-seeds, sown in May; turnips in June. Harvest seldom begins sooner than September. It is commonly the middle, or about the end of October, and sometimes the middle of November, before it is all gathered in. The greater part of the parish is better adapted for pasturage than for tillage; and some of the proprietors are accordingly laying several of their farms under sheep.

*Population, Rental, &c.*—In 1755, the number of souls was rated at 2689. The population of the parish has decreased much within these 20 years, and continuing to decrease, on account of considerable tracts of land being converted into sheep farms, and the inhabitants forced to migrate to other countries. § The number of souls in the parish is about 2200. The number of males is to that of females, as 44 is to 50.  
The

§ Few more interesting objects can engage the attention of a humane, patriotic, and enlightened Statesman, than the question, Whether the encrease of population in towns, be a full compensation for its diminution in the country. Is the *strength and security of the State* augmented? Is the acquisition of more numbers, and of wealth, an equivalent for the depravation of morals, and the decay of public spirit? Is the *sum of happiness* in the body of the people encreased? Is a town life as favourable as a country life, to the culture of religious affections, and of the social virtues? If not, whether is the greater degree of happiness found among a people virtuous and religious, though wanting many temporal conveniences and accommodations; or among a people less virtuous and religious, but possessed of better accommodations? If the country should be depopulated, is it easy to re-place its inhabitants: or is it true that

“ A bold peasantry, their country’s pride,  
“ When once destroyed, can never be supplied?”

GOLDSMITH.

The average of yearly births for the last 8 years, is 50, and of marriages 15. No register has been kept of the burials. Many who do not reside in the parish, have their burial places within it; and many who do, bury elsewhere. The valued rent of the parish is 4102l. 13s. 4d. Scots. The real rent may amount nearly to 3000l. Sterling. The rent of lands varies according to the quality of the soil and the circumstances of the farm. Lands that have the privilege of a good hill pasture annexed to them, pay from 20 to 45 shillings Sterling of rent *per acre* of arable. Lands that want this privilege, if not inclosed, pay from 12 to 16 shillings *per acre*: if inclosed, about 20 shillings.

*State of Property.*—There are 12 proprietors who do not reside in the parish; 24 smaller proprietors, most of whom reside in it constantly, and farm a part of their own property; and 6 other smaller proprietors, called portioners, from their possessing but small portions of land, which they farm entirely themselves. The number of farmers in the parish is 226. Of these, 19 are heritors. A plough-gate, or, as it is called here, a plough of land, contains only from 7 to 8 acres of arable land, exclusive of hill pasture. There are about 200 such plough-gates in tillage, and above 40 wholly in pasturage. About a plough-gate of cultivated land there are often two tenants or families, who possess the hill pasture belonging to the farm in common, but have each their respective shares of the arable land, and infield pasture, distinct. The ploughs are generally drawn by four small horses yoked a-breast. Where the ground is level and tractable, and the farmer in easy circumstances, the plough is often drawn by three, or sometimes by two horses. Many of the tenants sublet small portions of their possessions, such as a garden, or perhaps

perhaps a small croft to cottagers, or cottars, as they are called. Some of these are handy-craftsmen, who subsist by their trade; others are common labourers, who hire themselves out for day's wages in the country. The number of tradesmen is as follows: 10 square wrights: 4 wheel wrights; 5 smiths; 4 shoemakers; 14 shop-keepers; 14 taylor; 40 weavers, including apprentices. Some of these have other occupations besides their trade.

*Wages.*—The wages are regulated according to the nature of the work, and the time of the year in which it is performed. A day-labourer, from the beginning of March till harvest, gets 8d. *per* day, besides victuals; a hay or corn-cutter 1s.; a taylor 6d.; a lint-dresser 8d.; a wright 1s. Women hired for spinning, get 2d. or 3d., according to their merit. Men servants, engaged for a year, get about 6l.; and women from 2l. 10s. to 3l. Sterling.

*Live Stock.*—Most of the tenants depend on the sale of cattle, for the payment of their rents. The number of sheep is about 9000. More than a third of these are of the black and white faced kind, somewhat large in the body, and rough in the wool. The rest are of the common Scotch kind, smaller in size than the former, but very hardy. A few of the Cheviot breed have lately been introduced. The black cattle are of the small Highland kind. They feed remarkably well, and, when properly fed on grass, they prove excellent beef. Few of them, when fed, exceed in weight 20 stones of beef. Their number is about 2000. Few horses are kept, except what are barely sufficient for cultivating the ground. They are computed at about 800. There are also some parcels of swine, and a few goats.



*Fairs.*—There are three annual fairs held within the parish; one at Kirkmichael, called the Michaelmas market, and two at the spittal of Glenshee. The former is of long standing. It probably took its rise from the concourse of people who assembled on the day sacred to St Michael, at a place consecrated to his memory and worship. From coming together, for the purposes of devotion, they learned to continue together, for the sake of transacting secular affairs, till, by degrees, this last object became the chief reason, and at length the only reason of their assembling. Michaelmas came to be a term for settling accompts, and other money transactions, over all Scotland. Half a century ago, this fair was one of the principal cattle markets in the kingdom, and continued 3 or 4 days, or rather a week together. Of late years, it has been much less crowded. There is a weekly market held at Kirkmichael on Fridays, whither the people of the neighbourhood repair, to sell what yarn they may have spun during the week, and to buy their weekly supply of tobacco, snuff, lamp oil, and other groceries. Shoemakers from Athole, dispose of a great many shoes also, at this market. It has been remarked, and perhaps with too much reason, that this market gives encouragement to idleness, and imprudent, not to say immoral indulgences, by furnishing a pretence for frequent visits to the village. Appointments for paying trifling debts, are commonly made at this market. The creditor and debtor meet. They adjourn to the public house. After each has drunk his pot, the debtor finds he is not able to pay his debt. He craves a week's delay. The creditor easily agrees to so short a term. The appointment is renewed, and the same scene repeated, perhaps many times, before the debt is paid. Thus both *time* and *money* are needlessly spent, and a habit of idleness and of tipling contracted.

*Fuel,*

*Fuel, &c.*—The fuel generally used is peat and turf. Lime stone is plenty, and used for manure in different parts of the parish; but less than would otherwise be the case, from the expence of procuring peat to burn it. No marle has been found, except lately in one place. It is reserved by the proprietor for his own use. There are 7 licenced retailers of spirituous liquors. No licenced distillers.

*Roads.*—The military road from Coupar-Angus to Fort George, passes along the Black Water and through Glenshee. It is kept in repair chiefly by the statute labours of the country. A country road along the course of the Ardlie is kept in pretty good repair, in the same manner.

*Ecclesiastical State, Poor, &c.*—The church was built in 1792. It is finished in a respectable style, and sufficiently large and commodious for the district of country in which it stands. It cost about 370*l.* Sterling, exclusive of carriage, of lime, timber, &c. In Glenshee is a chapel, where divine service is performed by the minister of the parish, once in four or five weeks. The glebe consists of four acres of arable land, of indifferent soil, and a steep sand bank for pasture. The stipend is 1000 merks Scots, or 55*l.* 11*s.* 1½*d.* Sterling. James Farquharson of Invercauld, Esq; is patron. The funds for supporting the poor, consist of a capital of 170*l.* Sterling, under the management of the kirk-session, the weekly collections made at church and occasional fines. The annual amount of the contributions is at an average 12*l.* Sterling. The number of poor who receive regular supplies from the funds, is 14. It is to be regreted that the funds are too small to supply the necessities of the poor, without allowing such as are able to go about to beg. Such as confine themselves within the bounds of the parish receive occasional supplies from the funds.

*Schools.*—

*Schools.*—In the parochial school are taught English, Latin, writing, and arithmetic. The schoolmaster's salary is 200 merks Scots. There is one charity school in Glenshee, endowed with a yearly salary by the Society in Scotland for promoting Christian Knowledge. At particular times of the year, especially in winter, some persons voluntarily assume the office of schoolmasters in the remoter parts of the parish, and teach reading of English and writing.

*Language.*—The prevailing language in the parish is the Gaelic. A dialect of the ancient Scotch, also, is understood, and currently spoken. These two, by a barbarous intermixture, mutually corrupt each other. All the names of places are Gaelic.

*Antiquities and Curiosities.*—In the middle of a pretty extensive and elevated heathy moor, stands a large heap of stones, or cairn, 90 yards in circumference, and about 25 feet in height. The stones of which it is composed are of various sizes, but none of them, as far as they are visible, large; and appear to have been thrown together without order. They are in a good measure covered with moss, and in some parts overgrown with weeds. This circumstance argues the great antiquity of the cairn; for the circumjacent ground being covered with heath, and of a firm mould, a long time must have elapsed, before so much earth or dust could have been collected by the wind, and lodged among the stones, as to form soil for the nourishment of plants. Round this cairn are scattered, at different distances, a great number of smaller cairns. They are generally found in groups of eight or ten together. They are all covered more or less with moss or heath. About a furlong to the westward of the great cairn are the vestiges, quite distinct, of two concentric circular

lar fences of stone, the outer circle being about 50 feet, and the inner 32 feet in diameter. There are also the vestiges of six, perhaps more, single circular inclosures of stone, from 32 to 36 feet in diameter, lying at different distances in the neighbourhood of the cairn. Two parallel stone fences extend from the east side of the cairn, nearly in a straight line, to the southward, upwards of 100 yards. These fences are bounded at both extremities by small cairns, and seem to form an avenue or approach to the great cairn of 32 feet in breadth. There can be little doubt that all these are reliques of Druidism; that the great cairn is one of those at which they celebrated their solemn festivals in the beginning of summer and the beginning of winter,\* when they offered sacrifices, administered justice, &c.; and that the circles and lesser cairns, must have been the scenes of some other religious rites, of which the memory and knowledge are now lost. Similar cairns are to be seen in the neighbouring parishes, and in different parts of the Highlands; but this parish has to boast of a more uncommon and remarkable monument of Druidical superstition.

About a mile N. E. from the above mentioned great cairn, on a flat-topped eminence, surrounded at some distance with rocky hills of considerable height, and steep ascent, stands one of those rocking stones which the Druids are said to have employed as a kind of ordeal for detecting guilt in doubtful

\* See Smith's *Gaelic Antiquities*, page 31.; also *Statistical Account*, Vol. XI. page 621. The practice of lighting bonfires on the first night of winter, accompanied with various ceremonies, still prevails in this and the neighbouring Highland parishes. The custom, too, of making a fire in the fields, baking a consecrated cake, &c. on the 1st of May, is not quite worn out.

doubtful cases. † This stone is placed on the plain surface of a rock level with the ground. Its shape is quadrangular approaching to the figure of a rhombus, of which the greater diagonal is 7 feet, and the lesser 5 feet. Its mean thickness is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Its solid contents will therefore be about 51,075 cubical feet. As it is of very hard and solid whinstone, its weight, reckoning the cubical foot at 8 stones 3 pounds,† may be reckoned to be 418 stone 5 pounds, or within 30 pounds of 3 tons. It touches the rock on which it rests only in one line, which is in the same plane with the lesser diagonal, and its lower surface is convex toward the extremities of the greater diagonal. By pressing down either of the extreme corners, and withdrawing the pressure, alternately, a rocking motion is produced, which may be increased

† The creed of the Celts respecting these rocking or judgment stones, is well expressed by Mr Macon.

———Behold yon huge  
And unhewn sphere of living adamant,  
Which, poised by magic, rests its central weight  
On yonder pointed rock; firm as it seems,  
Such is its strange and virtuous property,  
It moves obsequious to the gentlest touch  
Of him whose breast is pure; but to a traitor  
Tho' even a giant's prowess nerv'd his arm  
It stands as fix'd as Snowden.

CARACTACUL

It is supposed, with much appearance of reason, that this ordeal, though it appeared in the eyes of the vulgar to be an appeal to the judgment of the Supreme Being, was in fact subservient to the designs of the Druidical priests who conducted it; and that by some expedient, they contrived to make the issue of the trial correspond either to the judgment which they had previously formed of the case, or to their designs regarding the culprit.

† A stone of the same quality with the rocking stone, was gauged and weighed, and found to weigh at the rate of stone, 3 lib. the cubic foot.



creased so much, that the distance between their lowest depression and highest elevation is a full foot. When the pressure is wholly withdrawn, the stone will continue to rock, till it has made 26 or more vibrations from one side to the other, before it settles in its natural horizontal position. Both the lower side of the stone, and the surface of the rock on which it rests, appear to be worn and roughened by mutual friction. There is every reason to suppose, from the form and relative situation of the surrounding grounds, that this stone must have been placed in its present position by the labour of men. It will hardly be thought, therefore, an extravagant degree of credulity, to refer its origin to the same period with those other tribunals of a similar construction, mentioned by writers who have treated of the customs of the ancient Celts. This opinion is however the more confirmed, from finding, in the neighbourhood of this stone, a considerable number of other Druidical relics. On the north side of the stone, at the distance of 60 yards, on a small eminence, are 2 concentric circles, similar to that already described, and a single circle adjoining to them on the east side. Beyond this, at 37 yards distance, on another small eminence, is another pair of concentric circles, with a single one adjoining to them on the east side. Beyond these, at 45 yards distance, is a third pair of concentric circles, with their adjacent circle on the east side. Farther on to the north east, at the distance of 90 yards, is a single circle, and beside it on the west side, two rectangular enclosures of 37 feet by 12; also a cairn 23 or 24 yards in circumference, and about 12 feet high in the centre. Several small cairns are scattered in the neighbourhood: 120 yards west from the rocking stone is a pair of concentric circles, with a small single circle beside them of 7 feet in diameter. All the pairs of concentric circles are of the same dimensions,  
the

the inner one being about 32 feet, and the outer about 45 or 46 feet in diameter; and all of them have a breach or door-way four or five feet wide on the south side. The single circles are, in general, from 32 to 36 feet in diameter, and have no breach. The vestiges of all those structures are perfectly distinct, and many of the stones still retain the erect posture in which all of them had probably been placed at first. Cairns and circles similar to those described are to be seen in other hills of this parish, particularly between Strathardle and Glenderby. The elevated situation and cold exposure in which these ruins lie, have preserved them from being ever disturbed by the plough, which has effaced, and probably destroyed ruins of the same kind in other places. There are likewise several tall erect stones, called here in Gaelic, *Crom-leaca*, or *Clach-shleuchda*, *stones of worship*. Some of these are 5 and some 6 feet above the ground, and may be sunk a considerable way under the surface, from their remaining so long in the same position; for a superstitious regard is paid them by the people, none venturing to remove them, though some of them are situated in the middle of corn fields.

*Manners and Customs.*—The people are humane and hospitable to strangers, of a spirit somewhat independent, but averse from a military life. The greatest fault in their general character is, that they are too much disposed to litigation, for which they are noted by their neighbours. Three sheriff-officers, and a constable, residing within the parish, find abundance of employment. They are rather inclined also to be jealous of each other, and seem at times more anxious to repel encroachments, than to improve their own possessions. The younger part of the people are showy in their dress, but frugal in their diet. Shooting matches, and rural balls,

balls, are frequent at the holy season. Foot ball is a common amusement with the school boys, who also preserve the custom of cock-fighting on Shrove Tuesday. All the people are of the established religion, except one or two families of papists in Glenshee.

*Disadvantages.*—The parish is divided from all the neighbouring districts by hills, most of them several miles broad. It is separated from the market towns, and from the Stormonth, (whence it is supplied with meal and corn and other necessary articles) by a hill, though not high, of very steep ascent on both sides. This proves a great bar in the way of carriage. The intercourse of the people with each other, is in some measure difficult and dangerous; as over the rapid river which runs through Strathardle, there is no proper bridge from the one end of it to the other. There was formerly a bridge of three arches at the village of Kirkmichael; but two of the arches fell about 40 years ago, and have never since been re-built: and the only substitute for these arches, is long planks laid across the river, supported by the remaining pillars of the old bridge.

A kind of bar, called a keith, laid across the river at Blairgowrie, by those who are concerned in the salmon fishery there, effectually prevents the salmon from coming up the rivers of Ardle and Shee. This is a grievance which the people think themselves justly entitled to complain of.

The tenants in different parts of the parish still perform some services to their landlords, such as day's work in hay time and harvest, or at fuel.

Few of the tenants enjoy leases of their farms. Holding their small possessions by a short and uncertain tenure, they are kept continually in a state of abject dependance on their landlords. It must be manifest to every observer, that the

situation in which the peasantry are thus retained, has a strong tendency to repress the exertions of industry ; to extinguish the ardour of patriotism, that attachment to his native soil, which glows spontaneously with such warmth in the breast of a Highlander ; to quench the spirit of freedom and independence, and

“ Freeze the genial current of the soul.”

Is it that the landlords are apprehensive of deriving no benefit to themselves from granting leases ; or of their tenants not having money or skill, or industry, for making improvements ? Or, is it, that the tenants are unwilling to bind themselves for a number of years, to modes of cultivation, with which they are little acquainted ? Or is it, that men, on whom wealth and power have conferred one kind of superiority, find, in the exercise of that superiority, and in receiving that servile dependence of their inferiors, a gratification which they cannot be persuaded to relinquish ?

NUMBER

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF REDGORTON

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

*By the Rev. MR DAVID MONCRIEFF.*

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*Origin of the Name.*

THE name of this parish is wrote differently Redgoretown, contracted Redgorton, Rogertown, and Regorton. The first seems to be the most ancient ; and, according to vulgar tradition, is derived from the battle of Loncarty, at which time, many of the wounded were brought to the curate's house, which from thence was called Redgoretown, or the town of the red-gore, and afterwards gave that name to the whole parish. Rogertown is derived probably from the name of a family, Rogers, now entirely extinct ; the name itself is now become obsolete. The other name Regorton, is Gaelic, and, as I am informed, signifies in that language a field of corn.



*Extent.*—It is about 6 miles long, reckoning from Craig-ingall, the Westmost point, to Safelanding, the Eastmost, and at a medium near 2 miles broad. There is a small part of the parish disjoined from the rest, which is about 6 miles distant from the church, running along the foot of the Grampian Mountains, and intersected by a neighbouring parish. The lower part of the parish extends itself in an irregular figure, running along the rivers Tay and Almond.

It is bounded on the South by the parish of Tippermuir, on the West by Methven, on the North by Moneidy and Aughtergaven, and on the East by Scone.

*Situation, Soil, and Air.*—The country here is rather hilly, but the high grounds are neither very elevated nor steep, but rise and fall gradually towards the rivers, where the land is flat, and in many places can be watered by the adjacent rivers.

The soil is generally light, though in some places there is a mixture of clay and black earth; and, where it is drained, and the large muir-stones, found here and there, either taken out, or sunk below the depth of the plough, the land is abundantly fertile.

The situation of this parish being more elevated than some of the neighbouring, the air is pure and healthy. The most prevalent distemper is the ague, which, however, is seldom mortal, and seems almost confined to the places nearest the rivers, and to those who are employed in the public works there.

*Rivers.*—The river Tay runs along the East side of the parish, Almond on the South and West, and Shochie and Ordie on the West. All the rivers in this part of the coun-

try.

try discharge themselves into the Tay, which is the largest river in Scotland; and, when joined by the Earn, below Perth, is supposed to contain more fresh water than the Thames. There is a small lake in the disjoined part of this parish, remarkable for it's depth in proportion to it's surface, which produces large trout of a blackish colour, from one to two pound weight, and upwards. The river Tay, in this neighbourhood, abounds with salmon, from sixteen to twenty pound weight, at a medium; sea, or white trout, from one to four pound; bull trout from one to thirty pounds; a yellow trout from two pounds and downwards, and a few pike and eels. There is also to be found here a small sea trout, called the *Lammas whiting*, from a quarter to half a pound weight, of exquisite taste. It is so called, from its coming up from the sea at this season. The salmon and bull trouts are caught with nets, though there is excellent rod-fishing, or angling in Tay, as well as in the other three rivers, though in these there are no salmon but in the spawning season. The salmon fishings let to tacksmen, amount to about 150l. annually. The salmon is one of the staples in this country, and is generally sent to the London market, or up the Mediterranean. When sold here, they bring in Spring 9d. a pound, and 5d. in Summer; though, till within these 30 years, they were sold at 2d per pound, and were so very plentiful, (the export trade being not then known) that in Perth and the neighbourhood, the servants made an article at hiring time, that they should not get it above twice a-week.

*Antiquities.*—It was in this parish that the famous battle of Loncarty was fought, at the end of the 10th century, under the reign of Kenneth III. betwixt the Scots and the Danes; which was so decisive, that of the enemy engaged in battle,

battle, according to tradition, those who escaped the sword were drowned in the river, which was then swelled by the rains, and overflowed its banks.\*

\* It was for their gallant behaviour at this memorable battle, that the family of the Hays were enobled, under the name of Hay of Errol, and had for their arms, *argent, three escutcheons, gules*, with the yoke and bow inscribed. The common report is supported by the testimony of Hector Boetius, and Buchanan, that, on the first onset, our countrymen gave way, and were pursued by the victorious Danes through the adjacent fields. This being observed by a farmer of the name of Hay, or Haia, and his two sons, who were plowing in the adjacent fields, they took the yokes and bows of their ploughs, crossed the river Tay, and, thus accoutred, having taken a stand at a narrow pass, stopped their fugitive countrymen, rallied them, renewed the battle, drove the Danes into the river, and those that were not drowned, were cut to pieces. After this great slaughter, the King went with these three valiant Heroes in triumphant procession into the town of Perth; and next day holding an assembly of the States, at Scone, it was decreed to give the venerable old Champion the choice of the hounds chase, or the falcons flight, as a possession suitable to the honours conferred on him; and, carrying him up to Kinnoul Hills, where the Danish camp had lately been, that he might have a prospect of the fine country lying below, great part of which was to be his inheritance, he made choice of the Falcon's flight. The bird took its flight from the top of one of these hills, and it alighted on a stone by the river of Tay, a mile to the south of the house of Errol, where it stands at this day, and is still called the *falcon's*; or *hawk's stone*. All the intermediate lands were given in property to this family, but have since been parcelled out to different branches, and have been sold to others; unless that part of the estate, which is still held by Hay of Leys, one of the eldest cadets of this noble family. The country people still show the ridges of where the brave Hay and his son were ploughing when they joined the battle, and they were distinguished from the rest of the field by small stripes of grass, or baulks, on each side, which no farmer ever dared to break up till within these three years. They still, also, show you the narrow pass, where the Hays rallied their flying countrymen, which is now levelled down. I have seen it entire, when it much resembled the small Roman stations, which are to be seen in many places of Scotland, though not so regular. They point out the *turn again hillocks*, where the Danes began to retreat, and the hollow way, under cover of which the Clans surrounded the Danes. I have seen a great  
number

*Modern History and Improvements.*—The modern history of this parish, will appear to the Statesman, to be much more useful than a minute account of its antiquities.

*Cromwell*

number of tumuli, or burrows, scattered over the field of battle, where the dead were buried, not raised in any regular order, or in one place, but wherever the slain fell in the greatest numbers; but they are now almost levelled with the rest of the ground. I have seen many of them opened, and the light ashes found there in great quantities, evince the nature of their contents. Some of the bones have been dug out quite entire, particularly a large human skull, the jaw-bone and teeth being entire, in the presence of the late Dr Boswell, who lodged it in the Edinburgh Museum. In these, and through the whole field, which may contain near three hundred Scotch acres, there have been found hilts and blades of swords, spears, and bits of bridles.—Some of these were in the possession of the neighbouring gentlemen, and there is a house carpenter, who made of them planes, saws, and tools of husbandry. The field of battle, till of late, was grown over with heath and brushwood, but is now cultivated, and become a rich field of corn, so that, in a literal sense, “the swords have been beat into plough shares, their spears into pruning hooks, and the desert land has become a fruitful field.” These, and many other circumstances, too minute to relate, were told, and pointed out to me, with as much enthusiasm, especially by an old man of the name of Blair, whose ancestors had been long proprietors in the neighbourhood, as if they had happened in his own time. The only remains of the famous battle now to be seen, the last of the tumuli being levelled two years ago, are the graves where the Danish General and Officers were buried, at the head of which there are large stones still standing, and a house lately inhabited, called to this day *Denmark*. To confirm the truth of this ancient piece of history, we have the uninterrupted tradition of the country, the testimony of our most ancient Historians, the undoubted marks of a battle, the armorial bearings of the Errol Family, the Bows and the Yokes, as far back as the twelfth century; and could any pieces of the armour be discovered, of which there is some probability, showing their origin to be Danish, it would put the matter beyond all doubt.

Another piece of antiquity not to be omitted, is the continuation of the causeway, leading from the Roman camp at Ardoch, which crosses the Tay at its present conflux with the Almond. At this place there are the remains of a Roman station, regularly formed into a square, surrounded with a deep  
foss

*Cromwell Park.*—I shall begin at the West end, and proceed regularly towards the East. The first object deserving notice

fosse, which has been for some years gradually washing away by the overflowing of the Almond. There have been dug up several earthen urns, filled with human ashes; particularly a large one, about half an inch in thickness, made of a very fine clay of a brown colour, plated on the inside with brass, almost consumed, and covered with verdigreese, containing about ten English gallons. Another very curious one discovered, was smaller than the former, the contents of which were, a few ashes of oak-wood, and part of a lachrymatory, which was a small glass phial, the eighth of an inch in thickness, containing about an English quart and a half; at the bottom of another of these was found a plate of lead, weighing about two stone weight, with Roman characters inscribed.

The foundation of a wooden bridge thrown over the Tay at this place still remains. It consists of large oak planks, from six to eight inches in diameter, fastened together by long skairs, but coarsely jointed, and surrounded with clasps of iron, frequently twisted. It would seem, that screwbolts, and fine made joints, were then unknown. I caused one of them to be raised some years ago, at the request of the late Dr Hope, who assured me that the fabric of the wood was not in the least decayed. At the other end, beyond this bridge, to the North East, there are some remains of the continuation of the causeway, almost as far as Blairgowrie, beyond which there are no traces of this famous military road to be discovered. This gives great credit to the report of the battle betwixt Agricola and Galgacus being fought in that neighbourhood. Tacitus informs us, that his father-in-law Agricola met with a heavy stroke in the death of his only son, an infant, which greatly afflicted him. Afterwards he led his army to the foot of the Grampians, where this battle was fought, and where Agricola, not without much bloodshed, remained master of the field. In this engagement, Aulus Atticus, captain of a cohort, was killed. He was esteemed by Agricola, and much lamented by him and the army. It is not improbable, that the large ornamented urn contained the ashes of Agricola's son, and that the smaller one with the lachrymatory, the ashes of Atticus, who would be interred with military honours. The present course of the Almond, though near the military road and station, is about half a mile to the northward from its junction with the Tay in former times. This river anciently had its course by Ruthven Castle, now Huntingtower, where there is still a small rivulet, known by  
the



notice is Cromwell Park. This was lately enclosed with a stone dyke, and may contain about one hundred and sixty  
 Vol. XV. 3 Y acres

the name of Old Almond. At this place there was a Royal Fort, and a small village called Bartha, which was carried down the river in the night time by a very great inundation. King William the first, surnamed the Lion, had his youngest son, John, with his nurse, and fourteen of his domestics, carried down the river and drowned. This happened in the year one thousand, two hundred and ten; so far Buchanan, and his predecessor Boetius deserve credit, and their narration is confirmed by other historians, as well as by the constant tradition. But that the King, about two years afterwards, removed the remains to the present site of the town of Perth, which he afterwards called Perth, or Perthai, is by no means deserving of equal credit. That Perth has been overflowed by the waters of the Tay, is certain, but, from the digging for the foundation of some houses lately built, there have been discovered paved streets, from three to ten feet deep, so that it has probably always stood on, or near to its present situation. This opinion is strengthened by this circumstance, that the charter granted by King William is only a *nova damus*, or a renewal of a former charter.

There are, in various parts, remains of Druidical places of worship, and judgment, particularly at Uver Beuchil, where there are twelve large stones set on end, and one larger in the middle. At some small distance, there are other two, the one with nine, and the other with seven, and what is peculiar with these here and elsewhere, is, that the number is always an odd one.

There are large heaps of stones near Pitcairn, called penance cairns, which, according to the tradition of the country, were collected by way of penance in the time of popery. They are in the neighbourhood of a popish chapel, which is now in ruins.

About a quarter of a mile below Stanley, where the river Tay is of considerable breadth, there is a natural ridge of rocks that runs across the river, almost forming an arch, which, at the top, within these thirty years, was only eighteen feet wide: but the arches were thrown down of late, in order to build a dam dyke for an inlet of the water to Luncarty Bleachfield. Two similar arches were formed over the river Almond, where they were but of late widened for similar purposes. The fabric of these is not inferior in point of symmetry to the work of the most ingenious architect, but greatly surpasses the art of human hands in point of strength.

I shall close this account of the antiquities of this parish, by observing, that in a field, called to this day Cromwell Park, the report is, that the Protector

acres. The proprietor, about fourteen years ago, offered to let the whole for a rent of thirty pounds sterling; now it is become the seat of two large manufactures, a cotton mill, and a print-field, and brings to the proprietor of the land an hundred a-year; but, if we take in the improvement of the adjoining fields, necessarily connected with these great works, its value can scarcely be estimated. About twelve years ago, Mr William M'Alpine, from the neighbourhood of Glasgow, a clergyman's son, who had been bred a callico printer, came to view this country, and having beheld with astonishment the great quantity of fresh water, the numerous falls for working machinery by water, made choice of this spot for erecting a cotton mill and print-field. Enlarging his views as he discovered more of the advantages of the situation of the neighbourhood near Perth, he set down very extensive works for printing on the other side of the Tay, in the parish of Scone, now called Stormontfield; and showed, in all his operations, an extent of genius, hitherto unknown in this part of the country. But, such is the fatality of all human schemes, not content with his views in this country, he unhappily involved himself with some of the great houses in Manchester, who failed some years ago, by the market being overstocked with cottons, and with them he fell. However, the spirit he raised in this neighbourhood, caught some of the wealthy people in Perth, who hitherto had not observed their natural and local advantages. Now a company of Perth merchants carry on here both the spinning cotton and printing calicoes. The printing, in the year preceding the sixth of July, seventeen hundred and ninety-one,

rector had a small advanced camp, to check the inroads of the Highlanders into Perth, which afterwards gave the name to this field, which it still retains. In digging the foundation of a cotton mill, which has lately been erected there, square iron shot of thirty-two pounds weight were found, which gives credibility to the common report, which has never been doubted.

one, amounted to 198,288 square yards of calicoes and linens, and has since varied, more, or less, according to the demand. When the cotton mill is finished, it will contain about four thousand spindles, and give employment to near nine hundred hands. There are about one hundred and fifty employed in various branches of the printing business, besides their families.

*Pitcairn-Green.*—Adjoining to these, and dependant on them, is the village of Pitcairn-green, which is only in its infancy; but of which Mrs Cowley, in her elegant poem on this rising village, predicts, that it will one day rival Manchester. May her prophecy be soon accomplished!

*Battleby.*—Proceeding eastward, the next village is Battleby, near where the battle of Loncarty was fought, but as yet there are few houses built. It is meant for weavers, and to accommodate the Loncarty company.

*Loncarty.*—About half a mile further on, is Loncarty, where stand the works erected by the late Mr William Sandeman. There is a large farm here, and though the soil is rather barren, the hand of industry has wrought wonders. I have with pleasure frequently beheld this ingenious man pointing out to strangers a small field containing about six acres, which he intended for bleaching thread, and to which he originally designed to confine his attention in that branch of business. But scarce was it finished, when his ideas expanded, and for more than thirty years past, there have been eighty acres or upwards covered with cloth, which has been whitened and dressed either after the Dutch or Irish mode, in so perfect a manner, that as yet it is unrivalled in great Britain. Mr Sandeman was very lucky in adopting a skil-

ful and attentive partner, Mr Hector Turnbull, who with great success conducted the operative part of this work. Five hundred thousand square yards, at a medium, are bleached annually; and though both these gentlemen are now dead, their sons and descendants conduct matters in such a masterly way, that the business is rather increasing for these two years past. Besides linens of various descriptions, they have now begun to bleach muslins. This company spins cotton by jeanies, constructed after the most approved plan; the carding and roving are performed by water. They employ about a thousand spindles. They made their own soap and candles till of late. They refine their old lees, and from them make ashes. It would swell this narration too much, to describe minutely the various and extensive machinery, the canals, and springs of water, conducted at very considerable expence to keep the whole in motion. I shall only add, that so far from being as yet complete, when they either obtain a new lease, or a feu, from the proprietor, which is now in agitation, their works will probably be greatly enlarged, and other new branches of manufacture introduced, as they have several water falls yet unoccupied. There are more than three hundred employed here, besides their families.

All the manufactures I have taken notice of, are erected on the estate of Colonel Graham of Balgowan, who has three fourths of the whole parish. This gentleman, for some time past, has given considerable attention to improving his lands, has planted with great taste many thousands of firs, and all manner of forest wood; covered with trees the little eminences in different places; run slips of planting for miles along the different farms, and twixt the different enclosures; built fences with ditches and quicks; and where stones could be got, has made snap dykes, which form an immediate fence. So that from being heath and uncultivated land,  
his

his extensive estate has become almost a garden: and however brilliant his service to his country has been, in raising for Government two battalions of soldiers, his patriotism, in improving so much waste land, is a more essential service, and will continue when the brilliancy of his martial exploits will be forgotten.

*Stanley.*—After passing Loncarty and Mr Graham's property, we come next to the estate of Nairn, belonging to the Duke of Athol, where the improvements are not less rapid and worthy of notice. The most remarkable object here is the cotton mill of Stanley, which employs about 2000 spindles; and besides this, there is now erecting a mill for spinning flax; but as the site of both these are in the parish of Aughtergavin, I shall only here take notice, that a small rivulet running through the village, divides the two parishes, and when the whole plan is completed, there will be more than the half of it in this, besides the whole of their present farm. In that part of the village belonging to Redgorton, there are at present about three hundred souls.

As to the improvements of land, what is remarkable, is this circumstance, that about three or four years ago, two thirds were heath, and now they are fertile fields of corn, wheat, and grass. The two farms most improved, and which more immediately catch the eye of the traveller, are those possessed by Mr James Stobie, land-surveyer, and Mr Charles Stewart, on each of which there are erected houses and offices in a tasteful style.

Besides the public works already mentioned, there is one corn mill, one oil ditto, one flour ditto, and one barley ditto, belonging to Lord Methven, at the mills of Pitcairn. In other places, there are two corn mills, belonging to Colonel Graham.

In



In the whole of this parish, three fourths of which were within these few years heath and swamps, there are little more than 300 acres of muir, the rest being under tillage, or covered with trees. In the lower part of the parish there are 3289 acres.

*Population.*—In the year 1755 by Dr Webster's computation, the numbers were 1074. There must have been a mistake here: for in the year 1763, when the present incumbent was settled, by an accurate survey, the number of souls amounted to little more than 600. In the year 1772, they amounted to 1700 and odds, and now to 2123, of which 507 are under 10 years of age. But as some of the manufactures are in a state of infancy, and as there are not yet houses built within the parish sufficient to accomodate those employed therein, who are obliged to lodge in the neighbouring parishes, the present numbers are but an imperfect sketch of the hands employed in the various branches of trade. Houses are continually building; so that, in a few years, the numbers of this parish will probably be doubled; particularly at the cotton works in Cromwell Park, where at present two floors only are filled with machinery; but before Whitsunday next, the whole will be completed, which will bring an increase of 400 or 500 inhabitants.

As the register of births and burials is not accurately kept; as poor people in many cases omit entering their names in the register, to avoid the trifling expence of registration, and some bury the dead without the assistance of the sexton, the account of either cannot be exact: but from the most authentic documents that can be collected, the annual births, for some time past, at a medium, amount to somewhere betwixt 80 and 100, the burials betwixt 20 and 30, and the marriages about 18.

There

There are about 30 weavers, but their number will soon increase; three smithies, and two master house carpenters, besides those belonging to the public works; there are seven public houses, but three would be perfectly sufficient for every useful purpose. There are no residing heritors, neither are there here any physicians, lawyers, or attornies. There are 14 farms, of which 10 are the property of Colonel Graham. Besides these, are many small possessions, having attached to them from one to ten acres. There seems to be a design formed, and already carried into execution for about two miles, to connect these small pendicles and the various villages; so that within a few years, the whole length of the parish, which is about six miles, will appear as one connected village. There are no oxen used there, either for plowing or the draught; and as the common plough is generally drawn by two horses, the number of black cattle reared here is but small, and generally sold at the age of two or three years. There is not a man or woman that has either hand or limb without employment.

*Productions*—The crops raised here are wheat, rye, barley, oats, pease, turnips, flax, potatoes, and grass-seeds of various kinds; the one half of the farms being generally in grass. They export some wheat and rye, large quantities of barley, some young cattle, and considerable quantities of flates. They import some of the larger kind of horses, and great quantities of oats and oat meal. There are two small pits of shell-marle; and the rivers Almond and Shockie are lined with rock marle, of a reddish colour. They generally lay 50 bolls of shell-marle on the acre, but four times that quantity of rock marle; the former loses its virtue within five years, while the other continues to operate for fifteen, and seems fully to compensate for the extra expence in digging and carriage.

In

In the lower part of the parish, there are 2,439 acres arable, 250 on natural pasture, 300 planted, and nearly as much in heath. There is a measurement of the whole parish.

*Miscellaneous Observations.—Advantages.*—From the local situation of this parish, it is both healthy, and capable of great improvements, from there being water falls at many places yet unoccupied. The sick from Perth, which is almost situated as low as the surface of the river, come here to breathe a purer air, and to recover health. The disciples of the late Mr John Glas, who was the father and founder of the independents in Scotland, can attest the truth of this. They find Luncarty a place both chearful and nourishing; from which the wearied seldom go without refreshment, or the hungry without being fed. The work people, employed in the various manufactures, are distinguished from their neighbours by the cleanliness and neatness of their dress, particularly the females, who, upon this account, are generally married very young. There is a sprightliness and vivacity in their manners, which is very engaging; and on all convivial occasions, especially at their weddings, as they are generally taught to dance, they display a gaiety and order, which is seldom found in other places. The bounds of the parish do not confine this humour, but it has diffused itself through the whole country; and the proprietors of those works who reside in Perth, have felt its influence. In place of travelling in carts, and being jaded on hacks, many of the manufacturers have their own horses for riding, and give an airing to their wives and children, in genteel carriages. The gentlemen and ladies there, are dressed with the same elegance that is observed in other places, and their balls and assemblies are no less brilliant. A circumstance deserving notice, is this, that about thirty years

ago, there were only three or four chaises in Perth to be let for hire, and now there are sixteen; and these must be bespoke several days before they are needed, otherwise the intended jaunt must be postponed. This increase cannot be altogether imputed to strangers who pass through Perth as a thorough-fare, but also to the great increase of the manufactures, which supply not only the necessaries, but also the elegancies of life. The attention to decorum has extended itself to the public worship of the Deity, where, besides the Psalms of David, the paraphrases lately recommended by the General Assembly, are sung in various parts, with some hymns and anthems; so that the music in this church is not excelled but by few in this kingdom. At the celebration of the great Christian festival, the Sacrament of the Supper, though the church scarcely contains the communicants, there is no field or tent preaching, as in some other places, so derogatory from the solemnity of this institution.

*Disadvantages.*—However, on the whole, it must be acknowledged, that the elevated and unequal surface of the greater part of the lands, render it wet and spongy, and the large whin stones found detached in different places, make it difficult to labour with the plough. But the one can be removed by drains, which can easily be filled with small stones, found every where in abundance; and the other, either by digging, blowing, or by sinking them below the level of the plough. If the tenants have no leisure for these operations, there are undertakers here, who will execute the work either by day wages or per acre. It is an impediment to the building here, that there is no free-stone in the parish; but this can be found in the neighbourhood particularly near the confines of the parish of Methven. When

they build with whin-stone, either in time of rain or in thaw after frost, the houses become damp by the stones sweating, or becoming moist; a fault which only can be remedied by lathing the walls with wood, which is the case with the manse. There are many clay pits from which they make excellent bricks.

The gross rental of the whole parish, amounts nearly to one thousand and seven hundred pounds, including the fishings. But this conveys but an imperfect idea of what the yearly rental will soon be. For the farm of Loncarty, which contains about five hundred acres, rents only at eighty guineas, and there are other farms in a similar situation. The Duke of Athol's tacks have been lately set for twenty two years, but the most of Colonel Graham's are nearly expired. The detached part of the parish, which runs along the Grampians, is not remarkable for any thing but its blue slate quarries, which, though neither so large nor so thin as the Easdale slates, are very durable. There are two kinds, a light and dark blue; the last is generally preferred.

There is no other church than the established one; and the various sects of seceders, burgers, relief and independents, do not amount to more than a twentieth part of the parish. The manse and church were built within these twenty years; and though both are more elegant than the ordinary ones, yet they are both too small. The stipend, estimating the victual at the usual conversion, is scarce eighty pounds; it is probable, however, it will soon be augmented. There were originally three chapels depending on the Abbey of Scone, with a glebe annexed to each, but were sometime after the Reformation erected into one parish, which afterwards took its name from the central one, Redgorton. Two of the glebes are contiguous to the present



sent manse, and altogether may measure about twelve acres. The Viscount Stormont, now Earl of Mansfield, is patron.

The present incumbent was settled in 1763. His immediate predecessor was George Frazer, now minister at Moneidy, who succeeded to George Meek, whose predecessor was George Blaky, who was the first minister settled after the Revolution, and succeeded — Achterlouny, who carried off all the public records in his time, as well as those that were more ancient; and since, no account of the ancient poor's funds has ever been recovered.

The heritors of this parish, are, the Duke of Athol, Lord Methven, Colonel Graham of Balgowan, and Mr Drummond of Logiealmond, none of whom reside.

The funds for maintaining the poor are small; they arise chiefly from seat rents in the church, the weekly collections, and a small assessment of ten or fifteen pounds yearly, the one half paid by the heritors, the other by the parishioners. The poor here seldom exceed eight or ten in number; and a sum not exceeding thirty pounds is sufficient for their support, as well as for defraying all the expences of the session clerk, &c. The poor get from two to six shillings monthly, and, before winter, a few coals and cloaths when necessary. From half of the collections, which the Session is allowed to dispose of at pleasure; the money from the mortcloths, and the fines, the poor children, who are not on the parish list, are educated, get books and cloaths. When any extraordinary calamity falls out, there is a collection made for the purpose, which is generally liberal. There have been no beggars or travelling poor here for these thirty years, ever since the present incumbent was settled. There is one parochial school; the salary is no more than one hundred merks Scots; the number of scholars is from fifty to one hundred. Besides this, there are two private schools, one at Stanley, the other at Cromwell Park. There are

three public roads which pass through this parish, and very near the manse: the great road from Perth to Dunkeld, which is a turnpike, that from Dunkeld to Balgowan, Stirling, &c; and the third from Perth to the West Highlands through Glenalmond. About twenty years ago, the annual wages of a man-servant, were from four to five pounds, now from seven to ten; and of a woman-servant, from thirty to forty shillings, now three or four pounds. A day-labourer then thought himself well paid with eight pence, now he demands one shilling, and can scarce be hired at any rate. The people in this parish, are very industrious, unless it be strangers, on their first coming from distant parts, who soon acquire the decent manners of this country. Considerable attention is paid to the morals of the people at the public works, particularly at Loncarty, where the manufactures have been established for forty years. When the young folks of either sex, are suspected of too much intimacy, the young man is called before his master; and if he refuses to marry the lass he professes to love, he is immediately dismissed from the work; but if he marries, which is generally the case, he gets a house and garden, and a small compliment. The only fuel made use of here is coal, which they either bring from Perth, or from the pits. If the last is the case, they set off with their carriages about midnight, and arrive at home the next evening in the twilight.

*General Observations.*—I shall conclude this history with a few general observations respecting the police of the country, and the improvement of the livings of the clergy in Scotland.

If the gentry could be induced to attend the worship of the established church; if the churches were rendered more comfortable, and the roads and avenues leading thereunto,  
were

were kept decent and dry, public worship would be more generally attended, the collections for the poor would be increased, assessments rendered unnecessary in most country parishes, the gentlemen would thereby become more patriotic, and their influence greatly enlarged. However lightly they may think of the present assessments for the maintenance of the poor, which will every day increase, if no method similar to the above is adopted, they will soon become as burdensome as the poor's rates in England; which will consequently lower the value of their lands.

If the Legislature would enlarge the glebes, and in place of six, allocate to the clergy twenty or thirty acres of land, it would be both advantageous to the incumbent and useful to the whole country, by setting to public view a field well cultivated, and that at no greater expence than could be afforded by the ordinary farmer. But till this can be obtained, might not the heritors accomodate their ministers with a few acres at the same rate that they would demand from others, without charging, as a few do, an extra rent on account of the convenience, &c?

To obtain favour in these respects to the clergy of this church, would it not be an inducement, that the present incumbents would pay a little more attention to what land they already possess, and join with the *utile* some degree of elegance; as enlarging their gardens, and bestowing some pains on their cultivation, and, where the situation of the manse permits, have a small lawn and shrubbery around the house. It would be no great expence to plant an hundred fruit trees or more, which in a few years would become profitable. I speak not from theory, but from my own experience. I know a neighbour, who, by enlarging his garden, has got a plot for onions which yields him from five to ten pounds

pounds yearly, and that without any other expence than ploughing and harrowing, without the aid of the spade. Another sells apples to the amount of ten pounds and upwards; a third garden roots and gooseberries to the same amount. Why should not the practice be general?

NUMBER

NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF KIRKMABRECK.

(STEWARTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, PRESBYTERY OF WIG-  
TON, AND SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.)

*By* ALEX. MACLEAN, *Esq;*

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*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**K**IRKMABRECK, or more properly the church in the brake, is exceedingly descriptive of the place in which the church formerly stood; for as brake signifies furze, bramble, thorns, heath, fern, &c. so, not only the particular place in which the church stood\*, but also many other places in the parish, are incumbered with those substances. This parish, which includes part of the ancient parish of Kirkdale, is 8 miles in length, from North to South, and about 4 miles in breadth from East to West. Bounded by the parish of Minnigaff on the

\* The church was removed to the place where it now stands at Creetown, about 150 years ago; the people still continue to bury at the old church.



the North, Girthon on the East, Anwoth on the South, and the rivers Cree and Wigton Bay, on the West.

*Surface, Soil, and Produce.*—The country in general has rather a mountainous appearance, rising gradually from the shore the whole length of the parish; yet the interior part is, in many places, intersected with rivulets, valleys, and lowland, which, by the industry of the inhabitants, and being in the vicinity of such inexhaustable treasures of sea-shells, have been rendered very fertile, either for producing crops of grain, or for pasturage. The lands on the banks of the river Cree, (which forms Wigton Bay, and is the western boundary the whole length of the parish) is of a superior quality, partly of a clay, and partly of a gravelly soil, and, for either tillage or grassing, is equal to any land in the South of Scotland. The country all along the Bay has a most delightful appearance, the great military road running along the coast between Gatehouse of Fleet, and Newton-Douglas, is one of the most pleasant stages in Scotland, the whole being diversified with woods, gentlemen's seats, and beautiful inclosures, hills gently rising on the one hand, the Bay on the other, with a full view of the town, and great part of the shire of Wigton on the opposite side of the Bay, and the Isle of Man, lying out in St George's Channel; so that, for variety of objects, so well fitted to please and amuse the fancy, or to elevate and expand the mind, such a prospect is seldom to be met with. The mountainous parts are partly green and partly covered with heath, or heather, with a mixture of grass and herbage, that feeds both sheep and black cattle tolerably well. These sheep, which are of the black faced kind, and of the small breed, are generally esteemed excellent mutton, and when come to age, the wedders generally weigh  
from

from 8 to 10lb. per quarter, their wool generally brings from 8 to 10s. per stone, 26 lib. English to the stone. They are all bred upon the land, and fold off when they come to age, in regular rotation. There are also a few of the large breed grafs'd upon the low land, worth from 18 to 25s. Ster. The black cattle are all of the true Galloway breed, and a great part of them not inferior to any in the country\* ; when they are come to age, they generally go to the English markets. The horses are mostly all of the draught kind, for the purpose of farming, only a few kept for the saddle. There are also a few goats, but that kind of stock are not numerous, the whole stock of the parish stand thus :

|                           |   |   |       |
|---------------------------|---|---|-------|
| Sheep of the small breed, | - | - | 7,500 |
| Ditto of the large breed, | - | - | 300   |
| Black cattle,             | - | - | 1,600 |
| Horses,                   | - | - | 200   |
| Goats,                    | - | - | 500   |

There are also hogs and poultry in abundance, for the use of the inhabitants. This part of the country also yields a plentiful source of amusement to the sportsman, being well stocked with grouse, black game, partridge, hares, and woodcock in the season. The black game, however, have of late years been scarce, and appears to be rather upon the decline.

*Agriculture, &c* — Thirty years ago there was no kind of grain exported from this parish, but, on the contrary, importations was some times necessary for the support of the inhabitants. Since that period there is an increase of population of about 400 souls, and now there is a considerable quantity of oats, bear, barley, and potatoes, exported annually. There is generally between 900 and 1000 acres in til-

\* It is common to sell two years old beasts at six pounds or six guineas.

lage, two thirds of which may be sown with oats, and the remainder with bear, barley, potatoes, and a few acres in turnip. The principal manure used for improving land is sea shells, of which there is an almost inexhaustable quantity, not only within the high water mark on this side of Wighton bay, but also in the dry land, several hundred yards from the shore, particularly in the holms of Cassencarie, the property of Alexander Muir M'Kenzie Esq; where they are in beds from four to ten feet deep of the finest shells imaginable, without almost any mixture of sand. As there cannot remain a doubt but that these shells have been thrown together and left there by the tide, so from these and other fossil marine productions, found both on this and the other side of the bay, it is evident, that the tide has flowed 15 or 16 feet higher on this coast, at that period, than it doth at the present. These shells are generally sold by the agents of Mr M'Kenzie at 5d per tun, 25 tuns of which is sufficient for an acre of land, and proves a cheap and excellent manure to this part of the country, and is considered much preferable to either lime or marle. But the advantages of this valuable treasure of shells is not confined to this part of the country alone, but extends round 50 or 60 miles of a coast as far as the mull of Galloway, where they are sold as high as 3s. 6d. per tun. Many thousand tuns of these shells are carried off annually, by a number of vessels, from 20 to 60 tuns burthen, which are constantly employed when the weather will permit, in carrying them all round the coast, and some times even to the Isle of Man. These shells have been used with great advantage for the improvement of barren heathy land, in so much, that many hundreds of acres in this parish, originally not worth more than 2s. per acre, have been made worth from 10s. to 15s. per acre. Yet this, like every other advantage that is easily attained, is not  
duly

duly prized or improved, for there are still upwards of 1000 acres of land in the parish, which, from both soil and climate, is highly capable of cultivation, at present lying in a state of nature, covered with heath, and almost good for nothing. The fault here rests almost wholly with the landlords, who in that respect are in a great measure blind to their own interest; for where the means of improvement is got at so cheap a rate, and the distance not great to carry it, a little calculation might serve to demonstrate, that on nothing could they lay out their money to so much advantage; but where a tenant has only a lease for nineteen years, and perhaps his encouragement not great otherwise, it cannot be expected that he should lay out much money in the enclosing and cultivation of barren land\*. From the above hint, it is not intended to throw any imputation of sloth or inactivity upon either landlord or tenant, (but only to show that a great deal more might still be done;) for there are several farms which now pay five times as much rent as they did thirty years ago, and the tenants still able to live much better now than they did then. There are in the parish 76 carts, six of which are kept for hire, and the rest for the purposes of farming; and 63 plows, some of the English, and some of the old

4 A 2

Scotch

\* The writer of the above having a good deal of experience in the improvement of barren heathy land, would recommend the following plan where such land has a mossy surface, and of a very stiff benty soil. Instead of fallowing, which is the common practice, and which is attended with a great deal of labour and expence, plow up the land in winter or spring; the summer following give it a slight harrowing, to prevent the manure falling down between the furrows, after which spread the manure upon it, and so let it ly for at least one year, or, if the soil is very stiff, two years, before you put a plough in it. You will then find, that the surface is quite rotten, and that the land is fit for a crop of oats, turnips, &c.; and that by giving it time to ly till the surface rot, it does more than even fallowing could do to such land, and the expence nothing.

Scotch kind ; and where the land has been cultivated, they are mostly drawn by two horses.

*Population.*—In Dr Webster's list in 1755, the numbers were rated at 858. In the year 1764, the whole population amounted to 680 souls, of which the Ferry-town of Cree (now Creetown) then contained 104. As the country part of the parish has altered very little in point of population, since that period, it will be necessary to show the increase that has been in Creetown at all the different periods since that time.

|                                                      | <i>Families.</i> | <i>Under 10<br/>Yrs of age</i> | <i>Above 10<br/>Yrs of age</i> | <i>Total.</i> | <i>Births.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> | <i>Deaths.</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| In 1764, Creetown contained                          | 34               | 20                             | 84                             | 104           | 4              | 0                 | 1              |
| In 1774, ditto . . .                                 | 120              | 73                             | 294                            | 367           | 11             | 2                 | 3              |
| In 1784, ditto . . .                                 | 145              | 88                             | 354                            | 442           | 15             | 3                 | 6              |
| From the 1st November 1793                           |                  |                                |                                |               |                |                   |                |
| to ditto 1794                                        | 183              | 142                            | 409                            | 551           | 19             | 6                 | 23 ¶           |
| In 1794, the whole parish pa-<br>rish contains . . . | 289              | 249                            | 839                            | 1088          | 38             | 9                 | 27             |

*Causes of Population.*—The increase of population, not only in this place, but also in many other places in Scotland, is principally owing to these three following causes :

1. To the beneficial effects of inoculation for the small-pox, by which the lives of numbers of children are preserved ; and, general as the practice is become, yet, still there are many of these little innocents, that fall victims to the inattention, stupidity, and superstition of their parents, who are so wedded to their ancient prejudices, that rather than part with them, they will consign over half-a-dozen fine children to the ravages of this terrible disorder, or, perhaps, to the gloomy mansions of the tomb.

2. To

¶ Of the 23 children that died in Creetown last year, 12 died of the small-pox.



2. To the improvement of waste lands, by which numbers are employed and maintained.

3. To the recently established branches of manufactures. By the first, life is preserved, and by the two last, emigration is prevented.

*Air and Climate.*—The best proof of purity of the air and goodness of the climate, is the good state of health generally enjoyed by the inhabitants; they being seldom subject to agues, fevers, consumptions, or such disorders as proceed from a corrupted atmosphere. The rheumatism is the only disorder that seems to gain ground, and most generally complained of. Though there is a great deal of rain that falls here, yet the air is considered dry and healthy, owing to the water being suddenly carried off by the rapidity of the rivulets or burns, which immediately convey it again to the sea, there being no swamps or marshy ground in this part of the country.

*General State of the Parish.*—The ancient valuation of the parish, as it stands in the cess books of the county, is 3199l. 10s. 8d. Scots. The real rent or present value of the land is 2,750 l. Sterling. The number of heritors is fifteen, of whom three only reside in the parish. John M'Culloch, Esq; of Barholm, (one of the residing heritors,) is joint patron with the King. Dr John Inglis, the present incumbent is a married man, and has two children, a son and a daughter, and has been settled fourteen years. The former stipend was sixty pounds Sterling, and four pounds for communion elements, but by an augmentation of victual stipend, obtained in the year 1792, the present living is worth a hundred guineas per annum, independent of the glebe and manse, which is worth 25 l. more, and is placed in a delightful

lightful situation on the side of the bay, about a mile and a half below Creetown. The church and manse are both in a pretty good state of repair. There are very few dissenters here, only three seceders and two cameronians in the whole parish; and as a proof of the health and good morals of the people, and what probably contributes in some measure to both, is, that there is neither physician, surgeon, lawyer, nor attorney in the whole parish. The poor's funds generally amount to about 35 l. per annum, which, when judiciously applied, so effectually relieves the wants of those depending upon the public charity, (which seldom exceed ten in number,) that there has not been one instance of a native of this parish going out of it as a strolling beggar, for these thirty years past. The schoolmaster's salary is a hundred pound Scots, independent of the school wages; but besides the public school, there are several private schools in the parish.

*Price of Labour.*—Wages here are generally high. Masons and joiners have from 1 s. 8d. to 2 s. per day, without victuals. Taylors and shoemakers, from 8d. to 10d. with victuals. An experienced man-servant, from 8 l. to 9 l. per annum. The wages of women servants, from 3 l. to 4 l. and the other kinds of work much the same in proportion.

*Antiquities.*—The most memorable place of antiquity is called Cairn-holy or the Holy Cairn, from a tumulus or heap of stones, (as tradition informs us,) raised over the grave of King Galdus. Several years ago, a great many of the stones were carried away for the purpose of building houses and dykes, when there were discovered large stones placed together in form of a chest or coffin; but the roof stone being of such prodigious magnitude, it has never been removed to see what it contains. This memorable tomb stands in the  
centre,

centre, between two different places, at about a hundred yards distance from it, where a great number of human bodies have been buried, as appears from the number of stones placed upon one end in form of grave stones. We are told by several of the Scottish writers, that Corbredus Galdus, the twenty first king of the Scots, (a valiant and good king,) was the first of that nation who dared to advance his ensigns against the Romans, who, under Petilius Cerealis, had subdued the Brigantes\*, and soon after proceeded to attempt the conquest of this country, under Julius Agricola, who, having landed upon this coast, destroyed all the maritime places, and afterwards reduced the Isle of Man; after which, he returned, and after many a bloody battle with the Scots and Picts, about the year A. D. 82, he subdued the whole of the kingdom South of the Tay. History also informs us, that one of these battles was fought at the river Cree, (which still retains its ancient name,) wherein the Scots were overthrown, but no mention made of the slaughter of their king; on the contrary, we are told by Buchanan, that this same King Galdus died a natural death, after a glorious reign of thirty five years. We are also informed of another battle fought on the river Cree, about the year A. D. 310, wherein the Picts joined the Romans under Maximus their general, against the Scots, under their king Eugenius, but wherein the Scots were again overthrown. But in vain do we develop the history of these times; owing to the ambitious policy of Edward the 1st of England, a veil is thrown over them which can never be removed. There is also a different account concerning this place, which seems to be founded on history, and which deserves

\* Brigantes, the ancient inhabitants of Yorkshire, Lancashire, Durham, Westmoreland and Cumberland.

deserves attention. About the year of our Lord 1150, it is said there was a battle fought between the English and Scots, on Glenquicken Moor, wherein the Scots were defeated and their General killed, and that the Bishop of Whithorn being along with him in the engagement, immediately assumed the command; but his troops being defeated, immediately fled towards the shore to their boats, but being overtaken by the enemy at Cairnholy, about half a mile from the shore, the bishop, with many other gentlemen, was killed, and was buried here, and that from this circumstance it was called the Holy Cairn, the bishop being a holy man. Certain it is, that on the very place where the battle is said to have been fought, there is a large tumulus which was opened about 15 years ago (the stones being carried away for the purpose of building dykes) when there was discovered a stone coffin, or stones placed together in form of a coffin, wherein was a human skeleton, the scull and the great bones almost entire, and greatly above the ordinary size; also an urn, containing some ashes, and an earthen pitcher: the tumulus is called Cairnywanie.\* At a small distance from the above, there is a Druidical temple, or a Danish encampment, but, being left to the uncertainty of conjecture, shall not hazard an opinion; there are also several other tumuli in the parish, that have never been opened. There are also four square towers with battlements, which seem to have been intended for defence: they are all placed on the banks of the Cree.

*Mineral*

\* There is a little rivulet or burn that runs through the place where the battle is said to have been fought, that still retains the name of the Englishman's Burn,

*Mineral Springs.*—There are several mineral springs, all of which have been beneficial in some cases ; one, however, on the lands of Pible, which seems to be of the chalybeate kind, seems particularly adapted for remedying weaknesses and complaints in the stomach, and has been applied to by some individuals, with great success.

*Fuel.*—The principal article of fuel is peat, of which there are plenty of the very best quality ; also in many places of the parish, there is whins and brushwood, which poor people gather for fuel ; and as there are no coal but what is imported from other places, it is not much used here.

*Price of Provisions.*—Beef, mutton, and lamb, generally sell for 2½d. or 3d. per lib. ; oat meal from 20d to 2s. ; butter 6d. per lib. ; a fat goose 2s ; a hen 8d. ; eggs 3d. per dozen.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—This parish is famous for granite stone ; as a proof of which, Kirkdalehouse, built by the late Sir Samuel Hannay, of Mochrum, Bart. is well worthy of the attention of travellers. It is a large modern building, the outside wholly of the most beautiful granite, and wrought off to such perfection, as is said not to be equalled in Britain. Admiral Stewart also got all the principal stones here for Glasserton house, which he carried across the Bay in boats, at considerable expence. And the Bishop of Derry, on seeing the house of Sir Samuel Hannay, a few years ago, was so much charmed with the stone, that he immediately contracted with the superintendent of that work, for building the spires of two churches in his diocese, which were all to be executed with this stone ; accordingly the stone was all prepared here, and afterwards carried over to Ireland, and the work



executed much to his Lordship's satisfaction, though at great expence. The highest mountain in this parish, or perhaps in the South of Scotland, viz. Cairnsmoor, is one entire mass of granite, the altitude of which has never been ascertained, but which may probably be between 3000 and 4000 feet above the level of the river Cree. This mountain is also famous as a receptacle for foxes, which often spread death and destruction far and wide among the surrounding flocks. There are also appearances of lead mines in several places of the parish, but which have not yet been attempted with success.

*A Description of Creetown and Wigton Bay.*—Creetown, (formerly called Ferry Town of Cree, from the ferry or passage boat constantly kept at that place) has advanced rapidly within these 30 years, as shown in the table of population, and was lately erected into a burgh of barony, by the interest of the proprietor John M'Culloch, Esq; of Barholm, is beautifully situated on Wigton Bay, and in the vicinity of a plentiful country; of late there has been introduced some branches of cotton spinning, by which about thirty people are daily employed; there is also a pretty extensive tann work, and also a mill for making shot lead; but the greatest part of the men follow a sea-faring life, several of whom, both in the present and former wars, have served in the navy. There are a considerable number of vessels belonging to this port, of from 20 to 60 tons burthen, several of which is employed in carrying shells, and others in the coasting trade; indeed, its advantages as a sea port may one day be the means of making it an opulent place. The inhabitants in general, though charitable and humane, yet are too much addicted to the vices with which such places stand chargeable.

Wigton Bay, as I mentioned before, is formed by the river Cree falling into St George's Channel, and is navigable for  
about

about 15 miles. It is about 3 miles broad, for about 6 miles from its entrance, and then gradually diminishes as it extends into the country, and divides the shire of Wigton from the Stewarty of Kirkcudbright. There is good anchorage in several places of the Bay, but in particular a little below Cree-toun (the only town in the parish) to which a ship of 500 tons may come and ride in safety: it has a kind of soft blue clay bottom, and makes a very safe harbour. The fisheries, though not very considerable, are yet worth mentioning; in the Spring and Summer months, there are a good many salmon taken, and in the Harvest and Winter, there are a considerable quantity of whiting, cod, and flounders got, by means of what the people call coops, or large creels, so placed in the water that the fish run into them as the tide ebbs, and are taken out at low water; so that with these, and a few shell fish, which is also got in the Bay, this part of the country is generally well supplied. There is also a considerable quantity of sea weed got upon the shore, (which is for the most part flat and sandy) which by some is made into kelp, and by others used for manure. Much more might have been said of the advantages of this as a maritime place, had an abler pen been employed to describe them.

## NUMBER XXVII.

## PARISH OF BEDRULE.

*By the Rev. WILLIAM BROWN, Minister of that  
Parish.*

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*Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Bedrule is situated in the centre of the county of Roxburgh, in the presbytery of Jedburgh, and synod of Merse and Tiviotdale; and is in length from North to South, upwards of four miles, and in breadth from East to West between two and three. It is bounded by the parish of Jedburgh on the East, by Abbotrule (now annexed to Hobkirk and Southdean, but formerly a pendicle of Bedrule) on the South, by Hobkirk and Cavers, from which it is, for the most part, divided by the Rule on the West; and by Minto and Ancrum on the North-West and North, from which it is separated by the Tiviot. It is somewhat of an oval figure, and consists, at present, of nearly an equal quantity of arable, pasture, and muir-land. The soil is, in general, as good as is to be met with in most grounds of the above description:

And,

and, as the soil, so the surface and climate are unequal, which, indeed, is generally the case over the county, by the sudden transitions from hill to dale. The lands towards the Rule and the Tiviot, are, therefore, more deep, warm, and fertile. In those towards the hill called the Dunian \*, the soil becomes more light, thin, and barren; the air keen and penetrating: yet, in regard to the soil, there happens to be a remarkable exception, for, on the same range of hill to the westward, opposite the village of Bedrule, there is an uncommonly fine and deep soil; and in the above grounds, where the soil is in general remarkably deep, there is also found limestone, and different strata of clay marle. A good deal of the land in that part of the parish is at present rather *spouty*. But, as it is a gentle declivity from the summit of the hill to the banks of the river, it might be the more easily rendered dry by judicious draining.

*Proprietors and Tenants.*—There are three great, and five less considerable proprietors in the parish, two of whom usually reside. There are nearly the same number of tenants, who all manage their farms according to the modern practice of husbandry; and one of them, Mr Brown, the tenant of Newton, a farm the property of Thomas Elliot Ogilvie, Esq; of Chesters, has, in the course of a few years, shewn how much may be done by improvement in this parish, both for the advantage of the tenant, and the patrimonial interest of the proprietor. Mr Bell younger of Mainflaws, and the tenant of Rewcastle, both in this parish, appear to be following

\* The Dunian is wholly in the parish of Bedrule; but owing perhaps to part of it having been for some time possessed by the tenant of an adjoining farm in the parish of Jedburgh, the author of the Statistical account thereof has been led to suppose, it was partly situated in that parish.

lowing his laudable example, and, we hope, will likewise acquire, thereby, considerable gain to themselves, and merit, as all such most deservedly do, the grateful thanks of their country.

*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster in 1755, was 297 souls. The number of inhabitants at present, (1793) is about 259 ‖. Of these there are 127 males, and 132 females. Under 10 years of age about 69. From 10 to 20 about 50. From 20 to 50 about 105. From 50 to 70 about 28. From 70 to 80 six. From 80 to 90 one.

Weavers 6; taylors 3; wrights 2; gardeners 2: blacksmiths 2; one of whom not only accommodates the village of Bedrule, in that line, but, notwithstanding his local disadvantages of distance from materials, and especially from coal, also employs constantly a number of hands in the manufactory of nails, whereby this part of the country has been, for some time, abundantly and well supplied with that useful article; and the necessity of importing it, as was formerly the case, thereby prevented, money kept in the country, and people employed at home, who otherwise would probably have been obliged to travel to a distance in search of their bread; male servants 44; female do. (including a number of women who are chiefly employed in what is called *out-work*, as hoeing the turnip, making the hay, reaping the harvest, removing the corn from the stack to the barn, &c.) 48; journeymen nailers,

‖ It may be proper here also to inform the reader, that the inhabitants of Spittal, Toner, Dykes, and Fastcastle, in the parish of Cavers; and Dovehaugh, Dovehaugh-brae head, Wells, West-lees, Billerwell, and Birch-hill, in the parish of Hobkirk, are much nearer the church of Bedrule, than their own parish churches; as also those of Fodderlee, Fodderlee-bank head, and Fodderlee-birks, (which are situated in the parish of Abbotrule, formerly a pendicle of Bedrule,) now united to Hobkirk.



mailers, &c. 9 ; poor receiving supply *in* the parish 7 ; *out* of the parish 4.

*Live Stock.*—There are in the parish, of work and saddle horses, 55 ; black cattle 200 ; of these, above a score are annually fed for the butcher, besides a number of sheep and young stock, most of which are brought into the parish in the winter season, from the Highlands, where they are grazed in summer, it having now become a general practice, for the same tenant to occupy farms in both the high and low part of the country, with that particular view ; sheep 100 score, mostly of the Cheviot breed ; a flock of the common goats of this country, of above a dozen, and also a few of the West India kind, which here breed and thrive well ; swine 40 ; carts 18 ; ploughs 18 ; 2 horses are commonly put to one plough, and Mr Brown ploughs a good deal with oxen, 2 also going in one plough, and without a driver, the same as horses.

*Crops and manure* —There are sown annually in the parish about 350 bolls oats ; 50 bolls barley ; 15 wheat ; 30 pease ; 20 potatoes ; and of late a few acres of tares, at Newton, which are mown green, and given to the horses. There have been usually sown of late years, about 100 acres turnip ; and nearly the same quantity in artificial grasses. There is also usually about the same quantity in what is called *naked fallow*. Lime is the manure chiefly used here in the improvement of land, notwithstanding the distance from which it must be brought, and consequently the expence attending it.

*Mills, &c.*—There is a corn mill and a bleachfield in the parish, both upon the Rule, and at a short distance from the village

village of Bedrule. There was also formerly a corn mill on the Tiviot, near Newton, the site of which, in consequence of alterations occasioned by floods in the course of that river, within these 40 years, is now scarcely discernible. Two orchards: One dovecot; but there happens also to be three very near in the neighbourhood.

*Rooks.*—The crops suffer less from the beautiful and useful bird the pigeon, than from the crow or rook, which seems to increase in number with improvement in agriculture, and which, as the pigeon, not only devours vast quantities of grain, but also destroys the potatoe and turnip, and the most hearty and luxuriant roots of the artificial grasses; all which, if not so injured, seem to thrive well in this part of the country. Might it not be proper, therefore, especially for the Board of Agriculture, *at least to recommend* the observance of an old law, passed in the reign of our James I. respecting these very destructive birds? For though, when kept in due bounds, they are believed to be, upon the whole, rather useful than hurtful, by also devouring slugs and grubs, &c. more concealed enemies of the fruits of the earth; yet, from their present astonishing numbers, and their seeming yearly more and more to increase, there certainly never were stronger reasons, than at present, in this part of the country, for the enforcement of that law, at least, till their numbers be again rendered moderate. Indeed, did such an act not already exist, the reasons for it have here become of late so strong and urgent, as to give good ground for the enactment of a law to that effect. As the act is short, and may not be generally known, we deem it proper here to insert it.

James 1st, Parliament 1st, c. 19. "Of bigging of ruikes in trees." "Item, For thy that men confidderis that ruikes  
biggand

“ biggand in kirks zairdes, orchardes, or trees, dois gréate  
 “ skaith upon cornes: It is ordained, that they that sik trees  
 “ pertainis to, lette them to big, and suffer on na wise that  
 “ their birdes flie away. And quhair it be tainted that they  
 “ big, and the birdes be flowin, and the nest be funden in  
 “ the trees at *Beltane*, the trees sal be fairfaulted to the King,  
 “ (bot gif they be redeemed fra him, throw them that they  
 “ first pertained to,) and hewin downe, and five schillings  
 “ to the Kingis unlaw.”

*Rent.*—The *valued rent* is 3475l. 13s. 4d. Scots. Of the *real rent*, one tenant pays about 370l. Sterling, another above 200l. Sterling, another about 200l. Sterling: Two finall farms, together with certain lands, possessed by tenants whose farms, in the parishes of Jedburgh, Ancrum, and Cavers, adjoin thereto, may be rated at 130l. Sterling. All the other lands in the parish are in the natural possession of the proprietors.

*Villages.*—There were anciently four *villages* in the parish, which are now much decayed, and the number of houses greatly diminished, viz. Bedrule to the West, Newton to the North-west, Rewcastle to the North-east, and Fulton to the South-west, from the centre of the parish.

*Bedrule.*—The *origin of the name* of *Bedrule*, (by the people usually pronounced *Bed de Rule*) is uncertain. What seems most probable is, that it signifies the *seat or resting place* of *Rule*, or *Regulus*, probably the tutelar Saint of the parish. But whether the Saint, or the ancient family of *Rule* (*de Rule*), gave name to the river, that village and other places upon its banks; (for besides Bedrule there are in the neighbourhood the town O'Rule, Hallrule, and Abbotrule) or whether the

river derived its name from the family of Rule, or from St Rule, is uncertain; or, perhaps, from the rapidity of the stream (for its stream is very rapid) it signifies *Roul*, (*Roll*) as in some old papers it is also written. Whether any of these be the true derivation is doubtful. But, it is most certain, that the chief of the family of *Turnbull*, a branch of the very ancient family of Rule, had his principal residence at Bedrule Castle, in ancient times, a strong hold, pleasantly situated behind the church, on the bank of the river; a situation equally remarkable for prospect, for safety, and for beauty; from the site of which (for the castle itself was demolished some time ago) though its elevation above the bed of the river be not very great, are seen distinctly, to the North-west, the most elevated tops of some of the hills by Ettrick and Yarrow, and the Eildons by Melrose Abbey; the Reid Swyre to the South-East, the source of the Reid and the Jed taking different directions, the Reid mixing with the waters of Tyne, and falling into the sea at Newcastle; the Jed, with those of the Tiviot and Tweed, which reach the sea at Berwick; and South-westward, the same frontier tract from whence the Liddel derives its source, which, after uniting with the Ewes and the Esk, falls into the Solway Firth, a branch of the Irish Sea. The view is more confined towards the East and the West, yet the tops of the Dunian and Ruberslaw \* hills in the neighbourhood, were situations most suitable in martial times, by the lighting of fires, for giving the alarm to the dependents and friends of the family, either for the purpose of defence or attack, on the sudden approach of an enemy.

*Newton.*

|                                                   |   |           |
|---------------------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| * Height of the Dunian from the level of the sea, | - | 1031 feet |
| ----- Ruberslaw                                   | - | 1419      |

*Newton*—Was anciently the property of a family of the surname of Ker, who appear to have been cadets of Fernihirst. There was also a house of strength there, now likewise demolished: but the beautiful avenues of venerable trees still remaining, bespeak to the passing traveller something of the consequence and taste of its former inhabitants.

*Rewcastle*—Situated upon a more elevated ground, than either Bedrule or Newton, is considered by some as a place of great antiquity. Indeed, it is said, however unlikely from its present appearance, that the Courts of Justice were originally held there, and afterwards removed to Jedburgh. The origin of the name, and whether it has been derived from proprietors of the surname of Rewcastle, or whether it may have given the surname to that family, is uncertain. Be that as it may, both surname and place are certainly of considerable antiquity.

*Fulton*—Has now scarcely any vestiges of its ancient consequence, except some remains of its tower, which are still standing, and sometimes used by the tenant as a *bught* for his sheep. The well known surname Fulton, corresponds to the name of this place; but we do not adventure to conjecture, whether there have been any connection between the one and the other; for we have been able, as yet, to trace less of its history, even by tradition, than any of the former.

*Encampments*.—There are plain vestiges of a regular encampment, on an elevated ground, almost at an equal distance between Bedrule and Newton. From its figure, which is still distinct, it appears to have been British. There



is another, at the distance of about half a mile to the eastward, which, from its square figure, seems to have been Roman. They are both but of small size, and occupy an area nearly of the same extent. The former is surrounded by a mound of earth, the latter by a mound and fosse.

*Minerals.*—There is great appearance of coal in the lands of Bedrule; and though the proprietor made lately an attempt to discover it, and was, for an individual, at considerable expence in the search, and though there were certainly some thin seams found, yet, in the issue, he was not so successful as his laudable perseverance most justly merited; not owing, as is still thought, by any means to the uncertainty of the symptoms, but to the great deepness of the main seam.

Indeed, an attempt of that nature, especially in a district where coal has not as yet been discovered, certainly ought rather to be undertaken upon suitable conditions, by a society, than attempted by an individual, however patriotic or liberal his spirit, unless his fortune be vast indeed. Nor, at any rate, ought the experiment to be committed to the management of obscure or unskilful people, or confined to a short space of time, or the limits of one estate or parish; but, after most careful examination, according to the advice of scientific men, of well known ability and character, the most likely spot in a district ought to be pitched upon, and wherever the probable trial is made, most seriously persevered in. Such a scheme would be truly patriotic, and probably, in the issue, become no less gainful than honourable to the undertakers, and of unspeakable advantage to the proprietor of the lands where there happened to be found so great a treasure, and would be an universal blessing to this otherwise naturally rich and happy country.

There

There is abundance of free-stone in the parish, of different kinds, red and white, both of excellent quality. Mainflaws quarry not only supplies Jedburgh and the neighbouring country, but stone from thence is also transported to the town of Hawick, at about seven miles distance, and sometimes a considerable way beyond it.

*Roads and Bridges.*—A branch of the great road from London to Edinburgh passes through the South part of the parish. The great road between Berwick and Carlisle directs its course through the North part the whole breadth of the parish. This road, the whole way across the island, is remarkable for variety and beauty, particularly where it passes through this parish and neighbourhood. Indeed, every where, it is presenting the traveller with scenes, delightful, new and interesting. One while he has an extensive prospect of a rich and improved country, most of it in as high a state of cultivation as perhaps it is capable of, thereby, at the same time, displaying the skill and industry of its prosperous inhabitants; the security, wealth, and freedom of the subject; the happy effects of the arts of peace, under the protection of law and good government; and in that very country, in those very fields, which formerly were filled, in consequence of the jarring interests, disputes, and quarrels of two high-spirited and warlike nations, with desolation, carnage, and blood; by the happy union of which, particularly in this tract of country, *the sword is beat into the ploughshare, the spear into the pruning-hook*. Another while, as he proceeds onward, and the vale becomes more contracted; the hill and the dale; the rock and the stream, here and there present themselves, and the well-laid out plantation, at a distance, and the near coppice of natural wood, skirting the banks, and hanging over the margin of the stream—  
these

these, with their various inhabitants, and still more diversified by other amusing and interesting objects, form together, successive groups of the most various and pleasing of rural scenery. Nor will the reader be surprized at this description, when he is informed, that this delightful road, directing its course by the pleasant towns of Coldstream, Kelso, Hawick, Langholm, and Longtown, conducts the traveller often upon the banks, almost always in view, of the charming rivers, the Tweed, the Tiviot, the Ewes, and the Esk, whose pastoral streams, render so delightful the most beautiful part of the Arcadia of Scotland. A branch of the same road, leading by Jedburgh, was lately made through this parish, by which a mail passes three times a week. The statute labour is here commuted, and the money thereby raised usually laid out on making and repairing the roads in the parish.

There are two bridges in the parish, both across the Rule, one near the village of Spittal, on the great road before mentioned, between Berwick and Carlisle, consisting of two arches ; the other consisting of one large arch, on the road from Hawick by Bedrule to Jedburgh.

*Hills.*—The Dunian merits particular notice, not so much from its own height or magnitude, as from the remarkable situation upon which it stands ; and, though rather small of itself, and diminishing in its appearance, the nearer one approaches it, yet, from its peculiar situation, it is almost every where seen from beyond where the waters begin to descend to the western shores of the island, to the utmost boundary of the eastern coast. As, in ancient times, churches and crosses were usually erected in the most conspicuous and elevated situations, to reach the eye of the pious traveller, or persons in distress, so, this remarkable hill, (*Dunian*, by those acquainted with the Gaelic language, being said to signify

nify *John's Hill* might, for the same reason, be dedicated to the beloved disciple of Christ, that it might become the medium of safety and comfort to the numberless votaries of the favourite disciple of Jesus, in jeopardy either by land or by water, especially when their eye could not catch in its view a sacred fane or salutary crucifix. For, notwithstanding the smallness of its size; owing, not so much to its elevated, as strikingly obvious situation, it is plainly seen almost every where in all directions, particularly over that vast tract of country, comprehending what were formerly the middle and eastern marches, or frontiers of the two kingdoms, extending from the western extremity of the Reidswyre, to the German ocean, and overlooking, in a singularly commanding prospect, an immense extent of classical ground, equally celebrated in poetry and song, as it is memorable in the page of martial history. For, the prospect from this remarkable eminence, different from that from the site of Bedrule castle, is almost alike open to all quarters. Near, and eastward below, the spectator views, as it were in a basin, the town of Jedburgh, much distinguished by the venerable ruins of its formerly rich and magnificent abbey, anciently the peaceful and happy retreat of Monks of the order of St. Augustin. At a greater distance, and to the north west, and on the opposite side of the silver streambed Tiviot, as in an amphitheatre, opening to the south, the eye is struck with the plain, yet elegant modern house of Minto, which, though remarkable for its romantic situation, is greatly more distinguished as the birth place of eminent patriots, statesmen and legislators, guardians of their country. To the south-east, and at still a farther distance, appears also strikingly in view, the house of Edgerston, equally distinguished for the fidelity, prowess, and loyalty of its inhabitants, as it is remarkable for its having continued for many ages, the  
 feat

seat of an ancient Scottish Baron, the nearest to the English, now the British capital; and thereby, in this famous Isle, has at last become, instead of the utmost barrier of the northern, happily the centre of the United Kingdom. Westward, he views, from its source, the beautiful windings of the woody Rule, where it issues in three streams from the lofty mountains, the Not O' the Gate, Fan2, and Windburgh, to where its rapidly rolling flood mixes with the Tiviot, opposite to the castle of Fatlips, which is most romantically situated north of that river, almost in a line with the course of the Rule, on the summit of the easternmost, and most picturesque of the Minto craigs; hills which, for situation and natural beauty, are not surpassed by any in this country.

*Poor.*—The indigent here are chiefly supported by assessment; a method, however well-intended, and, in the present state of society, in many parts of the country, perhaps unavoidable, is doubtless, at the same time, often hurtful to the deserving poor, to humanity, and the interest of those on whom the burden is laid. There are 500 merks which were mortified (funk) to the poor of the barony of Bedrule 1695, by William Ramfay in Bedrule mill, and Margaret Turnbull, his wife; of which it is said, (for the writer never saw the deed of mortification itself) the family of Cavers Carre are left trustees. Mrs Mary Ann Stevenson, relict of the Rev. Mr James Borland, mortified (funk) 100l. Scots to the poor of this parish, of which, in the account thereof, in the parish record, the Session appear to have been appointed by her the overseers. But, with the deed of mortification itself, if ever any was executed by Mrs Borland, the writer is not as yet acquainted. The latter sum, with other monies, savings of the Session in former times



times, are stocked out at interest, in two *cumulo* sums, the one of 45l. the other of 11l. Sterling.

*Parochial Register.*—The register of the names of children born in the parish, seems to have been carefully attended to from the commencement of the above mentioned record 1690, until the enactment of a late act of Parliament, laying a small tax thereon ; which, very different from the purpose thereby intended, here operates as a prohibition. For, although the tax be small, and doubtless trifling to many, even of the common people, in towns, where money is plenty, and wages high ; yet, not a few of the labouring poor, especially in remote parts of the country, consider it as hard ; and, therefore, whatever can be said, as it entirely depends on their own choice, whether they have their childrens names recorded in the parish register or not, do, most of them, in this parish at least, discontinue a practice so necessary in society, and often so useful and interesting to individuals ; and, unfortunately, from the poverty of the people, this seems to be most generally the case in the country, where, different from populous towns, there is almost no other means to supply that omission ; and, unluckily, those are the people, who, notwithstanding their mean circumstances, usually rear, on their scanty earnings, the most numerous, uncorrupted, and hardy offspring ; and, thereby, happily counteract the baneful effects of idleness, immorality, and dissipation in Society. Such, therefore, in every view, are well entitled to have their childrens births recorded, thereby, not only to discover the changes, resources, and strength of the nation, but also, so far as to themselves or posterity may be interesting or agreeable, to have the place of their birth, their age and memory, preserved on record. We therefore

accord with the author of the Statistical Account of the parish of                      who suggests the propriety of granting them a small premium for doing this, rather than to prevent them, by the imposition of a very trifling, and consequently unproductive tax; and, were this the case, it would certainly seem neither hard nor unreasonable, were the Legislature to charge with a tax, all those who, notwithstanding such indulgence and favour, neglect to acquit themselves of a duty so necessary, both to their children and society.

*School.*—The schoolmaster has what is called a legal salary, which, when fixed by law, as the *minimum*, was a sum of considerable value, but now, from the astonishing change on the value of money, is a sorry pittance indeed. As they are mostly the children of poor people who attend him, the wages are also low, and he has nothing now allowed him, as he formerly had, for teaching poor scholars. His school-house\* is almost a ruin.

*Manse.*—The manse is also in a bad state; but, as it has been twice condemned, once by a jury of tradesmen appointed by the presbytery, according to law, 20th June 1792; another time, by a second jury of tradesmen, by order of the Court of Session, mutually chosen by the heritors and presbytery, 26th July 1793; it is to be re-built, and in a situation more dry and less exposed than the present one, and also at a small distance from the church.

*Stipend, &c.*—The living of Bedrule was originally, what, according to our law, is called a benefice. The whole teinds  
in

\* For a schoolmaster's right to a school-house and salary, *vide* Act 5. Parl. 1. Cha. 1. Act 26. Sess. 6. Parl. 1. K. W.

In the parish, viz. both parsonage and vicarage, having pertained, *pleno jure*, to the kirk or parson. And this was the case, not only before, but also a considerable time after the Reformation, as well when Presbyterian church government prevailed, as while Episcopacy was the established religion of this country. But, during the civil wars, a considerable change seems to have taken place, by no means favourable to the living. Yet, notwithstanding, the minister, till lately, had right by a decret of locality of stipend, passed 19th February 1662, to 400l. Scotch money, and 35 merks for furnishing communion-elements, with 3 chalders, 5 bolls and odds victual, and the whole vicarage teinds, *ipsa corpora*, of the baronies of Bedrule, Rewcastle, and Knowsouth, in lieu of a small additional sum of money, also allowed for furnishing elements, and an additional quantity of victual, contained in a decret of modification of stipend, dated 13th February 1650, on which said decret of locality was founded. But by a late modification, the stipend is considerably altered, of which the writer is, as yet, unable to give a full account. Joseph Hume, Esq; of Ninewells, in Berwickshire, is patron of the parish.

The *glebe*\*, in an instrument taken by Mr Henry Elliot, minister of Bedrule, as far back as 3d June 1640, in the lan-

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guage

\* Each landward minister, by act 118, Parliament 12. James VI. 5th June 1592, (besides his stipend, &c.) is entitled to 4 acres Scotch, equal to 5 acres English, of the best arable or *infield* kirk-land in the parish, contiguous or nearest to the church, over and above what is occupied by his manse, offices, garden, and stack-yard, for which there is usually assigned half an acre; and by Act 7th, Parliament 18th, James VI. 9th July 1606, if there be no kirk lands of that description in the parish, near to the church, as from said act appears to have been the case in a number of parishes in the kingdom at that time, particularly on the borders, and in the Highlands, to have the whole or whatever was rendered thereby deficient, made up of kirk land *outfield*.

guage of those times, designed, *the whole glebe and kirklands*\* has been a good deal ameliorated by former incumbents, though much still remains to be done. The progress they have made in clearing it of immense quantities of granite or whin stones, with which, notwithstanding all that has been done, it still abounds, is the most essential and durable improvement that has been made. For though, in its original state, it might be judged equal in value to 4 acres Scotch, (5 acres English,) of good arable land, yet, from their improvements, and the extent of its surface, which, with the bed of the river, that partly intersects it, and a steep bank occupied by wood, † all taken together

*outfield*, sufficient to pasture four *soums*, in lieu of each acre arable, to which he was otherwise entitled, being designed him. From this, as well as from other causes, particularly on the borders and in the Highlands, it happens that some glebes are of greater extent than others, independent of grass sufficient to pasture one horse and two cows being assigned according to act 24th, Parliament 1st, Charles II. 1663, to which, notwithstanding, by said act, the ministers of these parishes are also entitled: *vide* Mackenzie's observations on act 17th, Parliament 18th, James VI. And, therefore, from the difference of the ability and pains of incumbents in improving such glebes, as well as from their size and the nature of their soil, obviously proceeds the difference of their value. Hence the importance of adopting some reasonable plan, as has been often suggested, the more effectually to excite all ministers, who are able, to do so, without prejudice or loss to those who do it, their families or heirs, on the event of their removal or death. By this means, though successors were bound to make a reasonable allowance for important and durable improvements, at the sight of arbiters chosen by the parties, the livings would be benefited, while none concerned could be any way injured.

\* As "*the glebe and kirk land of the kirk of Jedburgh*," *vide* said record, 25th March same year; *vide* also chap. 62. Par. 5. James VI.; chap. 10. Par. 23. James VI.

† Though the minister had been in use to cut the wood on his glebe, yet the heritors of Bedrule, soon after the admission of Mr George Dickson, questioned his right to do so, who, when the cause was tried in the Court of Session, obtained a decret in favour of his title, passed 30th July 1754,

by

gether, may contain an area of near three times that quantity; it is now of greater value, and might be rendered still more so, were it compleatly cleared of earthfast stones, and properly drained and inclosed.

The minister has neither his \**soums grafs*, as some of his predecessors appear to have had, nor any allowance for them, that he knows of.

There was formerly a large common in the parish, on which, by use and wont, he had right to pasture, &c. It was

by Lord Drumore, Ordinary on the bills. In consequence of which, the minister is in the practice, as he has always been, of disposing of the wood on his glebe like any other crop, according as he judges proper, without any molestation or interference whatever.

\* In ancient times, when it was necessary to unite the people as close as possible by a common interest for their common defence, and in defence of their country, it was customary for the land called *infield* or arable, to be held and occupied by proprietors and tenants, in what was called *run rig*, each, as his property was small or great, having been thereby able to *roum* and fodder in winter, a number of cattle in proportion to the quantity of his arable land. And, for the same reason, it seems probable, that the land *outfield*, in many places, was occupied in common, each proprietor or tenant, in a certain district, parish, or estate, having been thereby entitled to *soum* or pasture on the *outfield land* in summer, in proportion to the number and kinds of cattle he was thus able to *roum* or fodder in winter, by means of his share of *infield-land*.

A *soum* is said to have consisted of about ten sheep or one cow, a horse having been considered as equal to two *soums*.

The minister of every landward parish, has, by law, Act 24. Parl. 1. Cha. II. 1663, besides what is usually called his arable glebe, as above mentioned, also right to *grafs* or *grazing* for one horse and two cows; or to have a sufficient quantity of suitable land, near the church, laid off for that purpose; or to have 20 l. Scots paid him annually in lieu thereof, a sum, at that time, fully equivalent thereto, or temporal land designed: For though Act 31 Parl. 1644, respecting an arable glebe; and Act 45. Parl. 1649, respecting *grafs*, were repealed by Act rescissory; yet the above mentioned Act 24. Parl. 1. Cha. II. 1663, was certainly meant to serve all the purposes of said acts, in favour of the established clergy.



was divided 9th September 1696, without any share being laid off to the minister in lieu thereof. Against these dilapidations, the then incumbent, Mr James Borland, as minister of Bedrule, protested, in his own name, and in name of his successors in office, ministers there; and this he did on the ground, and at the time, when the heritors were occupied with their arbiters in dividing the same; and, thereupon, took instruments in the hands of Thomas Cranstoun, notar public, in presence of fundry witnesses, as a copy of said instrument, now before the writer, more fully shews. But Mr Borland, having been then advanced in life, seems to have done this merely to exonerate himself, and to preserve, as well as he could, a right to any of his successors, who might think it expedient, fully to prosecute it: "For, the law has ordained, that the minister or parson, *quatenus parson*, never dies, but he and his successors are viewed in a corporate capacity. Hence, all the original rights of the parsonage are, in the eye of the law, preserved entire and inviolate to the successor. The present incumbent and his predecessor, who lived a century or more ago, are, in law, one and the same person; what was the right of the one, is still the right of the other." There was likewise a small common near the church called *Gourlay Bog*, on which the minister of Bedrule was also in use to pasture, and, like the former, was divided, but at a later period, without any part thereof being assigned him, or any indemnification, as yet made for the loss the living thereby sustained. He has right to cast 10 *darg* ‡ of *turf* ¶ annually, viz. 6 on the muir of Fulton, Corcleugh and Bedrule; 2 on Newton Muir, and 2 on Rewcastle Muir. Indeed, as coals are at a very great

‡ A *darg* of turf is as many as can be cast with one spade in one day.

¶ For a minister's right to fuel, &c. and all other privileges, according to use and wont, *vide* chap. 165. Parl. 13. James 6th. 21st July 1593.

great distance; and the roads, till of late turnpikes were made, a great part of the year almost impassable; and no peat in the parish, it seems probable, that turf, which is here, in general, remarkably good, was the fuel chiefly used in former times. But now that coals are attainable, though, owing to the great distance they are brought, and to toll-bars on the road, very expensive; even the poorest people in the parish, use a few of them.

*Church.*—The antiquity of the church, we are as yet unable to trace; but, from its figure and construction, it seems to have been built in those times, when the constitution of men was greatly more strong than it is at present; for, according to the custom of our hardy forefathers, it is partly below ground, and the windows, or rather slits, are not made to open and shut, by which the air is unavoidably affected, and rendered somewhat like that in a family vault or damp cellar. The whole fabric is much decayed, and has been, for a considerable time, in a ruinous state.

Notwithstanding our other improvements, we are extremely sorry we have to regret the bad state of many of our parish churches, and that thereby so little encouragement is given to the people to attend public worship there, where it is obviously the interest, as well as the bounden duty of the teacher to instruct them to fear God, to honour the King, to obey the good Laws, to respect and revere the happy Constitution of their country, and to pray that thereby liberty and peace may not only be enjoyed by them in their days, but also conveyed full and entire to their children, and, by the same happy and liberal means, transmitted unimpaired to the latest posterity. We are the more particular on this head, for the information of *strangers* §, many of whom, we understand,

form,

§ It may be proper here also to inform strangers, that the Established Clergy

form an unfavourable opinion of the religion, people, and clergy of this country on that account ; as, with the greatest justice, we are able to assure them, that the bad, and indeed very indecent state in which they find many of the parish churches

Clergy of Scotland are supported by a small part of the ancient patrimony of the national church, the remainder thereof being mostly in the possession of lay *titulars* or impropriators, whereby, properly speaking, the public can be understood no more to contribute to the maintenance of the Established Clergy, than to that of these lay *titulars*, or impropriators of the patrimony of the church. Therefore, by our law, when it is judged necessary, from the change on the value of money, or any other obvious and onerous cause, for the court of teinds, which was originally a committee of the Parliament of Scotland, to grant what is called an augmentation, or, more properly speaking, to bring the minister's present stipend somewhat nearer to its original value, they can have recourse to these funds only ; and no landholders or others are affected either with stipend, or what is called augmentation of stipend, but only so far as they are proven to be possessed of them ; and though the small remains of the patrimony of the church, that are still reserved by the Constitution for these purposes, were, by law, also secularized, and either applied for the lightening of the taxes, or granted, by royal favour, as the rest have been, to individuals, for services real or supposed, this would not diminish, but, perhaps, rather increase the burden on those on whom it presently lies, who can pretend no right thereto, more than they can to the old church lands, or free teinds heritably possessed by others, or the free teinds of their own estates, which they, their ancestors, or authors, have neither obtained by favour from the Crown, nor as yet purchased, according to law, from their lay *titulars*, or impropriators. As the secularization of these funds, when understood, in point of interest, is little to be desired by heritors, so also, if they view the matter properly, as little by the comunalty, not even by Dissenters themselves ; and, we believe, is really seriously desired by few who have a sincere regard for the good of their country : because we know of no *species* of *Christianity* it would not be obviously the interest of society to be the Established Religion, rather than *none* ; for, however in speculative points they may differ, and, in these, often more in words than ideas, in their regard for morals, we are satisfied, all the sincere are perfectly united, and we believe that most, even of Dissenters, who feel the comfort, and admit the usefulness of social worship and public instruction, are also friendly to the preservation

churches in this country, neither proceeds from the genius of Presbytery (the Established Religion) the temper of the people of Scotland, nor the taste of the Established Clergy, who all feel, and often express the hardship of their situation

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of the establishment of parochial churches and schools. And that this is the case, is evident from this, that none do more heartily accord with the common, and perhaps, in too many instances, well founded outcry against the late frequent annexations and suppressions in different parts of the country. And; therefore, the only difference on that head is, as is natural and supposeable, that each would wish the clergy and schoolmasters, settled in the parish churches and schools, established by law, of their own sect or profession. But all must see, that in this, as in a few speculative opinions, in which sects differ from each other, they are not only opposed to all who at present adhere to the Established Church, by far the major part of the community, but are also thereby equally in opposition to the inclinations and wishes of one another. Nay; farther, when the matter is duly considered, the annihilation of an Established Clergy, as it is against the inclination, so, obviously, it would be contrary to the secular interest of the people. For there is not, perhaps, a popular complaint better founded; and, in the justice of which all descriptions of men are more agreed, than that against the modern custom of the the money raised in the country by the non-residence of many of the landholders, different from the practice of their fathers, being spent so much at a distance from it. Now, by our excellent Constitution, the clergy of Scotland are all without exception bound to reside. By this means all that they receive in stipend, out of the lands of their respective parishes, &c. is, thereby, not only kept in the country, but, most of it, spent in the several parishes and nearest market towns to these parishes, in which, both by the laws of the church and the state, they, the clergy, are bound to reside. Whatever, therefore, be the wish of those (we trust they are but few) who are equally inimical to order, to law, and to good government, as they are to religion, we are satisfied; that few, if any, of any description, even of Dissenters, at least in this part of the country, have so far degenerated from the well known principles of their pious and virtuous ancestors, as to wish national religion altogether abolished, but only, that it were of that sect or party of which they are members. But supposing it otherwise, we would ask such, What they would think of a Government or State, suppose Great Britain, that would seize upon all that has been disposed by individuals for the support of religious worship and public instruction, it

in this respect, and their hearty disapprobation thereof; and some of the people thus circumstanced, even go the length to give it as the reason for their remaining at home in bad weather, and others, of deserting the Established Church altogether,

is no matter, if it has been tolerated by law, of what sect or description? Would this not cut down, at one stroke, the pious funds of all the Dissenters, together with the remaining part of the patrimony of the church, still reserved by the Legislature to be applied according to its original intention, for the support of national religion, *i. e.* *public worship and instruction*? The Established Clergy of Scotland, as was said, being, by law, most strictly bound to reside, none of them, therefore, are capable of holding pluralities, or any living, *in commendam*, by which means, independent of the suitableness of this salutary regulation, the money they receive in stipend, &c. as was also mentioned, is necessarily circulated in the parishes and nearest market towns to where it is raised, by which means the people have not only immediately the benefit of their instruction, advice, and friendship, but also, mediately, of the stipends they receive, by their being expended amongst them. By the law of Scotland, also, the poor of every description or sect whatever, without exception, in each landward parish, have a legal title to call upon the established minister, and he is bound, if the heritors and tenants do not duly affect themselves in what is reasonable for their maintenance, upon proper information, to report to the Judge Ordinary, what appears so to him, and aid the may be otherwise altogether helpless, and thereby prevent what might, in some cases, perhaps, prove a fatal delay. For the minister is usually unable, however disposed, himself to supply them, or to find any other certain means whereby to supply them, according to their often great and urgent necessities. And, therefore, this benevolent and wise regulation, in our law, though seldom exercised, is a most necessary and proper security to the poor, especially in these times, different from those in which landholders generally resided in the country, and regularly attended the church; by which means, they not only had an opportunity to hear and know weekly, the state of the poor in the parish, but, besides contributing themselves, of setting an example to their tenants and dependants, also, to contribute to their relief; whereas, it is now too generally customary for them, not only to reside the greatest part of the year, if not altogether, in the Capital, or some great town, but, when in the country, rarely, if at all, to attend public worship. As this modern practice has already greatly affected society, so it is particularly hurtful to the inte-

rest



together, and attending divine service with the Dissenters, whose houses of worship, though built by contribution, are decent, convenient, and comfortable; and choose rather to do this, though accompanied with expence, than attend the Established Clergy in those churches where their health is in danger. Strangers will naturally wish to be informed from whence the neglect proceeds. Candour, however painful, obliges us plainly to state the answer. By the law and practice of Scotland, different from what obtains in some other countries, the burden of building and repairing the churches established by law, particularly in *landward* or country parishes, is not raised by assessment on all possessors of lands and houses, whether tenant or proprietor, indiscriminately, nor raised by briefs, but is raised from lands only; and, therefore, by the same right, according to the Constitution and present existing law of Scotland, by which our *heritors* or landholders in the act called *parishioners*\* possess their estates,

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they

rest and comfort of the modest and deserving poor, by so much breaking off their connection with the wealthy, and, in most cases, even preventing them being known to them; by which means, the modest and shameless, the industrious and slothful, the deserving and worthless, are unavoidably placed on the same footing, and classed indiscriminately on the same common roll, which, though in an assessment of that nature, can scarcely be avoided, is obviously the occasion of many and great evils, besides increasing the *poor-rates*.

\* *Parishioners*, i. e. *heritors*. This expression is equally agreeable to the law and practice of Scotland: "For, (in the words of a great lawyer † on that head) all who have lands in a parish, are considered as *parishioners*, without respect to their residence, as to all *parochial burdens*, which are proportioned to the valuation of every heritor's lands in the parish, and not to his quality or his lands in other parishes." Act 54. Parl. 3. Ja. 6. 1572. "And (in the words of the same great man) the church yard is fenced with dykes, partly for ornament, and partly as a preservative to the dead bodies, from

being

† *Forbes on Teinds*, pages 209 and 215.

they are bound, besides upholding manse and school-house, to build and repair the parish church, church-yard walls, &c. where their lands are situated, in a reasonable and decent manner. Hence, as is obvious, such landholders, and they only, who neglect to do so, *give ground* for that reflection; and the bad state of many of the parish churches of this country, thereby become so just a cause of complaint to the people, to the very people, who by their adherence to the established religion of the country, certainly do shew themselves not the least friendly to our happy Constitution, in church and in state; thereby, also, as is obvious, the laws are infringed, and the most peaceable and religious of his Majesty's subjects, much aggrieved. For, the law of this country is so well and so wisely framed, as to lay the burden of building and repairing the church and school-house, &c. upon the rich, to relieve the poor, not upon persons, but upon property, therefore, no individual's rights or property are or can be, invaded or affected thereby; nor can any persons or classes of men, of whatever description, be any way interfered with, but as proprietors of lands, *for their lands only*; on which express condition they are conveyed and held; and, therefore, by neglecting to acquit themselves of these legal engagements, to which they are bound by the same tenure they hold their estates, as well as to fulfill so pious and important

being digged up and devoured by beasts. The building and repairing of churches and church-yard dykes, was once referred to the Privy Council, act 76. Parl. 9. 2d May 1693. But now the parishioners, *i. e. heritors*, must build and repair the church yard dykes with stone and mortar two elns (yards) high, with sufficient stiles and entries, and the Lords of Session are to direct letters of horning against them to that effect: Act 232. Parl. 15. Ja. 6. 1597." The parishioners (heritors) are also bound to provide communion cups, tables, and table cloths, &c. *vide* chap. 6. Parl. 22. Ja. 6. 1617.

portant a duty ; they, at the same time, plainly shew a high disrespect to the worship of God, and a great disregard for the Constitution and Laws of their country, by which they are secured and protected in the enjoyment of their rights and property.

It may be asked, Is there no *compulsitor* provided by law in hard cases ? There is. But, not to mention how averse the people residing in a parish, naturally must be to enter into a process at law with the very persons of whom they farm their lands ; the trouble and expence of such a process, with men so weighty and powerful, is an objection to them for the most part insurmountable. And it is the more hard, as there is no reason to doubt, but that the people in the communion of the Established Church would be equally forward, according to their abilities, to re-build and repair their churches, as the Dissenters are their houses of worship, were it not, that the law has so wisely ordered it otherwise, by laying the burden of supporting the established religion of the country, on lands purchased and held on that express condition, whereby all persons of whatever description, except proprietors of lands *for their lands only*, are, justly speaking, exempted ; and those alone, who are inclined to adhere to the established church, are affected by their neglect ; and thus, thereby, either made to suffer, or involve themselves in a process of law, which, for reasons above mentioned, they rarely adventure upon ; or absent themselves from divine service ; a custom, alas ! become too common ; or take refuge among the Dissenters, whose houses of worship are duly attended to, and where the people sit, in the severest weather, dry and comfortable : and, it is proper to add, what certainly ought to have much weight, that however inclined those adhering to the Established Church, in most country parishes, may be to accommodate themselves, if the law had not ordered

dered it otherwise, this is in a great measure to them impracticable, not only by their distance from one another, but more especially their generally low circumstances, who, notwithstanding, as our happy Constitution has fixed it, have as good a right, by law, to enjoy the advantages of religious instruction and education, by the wise institution of parochial clergy, and established schoolmasters, as their more wealthy brethren in cities and in towns, to whom, by their nearness to one another, their numbers and greater wealth, the want of these establishments, so particularly necessary in the country, might, however proper also in towns, by the inhabitants thereof, be more easily supplied; whereas, if the poor and scattered inhabitants in most landward parishes, be deprived of the benefit of their established churches and parochial schools, as appointed by law, many of them, especially in remote situations, must unavoidably lose the advantages of religious instruction and education, † so interesting, not only  
to

† As mortifications and donations amongst dissenters are intended to support a particular church or sect, according to the will of the donors, so the funds in Scotland, appropriated by law for the support of public teachers, in landward districts or parishes, ought, in like manner, ever to be considered as sacred deposits, wisely preserved by the legislature in favour of the community, in order that people in the meanest circumstances, and most retired situations, may always have the opportunity of being instructed in true religion, "to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly; to do to all as they would they should do to them, were they in their circumstances," and whenever the institution of public instructors has a different tendency, which, we are apt to believe, is seldom the case, this by no means proceeds from the nature or principle of the institution itself, but from the perversion of its original intention and obvious use, and this the community ought, therefore, ever most carefully to guard against, and also against any of its members being constrained to attend the Established teachers, in preference to others, or those who do attend them, being any way disturbed on that account.

to themselves and their children, but also to the political health and happiness of the state.

It will probably be supposed, that the minister of the parish, in particular, is thereby called upon, in duty, to insist for the fulfilment of the law ; but, not to mention what is usually the case, his utter inability, in point of circumstances, to enter the lists with a number of wealthy and powerful opponents, and that, too, without any other aid or countenance, but the goodness of his cause ; he is almost certain of being thereby involved in inexpressible difficulties ; and, in the issue, as has often been experienced, may not only have the mortification of being disappointed of success, but also, however unjustly, of being thereby held up as litigious, teasing, and troublesome.¶

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¶ Indeed it may be proper, in this place, to observe, in general, that the people seem more dissatisfied at their inability to render the laws efficient, than at what they consider the most unequal and heavy of the taxes : that some of them chuse rather to submit to oppression and the loss of their property, than contend in a law suit with the wealthy, &c. because they are afraid, which ever way it go, of the effects thereof, while their rich opponents, from their greater wealth, &c. would be scarcely at all affected by it, and they can thereby easily, also, perplex and prolong the business, and carry it from one Court to another, where, from the greater expence, distance, &c. they, their feeble antagonists, are still more unable to contend :—And that this is sometimes effectually held out *in terrorem*, when any of them happen to be hardy enough to presume to maintain their just rights, contrary to the pleasure of their more opulent neighbours. † To add to these hardships, they also complain, that they have not access for ordinary, to those by whom they are aggrieved, to plead their cause or state their case, hardships and grievances, but only through people employed by them, of whom they have usually a still more unfavourable

† From the words of a certain great man, (Dr Johnson) it is evidently his opinion, that “ No scheme of policy has, in any country yet, brought the rich and poor “ on equal terms, into Courts of Judicature.” But he seems not altogether to despair of it ; for he adds, “ Perhaps experience improving on experience, may in time effect it.”



It is for reasons such as these, and not from a want of desire on the part of the people and minister of Bedrule, to have every thing put on a legal footing, that the church-yard wall is in great disrepair, that the gate is so broken down and neglected, as not to prevent the intrusion of swine, and thereby to alarm the people in the neighbourhood for the graves of their deceased relations; that the church bell, which has been long rent, is now altogether useless by the want of a tongue; that the beadle is without a salary; that the manse has, till of late, been inhabited by the minister, notwithstanding its long very bad state; that the *church and schoolhouse* still remain in their ruinous condition. And, we are sorry to say, that that kind of neglect is too common over the country; and, not to mention that many, who from their rank or station,

unfavourable opinion; and, therefore, to whom, though, for the most part, we believe, unjustly, they are apt to ascribe their hardships and difficulties. But, in order to judge how much this is the case, we need only remind our reader of the answer given by Charles II., though represented, at the same time, by the historian who relates the fact, as of a humane and feeling disposition, when informed of the hardships the people suffered, under the administration of a certain great servant of his: "I perceive, said he, that Lauderdale has been guilty of many bad things against the people of Scotland; but I cannot find, that he has acted any thing *contrary to my interest*." And, therefore, notwithstanding, his confessed humanity, he neither called him to account, nor dismissed him his service, far less did he give him orders to repair the injuries done. When we have said thus much, we submit the weight and importance of our observations, with great deference, to the penetrating eye of an impartial public, particularly to those in the senate and judgment-seat, whom our excellent Constitution has happily rendered independent and free. And, the more plainly, because, we are satisfied, that the best support of any nation, the strongest pillars of any government, are, That the people's morals be sound, that their manners be civil, that their religion be liberal, that the laws, that *justice*, be equally easy and accessible to all.

station, as well as interest in the country, ought certainly to set a better example, absent themselves from public worship altogether, the disrespect that is thus shewn to law and religion, as well as disregard to the inclination, convenience, and comfort of the people, is, in our opinion, equally impolitic in them as it is illegal and profane. For, we may expect, and we pray God it be not in some degree the case already, that the contempt that has been of late so generally thrown on religion and its peaceful adherents, may, in time, excite the multitude, who are but too apt to imitate the *vices* of their superiors, rather than their *virtues*, to shake off their honest, as well as pious principles, and at last to become, if not as profane, at least as corrupt as too many of those who esteem themselves their betters. When this event takes place, which, if not wisely prevented, may be nearer than many of us imagine, those who have done the mischief must severely feel the effects of it, and will thereby, though, perhaps, too late, find the *necessity*, from the want of a better *principle*, of setting the example of a proper regard to the laws of God and their country, for their own *interest* and in their own *defence*. For, whatever false and vain philosophers may pretend, a nation or people, without *religion* will also be without *principle*.

But the writer, when he has said thus much, is at the same time happy, with great justice and equal pleasure, to be able to add, that by far the greater part of the heritors or landholders of Scotland are of a very different description. And, therefore, from a real regard to the worship of God, the comfort, good will, and convenience of the people, and concern for the credit of their native country, as well as from their high respect for its constitution and laws, they have the parish churches, where their lands are situated, not only *decent* and *comfortable*, but some of them *elegant*.

*Clergy.* ¶—Mr Joseph Tennent, who seems to have been one of the first of the Reformed clergy in this part of the country, is mentioned in an old record of presbytery, as minister of Bedrule, as far back as the 1606, and lived till about the 1631; who also held, for a considerable time, the living of Abbotrule, the cure of which he likewise served, even down to about the year 1621, when it was disjoined from Bedrule; and Mr James Ker, laird of the Grange, an estate in that parish, whose wife was charged with *witchcraft*, but, as appears from the above record, *most unjustly*, was ordained there; he being the first Protestant minister of Abbotrule after its disjunction from Bedrule. Mr Tennent was succeeded by Mr David Fowlis, who was admitted 30th October 1633, by the Bishop of Caithness § and presbytery of Jedburgh. Mr Fowlis was soon after translated to Oxnam, which, in those times, seems to have been considered as one of the most valuable livings in the South of Scotland; and Mr Henry Peirson succeeded him in the benefice of Bedrule. But the Covenanters †, soon after gaining the ascendancy, both

¶ Here it may not be unworthy of remark, that the Scottish Church, in the rank of her Clergy, before her connexion with the See of Rome, was nearly the same as she became immediately on her Reformation from Popery: And, that *the Liturgy*, or *Book of Common Order*, received and used by the Reformed Kirk of Scotland, and commonly called *Knox's Liturgy*, for piety, simplicity, natural ease and energy of expression, is equalled by few, and surpassed by none.

§ This was Dr John Abernethy, then also minister of Jedburgh, and author of a theological work, entitled, “A Christian and Heavenly Treatise, containing Physic for the Soul.” His name is mentioned in the printed acts of that period, as a Member of several Committees of the Scotch Parliament.

† The following extract, from the record of Presbytery, will enable the reader to form some idea, how indiscriminately the Covenant was administered, or rather imposed, upon many of the people, at that time, when the censures

both these gentlemen were removed from their churches, for their attachment to Episcopacy. Mr Henry Elliot was the

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Presbyterian

asures of the Church were followed up by civil penalties ‡ “ At Jedburgh the last day of February 1644 (*Inter alia*) The quilk day Mr Walter Makgill acquainted the brethrin by his letter, that having summoned John Young and Thomas Young in Falscastle, before his Session, for not subscribing the Covenant, the saids persons told the kirk officer, that they would *ken* (*know or acknowledge*) no session nor minister, *but follow the command of their master, my Lord Traquair*; and for refusal, he caused summon them before this presbytery against this day, who not compearing, was ordeaned to be summoned *pro reo* with certification.” Hence the danger of imposing indiscriminately the same oath on all persons of every description, as well as the pernicious consequence of multiplying oaths, and rendering an appeal to God, that last and most sacred pledge of security to society, too frequent and familiar to the people. Mr Macgill was minister of Cavers, and, as appears from the same record, preached before the presbytery of Jedburgh, which met there 30th July 1645, for the visitation of his kirk, at the advanced age of 101. Falscastle, which was then the property of the Earl of Traquair, is a curious mound of earth, whether natural or artificial, is uncertain, on which, till of late, there were several houses, and, though in the parish of Cavers, is situated so near the site of the Castle of Bedrule, as gives ground to some to suppose it to have been raised in ancient times, as an outwork to that fortress.

‡ However, at the same time, in justice to the memory of the Covenanters, we readily admit, that the baneful spirit of intolerance cannot with truth be more justly ascribed to them than to most of the other sects in Europe at that time. For all who are acquainted with the history of that period, well know, that the spirit of intolerance, from bad policy and mistaken zeal, was unhappily the marked characteristic of most of the great contending parties of those times, according as they became possessed of power: Than which, as nothing is obviously more inimical to the peace of society and the safety and happiness of individuals, so, in the jurisprudence of nations, nothing ought more carefully to be guarded against. For though we see, by the same melancholy history, the Catholic and Protestant, the Episcopalian and Presbyterian, while feeling the cruel effects of that hateful spirit, alike keenly inweighing against it, yet, we find them, when possessed of power, persecuting in their turn: Alas! in this respect, all evidently shewing themselves equally forgetful of their own complaints and sufferings, as of the laws, precepts, and pattern of the meek and lowly Jesus, whom, as they united in confessing the common Author of their Faith, they, (all the sincere) doubtless considered as their only perfect example, lawgiver, and judge.

Presbyterian minister who succeeded Mr Peirson, and was admitted by the presbytery of Jedburgh, assisted by Commissioners from the neighbouring presbyteries of Selkirk, Kelso, and Erskiloun.\* He died about the year 1653.

Mr

\* As the following extract from the old sederunt book of the acts and proceedings of the presbytery of Jedburgh, gives the reader a distinct view of the form of admission and institution used by our ancestors, *Presbyterians*, and shews, with what attention and accuracy they conducted business, we, for the entertainment of the curious, insert it here :

“ At Bedroule, 3d Junii 1640.

“ The whilk day being appointed for the admission of Mr Henry Elliot  
 “ to the function of the ministrie, at the parochin kirke of Bedroule, the brethren, with their elders, and the congregation, convened day and place  
 “ forsaide, for that same effect, wherat Mr William Maxwell haiving preached, Mr William Weir, moderator, performed the act of the forsaide admission, conform to the practis of this church, in presence, and with consent  
 “ and applaus of the heritors and parochiners of the forsaide parochin, wherin did assist and concurre with the brethren, Andrew Dunkison minister at Lafoawden, Mr Alexander Reid, minister at Ashkirke, from the presbitrie of Selkirke, Mr John Douglas, minister at Yettam, from the presbitrie of Kelso, and Mr Thomas Donaldsone, minister at Smellin, from the presbitrie of Erskiloun. The saide day the moderator, in name of the brethren,  
 “ asked Mr Henry Elliot, presently admitted, as hee had done lykeways before for his forsaide admission, if hee had set any tacke of the teyndis or vicarage of the forsaide kirke of Bedroule, to any ; who answered that he had not  
 “ directlie nor indirectlie, next the brethren, inhibit thee saide Mr Henry, to set any in tymes coming, without adveys and consent of the brethren ; the saide Mr Henry promised faithfullie not to set any such tackes either of teyndis or vicarage, without the forsaide advys and consent ; the which promise the saide Mr Henry confirmed, with his solemn oath, in presence of the brethren.  
 “ After which the saide Mr Henry required that the brethren would give him institution upon his presentation, collation, and admission, given be themselves ; the whilk request, the brethren thought lawful, and therefore, the moderator did give the saide Mr Henry institution, by giving the bible to the saide Mr Henry, he standing in the pulpit, the which Bible, the saide Mr Henry gaive about to his elders, as use is, and tooke instruments there-  
 “ upon,



To those, but a little acquainted with the history of that period, it is known, that in 1649, patronage was repealed, by act of Parliament, and, that, soon after, certain of the clergy were distinguished by the name of *Protesters*, from their protesting against admitting those called *Malignants* (Cavaliers,) into offices of trust, or even into the Royal army, in opposition to another more numerous, but, in general, less popular party of the clergy, called *Resolutioners*, from their resolving their admission on certain conditions: And, that, in consequence of the jarring of those parties, as well as the repeal of the law of patronage, the settlement of many churches was rendered difficult at that time. Whether from these, or from other causes, with which the writer is as yet unacquainted, the church of Bedrule, was kept vacant for

“ upon, in the hands of Robert Rutherford, notar publicke, befor the brethren  
 “ and many of the elders and parochiners, whom he requyred to be witnes-  
 “ ses in confirmation of his forsaide iustitution. The saide day lykeways Mr  
 “ Henry Elliot desired the brethren that they would bee pleased to designe ane  
 “ mans and gleibe to him, at the saide kirke, the whilk desyre beeing found  
 “ lawfull the brethren ordains the forsaide designation to bee made presentlie,  
 “ and therefor the brethren went together to the mans, pertaining to the mi-  
 “ nister serving the cure at the kirke of Bedroule, and ther the moderator, in  
 “ their name and presence, did give possession to the saide Mr Henry *per tra-*  
 “ *ditionem clavium*, as use is, of the whole mans, houses, biggings, and yeardes,  
 “ formerlie posselt bee Mr Henry Peirfone, late incumbent ther; as also the  
 “ saide moderator, in name and presence of the brethren, went and gaive pos-  
 “ session to the saide Mr Henry, *per traditionem lapidis & glebe*, as use is, of  
 “ the whole gleibe and kirke lands pertaining and belonging to the minis-  
 “ ter serving the cure, at the forsaide kirke of Bedroule, and of late posselt  
 “ bee the forsaide Mr Henry Peirfone, late incumbent ther; in verification  
 “ of the premises, the saide Mr Henry took instruments in presence of the  
 “ brethren, in the hands of Robert Rutherford, notar publicke, requyring  
 “ likeways the lairds of Bedroule, elder and younger, with fundrie others of  
 “ the parochiners, to bear witness thereunto.”

for no shorter a period than the space of five years. || At last, Mr Hugh Scot was settled here, 17th March 1658. He did not continue long minister; for, on the re-establishment of Episcopacy, he was removed from his church for non-conformity. Mr James Adamson, minister of Carriden, was preferred to the living of Bedrule 7th September 1664, and continued minister here during the reigns of Charles and James, and seems to have died about the time of the Revolution. He was succeeded by Mr James Borland, in 1690, who was the first minister settled here after presbytery became again the established religion. Mr Borland was succeeded by Mr John Gilchrist in 1714, who, in 1748, was succeeded by Mr George Dickson, to whom the present minister succeeded in 1788. And, it is remarkable, of these above mentioned nine incumbents, since the Reformation, except Mr David Fowlis, who was translated to Oxnam, that they all died ministers of Bedrule, or were removed from their charge, not for any fault or irregularity of conduct, but for their faithful adherence to the religion they professed; and, however obviously of different sentiments, fidelity and steadiness in the cause they thought best, were equally remarkable in the character of all.

*Advantages.—*

|| Indeed, from a remarkable coincidence of circumstances, the records and history of this country, in general, during that period, happen to be very imperfect. For, not to mention, the records and other interesting papers, which were carried to London by order of the Protector, having been lost by the wreck of the vessel in which they were returning, by order of Government, after the Restoration, on the Lothian coast, near Royston, (Caroline park,) General Assemblies were interdicted during the Usurpation: a Provincial Synod was, therefore, then the highest Ecclesiastical Court in this country; and the whole records of the provincial synod of Merse and Tiviotdale, preceding 1708, and, probably, containing an account of the cause of that very long vacancy, were unfortunately destroyed by accidental fire in the manse of Morebattle.

*Advantages.*—This parish is situated in the centre of a prosperous though not very populous county, intersected by the great road between Berwick and Carlisle, touched on by a branch of the London road to Edinburgh, not more than two miles distant from Jedburgh, about 7 miles from Hawick, both excellent market towns. The land is in general of a dry soil, yet watered by a considerable number of springs, rivulets and brooks, in most places of easy access and at convenient distances from each other. Besides, upon the West and North it is for the most part bounded by the before mentioned pure and copious streams of the Rule and the Tiviot.

*Disadvantages.*—The great distance from coal, the badness of the road from Spittal bridge to the southern extremity of the parish, by which the people in this part of the country, usually pass or make a great circuit, to Reid, in Northumberland, for coal, and Windburgh, a considerable mountain on the borders of Liddysdale, for lime; and the badness of that from Bedrule to Jedburgh, the nearest market town, are disadvantages not only to this parish, but also to the neighbourhood, and which, with no great difficulty, may, and, we hope, soon will be removed, as both these roads, run, in general, on a gentle declivity and favourable bottom, and are near excellent materials.

*Conclusion.*—It will be observed, that the writer of the foregoing Statistical Account has avoided repeating the same things, so properly taken notice of in the accounts of the various parishes in this part of the country, already published; and, therefore, whensoever that is felt as a defect by the reader, it will be only necessary for him to suppose, that the inhabitants of the parish of Bedrule have nearly the same religious and political sentiments; predilections and prejudices,

ces\*, are nearly of the same size, strength, and vigour of body and mind, and, from similar causes, are liable to the same diseases, as mentioned in one or other of these accounts: That the same animals, fowls, and migratory birds, roam in the field, and fly in the air, indifferently over this and the neighbouring parishes; That the rivers abound with nearly the same kinds of fish, in the same seasons of the year, of the same quality, flavour, and shape, and in general also nearly  
of

\* It may be proper here only to remark, in general, that the people in this country seem not now so strongly attached to their lairds or masters as formerly; and that the predilection of many to their native soil, and a certain unfortunate family, is greatly diminished; the former being much weakened, the latter almost every where worn out. Indeed, they seem now, in general, more anxious how they live, than where; how they are governed, than by whom; what the laws are, than who are their makers; and how just and equal soever they be, are apt to consider themselves protected thereby, only so far as they have it in their power to render them efficient. These changes, we believe, may be easily accounted for. In this country, formerly, the greatest respect was generally paid to family; for then almost every person considered himself of some family, and was thereby led to think he had an interest therein. And his interest, in this real or supposed connection, was, for the most part, not merely ideal. For, then, it was the pride of the laird or master, to have his tenants, retainers, and even domestics, of his own surname, many of them his near relations, and he commonly treated them as such. By this means, his will was usually as law to them; his honour their honour; his interest their interest. And, we are assured, where this is still the case, the same is still the effect. But where the causes are changed, it will not seem strange, that the consequences are also different. And however this change, in the minds of the people, may affect individuals, it is certainly, at present, not easy to say, what, in the long run, its effects may be on society; but, it is evidently much altering the state of mens minds, as well as that of the country; and we earnestly pray, it may, in the issue, be equally beneficial and improving to both. With regard to their religious sentiments, though the people be not less divided, we are happy to observe, they seem, in general, less prejudiced against one another than formerly; which proceeds, we believe, much, if not entirely, from the liberty of opinion, our excellent Constitution so happily affords to every well intentioned and reasonable man.

of the same size : And that, allowing for the difference of climate in the uplands, the midlands, and the lowlands, seed time and harvest, the modes of cropping, and the management of black cattle and sheep, are nearly the same ; and where there happens to be a distinction, that it more commonly proceeds from the skill and industry of individuals, than the general system of conducting that kind of business in the different parishes. And, it is worthy of remark, that, with little exception, the same observation applies to the greater part of this district. This, the writer trusts, will be also his apology for having been particular in his account of other things, which though in themselves, perhaps, not more interesting, yet, from their speciality, or having been overlooked, or but slightly noticed by others, he judged entitled to his attention.



## NUMBER XXVIII.

## PARISH OF FOULIS WESTER.

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

*By the Rev. MR STIRLING, Minister of Crief.*

*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HIS parish may take its name from the estate of Foulis, one of the principal baronies of which it is composed. The parish and estate receive frequently the additional title of *Wester*, to distinguish them from the parish and estate of Foulis *Easter*, also in Perthshire, but on the confines of the county of Angus. Both these estates are now the property of Sir William Murray of Ochtertyre. The latter, however, was not long since a part of the estate of Gray, and the former was more antiently part of the Earldom of Strathearn; but six or seven centuries ago, both of them were, in all probability, the property of some person of the name of Foulis, who gave his family name to his lands. The first of that  
name

name in Scotland is said to have come from France, in the reign of Malcolm Canmore; and branches of that family became proprietors of extensive baronies in different counties of Scotland, which from them still retain the name of *Foulis*. The word seems to be derived from the French *feuilles*, that is, *leaves*; to which the three bay leaves, worn by persons of the name of Foulis, on their arms, apparently allude. The names of most places in this part of the country being evidently of Gaelic derivation, some have imagined Foulis to be derived from the two Gaelic words *fou lios*, that is, *below the orchard*. There is not, however, the smallest vestige of an orchard near the village, much less in the grounds above it; and had the name been formed from the words now mentioned, it would probably have been accented on the last syllable, whereas the letter *i* is no more heard in the common pronunciation, than the final *e* in the word *feuilles*.

This parish lies in the north side of Strathearn, having that of Crieff on the W.; Monzie N. W.; Little Dunkeld N.; Moneidie N. E.; Methven E.; and on the S. Maderty, from which it is separated by the *Pow*, excepting about 40 acres of Maderty, which are on the north side of that river. Foulis is eight miles long, and six broad. The great road from Perth to Crieff, an extent of 18 miles, enters it on the east side, ten miles from the former of these towns, and leaves its western extremity within two miles of the latter.

*Face of the Country.*—The soil in general is a red clay or till, which on some of the best cultivated farms, becomes blackish and loamy, by plenty of good manure. The soil is considerably deeper in the south than in the north side of the parish. An high ridge running from East to West along the top of what is called the braes of Foulis, divides it nearly into two equal parts. The lands on the south side of that

ridge are by far the most valuable, and generally the best cultivated. The church stands in the centre of this district, and contiguous to it is the village, containing 44 families, who are all lodged in poor, low, thatched cottages, excepting the parochial schoolmaster and principal inn-keeper, who have each a house, two stories high, covered with blue slate. The village can hardly be expected to emerge from its obscurity, since the great road which lately passed through it, is now removed to the lower grounds, half a mile southward. On the declivity of the high rising lands, 400 yards west from the church, stands the manse, which presents a very extensive prospect to the South, East, and West, and, surrounded with wide, uninclosed sloping fields of moderate fertility, looks down on the richer plains below, as well as on an agreeable variety of grown trees, young plantations, and gentlemens seats, which, so far as they respect this parish, shall be noticed afterwards. There is not a sixth part of the parish inclosed. The chief inclosures are in the South and South East quarters; most of them are not sufficiently fenced for confining cattle; but the few that are fully inclosed, can be let for pasture at 2l. an acre yearly. The northern division beyond the high ridge above mentioned, is intersected by the river Almond, which reaches the parish at the bridge of Buchanty, washes its North border for half a mile, and then runs through it a course of two miles towards the Tay. This river abounds with a small kind of trout, and 200 yards above the bridge now mentioned, forms a *curious cascade*, which naturally attracts the travellers attention. From the top of the rock on the North side of the river to the surface of the water, where it begins to fall, is six feet, the fall itself is seven, and the pool into which it falls is ten feet deep. The bed of the river becomes deeper and more contracted as it advances to the  
bridge

bridge, which consists of a single arch 15 feet wide, and, though on a level with the road, is 32 feet high above the surface of the water, which there becomes 14 feet deep; that is, while the river is in its ordinary state and not swelled by the rains. While in this low state, also, the water at the cascade is, by the projection of a rock in the middle of the stream, divided into two parts, betwixt which it was usual, some time ago, to hang a *creel* or basket, by means of an iron chain, in such a manner as to catch multitudes of a kind of white trout, as they were called, or young salmon weighing about three pounds each. The fishes attempted to overleap the cascade, and hundreds that succeeded, have by rods and nets been taken above it in a summer; but, it is believed, the far greatest part, to the amount of sometimes 60 in a day, failing in the attempt, dropt into the basket for the benefit of the principal heritor. This advantage, however, has been entirely lost for ten years past by the building of a mill-dam at Cromwell Park, in the parish of Methven, since which, none of that species has been found in this part of the river. Excepting a few trees about some farm houses, and a Scotch fir plantation of three acres, nothing appears to have been planted on the North side of the river; but the South bank on the estates of Abercarney and Gorthie, was, at least 30 years ago, planted with stripes of coppice wood, in which ash, and especially oak and birch are prevalent. These, with the additions more lately made, may extend to 16 acres. The largest plantations formed within these 12 years, are on the heights of the ridge formerly described, where some hundred acres have been planted with Scotch fir, interspersed with some oak, birch and larix.

The hills or moors on both sides of the Almond contain several tracts of black moss, which supply most of the people

ple with their principal fuel; but the more industrious tenants in the South part of the parish, use few peats except in drying their corns for the mill, choosing rather to carry coals from Blairugone, which is twenty miles distant. The usual cart load is 30 stones, Tron weight; this they purchase at 1 s.  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. The same quantity of English or other imported coal at Perth, would cost 3 s., otherwise the easy carriage thence would command a preference.

*Heritors.*—The number of heritors, with the names and comparative worth of their estates within the parish, will appear from a view of their valued rents here subjoined.

| HERITORS.                     | ESTATES.       | VAL. RENT.     |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Moray of Abercarney,          | Abercarney,    | L. 3026        |
| Moncrieff of Moncrieff, bart. | Gorthie,       | 1598           |
| Murray of Ochertyre, bart.    | Foulis Wester, | 1500           |
| Smith, Lord Methven,          | Keillar,       | 1270           |
| Drummond of Logie Almond,     | Logie,         | 549            |
| Maxton of Cultoquhey,         | Cultoquhey,    | 362            |
| Robertson of Lawers,          | -              | 118            |
| Grame of Inchbreakie,         | Pitnaclerach,  | 83             |
| The whole valued rent is,     |                | L. 8506 Scots. |

The real rent will amount to 4000 l. and is paid with the price of near 6000 bolls of oat meal and barley, annually exported to Perth, Crieff, and the Highlands.

The first of these heritors is patron of the parish, and has his principal seat in it. The house of Abercarney having received various additions in different ages, as fancy suggested, or conveniency required, is less remarkable for the elegance of its architecture, than for the very extensive and complete accommodation, which it affords: But the numerous fenced fields, gardens, and plantations around it, excite equally



equally the ideas of richness and beauty. The imagination is exceedingly delighted with the approach devised by the present proprietor, while, after passing for 500 yards through a large plantation, along the side of a deep den, in which a considerable stream occasionally appears, through the overshadowing trees and shrubs, with which its steep banks are plentifully stored, and then retiring obliquely 300 yards farther under a shady grove, it presents in succession to the view, the wide sloping lawns, the venerable oaks, the pleasing cascades, and fanciful lakes, which adorn and diversify the scene.

Near two miles to the North-West of this ancient mansion, is the house of Cultoquhey, the seat of the only other residing heritor, which, with the delightful adjoining wood, struck the eye of every traveller with peculiar pleasure, while the public road lay about 800 yards distant to the South. But since the high way has been conducted by the North side of the house, these beautiful objects appear with less advantage.

Besides these two, the house of Gorthy is the only one in the parish, in which an heritor has at least occasionally resided; that, however, is now desolate, the estate having lately gone by purchase into another family.

*Antiquities.*—About a mile East of the church, on the farm of Castleton, part of the estate of Foulis, and on the East side of a den or ravine, which divides that from the estate of Abercarney, appear the remains of a fort or castle, the seat of the ancient Earl of Strathearn. The ruins now form a grassy mount, constantly employed as a pasture field. Here resided Mallus, Malifius, or Malife, the first Earl of Strathearn, who lived in the reign of Alexander I. His grandson Gilbert, in the year 1200, founded the monastery of Inchaffray, whose ruins ly contiguous to the South border of this parish.

Besides

Besides the first Earl above mentioned, there were three other Earls of Strathearn, who succeeded each other, of the name of Malise; but none of that family seem to have assumed any surname. The seventh Earl, also named Malise, died without issue, after marrying Joanna, daughter of Sinclair, Earl of Orkney, who, in 1320, was concerned in a plot against Robert I. for which, according to some accounts, she was condemned to perpetual imprisonment, and the Earldom forfeited. But Mary, aunt of the last mentioned Earl, had married Sir John Moray of Drumfargard, who got with her the lands of Abercarney and others. Her son, Sir Maurice Moray, is said to have been the last Earl of Strathearn, and was, with David II. and many Scotch noblemen, taken prisoner at the battle of Durham, in 1346. Hence the present heritor of Abercarney, descendent of the said Sir Maurice Moray, is regarded as the lineal heir and representative of the ancient Earls of Strathearn.

*Population.*—By Dr Webster's list, in 1755, the population was rated at - - - 1706

In 1770, the number of souls was about - 1100

In 1794, the souls now are - 1224

Males, - - - 608

Females, - - - 616

Births annually about - - 40

Burials do. - - - 25

Among the heads of families there are,

|              |   |   |           |   |     |
|--------------|---|---|-----------|---|-----|
| Butchers     | - | 2 | Wrights   | - | 10  |
| Fiddlers     | - | 2 | Taylors   | - | 10  |
| Inn-keepers  | - | 5 | Weavers   | - | 50  |
| Shop-keepers | - | 7 | Farmers   | - | 106 |
| Shoemakers   | - | 9 | Besides   |   |     |
| Smiths       | - | 9 | Small do. | - | 63  |
|              |   |   |           |   | The |

The tradesmen do not fully supply the parish with the commodities in which they deal. The weavers, however, besides the linen and coarse woollen stuffs they made for the inhabitants, began, a few years ago, to be much employed in working *scrims*, a thin narrow linen for the Glasgow market. This manufacture ceased all at once, on the commencement of the war January 1793; and as suddenly revived, about June 1794, on the capture of some of the French West India islands, and the speculation thereby excited among the Glasgow traders.

*Farmers, Agriculture.*—Of the farmers, three have sheep farms: The largest of these contains 1300 acres, feeds 600 sheep, and yields 75 l. of yearly rent. The sheep are of the black faced Linton breed, and of a small size; their fleeces do not exceed two pounds weight each, and sell from 8 s. to 13 s. a stone. A ewe and lamb may bring 7 s. 6d, and a sheep at Michaelmas, 6s. 6d.

Those in the preceding article stiled small farmers, are such as cannot yoke a plough without the aid of their neighbours, and generally pay under 8 l. each for their possessions, which rarely exceed 8 or 10 acres. They are commonly either tradesmen, or work with a horse, in buying and carrying meal, yarn and other commodities. Most of the other tenants or farmers pay from 15 l. to 30 l.; eleven from 50 l. to 175 l., and one 300 l. of yearly rent. Those who pay the largest rents, give almost universally more for an acre than those who pay smaller sums. The rents per acre vary from 1 l. 5 s. and upwards, to 15 s. 13 s. 10 s. and 7 s. Yet the mere circumstance of enlarging the farms is far from being the sole cause of their paying more rent by the acre; for the highest rented are such as have for a long time been brought into the best state of cultivation, and have also ge-

nerally the best natural soil; whereas, all the farms that pay a low rent per acre, have still a considerable quantity of ground either waste or very little cultivated. The richest lands are in the South East quarter of the parish, especially such as are liable to be overflowed by the water of the *Pow*, or had been formerly covered with it before the drain was formed. Of these, there may be some hundred acres, so enriched with mud and slime, as constantly to yield plentiful crops without any manure, provided the season be moderately dry. Tradition says, 36 bolls of oats have been produced on an acre of that richest land; this, however, is much doubted, as the greatest quantity produced of late years is 16 bolls, and that too very rarely, and only when the season is peculiarly favourable; for the average produce of the best land cannot be reckoned more than  $8\frac{1}{2}$  or 9 bolls. Even this very rich land requires a boll of seed to an acre; for though a few pecks will fill the ground with straw, yet thin sowing never ripens equally, and if very thin, the greatest part will not ripen at all.

On an acre of ordinary good dry land, 5 firlots, or rather 18 pecks of oats are sown; of bear or barley, sometimes 10, but more frequently 12 pecks. The produce of the oats is 5, and of the barley 6 bolls, at an average. A crop of clover and rye-grass yields from 100 to 250 stones of hay, which in August may sell at 4d. in the following April, May, or June, some times at 10d. a stone; but the average price for a course of years, is  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. The most common mode of rotation of crops observed by the best farmers on the richest lands is, 1. oats; 2. green crop of turnip or potatoes; 3. barley and grass seeds; 4. hay; 5. pasture. On lands of inferior quality the modes are exceedingly various, but the most common, is, 1. oats; 2. barley; 3. green crop with dung; 4. barley with grass seeds; 5. hay; 6. and 7. pasture. The chief

manures

manures are shell-marle, when it can be obtained, and lime ; but three times more lime is used than marle. Formerly these manures were most commonly laid on while a field was in grafs ; but of late years much more generally on summer fallow ; and the liming or marling is repeated after ten, or at most twelve years. The soil being generally heavy, an acre requires from 60 to 90 bolls of marle ; 70 may be the average, but the greatest quantity has been found most profitable. The marle a few years ago was got within a mile or two, at 6d. a boll, and then 2000 bolls have in one year been carried to a farm of less than 150 acres, and 1500 with 150 of lime to another. That fund, however, is now exhausted, and marle at 10d. a-boll, must be got at 6 miles distance. At Perth may be bought English lime at 2s ; Burntisland at 2s. 2d ; or Lord Elgin's at 1s. 9d. all wheat measure, of which a single horse cart carries 3 bolls. From 24 to 40 bolls of shells, that is, unslacked lime, are laid on an acre, and 1500 bolls are said to have been carried in a year to one of the largest farms of near 300 acres. Perhaps the best managed farms are such as extend from 120 to 200 acres. On one of 150 may be kept eight work horses, three or four young ones, and between 40 and 50 black cattle, old and young. The value of a draught horse is from 15l. to 25l. Four were generally yoked in a plough, 20 years ago ; but two horse ploughs now almost universally prevail, and single horse carts are preferred to double ones. Few of the cattle were fed for slaughter, most of them are sold under 3 or 4 years old ; and 3 or 10, value 4l. or 5l. each, are kept as milk cows : And as the calves are all reared, and others purchased instead of such as happen to die, the butter and cheese sold from one cow, cannot exceed 1l. yearly. A farm of this size requires four men, two boys, and two female servants. The year's fee of a principal man servant is 10l. ; that of an inferior man, 7l. or 8l.



to boy's, from 1l. to 3l. ; a female servant's, 2l. 10s. or 3l. with the produce of a lippie of lintseed sown. A considerable number of additional servants is necessary in harvest ; a man shearer in that season gains 1l. 10s. or 2l. ; and a woman, 18s. or 1l. Many farmers have what are called *cottars*, to whom they give a cottage and small garden, with sometimes an acre of land, and a cow's grafs, for which the cottar pays 3l. or 4l. if he has two acres ; and 10s. more, if his land is ploughed by the tenant. But no cottar gets any land except on condition of working with the farmer for reasonable wages, whenever required, especially in harvest. Such a farmer's family as that now described, feed chiefly on oat meal, barley meal, potatoes, milk and cheese. What animal food they use is from Michaelmas to Whitsunday, and consists of one bullock salted for winter beef, one hog in spring, and between 20 and 24 quarters of mutton purchased occasionally through the year. Though the tenants are all decently clothed, and their circumstances, upon the whole, tolerably easy and more plentiful than formerly ; yet they are far from being affluent, or in a situation that raises them above the necessity of manual labour. It is somewhat surprizing that there is not in the parish a tenant, though paying 100l. or even 300l. of yearly rent, that acts merely as a director and over-seer of his servants ; but all of them, so far as health and strength allow, work proportionably with their own hands. The labour, the rents, and all the expences of the tenants, are double what they were 25 years ago. Then a principal man servant had only 4l. 10s. or at most 5l. an inferior man 2l. 10s. or 3l. and a female servant 1l. or 1l. 5s. Since, however, superior skill and industry now raise a crop of double value, they, as well as the public, are real gainers by the improvements lately attained. They have also the unspeakable advantage of being more secure and independent by the leases  
which

which all of them now hold, and are commonly granted for 19 years; and likewise by their release from various burdens formerly imposed. On several of the greatest estates, the tenants were then, or a few years earlier, bound to carry out the dung, to plow and harrow all the lands possessed by the heritor (whom they all called, and still through habit call their master, but more frequently the laird) to cut, dry, and carry home his peats, and all the coals used by his family; to cut, win, and stack his hay; to cut down, carry home, and stack corns; to carry bark and farm meal to any unlimited distance where the factor sold these articles, but rarely above 12 or 20 miles; to go each in their turn with a horse or cart to Perth or Crief, or longer journies when required, and all at their own charge, without any allowance of food for man or beast.

These services were emphatically stiled *bondage*, particularly the manual labour at peats, hay, and harvest; working with a horse was called *carriage*; and these two species of labour, were, in the old tack, distinguished by the names of *harrage* and *carrage*. One heritor has some of his tenants still bound to part of these services, such as winning and stacking hay, shearing in harvest, and carrying coals and lime to a certain extent; but the other heritors require no services, except the carriage of coals and bark. Most of the tenants are now likewise released from the servitude of *thirlage*, by which they were obliged to grind at a particular miln, and to pay very high duties. There are five corn milns in the parish, belonging to different heritors, and each heritor has relieved his own tenants from the high duties, on dividing among them the old miln rent. To these the miln duties amount to about the 30th peck; a few tenants that are still bound to a miln on another estate, pay at least a twelfth part of what they grind at it.

As the soil is generally too cold and moist, and the grain therefore ripens slowly, the tenants are liable to suffer immense loss by a rainy season. Thus, in 1792, the whole crop could only pay that smaller portion of the rent that is usually paid in meal: and though some sold a few bolls out of the parish that year, twice as much was purchased by other tenants for domestic consumpt.

*Quarries.*—The houses of the tenants are generally one story high, thatched with straw. Two farm houses of one story, and four of two stories high, are covered with blue slate; and two of one story, with grey slate. It might be expected that many more would have slated roofs, since both kinds of slate now mentioned are found in the parish. On the estate of Logiealmond, is a valuable blue slate quarry, let at 50 guineas yearly; from which 500,000 slates are supposed to be sold annually, at 13s. 4d. the thousand. On the lands of Abercarney and Foulis, are quarries of grey slate, that is, a kind of light brown freestone, which rises in broad shelves, of an inch thick, is easily cut with the slater's knife, and makes a pretty good, though heavy roof. As these quarries were never wrought to any great extent, no rent is paid for them, but a thousand slates may be quarried for 1l. 10s. which will cover as much of a roof as 6l. value of the blue slate above mentioned. That roof, however, will be greatly inferior in elegance and duration. Near the entry to the house of Abercarney, is an inexhaustible quarry, of a beautiful and excellent stone for building; and, on the Cultoquhey estate, is a quarry of the best stone for pavement in all the country, which being soft while in its natural moist state, shapes easily, and 20 years ago, might be quarried, cut, and laid at 2d. a foot; but the price is now nearly doubled.

*Highway.*

*Highway.*—The greatest improvement lately made in the parish, is the construction of the new line of road leading through it from Perth to Crieff, which is every where at least 35 feet broad, and has in no part a greater rise than of one foot in 50. Whereas, the old line, which led close by the church, and over the brae of Foulis, frequently rose at the rate of more than one in ten feet. The making of this new road, from Methven to Gowan hill, in this parish, cost 260*l.* each mile, and from that point westward, 239*l.*; besides bridges, the largest of which is not yet founded; and the smaller ones have been executed at 1*l.* each foot in width: besides also the filling up of dens or ravines, the largest of which alone cost 130*l.* Where the bottom is best, or materials nearest, it may be kept in repair at 2*l.* a mile; but the greatest part of it is to be upheld three years, at 4*l.* a mile annually. The expence of making has been so great, and the resort of travellers hitherto so small, that the duties collected at the toll-bar, first erected in 1793, though somewhat higher than in other counties of Scotland, are not sufficient to pay the interests of the sums expended.

*Poor, Religion, Character.*—The poor, who are under the necessity of begging, are not very numerous; but no stated contribution, nor any assessment being made by the heritors for their support, they cannot be sufficiently supplied, or begging prevented, by the small funds allotted to their use. Those consist of the collections at the church door, amounting to 3*s.* weekly; 2*s.* from every bride in the parish; and the annual rent of 70*l.* By far the greatest number of beggars come from other parishes. There are commonly two schools, besides that of the parochial schoolmaster. He has from the heritors 200 merks Scots of salary, with a free house and garden. His wages from the scholars may  
be

be at an average 1s. 6d. a quarter; and his emoluments as session clerk do not exceed 4l. annually. The minister, besides a manse and a glebe of seven acres, has between 70l. and 80l. of stipend; the present incumbent, however, being possessed of heritable property in a neighbouring parish, and having the comfort of his parishioners much at heart, charges himself with the maintenance of an assistant for their satisfaction; while at the same time he has never shewn the least reluctance to the personal discharge of every part of the ministerial office. The people, therefore, are universally attached to the Established Church, except nine families, whose heads and children are Antiburghers, except also the two residing heritors, who are of the Episcopal communion. Were these heritors of the same religious profession as the vulgar, it would probably be the occasion of removing a grievance of which the people have long with too much reason complained—that no care is taken to render the parochial church decent or commodious. The walls and roof, indeed, are kept in tolerably good repair; but it is badly lighted, and the seats and galleries have, for many years, been in a very ruinous condition. The people are in general devout as well as sober and industrious, lovers of peace, and well affected to government. If, in any instance, they have manifested rather less zeal than some others for the support of law and good order, such apparent coolness is by no means to be attributed to any discontentment with our happy Constitution; but merely to an aversion at any avocation which they apprehend might interfere with that close application to their own proper employments, which through their habits and circumstances they find both agreeable and necessary.

The inhabitants of the northern half of the parish commonly use among themselves the Gaelic tongue; all of them however, can speak English, which is the only language spoken



ken or understood on the south side of the hill. Though there are no remarkable instances of longevity, yet the people in general are abundantly healthy. Consumptions sometimes occur, and the jaundice has been more frequent of late than ever known; but agues, which were very prevalent 20 years ago, have, for a long while, entirely disappeared.

There is at Fowlis, on the 6th of November annually, a market for black cattle. About 1000 may be presented for sale, and a third part of them supposed ready for slaughter.

## NUMBER XXIX.

## PARISH OF AVOCH.

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

*By the Rev. MR JAMES SMITH.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**I**N old records, the name is written *Avach* or *Auach*. It is commonly pronounced *Auch*. The most probable derivation is from a Gaelic word, signifying a *ford* or *shallow water*. For the bay, opposite to the parish church, being more shallow, the tide flows and recedes farther than in any other part of this side of the Moray Frith, between the bays of Cromarty and Munlochy. This parish is situated in the presbytery of Chanonry, in the synod and county of Ross. It is one of the eight parishes comprehended within the ancient district of *Ardmeanach*, or the *Black Isle*; so called, because the whole make a peninsula, of which the greater part continues still black uncultivated moor, though a good deal has been planted and improved of late.

Avoch

Avoch extends about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  English miles from East to West, and 4 from South to North, and is nearly of a rhomboidal form. It is bounded by the parish of Rosemarky towards the East; by the Moray Frith and that branch of same Frith called Munlochy bay, on the South-East, South, and South-West; by the united parishes of Kilmuir Wester and Suddie, on the West; by Urquhart or Ferrintosh on the North West, and by the united parishes of Cullicudden and Kirkmichael on the North. It marches with these last on the large hill called Mullbuy, which extends nearly the whole length of the Black Isle, from Cromarty to Beauley.

*Surface and Soil.*—This parish consists chiefly of two ridges of hills, of a moderate altitude, and pretty broad on the top, running nearly parallel to each other, in a direction from East to West, with a gently sloping vale on the North side of each, and part of the Mullbuy, formerly mentioned, rising behind all these towards the North. So that it presents, in a manner, three banks or faces to the beneficial influence of the southern sun, and enjoys all the varieties and advantages of hill and dale: The southern exposures being in general best adapted for corn-farms; the northern, for wood, and the valleys, for pasture.

Almost every variety of soil is to be met with here. Towards the shore it is light and sandy, as usual, particularly in some of the lower grounds near the bay and sea town of Avoch; where, on digging two or three feet deep, a stratum of sea shells has been found in different places. This would seem to indicate that the Frith had once over-flowed those grounds to a farther extent than it ever does now. To the Westward of this, on both sides of the Southern vale, the soil is generally a light loam, or loam mixed with clay, fer-

tile enough. Farther West, there is a deep rich clay, particularly on that fine extensive bank of the Mulbuy, called Auchterflow. In the Northern vale, there is a good deal of moss, on a tilly or clay bottom, of a bad quality and generally wet, which can scarcely be cultivated to advantage. The hill tops consist chiefly of a black sandy soil, covered with poor short heath, and a few moor stones intermixed, much better adapted for plantations of the Scots fir, than for pasturage.

*Climate.*—The air is generally dry and healthy, though, comparatively speaking, few of the inhabitants attain to old age. But this seems more owing to their habits of life, than to the climate. No disease can be said to be particularly prevalent. Fevers and the small-pox have, indeed, at times, made considerable ravages. This, however, can be easily accounted for, from the people's want of cleanliness, and their excessive use of spiritual liquors.

*Sea Coast,—its Advantages and Productions.*—The Northern part of Scotland derives many advantages from those beautiful arms of the sea, with which it is intersected. Of these the parish of Avoch is not without its share. The frith washing it nearly on two sides, makes the air much more salubrious; without those fogs and that piercing coldness, which the inhabitants of the East coast of Scotland complain of, from the neighbourhood of the German Ocean. It also makes the snows sooner melt in winter; and prevents immoderate heat in summer, by that agreeable and refreshing coolness, which every flowing of the tide sends forth. It affords likewise employment for many of the inhabitants, and adds to the provision of the whole. †

*Springs, &c.*

† On one half of the bay of Avoch, from the Craig-Burn, (which divides

*Springs &c.*— There is great abundance of excellent springs throughout all this parish. Some of them have a mineral tint; but have not become remarkable for the cure of any diseases. A well, called Craiguck, issuing from a  
rock

vides this parish from Fortrose and Kofemarky) to the east end of the Seatown of Avoch, the coast is high and roky. But few of those rocks extend into the sea, so as to be dangerous for boats: And there is for the most part a fine soft beach at the foot of them. From thence to Castletown Point, the shore is flat and sandy. There is good anchorage for shipping; and vessels of from 40 to 100 tons may lie to safely on the Seatown beach, to deliver and receive cargoes, unless there be a strong gale from South or South-East. From Castletown Point Westward to the mouth of Munlochy bay, the coast is bold and rocky, and there is more depth of water. Along the said bay to the western boundary of this parish, it is generally high, and consists of sand and gravel, with some large rocks interspersed.

Even those rocks have turned out advantageous. For in Munlochy bay there is an excellent quarry of hard reddish freestone, accessible to boats on the water-edge. Out of this quarry almost the whole of the extensive works of Fort George were built. The late Mr Matheson of Bennetsfield, proprietor of the grounds, let the quarry to Government, or to the undertaker employed by Government, at the small sum of 10*l.* a-year, while that fortification was going on. A cheap contract, indeed, if we consider the immense quantity of material furnished? For 20 or 30 boats, besides several sloops, were constantly employed in conveying it.

The quarry is now wrought chiefly for builders at Inverness, who, though there be 5 or 6 miles of water-carriage, find this their easiest supply. And two boats of 10 or 11 tons burden each, are almost daily engaged in the business; which, with the quarrying work, yields a pretty good subsistence to eight or ten families in this parish, besides a rent, or profit of about 30*l.* sterling yearly, to the proprietor. A boat's cargo of the stone fetches at Inverness, 16*s.* or 17*s.*

The Moray Frith at Avoch, is about four miles broad. And a finer bay is scarcely to be seen in the North. To an observer on this shore it has all the appearance of a beautiful lake. For Chanonry point from the North, and that of Ardersier from the South-East, appear like projected arms to clasp each other, and to break off its connection with the sea, while the point of Inverness, and the hills in that neighbourhood, seem to bound it in like manner in an opposite direction. The town of Inverness, at the one end, and

Fortrose



rock near the shore of Bennetsfield is resorted to in the month of May, by whimsical or superstitious persons, who, after drinking, commonly leave some threads or rags tied to a bush in the neighbourhood. But if they derive benefit from this, it would seem to be more owing to their own credulity, than to any effect of the water, which differs nothing in taste or appearance from common.

In the southern vale, there is a fine rivulet, called the burn of Avoch; perhaps the largest stream in Ardmeanach; which rises mostly in this parish, drives three corn-mills, and empties itself into the sea near the church. It produces the common trout and eel. Its mouth makes a safe harbour or retreat for the fishing boats in time of storm: And here a  
good

Fortrose and Fort George at the other, add much to the landscape. From a boat in the middle of the Frith, opposite to Culloden-house and the bay of Avoch, the view is still grander and more embellished.

Since the important era of 1746, the trade of Inverness, and of the other towns on this Frith, has been gradually increasing and flourishing. It employs now more than six times the former number of vessels: some of which may be seen here passing and repassing almost every day.

But the chief benefit of the Frith to this parish, is that of the Fisheries. Here are caught herrings during their season; whittings, flounders, sprats, a few oysters and crabs, with abundance of mussels, quilks, and small fry for bait. There might be a still-fishing for salmon, near Castletown point: But as the shore is not altogether convenient for drawing the net, it has not been much tried. Some small whales, porpoises, and snipe fish, come up now and then. About 50 years ago, haddocks were frequently caught within a mile of Avoch. But they have since quite disappeared. They seem to have retreated Eastward to the wider parts of the Frith, towards Tarbat point and the coasts of Moray and Caithness. Nor have they been got there for several years past in such plenty as before, until this summer, (1793) when the fishermen have had good success, and found them again about the mouth of martyr Bay.

There is some quantity of sea-weed on different parts of the shore. A little of it has at times been burnt into kelp. The neighbouring farmers chiefly use it as a manure for barley. It is very beneficial for this purpose, whether laid on green, or rotted in the dunghill.

good species of red trout is taken, from 15 to 18 inches long.

*Minerals.*—A small lake, called *Scaddin's Loch*, near the eastern boundary of this parish, was drained some yeras ago. In its bed, a good many peats have been dug ; and under them appears a large stratum of shell marle. It is believed, that limestone also might be found, on a proper search, as several pieces of it are to be seen frequently in the channel of the burn. Free-stone quarries have been wrought on different grounds, besides that in the bay of Munlochy : particularly, one of a deep red colour on the farm of Arkandeith, out of which it is believed that the cathedral church of Ross at Chanonry was built, many centuries ago :— as a considerable excavation has evidently been made, and no other rock of the colour used there, is known in this part of the country.

*State of Property.*—There are five heritors ; but only one resides.—Sir Roderick M'Kenzie of Scatwell, Baronet, proprietor of two thirds of the parish.

His seat of Rosehaugh-house stands on a beautiful bank, about a mile and a half from the sea, on the north side of the southern vale. It is a modern edifice, substantially built and commodious ; and cost between 3000l. and 4000l. Sterling. It is surrounded by rich fields in good cultivation, all well fenced, and skirted with woods of different kinds ; besides these, he has several thriving plantations of fir, in different parts of this, and an extensive valuable property in other contiguous parishes.

On the same bank, about an English mile to the Eastward, is the house of Avoch, belonging to John Mackenzie, Esq; where are good grounds, and small patches and rows of ash,

birch

birch and Alder. But this house, and that of Bennetsfield, near the South-West corner of the parish, belonging to Colin Mathefon, Esq; have both been allowed to fall into disrepair, as the proprietors of them reside in other parts of the county.

One of the finest woods here is that called the Craigwood, \* near Fortrose, belonging to Mr Rofs of Cromarty. It contains most kinds of forest-trees, beautifully intermixed, on a rocky bank, by the sea. It was all cut down about 30 years ago, for making palisadoes and fascines to Fort George, when they apprehended a visit from Mons. Thurot's squadron. It has since grown up finely from the roots anew.

\* This wood makes part of the old estate of Rosehaugh, which belonged to the late celebrated Sir George Mackenzie, King's Advocate. The property is said to have been so named from a small haugh contiguous to the bank, where a great many sweetbriars and wild roses used to grow. The ground having been mostly brought into tillage, they are not now so numerous. On this haugh, along the bottom of the wood, lies the road from Fortrose to Avoch : And there can scarcely be imagined a more delightful summer evening's walk than this,—when, on one hand, the Western sun glitters through the trees,—the birches send forth their fragrance,—and the singing birds serenade you ;—and, on the other hand, you behold the beautiful basin before mentioned, with vessels and boats plying upon it with cheerful industry. It is said that Sir George Mackenzie was so fond of this walk, and of that on Chanonry point, which stretches out a mile and a half into the sea, covered with short close grass, as smooth and soft as a carpet, that he used to call it rudeness and want of taste in any of his friends or acquaintances to ride on horseback along them. The Right Hon. James Stewart Mackenzie, Lord Privy Seal, who succeeded to Sir George's estate in this county, sold the lands of Rosehaugh to the late George Rofs, Esq; of Cromarty, one of the most spirited improvers hitherto known in Ardmearach. Mr Rofs gave good employment many years to a multitude of labouring people from all the neighbouring districts. But, unfortunately for this parish, he died before he could get his plans of improvement extended so far.

A few years ago, Captain Kenneth Mackenzie of Newtown, another heritor, attempted to enlarge the beautiful scene of the Craigwood, by planting his part of the same bank to the westward. But as the rocks and steepness prevented him from getting proper fences made, his young trees have been  
mostly

*Agriculture, &c.*—Though some parts of the parish have been measured, there is no regular survey or map of the whole. It is believed, however, to contain about 6000 acres. Of these, from 1500 to 2000 may be under cultivation. But the whole produce will seldom exceed 5000 bolls; for among the tenants here, farming is only in a state of infancy. It has emerged but little from the rude practice of their forefathers, a hundred years ago. Their horses, in general, are miserable poneys or garrons, bought at from 3*l.* to 5*l.* Sterling, each. Their cattle are a little better in proportion; but few of their sheep are worth above 5*s.* per head. So bleak and bare, indeed, are the hill tops and muirs, that this parish is very little calculated for sheep pasture. Their implements of husbandry are equally poor, except with a few more careful and industrious men, who, having got better garrons, begin of late to use the light chain plough, with curved mold board; and perhaps a coup-cart or two, or a small wain for oxen on their farm. Their o-

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mostlly destroyed by the neighbour's cattle and sheep. Discouraged by this, he turned his attention next to the improvement of his farm; and has, with great expence and labour, made out above twelve acres new land, where never a blade of corn grew before. Industry of this kind is beneficial to one's country, and deserves to be recorded.

The rent of land in the country part of the parish, including various customs and services, amounts to from 12*s.* to 23*s.* per acre, according to the quality and exposure: But, in the neighbourhood of the villages of Seatown and Kirktown, it pays in general from 25*s.* to 50*s.* And here some small spots of garden ground are let at the rate of from 5*l.* to 8*l.* Sterling per acre. These last, however, are generally possessed by seamen, shoemakers, and others, who keep no cattle, and must have a little ground for raising potatoes and greens to their families. Such high rents could not be paid by mere husbandmen.

The total gross rent of the parish is somewhat more than 730 bolls *vis-*tual, and 900*l.* Sterling. The valued rent is 253*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* Scots.

ther utensils are coarse, being commonly made by the tenants own hand, with the help of scarcely any other instrument but the ax and adze, which some of them can use very dextrously.

There is no wheat raised in this parish. The prevailing crops are oats and pease, sown in April; and bear, or bear and barley intermixed, which they commonly sow in May. Since the year 1782, when the crop of oats in this parish failed so much, that scarcely any of them were fit for sowing again, early oats of the Blainfley kind have been sown for the most part on the late farms, particularly by the tenants of Auchterflow; where they answer so well, that farmers in similar situations, over all this country, purchase from them for feed. The harvest begins in general about the 20th August, and ends in October, sooner or later, according to the drought or wetness of the summer, and the exposure of the farms. But on some grounds near the shore, the seasons are perhaps as early as in any corner of Scotland. For here a few tenants sow barley the first or second week of April, and reap it frequently in the end of July, or beginning of August. On these light grounds, a very simple rotation is practised, of barley and a green crop alternately. The green crop is pease or potatoes; for turnips, though a better preparative for barley, have not yet been introduced by the tenantry here.

In the higher and deeper grounds, no regular rotation of crops is followed, except on the heritor's own farms, where a good many of the modern improvements are practised with success.

The great aim of the country tenants, is to raise as much bear and barley as possible, which, finding a ready market with the highland distillers in Ferrintosh and Redcastle, turns out to be the most profitable crop. Most of those tenants



tenants raise also a little flax. But, as they seldom have ground in proper heart for it, it answers poorly; nor is there a mill in Ardmeanach for dressing it. About 50 years ago, the culture of hemp was practised, to the extent of from 30 to 40 acres in this parish. But since the importation of that article has become more frequent, they do not now sow a third part of the former quantity. More than 100 acres are now planted yearly with potatoes; which, besides preparing the land for barley, are exceedingly useful in their families. Clay is much used over all this country as a manure. They mix it with the dunghills in summer, and spread it out on their light grounds intended for barley in the spring. They imagine it has a good effect in keeping out the summer heat and drought from hurting the roots of the corn. It may thus in some measure correct the soil, but the kind of clay used by many of them, can add very little to the vegetable food of plants. But the chief error of these tenants is, that they rest little of their grounds, and these only when quite worn out; nor do they sow any grass seeds. This obliges them to send off most of their cattle to remote highland glens for the summer, where they lose many of them, and their growth is much retarded. What a loss must it also be to their farms, to be deprived of the dung of those cattle for about five months of the year?

Such extreme backwardness in the state of farming here, is occasioned partly by the tenants own obstinacy, that they will not follow good example set before them by the gentlemen farmers; partly by their poverty, as few of them can afford to purchase good utensils or grass seeds; but chiefly by the highness of their rents, the scarcity of servants, and the shortness of their leases: which in few cases exceed 7, 8, or 15 years. Another bar to improvement is the neglect of winter herding. For from the end of harvest to the middle of A-

pril, the tenants cattle pasture in common. And a man whose farm lies in a warm situation, and being in proper heart produces good foggage, cannot have the benefit thereof to himself, without either perpetual watching or inclosures, which he is not able to afford; but gets almost the substance eaten out of his grounds, by the neighbours cattle. Until these obstacles, or at least some of them, be removed, there can be little hope of seeing agriculture prosper in this district.

The number of horses in the parish, including garrons, may be about 250, of cattle 480, and sheep nearly 600.

*Manufactures.*—The principal branch consists of coarse linen and osnabrigs, made entirely of flax raised by the tenants themselves, spun in their houses, and woven within the parish. This may bring in yearly, from 300l. to 500l. Sterling; and no foreign material is required, except a few casks of Dutch lintseed. There is also as much hemp raised and manufactured by the farmers, as suffices for sails to the fishing boats. And the wool of the few sheep, is all made into cloth and stockings at home for the peoples own wear. Among the villagers of Seatown, there is a good manufacture carried on of herring and salmon nets, mostly from foreign hemp. Besides supplying the fishery here, they sell yearly from 150l. to 200l. value of these to Caithness, Lochbroom, and other fishing stations in the North. There was formerly a flourishing manufacture of shoes, from hides mostly dressed at home, which employed about thirty hands in the smaller villages of Kirktown, Millhill, and Miltown. But the late laws, imposing a heavy license duty on tanners, have operated nearly as a prohibition to this article. Some of the shoemakers have left the place, others have become day labourers. And five or six, who remain at work, have now no apprentices, nor  
can

can they make bread by it themselves, owing to the high price of leather.

The *imports* into this parish, consist of salt, iron, hemp, coarse cloths, whisky, a few grocery goods, and coals. The repeal of the duty on coals, will be an immense benefit in future years, as there are few peats to be got, and wood sells too high for fuel.

The exports consist of grain, cattle, herrings, and the manufactures formerly mentioned. Besides supplying its own inhabitants, this parish disposes of yearly to the neighbouring distillers, and the burghs of Fortrose and Inverness, from 800 to 1000 bolls bear, and from 200 to 400 bolls of oats, pease, and meal, including what is sent forth of the victual rents. Though the last crops (1792) was deficient in counties farther South, it was so plentiful in general throughout the Eastern half of Ross-shire and Cromarty, that, after serving the people and the numerous stills, those districts have exported six or seven thousand bolls.

*Population.*—If we may judge from concurring traditions, where no authentic record has been preserved; and from a well known fact, that there are a third more dwelling houses now in the parish of Avoch, than in the beginning of this century, the population must have increased considerably within that period. Yet, by Dr Webster's list in 1755, the population is stated at 1457; and by an accurate survey made partly in 1792, and concluded spring 1793, the number of living souls was found to be 1380.

The church, which was built in 1670, and was probably made sufficient to accomodate the parishioners, or at least such a number of them as might be expected to attend public worship regularly about that time, could not, in the way it was then fitted up, contain properly above 400 persons.

No proper record of deaths or burials has been yet kept in this parish, but the average of them is believed not to exceed 30. The register of baptisms and marriages, previous to 1787, appears to have been so carelessly and imperfectly made up, that no conclusions can be drawn from it with any degree of certainty. But of an exact register for five years past, the following abstract may be depended on.

| Years.   | Baptized, viz. |          | Couples married. |       |
|----------|----------------|----------|------------------|-------|
|          | Males.         | Females. |                  |       |
| In 1788, | 22             | 19       | 41               | 5     |
| 89,      | 23             | 21       | 44               | 6     |
| 90,      | 25             | 7        | 32               | 11    |
| 91,      | 23             | 28       | 51               | 10    |
| 92,      | 22             | 18       | 40               | 10    |
|          | <hr/>          | <hr/>    | <hr/>            | <hr/> |
|          | 115            | 93       | 208              | 42    |

Average Baptisms of Males, 23.—Females nearly 19.—  
Total nearly of Baptisms, 42.—Marriages, 8.

Other circumstances respecting the population, may be gathered from its state, in spring 1793, viz.

|                                         |                 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Number of inhabited houses or families, | 312             |
| Average of persons in a family,         | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Males in the parish,                    | 622             |
| Females,                                | 758             |
|                                         | <hr/>           |
| Total of living souls,                  | 1380            |

*Division of these by their ages.*

|                  |    |   |     |
|------------------|----|---|-----|
| Under 10 years,  | -  | - | 313 |
| Twixt 10 and 20, | -  | - | 334 |
| 20               | 30 | - | 228 |
| 30               | 40 | - | 146 |
| 40               | 50 | - | 139 |
| 50               | 60 | - | 116 |

|                                                         |   |   |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---------|
| "Twixt 60 and 70                                        | - | - | 65      |
| 70 80                                                   | - | - | 30      |
| 80 90                                                   | - | - | 9       |
| Inhabitants, in the Village of Seatown,                 | - | - | 378     |
| _____ of Kirktown,                                      | - | - | 99      |
| _____ of Milntown,                                      | - | - | 80      |
| _____ in the country,                                   | . | . | 823     |
| Heritor, residing,                                      | - | - | 1       |
| Minifter,                                               | - | - | 1       |
| Parochial Schoolmaster,                                 | - | - | 1       |
| Farmers, or tenants, paying from 20l. to 50l. sterling  |   |   |         |
| of yearly rent,                                         | - | - | 32      |
| _____ 5l. to 20l.                                       |   |   | 26      |
| Crofters,                                               | - | - | 42      |
| Mailers, villagers, and Fishermens families, possessing |   |   |         |
| only a house, or house and garden each, rented          |   |   |         |
| under 11. sterling,                                     | - | - | 209     |
| Able Fishermen of 20, and not exceeding 50 years of     |   |   |         |
| age,                                                    | - | - | 42      |
| Shop-keepers,                                           | - | - | 3       |
| Mason, and 2 apprentices,                               | - | - | 3       |
| Quarriers, and Dykers, in the country,                  | - | - | 3       |
| House-carpenter, with 2 apprentices,                    | - | - | 3       |
| Country Wrights and Coopers,                            | - | - | 4       |
| Boat-builders,                                          | - | - | 4       |
| Millers,                                                | - | - | 3       |
| Blacksmith,                                             | - | - | 1       |
| Butcher,                                                | - | - | 1       |
| Tailors,                                                | - | - | 8       |
| Weavers, with their apprentices, or looms employed,     |   |   | 22      |
| Shoemakers,                                             | - | - | 9       |
| Quarriers, and quarry boatmen, at Munlochy bay,         |   |   | 10      |
| Widowers,                                               | - | - | 13      |
|                                                         |   |   | Widows, |



|                                                       |   |   |   |   |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|------|
| Widows,                                               | - | - | . | - | 68   |
| Married persons,                                      | - | - | - | - | 444  |
| Of the Established Church,                            | - | - | - | - | 1362 |
| Episcopalians, who occasionally attend Coull's Chapel |   |   |   |   |      |
| at Fortrose,                                          | - | - | - | - | 4    |
| Seceders, who commonly attend the Meeting-houses      |   |   |   |   |      |
| at Inverness and Nairn,                               | - | - | - | - | 14   |

N. B. Of the handicraftsmen specified above, several have small possessions of land, which occupy part of their time, particularly the weavers and shoemakers.

And of the mailers, villagers, and crofters in the country, a good many work in summer as day-labourers, and some go to the south country for employment during the summer and autumn. Others of them, who have small horses or garrons, earn part of their livelihood, by cutting and bringing down fuel from the moors, to supply the Seatown.

Only one still, of 30 gallons, is wrought in this parish, by a copartnery of the neighbouring farmers; and some of the tenants have shares also in another licensed still, in the adjoining parish of Suddy, or Knockbean.

There is not one surgeon, or attorney, or Roman Catholic, or Jew, or Negroe, or gypsy, or foreigner; nor any native of England, Ireland, or the British colonies, residing at present in this parish.

*Fishing.*—About the end of last century, there was only one fishing boat here, the crew of which resided in the country. The village of Seatown, which contains at present 93† families, has been mostly, if not entirely, built since that period, and the fishermen there are now equal to any in the  
North

† N. B. This number, besides the Fishermen, includes also the families of widows, publicans, boat-builders, and other artificers who reside among them.

North of Scotland, for hardiness, skill, and industry, though their distance from the main ocean subjects them to many inconveniences.

From the beginning of October to the middle of March, they commonly fish for herrings in these upper parts of the Frith. Towards the end of March and in April, they go down along the coasts of Moray and Caithness, for cod, skate, and haddocks. In May and June, some of them are engaged by the Northumberland Fishing company to catch lobsters for the London market, on the shores of Easter Ross, about Tarbat-point. The others, during those months, work at the haddock fishing, to supply the towns of Inverness and Fortrose, and the Western part of the Black Isle. About the middle of July, all the able fishermen here go off to Caithness, and Lochbroom, for six or eight weeks, when the herring fishery at those stations is commonly most favourable; and in good years they have been known to bring home from thence, 8l. or 10l. Sterling each man of nett gain.

They generally return in September, to prepare for the season at home, which, owing to the small depth, and clearness of this frith, begins only about the autumnal equinox, or a fortnight thereafter. The same causes oblige the fishermen, for the most part, to delay their work here till evening or night, as the herrings are then caught in much greater numbers, than during the day. In good seasons, it is not uncommon for each boat to bring in the quantity of from 18 to 25 barrels in one night. When the shoal comes up in the end of June or beginning of July, the herrings prove generally best, and most plentiful.

In winter 1786-7, besides those used at home, five or six thousand barrels were cured here for exportation; and seve-

ral floops also were dispatched with full cargoes of unpacked herrings for Dunbar, and other towns on the east coast.— Since that period, the success in general has been poor at this station, little more than what served to supply the neighbouring country; except in spring 1792, when about 1100 barrels were exported. Last winter, the herrings were uncommonly scarce. And the present season, 1793-4, though it promised well in autumn, has turned out but indifferently. There are not now (in February) 200 barrels packed.

The herrings found here are seldom so large as those caught at Caithness, and Lochbroom, which makes it necessary for the men to provide a different set of nets of a smaller mesh and depth, than what they use at the former stations. Nor have any buildings as yet been erected at Avoch, for curing them in the red manner. The quantity of herrings sufficient to pack a barrel when cured, is sold here fresh, at from 3s. to 5s. 6d. according to the quality and the demand. And the middle-sized, when fat, are reckoned much nicer, and more delicate eating, than larger ones, though they do not fetch so good a price at the London and other markets, being not accounted so fit for exportation to hot climates. But, if our best hands, at all the different stations in the north and west of Scotland, were provided with large and commodious buffes, so that they could go out and continue fishing in deep water, and cure their herrings on board, in the same expeditious and careful manner that the Dutch do, this business might soon become much more advantageous to Great Britain than at present, and our fish become as saleable abroad as theirs! And the weaker and more indifferent hands would, at same time, find the better employment in continuing to catch for ordinary consumption at home, from the smaller shoals

shoals, which now and then come near to our shores, in the manner that all the hands do at present.\*

4 L 2

*Wages*

\* The Messrs Falls of Dunbar, were, for many years, the principal adventurers in the herring fishery here : And from them the Avoch men met with very good encouragement. Since the unfortunate failure of that old and respectable house, the Northumberland or Beadnel Fishing Company have taken up part of this business, in which an established company, with a good capital, have a far better chance of success than small adventurers, who cannot afford to lay in a proper stock of salt and barrels, much less to keep them unused in unfavourable seasons. At this station, indeed, the herring fishing, on the present plan, has been found, for some years past, to be but a precarious concern. One successful winter tempted many of the neighbouring shopkeepers to embark in it : And those who did so with borrowed money, have mostly become bankrupts since. To secure the important national benefits of this trade, every reasonable encouragement should be given to both the fishermen and curers.

The fishing boats used here are of a small size ; their keel being only 26 or 27 feet in length ; the mouth from 30 to 32 feet long, and 10 feet wide.--- The depth is so proportioned to these dimensions, as that they may sail well, and may carry, besides the crew and their fishing tackle, 3 or 4 tons safely. Six of these boats, wrought by seven men each, for the white fishing, and two or three smaller ones or yawls, occupied by old men and boys, belong to the place. During the herring season, they fit out a good many more, as four men, with a boy to steer, serve this purpose, and they then hire some additional hands from the country. When the season here proves successful, the fishing boats of Nairn, Delnies, Campbeltown, and Petty, join them ; and some likewise from Easter Ross, Cromarty, Rosemarky, Fortrose, and Kelfock ; so that, even in this upper part of the Frith, 60 or 80 herring boats, containing above 300 men, may be seen at times, plying together on the same stream. But such crowds are thought to be rather prejudicial to the business, in clear shallow water like this, as the herrings often suddenly disappear from them, and it is strongly suspected, that a multitude of boats and nets tends to frighten them away.

The quantity of canvas carried by the Avoch men, and some others in this neighbourhood, is very much disproportioned to the small size and burden of their boats. The length of the mast is generally above 30 feet. On this, they

*Wages and price of provisions.*—The following comparative state, founded on good information, will shew the advance  
on

they hoist an immense oblong sail, containing nearly 80 square yards, or 700 square feet of cloth. And they carry a foresail besides, on a pole at the boat stem, of the same oblong form, but only a tenth part of the size of the other. Their skill and alertness in setting and reefing those sails, according to the wind and weather, and the course they mean to pursue, are wonderful. Several gentlemen of the navy have expressed their surprize at this, and declared, that they have seldom seen common fishermen carry so great a proportion of sail, or manage it more dextrously on any other part of the British coasts. Yet there have been only four Avoch men drowned by their boats oversetting, since the fishery first began here. But, as they continue gradually to enlarge those sails, without increasing the boats in proportion, it is to be feared that such accidents may become more frequent among them. For there is undoubtedly, a *ne plus ultra* in this, as in all other human attempts.

In justice to the active enterprising spirit of those honest men, we may add, that three of the Seatown crews having engaged in spring 1791, to fish for several months on the coast of Northumberland, coasted it in their little open boats the whole way from Avoch to Beadnel, without either chart or compass, and returned home in like manner, with no other accident, except splitting one of their sails. A long voyage this for so small craft to undertake, if we consider the different windings of the coast, which they must necessarily follow! What a pity, that such men have not been regularly taught *navigation*, nor got larger vessels to manage, for there is not a single sloop belonging to the place.

The former inconvenience may now be obviated by the academy lately established at Fortrose, which affords them an easy and near opportunity of getting their children better instructed than heretofore. And if, along with this advantage, Providence be pleased to favour them with three or four good fishing years in succession, it is more than probable that some of the more careful and spirited young men may be persuaded to unite and improve their gains, in fitting out two or three small buffes, or proper freighting sloops for this craft, of 50 or 60 tons each; which could occasionally be navigated by fewer hands than any of their present boats. Such sloops might be employed to good advantage every herring season on the bounty; and during the other months they would find abundant encouragement in carrying out car-



on some essential articles of this nature, within 60 years past, in this district, viz.

|                                                                     |  | <i>Common amount</i> |                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                                     |  | <i>in 1734.</i>      | <i>Ditto in 1794.</i> |
| Wages of an able ploughman, or farm servant, per annum, sterling, — |  |                      |                       |
| ———— a Female servant, —                                            |  | L. 1 13 4            | L. 4 4 0              |
| ———— a day labourer, per diem, finding his own victuals, — —        |  | 0 13 3               | 1 10 0                |
| ———— a journeyman mason, do. do.                                    |  | 0 0 4                | 0 0 9                 |
| ———— a journeyman wright, do. do.                                   |  | 0 0 11               | 0 1 10                |
| ———— a taylor, do. do. —                                            |  | 0 0 8                | 0 1 3                 |
|                                                                     |  | 0 0 5                | 0 0 9                 |
|                                                                     |  | <i>Common prices</i> | <i>Ditto in</i>       |
|                                                                     |  | <i>in 1734.</i>      | <i>Spring 1794.</i>   |
| Oatmeal, per boll, 9cwt. 9 stone, or 144lbs.                        |  |                      |                       |
| Amsterdam weight, —                                                 |  | L. 0 8 10 2-3        | 0 16 0                |
| Barley, or bear, per boll, (Linlithgow measure,) — —                |  | 0 9 0                | 0 18 0                |
| Pottatoes per peck, (ditto 2 streaks,) not then sold                |  |                      | 0 0 6                 |
| Beef and veal, per lib. (Amsterdam weight,)                         |  |                      |                       |
| about — —                                                           |  | 0 0 1                | 0 0 2 1-2 to 3d.      |
| Good Mutton, per do. do. about                                      |  | 0 0 0 3-4            | 0 0 3                 |
| Pork, per do. do. about —                                           |  | 0 0 1                | 0 0 2 to 2 1-2        |
| Ducks, each, — —                                                    |  | 0 0 3                | 0 0 8                 |
| Chickens, do. — —                                                   |  | 0 0 2                | 0 0 4 to 6d.          |
| Eggs per dozen, — —                                                 |  | 0 0 0 3-4            | 0 0 1 1-2 to 2d.      |
| Haddocks, per do. — —                                               |  | 0 0 1                | 0 0 9                 |
| Butter per stone, (of 21lbs. Amsterdam weight, — — —)               |  |                      |                       |
|                                                                     |  | 0 5 0                | 0 12 0                |
| Cheese, per do. — —                                                 |  | 0 1 8                | 0 5 0 to 5s. 6d.      |
| Salt per peck, (Linlithgow meal measure or 14lbs. Amsterdam weight, |  |                      |                       |
|                                                                     |  | 0 0 7                | 0 1 6                 |

*Roads*

|| Within the above period, the establishment of a garrison at Fort George, and the flourishing state of Inverness, by greatly increasing the demand, have tended

goes of grain, when it could be spared, and bringing home coals, salt, lime, and other necessaries, to supply the increasing demands of this part of the country

*Roads and Bridges.*—Not only in this parish, but over the whole of Ardmearach, the roads have, for many years past, been

tended to raise the price of most kinds of provisions here. Considering however the high rents now paid by the farmers, and the progressive advance on every thing else, those present rates, on the whole, cannot be reasonably complained of, except by such persons as have had narrow limited incomes, with no opportunity of improving them. One necessary article, *salt*, for home consumption, has, indeed, been uncommonly scarce and high priced for some months, over all the north of Scotland; but for this, it is hoped, that the wisdom of Parliament will soon provide a remedy. And the late repeal of the duty on coals carried coastways, though the advance on freight of such a bulky article, prevents the benefit being so sensibly felt at present, must, when the war is over, be acknowledged a great relief, to a district so poorly poorly provided with other fuel as this.

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country. To promote and encourage such a scheme, would unquestionably be the interest of both gentlemen and traders on both sides of this Frith; as good seamen, having their home, or residence of their families here, could (*ceteris paribus*) afford to serve the neighbourhood on easier terms than strangers: Besides that, a great part of the money, which these districts must necessarily pay for such freights, would thus remain and circulate at home. There is likewise another important consideration, that cargoes would be exposed to less hazard of loss or damage, under the care of seamen so well acquainted with most of the different harbours, rocks and sand banks, in this long and tedious Frith.

No less remarkable are the inhabitants of this thriving village in general, for their industry and diligence. They manufacture, of the best materials they can procure, not only all their own fishing apparatus, but also a great quantity of herring and salmon nets yearly, for the use of other stations in the North and West Highlands. From Monday morning to Saturday afternoon, the men seldom loiter at home 24 hours at a time, when the weather is at all favourable for going to sea. And the women and children, besides the care of their houses, and the common operations of gathering and affixing bait, and of vending the fish over all the neighbouring country, do a great deal of those manufactures. Some of their families also cultivate from a rood to half an acre of potatoes yearly for their own supply; and others, whose children are more advanced, raise and dress, for the herring nets, a good quantity

been as well attended to, and kept in as good repair, as in any part of Scotland, where turnpikes are not established. At most places, where highways meet or intersect each other, 'direction-posts have been fixed and kept up. In a country, where many of the inhabitants cannot speak to a stranger in English, the importance of these is obvious. Part of one road here, 'twixt the Seatown of Avoch and Fortrose, being liable to frequent incroachments of the sea, proves exceedingly troublesome and expensive. A substantial repair to that, and a few small bridges, are the principal things of this nature now wanted in the district. The county of Ross, last year, established a commutation of the statute labour within their bounds, with a view, no doubt, to improve those matters of police still farther, by hiring able hands with the money and keeping steady surveyors over them. The rates charged are 1s. 6d. yearly from each man, liable to the statute work; and 2s. 6d. more from the tenants, for the strength of each plough. These rates may be thought hard by some poor people, who have little ready money to command, and would rather give their work in the moderate way it used to be exacted. But every judicious farmer, or well employed mechanic, who considers the importance of a long summer day for carrying on his own work or improvements at home, will

tity of hemp. Even the aged and infirm employ themselves as busily as they can at making and baiting hooks, and mending nets, so that, except for a few days about Christmas, or on the occasion of a fisher's wedding, there are none but little children idle in the whole Seatown. And this their industry turns out to good account; for they bring up and provide for their families decently in their sphere. They pay honestly all the debts they contract in the country, and, considering the number of widows, and fatherless, and of infirm and aged persons among them, very few of this village, except in cases of great emergency, are found to solicit the assistance of either public or private charity.

will think it much more expedient to pay them. Whether this scheme, however, on the whole, shall more effectually promote the public good than the former, the county will be better enabled to judge, after some years experience.

*Language.*—Although most names of places, and many surnames of persons here are evidently derived from the Gaelic, the inhabitants, in general, of this and the two neighbouring parishes, of Rosemarky and Cromarty, understand and use the English language. They speak it also more purely, and with less of a provincial accent or drawl, than those of many southern counties in Scotland. Hence some have supposed them to be the descendants of a colony brought from some distant part of the kingdom, especially as the common people in all the contiguous parishes around, speak mostly in Gaelic; and two-thirds of them understand no other tongue. Whereas, in this parish, there are only six or eight families unacquainted with the English language, and three-fourths of the parishioners use it in common. Nor has any Gaelic been preached in the church of Avoch since the beginning of this century, although one or two of the ministers understood it perfectly, and could deliver their sentiments in that language with fluency. The prevalence, however, of the English language in this corner, may be more easily accounted for, from the more frequent intercourse of its inhabitants by both sea and land, with those of the southern provinces.

The patronage of this parish belongs to Miss Brodie of Lethen. The stipend, including an augmentation lately decreed, consists of six chalders, part barley, part meal; 46*l.* Sterling, money; 6*l.* of conversion for the vicarage and fish tiends; and 5*l.* more for communion elements. The glebe, in three separate spots, all arable, measures nearly six acres.

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The church was new roofed, and otherwise improved in 1792. The manse, built in 1672, has undergone several reparations since, and is now a comfortable lodging. The ministers, since the Restoration of Presbytery, and dates of their settlements, have been :

1712-13—Mr Alexander M'Bean, afterwards minister at Inverness.

1716. Mr Alexander Ray, who died here in 1735.

1736. Mr Alexander Frazer, translated in 1755 to Inverness.

1756. Mr Thomas Simpson, who died here in 1786.

Sept. 1787. Mr James Smith, the present incumbent.

The minister of Avoch is co-administrator with the minister of Rosemarky, of the fund which pays the masters salaries in the academy at Fortrose ; and of some lands bequeathed by a late Countess of Seaforth, for the support of the poor in same burgh.

The parochial school of Avoch is attended by about 50 scholars. The master's salary, payable by the heritors, is 6l. 13s. 4d. Sterling. His wages and emoluments, as session clerk and presenter, may, *communibus annis*, amount to 3l. more. He teaches English, Latin, Writing, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, and Church music. But the fees from his scholars, as the tenantry in general are not able to afford much, will seldom exceed 10l. Sterling. So that this office is scarcely worth 20l. a year.

There is a sewing school for girls in the Kirktown, and two or three small schools in different corners of the parish, for initiating young children to read, but they have no salaries.

A Sunday school, on a proper plan, and a spinning school, for teaching young girls to work at the two-handed wheel, would both be found exceedingly useful institutions in such



a populous parish as this, and where the linen manufacture stands much in need of improvement.

*State of the Poor, &c.*—There are about 40 indigent persons now on the roll. The funds for their relief are the interest of 33l. 6s. 8d. Sterling, bequeathed by the late Sir Kenneth M'Kenzie of Scatwell in the hands of his own family;—the interest of about 50l. more under the session's management; and the public voluntary contributions in church: which last, at an average of three years bygone, amounts to 8l. 11s. 4d. Sterling yearly. All these funds, however, can afford but a scanty help to each.

A crew of the fishermen having been accidentally drowned in 1792, left seven widows and a good many dependents, some of them in most pitiable circumstances. One young girl, in particular, who, at 19 years of age, had been married only seven months before, was, by this unforeseen accident, bereaved at once of her husband! her father! her brother! and was left big with child, and in debt! On this melancholy occasion, it was found necessary to ask some charitable assistance from other places. And a liberal supply was obtained, adequate to their more immediate needs. For, besides what was collected within the bounds of this presbytery, the following contributions from different quarters, mostly unsolicited, were remitted to the kirk session for relief of those unfortunate people, and have all been distributed among them, viz.

|                                                          |   |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| From the town and neighbourhood<br>of Inverness,         | - | Sterling L. 32 5 0 |
| From some gentlemen of Nairn-shire,<br>and Fort George,  | - | 6 5 6              |
| And a collection made in the parish<br>church of Alness, | - | 5 1 8              |
|                                                          |   | The                |

The distress of the widows having thus been mitigated, particularly until such of them as had been left pregnant were delivered, and nursed their infants, they have almost all now returned to proper habits of industry, sufficient to support themselves and their families. Such examples, it is hoped, will not be thought misplaced in this record, because they not only, in their measure, do honour to human nature, but may tend to encourage others to "*do likewise*," in similar cases!

The deficiency of crop 1782 was severely felt in this parish, except by some farmers near the shore. But from the great quantities of corn then imported, and the seasonable supply sent by Government for the poor, it is not believed, that any person here died then of want. And the more industrious tenants have since compleatly recovered from the effects of that year, upon their little stock and credit.

*General Character of the Inhabitants.*—The parishioners here are mostly of a middle size, strong and healthy, and capable of enduring a good deal of fatigue and labour. There may be 8 or 10 men among them six feet high; and very few dwarfs or deformed persons are to be seen ¶.

*Means*

¶ The inhabitants of the country part are generally but in poor circumstances. Hence they feel many straits in bringing up their families. This, with the scarcity and increased wages of servants, obliges some of them to put their children to hard work rather too soon; even the greater farmers, who, as they raise bread for many others, should have it in their own power to live pretty comfortably in their sphere, enjoy here but few of the comforts, and none of the luxuries of life; except, perhaps, in the use of spirituous liquors, to which both they and the fishermen have become of late too much addicted. This has taken place almost entirely of that wholesome strengthening beverage, good beer, which their fathers harmlessly quaffed. The present generation are, indeed, better clothed; but they eat less and coarser bread, and have, perhaps, less ready money. Their houses also, are for most part miserably dirty, smoaky,  
and

*Means by which their Condition could be meliorated.*—If the British Society for improving and extending the fisheries, or the

and meanly furnished. But, as they have little acquaintance with any better condition, so long as they can make a stretch to pay their rent and their debts, they appear contented with their own. Their moral character is, in general, good, if we except only a few vices and failings, to which their straitened situation exposes them. They are honest and industrious, faithful to their master or landlords, and attached to their King and Country. As to religion, the greater part of them appear serious and devout, and regularly attend on public worship and ordinances. In most parishes here, it is not uncommon for several thousands of people to assemble, from all corners of the country, on a sacramental occasion.

Marriages, in this place, are generally conducted in the stile of penny weddings. Little other fare is provided, except bread, ale, and whisky. The relatives, who assemble in the morning, are entertained with a dram and a drink *gratis*. But, after the ceremony is performed, every man pays for his drink. The neighbours then convene in great numbers. A fiddler or two, with perhaps a boy to scrape on an old violincello, are engaged. A barn is allotted for the dancing; and the house for drinking. And thus, they make merry for two or three days, till Saturday night. On Sabbath, after returning from church, the married couple give a sort of dinner or entertainment to the present friends on both sides. So that those weddings, on the whole, bring little gain or loss to the parties.

As superstitious prejudices begin to wear out, the practice of inoculation for the small pox gains ground considerably here; though it is not so successful as in other parts, owing to many of the parents not following the surgeon's prescriptions; and giving ardent spirits to their children, even during the height of the disease.

At common funerals, in this district, the corpse is preceded by the parish officer tolling a hand bell. The pall or mort-cloth is of plain black velvet, without any decoration, except a fringe. An immense crowd of both sexes attend. And the lamentations of the women, in some cases, on seeing a beloved relative put into the grave, would almost pierce a heart of stone.

The inhabitants of Seatown live more comfortably than of the country: And they begin now to build neat commodious houses, which cost above 2*l*. Sterling, each. Among the fishers, it usual for both sexes to marry at, or under 20 years of age. And of several of their families; there are four generations

the Hon. Board of Trustees for fisheries, manufactures, and improvements in Scotland, would, over and above the bounties now allowed by Government, grant some premiums to actual fishermen for a few years at the different herring stations in the North; to three or four, at least, of the herring boats at each station, whose crew, consisting of a fixed number, and within a limited time of every season, should catch and deliver the greatest quantities of good herrings to the curers;—this, it is believed, would excite much emulation among the hands, and be attended with many beneficial consequences. A pier, sufficient for boats and small sloops, would render this station much more commodious and safe than at present, and could be built for a moderate sum: And, if the bounds of the Seatown were extended, by throwing a  
bridge

rations now living in the place. Their women are, in general, hardy and robust, and can bear immense burdens. Some of them will carry a hundred weight of wet fish a good many miles up the country. As the bay is flat, and no pier has yet been built, so that the boats must often take ground a good way off from the shore, these poissardes have a peculiar custom of carrying out and in their husbands on their backs, “to keep their men’s feet dry,” as they say. They bring out, in like manner, all the fish and fishing tackles, and at these operations, they never repine to wade, in all weathers, a considerable distance into the water. Hard as this usage must appear, yet there are few other women so cleanly, healthy, or so long lived in the country.

During the last war, 13 Avoch men were pressed into the Royal Navy. and though most of these served in Admiral Parker’s own ship in his dreadful engagement with the Dutch off the Dogger Bank, as well as in other actions, not one of them was hurt by the enemy. Their regular and good behaviour was acknowledged by all their officers, and eleven of the number returned home in 1783, with a good many guineas each of saved money. Mr Dundas’s late regulations for the punctual pay of seamen, will be very beneficial in this respect; and will encourage them to enter much more readily than before. The greatest hardships now, is leaving their families; as they commonly marry at such an early period of life; and are all happy and contented with their situation and circumstances at home

bridge over the burn, and proper security given the men, by way of feus or otherwise, for building good houses on a regular plan along the adjoining shore;—from the increase of their families, it is more than probable, that the extent and population of this thriving village would be doubled within 50 years hence. ¶

*Antiquities.*—The foundations still remain of a large old castle or *Fortalice*, on the top a little hill near Castletownpoint, about 200 feet above the level of the sea. This mount is called by some, *Ormondy hill*: And tradition gives the name of *Douglas Castle* to the ruin. It covers an oblong space,

¶ As to the country part of the parish, though the farms are, in general, too highly rented, considering the present mode of husbandry here; yet, if the heritors would be persuaded to give their more active and best stocked tenants, leases for 38 years, or for 19 years and a life, at the present rents, with some encouragement to inclose their grounds and build better steadings; and taking the tenants bound to have always a third part of each farm under grass, and to keep their cattle at home during summer, and to winter herd; the face of the country would be improved, the example followed by others, the condition of the tenantry amended, and the present security and future interest of the landlords promoted. The more effectually to bring about those so desirable objects, thirlage should be abolished, by parcelling out the present rent of each miln proportionably upon the different farms bound to it: and the use of lime and marle, under proper restrictions, should be introduced and encouraged among the farmers.

As the linen manufacture seems to be the most agreeable, and best adapted to this parish, a good lint mill, on the burn of Avoch, would both save a great deal of valuable time which the inhabitants now spend in dressing their flax by the stock and hand method, and would tend much to promote the farther cultivation of it. Machinery for striking pot barley, could be included under the same roof at a small expence, and would probably be well employed by both the country and the neighbouring towns. To these hints, we shall only add, that to suppress in future the swarm of unlicensed tippling-houses, and to have only four or five proper persons, duly licensed, for retailing whisky and beer, within this parish, would be found productive of most happy consequences to the morals of the people and the public good.



space, about 350 feet long and 160 feet broad, divided into a good many apartments, which had been strongly built of coarse red quarry stone and lime, with a fosse on one side, and the appearance of bastions towards another. From its peculiar situation, and apparent strength of the works, it may have been easily defended before the invention of artillery. There are several traces of old encampments on different moors in the parish. A trench or row of large human bones was lately discovered, a good way beyond the boundary of the present burying ground. And there are several long stones in the church-yard, of a hard close texture, with antique figures of spears, arrows, and stars, carved upon them *in alto relievo*. All these may be vestiges of the conflicts of the Northern Clans, or of defences against the Danes, and other foreign invaders from this Frith. But no authentic history or tradition, worth mentioning, is now extant concerning them.

