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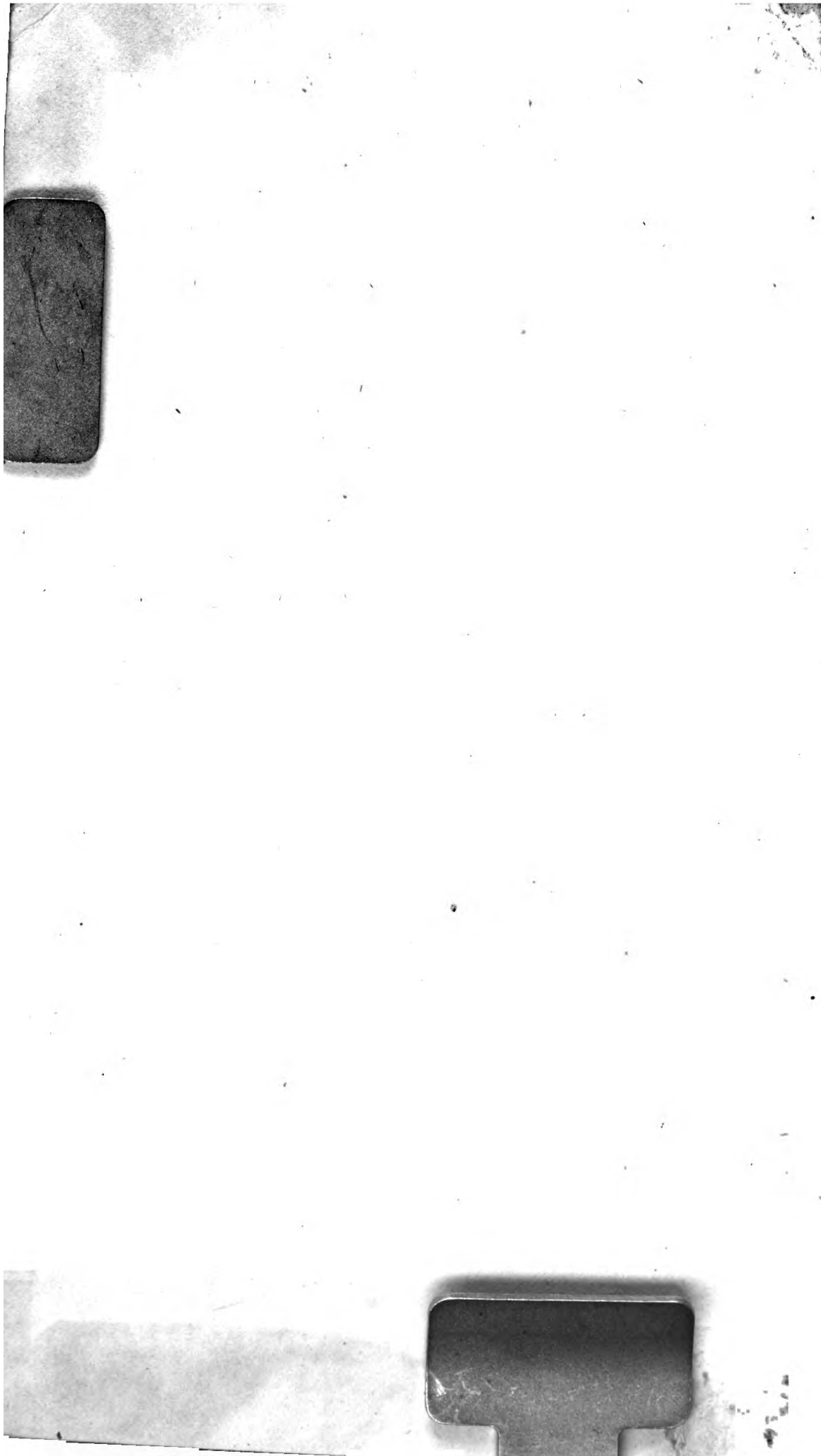
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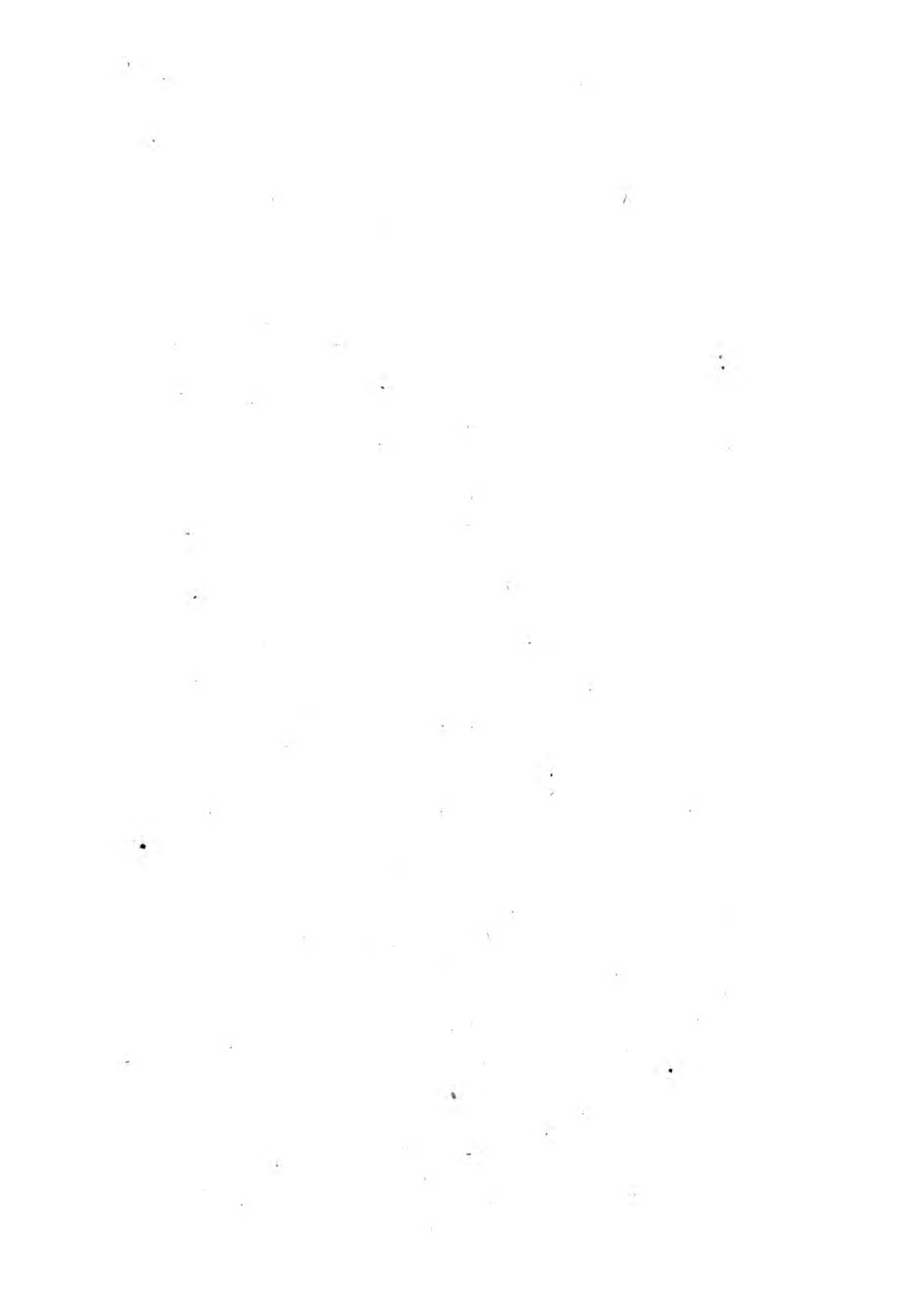
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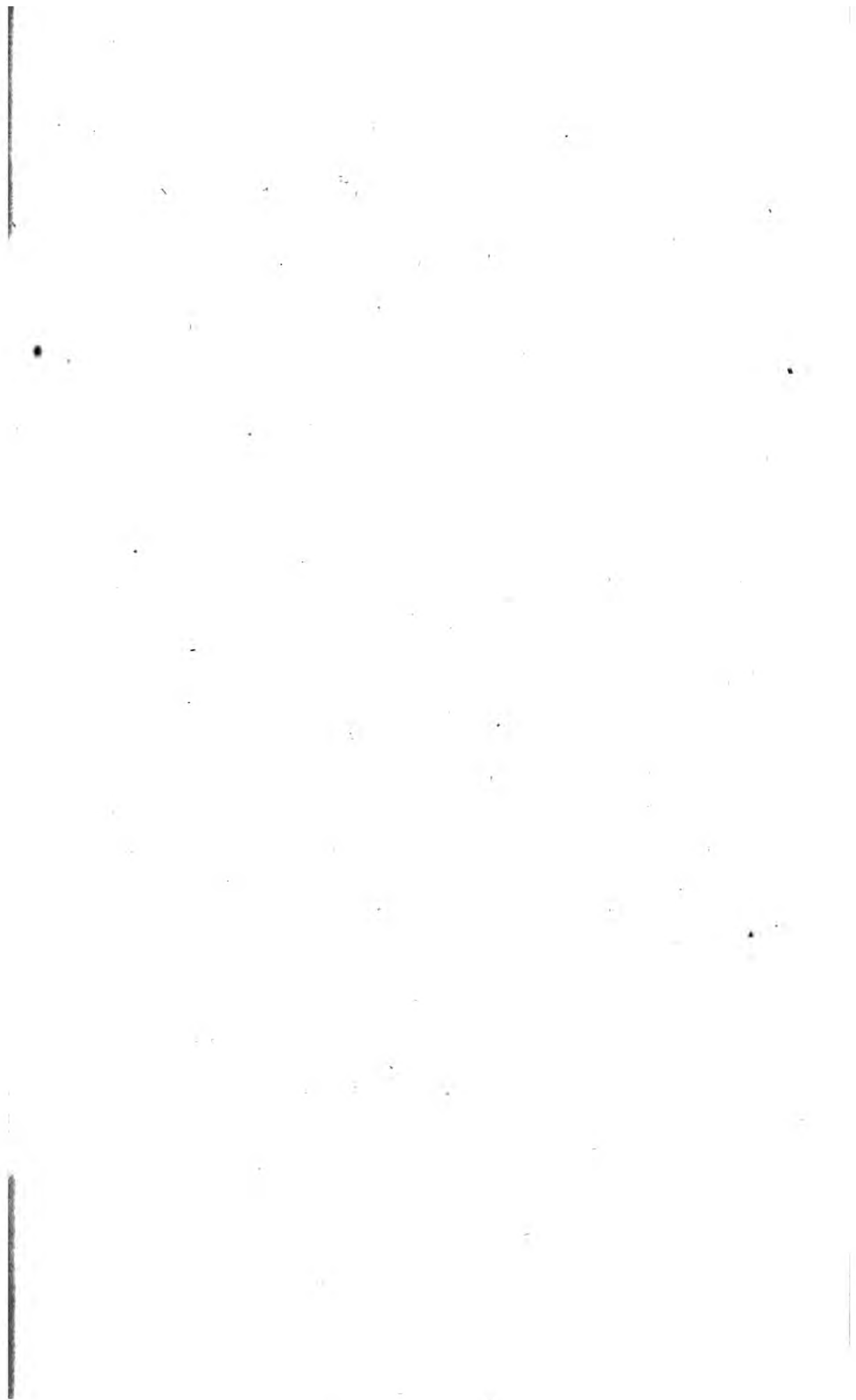


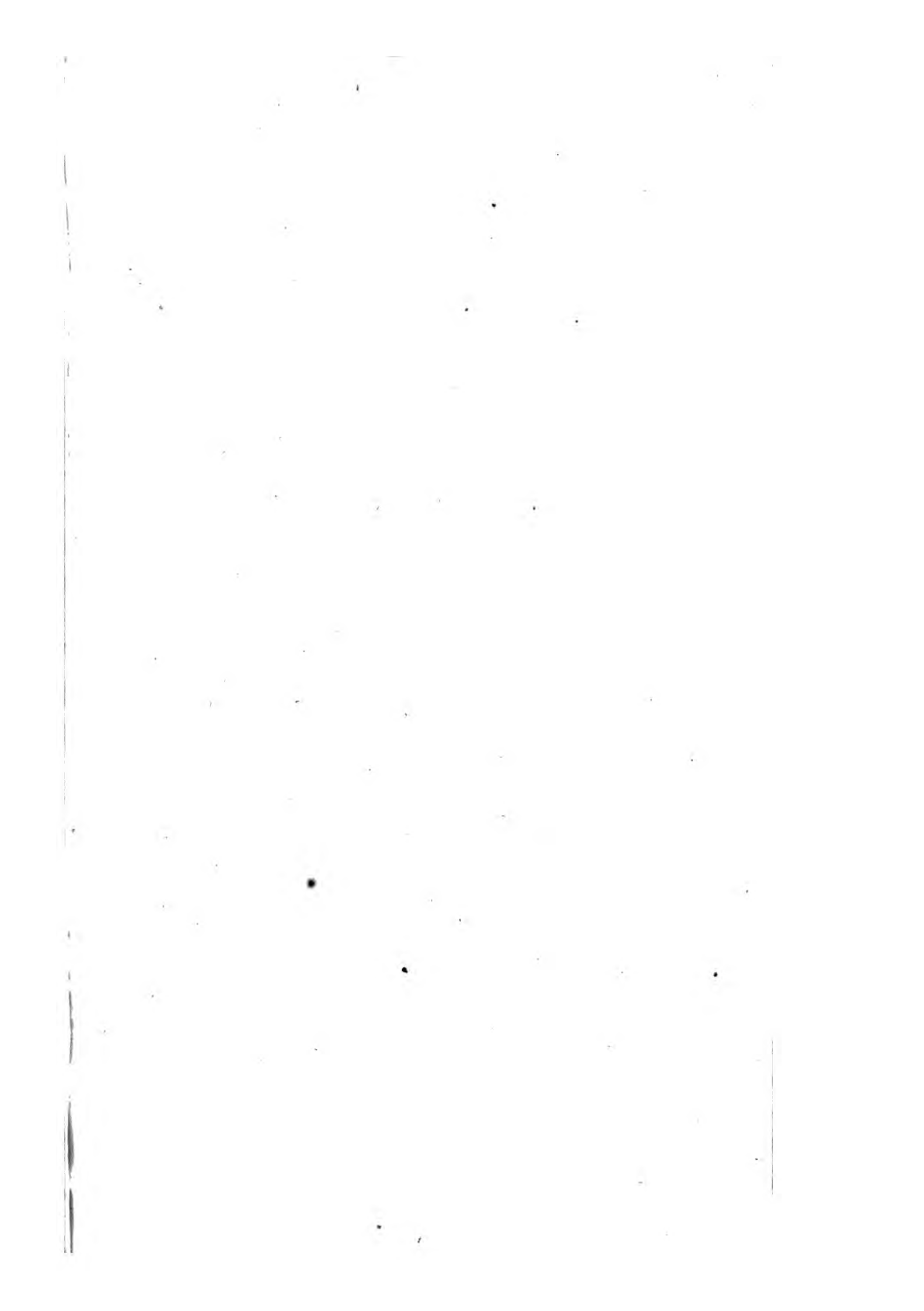
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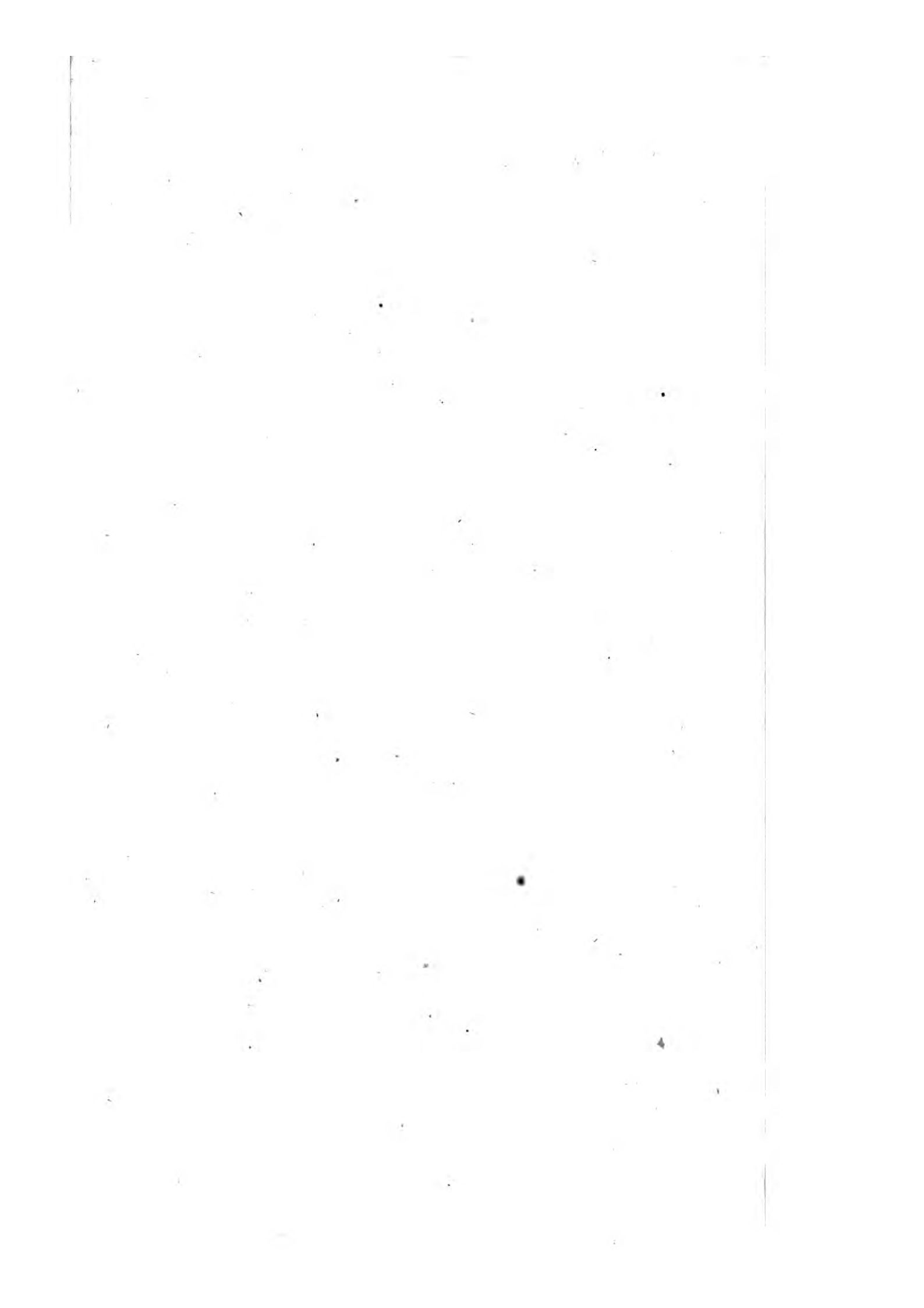






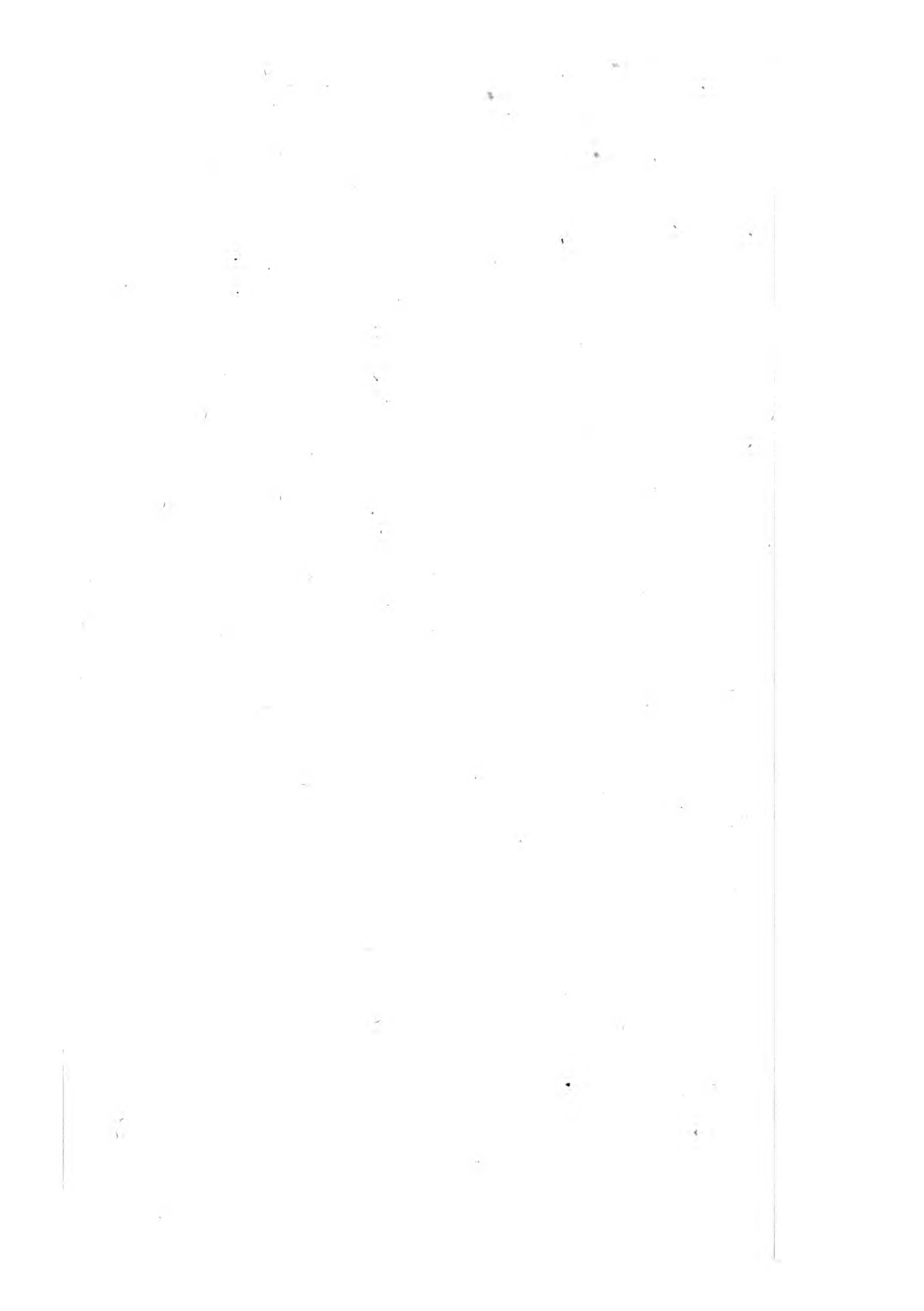






THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.





THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS

OF THE

MINISTERS

OF THE

DIFFERENT PARISHES.

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BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

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VOLUME FIRST.

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

CICERO de Orat. lib. ii.

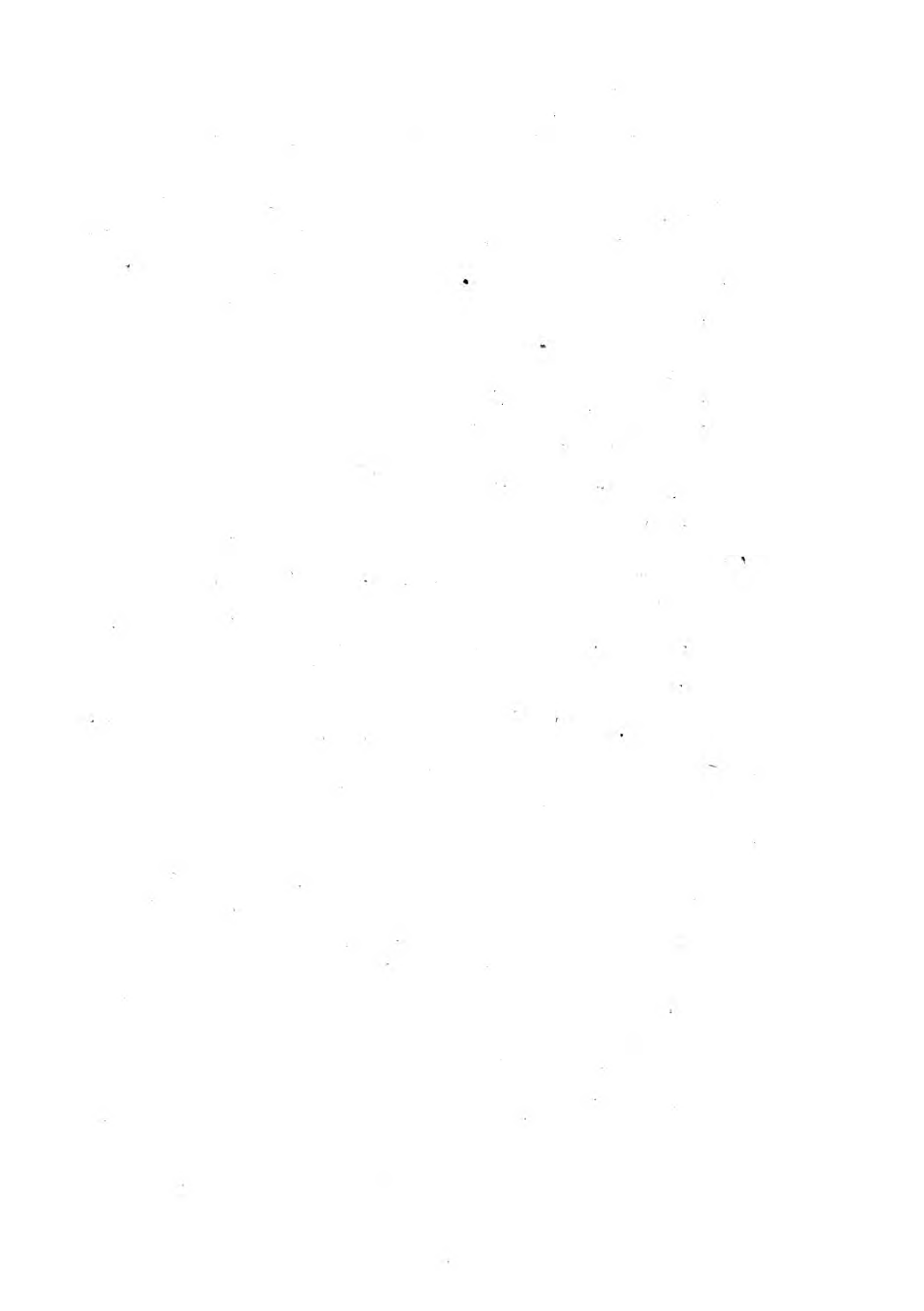


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EDINBURGH:

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M;DCC,XCI.



## I N T R O D U C T I O N.

**I**T is now about twelve months since I first had the honour of circulating among the Clergy of the Church of Scotland a variety of Queries, for the purpose of elucidating the Natural History and Political State of that Country. My original idea was, to have drawn up from their returns a general Statistical view of North Britain, without any particular reference to Parochial districts. But I found such merit and ability, and so many useful facts and important observations in the answers which were sent me, that I could not think of depriving the Clergy of the credit they were entitled to derive from such laborious exertions; and I was thence induced to give the Work to the Public in its present shape.

It would have been more desirable to have had the accounts of the different Parishes arranged by Presbyteries or Counties, for the purpose of connexion, and to prevent repetition, where the circumstances of the different districts were nearly similar. But it was not to be expected that complete information respecting any one of the larger divisions of the Kingdom, could be at once obtained. It was therefore

fore thought most advisable to throw as much variety as possible into the First Volume, that the Reader might be enabled to form some general idea of the State of the Kingdom even from this part of the Work. Whether the same plan is to be persevered in, or whether more regularity and connexion are to be attended to in future, will depend on the unanimity and dispatch with which the Clergy transmit the necessary information to the Author.

The variety of business, both of a public and of a private nature, in which I have of late been engaged, has prevented me from arranging or abridging, so completely as otherwise I should have done, the answers included in this Volume; and, indeed, that part of the Work must be attended with considerable difficulty, unless the Clergy in general will do, what many of them have very successfully executed, namely, transmit their accounts prepared for immediate publication. Answers to the Queries, however, which have been circulated, are still requested; but, where it is equally convenient, it is certainly more desirable that the Clergy should consider the Queries *merely as a key to inquiry*; and the models which are now set before them, together with the annexed Analysis, will be of service in pointing out the best mode of drawing up the Statistical Account of the different districts.

It would be improper to conclude without returning my best acknowledgments to the Clergy in general, for the attention they have paid to the different requisitions with which I have troubled them, and for the very polite and flattering manner with which they have personally addressed themselves to me on the occasion. The spirit and alacrity with which they have engaged in so laborious an undertaking must ever do them infinite credit; and they must feel the utmost satisfaction from the reflection, that they have contributed to the formation of a Work, of which it may be truly said, in the words of a respectable citizen of this country \*, “ That no Publication of equal  
“ information and curiosity has appeared in Great  
“ Britain since Dooms-day Book; and that, from the  
“ ample and authentic facts which it records, it must  
“ be resorted to by every future Statesman, Philoso-  
“ pher, and Divine, as the best basis that has ever  
“ yet appeared for political speculation.”

\* George Dempster, Esq;

ANALY.

EDIN. MAY 25. }  
1791. }

A N A L Y S I S

O F

*The Statistical Account of a Parochial District.*

As many of the Clergy may be desirous of having a particular form laid down for drawing up the Statistical Account of their respective Parishes, the following plan for that purpose is submitted to their consideration.

The name, and its origin  
Situation and extent of the parish  
Number of acres  
Description of the soil and surface  
Nature and extent of the sea coast  
Lakes, rivers, islands, hills, rocks, caves, woods, orchards, &c.  
Climate and diseases  
Instances of longevity  
State of property  
Number of proprietors  
Number of residing proprietors  
Mode of cultivation  
Implements of husbandry  
Manures  
Seed-time and harvest  
Remarkable instances of good and bad seasons  
Quantity and value of each species of crop  
Total value of the whole produce of the district  
Total real and valued rent  
Price of grain and provisions

Total

Total quantity of grain and other articles consumed in the parish

Wages and price of labour

Services, whether exacted or abolished

Commerce

Manufactures

Manufacture of kelp, its amount, and the number of people employed in it

Fisheries

Towns and villages

Police

Inns and ale-houses

Roads and bridges

Harbours

Ferries, and their state

Number of ships and vessels

Number of seamen

State of the church

Stipend, manse, glebe, and patron

Number of poor

Parochial funds, and the management of them

State of the schools, and number of scholars

Antient state of population

Causes of its increase or decrease

Number of families

Exact amount of the number of souls now living

Division of the inhabitants

1. By the place of their birth
2. By their ages
3. By their religious persuasions
4. By their occupations and situation in life
5. By their residence, whether in town, village, or in the country



**Number of houses**

———— uninhabited houses

———— dove-cots, and to what extent they are destructive  
to the crops

———— horses, their nature, and value

———— cattle and ditto

———— sheep and ditto

———— swine and ditto

**Minerals in general**

**Mineral springs**

**Coal and fuel**

**Eminent men**

**Antiquities**

**Parochial records**

**Miscellaneous observations**

**Character of the people**

**Their manners, customs, stature, &c.**

**Advantages and disadvantages**

**Means by which their situation could be meliorated**

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Parish

\* It may be proper to remark, that, by some mistake, it was omitted to be mentioned, that the account of Ballantrae was transmitted by the Rev. Mr William Donaldson, minister of that parish, who took a very early and active part in this inquiry.

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# STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

## S C O T L A N D.

P A R T I.

---

N U M B E R I.

### PARISH OF JEDBURGH.

*From Materials furnished by the Rev. Dr. THOMAS SOMER-  
VILLE Minister of Jedburgh.*

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#### *Origin of the Name.*

**I**N a charter granted by William the Lyon of Scotland, to the abbot and monks of Jedburgh, in the year 1165 \*, the names of Jedwarth and Jedburgh are promiscuously used; but in modern times the name of Jedburgh alone is retained. The name is sometimes written with a G; and is said to be derived from the Gadeni, a tribe who antiently inhabited the whole tract of country that lies between Northumberland and the river Tiviot. It was perhaps the capital city belonging to the tribe, and hence obtained the name of Gadburgh or Jedburgh.

VOL. I.

A

*Extent.*

\* A fac simile copy of this charter was published at Edinburgh by A. Bell, anno 1771.

*Extent.*—The extent of this parish is considerable, being about thirteen miles long, and in some places not less than six or seven miles broad: But the figure is irregular, being frequently intersected by the parishes of Oxnam and Southdean. It is bounded by Northumberland on the south and south-east, by the parish of Oxnam on the east, by Southdean on the south and south-west, by Bedrule on the west, by Ancrum on the north and north-west, and by Crailing on the north-east.

*Situation and Surface.*—The parish is situated within the county of Roxburgh or Tiviotdale. It is the seat of a presbytery, (that of Jedburgh) and belongs to the synod of Merse and Tiviotdale. The soil is various. The lower part of the parish, lying upon the banks of the Tiviot, is flat, and in general consists of light loam; but some part of it is gravelish, and some deep clay. By far the greater part of the parish, however, consists of hills and sheep farms. The hills are generally green and dry; but the interjacent flats are covered with bent, and rather swampy. On the whole, not above a fifth or sixth part of the parish consists of arable ground.

*Climate, Diseases, &c.*—The climate also varies in different parts of the parish. It is often mild and temperate in the town of Jedburgh, environed with the high banks of the adjacent river, while it is sharp and cold at the distance of a mile or two. The town itself is peculiarly healthy, fewer epidemical distempers prevailing there than in the neighbouring towns of Hawick and Kelso. The rheumatism is the most common disorder, which, though not frequent among people of better station, who are comfortably clothed, fed, and lodged, is nevertheless very general among the poorer sort of people, particularly such as are advanced in  
life,

life, who, in consequence of their miserable mode of living, and still more of the coldness and dampness of their houses, owing partly to the scarcity and high price of fuel, have too much reason to complain of what they call the *pains*, or the pains within them. The air, however, on the whole, being very salubrious, there are many instances of longevity in the parish. An old woman, who died 15 years ago, said that she was 105; but her name was not in the parish record. There are several now living, both in the town and country part of the parish, above 80. Many have survived 90 during the incumbency of the present minister; and there are three persons in the town, now living, who are above 90. There is also a shepherd in the 94th year of his age, who attends his flock as usual. The ravages which the small-pox formerly made have been greatly mitigated, inoculation being of late very general and very successful. In order to reconcile the minds of the common people to this useful practice, the heritors of Jedburgh, about ten years ago, allowed a small sum to defray the expence of inoculating the children of the poor, at a period when the disease was peculiarly fatal. This generous design was attended with the happiest success; among a thousand patients, inoculated by Dr Lindsay in the course of above 20 years practice, only two have been lost, and there is the strongest reason to believe that these two had been previously infected in the natural way. The other physicians and surgeons of the place have also been, it is believed, equally fortunate in this important branch of their practice.

*Rivers.*—The river Jed, which runs through this parish, has its source in the north side of the Carter-hill, in the parish of Southdean, about the distance of fourteen miles from the town of Jedburgh\*. It abounds with trouts, particularly

\* On the south side of the same hill, the river Tyne, which runs by Newcastle, takes its rise.

larly with a species of small red trout, of an excellent flavour. The river Fiviot also passes through this parish; the banks of which at first are steep, and its course rapid, yet afterwards it flows in beautiful curves, through wide and fertile haughs. In addition to its natural, it is to be hoped, that, in time, it will have artificial streams, as it is believed, from a late survey, that a canal might be carried from the sea to Ancrum Bridge. At present, however, there are no internal commodities to compensate for the great expence which such a work would require.

*Mineral Springs.*—There are two chalybeate springs near Jedburgh, and there are appearances of more in different places of the parish, which have never been yet properly investigated. One of the former, called Fud Hope Well, has been used with success in scorbutic, and, it is said, in rheumatic disorders.

*Hills.*—The most remarkable hill in the neighbourhood of Jedburgh, is the *Dunian*, which is situated partly in the parish of Jedburgh, and partly in that of Bedrule. Its elevation above the level of the sea is 1024 feet. The ridge of hills on the south side of the parish of Jedburgh, contiguous to the English border, is considerably higher, but arising from an elevated base, the elevation is not so striking. The tops of these hills are in general conical, and those who are attached to such ideas, are at no loss to discover a variety of circumstances favourable to the volcanic system.

*Woods.*—About fifty years ago the parish of Jedburgh abounded with wood. A few old oaks, elms, beeches, plains, and weeping willows still remain. The wood, which begins to rise from the old stocks upon the banks of the Jed, together with a variety of new plantations, form a beautiful and romantic

romantic scene on the road from Jedburgh to Northumberland.

*Caves.*—Vestiges of artificial caves appear upon the banks of the river Jed, particularly two large caves dug out of the rock at Hundalee and Linthaughlee. Their dimensions cannot now be ascertained, being, from the steepness of the rock or bank, almost inaccessible; but they are described by old persons, who have formerly entered into them when the access was less difficult, as consisting of three apartments, one on each hand of the entrance, and a larger one behind, which had the appearance of a great room. They were probably used as hiding places, or strong holds to shelter the inhabitants in the neighbourhood upon any sudden incursion by English invaders.

*Migratory Birds.*—The wood lark, bulfinch, and king's-fisher have been frequently found on the banks of the Jed. The plover, fieldfare, and dotorel, abound in the south and hilly parts of the parish. In the winter of 1788, during a severe fall of snow, a golden crested wren made its appearance. The size of it was much smaller than the common wren; the colour of the body nearly the same; but the head was adorned with feathers of a beautiful orange colour and gold.

*Number of Horses, Sheep, &c.*—There are 414 horses in the parish, and it is believed above 8000 sheep. There are some black cattle and horses bred for sale, but more for private use. A great number of cattle are bought in the autumn, and fed upon the foggage or after-grass, and upon turnips. In regard to sheep it may be proper to observe, that the value of wool, in the neighbourhood of Jedburgh, has been greatly increasing for several years past. The white wool in this parish has  
been



been sold at from 18s. to 20s *per* stone for the last three years, and the wool laid with tar at 15s. 16s. and some of it at 18s. In the lower part of the country, some farmers in Beaumont-Water sold their wool last season at L. 1 : 2 : 0 *per* stone. Seven or eight fleeces generally go to a stone.

*Population.*—There is every reason to believe, that the population of this and of the neighbouring parishes has greatly diminished since the commencement of the present century. Some years after the Union, and even when the returns were made to Dr. Webster about forty years ago, the number of inhabitants in the parish was supposed to be about 6000. There is no evidence, however, of any particular enumeration having been made. At present they do not exceed half that number. The inhabitants of the town were numbered with great accuracy about fifteen years ago, and fell short of 2000. The inhabitants of the country part of the parish do not exceed 800; and there are only two or three villages containing about 100 souls. The vestiges of uninhabited houses are to be seen both in the town and in the country. This decrease is partly to be attributed to the Union between the two kingdoms, by which the trade of Jedburgh was, in a great measure, ruined, and the population of the town diminished of consequence; and partly to the union of farms, which has depopulated the country.

*Effects of the Union on the Borders.*—The Union of the Parliaments of England and Scotland, has in some respects produced an effect very different from what might have been expected from it. Instead of promoting the increase, it has contributed to the diminution, of the people upon the Borders. Besides, the influence of various natural propensities, which induced men to flock to the scene where active talents were

were constantly employed, honour acquired, and the strongest national antipathies gratified, there were obvious considerations of interest, which rendered the situation of the Borders more eligible, after violence and hostility were repressed, by the union of the two Crowns, and the consequent interposition of the legislature of both kingdoms. The inhabitants of the Borders, while the taxes and the commercial regulations of the two kingdoms were different, enjoyed the opportunity of carrying on a very advantageous contraband trade, without danger to their persons or fortunes. Into England they imported, salt, skins, and malt, which, till the Union, paid no duties in Scotland; and from England they carried back wool, which was exported from the Frith of Forth to France, with great profit. The vestiges of forty malt-barns and kilns are now to be seen in the town of Jedburgh, while at present there are only three in actual occupation; and the corporation of skimmers and glovers, formerly the most wealthy in that town, have, since the Union, greatly diminished, both in regard to opulence and number. The proprietors of estates upon the Borders were well aware of the detriment which their property would suffer by the incorporating Union, and in general strenuously opposed it; and the commissioners for carrying on that treaty, were so sensible of the loss they would sustain, that they agreed to appropriate part of the equivalent money, as it was called, to their indemnification and benefit\*.

The Union has also been the cause of the depopulation of the Border country, by enlarging the sphere, and facilitating the means of emigration. While the two countries were in

a

\* See Defoe's History of the Union, minute 47. observation 47.

a hostile state, there was neither inducement nor opportunity to move from the one to the other. The inhabitants often made inroads upon one another; but when the incursion was over, they returned to their own homes. Their antipathy and resentments were a rampart which excluded all social intercourse, and mixture of inhabitants. In this situation, misconduct and infamy at home were the only motives to emigration, and while this was the case, the exchange of inhabitants would be nearly at a par: But after the Union of the two kingdoms, and the decline or extinction of national antipathies, the balance arising from the interchange of inhabitants would run much in favour of the more wealthy country. Artificers and labourers would naturally resort where wages were higher, and all the accommodations of life were more plentiful, especially if this could be effected without the unpleasing idea of relinquishing home. To pass from the Borders of Scotland into Northumberland, was rather like going into another parish than into another kingdom.

*Union of Farms.*—The monopoly of farms, or the conjoining a number of small possessions into one, has long been prevalent in this part of the kingdom. There are instances in this, and in the neighbouring parishes, of individuals renting and farming lands formerly possessed by six, eight, or ten tenants; and there are instances, particularly of sheep farmers, holding two, or three farms in distant parts of the country, each of which was formerly considered as sufficiently large and extensive for one person. On the whole, this has not perhaps contributed to make the condition of the lower ranks of people worse, nor to diminish the population of the kingdom at large, though it certainly has had the effect of reducing the number of the inhabitants in every district where such a junction has taken place.

*Births,*

*Births, Deaths, and Marriages.*—The number of births within the parish of Jedburgh exceed 90 *per annum*. The burials in the parish church amount, at an average of three years, only to 49; but then, some families, in the country part of the parish, continue to bury in an old chapel ground, five miles south of Jedburgh, and several in the churchyards of Oxnam and Southdean; so that no certain conclusion can be formed upon this article. The number of marriages, at an average for the last three years, amounts only to 22; but it must be observed, that there are many irregular marriages in this parish and neighbourhood.

*Rent of the Parish.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 23,264 : 6 : 10 Scots; the real rent, probably, above L. 7000 Sterling. The rent of the land varies. Sheep farms let from 3s. 6d. to 5s. *per acre*. Some arable farms at the rate of 10s. 15s. and even 20s. Land in the immediate neighbourhood of the town of Jedburgh, at from L. 2 to L. 3. Houses, in the town, from 10s. to L. 15 *per annum*.

*Number of Proprietors, Tenants, &c.*—There are sixteen greater, and a considerable number (about a hundred) of smaller proprietors, called here *Portioners*, from their having a small portion of land belonging to them. Of the greater proprietors, eight, either occasionally, or constantly, reside in the parish. There are two farmers who pay above L. 300 *per annum*; three who pay above L. 200; about fourteen who rent above L. 100; and a number of smaller tenants. There are three physicians, three surgeons, and ten writers, or attorneys.

*Crops.*—The principal crops in the parish, are oats and barley. Of late years, a considerable quantity of wheat is

sown in the ground immediately furrounding the town of Jedburgh, and some on Tiviot side ; but little or none in the fourth part of the parish. Turnips and potatoes are a general crop all over this country. The culture of turnips, in particular, has been much studied, and is greatly extended ; every farmer laying out a great portion of his land in them. The soil of this country is believed to be more suitable to the growth of turnips, than that of any other part of Scotland. Formerly they were accustomed to feed cattle, in the house, with turnips ; but it is now found more profitable, and has become more frequent, to let the sheep eat them in the fields. It may be proper to observe, that, from the experience of some of the most skilful farmers, calves and sheep-hogs may be fed, with great profit and safety, upon turnips ; and that young beasts fed on turnips attain the same size and value, at two years old, that they formerly did at three, when fed on grass. It was formerly a common prejudice in this country, and still prevails in other places, that turnips were noxious to young animals.

A considerable quantity of pease, a few beans, a great quantity of clover and rye-grass, are sown in this parish ; but little flax or hemp, excepting some for private use. Oats are sown from the beginning of March to the end of April. Early oats have been much used of late, and are found to be a great improvement. The barley is sown from the middle of April to the end of May : The turnips from the beginning of June to the middle of July : The greater portion, I believe, in drills. Some wheat is sown in September, but more in October. The wheat is generally sown after potatoes, or fallow ; the barley, and grass seeds, after turnips ; oats upon ley, or after fallow, or pairing and burning. A greater quantity of every species of grain, than what is necessary for the  
maintenance

maintenance of its inhabitants, is raised within the bounds of this parish. There may, perhaps, be some doubt with respect to wheat; but it is certain that oats, and oat-meal, are exported in considerable quantities to Lothian and Tweeddale.

*Orchards.*—A great quantity of pears grow in the gardens or orchards of the town of Jedburgh. The trees, though very old, are remarkably fruitful; and it is calculated that the value of the fruit amounts, at a medium, to about L. 300 *per annum*.

*Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.*—There are four clergymen in the town of Jedburgh; the minister of the Established Church, of the Relief congregation, of the Burgher, and the Antiburgher, seceders. Their respective examination rolls are as follows: Established Church 800; Relief congregation 1200; Burgher congregation 600; Antiburgher 150. Total 2750 examinable persons; that is, persons from six to seven years old, and upwards. In order to account for the great proportion of dissenters, it must be observed, that the sect called the Relief Congregation had its origin in Jedburgh. In the year 1755, the council, and the generality of the inhabitants of the town, applied for a presentation to Mr Boston, minister of Oxnam, and being disappointed in that application, built a large meeting-house, by contribution, and invited Mr Boston to be their minister; several of the most substantial members of the congregation binding themselves to pay him L. 120 *per annum*. He accepted of their call; and prevailed upon Mr Gillespie, who had been deposed for disobedience to the orders of the General Assembly, to join him, under the denomination of the Presbytery of Relief; professing to differ from the Established Church upon no other point, than the right of patrons to appoint ministers against the inclinations

tions of the people. This sect, more accommodating to the spirit of the times, have quickly spread over Scotland, and, probably, comprehend the greatest part of the Scotch dissenters. Near a half of all the families in the parish of Jedburgh, and a great proportion of the families in all the surrounding parishes, are members of this congregation. There are not more than five or six who profess the Episcopal religion, and there are no Catholics, in the parish.

The present incumbent, Dr. Thomas Somerville, was admitted minister of Jedburgh in 1773. His predecessors were Messrs Semple, M'Kay, Ruet, Winchester, Douglas, and M'Knight, which last he succeeded in the charge. He has been married twenty years, and has two sons and four daughters. The King is patron of the parish. The living consists of 169 bolls, half oat-meal and half barley, Linlithgow measure; L. 44 in money, a manse, and a glebe of seven English acres, in all amounting to about L. 150 *per annum* in value. A part of the old Abbey Church is still used as the place of worship. The manse was built about 60 years ago, and has often been repaired at a great expence.

*State of the Poor.*—The number of poor upon the country roll of the parish amounts to 55, and of those in the town roll to 37. They are maintained by assessments. For supporting the county poor, a tax is laid upon the different proprietors of land, in proportion to the valued rents. The common method of proceeding in this business is as follows: The minister intimates from the pulpit, that on such a day a meeting of the heritors and elders is to be held, for the purpose of making a provision for the maintenance of the poor for the ensuing quarter. These meetings generally take place near the term of Candlemas, Whitsunday, Lammas, and  
Martinmas.

**Martinmas.** Upon the day of meeting the heritors elect a preses, after which the minutes of the former federunt, and the roll of the poor are read by the clerk. Forming a calculation from the number already standing upon the roll, and the applications made to them, the heritors assess themselves in a certain sum to be collected from them severally, according to the proportion of their valued rents. The proprietor pays one half of the assessment, and the tenant the other. Though the tenants are not mentioned in the summons, yet such of them as chuse to attend are made welcome, and their advice and information listened to by the meeting. The sum assessed is raised by the heritors and kirk-session together, in such proportions as seem adequate to the necessities of the poor. Such persons as are reduced to the necessity of applying to the heritors for charity, from any accidental transient cause, such as *disease* or *misfortune*, receive what is called an *interim supply*, i. e. a certain sum for that quarter only: The aged and infirm, and such as are likely to continue under the same necessity of depending upon public charity, are taken upon the poors roll at a certain weekly allowance. The persons taken upon the roll are obliged to subscribe a bond or deed of conveyance, making over and bequeathing all their effects to the heritors; and though the heritors seldom exact their effects, yet the subscription of the bond serves as a check to prevent persons, who may be possessed of concealed property, from alienating the public charity. The sum assessed is levied by a collector, appointed by the heritors, and distributed by him to the persons admitted upon the roll, according to the proportions allotted to them. This mode of providing for the parochial poor was adopted in the parish of Jedburgh *anno* 1742, when the number of the poor increasing, from the scarcity and high price of provisions, the heritors and kirk-session were obliged to have recourse



course to the legal method of obtaining the contributions of absent proprietors. These monthly assessments have varied from two shillings to three shillings and six-pence *per* quarter, on each hundred pounds of valued rent. The assessment for the last twelve months was at the rate of three shillings *per* quarter, but did not produce the sum required, viz. L. 37 : 8 : 8 *per* quarter. The deficiency is made up from the weekly collections.

The poor belonging to the borough of Jedburgh, are provided for by a plan in some respects similar to, but in others materially different from, that above described. The magistrates hold quarterly meetings, in which they assess the borough for the maintenance of their poor, and portion the sums in the same manner as the heritors do; but the assessment is not proportioned to the value of the property of individuals within the royalty; but according to a valuation of the property of the burghesses and inhabitants, estimated by sworn assessors appointed by the magistrates. The assessors, in forming their calculation, and fixing the portion of assessment to which each individual is liable, have respect not only to ostensible property, but to the profits of trade, and other supposed advantages. It is obvious that such a vague and arbitrary mode of calculation, is extremely liable to partiality and error.

The sums appropriated for the maintenance of each individual vary, according to the circumstances of the claimant. To single persons who can do no work, a shilling, one shilling and six-pence, one shilling and eight-pence is allowed weekly. Six-pence, eight-pence, ten-pence to those who are infirm and receive small wages. Eight, ten, twelve, and sometimes twenty shillings *per* quarter have been allowed for  
interim

interim supply: There are few instances of any family receiving above two shillings, or two shillings and six-pence *per* week. These proportions refer to the poor belonging to the country part of the parish; but the allowance given to the poor of the town is more scanty and inadequate.

Besides the assessments above-mentioned, the town of Jedburgh holds the principal sum of L. 422 upon bond to the session, arising from the accumulation of various legacies, the interest of which is annually distributed according to the destination of the donors: Some of it for educating poor children, some for the relief of poor householders, some appropriated to the poor within the town, and some to the poor of the town and country equally. A great portion of these charities arises from legacies of the Lady Yester, who was the daughter of Kerr of Fairnyherst in this parish, and celebrated for her charity. A bridewell or correction-house has been lately erected in the town, at the expence of the heritors of the county at large, and has been found very useful in overawing vagrants, punishing smaller offences, and, particularly, for the accommodation of persons disordered in mind, who are maintained there at the expence of the parishes to which they belong.

*Language.*—The common people in the neighbourhood of Jedburgh pronounce many words, particularly such as end in a guttural sound, with a remarkable broad, and even harsh accent. They still make use of the old Scotch dialect. Many of the names of places, however, are evidently derived from the Erse, and expressive of their local situation in that language. For instance,—Dunian, *John's Hill*;—Minto, *Kid's Hill*;—Hawick, *Village on a River*;—Ancrum, anciently called Alnicromb, *a Crook in the River*; &c. &c.

*Manners*

*Manners and Morals of the People.*—There is rather a want of industry in the town of Jedburgh, owing to the destructive influence of borough politics; but to this rule there are many exceptions; and the common labourers in the country are remarkable for the quantity of work which they perform. In general, it may be observed, that all ranks of people live more soberly, and are less addicted to drinking, than they were some years ago; and that persons in a better situation are charitably disposed, and were particularly liberal in their contributions for the relief of the poor, after the unfortunate season of 1782. Crimes are becoming every day more rare. Only one instance of suicide has occurred for these 17 years past; and no inhabitant of the parish has been banished for these many years. Five have suffered capital punishments; but not one of them for murder. It is, indeed, one of the most striking evidences of the progress of civilization, and one of the most pleasing effects of a regular government, that in a country, formerly the scene of depredating violence, fewer instances of crimes, or of punishments, have occurred during the last 50 years, than perhaps in any other district of equal extent in the kingdom.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The principal disadvantage under which this parish labours, is its great distance from coal, which is found to be the cheapest fuel, though there are several large peat mosses in many parts of the neighbourhood. The nearest coal to Jedburgh is at Ryecheester, distant about 20 miles, on the English border. Some Lothian coal is brought by the carts which carry grain to the Dalkeith market, and is sold at nearly the same price with the English. The county, in general, and the neighbourhood of Jedburgh in particular, is likely to derive great advantage from the improvement and extension of roads, which does great honour  
to

to the activity and public spirit of the gentlemen who have promoted them. There is a turnpike road now carried from Jedburgh to Newcastle, which shortens the distance from thence to Edinburgh considerably; and there is at present a prospect of carrying one, in a direct line, from Jedburgh to Boroughbridge in Yorkshire, which could not fail of being frequented, as it would render the road between London and Edinburgh nearer by 38 miles than by Berwick.

## NUMBER II.

## PARISH OF HOLYWOOD,

## IN DUMFRIES-SHIRE.

*From Materials furnished by the Rev. Dr. BRYCE JOHNSTON,  
Minister of that Parish.*

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*Origin of the Name.*

**H**OLYWOOD is evidently derived from the holy wood, or grove of oak trees, which surrounded a large Druidical temple, still standing, within half a mile of the parish church. It is formed of twelve very large whin or moor stones, as they are called, which inclose a circular piece of ground of about eighty yards in diameter. The oaks have now all perished; but there is a tradition of their existing in the last age. Many of their roots have been dug out of the ground by the present minister; and he has still one of them in his possession.

*Situation, Extent, and Surface.*—The parish lies in the division of the county of Dumfries called Nithsdale, in the Presbytery and Synod of Dumfries. It is about ten English miles long, and one and an half broad, on an average. It is bounded by the parish of Dumfries on the east; by Terregles, Kirkpatrick-Irongray, and Kirkpatrick-Durham, on the south; by a small part of Glencairn, and by a large track of Dunscore, on the west and north; and by Kirkmahoe on the north-east. **Being**

ing situated in the middle of a broad valley, it is in general flat and low land. The hills in the parish are neither high nor rocky.

*Rivers.*—The river Nith runs along the whole of the east end of the parish, intersecting it, however, in one place for above a mile in length. The river Cluden, also a considerable one, runs along the south side of the parish above eight miles, and intersects it in three places, emptying itself into the Nith in the south-east corner of the parish, near the old College or Provostry of Lincluden, which stands on the Galloway side of the river, in the parish of Terregles.

*Fish.*—The Cluden abounds in fine burn trouts, a few pike of a middle size, and of excellent quality, some salmon, some sea trout, and herlings \*. The Nith produces the same kinds of fish, but with this difference, that the herlings, sea trout, and salmon, are much more plentiful in it than in the Cluden. One peculiarity deserves particular notice: Though the two rivers join at the south-east corner of the parish, each has its own distinct species of salmon. The Cluden salmon are considerably thicker and shorter in their body, and greatly shorter in their head, than those of the Nith. The burn trouts abound in the spring and summer; the herlings and sea trout in July and August; and the salmon from the beginning of March to the beginning of October. The salmon is in the greatest perfection in June and July. In the spring it sells for about one shilling a pound of 16 ounces, and gradually

\* Herlings are a small kind of trout, a little larger than a herring, and shaped like a salmon; its flesh is reddish, like that of the salmon or sea trout, but considerably paler. They abound in all the rivers in this part of the country, and have the name of herling in all the adjoining parishes.

dually decreases in price, as the season advances, to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. a pound. It is all sold in the town of Dumfries, and to the families in the adjacent country. Dumfries being so near, and many of the fishermen living in the town, the price in that market, and on the spot where it is caught in this parish, is always the same. The prices of the other kinds of fish are always a little lower than that of salmon; and they rise and fall with it. About ten years ago, the price of fish in this country was scarcely half of what it is at present. The increased price is perhaps owing, in part, to the increased consumption, and luxury of the inhabitants, but principally to the great demand for this fish, to supply the rich and populous manufacturing towns in Lancashire; for, within these last ten years, very considerable quantities of fresh salmon have been sent, by land carriage, into that country, from the Solway Frith, and the mouths of all the rivers that run into it.

*Soil.*—The soil of this parish is of four different kinds, viz. a considerable tract of land, about a fourth part of the parish, in the east, along the river Nith, and, on the south, for about seven miles up the river Cluden, is a deep rich light loam, and free from stones: *2d*, Another fourth part, contiguous to the former, is a light dry fertile soil, lying on a bed of sandy gravel, producing heavy crops of corn and grass in a showery season; but it is greatly parched up in dry seasons: *3d*, Another fourth part, which joins this last, is a deep strong loam, interspersed with stones, upon a tilly bed; it is naturally wet, stiff to plough, and not so fertile as either of the two former; but, when drained, limed, and properly wrought, more productive both of corn and grass than either of them, in all varieties of season, excepting only a cold and wet summer. *4th*, The remaining part, which is hilly, is somewhat similar

to the last, only not so deep and wet; it produces a kind of grafs, neither very fine nor very coarse, which, in some of the higher parts of the hills, is mixed with heath, and a few other hard weeds.

*Air, Climate, &c.*—The air is dry, and remarkably wholesome. The singular healthiness of the inhabitants may, however, be attributed to the following causes. They do not live in towns, or even villages; they are not employed in sedentary occupations; being either country gentlemen or farmers, they live in houses detached from each other; they are engaged in active employments in the open air; they are industrious, sober, and chearful. The dryness of the air is owing to the peculiar local situation of the parish. The clouds, intercepted by the hills on every side, float in fogs on the top of them, while the inhabitants enjoy a clear and dry air in the valley. At other times, when the clouds break into rain on the hills, the greatest part of it falls on the hills, or the sides of the valley, while the skirts of the showers only reach its central parts. Add to these circumstances, that the two rapid rivers carry off the superfluous water from the land, and the moisture from the air.

*Seed-time and Harvest.*—The time of sowing wheat is from the middle of September to the middle of October; oats, pease, beans, hemp, and flax, from the 10th of March to the middle of April; potatoes and barley from the middle of April to the 10th of May; and turnips from the 10th to the 24th of June. The harvest generally begins about, or before, the middle of August; and the crop is got totally into the barns, and barn-yards, by the end of September. In cold and wet seasons, like the last, it is, however, somewhat later.

*Epidemical*



*Epidemical Diseases.*—No local distempers, or sickness of any kind, are prevalent in the parish. In the months of February and March, indeed, some fevers appear among the people of low circumstances, especially in that district of the parish which lies in the narrowest part of the valley; but these seem chiefly owing to poor living, and bad accommodation, during the winter season, and perhaps to the dampness of the preceding months.

*Manufactures.*—It was before mentioned, that there are neither towns nor villages in the parish, but that the inhabitants live in detached houses; manufactures, therefore, cannot well exist in this district. The dearness of fuel is another obstacle: Peats are bad, scarce, and consequently dear; and coals are either carted 24 miles land carriage, or brought from England by water. These last would be moderately cheap, were it not for the high duties laid on them, which are as fatal to the improvement of this, as they are to many other parts of Scotland; nor can this part of the country ever greatly improve, until these duties be abolished.

*Population.*—On the last day of the year 1790, there were living in the parish of Holywood 736 persons, of whom there were,

Under ten years of age,	-	-	166
Between ten and twenty,	-	-	146
Above twenty unmarried,	-	-	160
Widowers or widows,	-	-	40
Married,	-	-	224
			<hr/>
			736

Out

Out of the 736 persons, 11 were between 80 and 90 years old, which is an uncommon number among so few inhabitants. The return to Dr. Webster of the population of Holywood, about forty years ago, was 612 souls; the inhabitants have therefore increased 124 since that period.

*Abstract of the Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, for the last ten Years.*

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1781	— 23	— 7	— 10
1782	— 18	— 0	— 20
1783	— 15	— 3	— 8
1784	— 15	— 1	— 11
1785	— 13	— 4	— 8
1786	— 16	— 6	— 14
1787	— 16	— 6	— 11
1788	— 14	— 9	— 8
1789	— 13	— 6	— 8
1790	— 19	— 6	— 10
	—	—	—
	162	48	108
Yearly average	—	—	—
nearly,	16	5	11

The great number of deaths in 1782, was owing to an infectious fever in the west part of the parish, where the valley is narrowest; and the large number in 1786, was owing to the ravages of the natural small-pox.

*Division of the Inhabitants, and their Occupations.*—All the inhabitants are farmers, and cottagers employed by them, except

cept those afterwards mentioned. About ten of the inhabitants are small proprietors of lands, which they occupy themselves. There are eight weavers, two bleachers, two shoemakers, two millers, five blacksmiths, five masons, four taylor, and eight joiners; all of whom are employed in working for the inhabitants of the parish, and not in manufacturing articles for sale. There are no household servants except in gentlemens families, and these are few. There are about thirty-two male, and thirty-six female labouring servants. The greatest part of the farming and dairy work is done by the farmers themselves, their wives, their sons and daughters, and cottagers, which last work either by the piece, or by the year, receiving what is called a *benefit*; that is, a house, yard, peats, 52 stons of meal, a quantity of potatoes, and as much money as, with these articles, would, *communibus annis*, amount to thirteen pounds Sterling *per annum*. Beside the above mentioned servants, some shearers are hired by the day from the adjacent moor countries. It is remarkable that all the inhabitants are natives of this island, except one person only, who comes from Ireland. There are no nobility resident in in the parish, and the gentry amount only to twenty-seven persons, besides their domestics. All the inhabitants are of the Established Church, except six Cameronians, nine Burgher Seceders, two of the Church of England, and three Catholics; but most of all these denominations attend the parish church occasionally, except the Catholics.

*General Character.*—They are a sober, regular, and industrious people, all employed in farming, except the few above mentioned. They are generous and humane, although they have not been called to the exertions of these qualities by any remarkable events, except in the years 1782 and 1783, as shall be mentioned afterwards. They enjoy, in a reasonable degree,

degree, the conveniencies and comforts of society, and are in general as contented with their situation as most people. Their condition, however, might be meliorated, could the heavy mul-tures be removed, which hinder improvements in agriculture; or could coals be imported duty free, which checks any at-tempts to the establishing manufactures. With respect to the morals of the people, it may be observed, that during the time of the present incumbent, which is 19 years, only one person has been banished for theft, and one enlisted for a foldier: This last, in a few months, solicited his friends to make application to get him out of the army, which they did with success, and he has ever since lived in the parish an industrious labouring man. In regard to other particulars, they are healthy, robust, and rather above the common stature. Several instances of longevity have been observed among them. Within these few years, three persons have died, whose ages were 90, 95, and 96.

*Church.*—The value of the living, including the glebe, is about L. 120 Sterling. The last patron was Robert Beveridge of Fourmerkland, Esq; the proprietor of an estate of that name in the parish. He died lately, and by his death the patronage devolved to his sisters, the eldest of whom is married to the Rev. Mr James M'Millan minister of Torthorwald.

The manse \* and offices were all new built in 1773; the church in 1779; and the two school houses in 1782, all which buildings are now in excellent repair.

\* The parsonage house, thus called all over Scotland, is evidently derived, as *mansion* is, from the Latin *maneo*, to remain or abide.

*State of the Poor.*—The average number of poor who now receive alms is fifteen. The annual sum expended for their relief is about L. 32 Sterling, produced by the collections in the church on Sundays, excepting the interest of a small sum appropriated to them. These fifteen persons are all maintained in their own houses, or boarded in other families; none of them are kept in hospitals or work-houses. The greatest number of them earn about two-thirds of their maintenance. Those who are orphans under ten years old, or who are very old and infirm, and without relations to assist them, are boarded out at the rate of L. 4 Sterling *per annum*. Besides the relief from the parish, the poor receive frequent supplies of food and clothes from charitable and well disposed people. They are however kept from begging from door to door most effectually, by the assurance of their inevitably losing all parish relief if they persist in the practice. As the church session \* is extremely attentive to give them relief, according to their necessities, to provide medical assistance for them when sick, to pay the schoolmaster for teaching their children reading, writing, and the common rules of arithmetic, their own interest induces them to comply with the desire of the session, not to beg. Beggars, however, occasionally infest the parish, but they do not belong to, nor reside in it.

*Price of Grain and Provisions.*—The price of wheat, barley, and oats, are generally regulated by the Liverpool and Greenock markets, being just as much below the prices at these places, as will pay freight, and afford a very moderate profit to the corn merchants, who export the grain to one or other  
of

\* The *church session* is the same as the *vestry* in the English parishes.

of these places. For many years past the price of grain has been in general the same as in the London market, which is always a little below that of Liverpool. Grain is in general cheaper here about Candlemas, the markets being then overstocked by the farmers anxiety to make up their half year's rent, which is payable at that term. *Communibus annis*, wheat is 5s. barley 2s. 2d. and oats 1s. 10d. the Winchester bushel. The present average price of beef, veal, mutton, lamb, and pork through the year is 3½d. the pound of 16 ounces, for those of the best qualities. At particular times of the year they are all much cheaper; and though at some periods they amount to 5d. a pound, these dear times do not last long. The price of a roasting pig is 4s.; of a goose 2s.; of a turkey 2s. 6d.; of a duck 10d.; of a hen 1s.; of a chicken 3d.; of rabbits, though there are few of them, 1s. the pair without the skins; butter is 9d. the pound of 24 ounces; cheese varies according to its richness and age.

*Price of Labour.*—The wages of men labourers are 1s. a day from the 1st of March to the 1st of November, and 10d. the rest of the year, except that in time of harvest they are 13d.; and of mowing, 18d. The wages of women are, for working at peats, 8d.; at turnip weeding, hay making, and other farm work in summer, 7d.; shearing in harvest 13d. Both men and women, furnish their own provisions out of their wages. The day wages of a carpenter and a mason are 1s. 8d.; of a bricklayer and slater 2s.; \* of a taylor,

\* The wages of these four artists were 2d. less before the year 1788; at that time an uncommon spirit for building appearing in the country, increased the demand for labour of that kind. This spirit proceeded from the general taste for good houses, which marks this period, and from many monied men, who, having purchased estates in this part of the country, are building ele-

lor, 1s. without, or 6d. with meat. Work, however, is generally done by the piece. The average of farm servants, when they eat in the house, is L. 7 for men, and L. 3 for women; but the farm servants are generally paid by what is called a benefit, before described; and if the man's wife and children are employed by the farmer, their work is separately paid for. The wages of domestic servants are nearly the same with those of farm servants.

*Expences of a Labourer's Family.* The expences of a common labourer, when married, and with four or five children, is about L. 16 a year. The wages which he receives, together with the industry of his wife, enable him to live tolerably comfortable, and to give his children an education proper for their station, provided he and his wife are sober, industrious, and frugal: Those of them who are embarrassed in their circumstances, owe their poverty either to their own, or their wife's bad conduct. That the labourers can maintain their families at this small expence, is owing to the farmers, from whom they have cottages, allowing them as much land for one year's rent free, to plant potatoes in, as they can manure sufficiently with ashes, or such dung as they can provide for themselves; and these potatoes constitute at least one half of their year's food.

*Division and Rent of Lands.*—A great part of the parish is inclosed, but a considerable part still lies open. The farmers seem sufficiently convinced of the advantages of inclosing, and would willingly allow their landlords interest for such sums of money as would be necessary for making inclosures.

The

gant mansion-houses for themselves, and good farm-houses for their tenants.

The farms are in general from L. 40 to L. 150 a year; but there are some few from L. 40, down to as small as L. 8. About the year 1771 a spirit of improvement appeared in the parish, when the farms became larger than they had formerly been; but for some years past they have continued nearly of the same size. The best arable land is let from L. 1 : 1 : 0 to L. 1 : 10 : 0; and the inferior, from 20s. to 7s. an acre. The hill pasture is not let by the acre, but by the lump. The whole rent of the parish amounts to something more than L. 3000 Sterling *per annum*, including houses, and the small fisheries in the Nith and Cluden. The heritors are thirty-one in number, of whom ten of the small ones and three of the largest reside in the parish. There is no map of the parish, the number of acres in it have not consequently been precisely ascertained; they are estimated at about 7500. Of these about 60 are employed for raising wheat, 250 for barley, 20 for pease and beans, 10 for rye, 1310 for oats, 100 for potatoes, 30 for turnip and cabbage, 20 for flax and hemp, 500 for sown grafs, the rest is pasturage, except about 150 acres for roads and plantations. None of the ground is common; and every proprietor knows the exact marches of his estate; but a considerable quantity of the hilly part must always lie in a state of pasturage, not being arable on account of the steepness of the hills. Several hundred acres, however, of the lower parts of these unbroken grounds, are capable of cultivation, and, if properly improved, would pay well for the labour bestowed on them. The greatest part of the parish is thirled\* to the  
mill

\* When the laird, *i. e.* lord of the manor, builds a mill, he obliges his tenants to have all their corn ground at that mill only. The farms are then said to be thirled, or under thirlage to the mill. But sometimes, as is the case here, the tenants of one estate are thirled to the mill of another, which, when the dues are high, is a great bar to improvement.



mill of Cluden, and pays a very high multure \*, which greatly tends to retard the cultivation and improvement of the district.

*Mode of Cultivation.*—There are 70 ploughs in the parish. Those used in the first division, see p. 20. and the greatest part of the second, viz. the light soil, are the small English plough; in part of the second, and adjoining part of the third, they use the Scots plough with the English mould-board, or ploughs composed partly on the model of the old Scots, and partly on that of the English; and in the remaining part of the third, the Scots plough only is used. Each of these ploughs seems well adapted for the nature of the soil in the district where they are used. The English plough is certainly the best, but it can only work properly in land that is free from stones. The Scots plough, when properly made, is doubtless the fittest for strong land; and, lastly, the plough composed of the two, is the most proper for land that is composed of the two kinds above mentioned; and these are the nature of the different soils in which the several kinds of ploughs are used. The ploughs are commonly drawn by two strong horses, and one man both holds the plough and drives the horses, with a pair of long reins. When stiff land is to be broken up from grass, three, or sometimes four horses are yoked into a plough of the same construction, but of a stronger make.

*Produce.*—The vegetable produce of this parish has already been specified, under the article, *Division of Land*. With respect to animal productions, it is principally distinguished for a breed of black cattle, for which the county of Drumfries in  
general

\* *Multure* is a certain stipulated quantity of meal, given as payment to the miller for grinding the corn: And all corn grown on farms thirled to the mill is obliged to pay multure, whether the corn be ground at that mill or elsewhere.

general, and the neighbouring counties of the stewartry and the county of Galloway are also famous. They are very profitable for fattening, and many thousands of them are annually fold and sent into England. They are handsome, of a middle size, and weigh well for their height. When fat for the butcher, the four quarters weigh at an average 36 stones of 16 pounds; but several of them amount to 60 or 70 stones. The number of black cattle in the whole parish amounts to about 1200. The sheep, which are kept in the hilly part of the parish, are the common Scots sheep, white on the body, but black on the face and legs; they are very hardy and their wool is strong and shaggy, but coarse. In the low cultivated districts there are two kinds of English sheep, the one long bodied and long legged, introduced into this country by Culley, they are commonly known by the name of Muggs; the other is also long bodied, but broad backed and short legged, introduced by Bakewell. They are both all white, body, face, and legs: Both of them have much finer wool, and a larger quantity of it, than the Scots sheep. Bakewell's kind have the finest short wool. From an experiment lately tried, a cross between the two breeds seems to answer well; viz. the ram of the Culley, the ewe of the Bakewell breed. In this cultivated district and mild climate, the English are preferred to the Scots sheep, on account of the greater quantity, and finer quality, of the wool; their being less hurtful to the hedges; and their greater weight when fold to the butcher. The whole number of sheep in the parish, amounts at present only to about 1000.

The produce of the district is, on the whole, much greater than sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. About two thirds of the whole is carried to markets out of the parish, viz. a considerable quantity of butter, milk, veal, mutton, beef,

beef, wheat, oat-meal, and barley, to Dumfries; a large quantity of wheat and barley to Whitehaven and Liverpool; of oats to Greenock; and a great number of young black cattle and sheep to the towns in the neighbourhood.

There are hares, and some foxes, and all the fowls which are natives of the south part of Scotland. The migratory birds are the swallow, and the cuckow. During the whole year the sea gulls, commonly called, in this parish, *sea marws*, occasionally come from the Solway Frith to this part of the country; their arrival seldom fails of being followed by a high wind, and heavy rain, from the south-west, within twenty-four hours; and they return to the Frith again as soon as the storm begins to abate.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The roads were originally made by the statute labour; but in that way they were neither half made, nor half kept in repair. Several years ago, an act of parliament was obtained for this county, converting the statute labour into money, to be paid by the occupiers of land, at a rate not exceeding 12 s. in the 100 merks of Scotch valuation, and a certain sum to be paid by the possessors of houses in towns and villages. In some districts of the county, where making the roads is expensive, the occupiers of land have been assessed to the *ultimum*; but in this, and some others, the assessment has never been more than 6 s. for each 100 merks. The conversion money is very well laid out in this parish. The roads are put, and kept, in as good repair as the sum collected can possibly do; but, as the roads are extensive, and, as there is a thoroughfare through the parish, from a large and populous surrounding country, to the markets at Dumfries, this sum is too small to keep the roads in sufficient repair; and it would probably be cheap-  
er,

er, in the end, to lay on the full assessment of 12 s. for a few years, till all the roads are completely finished, and then to reduce the assessment to 4s. which would be sufficient for keeping them in repair. Lest the present tenants should be aggrieved by paying 12 s. while their successors, who would enjoy the benefit of good roads, pay only 4 s. the landlords should pay the additional 6 s. and receive it afterwards from the subsequent tenants at 2 s. a year, till the landlords be reimbursed. A great turnpike road is now making between Carlisle and Glasgow, which runs through the parish. It will be completely finished in this county before, or about the beginning of May next. The tolls upon it are moderate, and will be fully sufficient for making and repairing it. This road, like all other turnpikes under proper management, must be highly advantageous to the country. The bridges in the parish are good. The only large one in it was originally built, and is still kept in repair, by the county of Dumfries and stewartry of Galloway, as it is built over the Cluden, which is the march between the two counties. The smaller ones, being all within the parish, were built, and are kept in repair, by the parish.

*Antiquities.*—There are no other remains of antiquity than the Druidical temple already mentioned, and two old houses built in the tower fashion. There is one large heap of small stones, a part of which was opened several years ago, and some human bones said to have been found in it. The Abbey of Holywood stood in the site of a part of the present churchyard. About half of the head of the cross of this abbey was standing in the year 1779, when it served for the parish church. These remains, however, were then pulled down, and the materials used, in part, for building the present new church. The vestiges of the old abbey are sufficiently evi-

dent in the church-yard; and the adjoining farm retains the name of Abbey. The present church has two fine toned bells, taken out of the old building; one of which, by an inscription and date on it, appears to have been consecrated by the Abbot John Wrich, in the year 1154. From undoubted records, this abbey belonged to the monks of the order of Premontre, which was instituted in the diocese of Loon in France, in the year 1120, and was so called, because, as the monks say, the place was "divina revelatione praeemonstratum."

*Etymology of Names of Places.*—The names of places in this parish seem to be derived partly from the Gaelic, and partly from the English, and some from the Danish. The names derived from the English are either expressive of the particular situation of the places, or of the proprietor to whom they originally belonged. Thus *Broomrig*, situated on a ridge that produces much broom; *Gooliehill*, situated on a rising ground producing much gool\*; *Mossfide*, situated on the side of a moss; *Stepford*, situated at a ford in the Cluden where foot passengers cross the water on stepping stones, that have been placed there time immemorial; *Morinton*, the town of Morine; *Stewarton*, the town of Stewart, &c. *Holm*, derived from the Danish, in which language *holm* signifies an island. From the Gaelic are most probably derived *Speddock*, *Barfreggan*, *Glengaber*, *Glengaur*, *M'Whannick*, &c. *Killnefs* seems to be compounded of two languages, *cella*, the Latin for a chapel or cell, and *nefs*, or *naes*, the Danish for a promontory, or head land, (it may also be derived from the Latin *nafus*), *Killnefs* signifying the chapel or cell on the promontory: The place

\* *Gool*, Dr Johnston says, is a weed with a yellow flower, which grows among the corn, on light lands, in wet seasons, about Lammas. It is the wild marygold.

place so called is the field where the Druidical temple above mentioned stands, and it is prominent into the river Cluden.

*Eminent Men Natives of the Parish.*—Holywood has produced no men of eminence in learning or science, except Mr Charles Irvine surgeon. He was a younger son of the late William Irvine of Gribton, Esq; and the person who, several years ago, discovered the method of rendering salt water fresh, for which he was rewarded by government with a grant of five thousand pounds.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The harvests of 1782, and 1783, were very late, especially that of 1782. Before the corn was all cut in this part of the country, there were intense frosts and heavy snows. On the 2d of November 1782, in particular, a very heavy fall of snow covered the corn so deep, and lay so long, that they could not be cut for several days after. Though the harvest was uncommonly late in this parish in these two years, and though the latest of the corn in it was hurt by the frost, yet the harvest here was earlier than in any other part of Scotland; and the greatest part of the corn was ripened before the frosts came on. Under all these untoward circumstances, the crops of these years were, however, uncommonly good, as is the case, not only this year, but also in all late years, owing to the peculiar dryness and earliness of the soil and climate of this parish. The general scarcity of meal in Scotland during these two years, and the great demand for seed corn from those counties where the frosts had destroyed the crops, greatly increased, as is well remembered, the price of meal and oats all over Scotland. At that time the farmers of this parish had large quantities of both, especially of seed corn, to sell; and they cleared by it in those two years, more than they ever did in any other two years.

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The price of oat-meal was then 2 s. 6 d. the stone of 17½ pounds; higher than was ever known before or since. In this parish the heritors and farmers, by a voluntary contribution, collected into two store-houses, one at each extremity of the parish, all the meal they could, and distributed it among the poor labourers and artificers at 2 s. a stone, until it fell in the markets to that price; and by thus losing 6 d. a stone in the meal which they sold, they were the happy means of preserving their poor parishioners from the general calamity of the country.

NUM.

N U M B E R III.

PARISH OF PORTPATRICK.

*From Materials furnished by the Rev. Mr JOHN M'KENZIE  
Minister of that Parish.*

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*Origin of the Name.*

**P**ORTPATRICK is called in the old charters Port Montgomery, from a noble family of that name, who at one time possessed large tracts of land on both sides of the Irish Channel. They were ennobled by the title of Earl Mount-Alexander, which became extinct in 1758. They have now none of their Scots possessions remaining, but their representatives still inherit a considerable estate in Ireland.

It is probable that Portpatrick was the antient popular name of this place, and that the above family, when they became the proprietors, had attempted to set it aside, and to substitute their own. This is one of the many monuments which prove, that in antient times there flourished in Ireland a very eminent person of the name of Patrick. The veneration for this name must have been very great, since, even on this side of the water, it has prevailed over that of Montgomery.

*Situation*



*Situation and Surface.*—The situation of the town and parish is well known, being the nearest point of the whole island of Great Britain to Ireland, and the best place for crossing from the one kingdom to the other, the passage being only twenty miles over. It is situated in the presbytery of Stranraer and county of Wigton. The parish is of small extent, being only about three Scots miles square. The greater part is moor land, and it abounds with mosses, not only in the lower grounds, but even on the tops of some of the highest mountains, where the moss is frequently six or seven feet deep. The common fuel is peat, which is in such quantities, that from thirty to forty carts, drawn by two horses each, are regularly employed during the summer season in bringing peats to the neighbouring towns of Portpatrick and Stranraer.

*Town of Portpatrick.*—The town is admirably situated. It enjoys a southern exposure, with a semicircle of hills on the north, which at the same time defends it from all the cold winds, and concentrates the rays of the sun, so that few places in the same latitude can boast of a warmer climate. The common water which pours from the hills is excellent; and there is a mineral well, which has been found of service in common, but particularly in stomachic disorders. But above all, the sea-bathing is admirable. The water is peculiarly strong, and the tide rises to such a height close to the shore, that a man, as well as a vessel, may be instantly launched into any depth he pleases. In short, no situation can be better calculated for a watering place, should the rage for them continue to prevail as generally as at present.

*The Harbour.*—Formerly the harbour was a mere inlet between two ridges of rocks which advanced into the sea; the effect of this was, that as there is a prodigious weight of waters

ters thrown in here when the wind blows upon the shore, and as there was no elbow to protect a vessel, she was always obliged, when she took the harbour, to run aground; and the next operation, which necessarily followed, was, that the whole inhabitants, men and women, ran down, and by main force, dragged her up the beach, out of the reach of the waves, which would otherwise have dashed her to pieces. This again had another effect, that none but flat bottomed vessels could navigate here. It is but lately that two of these large flats, which had formerly been government packets, were to be seen on our shore, as monuments of antient barbarity.

These were times of misery, though the inhabitants were the happiest of mortals. Their continued exertions in launching and drawing up their vessels, excited wonderful spirits, which they knew how to recruit when exhausted. Every day that a vessel either failed or arrived was a festival.

There is now on the same spot one of the finest quays in Britain, with a reflecting light-house; and instead of a few flat-bottomed boats, above a dozen of trading vessels, of from 40 to 60 tons, which sail and return regularly, besides a number of vessels which occasionally come from other ports. The larger vessels are navigated at an average by six men each\*. The light-house is particularly useful, and as there  
has

\* At this, as well as at every ferry or passage of great resort, there are a set of people who make themselves useful to passengers, but who distinguish themselves also by the impositions which they practice. There are about twenty persons of that description at Portpatrick, who are known by the name of the *Robbery*, from their supposed deprivations on the public. They are absolutely necessary at this port, and another body of the same sort are equally serviceable on the other side of the Chan-

has long been another light-house on the Irish side, it renders the passage, even in the darkest night, convenient and comfortable, like a street well lighted on both sides. The sea rises considerably along this coast. At low water you can walk round the point of the pier, which at high water is from ten to fifteen feet deep at the entrance. This being the narrowest part of the Channel, has naturally the effect of accumulating the fluid upon the shores, when there is a swell from a storm. What is farther deserving of remark is, that at Donaghadee, which is almost directly opposite, the sea ebbs and flows near an hour sooner than at Portpatrick. There are also (which is still more remarkable) some particular parts of the coast, well known to our seamen, more especially one about two miles from the shore of Portpatrick, where the same fact is observed. Within three or four miles of the Irish shore, when the flood returns, there is a regular current which sets off strongly for the Mull of Galloway. It runs at the rate of seven knots an hour, and is so forcible, that when the wind opposes it, it exhibits, for a great way, the appearance of breakers. It is called the *Race of Strangers*, and is a very curious spectacle.

*The Packet Boats to Ireland.*—The mode of conveying the mail between the two kingdoms has undergone many changes. At first regular packet boats, with salaries, were established. But before the quay was built, and, while the passage was attended with the difficulties above described, delays were frequent. The sailors, especially as their wages at all events were running on, often chose to rest themselves. Established packets were therefore abolished, and a rule fixed,  
That

nel; but the manner in which their fees are exacted, particularly when they meet with any difficulty in the payment, is rather harsh and disagreeable.

That whoever failed first should have the mail, and a certain sum for carrying it. This operated as a premium, and produced, for a long time, a very good effect. Soon after, however, as trade increased, the allowance made by government became of less consequence. The packets were no longer the same object. It often happened, that a boat would not fail with the mail, unless she had something else to carry. The mail coach also was established, and the conveyance of travellers became an object of attention. The boats which carried cattle were peculiarly offensive to passengers, not to mention that such a cargo, with a gale of wind, was even dangerous. Passengers were therefore disgusted or deterred, and were often induced to take another rout. It was one great branch of Mr Palmer's public spirited plans for promoting the commercial intercourse of the British empire in general, to unite as much as possible the three great offices of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin. His mail coaches regularly went from Dublin to Donaghadee, on the one side; and from London and Edinburgh to Portpatrick, on the other. Nothing, therefore, remained to complete the chain, but to obviate the inconveniencies of the ferry at Portpatrick; this he did by restoring established packets. We have now four elegant vessels, fitted up with every accommodation, whose only object is to forward the mail, and to convey travellers from the one island to the other.

The town, which is in a great measure supported by the concourse of travellers, has in a peculiar manner felt the benefit of these improvements. Almost every house is an inn, where strangers may find accommodation suited to their circumstances. The money they leave is the great fund out of which the inhabitants pay their rents, and support their families. The rapid change, however, which has taken place,

is greatly to be attributed to the late Sir James Hunter Blair, who happened to live at the critical period when the change began. He had sagacity enough to foresee the many advantages which must result from it, and forwarded the projected improvement as much as possible, by filling the harbour immediately with vessels, and building almost entirely a new town, to accommodate the inhabitants and the travellers who passed through it. Such is the origin and the progress of improvement, which is generally owing, whether in a great capital like Edinburgh, or a provincial town like Portpatrick, to the spirit and exertions of particular men, who seem born for the purpose of rousing the multitude from a state of ignorance or torpor, from which they are too often unwilling to be emancipated,

*Manufactures.*—Manufactures have not yet made their way to Portpatrick. Ship-building is the only one as yet attempted. Under the auspices of the active and public spirited citizen above mentioned, some companies of shipwrights have been formed, who are likely to carry on that branch successfully. The depth of the water, and the shortness of the run, render it one of the most convenient launches that can be conceived,

*Commerce.*—Both our exports and imports have greatly increased. We export here goods from Paisley, Manchester, &c.; and we import considerable quantities of the Irish linen manufacture. The inhabitants of Portpatrick, however, are generally only the carriers; the dealers are those who, not being sufficiently opulent to freight and load large ships, carry on a hauling business by land. They bring their goods in carts, and hire the Portpatrick vessels to convey them from one shore to the other.

*Irish Cattle.*—But of all the articles of the commerce of Portpatrick, the import of black cattle and horses from Ireland is by far the most interesting. Formerly such a commerce was prohibited, for the purpose of encouraging our own breed. The free importation was first permitted by 5th George III. cap. 10. § 1. for seven years, and from thence to the end of the then next session of Parliament. It was afterwards continued by several temporary acts, and at last made perpetual, by 16th George III. cap. 8. From the first removal of the prohibition, there was a small annual importation; but it was never carried on to any great extent till 1784, when it rose suddenly without any cause that has yet been assigned for it. In that year there were imported, between the 5th of January 1784, and the 5th of January 1785, no less than 18,301 black cattle, and 1233 horses. The importation of cattle and horses, for the last five years, ending the 10th of October 1790, has varied in the following manner:

	Black Cattle.	Horses.
From 10th Oct. 1785 to do. 1786	10,452	1256
————— 1787	7,007	1623
————— 1788	9,488	2777
————— 1789	13,321	2212
————— 1790	14,873	2402
	—————	—————
Total in five years,	55,141	10,270

which, at an average, is about 11,000 head of cattle, and 2000 horses *per annum*. Great as this importation has been, it has not as yet materially hurt the sale, or diminished the price of cattle, in the neighbourhood of Portpatrick. On the contrary, the demand for them has been rather on the increase. It is probable, however, that it would have been greater, had there been no import.

Besides

Besides the cattle imported here, there are also considerable numbers sent from Belfast, Bangor, Newry, &c. directly to England. The English coal vessels always take back cattle from Ireland when they have it in their power; but it is believed that the largest import is at Portpatrick. The great extent of sea by any other passage, especially in the winter season, is much against the safe and successful transportation of a cargo, so perishable in itself, and liable to so many accidents.

This trade depends so much upon the quantity of grass, of hay, and of turnips in England, and sometimes even upon the prospect of large crops of these articles, that there is much speculation in it. Great gains and great losses are, therefore, sudden and frequent. Hence the import is unequal. Some people suppose that the trade is favourable to smuggling, and hostile to the revenue. Others object to it, as in a peculiar manner detrimental to those districts in Scotland where black cattle are bred; and there seems to be rather a hardship in permitting such numbers of cattle to be imported into North Britain, or even carried through it, in order to rival the productions of that very country, in the only market to which it has access. Without entering, however, into these speculations, it may be sufficient at present to remark, that the import will probably diminish of itself, in consequence of the rapid progress which Ireland is now making. The time is fast approaching, when that kingdom will be in the same state in which England is at present, having a market within itself sufficient for the consumption of its own productions. Perhaps that may soon be the case in regard to other commodities, besides cattle. The Irish are rapidly improving in our manufactures, and we in theirs, at least the cottons of Manchester and Glasgow are likely soon to supply

ply the place of the linens of Ireland; so that in time there will remain few articles to barter between the two kingdoms.

*Fisheries.*—A very extensive fishery might be established at Portpatrick, particularly of cod; as the Channel is there the narrowest, and the tide the strongest, none but the healthiest and best fish can live in it. The late Sir James Hunter Blair proposed the establishment of a fishing company, and, had he lived, he would probably have effected it. After his death, some fishermen came and planted their lines, but the rapidity of the tide repeatedly carried them away. Unfortunately they had not skill enough to increase their anchorage, nor sagacity to discover, that two stone weight was heavier than one.

*Population.*—The return to the inquiries made by Dr. Webster, regarding the population of the parish of Portpatrick, about forty years ago, was 551 souls. It has since considerably increased. It appears from an enumeration recently made, that there are in the country part of the parish, 484, and in the town, 512, souls, so that the whole population amounts to 996, being an addition, in that space of time, of 445 souls.

The births, deaths, and marriages, as entered in the parish register, for the last eight years, are as follows:

Years.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1783	— 26	— 13	— 5
1784	— 25	— 18	— 9
1785	— 27	— 13	— 4
1786	— 31	— 16	— 9
1787	— 34	— 20	— 7
			1788.



Years.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1788	— 50	— 16	— 8
1789	— 37	— 30	— 4
1790	— 31	— 21	— 9

*Rent of the Parish.*—About the year 1761, the whole parish was valued, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of the teind, or the value of the tythes, and it was then estimated at L. 472 Sterling. But as the increase has since been very considerable, the land rent alone is now about L. 1000 *per annum*; the town rent is at least L. 200 more; the dues of anchorage, and a duty of 2 d. *per head* on all cattle and horses exported or imported, payable to the Blair family, may also bring in about L. 120, so that the rent of the parish is rather better than L. 1300 a year.

*Stipend.*—The stipend has lately received an augmentation, and now yields about L. 80 a year, with the addition of a manse, and a glebe of about twelve or thirteen acres. The church was built *anno* 1629, and has lately been repaired. Sir John Hunter Blair is patron. At present there are but three heritors in the parish. There are seldom above twelve persons on the poor's list. The funds for the maintenance of the poor arise chiefly from weekly collections at the church door, and cannot be calculated at more than L. 10 *per annum*.

*Language.*—The names of places in this parish are said to be of Gaelic original, but no person living remembers the time when that language was spoken here. It is, however, more than probable, as Portpatrick was included in the ancient

tient kingdom of Galloway, it was of consequence inhabited by a tribe of the Celts.

*Antiquities and Natural Curiosities.*—The Castle of Dunskey is the only remarkable building in the parish. It stands upon the brink of a tremendous precipice on the edge of the Irish sea, and has been secured on the land side by a ditch and draw-bridge, the remains of which are still visible. It was certainly built as a place of security against sudden incursions in the days of violence, and in former times must have been easily defended. A cave in the neighbourhood of Dunskey ought also to be mentioned, on account of the great veneration in which it is held by the people. At the change of the moon (which is still considered with superstitious reverence), it is usual to bring, even from a great distance, infirm persons, and particularly ricketty children, whom they often suppose bewitched, to bathe in a stream which pours from the hill, and then dry them in the cave.

The *Cairnpat*, which rises 800 feet above the level of the sea, and is supposed to be the second or third mountain in Galloway, merits also to be noticed. It bears all the marks of having been a military station, being surrounded by three stone walls or intrenchments, with very ample spaces between them, and commands a prospect of Loch Ryan and of Luce Bay, which form the peninsula in which Portpatrick is situated; England also, the Isle of Man, Ireland, and part of the Highlands of Scotland, are seen rising at a distance.

## NUMBER IV.

PARISH OF HOUNAM,  
IN ROXBURGH-SHIRE.

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*Origin of the Name.*

THE parish of Hounam does not furnish much room for statistical investigation, and the few observations which occur respecting it, may be comprehended within narrow bounds. The origin of its name cannot now be ascertained. There are many places in the neighbourhood, on the borders both of England and Scotland, ending in *am*. It is believed that *ham*, in the Saxon language, signifies a habitation or village. Perhaps it was originally pronounced Hounaham, or the habitation of Houna, a name not unknown at the opposite extremity of the kingdom\*.

*Situation and Extent of the Parish.*—The parish is situated in the county of Roxburgh, in the presbytery of Jedburgh, and in the synod of Merse and Tiviotdale. It is of a circular form, surrounded by the parishes of Morbattle, Jedburgh, and Oxnam in Scotland, and bordering on the opposite side with the county of Northumberland, where the top of the Fells, a range of the Cheviot hills, is the march. The parish, from east to west, is about nine or ten miles long; and in general is about six miles broad. It may be

\* One of the ferries between Caithness and Orkney, is at a place called Houna.

be called a hilly or mountainous district; but the hills are green, and rarely incumbered with rocks or covered with heath. The land is wet and spongy; the soil light, and better calculated for grafs than grain. The air is healthy, and the people long lived. Three persons who had resided in the parish from their youth, died lately, at the advanced age of 100.

*Sheep.*—The principal circumstance for which this district is remarkable, is the Kale-water breed of sheep, so called from a small stream running through the middle of the parish. The sheep are of a moderate size, and produce excellent wool. Their number usually amounts to 12,000. Attempts have been made to improve the breed, by crossing with a larger kind, but the experiments did not succeed. Though the sheep became larger, and the quantity of the wool was increased, its quality was inferior. The most approved stock-farmers, however, have not the least doubt that the wool might be brought to still greater perfection by proper management, and by crossing with sheep nearly of the same size, but whose wool is the finest possible. The sheep not only produce excellent wool, but, as the farmers term it, they *feed well*, come to a tolerable good size when fat, and are exquisite mutton.

*Productions.*—The quantity of grain produced is very inconsiderable. Several of the farms in the higher part of the parish have scarcely been ploughed in the memory of man. The soil being light and sandy, excellent turnips might be raised. Some have been produced in the parish weighing above 26 lbs. avoirdupoise. But the farmers have not as yet succeeded in raising this useful root, though they are extremely sensible of the great advantage that might be derived from

it, particularly in the spring. The farmers are in general too late in sowing them. Turnips cannot be raised to a great size in this part of the country, unless they are sown about the end of May or the beginning of June; but the farmers in the parish of Hounam are considerably later.

*Rent of the Parish.*—The land-rent is L. 2720. It has risen more than a third within these last fifteen years. The valued rent is L. 914:4:9. There are 8 heritors in the parish, 2 of whom are resident. There are only 14 farms, which, at an average, are from L. 250 to L. 300 *per annum*. The number of sheep on a farm is from 50 to 100 score.

*State of the Church, &c.*—The walls of the church were repaired about 40 years ago; but the building is still very bad, and worse than any place of worship in the neighbourhood. The Duke of Roxburgh is the patron. The present incumbent is Mr James Rutherford, who was admitted in March 1775. He is married; has a son and five daughters. The manse was built in 1776; but is placed too near the river, and consequently in a damp situation. The stipend, from the Revolution, amounted to L. 75 in money, and 21 bolls of victual. In consequence of a late process of augmentation, the victual stipend is now fixed at 63 bolls. There is no parochial fund for the poor, excepting the weekly collections, and quarterly assessments laid on the land-holders and their tenants, which yield, at an average, about L. 30 *per annum*.

*Population.*—The population of the parish has of late considerably diminished. The return to Dr Webster, about 40 years ago, was 632. The number of inhabitants is at present 365. Of these,

*Of Hounam.*

51

One hundred are below 10 years of age	-	100
Forty-nine are above 10 and under 20 years	-	49
Eighty are between 20 and 30 years	- - -	80
One hundred between 30 and 50 years	- - -	100
Thirty-six above 50 years	- - -	36
Total number		365

The number of burials do not exceed 4 each year. The births are from 10 to 12, exclusive of the sectaries, who are indeed but few, and have a register of baptisms of their own. There is not even a village in the parish; a few houses near the church not deserving that name. The number of births, about a century ago, viz. from the year 1689 to the year 1707, seem, at an average, to have been 30 in the year. From the Union of the two kingdoms, to about the time of the last rebellion, the average number of births seem to be 20 a year. From that time, the births have gradually decreased to the present number of 10 or 12. The wages of men servants are between L. 7 and L. 8; of women about L. 4. Fifteen or twenty years ago, the wages of men servants were about L. 5, and of women scarcely L. 3. The wages of the shepherds, who constitute one half of the parish, consist of a certain number of cows and sheep to graze on the farm to which they belong. The people enjoy a considerable degree of the comforts of life. They are chearful and contented; and there are but few poor.

The great decrease of inhabitants, within the last 40 years, is evidently occasioned by the too general practice of letting the lands in great farms; but may be, in some measure, owing to the mode of agriculture almost universally adopted in the parish, (especially since sheep and wool brought so high

a price), of converting the arable into pasture land. The lands, 50 or 100 years ago, were parcelled out into at least four times the present number of farms. As late as the year 1750, five tenants, with large families, occupied a farm now rented by one tenant. There were also, about these times, several small, but proud, lairds in the parish. Their lands are now lost in the large farms, their names extinguished, and their mansions totally destroyed.

*Antiquities.*—A Roman road, or *street* as it is commonly called, which can be traced to the south as far as Borough-bridge in Yorkshire, runs through part of this parish; it afterwards passes by St Boswell's Green, where the fair is held, and then bends its course towards the Lothians. The only other antiquity worth mentioning, is an encampment at the top of Hounam Law, which is the highest hill on the border except the Cheviot. It was of considerable extent, and within these few years a large iron gate taken down from the top of the Law, was to be seen at Cessford Castle belonging to the Duke of Roxburgh. There are smaller encampments on the tops of the other hills in the neighbourhood, either made by the Romans when they invaded this country, or formed in the course of the many wars in which the Borderers of England and Scotland were antiently involved.

*Fuel.*—The principal disadvantage under which this parish labours, is the scarcity of fuel. The common people burn turf or peat. The resident heritors and the better sort of farmers bring coal from Northumberland, partly in carts, from a place called Etal, about 20 miles distant, and partly on horse-back, from Birdhopecraig. The latter species is abundant, and by far the most valuable; and it is a fortunate circumstance for the kingdom at large, that the best species of fuel should be found

found even in the interior parts of Northumberland, in such considerable quantities: It could easily be conveyed to the sea by a canal; and that best nursery of British seamen, which depends on the supplying the great market of London with coals, may be thus preserved, even though they fail in the neighbourhood of the coast.

N U M.



*Statistical Account*

N U M B E R V.

PARISH OF KIRKMICHEAL.

*From the Communications transmitted by the Rev. Dr BURGESS  
Minister of that Parish.*

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*Name, Extent, and Boundaries.*

**T**HE derivation is obviously from St Michael to whom the Church was dedicated. It is situated in the presbytery of Lochmaben, in the county and Synod of Dumfries. It consists of the two parishes of Kirkmichael and Garrel, which were united about the year 1663, or 1664. The form of the united parishes is nearly elliptical; being about ten miles long and four broad in the middle. It is bounded on the south-east by the parish of Lochmaben, on the south by Tinwald and Kirkmahoe, on the west by Clouseburn, on the north-west by Kirkpatrick Juxta, and on the north-east by the parish of Johnston.

*Surface.*—The upper or north-west part of the parish is hilly, and chiefly covered with heath, except only a few spots of arable ground on the sides of the river Ae, and the rivulet called Glenkill-burn. The lower or south-east part is in general plain, but interspersed with several rising grounds covered with

with heath, and some large peat mosses which supply the inhabitants with fuel. There are now no open undivided commons; but there is, in the lower part of the parish, a considerable extent of ground still lying unimproved. In the estate of Kirkmichael and the barony of Ross, and in two other small properties, besides plantations, there may be 150, or nearly 200 acres of natural wood. There is much marshy ground, which, if properly drained and cultivated, might turn to good account.

*Soil and Produce.*—The soil on the sides of the river Ae in the west, south, and south-east part of the parish is very fertile, producing wheat, oats, and barley in great plenty; the middle parts are mostly dry and gravelly; but produce oats, barley, and pease tolerably well; the east side, especially by the side of the river Kinnell, is very fertile. In ordinary years, between 6 and 10 thousand stones of oat meal are sold out of the parish after the inhabitants have been supplied. In the remarkable years 1782 and 1783, the crops were not only sufficient for the demands of the inhabitants, but allowed a considerable quantity to be sold in the adjacent parishes. For the last thirty four years, no crop was so bad as not to furnish the inhabitants with provision, and leave a great quantity for the market. The reason of this steady fertility seems to be the effects of the depth and moisture of the soil, which circumstances, though they may retard the harvest eight or ten days later than in the parishes immediately south of it, render the ground less liable to be hurt in dry seasons. Flax, hemp, and grafs, are rarely sown in the parish. The sowing season here usually begins about the 10th of March; and in good years, the harvest is concluded about the 1st week of October; but this year having been

been uncommonly wet, the harvest was concluded only on the 12th of November.

*Air, Climate, and Diseases.*—From the quality of the soil, the range of high mountains on the north-west, and rivers and burns which run on each side and across the parish, the air is necessarily moist; but, from the rapidity of the rivers, the air is frequently changed, and seldom suffered to stagnate. The inhabitants are remarkably healthy. There have been no epidemical diseases for these last 34 years, except the small pox and measles, which have never been uncommonly mortal. Rheumatisms are the most prevalent disorders.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants is 950, viz. 505 males, and 445 females. The proportion between bachelors and married men, including widowers, is as one to four nearly. There were no records prior to the year 1727, and the records which were kept from that time to 1759, are so inaccurate, that it is impossible to judge of population formerly. About 30 years ago, the number of inhabitants was about 730; and consequently the increase since that period is 220 souls. The increase seems owing to the division and cultivation of a very large common, and the improvement of other lands. The increase would probably have been much greater, had it not been for the practice of *leading* farms as it is called; that is, a farmer on one farm possesses at the same time another smaller farm, which is said to be *led* along with the other. About sixty years ago, the number of farms was above 20 more than at present; and, within these few years, seven considerable farms, that formerly had numerous families residing on them, are now *led* along with others, and are consequently uninhabited.

The

The annual average number of births is 26; of burials 18 or 19; and of marriages nearly 6; and each marriage produces, at an average, 5 children. There are at present 60 persons between 50 and 70 years old; and 25 between 70 and 100. One man in the parish is 103 years old. His account of himself is, that he was born in the *borrowing days* \* of the year that King William came in, and that he was baptised in *hidlings*, (i. e. secretly), by a Presbyterian minister the following summer, as the Curates were then in the kirks. Though he is now mostly confined to bed, he retains his mental faculties very distinct; and three years ago he wrought at the harvest in perfect health and spirits. A weaver who died a few years ago, remembered his being several times employed to ride King William's dragoon horses to water, when they were going to Ireland before the battle at the Boyne.

*Occupation and Division of the Inhabitants.*—There are 60 farmers; the average of persons in each family is fluctuating and uncertain, being usually more in summer than in winter; there are 4 blacksmiths; 4 carpenters; 3 millers; 4 shoemakers; 6 taylor's; 16 weavers; 3 clogmakers; 3 little merchants; 1 surgeon, an old man. No nobility or gentry reside in the parish. There are three small villages in the parish; the largest consisting of 100 souls, and each of the other two of about 70 or 75. They live on three large corn farms, on which, with their own industry, they subsist pretty comfortably. The people, in general, are economical and industrious. Very few of them have gone into either the army or navy these many years. They enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society, and

\* That is, on one of the three last days of March 1688.

seem to live contented. They are in general charitably disposed. The number of Seceders, Cameronians, and Relief people, young and old, are about 50. All the rest are of the Established Church. There are no Catholics nor Episcopalians.

*Rent of Lands.*—The land rent of the parish amounts to about L. 2300; and, if to this be added the interest, at 10 per cent. on L. 2000 of grassums, the whole will amount to about L. 2500. The valued rent is 4315 merks Scots.

*Church.*—The living, or stipend, is L. 55 : 11 : 1 $\frac{1}{7}$ , with L. 3 : 17 : 9 $\frac{1}{7}$ , for defraying the expences of the sacrament. The glebe consists of about 14 acres of high lying land, which, with the manse and garden, could not be rated at above L. 10 a year. The Duke of Queensberry is the patron of the old parish of Kirkmichael, by a charter from the crown; but, as the patronage of the old parish of Garrell is not in that charter, and as Garrell was a menial church of the Archbishopric of Glasgow, the crown claims the right of being vice-patron of the united parish. Dr Burgess, the present incumbent, was presented to the charge in 1759; he is now a widower, with an only daughter. The two parishes were united in 1660, but not without some difficulty on the part of the parishioners of Garrell.

The church of Garrell was built in 1617; but Kirkmichael becoming the place of worship after the union of the two parishes, it was suffered to fall to ruin. The church of Kirkmichael was partly rebuilt, and somewhat enlarged, in 1729, and covered with slates in place of heath, with which it had been formerly thatched. It was repaired again, and considerably enlarged, by a late decret of the Court of Session,

tion, and the church-yard furrounded with a good stone and lime wall, and coped with free stone. The manse was partly new built, and partly enlarged, in 1729, and has had two or three repairs since that time; but it is still rather a cold uncomfortable dwelling. The number of heritors is 8; of whom only 2, of small property, reside in the parish.

*State of the Poor.*—The poor receiving alms are only 5; who are supported, partly, by weekly collections, which, with small fines exacted from delinquents, and dues paid for marriages and baptisms out of the church, amount, annually, to L. 14 or L. 15, and partly by alms, in meal and other victuals, given them from house to house, or sent to them when unable to go about the parish. There are no legacies or mortifications, nor as yet is there any need of them.

In extraordinary cases of distress, we have a custom which deserves to be taken notice of in a paper of this kind; and that is, when any of the lower people happen to be reduced by sickness, losses, or misfortunes of any kind, a friend is sent to as many of their neighbours as they think needful, to invite them to what they call a *drinking*. This drinking consists in a little small beer, with a bit of bread and cheese, and sometimes a small glass of brandy or whisky, previously provided by the needy persons, or their friends. The guests convene at the time appointed, and, after collecting a shilling a-piece, and sometimes more, they divert themselves for about a couple of hours, with music and dancing, and then go home. Such as cannot attend themselves, usually send their charitable contribution by any neighbour that chooses to go. These meetings sometimes produce 5, 6, or 7 pounds, to the needy person or family.

*Woods.*—As to timber, besides a pretty large wood of forest trees, with extensive plantations of common firs, pitch firs, silver firs, laburnums, beeches, oaks, planes, limes, &c. on the estate of Kirkmichael, there are several of the rarer species of indigenous trees, the *Prunus padus*, (birds cherry), *Viburnum opulus*, (water elder), honeysuckles, bullaces, and mountain ashes.

In the barony of Ross there was, till within these last seven years, an extensive wood, called Knockwood, consisting almost wholly of excellent oaks, which was sold by the present proprietor for about 800 guineas; and, unfortunately, has not since been properly fenced from the sheep and cattle in the neighbourhood.

As to rare plants, of the less useful kinds, there are, in the parish, the *Pyrola rotundifolia*, (the winter green), *Andromeda polifolia*, (the marsh cistus, or wild rosemary), the *Lichen ventosus*, (or storm liverwort), *Lichen venosus*, (or veined liverwort), *Lichen burgenfii*, (or crowned liverwort), with several others.

The number of black cattle, on an average, are estimated at between 1000 and 1200; sheep from 8000 to 10,000; and horses at above 100. The wild quadrupeds are foxes, otters, badgers, hares, wild cats, polecats, ermines, and weasels. As the estate of Kirkmichael abounds both with natural wood and planting, there is, of course, a considerable variety of birds. Besides black cocks, moor-fowl, partridges, plovers, wild ducks, teals, and snipes, there is great plenty of the rarer species of birds, the land and the water rails, the quail, the missel thrush, the pine and the common bullfinch, the wryneck, the golden-crested and the willow  
wrens,

wrens; the redstart, the creeper, the flycatcher; with the dun, the grey, the barn, and the horned owls.

Of migratory birds, there are the cuckow, the goatfucker, the swift, the house and window swallow, the sand martin or river swallow, the curlew, called here the *wbaup*, the lapwing, plover, or tewit, the king's fisher, the sea lark, the sandpiper, the greater and lesser terns or sea swallows; with gulls, mews, shelldrakes, divers, &c.

The sand martin usually appears here about the middle, or towards the end of March, and departs about the 1st of September; the cuckow about the 20th of April, and departs about the 1st of August; the curlew and lapwing about the middle of March, and depart about the middle of August; the house and window swallows about the 20th of April, and depart from the 4th to the 30th of September; the swift and goatfucker arrive about the commencement of continued daylight, (*i. e.* here, about the 10th of May), and depart about the end of it, in the second week of August; the king's fisher comes up the rivers about Christmas, and usually stays about three or four weeks; the sandpiper, sea lark, and mew, visit and stay through the whole of the breeding season; indeed, the gull, mew, and shelldrake, are often here in the winter, when the weather is mild.

With regard to mineral springs;—there are several veins of iron stone and ocher in every quarter of the parish, and consequently many springs of chalybeate water; but none of a strength so remarkable as to be any way noticed or frequented. There are two lochs, or lakes, in the parish, viz. one towards the head, of about two or three acres in extent, apparently very deep, but without fish of any sort; and another



other near the foot, containing ten or twelve acres, in which there are a great number of pike and eel, but not so numerous as to serve the neighbouring inhabitants as an article of food.

*Price of Provisions.*—About 40 or 45 years ago, a beef cow, which at present costs from L. 5. to L. 6. and sometimes more, could have been purchased for L. 2 : 2 : 0, or L. 2 : 10 : 0, at the utmost. A fat ewe or wedder, that sells now at 12 s. or 14 s. could have been bought then for 5 s. or 6 s.; and veal and lamb in proportion. Pork was little used here till within these last 20 or 30 years; it is now very generally eaten, and sells at 3 d. 3½ d. and 4 d. the pound, according to its goodness, and the quantity that happens to be in the market. Geese were then to be had at 8 d. or 9 d. a-piece; ducks at 3 d. or 4 d.; hens at 4 d.; chickens at 1½ d. and 2 d.; butter at 4 d. the pound, equal to 24 ounces averdupois weight; cheese at 2 d. per pound; oats from 1 s. to 1 s. 3 d. the Dumfries peck, which is equal to the Winchester bushel; bear and barley from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 6 d. Wheat was seldom sown here at that period. At present, all these prices are greatly increased, and some of them considerably more than doubled.

*Price of Labour.*—The general wages for day labourers in husbandry, and other work, is 8 d. with victuals, or 1 s. without them; carpenters, bricklayers, and masons, have usually 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d.; and taylor 8 d. and their victuals. In general, the wages now paid to workmen of every description are double what they were 20 or 30 years ago. The wages of male servants, about 30 years ago, were from L. 3 to L. 4 a year; at present they are between L. 7 and L. 8, and some still higher: Maid servants, at the above period, had  
from

from L. 1 : 15 : 0 to L. 2 : 5 : 0 a year; they now get from L. 2 : 10 : 0 to L. 4 : 10 : 0.

*Antiquities.*—There are several indistinct remains of ancient fortifications, but no traditions about any other than a small fort in the Knock Wood, called Wallace's House, said to have been thrown up by Sir William Wallace, after he had slain Sir Hugh of Moreland and five of his men, at a place still named, from that event, the *sax corfes*, i. e. the six corpses; and where there are two or three large stones, which seem to have been set up in remembrance of some such transaction.

There are some small tumuli, or cairns; but none of them have been opened, nor have their contents been examined.

There are several barrows, or burrans, as they are called here. They seem to have been intended for folding cattle at night: And it is observable, that, when one of these barrows is on one farm, there is always one opposite to, and within call of it, upon another. This has probably been done with an intention, that, in case of any inroad from the English Border, whoever of the herds or keepers first observed the enemy, might give notice to, and be ready to assist, the other, either to defend, or carry off the cattle to places of greater safety.

The only Roman works in the parish are, a branch of the great road that led from Netherby in Cumberland to the chain of forts built by Lollius Urbicus, between the Forth and the Clyde, that can still be traced through a moss, and seems to have terminated at a castellum, which is now the minister's garden, and of which two sides remain still very distinct.

About

About six years ago, there was found, in a small piece of peat mofs, near the line of the road above mentioned, a pretty large pot, of a sort of base copper, and a decanter of the same metal, of the shape and size of our white stone quart decanters, with three feet, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch long. They were both sent by Dr Burgess to the Society of Antiquaries at Edinburgh, and are in their museum. They were thought to be Roman. They might have been thrown into the place where they were found when the Romans left the castellum, perhaps pursued by the natives, and obliged to abandon some of their heavy baggage, to expedite their flight.

NUM.

N U M B E R VI.

PARISH OF SPROUSTON.

*By the Rev. Mr* ROBERT TURNBULL.

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*Situation and Surface.*

**T**HIS parish is situated in the county of Tiviotdale, presbytery of Kelso, and synod of Merse and Tiviotdale. It is about six English miles long, and four broad; being bounded by the parish of Carham, in England, and by Yetholm, Linton, Kelso, Ednam, and Eccles, in Scotland. That part of it which lies by the side of the Tweed is flat, and liable to be overflowed; and the corn is frequently swept off the ground. The southern part of the parish is higher ground, though not hilly. The soil, by the side of the Tweed, is excellent, and very fertile: No part of the parish, however, is barren.

*Cultivation, Produce, and Rent.*—Corn of all kinds, clover, rye-grass, flax, turnip, cabbage, and most sorts of garden vegetables, are raised in this parish. Oxen and sheep are fed on turnip with considerable profit. The magnitude of farms, which of late have been increasing, is reputed a grievance. A farm was lately let at L. 1 : 7 : 0 per acre. The valued rent of the parish is L. 13,263 : 6 : 8 Scots; the real rent is about L. 4350 Sterling. There are four possessors of landed property; but

none of them reside here. Agriculture is greatly improved. More corn is raised, and more cattle and sheep are fed for the market, than formerly.

*Church and Stipend.*—The church and manse were built about ten years ago. The stipend, including the glebe, may be valued at L. 120. The Duke of Roxburgh is patron.

*Population.*—The population, as is thought, has not varied for these forty years past. There are many persons between 70 and 100 years of age. The number of souls in the parish is supposed to be about 1000. It is probable that the population has diminished considerably since the year 1714; and the union of farms is perhaps the cause of this diminution. The annual average of births, from 1714 to 1750, is 37; from 1750 to 1790, is 30. The most numerous class of artificers are weavers; there are 30 in the village of Sprouston; 8 masons, and 4 carpenters. There are about 60 seceders in the parish.

*Poor.*—The annual average of the poor, from 1737 to 1758, is 33; and from 1758 to 1790, is 18. The average of the monthly distributions to them, during the first of these periods, (from 1737 to 1758) is L. 3 : 18 : 10; and the average during the last is L. 3 : 19 : 1. The oldest records that could be found of the poor rates, begin in the year 1737. The mode of providing for the poor in the shire of Tiviotdale, and the only legal mode, though not universally observed, in Scotland, is this: The heritors, with the minister and elders, have the power of making up a list of the poor, and assessing for their monthly maintenance. The assessment continues six months; the heritors paying the one half, and the tenants the other, according to their respective valued rents.

Persons

Persons who become objects of charity, from sickness, or other causes, are relieved by the session out of the weekly collections. The poor live in their own houses. The effects of all the poor enrolled are inventoried, and sold at their decease, which is a check against impositions.

*Price of Provisions and Labour.*—The price of all kinds of provisions, especially of oatmeal, has greatly increased; and, if potatoes had not been introduced, the price of oatmeal must have been still higher. There is a considerable advance in the wages of all servants. Men, during harvest, receive L. 1 : 4 : 0, and women L. 1, with diet; a man hired for a day 1 s.; and a woman 10 d. Forty years ago, a man's wages, in harvest, was only 8 d. and a woman's 6 d. a-day. A cottage must give the farmer one reaper. A labourer gets 1 s. a-day in summer, and 10 d. in winter. His wages are sufficient to enable him to bring up a family. Taylors wages are lately advanced from 4 d. to 6 d. and 8 d. a-day.

*Fish.*—The Tweed, which runs along the north side of this parish, abounds with salmon. They sell high in the spring, the greatest part of them being sent, by Berwick, to London; but the prices vary considerably; and, in summer, they are tolerably cheap. There is a project for carrying a canal, along the Tweed, from Berwick to Kelso, or even higher.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Sea fowls appear here in great numbers in the spring, about seed-time; they follow the plough, and are thence called *seed-birds*. Coal, the only fuel used here, is brought from England. The roads are bad, owing, probably, to the statute labour being commuted. It is the general opinion that turnpikes have improved the country.

try. Only one suicide has been committed in the course of more than forty years. The people, in general, are contented and industrious; their condition, however, would be meliorated, if they had better houses: Their manners and customs remain the same as formerly; but dress, and the mode of living, are much improved.

NUM-

N U M B E R VII.

PARISH OF LONGFORMACUS.

*By the Rev. Mr SELBY ORD.*

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*Name, Situation, and Surface.*

**I**T is uncertain whence the name of this parish is derived. It is in the shire of Berwick, presbytery of Dunse, and synod of Kelfo. It is twelve miles long and six broad; surrounded by the parishes of Dunse, Langton, Greenlaw, West-ruther, Cranshaws, and Abbey St Bethun's. It is quite hilly; being in the midst of that ridge of hills which divides the flat and rich lands of East Lothian from the beautiful, well inclosed, and highly cultivated plains of Berwickshire. The greatest part of the surface is covered with heath, eaten by small black faced sheep, which, when removed to good pastures, may be so fattened as to weigh 10 or 12 pounds the quarter.

*Cultivation and Produce.*—The lands near the rivers Whitadder and Dye, have been improved by lime brought from East Lothian at the distance of 17 miles, and have been made to raise oats, barley, pease, rye-grass, red and white clover, and turnip. But the farmers are prevented from great exertions by the high rents, the great expence of manure, the badness of the roads, and the distance of markets. The increase



crease of corn is from two, or even one, to six. The present land rent amounts to L. 1700 a-year. There are 9 heritors. The patron of the parish, Mr Home, is the only residing one.

*Climate and Population.*—The air is dry, cold, and piercing. The only diseases are rheumatisms and cutaneous disorders, which seem to be occasioned by poor food, damp houses, and want of cleanliness. Population, owing to large farms, to the tenants residing at a distance, and to part of the lands being turned entirely into pasture for sheep, is on the decrease. The number of souls is 452; of families, 100; of persons from 16 to 60 years of age, 112. The number of births, in these last six years, is 47; of marriages, 21; of deaths, 27. Many people born in this parish being obliged to seek employment in other parishes, all who die in the parish not being buried in it, and those only registered that are buried here, the deaths bear but a small proportion to the births.

*Poor, and Wages.*—There are 5 families, consisting of 13 persons, upon the poors roll. They receive L. 15 *per annum*; which is raised by weekly collections at the church, and occasional cess upon the lands. A labourer's wages is 1 s. a-day; masons and joiners, 1 s.; taylor, 6 d. and their meals. Household men servants wages are 6 or 7 pounds *per annum*, and women, 3 and 4 pounds.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The stipend of this parish is L. 100. There are about 70 horses, 500 score of sheep, and 200 head of cattle. There are favourable appearances of copper ore. Attempts were made to work it a few years ago; but patience and perseverance were wanting. Some cart loads of ore were dug up in making a road: The present minister

minister smelted some of it, and found it very rich. There are two hills of a beautiful shape, known by the name of the *Dirrington Laws*. There is a heap of stones at a place called *Byreclough*, 80 yards long, 25 broad, and 6 high. They were collected, probably, by some army, to perpetuate a victory, or some other remarkable event. The mosses and moors in the parish supply the inhabitants with fuel; but some coal is brought from a distance. The people, accustomed to the pastoral life in their early years, are rather inclined to indolence and ease. Their condition might be improved by the introduction of manufactures.

NUM-

## NUMBER VIII.

## PARISH OF LAUDER.

*By the Rev. Dr JAMES FORD.**Name, Situation, and Surface.*

**T**HE name of Lauder seems to be of Celtic original, derived from the word *lade*, which signifies the passage, or course, and sometimes the mouth, of a river; and it is literally applicable to the situation. It is situated in the highest part of the Merse, or Berwickshire. It extends about eight miles from north to south; but the bulk of the parish is contained in four miles, upon the frath of Lauder water. It is bounded by the parishes of Channelkirk, Stow, Melrose, Earlston, Legerwood, and Westruther. The soil is rather light and sandy. It is in general fertile; and, of late, has been highly cultivated. The ground rises gradually from the river, on each side, to hills of a moderate height, and mostly green. They are covered with a mixture of heath and juniper, which makes excellent sheep pasture.

*Cultivation, Produce, Farms, &c.*—There may be about nine square miles in corn and hay grass. Sown grass, for pasture and for hay, is much cultivated. The hay sells from 4 d. to 7 d. per stone, according to the demand. Good crops of wheat have been produced; but this grain is thought to be

too exhausting for the soil. Excellent oats and barley are raised, and exported weekly to Dalkieth and Edinburgh, especially oats and oatmeal. The soil produces flax in great perfection; but, at present, it is only cultivated for the use of the inhabitants. Turnip and potatoes are reared to a great extent; and sheep and oxen fed here with much advantage. The average rent of farms is from L. 50 to L. 150 *per annum*. In the neighbourhood of *Lauder*, the land lets from 20 to 40 shillings per acre; but the average rent of arable land is from 5 to 10 shillings per acre. Since the late improvements in husbandry commenced, some farms have been divided into two or three, and some smaller ones have been united, according to the skill or ability of the tenant. There is little land inclosed, except in the neighbourhood of Lord *Lauderdale's* house. All are convinced of the advantages of this practice; and it will probably advance with considerable rapidity. There was formerly abundance of natural wood, especially on the low grounds, and by the side of the river. It was long ago wed out; but the proprietors are beginning to plant again.

*Minerals, &c.*—There are some copper mines, but, it is supposed, not sufficiently rich to defray the expence of working. Moor-stone is every where to be met with. It is used for inclosing, and is very proper for the purpose, being large and flat. The slate found here is of an inferior quality. Ad-der-stones, arrow points of flint, commonly called *elf* or *fairy stones*, are to be seen here; and, in the neighbourhood, stones of fanciful shapes, as of snails, worms, and other animals. They are found after heavy rains, by which they are washed out of their beds.

*Sheep.*—The number of sheep produced and fed in this pa-  
 VOL. I. K rish,

rish, is supposed to amount to 10,000. The breed is, of late, considerably improved. Taking the produce of this, and of the neighbouring parishes, into consideration, the town of Lauder seems to be one of the best situated places in Scotland for the establishment of a woollen manufacture. Turnips are much cultivated for feeding sheep; but, since the late game act, the hares have become so numerous as greatly to injure the crops of that valuable article.

*Population.*—There are at present about 2000 souls in the parish. Its population has been increasing, particularly since an easy communication was opened between different parts of the country by means of turnpike roads. 1500 of the inhabitants are above 10 years of age. About 1000 of these reside in the country part of the parish, and the remainder in the borough of Lauder. The annual average of marriages is about 8 or 10; that of births and deaths about 30. Each marriage, at an average, produces 5 children. The people, in general, live long: Many have survived 90, and some even 100, during the incumbency of the present minister. Some are below middle stature, many above it; and the size of not a few is upwards of six feet. The people are, generally, strong and healthy. There are about 40 farmers in the parish, and a considerable number of artists in the borough and country. There is in this parish a seceding minister; though the number of seceders is but small. There are two writers, and two surgeons. As this parish, when Dr Webster made his inquiry, contained only 1714 souls, it has increased, within 40 years, about 300 in population,

*Church, and Stipend.*—The church of Lauder was originally a chapel of ease to Channel-kirk, or Childrens Kirk, being dedicated to the holy Innocents. At the Reformation, Lau-  
der

der was made a parochial charge. At first, the church stood on the north side of the town, fronting Lauder fort; and it was in this old church that the Scotch nobility were assembled, when they determined to make a prisoner of James III.; and the house in which he was seized is still standing. The stipend, including the glebe, is between L. 90 and L. 100 *per annum*; half money, half victual.

*Poor*.—The number of poor in this parish is about 30. Their maintenance amounts to about L. 80 *per annum*; arising from assessments, Sunday's collections, and dues for lending the pall, called in Scotland the *mort-cloth*.

*Wages*.—The wages of a country servant is from 5 to 7 pounds *per annum*; of labourers from 9 d. to 1 s. a-day; of carpenters, masons, and gardeners, about 1 s. 3 d. The price of every kind of labour is greatly increased; reapers wages are almost doubled. The wages of women servants have advanced from 20 to 40 shillings *per annum*; and of such as work at turnips, and milk ewes, to L. 3 per half year.

*Miscellaneous Observations*.—The air is pure and healthy; and this place has been often called the Scotch *Montpelier*. The land rent of the parish may be about L. 6000 Sterling. There are six heritors of rank, only one of whom resides in the parish. The number of feuers, or smaller possessors of land, is considerable. There are about 100 ploughs, and many of them of modern construction.

For 30 years past, much improvement in education, manners, and the mode of living, as well as in several other particulars, has been introduced into this part of the country. In a course of about 10 miles, between Lauder and Tweed, the  
river

river turns between 20 and 30 mills, some of which have been lately erected for the purpose of grinding barley and wheat. There are now turnpike, parochial roads, and bridges made, and kept in good repair, by the toll-bar money, and statute-labour commuted into money according to the number of servants and horses. The turnpike roads have been the cause of many other improvements. Coal, lime, and the establishment of a woollen manufacture, are wanting. The people are generally active and spirited, and have always been ready to engage in labour of any kind: Many of them are, at present, both in the army and navy. The poor, in general, consider themselves able to bring up a family with an income of about L. 12 Sterling.

In 1782, and 1783, the situation of the inhabitants was truly deplorable. It was the end of December before the harvest was finished, after a great part of the crop was destroyed by frost and snow. None of the farmers could pay their rent; some of them lost from L. 200 to L. 500 Sterling. The country, however, was greatly relieved by the importation of white peas from America. Many found great advantage in feeding their cattle with furze or whins, beat into a mash. The poor were relieved by the expenditure of the public funds, which supplied them with grain at a moderate price. There were likewise several liberal contributions for this purpose. But the situation of this part of the country, and, it is believed, of all the south of Scotland, was still worse in 1766: In consequence of a parching drought during the whole summer, two thirds of the cattle were slaughtered at Martinmas, and sold at 3 farthings a pound. Many of those that remained died at the stall in the subsequent spring, after having consumed all the straw that could be provided for them. Bear straw sold at 1 s. 6 d. per threave.

Prior

Prior to that period, not above four or five small beeves were killed in *Lauder* market at *Martinmas*. Since that time, in consequence of the cultivation of turnip and grafs, there has been plenty of the best beef and mutton through the whole year.

Peat and turf were formerly used here for fuel; but, since the turnpike roads were made, coal, though transported from the distance of 15 miles, is used for that purpose both in town and country. The farmers find it most for their advantage to bring home lime in the summer season, and coal when returning from *Edinburgh* or *Dalkieth* markets. These two, with *Kelfo* and *Haddington*, are the markets nearest this parish.

*Antiquities*.—A considerable quantity of Spanish, Scotch, and English coins, have been dug up. The antiquity of the first extends no farther than the age of *Elifabeth*. The Scotch and English belong to the age of *Edward Longshanks*, and *Alexander I.* of Scotland; and some of them are of a later date. The minister of *Lauder* is in possession of some of these coins, and also of several Roman coins, whose inscriptions are, *Lucius Flaminius*, *Julius Caesar*, &c. There are many Pictish and Scotch encampments in this parish and the neighbourhood. All of them are of a round or oval figure, and are called *rings* by the common people. The Roman encampments were square or rectangular; but none of them are to be seen in this part of the country. The largest Scotch or Pictish encampment in the parish is on *Tollis-hill*, or *Tullius-hill*. It is on the road between *Lauder* and *Haddington*, and is supposed to have got its name from a Roman army passing through this country, and commanded by a *Tullius*. Many tumuli are to be seen in *Lauder moor*, on the  
old



old road to Melrose, where it is probable some battles have been fought, as fragments of swords, bows, and arrows, are found there; but no record or tradition is known concerning them. The arrows were pointed with flint-stone, tapering from the juncture, about an inch long.

*Lauder Fort.*—Towards the north of the tower of Lauder, by the river side, stands Lauder fort. This fabric is near 500 years old. It was built by Edward Longshanks, who had over-run Scotland. It was rebuilt, and converted into a dwelling-house, by the Duke of Lauderdale, in the end of the last century. There are some noble apartments in it, and rich stucco work, according to the taste of that age. One of the old apartments is preserved as a curiosity.

N U M-

## NUMBER IX.

## PARISH OF AYTON.

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE HOME.*

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*Name, Situation, &c.*

THE parish of Ayton seems to take its name from the water of Eye. It lies in the county of Berwick, presbytery of Chirnside, and synod of Merse and Tiviotdale. The parishes by which it is bounded are Eyemouth and Coltingham on the north, Chirnside on the west, Foulden and Mordington on the south, and by the sea on the east. The parish is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, and 4 broad: It was once of larger extent, when Lammerton, Rofs, and Shiels belonged to it. The soil is in general fertile, and particularly adapted for the turnip husbandry. There is about 2 miles extent of sea coast. The shore is high and rocky. The hills in this parish lie chiefly in the southern extremity. The soil of some of them, especially of a ridge of no very considerable height, is in general well adapted for producing corn or grass.

*Cultivation and Produce.*—Agriculture has undergone a great change in the course of a very few years. Instead of five or six successive white crops, the farmers will seldom allow two to follow each other; for they derive considerable advantage from introducing a green one, and occasionally fallow, between

tween the white crops. The experience of this neighbourhood has rather a tendency to prove, that money expended in the cultivation of moor lands has seldom turned to a good account, and that planting is the best mode of improvement; the effects of water, however, has not been tried. Lime operates at first, but loses its effect as a stimulus upon a second trial. Though the appearance of moor lands may be changed by culture and artificial grasses, they will not feed well; and, when wet or cold, are believed to lay the foundation of the *rot* in sheep, a distemper which proves extremely fatal.

Two horses only, are at present used in the plough here, instead of four oxen and two horses, which was formerly the practice. They will perform the same quantity of labour equally well, and in much shorter time. The English plough is chiefly used in this parish. The lands produce most of the common vegetables, plants, and trees. Artificial grasses are much used. Of late the farmers here directed their attention, and with great success, to stock. They find that the lands in grass make a profitable return. By feeding, too, the ground is enriched for future crops. The advantage of feeding sheep on the lands, in the proper season, with turnip, is sensibly felt; and this practice is supposed to be preferable to a summer fallowing; and is, at the same time, no loss to the farmer.

Plantations of all kinds of trees are much encouraged by the present proprietor of the estate of Ayton, which contributes greatly to enrich and beautify the country. His lands some years ago were all *run-rig* \*, as was very much the case, particularly

\* A common field, in which the different farmers had different ridges allotted them in different years, according to the nature of their crops.

particularly upon the boarders, with a view to engage the people to a mutual defence and protection of their property, in times of turbulence and hostility. They are now divided, have convenient farm-houses, and are highly improved. Harvests are rather early here than late. The greatest part of the lands in this parish is inclosed with hedges. Fences of this kind are recommended both by their beauty and utility. The rise of rent seems to have operated here as a spur to exertion and improvement in agriculture. The farms have rather decreased in number. Some of them, though but few, extend to 500 or 600 acres.

*Air and Distempers* —The air is dry and salubrious. The fogs arising from the sea seldom penetrate above a mile from the shore. The ague was very common prior to the improvements and inclosing of lands; but since that time this disorder has scarcely been known here, except during the last very open winter.

*Horses, Sheep, &c.*—The horses bred and used here are slender; but they are very active, and able to undergo much fatigue: They have advanced much in value. The breed of sheep is both good and large; their weight, at an average, is about 18 or 20 lbs. *per* quarter. Four of their fleeces yield a stone of wool. Five sheep may be maintained upon an acre of some of the best lands. The number of sheep in this parish, till within these ten or twelve years past, was small. Great advantage arises from the large breed lately introduced: Besides yielding more wool, they are fit for the market in two years time; while sheep of the smaller size require to be kept three years before they are ready for the market. The wool of the large sheep is, without doubt, of a coarser quality; but this disadvantage is

more than compensated by the quantity. On rich lands even the small kind of sheep would increase in size, and their wool become more plentiful, though of an inferior quality. The wool sells from 12 s. to 15 s. *per* stone. Oxen here are commonly fed till they weigh from 60 to 100 stone.

*Fish.*—The water of Eye contains good trouts, but not in any quantity. Cod, ling, haddocks, whittings, flounders, hollyback, mackrell, and other kinds of fish, are caught here in their seasons. Lobsters yield considerable profit; they are chiefly bought up for the London market. Herrings have been got in great quantities; but they, as well as the other kinds of white fish, have failed much for these two years past. The fishermen have lately discovered the method of catching turbot, which brings a good price.

*Population.*—In 1741 the village of Ayton seems to have contained about 320 souls, and the country part of the parish about the same number. In 1773 the village contained about 360 souls: The numbers in the country part were also increased. In 1780 the number of the inhabitants amounted to 1146, of which 420 were in the village, and 726 in the country part of the parish. In the present year, 1790, the number amounted to 1245. The village contains 147 families; there are 202 males and 229 females above ten years of age, and 51 males and 47 females below 10 years of age. The country part of the parish contains 136 families, which consist of 263 males and 310 females above 10, and 53 males and 90 females below 10. From this statement it may be remarked, that during the last ten years the population of the village has received an addition of 109, while the country part of the parish has suffered the decrease of 10 in its numbers. On the whole,

whole, the increase of inhabitants within the last 50 years, may be stated at above 600.

*Village of Ayton.*—The village of Ayton is situated on the banks of the Eye. About 30 new houses have been feued in it within these 15 years; they consist of two or three stories, and are covered with tyles. The village has been improved by ranging these new buildings upon a pleasant sloping bank fronting the south.

*Manufactures.*—A paper-mill was lately erected here at considerable expence. It employs about 70 or 80 work people, and circulates about L. 25 *per week*. The wages earned by the paper-makers are high. This manufacture gives employment to a number of young persons, who are taken in at eight years of age. There is a wind-mill here, which was a pretty extensive work. It manufactured a good deal of flour during the American war, but has done little or no business since. There are four water-mills in this parish; one brewery, which does not carry on an extensive trade; a bleach-field, which was established many years ago, and succeeds: it employs about 7 or 8 hands.

*Church and Stipend.*—The parish church appears to be an old edifice, and has lately received several improvements, which its former state rendered extremely necessary. The stipend, including a late augmentation, and the value of the glebe, is about L. 135 *per annum*. The Crown is patron.

*Poor.*—The number of the poor belonging to this parish is variable. The heritors and tenants are assessed to the extent of L. 30 or L. 40 *per annum* for their support. To this fund is added one half of the contributions at the church, which,

at

at an average, is about 1 s. 2 d. weekly. The other half is distributed under the inspection of the kirk-session in occasional charities. Part of it, together with the money arising from marriages and the use of the pall (mort-cloth) is applied to educate poor children and pay church officers. The expence incurred for the maintenance of the parochial poor has increased near two thirds during the incumbency of the present minister. The people in general, however, cannot bear the idea of being put on the poor's roll, even when they are in distress. During a late period of scarcity meal was purchased for the use of poor householders, and sold at a very moderate price; but few applied for the benefit of this aid, except those who were accustomed to receive charity.

*Price of Provisions.*—The price of butcher meat is from 3½ d. to 4 d. per lb. English weight; it has advanced about 1 d. per lb. within these 6 or 8 years. The price of pork is variable. Haddocks, which sold formerly at 4 d. or 6 d. per score, now often bring as much a piece. A goose is sold here for 2 s.; a pair of ducks for 1 s. 3 d.; a pair of hens for 1 s. 6 d.; a turkey for 2 s. 6 d.; butter sells for 7 d. and cheese for 4 d. per lb. The prices of grain may be ascertained from the fiars of the county.

*Wages.*—The wages of a labourer are 1 s. a day; a carpenter's and mason's, 1 s. 4 d.; a taylor's, 1 s. Threshing of corn is usually paid by what is termed *lot*, i. e. 1 boll is allowed for every 25 bolls that are threshed. The wages of a mason and his labourer, &c. are generally settled at so much a rood: A hind receives 2 bolls of barley, 1 boll of pease, and 10 bolls of oats; he has a cow's grass, a house and yard, and as much ground as will serve to plant a firloft of potatoes. He is likewise allowed what coals he may have occasion for in his family,

nily, paying only the prime cost, which is about 2 s. 8 d. per cart load; including the tolls; the carriage is equal to 4 s. per load. The hind's wife reaps in harvest for the house. He has also L. 1 allowed for sheep's grafs. A man servant receives from L. 5 to L. 7 per annum, with bed and board; a maid servant from L. 2 to L. 4 per annum.

*Sectaries.*—There are several sectaries in this parish. The first was a society of Antiburghers. Their number is very small. Their minister is provided with a very good house, and receives from them, perhaps, about L. 40 per annum. There is also a Burgher meeting-house in the village, rather of a better appearance than the other; the sect of Seceders who attend it are more numerous than the former, and of principles more accommodating to the times. They also provide a house for their minister, and allow him, probably, L. 60 or L. 70 per annum. Both these houses have been built since the 1773. Though a considerable number have attached themselves to the different sectaries, yet, being composed of the inferior ranks of the people, their defection has not diminished the contribution for the parochial poor. Little is allotted by them to the maintenance of their own poor; yet they contribute with zeal, many of them with liberality ill suited to their circumstances, for the support of their ecclesiastical establishment.

*Roads.*—The roads in the parish are getting into good repair. The post road is now made, and supported by two turnpikes, which were lately erected; one at the extremity of the county towards East Lothian, and the other at Berwick bounds. When they were first proposed, they met with keen opposition; but they have since been universally acknowledged to be of signal benefit to the country. The statute labour



labour is commuted. Putting up the roads to auction, has been the mean of getting them made much cheaper than formerly.

*Improvements suggested.*—It would be an advantage to this parish, as well as to Eyemouth, if the mail-coach would drop a bag, containing such letters as are addressed to the inhabitants of each, which would relieve them from the expence of sending to Berwick or Presb. If the woollen or cotton manufacture were introduced and encouraged here, the condition of the people might be greatly improved. To take the duty off coals carried coast-ways to Eyemouth, as is done at Dunbar (to which port Eyemouth belongs) would greatly promote the establishment of manufactures. This duty yields but a mere trifle to government, and subjects the people here to a state of entire dependence on Northumberland for fuel. As the coal hills adjoining to this part of the country are almost entirely engrossed by one person, it would be rather surprizing if he did not avail himself of this advantage, by keeping up the price of so important an article.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The kelp made here is supposed to be about 15 or 20 tons annually. There are some quarries in this parish, the stones of which answer for building, and are supposed to be impregnated with an iron ore. Free-stone is confined to a small part of the shore. The free-stone must be transported to the harbour of Eyemouth, and then carried by land. Corn is carried to market in carts, which have been used here for the space of 40 or 50 years. On the hills on the south side of the parish are the remains of two camps, supposed to be Roman or Saxon. Several urns, and broken pieces of armour, have been found here. In the low grounds towards the north-west, are the vestiges of three encampments,

campments, thought to have been Danish or Pictish. History mentions the castle of Ayton, but scarcely any vestiges of it now remain. The names of places seem to be derived chiefly from the Saxon. There is one public, and two private schools in the parish. The established schoolmaster, as is too generally the case, has not a provision adequate to the importance of such a charge. There are two white thread-makers in the parish. There are two or three bridges; one of them was built by aid from government: They are of great utility. Two boats crews only belong to Ayton.

In 1673, there appears to have been 24 heritors, including portioners and feuers, in this parish: In 1790, there are about 14. At the former period, they were more distinguished by family and rank. There were 6 of the name of Home, each of some distinction; now there is only one of that name; their lands having been disposed of by the great heritors. There are, however, several descendants of portioners who still retain their possessions.

The people, in general, are disposed to industry. Since the induction of the present minister there is a very visible change in their mode of living and dress. Though the farms are much higher rented than formerly, yet the tenants are, in every respect, much more expensive than they were 15 years ago. Tradesmen and labourers in the village are addicted to the pernicious habit of using tea. Of late, also, from the low price of whisky, the execrable custom of *dram-drinking* is gaining ground, even among the women of the lower class. Habits so inimical to health, industry, and morals, ought to be checked if possible. Two persons belonging to this parish have been banished from Scotland since the incumbent was settled. He knows only of one person who  
has

has been guilty of suicide. There is no want of employment for the people. They seem contented with their situation and circumstances, and are not strangers to the comforts of life.

This parish has several advantages. It is near markets, for disposing of grain, cattle, or stock on the farms, being 7 miles from Berwick and 2 from Eyemouth. It is at no great distance from coal: The price, however, considering that distance, is certainly high. The post road to London goes through the parish: And the vicinity of the sea affords a good supply of most kinds of fish. The parish of Ayrton does much more than supply itself with provisions.

NUM:

## NUMBER X.

## PARISH OF AIR.

By the Rev. Dr DALRYMPLE, and the Rev. Dr M'GILL.

*Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.*

**T**HE name of the town, parish, and county of Air, belonged first to the river, and was derived to them from it. It is probably of Celtic origin; for, according to the information of a gentleman skilled in the Irish language, *Abre* signifies thin or shallow, and is truly-descriptive of the water of Air compared with the neighbouring water of *Doon*, now Doon, which, flowing out of a large lake, is furnished with a more deep and copious stream. There are two towns of the same name in France, *Aire* in Artois, and *Aire* in Gascony, which, no doubt, have the same etymology. The ancient name of this parish, as appears from some old papers, was *Are*; the modern name is Air or Ayr. It is situated in the county of Air, presbytery of Air, and synod of Glasgow and Air. Its form is quadrangular. The west side, about a mile and a half long, is bounded by the sea; the north, about 3 miles long, by the river Air; the south, about the same length, by the river Doon; the eastern side is fully 4 miles long, bounded by the parishes of Dalrymple and Coynton. For a mile and a half south of the town, the country is quite flat, and the soil sandy. It is nearly the same on the

M

north

north side of the river, and the rise is but small for two miles more. On the east the rise is gradual and beautiful for two miles and a half. The soil is for the most part deep, much improved of late, and beautified by elegant plantations. The shore is flat, and, in general, sandy. There are some funk rocks; but they are not dangerous.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The air, upon the whole, is rather moist, owing to the clouds, which are wafted by the south-west wind from the Atlantic Ocean. With a west wind, which is often the case, little or no rain falls upon the parish of Air; the clouds being broken on the highest point of the Isle of Arran. About the time of the Equinox, there are frequently high winds. In spring, there are often long tracts of cold winds, which blow from the north-east and the north. Though the climate is salubrious in general, yet persons of a consumptive habit ought to dwell at a distance from the parish of Air. A sea voyage gives the best chance of recovery. The common distempers incident to children prove less fatal here than in neighbouring towns. No fields can be more commodious for walking, or the healthful exercises of riding and golfing. Wise parents send out their children early to sport upon turf full of different sorts of clover, particularly the yellow and the white. Once or twice within these 40 years, a dangerous fore throat, accompanied with a putrid fever, has been epidemical.

*Lakes and Mineral Springs.*—There are two small lakes, one toward the south-side, named *Carleny*, and the other at the eastern extremity, called *Loch-Fergus*, which is mentioned in the town's charter about 600 years ago. It appears that some considerable edifice has stood in its vicinity, out of the ruins of which several houses have been built. It has a small isle

in the middle, and, probably, was a *berenny*. In this lake are pike and eels, but few trouts. There is a mineral spring on the north side of the river, found out near 50 years ago, and still used by a few poor people. It comes from a mixture of coal and iron, and has been thought efficacious in several disorders.

*Fish.*—Haddock and cod have been very plentiful on Air coast since the herrings left it: Mackarel has been scarce for some years past: Soals and turbot are rare. White fish are generally sold at 1 d. per English pound. The price of salmon in January, and till the month of March, is between 6 d. and 3 d. per pound. They are much scarcer than formerly, owing, it is supposed, to the liming of land. The price is kept high, too, on account of their being carried to Kilmarnock, Irvine, Glasgow, and chiefly Paisley. Forty years ago, herrings were caught in great numbers, and sold from 6 d. to 3 d. per hundred. Sail-fish of large size are sometimes taken, whence are got oils for tanners. The season for white fish is through the whole year, except about six weeks, from the end of March till the beginning of May, old stile. When herrings were caught at the mouth of Air river, a lamp was usually placed there. This lamp was of great use in preventing ship-wrecks; and the loss of several lives, and loaded vessels, at the end of the year 1789, may be imputed to the want of it.

*Cultivation and Produce.*—Very little ground in this parish now lies waste or common. Between 80 and 90 acres, free to every burghers, for feeding milk cows, was lately inclosed. About 20 acres of common was feued from the town, little more than 30 years ago, at L. 112 Sterling, with 18 s. 9 d. of feu-duty. Being brought into good tillage, and finely  
planted,

planted, it sold in 1790 for L. 1100 Sterling. Thirty years ago there was much heath towards the east; it is now green, or yielding crops. Sea-weed is thrown in plentifully by winter storms, and much used in manuring land. Marle, in the higher grounds, is got in abundance, and is of great advantage, as there is little lime but what is imported from Ireland. Oats are sown from the end of February to the end of March; pease and beans are sown in April; barley in May and June. Wheat sown before winter is commonly first reaped, towards the end of August. The parish is scarcely able to supply itself with provisions, as appears from importations, and no great decrease of price. Little flax is raised, at least for sale. A considerable quantity of artificial grasses is raised with great success. Most of the wood in the parish is young, but thriving well.

*Population.*—It appears from the records of the Sailors Society, that, when wine was imported at Air from France, the population was much greater than at present. When a plague broke out here, near 200 years ago, according to tradition, about 2000 died. In 1745, the inhabitants were reckoned about 2000. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 2964 souls. Trade since that time revived, particularly tobacco which added considerably to the population. Inclosing took place much about the same time; and in the years 1747, 1748, 1749, and 1750, the herring fishing was great: Sailors, coopers, &c. were of course numerous. Upon the whole, the inhabitants have been increasing sensibly, though not rapidly, for more than 30 years past. The number of examinable persons in the parish, reckoning from 7 years of age and upwards, is above 3400. Of these there are 3000 in the town, and the remainder in the country. The number of souls may therefore be stated at about 4100 souls.

Many

Many of the inhabitants are between 70 and 100 years of age. One walked to London after his 100th year; another above 100 died a few months ago.

*Abstract of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, at different periods.*

Years.	Births.			Mar.	Deaths.			
	M.	F.	Tot.		Men.	Wom.	Chil.	Tot.
1664—5	146	128	274					
1688—9	128	131	259	34				
1698—9	91	88	179	41				
1715—16	82	97	179	31				
1734—35	100	90	190	42	39	49	39	127
1745—46	90	86	176	49				
1756—57	112	107	219	54				
1767—68	112	133	255	66	33	41	45	119
1777—78	168	110	278	59	38	48	60	146
1788—89	117	113	230	89	47	45	65	157

There are above 600 inhabited houses in the parish. The number of heritors is about 60. There are 2 ministers of the Established Church, 2 Moravians, 1 Episcopalian, and 1 Methodist. There are 2 physicians, 3 surgeons and apothecaries, and about 16 writers. The seceders amount to about 50 or 60.

*State of the Poor.*—Weekly collections, and other parish funds, put it in the power of the session to distribute L. 100 per annum. The town gives L. 30, the sailors L. 10, the writers L. 5, the merchants L. 3; and other small corporations contribute to the extent of L. 14 or L. 15; besides which, there is a half year's *stent* of L. 50. The session retains, for occasional charities among poor tradesmen, and others, about L. 20. If any part of this sum is saved at the end



end of the year, it is added to the funds of the Charity-house. This house was built by subscription in 1756, and is fit to receive 60 persons; but, as many pensioners prefer a small weekly allowance out of the house, there are seldom more than 40 in it. Alderman Smith of Londonderry, born at Air, left L. 100, several years ago, to purchase land for poor house-keepers. This charity has proved very seasonable. Provost Cochrane of Glasgow, born and educated at Air, left likewise L. 100, the interest of which is appointed to be given to a reputable burgher's widow or daughter during life. An infirmary and bridewell are much wanted.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—A labourer, with a wife and 5 children, is able to earn 7 s. per week, and sometimes a little more. At an average, he purchases 3 pecks of meal, and a greater quantity of potatoes, half a cart of coals, and soap to the value of 2 d. per week; 3 stone of wool, at 7 s. 6 d. the stone, for clothing, and 10 lib. of lint, at 10 d. per lib. *per annum.* His wife's attendance on the children prevents her from earning much. This may serve as a general specimen of the wages and expences of a labourer's family. A shoemaker, if industrious, gets from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 8 d. a day; a mason from 1 s. 3 d. to 1 s. 8 d.; a wright from 1 s. 3 d. to 1 s. 9 d.; a taylor 1 s. 2 d. The price of provisions is more than doubled within these last 50 years. Beef and mutton is now from 4 d. to 5 d. per lib. Lamb is from 1 s. 3 d. to 2 s. 6 d. per quarter; pork 6 d. per lib.; veal from 4 d. to 6 d.; pigs from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s.; geese 2 s.; ducks from 9 d. to 1 s.; chickens 4 d. and sometimes less; rabbits 9 d.; butter from 6 d. to 8 d. per lib.; cheese from 4 d. to 6 d.; wheat from 21 s. to 25 s. per boll; barley from 18 s. to 20 s.; oats from 16 s. to 18 s.

*Church.*

*Church and Stipend.*—The present church was built in 1654, and is kept in good repair by the magistrates. The old church, stiled St John Baptist's, was converted by Oliver Cromwel into an armory; for which he gave an allowance of 1000 English merks to build another. It was in St John Baptist's church that the parliament met to confirm Bruce's title to the throne. Records of their sederunt shew, that numbers of the nobility could only sign their initials. The senior minister's living, including the glebe, is about L. 130 *per annum*. The King is patron. The town generally allows the senior minister 12 guineas for a house. The legal stipend of his colleague would scarcely amount to L. 75; but, from regard to him who at present fills the charge, the magistrates and council, besides allowance for a house, have added a sum which makes his stipend L. 105. The town-council and session are patrons.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are no volcanic appearances in this parish, unless large rocks, and fragments of rocks, which have numerous indented stones, or metals of different kinds, be considered as such. Various figured stones and petrifications have been found in the parish. There is a considerable quantity of moor-stone lying on the surface of the ground. The free-stone lies rather deep. Some houses in the town let at L. 20, but a greater number between that sum and L. 10. The rent of the salmon fishery in the river Doon is L. 80; that in the river Air a little less. The markets here are good. The common fuel is coal. The price paid at the pit, per cart, is from 2 s. 3 d. to 2 s. 6 d. The one pit is half a mile distant, and the other rather more. That at Drungan, in the parish of Stair, though a little dearer, is undoubtedly the best. According to tradition, there was a battle fought, before the Christian aera, in the valley of Dalrymple,

rymple, in which two Kings, Fergus and Coilus, fell. It is added, that Lochfergus takes its name from the former, and the river Kyle from the latter. Thither Coilus, it is said, was pursued and slain. The small village of Coylton, 6 miles east of Air, likewise is said to derive its name from him. It has been supposed that Dalrymple, *Dale-roi-mel*, signifies the valley of the slaughter of kings. There is a cairn of stones in the midst of this valley. In June 1734, a ball of fire passed through two opposite windows of the newest steeple, broke one end of the bell bomb-joist, and then descended to the street, but did no more harm. A boy in the neighbourhood was killed by another ball of fire. Perhaps the only inundation that deserves notice happened in 1739, attended with a great storm. This raised the river much, and forced ships of considerable burden quite out of the channel.

N U M-

## NUMBER XI.

## PARISH OF CARRIDEN.

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE ELLIS.

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*Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Carriden \*, pronounced Carrin, is situated in the county of Linlithgow, or West Lothian, about 18 miles west from Edinburgh, on the south side of the Frith of Forth, is in the presbytery of Linlithgow, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is about 1 mile in breadth from north to south, and about 2 miles in length from east to west; bounded by Abercorn on the east, Borrowstounness on the west, and Linlithgow on the south. The soil is rather of a light kind, and agrees better with a rainy than a dry season: The climate, in general, however, is dry and healthy. The land is all arable, and produces grain, grass, and vegetables of every kind. It is let out to small tenants generally, most of whom are poor, and live poorly, at 30, 40, or 50 shillings per acre. The greatest part of it is inclosed.

VOL. I.

N

Coal.

\* The name is certainly of Celtic original. In that language, *caer* signifies a post or station; and, as it is situated at the eastern extremity of Graham's dyke, the Romans doubtless, had a considerable station here. As to the latter part, it may be derived either from *readan*, a reed, or *reidhe*, plain, open; the post among the reeds, the post in the plain.

*Coal.*—This parish is full of coal, for which there is great demand. It likewise abounds in free-stone. The coal is of a fine quality, and is the only fuel used in the parish. It is carried to London, to the northmost parts of Scotland, to Holland, Germany, and the Baltic. It sells at a higher price on the hill, and to the country people who live near, and therefore must use it, than any coal in Scotland. It lies very deep; this may be one cause of its high price. There are above 100 carts employed in the coal works, to drive coals to the sea and the salt pans.

## Grange Colliery.

Great. Chows. Culm.

15,700—4,300—5,100 tons produced yearly;

6,137—2,380—600 tons of which exported.

Colliers	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
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Coal mines	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
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Fire-engines	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
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The great coal fold, per cart, which contains 900 weight,  
at 3 s. 6 d.

The chows, or smaller coal, at 2 s. 9 d.

The culm, or panwood, at 1 s. 9 d.

Salt pans	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
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Bushels of salt made yearly	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,200
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There is another colliery in the parish, which yields more coal and salt than that mentioned above.

*Population.*—This parish contains, at an average, between 1400 and 1500 souls. Perhaps the eighth part of the people are seceders. Each marriage, at an average, produces 6 children. Many of the inhabitants have attained to 70, 80, and

90 years of age. There are 4 heritors, none of whom reside in the parish. The alterations here, and in the neighbourhood, with regard to the dress and manner of living of the people, are very great.

*Villages.*—There are 4 villages in the parish; Grangepans, Bridgeness, Benhardpans, and Blackness. Most of the shipping that is now in Borrowstounness formerly belonged to Grangepans: But, since a good pier and harbour was erected in Borrowstounness, most of the ships lie there. The trade along the south side of the Forth is much decayed. It is gone to Grangemouth, which is 4 miles up the Frith from Borrowstounness, and the entry into the great canal. At present Borrowstounness has little trade but what arises from the coal and salt works.

*Wages.*—Servants wages are very high here. A servant man, who would have been satisfied, 40 years ago, with L. 1 : 5 : 0 half yearly, now gets L. 3 or L. 4 half yearly, and sometimes more. A servant maid, who got 10 or 11 shillings per half year, 40 or 50 years ago, now gets 30, 40, and sometimes 50 shillings in the half year. A day-labourer gets 1 s. or 1 s. 2 d. a-day, who was formerly hired for 5 d. in winter, and 7 d. in summer, per day. The price of provisions has risen in proportion.

*Stipend.*—The stipend is precisely 8 chalders of victual, or L. 800 Scots. The glebe is 5 Scots acres, valued at 30 shillings per acre. The Duke of Hamilton is patron. This living would have supported a family 50 years ago better than L. 120 Sterling could do here now.

*Eminent Men.*—The only eminent person born in this parish

rish was Colonel James Gardner, killed at the unfortunate battle of Prestonpans in 1745, whose remarkable conversion, with many interesting particulars of a life and character, not less eminent for natural endowments than for the practice of every Christian virtue, are detailed in the well known Memoirs of him published by his friend Dr Doddridge.

*Antiquities.*—That celebrated Roman work called *Graham's Dyke*, terminates in this parish, it is said, at a place called Waltown. About 50 years ago, in digging up stones to build a park dyke, axes, pots, and several vases, evidently Roman, were found, and sent to the Advocates Library at Edinburgh, where they still are. In this parish stands the ancient fort, or garrison, of Blackness, one of the oldest forts in Scotland, and one of the four that is to be kept in repair by the articles of Union. It has a governor, lieutenant-governor, 2 gunners, 1 serjeant, 2 corporals, and 12 or 15 privates. It is built in the form of a ship.

NUM.

## NUMBER XII.

## PARISH OF COYLTON,

By the Rev. Mr DAVID SHAW.

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*Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.*

**T**HERE is a tradition, though it is believed very ill founded, that Coynton derives its name from a King called Coilus, who was killed in battle in the neighbourhood, and buried at the church of Coynton. This parish is in the district of the county of Air called *Kyle*, in the presbytery of Air, and synod of Glasgow and Air. It is 7 miles long, and, at an average, about 2 broad. It is bounded on the south by Damellington, on the east by Stair, on the north by Tarbolton and St Quivox, on the west by Air, and on the south-west by Dalrymple. The soil of the greater part of the parish is clayey, which, when properly cultivated, is abundantly fertile. The holms near the rivers of Air and of Kyle, are fertile and dry. The parish, in general, is flat; one farm, however, on the south is rather high ground.

*Population.*—Forty years ago, the farms were in general small and *run-rig*, which was necessarily an obstacle to improvement. The proprietors at that time occupied their own lands, and kept them in grass, which, of course, diminished the number of inhabitants. The lands being afterwards properly



properly divided, were let in larger farms, and population again increased. The number of inhabitants, as returned to Dr Webster, was 527; at present they amount to 667. For these last eight years, the annual average of baptisms is about 15; of marriages 9; and of burials 16.

*Poor.*—10 or 12 poor persons are generally supported by the session. The funds are about L. 50 Sterling at interest, and the weekly collections made at the church.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 3330 Scots; the real rent about L. 2000 Sterling. The number of heritors is 9; 2 of whom reside in the parish.

*Church and Stipend.*—The church, which is an old prebendary, was repaired about 16 years ago. The manse was built in 1750. The stipend is 5 chalders of victual, half meal half barley, 500 merks of money, and 100 merks for communion elements.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The air is wholesome. There are three considerable lakes, particularly one called Märtorham, a mile long, and in some parts a quarter of a mile broad. Lime, marle, and several strata of coal, are lately found. Coal is the only fuel used in the parish. There are several plantations: Both they and the natural woods are in a thriving state. A labourer's wages are 1 s. per day. All the inhabitants of this parish belong to the Established Church.

N U M B E R XIII.

PARISH OF BALLANTRAE.

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*Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Ballantrae is situated in the extremity of the county of Ayr, towards the south\*, and marches with the shire of Wigton on the south and south-east. It is nearly ten miles square. It is bounded on the north and north-east by the parish of Colmonell; on the south and south-east by the parishes of New Luce and Inch, in the shire of Wigton; and by the sea on the west and south-west, having an extent of more than ten miles of sea coast. The shore, excepting for about two miles opposite to the village of  
of

\* Both the parish of Ballantrae, and the neighbouring parish of Colmonell, were originally connected with the presbytery of Ayr, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr; but were disjoined a little time after the Revolution, on account of their great distance from the seat of Presbytery, and annexed to the presbytery of Stranraer and synod of Galloway. The parish takes its name from the village of Ballantrae, which is evidently of Gaelic original, and signifies, in that language, the town upon or above the shore; alluding to its situation on a gentle ascent immediately from the shore: And this may be the reason why, though only a village, it always obtains the name of the "town of Ballantrae," while other villages through the country, not in similar situations, are generally called *Glachans*.

of Ballantrae, is in general high and rocky, having a tremendous surf or swell beating against it, when the wind blows from the west and north-west. Opposite to this coast the sea appears land-locked, for a most spacious bay of nearly 25 or 30 leagues diameter is formed by part of the coast of Galloway, the most part of the two counties of Down and Antrim in Ireland, the east coast of Argyleshire, and part of Dumbartonshire, and by the whole stretch of coast along the shire of Ayr for about 80 miles; all this vast extent of coast is easily discernible by the naked eye in a clear day, together with the islands of Sana, Annan, Lamalsh, Bute, and the two small islands of Cumbray. About four or five leagues north-west from Ballantrae stands the island of Elsay: It is a most beautiful rock of a conical figure, covered on the top with heath and a little grass. It is not inhabited by any human creature; but affords refuge to an immense number of sea fowls who breed on it, and is stocked with rabbits and a few goats. It is the property of the Earl of Cassillis; and is rented at L. 25 Sterling a year, the tenants paying their rent from the feathers of the different sea fowls, from the solan geese that breed on it, and the rabbit skins. It affords a fine object all round that coast, and a mark for ships either coming into, or going out of the Frith of Clyde. There is an old ruinous castle on it, about a third part up the rock, said by Campbell, in his Political Survey of Britain, to have been built by Philip II. of Spain, but on what authority is not known. There are four light-houses, one at the new built harbour of Portpatrick, another at the town of Donaghadee, a third on the Mull of Cantyre, and a fourth on the island of Cambray; and it might be of singular use to the towns of Air, Irvine, and Saltcoats, which carry on a considerable trade with Ireland, and the towns on the west of England, if a fifth light-house was erected on a small low island,

island, called the Lady Isle, in the bay of Air. The shore all along that part of the coast is flat and sandy; the bay is deep, and the entrance into the harbours strait and difficult.

*Surface, Soil, &c.*—The land in this parish rises with a gradual slope from the shore to the tops of the mountains, which form part of that extensive range of hills that stretches across the south of Scotland, almost from the Irish sea to the Frith of Forth beyond Edinburgh. Near the shore the soil in general is a light, dry, hazle mould, upon a gravel bottom, and for the most part but thin. The surface is much diversified with heights and hollows, intersected with a great number of little streams of water descending from the hills. All beyond the mountains is a soft mossy ground covered with heath, and a thin long grass called *ling* by the country people. Even below the mountains, heath is the prevailing appearance, excepting where the ground has been in tillage, or immediately upon the shore, where there is some very fine natural grass. The ground is in general adapted to the breeding and feeding of black cattle and sheep, and is universally applied to that purpose, excepting the grain which the inhabitants raise for their own use.

*Population and condition of the People.*—There are 770 in the parish, and of these about 300 are in the village. The annual number of births is 18. The number of deaths cannot be so well ascertained, as it is but of late years that a register of them was kept at all, and even that not accurately, and the marriages still less. The marriages, as would be expected, from the situation and habits of life of the people in the country, are, in general, prolific. Instances are to be met with of a woman bearing fourteen children to one husband. The average of births to each marriage may be taken at six. The inhabitants are lodged

in about 190 dwelling houses, which is a little more than 4 persons to each house. One hundred and thirteen of the houses are in what is called the country; the other 77 make the village or town of Ballantrae. The inhabitants of both town and country enjoy the comforts of society, in proportion to their circumstances, in a superior degree to others in similar conditions of life. These satisfactions are owing to various causes, all contributing their mite to render them healthy, easy, and contented, and, in general, cheerful.

*Climate, Diseases, &c.*—Their local situation, a high, open, and dry soil, with upwards of 10 miles of sea coast, exposed to the salubrious breezes of the western ocean, together with their rural employments, renders the inhabitants uncommonly healthy. Epidemical distempers, excepting the common disorders incident to children, are unknown. Deaths, except from particular accidents, are confined to infancy and old age. There are a greater number to be met with in this parish dying above 80 years of age than in most others. It is to be lamented that inoculation for the small-pox is not more practised. There are very few families through the country part of the parish, but what have a piece of ground along with their house and yard, that enables them to keep one or more cows, and two or three sheep. The young of their cows, when a year old, sells for 30 s. or 50 s. which pays two-thirds of their rent. With the produce of their little piece of ground, furnishing bread and potatoes, and the milk of a cow, together with their own work, they are enabled to live comfortably, to clothe and educate their children decently, and to assist in setting them out in the world. The inhabitants of the village, which lies close upon the shore, enjoy advantages peculiar to their situation.

*Rent,*

*Rent, Produce, &c.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 3551 : 1 : 6 Scots. It is believed that the real rent, including fisheries, is not much short of L. 2000 Sterling. The rent of arable land is from one to two guineas an acre, and of pasture, in its natural state, 10s. and 12s. an acre. The farms are of very unequal rent and extent, being from L. 10 to L. 117 a year. About 12,000 sheep, 3000 black cattle, a few scores of goats, and perhaps 200 horses, are kept in the parish; and 600 or 800 acres of the ground may be employed in tillage. Almost the only crop is oats, with an acre or two of barley to a family, some pease, and generally as many potatoes as serve the family twice a day for 7 or 8 months in the year. Few or no cottagers are now employed by the farmers of this parish in agriculture, nor have been for a long while past. A cottager's benefit, (as it is called) is commonly from L. 10 to L. 15 a year; the wages of a hired servant is from L. 6 to L. 7 a year. Farmers who have grazing farms, upon which they do not reside themselves, are obliged to employ cottagers to take care of the stock upon them; and it is considered as so desirable a situation, that those farmers who have occasion for married herds to take care of their stock, have it generally in their power to make a choice. The black cattle are of a small handsome kind: The cows, when fattened, weigh from 18 to 27 stone. The sheep, when killed off the common open pasture, at 2 and 3 years old, weigh from 30 to 50 lb. The chief staple commodity is raising young cattle and sheep. The young cattle are for the most part sold to the grazier when *half fums*, that is, when two years and a half old, and are changed from hand to hand till they are four or five years old, when they are sent up to St. Faith and Hampton fairs in England, and make part of what are called the fine *Scots galloways*. The sheep are sold at two and three years old, to supply the demands

mands of the mercantile and manufacturing towns through Lanark, Renfrew, and Airshires.

The wool of the sheep on those farms that lie between the tops of the mountains and the sea is generally very good, and of the short carding wool; what is beyond them is more coarse and shaggy. It sells from 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. *per* stone of 17 lb. Scots weight, equal to 25½ lb. English weight; the average price through the whole being 9s. for 25½ lb. which is nearly 4¼ d. *per* lb. This shews the propriety of the farmers paying more attention to their wool than is generally done; and it is believed that there are few situations more favourable to an improvement in that article than the first mentioned class of farms in this parish. Both the soil and the climate are favourable. The soil is light, dry, and kindly, affording firm footing, a dry bed, and proper nourishment to the sheep; the cool refreshing breezes from the sea during the summer, prevent the bad effects of immoderate heat upon the new shorn wool; and the ground during the winter season is very seldom entirely covered with snow above two days together. If the farmers would take the trouble to introduce, from time to time, some good wooled rams, and gradually cut off any coarse wooled ewes that may be in their flocks, it is possible to improve their wool to such a degree, as that instead of the very best of it being now sold at 10s. 6d. it might be sold at nearly three times the price. This would nearly double the profits of their sheep on the whole, and at almost no trouble nor expence; and it is perhaps the most beneficial of all improvements that they ever have it in their power to make upon their farms.

*Roads.*

*Roads.*—Till of late years there were few roads through the shire of Air that were barely passable. About the year 1774 an act of Parliament was obtained, commuting the statute labour for an annual payment, at the rate of 25 s. for every L. 100 Scots of valued rent. Through the interior, more populous, and arable parts of the country the roads were soon made; and by the assistance of government and a toll, one good road has been made through this parish: But it is little more than a road of communication. The parish wants cross roads in different directions, in order to enable them to lead lime in carts, of which there is plenty within half a mile of the extremity of the parish: It is sold at the moderate price of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  d. a boll or 2 Winchester bushels, and 70 or 80 of these bolls are found perfectly sufficient for an acre of this thin, light, dry soil. Some small experiments have been made in liming, which have succeeded to the utmost expectation. There are perhaps from 10 to 12,000 acres of land in the parish that could be limed, and made fit for sock and scythe; and the successful attempts of individuals, it is to be hoped, will in time encourage the generality to follow the example.

*Fisheries.*—A pretty considerable river, named Ardstinchar, runs for about 25 miles through the country, and empties itself into the sea at the village of Ballantrae; but it is rapid and shallow, and can only admit of small boats. At the mouth of this river there is a considerable salmon fishery, which yields a rent of above L. 80 a year. The salmon are thought as good as any in Scotland, and sell upon the spot at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. the lb. and it is but very lately they were more than 1 d. About 20 years ago there were great shoals of excellent herrings that came upon the coast at the end of harvest and beginning of winter, since that time they appear only in  
the



the spring, about a league off; and though they are then far from being good, they are sold to the country people in the neighbourhood from 20 d. to 2 s. a hundred. There were formerly great quantities of haddocks and whittings at the same season, but for a few years past the prevailing fishery is cod, with some skate and ling. The cod and ling is sold from 4 d. or 6 d.; the skate from 1 d. to 1 s. a piece, according to their size and qualities; smaller fish, as haddocks, &c. from 6 d. to 1 s. a dozen.

*Price of Provisions.*—Though the price of provisions is greatly increased within these 20 years, it cannot yet be said to be high. Beef, mutton, lamb, and pork, (of which last there is a great deal more reared than used in the parish) formerly sold at 2 s. or 3 s. a stone, now sells at 3 s. or 4 s. a stone; hens 6 d.; chickens 2 d.; eggs 2 d. a dozen; skimmed milk cheese 4 s. a stone, Scots weight (24 oz. to the lb); butter 10 s. 8 d. ditto, of which there is not a great deal sold, as the practice of smearing their sheep with tar and butter before the winter sets in universally prevails over all the country.

*Church.*—The living of Ballantrae is L. 500 Scots of money and three chalders of victual, with a house and glebe worth L. 12 or L. 14 Sterling yearly. The present incumbent was ordained in 1771, and is the third minister from the Revolution. His two predecessors each enjoyed the office about 40 years. He is married, and has a son and a daughter. The church is at the north-west extremity of the parish, in the village of Ballantrae, it was built in 1604, and the manse in 1736, and the repairs upon the manse and offices since that time has cost the heritors little more than L. 20 Sterling.

*Poor.*

*Poor.*—There is an excellent establishment of a free school at Ballantrae, for educating the poor. A native of the parish, about 40 or 50 years ago, left L. 400, the interest of which sum was appointed to run on, till there was a sufficient sum to build a school-house, and a dwelling-house for the master, and from henceforward to pay the schoolmaster; and whoever should be appointed to the office, was to be bound to keep and leave the school and house in repair. Accordingly a good house was built, and a large garden set off. The patron of the parish is patron of the school; and by the deed he is entitled to present two-thirds of the scholars, and the kirk-session the other third. The master of this school is also chosen parish schoolmaster, the salary of which is about L. 6 Sterling a year: He is also the session clerk and precentor for the time. All which offices, and the perquisites of them, together with the value of the house and garden, makes the place worth rather more than L. 40 Sterling yearly. The consequence of this is, that there is generally a well qualified schoolmaster, who is able to teach the languages, and the several branches of education fitting for business. From the nature of the school, and its situation in a country place, the number of the scholars varies according to the season of the year. In summer, when many of the poor scholars and country lads retire to herding and laborious work, the number of scholars do not exceed 25 or 30. In winter there are frequently upwards of 50 attending the school.

*Antiquities.*—The only ruins within the parish is the remains of an old church at the north-east extremity of the parish; it seems to have been formerly the parish church, and deserted for the present one, as being more commodious for the inhabitants; it is called Kirkcudbright. And a large  
old

old castle or dwelling adjoining to the village, and situated upon a high rock ; it is now within the minister's grafs glebe. About a century ago it belonged to the Lords of Bargeny. There are no vestiges about it to discover when it was built, or by whom inhabited. The minister has been told, that the present Lord Hailes takes notice of it in some of his tracts upon antiquities.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The inhabitants labour under disadvantages. Their situation might be meliorated. For the common occasions of life there are weavers, tailors, shoemakers, &c. There is no manufactures in the parish to increase the capital stock and promote circulation. Manufactures in carpeting, stockings, bonnets, and sheep skins might probably be established with advantage. They have plenty of peat and turf for fuel ; but coals are at the distance of 15 or 16 miles by land, and when brought by sea are subject to a duty of 3 s. 4 d. a ton. The circumstances of the people have been increasing since the year 1782. That season of scarcity, instead of affecting them in the manner it did other parts of Scotland, rather tended to better them. There was an excessive growth of grafs in the summer of that year, and the crops in this parish and to the southward are in general early. That year they were reaped before the frost and the snow set in. The great plenty of hay made the cattle sell to advantage, and the almost entire loss of the crops in the inland counties, occasioned the inhabitants of these counties to come to the south and west for seed for the ensuing season. This gave them an idea of a corn trade, which, together with the increasing demand for live cattle since that period, and consequent rise in their price, has made a great alteration for the better in the farmers circumstances, and given a spirit of  
improvement

improvement and demand for farms in a tenfold degree to what it used to be.

The shores abound with plenty of fine broad leaved rich sea-weed or wreck for manure; but there is very little of it used for kelp on the coast of this parish. The animals are those common to the west of Scotland, hares, foxes, rabbits, polecats, wild cats, grouse, partridges, plovers, wild ducks, and wild geese. The migratory kind observed are the woodcock, cuckoo, starling, swallow, &c. Among the migratory animals may be mentioned the sailfish, which appears upon this coast the first or second week of June, and continues for three or four weeks. They measure from 20 to 30 feet long. The people of the village kill them with harpoons for the oil, which is made of the liver. The liver of a good fish will yield from 40 to 50 gallons of oil, which they sell to tanners, &c. and use part of it themselves to burn in place of candles.

There are several mineral springs in the parish, which have been found beneficial in scorbutic and other cutaneous diseases, and in complaints of the stomach arising from acidity and want of digestion.

There is no person in the parish connected with the law, not even a constable or sheriff's officer, nor has there been any in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. There is no justice of peace in the parish, nor within many miles of it; and the sheriff's court is at the distance of 36 miles. There is no surgeon or physician within a dozen miles, and it is doubtful whether half a dozen such parishes would give bread to one.

## NUMBER XIV.

## PARISH OF TERREGLES.

By the Rev. Mr JOHN KENNEDY.

*Name, Situation, Extent, Soil.*

TERREGLES is derived from *Terra Ecclesiae*, or *Terre d'Eglise*. It is situated in the stewartry of Kircudbright, and in the presbytery of Dumfries, 6 miles from the sea-coast. It is about 5 miles long, and 3 broad; bounded by Holywood on the east, Troqueer on the south, Lochrutton on the west, and Iron-Gray on the north. It consists of a loam and sandy soil. Every kind of grain usual in Scotland is produced in perfection. The rent of land, in general, is from 12 to 25 shillings per acre. There are not above 12 principal farmers employed in husbandry.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants in 1790 was 510. The return to Dr Webster being 397, there is, for the number, a considerable increase. There are at present,

Under 10 years of age	-	-	70
Between 10 and 20	-	-	56
Between 20 and 50	-	-	146
Between 50 and 70	-	-	208
Between 70 and 100	-	-	30
			<hr/>
			510
			There

There are several seceders, and a few Roman Catholics. None of the inhabitants have emigrated, nor have any been banished from it, in the memory of man.

*Church and Stipend.*—The church is of the Gothic stile, and was built above 200 years ago. The value of the stipend, including the glebe, is between L. 65 and L. 70 *per annum*, according to the rise or fall in the price of victual, part of it being paid in meal and barley. The Duke of Queensberry is patron.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—As this parish lies near the town of Dumfries, living is very expensive. Fuel is extremely dear. Coal is brought by land, 27 or 28 miles; and the price of coal transported by sea is as dear as what is brought by land. Peat, too, is at a great distance. The expences of living are nearly double what they were formerly. The wages of domestic servants and day-labourers are also considerably raised. There is a salmon-fishery on the side of the river Nith, opposite to the foot of the parish, from which the minister of Terregles draws tithe in money. There is an old ruin in this parish called the College of Lincluden.

## NUMBER XV.

## PARISH OF EDROM.

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM REDPATH.

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*Name, Situation, Surface, and Air.*

THE antient name of this parish was Etherham, derived from *Ether*, the original name of Whitewater, and *Ham*, a village on its banks. Edrom is situated in Berwickshire, presbytery of Chirnside, and synod of Merse and Tiviotdale. It is about 10 English miles long and 6 broad. It is bounded by the parishes of Dunse, Langton, Polworth, Foggo, Swinton, Whitlome, Hilton, Chirnside, Preston, and Bunkle. The appearance of the country is flat, except towards the Lammermuir or Cheviot Hills. A great part of the soil is fertile, and produces good corn when well cultivated; part moorish and barren; and part clay or shallow. Formerly the air was moist, but is now considerably dryer, on account of the inclosing and draining every part of the country. Lakes and pools of water are drained, and corn made to grow where the water stood. The air is salubrious. The best proof of this is the longevity of the inhabitants. Several in the parish have attained to 70, 80, and 90 years of age. The fevers, consumptions, and agues, which formerly prevailed here, were thought to have been owing to the moisture of the country. Since it was drained and inclosed,

fevers

fevers and agues have ceased very much, and instead of appearing every year, only come once in four or five years.

*Population.*—The population of this parish is believed to have been much less 50 years ago than it is at present. Agriculture was not then in that flourishing state in which it now is; and manufactures have only begun within these 15 or 20 years. From the decret of locality for stipend in the year 1733, it appears that the number of catechizable persons were near 800; and the whole, at that time, might amount to more than 900, or near 1000. About 13 years ago, they amounted to 1200 souls. The following table will give some idea of the population of this parish in 1790:

Souls	-	-	-	1336
Males	-	-	-	613
Females	-	.	-	723
Annual average of births		-	-	40
Annual average of deaths		-	-	10
Annual average of marriages		-	-	12
Heritors	-	-	-	9
Farmers	-	-	-	38
Mechanics	-	-	-	34
Inhabited houses		-	-	211
Persons in a family at an average		-	-	6

The number of horses in the parish is about 280, of sheep 3000, and of black cattle 600.

*Manufactures.*—There is a paper-mill, a lint-mill, and a wheel-wright manufacture. Fifty-five persons are employed in the paper-mill, 5 in the lint-mill, and about 5 or 6 in the wheel-wright manufactory. The wages paid per day in the first  
is



is L. 2 : 15 : 0. The value of the paper made yearly amounts to L. 5000 Sterling. When the wheel manufacture was carried on by James Small, 15 journeymen were employed. He introduced one of the best ploughs made in Scotland. A variety of useful manufactures, especially linen and woollen, a cotton-mill, stocking manufacture, and bleachfield, might be established. There is abundance of fine sheep for wool, and a lint-mill is an encouragement to grow flax. There is plenty of fine water and corn to support manufactures. Four hundred persons might be employed by a linen and cotton-mill.

*Wages, Prices, and Poor.*—A labourer's wages is 10 d. or 1 s. per day; masons and carpenters 1 s. 6 d.; taylor 6 d. and their meat. The usual wages of male servants employed in husbandry is 50 s. or L. 3 per half year, with their board; of female servants 30 or 40 shillings. All butcher's meat, through the greatest part of the year, is 3½ d. and 4 d. per pound; butter 8 d.; cheese 3½ d. if Scotch; English is 5 d. and 6 d.; wheat generally 30 shillings per boll; oats are 12, 14, 15, and 16 shillings per boll, Berwickshire measure; barley is 16, 18, and often 20 shillings per boll. The number of poor in this parish receiving alms is 12. The annual assessment laid on the heritors, tenants, and mechanics, for their maintenance, is L. 10. Several of the poor are likewise assisted by the weekly collections, kirk-session fund, hearse and mortcloth money.

*Rent of Land.*—The best arable ground is 15 and 20 shillings, and the best pasture 25 and 30 shillings per acre. The rent of several farms is L. 300, L. 400, L. 500, and L. 600 *per annum*; but there are more at L. 100, L. 50, L. 30, and L. 20. The rent of the whole lands of the parish is about  
L. 6493

L. 6493 Sterling *per annum*. From a decret of locality obtained in 1733, it appears that the rent amounted then only to L. 2000 Sterling yearly. One of the heritors marled and inclosed his whole estate, and the rent rose from L. 500 to L. 1500 a year. Another marled the whole of his land, inclosed it with stone dykes, and the rent rose from L. 500 to L. 1200 or L. 1300 *per annum*. Every estate, within these 20 years, has risen in proportion. Almost the whole of the parish is inclosed.

*Church and Stipend.*—The church was built in 1732, and has been well repaired since the present incumbent was settled. The spirit of making churches neat and decent has spread to the neighbouring parishes. The stipend, including the glebe, is about L. 110 Sterling *per annum*. The crown is patron.

*Mineral Springs and Rivers.*—There is one remarkable mineral spring, called *Dunfe Well*, in the estate of Nisbet. It appears, that a number of gentry and nobility formerly resorted to this water; but it is fallen into disrepute. There are two rivers in the parish, viz. Whitewater and Blackwater, commonly pronounced *Whitadder* and *Blakadder*. Whitewater rises in the Lammermuir Hills, near the confines of Lothian, runs near 30 or 40 miles, and discharges itself into the Tweed about 2 miles from Berwick. It abounds with small trout. A great number of salmon come up and spawn in it. Blackwater rises likewise in Lammermuir, above Greenlaw, and after a course of about 16 or 18 miles, falls into the Whitewater, at a village called Allantown, in this parish. It is celebrated for as fine trout as any in Scotland.

*Roads.*—The roads are tolerably good. They have been  
greatly

greatly improved within these 30 years. The money raised in the parish for repairing them is about L. 115 Sterling yearly, by taxing every horse at 7 s 6 d. and every cottager at 1 s. 6 d. There are few or no turnpikes, except on the post roads. The country is divided in opinion about the advantages or disadvantages of them.

*Manners, Customs, &c.*—There is a very great alteration in the manners, customs, dress, and style of living, of the inhabitants of this parish, within these 30 years. All ranks have more elegant or commodious houses, finer clothes, and better food.

NUM-

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF INNERWICK.

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN HARVIE.*

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*Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.*

**T**HIS parish is in the county of Haddington, presbytery of Dunbar, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It extends from the sea, on the north, about 12 miles southwards. On the coast, it is not above 2 miles broad, but gradually swells towards the south, and in some places may be 5 or 6 miles broad. It is bounded on the west by the parishes of Spott and Dunbar; on the south by Cranshaws and Longformacus; on the east by Oldhamstocks; and on the north by the sea. The face of the country is level, and the soil rich. From the church towards the south the parish is hilly; and the hills partly green and partly heath. In many places on the coast, the soil is rather light and gravelly. The shore is rocky.

*Cultivation and Produce.*—That part of the parish which is between the high lands and the sea is perhaps about 2000 or 3000 acres, and is employed in raising corn, grass, and turnip. There is very little of it in pasture. There are 56

plough-gates \* and a half in the parish. Both English and Scottish ploughs are used. The hilly part of the parish is employed chiefly in pasturing sheep and milk cows. Some black cattle are fed for the market on pasture. The common, which was lately divided, consisted of 1900 acres. Scarcely any flax is raised for sale. Wheat and barley are the principal grains. The lands on the coast are earlier than any other in the country, the harvest being concluded there about the end of September, and frequently sooner. In 1779, it was finished by the 12th of September. The parish produces more corn, and cattle fed on turnip, than is sufficient to supply its inhabitants. Farms are in general large, and increasing in size. There are many inclosures, but little planting, at least very few old trees. The residing heritors have begun to plant of late. One of them has planted 120 acres of common, or heathy ground. The rent of the parish is about L. 4000 Sterling at present, but will probably soon be considerably advanced. The old valuation is L. 9215 Scots. Land in this part of the country let formerly, at an average, at L. 1 : 11 : 6; but, according to the new leases, at L. 2 : 10 : 0 per acre. There is sea-weed in great abundance; to which, rather than the natural richness of the soil, the high price of land on the coast must be attributed. There is, at an average, perhaps 25 or 30 ton of kelp made in a year. In 1782, the crop was very scanty and late. Seed-time was not finished till about the beginning of June, nor harvest till about the 10th or 15th of November. Tradesmen, having meal to buy, were then in a much worse situation than the greatest part of the servants employed in husbandry.

*Population,*

\* A plough gate is as much land as can be cultivated with one plough.

*of Innerwick.*

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<i>Population, &amp;c.</i> —Souls	-	-	960
Families	-	-	208
Males	-	-	440
Females	-	-	530
The annual average of births	-	-	21
————— deaths	-	-	17
The annual average of births about 40 years ago			25
————— 100 years ago			35
The annual average of males born from 1778 to 1788			11
————— females born in the same period			10
In ten years preceding, the annual average of males			14
————— females			11
Seceders	-	-	80
Heritors, only 2 of them reside in the parish		-	8
Farmers residing in the parish		-	20
Wrights	-	-	3
Weavers	-	-	10
Shoemakers	-	-	1
Fishermen	-	-	8
Poor, above	-	-	20
Expence of their maintenance about L. 50 yearly.			

The decrease of population is owing chiefly to the monopolizing of farms, and the introduction of two horse ploughs.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—The men's wages was 5 d. a-day about 40 years ago; they are now from 10 d. to 1 s. The women's wages is 6 d. a-day for labouring at hay or turnip. But there are few day-labourers, most of the people being employed as hynds or plowmen, lot-men, &c.; all of whom are paid in grain. The lot-men thresh for the 25th boll. The plowmen receive bolls of different kinds of grain, frequently amounting in all to L. 18 or L. 20 Sterling. A male

male domestic servant receives L. 6 or upwards, and a female L. 3 *per annum*. Forty years ago, a male servant received about L. 2 : 10 : 0, and a female L. 1 : 5 : 0 *per annum*. Beef, mutton, &c. are sold at Dunbar from 4 d. to 5 d. per lib. ; a couple of fowls now costs from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d.

*Fish, and Sea-Coast.*—At present, only two fishing boats belonging to the parish are employed in catching lobsters, which is by far the most profitable branch of fishing ; but great variety of other fish is caught, such as cod, ling, turbot, haddock, &c. which are generally sent to Dunse, Haddington, &c. It is probable that the current on this coast is stronger than formerly ; for all the wrecks, about 15 or 16 in number, that have happened within these 18 years, have been driven ashore nearly about the same place. At the place where the ships are always wrecked, there is a small creek, called Sketraw Shore, which seems to be intended by nature for a harbour. The making a harbour here would be of great advantage to the trade from Leith to London ; and parliamentary interest could not, perhaps, be employed better than in promoting such a scheme.

*Church and Stipend.*—The church was built in 1784; the manse about the year 1726, and repaired in 1788. According to a decret pronounc'd in March 1790, the stipend, including the glebe, will, at an average, amount to L. 140 Sterling *per annum*. Mr Nisbet of Dirleton is patron.

*Antiquities.*—The remains of a chapel are to be seen on the coast. There is a small encampment on Blackcastle Hill, seemingly Danish. There are two very beautiful tumuli, on the top of which have been burial places. Near one of them is a bridge of one arch, commonly called Edirkin, said to be

a corruption for King Edward, who is supposed to have built it.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The air is generally dry and healthy. There is a spring-well, the water of which is remarkable for its lightness. There are two free-stone quarries. No coal is worked, but small seams are visible in different places. There is lime upon the coast in great abundance, with a small seam of coal below it. The rent of cottages is from 15 to 20 shillings. Coal is used as fuel on the coast, peat and turf on the moors. The people are, in general, more expensive in their mode of living than formerly. They are very humane to those who have been ship-wrecked. There are many inclosures in the parish; but some farmers think them disadvantageous, as they occupy too much of the high rented corn land, and harbour birds.

NUM.



## NUMBER XVII.

## PARISH OF LINTON.

By the Rev. Mr FINDLATER, Minister of Newlands, formerly of Linton.

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*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**T**HE origin of the name is uncertain. The river of Lyne, which rises at the Cauldstane Slaup, (a pass over the Pentlands from Tweeddale to West Lothian) runs through this parish, and probably Linton is so called from being the town on the Lyne. Linton is situated in the county of Tweeddale, and presbytery of Peebles. Its contents may be about 25 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the parishes of Mid-Calder and Kirknewton; on the east by the parish of Pennycook; on the west by the parish of Dunfyre; and the remaining part by Dolphington, Kirkcurd, and Newlands.

*Soil.*—The soil of the hills is clayey, and they are covered with grass, which feeds sheep for the butcher; the sheep, however, are subject to the rot. The low ground near the North Esk is a clay soil on a lime-stone, but the land being high, is unfavourable to cropping. The remaining part of the hill ground is all covered with heath, with a small mixture of grass, and is fitter for breeding than feeding, which, in general,

neral, is the case with almost all the pasture land in the parish. Except on the North Esk, the cultivated land is either a mossy soil, or a sandy loam upon a gravelly bottom, and remarkably adapted for the culture of turnip and potatoe. There are some lochs in the lands of Slipperfield, belonging to Mr John Carmichael of Skirling, the largest about a mile and an half English in circumference. They have no outlet; the springs seeming to equipoise the evaporation. The water is moss water. They abound in pike and perch, but contain no eels. In a loch in Eddlestone parish, in the county of Tweeddale, called the *Water Loch*, there is an outlet with a stream which drives a mill; at certain seasons eels are caught in abundance, in creels, at the outlet. The stream falls into one of the Esk waters. *Quere*, Do eels migrate for spawning to running water only, or do they go to the sea?

*Climate.*—Though the climate is rainy, and the air moist, from the number of mosses, yet, being well ventilated, the exhalations never stagnate or grow putrid, so as to produce diseases. The high lands of Tweeddale and Lanarkshire, are all subject to harvest frosts, which often damage the crop. These frosts are generally dreaded about the latter end of August and during the month of September. Rainy weather about this time generally terminates in this kind of frost, which, in the year 1784, destroyed the whole barley crop in the month of August. The highest land is always the last in suffering by this kind of frost; the lowest is in greatest danger. In a calm evening after rain this frost is always apprehended; when it sets in, a low white thick creeping vapour is observed to arise, after sun-set, from the running waters and low lying mosses, which gradually spreads to a certain distance, and to a certain height, on the lands in the neighbourhood.

These

These frost mists are observed to attract each other; and, wherever they rest, they destroy vegetation when in a certain state, or where their baleful influence is not counteracted by particular circumstances. The half of a field contiguous to the running water or moss is often destroyed, while the more remote half, on the same level, or part equally near, but more elevated, remains safe. In part of a field of potatoes in the line of the attraction of two mists, the stems became black and soft like soap, while the neighbouring drill remained green and vigorous. These frost mists manifest their noxious quality first on the potatoe stems, second crop of clover, and pease. It requires a greater degree of intensity in the frost to hurt other crops: It scarcely affects turnips. The stems of the potatoes and clover grow black and soft, and fall down; the leaves, and the pods of the pea, are spotted with white spots. The potatoe is supposed to grow no more, though the roots are safe; the pease, in proportion to their greenness, are soft, wrinkled, and watery, become of the colour of a pickled olive, and acquire a disagreeable sweetish taste: When threshed, the frost bitten are distinguished from the sound by throwing them into water; the sound sink, the others swim. A field of oats, when frost bitten, acquires in a few days a blueish cast; and barley, if early frosted, as in 1784, remains erect in the head, which acquires a reddish brown colour, or, if later, a deadish whiteness. The kernels, when unhusked immediately after the frost, are wrinkled, soft, and watery, and, after a while, grow shriveled and dry. The kernel of frosted oats, even if threshed in spring, when examined between the eye and the light, appears cloudy, and not of that uniform transparency which sound grain possesses.

In the morning after the frost the vegetables are stiffened;  
but

but its effects are not observable till after sun-rise. If wind arises through the night to prevent the mist from settling, or if the next day is cloudy, and especially if it rains before sun-rise, or if the field be so shaded by hills from the rising sun that the crop may be gently thawed by the increasing heat of the atmosphere before the sun's rays shine directly on it, no danger is to be apprehended. In conformity to this experience, a small field of potatoes has been known to be saved by sprinkling them with well water before sun-rising. But this can never be executed on a large scale. Attempts have also been made, though without success, to save oats and barley, by dragging something over them, before sun-rise, to shake off the hoar frost, or *ryme* or *crainreuch*, as it is called, which is deposited wherever the mist settles. This frost affects the vegetation of corn only at a certain period of its progress. Pease are frosted however green in the grain, and the greener the more readily; they are not killed by it when hard ripe; but to this state they seldom arrive at Linton. Barley and oats are not hurt by this frost when hard ripe, and fit for the hook; and it is probable that they are not hurt by it even though they are shot, and the ear beginning to fill, as long as the juices are watery, and have not yet come to the consistency of thickish milk. It is certainly the case with oats. In the year 1784, the frost was on the 17th and 18th August. The uppermost grains of the oats, which always fill soonest, had thick milk in them, and were frosted 4 or 5 grains down the head. The grains below these all ripened well. The barley, which might be about equally forward with the top grains of the oats, was totally destroyed. Probably the upper grains had sheltered the under ones from the frost, the crop being very thick and strong; and this might have been the reason why the undermost grains ripened: But as a proof, above all exception, *that the frost does not*

*greatly hurt oats while the juices in the ear are watery, there were several contiguous fields sown with late seed oats, whose best ripened grains were no further advanced than the undermost grains in the field above mentioned, and they all ripened very well, though equally exposed to the frost.*

Dr Roebuck's experiments on oats in 1782 corresponds with this observation; for, even the last parcel he cut *was not ripe when cut*; of course, it may be probably conjectured, that, in the time of the frost, none of the oats in question had thick milk in the ear.

Crops cut and stacked before the frost are safe, except pease, the upper surface of which will frost till they be thoroughly ripe. To save them, it is usual to turn the exposed side downwards, to thaw gradually before sun-rise.

This frost affects only low grounds, and only hardens a very thin crust on the surface of the earth. In 1782, the frost penetrated several inches into the ground, so as to destroy the roots of the potatoes.

*Diseases.*—A man called William Badie, or Beatie, a shoemaker, died a few weeks ago in Linton. About 16 or 17 years since, being afflicted with stomach complaints, contracted by drinking cold water when overheated in harvest, he was advised to swallow stones to help digestion, after the manner of birds with muscular stomachs. He was ever after afflicted with violent stomach complaints, and frequent vomitings, with a long train of nervous symptoms. He never suspected that the stones had lodged in his stomach, till happening to be seized with a vomiting, lying across a bed, with his head and body reclined downwards, and supporting himself

self with his hands on the floor, several stones came up. The man was of decent character; and from his own, and his neighbours reports, there is no doubt of the fact. The largest stone was the size of a finger end. He threw up 13, which, being the Devil's dozen, might probably be the number swallowed. Latterly, his surgeon made him vomit in an inclined position, and he threw up sand, which probably had fallen from his victuals into some sack formed in the stomach by the weight of the stones. The stones must have been lodged in his stomach for about 16 years.

*Mints, Minerals, Springs, &c.*—There is white free-stone at Deepfyke-head and at Spittlehaugh. The former quarry supplies all Tweeddale. There is red free stone in the ridge of Broomieles, supplying all Tweeddale with pavement flags.

There is limestone at Carlops, and Whitefield, and Spittlehaugh, afforded in proportion to their relative situation to the market, at 10 d. 1 s. and 1 s. 1 d. per boll of shells, at the hill. Two bolls of shells is a good loading for a one horse cart. A boll of shells, when slacked, yields from two to three bolls of lime.

There is coal at Carlops and Coalyburn, fold, according to situation, at 6 d. and 7 d. per 200 weight at the pit. The seams are about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick, including a division stone of 18 inches.

Fullers earth is found in a small seam below Bridgehouse bridge over the Lyne, on the east side of the water.

Marle is found in beds, formed seemingly by oozing springs from lime-stone, which encrust or petrify moss by depositions  
of

of lime-stone. In these beds the shells of the common snail are observed rotten and friable. A blue marle, of a mixed consistency between stone and clay, is found in a stratum about two feet thick, above the lime rocks of Carlops and Spittlehaugh. No whin-stone has been discovered, except detached stones in the bed of the river.

There is a spring lying north of Linton village about a mile, in Mr Chatto's land, called *Heaven-aqua Well*, somewhat resembling Tunbridge.

*Animals, &c.*—Besides the domestic animals, and those common to the country, the earn eagle is sometimes, but rarely, seen on the heights. The golden crested wren and the bullfinch are but lately come. The woodpecker has very lately appeared at Newhall on the North Esk, where, probably, we shall soon have the brown squirrel, which has arrived already at Pennycook, from the Duke of Buccleugh's *menagerie*. In winter, the huppoë, and some unknown birds, sometimes visit us. Our migrating birds are the swallows, green plover, curlew, sand lark, a small wader frequenting running water, and the red-shank, and other two larger waders frequenting lochs; also the corn-craik and cuckoo; these appear in spring and leave us after midsummer. The felfare and wild goose appear in winter; the woodcock comes in September or October, and soon leaves us.

*Plantations and Woods, &c.*—Any large plantations of trees in the parish are as yet only in their infancy. The larix seems to thrive in the poorest soils and most exposed situations. Their durability in paling posts, even when cut young, is well known. The natural wood is hazel, birch, mountain-ash, and willows. Birch is generally found in the moor.

No

No oak has occurred, except once a large one in a moor near the top of Mendic Hill. The sheep prevent the growth of natural wood. The young shoots of heath, the year after it is burnt, is the great food of the sheep. If burnt in winter it dies. The time allotted by the game laws for burning in spring is too short, as heath is often too wet to burn in the limited time; but sheriffs who know country affairs fine trespassing farmers in moderation. There is a moor plant with a white cottony head growing in moor, which is the first spring food of the sheep. It springs in February, if the weather is fresh. It is commonly called *pull ling*. The sheep take what is above the ground tenderly in their mouths, and without biting it draw up a long white stalk.

*Grazing.*—There may, by a rough computation, be about 10,000 sheep grazed in the parish, 130 horses, and 460 cows. Swine are coming more and more into fashion, both among farmers and householders, for family use. Cows are from 20 to 26 stone weight, yielding from 6 to 8 Scots pints of milk per day. They are kept mostly for family use, no attention being paid to dairy farming. The breed of horses is much improved of late, particularly since the introduction of two-horse ploughs, which are generally adopted. English ploughs, with the curved moldboard and corresponding sock, are coming into more general use, except for breaking up moor and bent. Small's plough is also coming into use. A few young horses are reared from the plough mares for sale. Of late, year-olds are sold from L. 6 to L. 10. The demand is greatest for the males, which, *caeteris paribus*, draw from 30 to 40 shillings more than the females. A good stallion in the neighbourhood will be bought in at L. 40 or L. 50, and yield to his master a profit of from L. 15 to L. 20 annually.

The



The staple animal kept by the farmers is the sheep, excepting a very few farms where the hills are green, and where lambs are fed for the butcher. The sheep for sale are hogs, *i. e.* sheep of one year old, fold off in June or July before they are shorn. They are disposed of to the Highlands, or Oichil Hills in Fifeshire, at the Linton markets. The principal of these markets are two; the one held invariably on the third Wednesday of June old stile, the other that day week. Between twenty and thirty thousand sheep are generally sold at these markets annually, many being brought from other parishes. Some of the Tweeddale sheep are sold at Stagshaw, on the English side, and bought in by farmers to the Yorkshire fells, whence, when older, they are sold to grazing farms farther south. The Highlanders keep what they buy for two or three years, then sell them fat to Perth, Glasgow, and Edinburgh, about Martinmas; a considerable number, too, are sent up to England. Till of late, the great demand to the Highlands was for wedder hogs; lately, the demand was greatest for ewe hogs for breeding. The average price for these year old sheep at Linton markets, of late years, has been 9 s. a head. The superannuated breeding ewes are either sold fat at Martinmas to the butcher, at about 9 s. a head, or else sold with lamb, in the month of March, to the Lothian parks at 11 s.

The duration of a breeding ewe varies, in different farms, from 4 to 7 years. The farmer, when smearing them at Martinmas, examines their teeth and their eyes, and from thence judges whether he ought to keep them on his farm another year. When a farmer quits his farm, the new incomer knows that it is highly dangerous to bring in a breeding stock which has not been bred on the farm, and generally takes the breeding stock on the farm at from 14 s. to 16 s. a head. - Rams being

being unprofitable, the least possible number of them is kept. From 40 to 50 ewes are generally allotted to one ram through Tweeddale, according to the poorness or richness of the pasture. An old fat breeding ewe from the hill grounds weighs from 6 to 8 pounds avoirdupoise per quarter, yielding from 4 to 8 pounds of Tallow.

The Tweeddale wool is in general coarse, and sells at present, if the sheep are washed, at an average of 6s. per stone Tron. It used formerly to go all to Stirling for carpets, shalloons, &c.; but of late it is bought much by Hawick people; part is sent to Hawick, part to Leith, where it is shipped for England. Attempts have been made in Tweeddale, and in similar grounds in Annandale, to improve the wool, by the introduction of Bakewell rams; but it is universally given up; the breed produced being, as is reported, a soft dull animal, always loitering in low grounds, unwilling to climb heights, and too spiritless to remove the snow with its feet to obtain food in winter. The chief food of the sheep in winter is the grass which in summer they reject, and allow to grow to its proper height. The common breed here is a short tailed compact bodied sheep, with black faces and legs. The sheep are all smeared at Martinmas with a mixture of tar and train oil, or Orkney butter. Butter is preferred to train oil.

A stone and an half of butter, and 12 Scots pints of Norway tar, is reckoned, in general, the dose for 80 old sheep;  $1\frac{1}{2}$  stones of butter, and 12 pints of tar, is the dose for 50 year olds, or 60 two year olds. John Murray farmer in Buccam, in the parish of Galashiels, says, that when in Elibank, in Selkirkshire, he was unsuccessful in his competition for the premium granted for wool; he next season smeared entirely with butter without tar, and easily gained the premium. The  
Highlanders

Highlanders and Yorkshire people prefer hogs in proportion to their blackness, thinking they are hardy bred in high or mossy land. This may be a reason of smearing hogs heavily. There is no getting a very satisfactory account of smearing from the farmers: Some say it forms the wool into a wax-cloth, keeping the sheep warm and dry; some say the tar is necessary for this purpose; John Murray, before mentioned, apprehends the butter sufficient for this purpose, and that the tar is only necessary to kill vermin. Some farmers keep a few sheep perfectly unsmear'd, for pettycoats and stockings; they say they have perhaps more wool; but they think the wool degenerates in quality and quantity the succeeding year; and even the first year the experiment is not fair, as they always select for the purpose the strongest and fattest sheep of the flock. They apprehend, too, that they fail sooner.

The greatest improvement that has been lately introduced in sheep farming is light stocking. The sheep are better, and the risk of death is also by that means diminished. It is not practicable by any other means than light stocking, to increase the winter food of the sheep through Tweeddale; the arable land bearing so very inconsiderable a proportion to the hill ground. Plantations, in different parts of the sheep farms, would be of great use for protecting the sheep from storms; but on a 19 years lease, which is the usual term, no farmer will plant. On the 57 years leases lately granted by the Duke of Queensberry, farmers are planting trees for this purpose at their own expence. In some of the breeding farms in Linton, the farmer keeps a stock of breeding ewes; of their lambs he keeps a part, to replace the superannuated ewes and rams which he annually sells off. He selects the best for that purpose: He also keeps a portion of the next best lambs for selling as hogs next year to the Highlands. The worst portion  
of

of the lambs he sells to a second class of farmers, who annually buy in lambs, and sell them all again next year as hogs to the Highlanders. A third class of farmers have a breeding stock of ewes; of their lambs they keep just as many as are sufficient to replace the breeding stock; the rest they sell to the second class of farmers. A few farmers keep a flock of breeding ewes; they sell all their lambs fat to the butcher, except what is necessary to keep up the breeding stock. One or two farmers who have low and improved land keep no sheep through winter, but buy in ewes with lambs in March, sell off the fat lambs in summer, and fatten the mothers on grass, felling them at Martinmas, or feeding them still farther on turnips.

This last mode of farming is in its infancy at Linton. It was introduced by James M'Dougal in Linton, a very intelligent man, who was 14 years with Mr Dawson at Frogden, about the time he commenced his improvements, first as a servant and then as an overseer. He has been about 12 years in a L. 50 farm at Linton. Mr Laurence Tweedie, lately come to the farm of Slipperfield near Linton, is adopting his mode of culture. He has an extensive sheep farm of the first description, but brings down his superannuated breeding stock to be fed off on turnips on his low lands. James M'Dougal buys in his ewes in March with lamb; feeds off the lambs on hill ground which has been laid down with white clover. The ewes which have missed lamb, and those whose lambs were first sold off, as they grow fat on the grass, are sold at Martinmas; the rest are brought down to the turnip, and sold about the middle of January. Before he practised feeding on the turnip, he sold all off at Martinmas, and reckoned himself well paid if he cleared 5 s. a-head for the lambs, and lost nothing by the ewes. The turnip im-

proves the ewes about 2 s. 6 d. or 3 s. a-head, which is a profit of L. 2 : 10 : 0, or L. 3, from the acre of turnip, an acre feeding a score, besides the advantage of the dung and paddling on a light sandy soil. The sheep are inclosed in a web of net stretched on a paling, their horns are sawn off, in fresh weather, without injury to the animal; in wet weather they are allowed to go at large. They thrive faster when at large; but the turnip are sooner consumed, as they run to the fresh ones, and leave those that are half eaten. Turnip succeeds best at Linton when sown in the latter end of May.

The principal diseases of sheep are, 1st, Iliac passion or sickness. It attacks the fattest, when first let down to the stubbles, and ground allotted for their winter provision: It is cured, when taken in time, by bleeding and purging. Turnips, or clover stubble, are said to cure it; probably by occasioning a looseness. 2d, A diarrhoea, which attacks them in spring, when the new grass springs quickly, after previous starving in a hard winter. 3d, Palsy, called *trembling*, or *thorter ill*, to which those fed on certain lands are peculiarly subject. 4th, The rot, indiscriminately applied to consumption of lungs or liver: To this they are most subject in moist soft land. Rotten ewes have in spring a goiter like the inhabitants of the Alps under the lower jaw, and are called *poked*, *i. e.* pouched ewes. 5th, The sturdy, or water in the head: The scull grows soft above where the water is lodged; and they are sometimes cured by a trepan, performed by a herd's knife. 6th, Tup lambs are apt to die of castration, particularly if it is performed in hot close weather, and especially if it thunders within two or three days. The operation is delayed as long as can be risked for the summer heat, to give them a better crest.

When

When the lambs are weaned, the ewes are milked for a longer or shorter time, according to the richness of the pasture; and the milk, mixed with the cow milk of the farm, is made into cheese, which sells at about 6 s. per stone Tron. Milking, however, is much difused.

The names of sheep are as follow :

- 1st, Ewe, wedder, tup, lambs, until they are smeared.
- 2d, Ewe, wedder, tup, hogs, until they are shorn.
- 3d, Gimmers, dummons, tups, until they are shorn.
- 4th, Old ewes, wedders, tups.

An intelligent herd knows all his sheep from personal acquaintance, called *head mark*, and can swear to the identity of a sheep as he could to that of a fellow servant. The artificial mark made with a hot iron on the nose, or with a knife on the ears, he considers as a very equivocal mark of identity, like the cut or colour of a coat in the human species.

*Corn Farming.*—The different species of oats sown at Linton are ranked as follows, according to their different degrees of earliness: 1st, Magbiehill oats, or barley oats, introduced by Mr William Montgomery of Magbiehill. 2d, Carnwath oats from the moors of Carnwath: They are 14 days latter than the Magbiehill. 3d, Late seed oats from Tweedside, 10 or 14 days latter than the Carnwath oats. They will grow on worse soil than the Magbiehill, but require stronger soil than the Carnwath. A prejudice long prevailed, but is now given up, that the meal of these was better than that of the Magbiehill.

The Lothian pea does not ripen in any year at Linton. The Peebles grey pea ripens sometimes if sown in March. There

There is a Magbiehill pea, procured by the Lord Chief Baron's father. The pease crop is always precarious at Linton.

The land under the plough in Linton parish may amount to 700 or 800 acres, of which two-thirds may be outfield\*.

The outfield is teathed by folding the black cattle in summer over night, to keep them from the corns, and by folding the ewes when they are milked. The folds are sometimes limed in October, after the cattle are housed: The land is then ploughed; the lime falls to the bottom of the furrow, but is brought up again by ploughing deeper next season. Three crops of oats is reckoned moderate cropping after a fold. On new limed folds some farmers take four oat crops, then a crop of pease, which will grow on outfield after lime, though not otherwise, then another crop of oats: The land is then left to gather fod as nature shall direct. Twenty bolls of shells, or at most twenty-four, is the dose for an acre.

The croft land † is variously treated. The approved rotation introduced by James M'Dougal is a rotation of four, viz. turnips with dung; then barley or Magbiehill oats sown with grasses; then a crop of hay; then Magbiehill oats. If the turnips are eaten on the field by sheep, this still farther enriches the land; so that, in all probability, at the next going over, half the dung might be sufficient to raise a good turnip crop, and set the rotation agoing. The spare dung might be employed in converting some of the outfield into croft. Under this rotation of four, potatoes are raised in stripes through the turnip field; so that the land is dunged and paddled by the sheep which eat the turnip.

Lint

\* That is, the open or uninclosed field.

† That is inclosed fields.

Lint is seldom sown, and only for family use. It is worth 70 or 11 shillings per stone when fit for the heckler. Four stone from the peck is reckoned a good crop. Nobody will risk the sowing it extensively, except with the view of gambling for the Trustees premium.

*Population.*—The population of Linton, taken at a visitation in 1777.

Inhabited houses by separate families in the village	102
Ditto in the country	134
Total	236
Souls in the village	353
Ditto in the country	650
Total	1003
Males	490
Females	513

The state of their ages.

Above 70	23
Between 70 and 50	146
Between 50 and 20	408
Between 20 and 10	224
Under 10	202
Number of marriages	162
The whole of the feceders (all Burgers) including young children of feceding parents	400

There is no register of burials or marriages. The register of baptisms is not very accurate: A shilling is paid for registering, and poor people have an interest in the omission.

Annual



Annual average of baptisms from 1736 till 1759, both inclusive,	- - - - -	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
From 1759 till 1766 is very irregular.		
From 1766 till 1789, both inclusive, is	- - - - -	26 $\frac{2}{3}$

## Population in 1791.

Inhabited houses in the village of Linton	-	-	59
----- of Blyth	-	-	12
----- country part	-	-	107
Total inhabited houses in the parish	-	-	178
	Males.	Females.	Persons.
Inhabitants in Linton	- 149	202	351
----- in Blyth	- 26	28	54
----- in the country	- 274	249	523
Total inhabitants in the parish	-	-	928
Above 70 years old	-	-	29
Between 50 and 70	-	-	146
Between 20 and 50	-	-	349
Between 10 and 20	-	-	186
Under 10 years old	-	-	218

The depopulation seems to be owing to sheep farms being rented to people who live at a distance; the houses of these farms being inhabited only by the herds instead of the farmer's family. Another circumstance must be attended to, viz. that, in 1777, Sir William Montgomery was making large improvements on his estate; but at present there are fewer labourers in the neighbourhood; and it is observable, that the greatest number of empty houses are near Sir William Montgomery's estate. Lord Hyndford also carried on many improvements, but at his death these improvements ceased.

The

The people are either farmers, or mechanics and shopkeepers; generally one, and sometimes two surgeons; formerly an exciseman; lead carters and carriers; no lawyers. Two or three looms work cotton cloth independently, or linen for the manufacturers in Edinburgh, or even Glasgow. There are about two dozen of looms in the village.

In the memory of old people, the mode of living is much altered. The great expence formerly was in drinking two-penny. The farmers ate no flesh but what died of itself; onions was a common relish to their bread. Their clothes were homespun and coarse. More flesh is now consumed even by cottagers, than formerly by farmers.

The situation of every class of people is much improved. Even within these few years labourers wages are considerably raised. A good ploughman gets L. 6, and meat in the house; or  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of meal, and L. 1 : 6 : 0 annually, instead of meat. If he marries he gets a house, for which his wife shears all harvest with his master, who drives in her fuel, and gives her land for lint or potatoes. She generally gets offalls of milk and whey, &c. if she is liked. A good servant maid has L. 3 *per annum*.

Day labourers have 8 d. in summer and 6 d. in winter, with victuals; women at out-work 3 d. but oftner 4 d. with victuals. In harvest, men get 10 d. women 8 d. with victuals. Taylors 6 d. and victuals. Masons and joiners are over-proportioned to other labourers, from the demand to Edinburgh, and get 1 s. with victuals. Few enlist, as they have plenty of employment at home. Some six or eight may have emigrated to America; they write flattering accounts to their friends, but complain of their distance from religious ordinances.

ordinances. Except in cases of occasional distress, from dearth, sickness, or old age, a stout labourer or ploughman, with an economical wife, can bring up a family of six children without aid from the public.

*Rent, Church, &c.*—The heritors of the parish, excepting trifling feuers, are 12 in number, of which only one has a domicile, where he occasionally resides.

The land rent may be	-	-	-	L. 235
The rent from coal and lime	-	-	-	150
The glebe and stipend may be worth	-	-	-	85

The present minister is Alexander Forrester, a bachelor, who succeeded in 1790. The manse was rebuilt in 1779, the church in 1782.

The seceders are, Burgers	-	-	-	339
Antiburgers	-	-	-	2
Relief	-	-	-	35
				376
			In all	376

There are no other religious sectaries in the parish.

*Poor.*—There are no poor rates in the parish. They are supported by collections at the church doors, by dues at proclamations, and dues for mort-cloths kept by the kirk-session. In 1773, a legacy of L. 100 was left to the poor; before that they had one of L. 25. This stock is at interest at 5 per cent. In 1783, the treasurer had above the annual income a balance, which was then expended, with some charitable collections and private donations, amounting to near L. 30. In that year the session did not buy meal and retail it at an under rate, but gave their contributions in money. In other parishes, where the kirk-session bought and retailed meal

meal at an under rate, the retail trade was knocked up, and tradesmen, who were not on their list, had to travel to Linton for meal. The session never admitted any poor to regular pensions; but the treasurer, who was the minister, gave occasional supply, by the advice of discreet people in the parish.

Average of the annual expences of supporting the poor in Linton.

For 4 years previous to 1773, when L. 100 was left them,	
was	L. 10 18 8
From 1773, for 8 years, annual expence	16 19 3
From Martinmas 1782, till Martinmas 1785,	
the expence is nearly the same each year	31 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
From June 1785 till June 1790	18 17 10

From the above may be deduced about L. 1 : 4 : 0, which is annually expended in fees to the session-clerk, beadle, and presbytery and synod clerks, and officers.

In 1782—3, people were sometimes discovered living on nettles, or potatoes, without meal, and were relieved; particularly one poor householder, a day labourer, who was reported to the minister as sick and starving. He was found exhausted with hunger; and said, that he felt an *d'ercastring* at his heart, and his lights were ay ready to lose the staff. Some Port wine, and a supply of meal, put him in heart, and made him fit for work. The people lived then mostly on very wholesome white pease, brought from Leith.

*Parochial School.*—The schoolmaster's salary is L. 10, with a house and garden valued at L. 2 *per annum*. The scholars seldom exceed 40 summer and winter. The prices for teach-

ing are 1 s. 2 d. per quarter for English; 1 s. 6 d. for arithmetic, writing, and Latin. On account of the vacation in harvest, the schoolmaster's year is only 3 quarters. L. 20 *per annum* may be the value of his office.

*Price of Provisions.*—Lamb  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. per pound; mutton 3 d. to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d.; beef 3 d. to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d.; pork  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d. to 4 d.; ducklings 7 d. or 8 d. a-piece; chickens 3 d. a-piece; hens for the spit 11 d.; butter 8 d.; skimmed cow milk cheese  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d.; ewe milk cheese 5 d. per Tron pound; sweet milk per Scots pint 2 d.; skimmed milk  $\frac{1}{2}$  d.

*Roads.*—An act was got for the Linton and Noblehouse roads from Edinburgh to Moffat, about 1756. They are made, and now upheld, at 50 shillings per mile, which is all the money that can be allowed above paying the interest of borrowed money, and without any sinking fund to extinguish the principal. Statute labour is commuted, with advantage, at 4 d. for a day's work of a man.

*Antiquities.*—When the old church was taken down in 1781 or 1782, it appeared to have been built of the stones of an older one. Carved free stones were found in the middle of the wall, representing in basso relievo a crucifix erect, supported by a pair of wool shears lying across beneath, but no motto.

In a deep sequestered glen in the lands of Carlöps, at the junction of two deep glens which communicate with the first one, stands a projecting rock of free-stone, forming a natural nich, with a projecting canopy. It is called Harbour Craig. This, it is said, was a retreat of conventiclers under Charles II. A great number of initials are carved rudely in the rock, and  
dates

dates corresponding to the tradition. Near it is the moor called Harlaimuir, probably from some skirmish, of which there is no tradition. Near Spittlehaugh is a park called Chapelhill; there are no remains nor tradition of a building; but stone coffins have been found in the park, and in several parts of the parish. A Roman urn was found in a cairn at Garwaldfoot, by the late General John Douglas.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The village of Linton seems adapted for a woollen manufacture of coarse goods. The Lyne would drive considerable weighty machinery. Lime is abundant; coal is not dear; and every house in the village has a privilege of cutting peat *ad libitum* from the common moor, which, all expences included, may be put into the winter stack at 8 d. the single horse cart.

## N U M B E R XVIII.

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

*By the Rev. Mr FINDLATER.**Situation, Soil, &c.*

**N**EWLANDS is situated in the shire of Tweeddale and presbytery of Peebles. It is bounded by the parishes of Linton, Lyne, Kirkhurd, Stobo, Eddlestone, and Pennycook. The face of the parish is diversified with hills and valleys. The hills are in general clayey, more or less mixed with stones. The arable land is in general a clay loam, upon a close impervious tilly bottom. It is liable to poach in winter, and therefore not fit for turnip sheep feeding.

There is scarcely any heath in the parish. The pastures are all green; and white clover abounds where the land has been limed. Trees thrive every where, and thorn hedges grow very well. In high exposed situations, on spouty clay soil, the oak seems to thrive better than any other white wood usually planted among evergreens, as on a hill top above Romanno. From the Wheam to Moothill bridge, the land is all enclosed and well wooded. Larix and other firs of a large size are to be seen at Lamancha and Wheam: At the latter, silver fir was lately cut which afforded planks of 27 inches.

*Springs,*

*Springs, Mines, and Minerals.*—Chalybeate springs abound every where. There is red free-stone in Broomyleas; and from Romanno down the Lyne whin-stone abounds. From Noblehouse to Wheam the hills abound in iron-ore and iron-stone, on which trials have been made, but hitherto without success. At Wheam, Lamancha, and Magbiehill, there is lime and coal. About that end of the parish there are also ochres, red and yellow, veins of manganese, and Stourbridge clay. A manufactory for converting ochre into paints is carried on by the Honourable Captain Cochrane at Lamancha.

*Farming.*—The whole land in tillage may be 1300 Scots acres, of which the outfield may probably be only one-half or three-fifths. Ploughing is mostly performed by four horses; in the lighter soil by two. At Scotstown, two stout oxen are trained to plough, yoked like horses, and seem to answer very well.

There may be 230 horses, young and old, in the parish; 600 cows, consisting of dairy cows, and young ones coming up to replace the old; besides about 100 more fed on fattening grass, or reared on coarse breeding ground; and 3000 sheep. Young horses are bred for sale from the plough mares.

Almost the first dairy farming in Tweeddale was begun in Wester Deanhouses, by Thomas Stevenson, the present tenant. The farm lies on the opposite side of the hill from Wheam. The farmer had the advantage of a house fitted up for himself by the Lord Chief Baron, when Sheriff of Peebles, with more conveniencies than usual for farm houses. Tempted by these advantages, and the vicinity to Edinburgh, the farmer turned his attention to cows, and found the  
scheme



scheme profitable. His example was soon followed; and except in the sheep farms, all the farmers pay either the whole, or a considerable part of their rent, by their milk cows. The produce of a cow may be, at a medium, L. 3:10:0, or, where very particular attention is paid, L. 4:10:0. The cows are, at an average, from 26 to 30 stons weight. The cows being generally housed, their dung is carried to crofts in the vicinity, which occasions the proportion of outfield to croftland to be less here than in the neighbouring parish of Linton.

The sheep are all fold fat; lambs at about 6 s. a-piece; old breeding ewes, at Martinmas, about 11 s.; the wool about 1 s. per stone dearer than at Linton. Scarcely any ewe milk cheese is made for sale in the parish.

*Population.*—From a visitation of the parish, begun 13th July, and finished 2d September, 1790, it appears that the number of inhabited houses possessed by separate families, is

is	-	-	-	-	182
The number of males are	-	-	-	-	448
----- females	-	-	-	-	443
Total	-	-	-	-	891

State of their ages.

Under 100 and above 70	-	-	-	39
Under 70 and above 50	-	-	-	103
Under 50 and above 20	-	-	-	333
Under 20 and above 10	-	-	-	195
Under 10	-	-	-	220
Besides one man who says he is 101	-	-	-	1
Proportion of children to a marriage	-	-	-	2 $\frac{1}{3}$
Batchellors above 20	-	-	-	70
				The

The annual average of births from 1719 till 1749, both included - - - - - 26  $\frac{9}{8}$   
 From 1770 till 1790, both included - - - - - 24

The inhabitants are composed of farmers, quarriers, other labourers, and a few of the most indispenfible mechanics, There are 13 heritors, of whom 5 refide.

*Wages, and Prices of Provifions.*—Nearly the fame as was mentioned in the foregoing parifh of Linton.

*Rent.*—The grofs rent of the parifh is - L. 2500  
 From lime and coal about - - - 100

*Church, &c.*—The value of the glebe and ftipend is L. 115. The prefent minifter, Charles Findlater batchellor, fucceeded Dr James Moffat in June 1790. The manfe was built 30 or 40 years ago, and the church was then repaired. The manfe has received feveral additions and repairs within the laft ten years.

*Poor.*—The poor are fupported from a ftock of L. 80, fe- cured on a bond of the trustees for the roads at 5 *per cent.* and from voluntary contributions, and dues for proclamation and funerals, without poors rates. The annual average ex- pence of the poor, from July 1773 till July 1782, L. 12 2 4  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 From July 1782 till July 1790, - - - 21 1 11  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 The difference from year to year in the laft period is incon- fiderable: The L. 80 ftock having been got within that pe- riod, the poor were probably more liberally treated. In 1782 —3, meal was bought in by the feffion, and fold at an under rate. Some heritors maintained all the poor on their own lands. The roads in Newlands are under the fame aét as in Linton, and ftatute labour commuted at the fame rates.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Drochil Castle, at the confluence of the Forth with the Lyne, was built by Morton, Regent of Scotland. He was beheaded before it was finished.

In some parts of this parish the lands are thirled to mills, to the extent of the sixteenth of all the oats raised; horse corn, and the feed sown on the farm, only excepted. So heavy a thirlage leads the farmer sometimes to sow other grain, when, if it were not for the thirlage, oats would be the more profitable crop.

NUM-

N U M B E R   X I X .

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

*By the Rev. Mr* ROBERT CALLANDER.

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*Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HIS parish is in the county of Wigton, presbytery of Stranraer, and synod of Galloway. It is bounded on the north by Stonnykirk parish; from which, to the southernmost point, or the Mull of Galloway, it is about 10 miles long; on the west it is bounded by the Irish Sea; on the east by the Bay of Glenluce; and is about 2 miles broad. The general appearance of the parish is hilly. Most of the flat grounds produce good crops of corn.

*Bays, &c.*—Mary-Port, thought to be called so in honour of the Virgin Mary, is a small bay on the eastern shore, which is thought a safe anchoring place when the wind blows from the west. But Drumore, where ships of burden frequently put in, in bad weather, is the safest of any in the parish. Besides these there are Curgie and Kiltay Bay. There was once a pier at the Bay of Port Nessock; but it is now in ruins. This would be a commodious place for shipping, if a good harbour were built. Ships anchor with safety when the weather is stormy from the east. On this shore, towards the south, in the warm season of the year, there is a va-

riety of marine plants growing at the foot, and on the cliffs of the rocks. There is a sea weed, of which a considerable quantity of kelp is made. Samphire grows in considerable plenty, and is gathered for pickling. In going from West Tarbert to the point of Mull, there rises a very bold and elevated coast. It is about the extent of a mile, and projects itself as the boundary between the Irish Sea and the Bay of Luce. In a high westerly wind, a prodigious swell and weight of sea rolls around that point. It is awfully grand. Here the sea has formed caverns, which are rendered dreadful by a setting in tide and a strong westerly wind. The noise is like loud claps of thunder. On the extremity of the point in a fine day, there is a charming prospect of the north of England, Isle of Man, Ireland, &c. Ships pass and repass this point from England, Ireland, and the west of Scotland. There have been several wrecks. It seems to be a proper situation for a light-house. There is abundance of fish every where on the coast, of good quality and great variety. The shell-fish, oysters and lobsters, are very good of their kind.

*Produce, &c.*—This parish abounds in corn and cattle. Potatoes and other vegetables are plentiful. The farmers lay their account with paying one half of their rent by the sale of cattle, and the other half by corn. Barley and oats thrive in this soil and climate, and their quantity is considerable. The farmers export annually between 200 and 300 bolls, Linlithgow measure. The boll of barley sells this year (1790) at 13 s.; oats at 10 s. 6 d. per boll. The Winchester bushel of barley will weigh, at an average, about 46 or 47 lbs. English. The farmers are industrious, and are making improvements, by liming, &c. The rent of any farm does not exceed L. 150 *per annum*. A farm of the best ground  
in

in the parish was lately let at 17 s. per acre. The rental of the parish is about L. 2600 *per annum*.

*Population.*—Annual average of births, from 1716 to 1726,

					27
_____	_____	_____	_____	marriages	5
_____	_____	_____	_____	deaths	21
_____	_____	_____	_____	births, from 1750 till	
1760	-	-	-	-	28
_____	_____	_____	_____	marriages	4
_____	_____	_____	_____	deaths	15
_____	_____	_____	_____	births, from 1760 till	
1770	-	-	-	-	24
_____	_____	_____	_____	marriages, nearly	6
_____	_____	_____	_____	deaths	17
_____	_____	_____	_____	births, from 1770 till	
1780	-	-	-	-	28
_____	_____	_____	_____	marriages, nearly	6
_____	_____	_____	_____	deaths	14
_____	_____	_____	_____	births, from 1780 till	
1790, nearly	-	-	-	-	40
_____	_____	_____	_____	marriages	8
_____	_____	_____	_____	deaths	20

In 1717, nearly 37 died of the small-pox. In 1721, 46 died, mostly of fevers. In 1725, there were 43 who died, mostly of the small-pox. In 1785, 47 died, mostly of an epidemical fever. The return of the population to Dr Webster was 1051. In 1773, there were 212 families, and 900 persons above 6 years of age. At present (1790) the number of inhabitants is 1380, and of families 285.

*Church, School, &c.*—The remains of the old church is on the  
the

the farm of the Mull. It was supposed to have been dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The present one is more central, and was built A. D. 1633. The Earl of Stair is patron. There are two other heritors; but only one of them resides. The stipend has not yet been augmented, and is only 55 l. 10 s. without any victual. The glebe is considerably short of being legal. At the public school, English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, navigation, and a little Latin, are taught. The salary is 100 merks, and L. 2 : 8 : 0 Sterling, for educating 12 poor boys, out of a mortified fund. English is taught at 1 s. the quarter; writing and arithmetic at 1 s. 6 d. With the emoluments of precentor and session-clerk, the income will not exceed L. 17 or L. 18 Sterling. Near the northern extremity of the parish is another school; the salary about a guinea, and L. 1 : 12 : 0 Sterling for teaching 8 poor boys, out of the same mortified fund. There is generally a third school, without salary, in winter, at the southern extremity of the parish. In both these last, education is at 1 s. the quarter; and the masters have the privilege of going about with the scholars, and lodging with their parents. The number of the scholars at the three schools, taken together, may be about 120.

*Poor.*—The poor belonging to this parish are well provided. Besides the ordinary collections, there are the following funds. Mr Andrew M<sup>c</sup>Murray merchant in London left L. 100, the yearly interest of which is to be applied to the benefit of the schoolmaster, for educating 20 poor boys, natives of this parish. The late Andrew M<sup>c</sup>Dowal, Esq; Lord Bankton, one of the Judges of the Court of Session, left to the poor of this parish L. 100. The yearly interest is divided among them. The late William Adair, Esq; of Flixton, left to the poor L. 400, 3 *per cent.* consol. annuity. These  
three

three gentlemen were born in this parish, and have left a memorial worthy of record.

*Price of Labour and Provisions, &c.*—Servants wages have risen a third within these few years. Female servants who got 20 s. per half year now get 30 s. or more; male servants, who formerly got L. 2, or L. 2 : 10 : 0 per half year, now get L. 3 : 3 : 0, or L. 3 : 10 : 0; some get L. 4. A day labourer's wages is 6 d. with, and 10 d. or 1 s. without victuals. The price of poultry is pretty reasonable; butcher meat is 2½ d. per lb. when plentiful; when scarce, it rises considerably. There is no market nearer than Stranraer. The ale-houses in this parish were numerous till of late; but the new regulation of licensing the houses of persons of a fair character, it is to be hoped, will be attended with the happiest consequences. There are three of these houses licensed in this parish.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is plenty of whin-stone in the parish. The slate quarries are thought valuable, if properly wrought. A good deal of the slate is sent to market. There are several caves, curiosities of their kind; in one of them there is a petrifying water, which drops from the roof. In another on the eastern shore, according to tradition, a hermit lived. The fuel here is peat and turf; and these are scarce, as much of the moor ground has been converted into arable land. The winter is generally moderate. The air is reckoned very wholesome. More flax is raised than formerly; and the ground is proper for it. A lint-mill erected in the parish would be a farther encouragement. The farmers bring their lime from Whitehaven or Ireland, and pay 1 s. 2 d. per Carlisle bushel, which is three Winchester bushels. The trustees are making every exertion to put the  
high-



high-roads in good order. The fund arises from every householder, except the poor, paying 1 s. 8 d. a-year, and every farm 15 s. for the 100 pounds Scots valuation. Plantations of trees do not thrive well here; the keen air blowing from the sea checking their growth.

NUM-

## NUMBER XX.

## PARISH OF TINWALD.

By the Rev. Mr JAMES LAURIE.

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

**T**INWALD, supposed to be derived from the Gaelic, and signifying the *harbour*, or from the Saxon, the *house in a wood*, is situated in the county, synod, and presbytery of Dumfries. Traillflat, probably too of Gaelic extraction, and signifying a *sloping wet side*, was joined to Tinwald in 1650. The form of these united parishes is nearly an oblong of about 6 miles by 4. The parish of Kirkmahoe is the boundary on the north and north-west; Dumfries and Forthwald on the south and south-west; Kirkmichael and Lochmaben on the east and south east. The water of Ae separates the parish from Kirkmichael. It is a pleasant stream, abounding in trout, and sea-fish in their season. It falls into Annan a little above Lochmaben. The parish is separated from Kirkmahoe and Dumfries on the west and south-west by a small stream called Lochar, which, about a quarter of a mile below this, enters into an extensive moss, called Lochar Moss, 11 or 12 miles in length, and in some places 3 in breadth. It supplies the inhabitants of Dumfries, and the surrounding neighbourhood, with fuel. There was a scheme, about 30 years ago, to cut a canal from Solway Frith to  
Lochar-

Lochar-bridge at the head of this mofs. There is only a fall of 14 feet from it to the sea. The estimate of the expence is said to have been L. 10,000. Besides the benefit arising from a communication with the sea, the greatest part of this extensive morafs would have been rendered arable, or fine meadow ground. In its present state, indeed, there are considerable tracts of excellent meadow along the banks of rivulets which run into it from the high grounds on all sides. There are likewise several good farms in different places on the higher parts of the mofs, on both sides of Lochar, which divides it nearly into two equal parts. There is a tradition, univervally credited, that the tide flowed up this whole tract above the highest bridge in the neighbourhood. In the bottom of the mofs sea-mud is found; and the banks are evidently composed of sea-sand. A few years ago, a canoe of considerable size, and in perfect preservation, was found by a farmer, when digging peats, 4 or 5 feet below the surface, about 4 miles above the present flood-mark; but it was destroyed before any Antiquarians had heard of it. Near the same part of the mofs, and about the same depth, a gentleman found a vessel of mixed metal, containing about an English quart, supposed by some to be a Roman *modius*, and by others to be of much greater antiquity, as the Phoenicians, according to tradition, traded with the natives for tin, several hundred years before the Romans had discovered the island. The vessel is still preserved. Antiquities of various kinds are found in every part of this mofs where peats are dug, even near its head, such as anchors, oars, &c.; so that there is no doubt of its having been navigable near a mile above the highest bridge, and fully 12 miles above the present flood mark. Near the manse there is a narrow gut, between two sandy hillocks, called Collyveat, supposed to be a corruption of Collin's boat, where it is thought there was a ferry, which indeed

indeed would be very necessary, on the supposition of the tide flowing there. Lochar, after a course of 11 or 12 miles below this, falls into the Solway Frith. It abounds with pike. The most of this parish is arable. The southern part is much more fertile than that which lies towards the north and east; and the harvest, in general, is three or four weeks earlier. The southern part is of a deep dry loamy soil, and produces wheat, barley, and oats, of the best quality. The north-east part produces all these, though of an inferior quality, the soil being mostly wet, and lying on a bed of till. A gentle rising ridge, running from north to south, divides the united parish.

*Air and Distempers.*—The air, in general, is dry, and reckoned healthy. There have been no prevalent distempers during these last 30 years. The measles are sometimes fatal, especially to adults; but they seldom appear above once in 10 or 12 years. The small-pox was justly dreaded about 20 years ago; but, as inoculation is now generally adopted, that disease is become less fatal.

*Agriculture, Sheep, &c.*—Agriculture was in a very imperfect state previous to 1762. Potatoes of a proper kind, and the planting of them with the plough in drill rows, was introduced after this period, as well as the cultivation of clover and rye-grass. Lime and manure were unknown, except on a few acres of what is called *croft-land*, which was never out of crop. Every farm, except grass ones, of between L 30 and L 40 of yearly rent, may be stated as raising 2 acres of wheat, 4 of barley, about 14 or 15 of oats, and 2 of potatoes. Rye is not much cultivated here, as it is thought to be a robbing crop. The raising of turnip is found to be beneficial, and has increased greatly within these two years. The far-

mers are also beginning to raise cabbage. They generally lay out their wheat and barley fields with clover and ryegrass, which produce excellent crops. They in general begin to sow oats about the 10th of March, barley in the end of April or beginning of May, and wheat in the month of October. They reap their wheat and barley about the middle of August; the oat crop immediately succeeds; and in good years the harvest is concluded in the southern part of the parish before the end of September. The average rent of the best arable land, except three farms, is from 15 s. to L. 1 : 3 : 0 per acre; meadow 1 l. 1 s.; pasturage, not in tillage, though arable, 3 s. and 4 s.; inferior arable from 5 s. to 10 s. The average size of farms, excluding the three large ones already mentioned, is about 100 acres. There are few inclosures in the parish, but the people are very much convinced of their utility. Since the commencement of the new leases, land, formerly uncultivated, has been greatly improved. The parish not only supplies itself with provisions, but annually exports considerable quantities of wheat, barley, oats, oatmeal, and potatoes, of the best kind. The farmers, in general, have a very fine breed of cattle, rather above the middle size. Tinwald parks and shaws, consisting of about 1500 acres, are remarkable for producing the best fat cattle and sheep in this part of the country. There are about 60 or 70 score of sheep in the parish. Of late, an attempt has been made to improve the breed, for the sake of the wool, part of which is now sold at 14 or 15 shillings per stone; though, formerly, 7 or 8 shillings was the common price. A few of the Spanish sheep have been procured, and some of the Shetland kind are wanted. The excellent pasture here has hitherto been found to improve greatly every kind that has been put upon it. Should the spirit of improving the wool become general, it would be a source of immense wealth

to the kingdom, and prevent our being subjected to the caprice of a foreign power for this important article. The rental of the parish is about L. 2559.

*Population.*—The inhabitants were more numerous many years ago, by some hundreds, than at present; ten or more tenants sometimes being turned out with their cottagers to make way for one. In some instances, only the herdsman is retained in the farm. By the state of the population given to Dr Webster, the number was 795. The inhabitants at present amount to 850. The population is increased about 20 since 1785.

Males	-	-	-	-	-	419
Females	-	-	-	-	-	431
Married	-	-	-	-	-	152
Average of children from a marriage between	-	-	-	-	-	5 or 6
Children under 8 years of age	-	-	-	-	-	133
Heritors	-	-	-	-	-	3
Farmers	-	-	-	-	-	55
Cart and plough wrights	-	-	-	-	-	3
Wheelwrights	-	-	-	-	-	1
Masons	-	-	-	-	-	2
Blacksmiths	-	-	-	-	-	4
Weavers	-	-	-	-	-	9
Shoemakers	-	-	-	-	-	4
Tailors	-	-	-	-	-	4
Seceders	-	-	-	-	-	21
Roman Catholic families	-	-	-	-	-	1
Inhabited houses	-	-	-	-	-	180

The proportion of the annual births and deaths, is 11 or 12 to 7.

*Poor.*

*Poor.*—The number of the poor in this parish varies from 14 to 20. They are maintained by the weekly contribution, which is about L. 15 *per annum*, and from a fund of L. 140, mortified by several individuals for that purpose. There is no instance of any of them going out of the parish; and they are seldom troublesome to the inhabitants.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—The ordinary wages for labourers in husbandry is 1 s. without, or 8 d. with victuals. A married man prefers the shilling. Their families are generally supported decently. None of them are known to be in want, or even to receive charity. Carpenters, bricklayers, and masons, have from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 10 d. without victuals; taylors 8 d. with victuals; male servants from L. 6 : 10 to L. 10 and more *per annum*; maid servants from L. 2 : 10 to L. 4. The present price of beef is from 3 s. 6 d. to 5 s. 6 d. per stone; veal is between 3 d. and 4 d. per lb.; mutton from 3 d. to 5 d.; lamb about 3 d.; pork 3 d. and 4 d. The price of a duck is from 8 d. to 1 s.; of a goose 1 s. 10 d.; chickens are 7 d. and 8 d. per pair; butter from 7 d. to 11 d. per lb.; common cheese from 3 d. to 4 d. The Carlisle bushel, or 3 Winchester bushels of wheat, sells from 16 s. to L. 1 : 1 : 0; barley from 2 s. to 3 s. per Winchester bushel, and sometimes more; oats from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. and often more; oat-meal from 1 s. to 2 s. 4 d. per stone. The price of labour and provisions is nearly doubled within these last 30 years.

*Church and Stipend.*—The church of Tinwald was rebuilt in 1763. The manse was built in 1720, but has been several times repaired. New offices with slate roofs were built about 12 years ago; and the whole repaired in 1790. The stipend is L. 77 : 4 : 0. The glebe consists of 15 acres, and, taken  
along

along with the manse and offices, may be rated at between L. 15 and L. 20. The King is patron of the old parish of Trailflat, and the Duke of Queensberry of Tinwald.

*Antiquities.*—A branch of the Roman road from Brunfwark runs through the parishes of Drysdale and Lochmaben, enters the old parish of Trailflat, and passes by Amisfield house, where there are very distinct traces of an ancient *castrum*. This road terminates in the parish of Kirkmahoe, at the small village of Dunscore. There are also very distinct traces of a British fort on the top of Barfell Hill, about a mile from the church.

*Eminent Men.*—The famous Paterfon, who, it is said, planned the Darien scheme, the Bank of England, &c. was born at Skipmyre, a farm in the old parish of Trailflat, about the year 1660. He does not seem to have been an *obscure* Scotchman, as a certain writer styles him; he more than once represented Dumfries, &c. in the Scotch parliament. The same house gave birth to his grandnephew, Dr James Mounsey, first physician for many years to the Empress of Russia. The widow, who now enjoys the farm, is sister to Dr John Rodgerfon, who succeeded Dr Mounsey as first physician to the Empress.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—With regard to the advantages of this parish, it may be observed, that a spring of fine water may be found in almost every field. It is intersected in various places by fine rivulets. It is near the market town of Dumfries. The turnpike road to Edinburgh passes through it, on which a mail coach runs once a day, and a diligence often three times a week. Other roads in the parish are very bad: There is, however, sufficiency of money for repairs.



pairs. The statute labour is commuted. The general opinion is much in favour of turnpikes. One of the most extensive bleachfields in Scotland is carried on at Trailflat. There are only 3 small villages. There is one lake of about 5 or 6 acres in extent. It is said that a set of farm houses once stood on the spot which this lake now occupies, and that they were sunk by an earthquake. Almost every farmer has two carts. Two horses will draw, in light single carts, 16 creels of coal from Sanquhar with greater ease than 10 creels in a heavy double cart. In 1782, the parish not only supplied itself, but exported grain in considerable quantities. Property in land has been frequently changing; but some farms have been rented by the same family for the space of 300 years. About nine years ago the parish abounded with wood; but only a few trees now remain. The woods on one estate sold for L. 6000. The people, with a few exceptions, are industrious and sober. They enjoy many of the comforts of society: Their houses, however, are in general miserable hovels. Till within these two or three years, upwards of 500 bushels of malt were made in the parish by different tenants for their own use, and to supply labourers at a reasonable rate, the excise of which, though moderate, amounted to a considerable sum; but they are now almost totally deprived of this comfort, owing chiefly to the severity of the excise laws, and are in danger of being driven to the *dram-shop*, which is at once pernicious to their health and destructive of their morals.

NUM.

N U M B E R   X X I .

P A R I S H   O F   C R O S S M I C H A E L .

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN JOHNSTONE.*

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*Origin of the Name.*

**I**N old writings, the name of this parish is Corsemichael; but of late the orthography in the title has been more in use. The etymology is obviously Saint Michael's Cross.

*Situation, Extent, and Surface.*—This parish lies near the center of the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, in the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, and synod of Galloway. It is nearly of a rectangular form. Its length, from north to south, is about 5 English miles; and its breadth, from east to west, from 3 to 4. It is bounded on the north by Parton; on the east by the river or water of Urr, which separates it from Kirkpatrick-Durham and Urr; on the south by Buittle and Kelton; and on the west by the Dee, which separates it from Balma-ghie. About a sixth part of this parish, contiguous to its northern border, is mostly covered with heath and coarse grass, and contains a few hills of moderate elevation, which in general are rocky. A great part of the farms in this neighbourhood is capable of improvement, and is daily receiving it: The rest of the parish presents a surface very beautifully diversified. The land rises in the form of a ridge from the two rivers, and is, at regular distances, interspersed with gentle

the swells, or, as they are called, knows, all of which are arable, and, when properly dressed, have a fine effect. Along the Dee is an extensive and fertile valley.

*Soil, Climate, &c.*—The soil is extremely various; such as loam, meadow, holm, till, gravelly or sandy. The whole is remarkable for producing exuberant crops of grain, and a species of natural grass, which, though not tall, is excellent pasturage. A good deal of rain falls in most parts of the west of Scotland. There is, however, rather less here than in the adjacent parishes, because the high hills which collect the vapours, and break the clouds, are at a considerable distance. The air is by no means moist: Snow seldom lies long; and, on the whole, this place is as healthy as any in Britain. Since the moorlands have been drained, the ague, which was the only prevalent distemper, has quite disappeared. The two rivers which bound its eastern and western extremities, promote a constant circulation of air, and prevent noxious vapours from collecting. The people live not in towns or villages, and most of them are employed in agriculture, which is favourable at once to health, longevity, and morals. Within these 20 years, at least 12 persons have died in the lower parts of Galloway, from 100 to 115 years old. William Marshall, a tinker in this place, is now 118. He might pass for a man of 60. His faculties are unimpaired, and he walks through the country with ease. One thing must here be stated as highly pernicious. The advanced duties on malt have almost entirely abolished the practice of brewing. Ale-houses no longer exist; but dram-houses have been substituted in their place, which the cheapness of whisky, and the contraband trade in foreign spirits carried on in this country, tempt the people to frequent too much.

*Lakes,*

*Lakes, Rivers, and Canals.*—There are two lakes or lochs to be taken notice of. Erngrogo Loch is remarkable for two small islands on it, which are breeding places for sea-gulls, that repair thither in great quantities at the proper season. Loch Rohn, or Roan, somewhat larger than the former, is a very great natural curiosity. Its superficial contents are from 36 to 40 acres, and its depth is from 10 to 22 fathoms. It is situated in the highest part of the adjacent country. No rivulets or streams run into it, nor has it any visible supply except the clouds. Its waters are exceedingly clear, and, unless the frost be very intense, it seldom freezes. At the mouth of the Urr there is a small harbour, at which English lime and coals are imported, and grain and meal exported. The Dee is formed by the junction of the Dee and the Ken, two miles and a half above the head of this parish, whence they proceed in their course under the name of the Dee, till they fall into the sea below Kirkcudbright. The breadth of the Dee, opposite to this parish, is from 700 to 2220 feet. There are several fords when the water is low; but all of them are dangerous, and have been fatal to several persons, as the pools are not seen on account of the blackness of the water. There are two ferries here: One is called the Boat of Balmaghie; and about a mile above is the Boat of Livingston. The water here is 45 feet deep; and this is the place at which the canal, to be afterwards mentioned, would join the Dee. The meadows along the Dee, which are very extensive, never fail to be laid under water after a heavy fall of rain. During the winter, the floods are so frequent, and leave such quantities of sand, that the meadows are rendered unfit for pasturage. In some places, earthen banks or mounds have been erected, are erecting, or may be erected with advantage; but by far the greater part of the meadows cannot possibly be saved from the inundations. Some years ago, Mr

Gordon of Culvennan, at his own expence, cut a canal to connect the Dee with Carlinwark Loch. Thus, boats carrying from 10 to 24 cart load of marle each, passed up to New Galloway, situated 15 miles from the loch. Marle sold at the loch at 1 s. per cart load; or 21 cubical feet was sold at New Galloway at 1 s. 9 d.; and proportionally lower at other places by the way. The canal is only on a small scale, and at present out of repair. The rocks at Tongland bridge, and its shallowness between them and this place, prevent the Dee from being navigable for 8 or 10 miles. It might, however, be connected with the sea at two places by a canal, by which vessels might carry up the means of improvement to a country that wants them, and return with fuel to one in which the want of this necessary article prevents the introduction of manufactures. An actual survey has lately been made; and, from the estimates of skillful engineers, it appears that the wished for communication might be opened for L. 9000. A curious fact has been ascertained by Mr Copland, viz. that the rivers in this neighbourhood have considerably decreased of late, and that the Urr did not discharge into the sea a third part of the water it did 40 years ago. Mr Copland thus accounts for this striking phenomenon. Land uncultivated, and covered with heath, is almost impenetrable by water; and, of course, the rain that falls must run off its surface into the channels of the rivers. This was the state of the land here till it began to be improved by marle and lime. The application of these manures pulverises the ground, and prepares it for absorbing the rain. Besides, as it is well known that water is a material part of the food of plants, less of it will be left to flow into a river, when at least "four blades of grass, and four ears of corn, have been made to grow on its banks, where there was only one before."

*Fish.*

*Fish.*—The Urr abounds with trouts, and a great many falmon come to spawn in it; but few are taken or fold here. There is a great falmon fishery on the Dee at Kirkcudbright, and another at Tongland, about two miles above it. The falmon of the Dee are of a darker colour, and much fatter, than those of most other rivers in the south of Scotland. Few of them get over the steep rocks at Tongland except when the water is swelled, and those that do are obliged to make the best of their way past the loch of Ken, as its inhabitants are not remarkable for hospitality: These are, the pike or ged, the perch, and the eel. The pike are found here in great perfection, and of an uncommon size: They are always in season when the weather permits them to be caught. They are caught with the fly, or with lines baited with burn trouts or frogs. The perch were first introduced into this river and loch in the year 1750, by the late Alexander Copland, Esq; of Collieston. Since that time they have multiplied remarkably, and are now taken in great quantities, especially about midsummer, by those who fish with worm baits for amusement. The eels are never interrupted in their possession of the waters, as the country people have an insuperable prejudice against feeding on an animal which so strongly resembles the serpent. The case, however, was different in former times. In the dark ages, when the art of cookery was but little understood, there was, in this parish, a fishery of eels, which were exported to Italy. This is mentioned by Hector Boethius, and after him by Buchanan.

*Population.*—As records have not been regularly kept, the antient state of population here cannot be precisely ascertained. The knowledge of some facts hath however been preserved. From the year 1751 to 1761 the baptisms were 128, being, on an average, about 13 yearly. For the 16 following  
years

years about 17 yearly, as the whole amounted to 278. According to the return made to Dr Webster about 40 years ago, this parish contained 613 souls. On an actual enumeration, it was found, on the 1st January 1791, to contain 772. The inhabitants have therefore increased 159 since that time. At present, there are persons

Under 10 years of age	-	-	-	200
Between 10 and 20	-	-	-	125
—— 20 —— 50	-	-	-	336
—— 50 —— 70	-	-	-	82
—— 70 —— 90	-	-	-	29

Total 772

Of these 380 are males, and 392 are females. They occupy 163 houses, 14 of which have only one inhabitant each. In one village there are 70, and in another 36 souls. All the rest live in the country.

Abstract, for the last seven years, of

	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1784	- 20	- 3	- 16
1785	- 23	- 1	- 11
1786	- 19	- 4	- 7
1787	- 24	- 6	- 8
1788	- 21	- 5	- 9
1789	- 24	- 2	- 3
1790	- 17	- 10	- 6
	——	——	——
Total	148	31	60
	——	——	——
Average nearly	21	4	8

Of

Of those who have died in the course of these seven years, 12 were under 4 years of age; 9 from 60 to 70; 16 from 70 to 85; and 23 of various ages. The annual births have been to the whole population as 1 to 36; the marriages as 1 to 192; the deaths as 1 to 98. This last circumstance affords a striking proof of the uncommon healthiness of the place.

*Causes which have affected the State of Population.*—Formerly there were a considerable number of *lot-crofts*, that is, small pieces of land kept always in crop, and let along with cottages, and the privilege of grafs for one or two cows. The abolition of these about 20 or 30 years ago, and the practice of throwing several farms into one, occupied chiefly for the purpose of grazing, gave a temporary check to population. A very large tract of the finest land in this parish was for a number of years in the possession of one man, who neither resided upon, nor ploughed it. Of late, marle and lime have contributed greatly to the improvement of the country; and, as agriculture requires more hands than pasturage, population has been increasing with rapidity. The farms have been reduced to a smaller size; and only three are occupied by tenants who do not reside upon them. In a few years a considerable number will probably be added to the people, by the execution of a plan adopted, on part of their estates, by three gentlemen, to whom a large portion of the parish belongs. The plan is this: As soon as a lease expires (and several hundred acres now are, or have lately been in the natural possession of the proprietors) the farm is parcelled out into small lots, from 4 to 15 acres each of arable ground. These, properly fenced, are let to those who offer the highest rent. The tenants sue house-steads and gardens, for which they pay a duty, at the rate of L. 2 or L. 4 per acre annually, and



and on which they build at their own expence what houses they need. Of the adjoining park they get a 19 years lease, at about double the rent which was paid by farmers, properly so called. Several of these lots are taken, to be entered on now, or at Whitsunday next. The tenants are either tradesmen or labourers, who propose to consume in their families the produce of the land, and to pay the rent out of the money they receive for working for others.

*Division of the Inhabitants*—According to,

1st, Place of Birth.		3d, Occupations.	
Natives of England	4	The steward depute	1
—— Ireland	10	The minister	1
—— Isle of Man	5	The schoolmaster	1
—— Highlands	1	Farmers renting L. 15—	
—— Edinburgh	3	L. 170	41
—— Galloway and		Farmers under L. 15	27
Dumfries	749	Weavers	5
		Shoemakers	4
Total	772	Taylors and 3 apprentices	7
		Blacksmiths and 1 do.	3
		Masons and 5 do.	10
		Joiners and 1 do.	6
		Dyer and 1 do.	2
		Shopkeepers	3
		Small innkeepers	2
		Male servants	51
		Female servants	54
		Millar	1
		Labouring cottagers	55
		Paupers	7
		Families of the above, &c.	491
		Total	772

2d, Religious Persuasions.

Cameronians	14
Their children	12
Antiburghers	15
Their children	9
Episcopalians	2
Roman Catholic	1
Established church	719
Total	772

*Character*

*Character of the People.*—In their religious sentiments, the inhabitants of Galloway are apparently more united than those of most other parts of Scotland. Within the bounds of the extensive presbytery of Kirkcudbright, there is not a dissenting meeting-house of any description. The morals of the people in this country have, from three causes, sustained material injury. Its vicinity to Ireland has rendered it the receptacle of some of the least respectable of the inhabitants of that kingdom. The cattle trade is less favourable than agriculture to sobriety and honesty; But, above all, smuggling, for which our local situation is but too favourable, tends to relax every moral obligation. But, while these general remarks are made, it is by no means admitted that the conduct of the inhabitants of this parish furnishes any extraordinary evidence of their truth. None have occasion to beg without the bounds of the parish. Vagrants never repeat without effect a real or a fictitious tale of woe; and when extraordinary collections are made for any charitable purpose, this parish yields not to any of its neighbours in point of liberality. The stile of manners are such as may be expected to characterise a people in a state between rudeness and refinement, possessed of a competent portion of the comforts of life, without having obtained the means of luxury.

*Church, &c.*—The manse was built in 1744, and the church in 1751. Both have been repaired and enlarged since the ordination of the present incumbent. Ten acres have been added to  $5\frac{1}{2}$ , of which the glebe formerly consisted. By decret 1784, the stipends are, 42 bolls victual, and L. 762:16:10 Scots money. The value of the whole living, on an average, may be L. 112 Sterling. Alexander Gordon of Culvannan, Esq; is patron. Mr John Johnstone, a batchellor, is the present incumbent.

*Schools.*

*Schools.*—In the year 1735, William Gordon, Esq; merchant in Bristol, built a school and schoolmaster's house, and endowed it with a salary of L. 10 *per annum*, on condition that all the children of the parish should be taught *gratis*. As the expence of living advanced, the schoolmaster found this provision too small for his support. In the year 1775, he presented a petition to the commissioners of supply, and obtained a legal salary of 200 merks Scots. His living, therefore, including gratuities at Candlemas, may amount to L. 23 on an average. The houses formerly built having become ruinous, new ones were erected in the year 1787, in a more central situation, and the expence of them was defrayed out of the vacant stipends, which fell due during the dependence of a law-suit, about the right of patronage, previous to the settlement of the present minister. At this school about 60 children are instructed in Latin, English, writing, arithmetic, &c. There are several private teachers, whom a few neighbouring families employ and pay.

*Poor.*—On an average, seven or eight persons are maintained by alms. At present, two are supported out of the parochial funds. Five, who can earn part of their subsistence, receive a small quarterly contribution; and three others are occasionally relieved as their necessities require. The funds arise entirely from the voluntary offerings of the people. The collections in the church are about L. 19 *per annum*. The principal heritor makes up the loss, which the poor would otherwise sustain from his non-residence, by ordering a considerable quantity of meal to be distributed among them annually, according to the direction of the session, and by furnishing constant employment in his gardens and policy to several old and blind men, at the rate of 6 d. per day, which prevents them from becoming public burdens.

*The*

*The Prices of Provisions and Labour, and the Expences of a Labourer's Family*,—Differ so little here from those in the parish of Holywood, that the reader may be safely referred to the account given in pages 26, 27, and 28, of this volume. It must, however, be observed, that the price of some articles, though nominally the same in both places, is really lower here; for the Kirkcudbright pound of cheese, butter, &c. consisting of 28 ounces, is 4 ounces heavier than that of Dumfries. Meal is for the most part 1 d. per stone cheaper here than it is there. A great part of the harvest work is performed by persons from the moors, who hire for the whole harvest, which includes reaping, putting in the crop, and thatching the stacks. Their wages are from L. 1 : 1 : 0 to L. 1 : 6 : 0. They sleep and are maintained in the farmers houses, whether the weather permits them to work or not.

*Division, Rent, and Price of Land.*—In the year 1771, a very accurate map of this parish was drawn by Mr William M'Cartney land surveyor; but, as this map was never engraven, only two copies are extant. The number, size, and rents of the estates are as under :

Estates.	Acres.	Valuation.	Real Rent.
1.	2840	L. 1286 0 0	L. 1200
2.	923	562 3 4	450
3.	850	256 13 4	170
4.	244	96 0 0	100
5.	198	135 0 0	138
6.	306	92 0 0	105
7.	301	95 0 0	100
Carried over 5662		L. 2522 16 8	L. 2263

These seven belong to non-resident heritors.

Estates.	Acres.	Valuation.			Real Rent.
		Scots.			Sterling.
Brought over	5662	L. 2522	16	8	L. 2263
8.	1076	470	10	0	630
9.	240	150	0	0	180
10.	208	138	0	0	100
11.	350	82	13	4	86
12.	66	27	10	0	66
13.	66	27	10	0	66
14.	18	12	0	0	18
15.	8	10	0	0	8
16.	2	20	0	0	3
Total	7696	L. 3461	0	0	L. 3420

The proprietors of these nine reside upon them.

The moor grounds are let, on an average, at 2s. or 2s. 6d. per acre; arable and pasture, of inferior quality, from 6s. to 12s.; the best arable, pasture, and meadow, from L. 1 to L. 1 : 10 : 0. The importance of inclosures is acknowledged, and the number of them is daily increasing. A great many farms have been sold, since the last peace, at the rate of from 23 to 28 years purchase.

*Implements and Operations of Husbandry.*—There are 80 ploughs, 120 carts, and 218 horses, all of which, except a few young horses, are employed in the improvement and cultivation of land. This is a country in a middle state between pasturage and agriculture. Of late years, calcareous manures, both foreign and indigenous, have been much used, and leases have been granted on terms calculated to encourage the purchase and application of them. The tenants have it in their power to plough annually a fourth, and some a third part of their arable ground, provided they can carry on their ploughing

ing in a regular course, always opening the oldest ground first, and taking only three, or, if one of them be green, four successive crops from the same field, and allowing it afterwards to rest at least six years. Except potatoes, few green crops are raised here, chiefly owing to the want of proper fences for preserving turnips or cabbages from the cattle during winter; and also because the practice of housing cattle has not yet become general, and, of course, such quantities of dung as these crops would require are not collected. Not above 10 or 12 acres of wheat are sown annually; those sown with barley may exceed 100. About a third part of the lands, as it goes out, is sown down with rye grass and clover seeds; and, if it has not been previously impoverished by over-cropping, the hay produced, both in point of quantity and quality, is highly valuable. The staple grain is oats. The small or grey oats have almost entirely given place to the white oats, though they are still less pure, and of an inferior quality to those raised in countries where improvements have been longer introduced. Of late, some farmers have cultivated a species of black oats, which are sooner ripe, and yield more meal, than any hitherto tried. In general, oats raised from ground improved with marle yield less meal than those from ground improved with lime, because the shell or hull of the former oats is thicker. The marle, however, is found to be the best manure for grass, and to be peculiarly adapted to the soil of Galloway. The farmers lay their account with paying one term's rent out of the profits of their crop, and the other out of those of their cattle. Most of the marle discovered in this parish has been exhausted. The principal resource now is the loch of Carlinwark, in the parish of Kelton, which abundantly supplies the demands of the country. This loch was sold three years ago for L. 2000.

*Produc-*

*Productions.*—About 80 acres are planted with trees, all of which are in a thriving condition. Grass is raised for the 218 horses mentioned above, and for 4 asses, 25 goats, 600 sheep, and 1840 black cattle. The breeding system is in general pursued. The highest recommendation of a cow is, that she brings up a good beast, and not, as elsewhere, that she gives much milk; and it has even become a proverb, that “a good farmer would rather kill his old son than kill a calf.” The Galloway cattle have one characteristic which naturalists may think incredible; they are almost all without horns! Dr Samuel Johnson, in his journey to the Western Islands, (London edition, 1775, pag. 186), has the following notable passage: “Of their black cattle, some are without horns, called by the Scots humble cows, as we call a bee a humble bee that wants a sting. Whether this difference be specific or accidental, though we inquired *with great diligence*, we could not be informed. We are not very sure that the bull is ever without horns, though we have been told that such bulls there are. What is produced by putting a horned and an unhorned male and female together, no man has ever tried, who thought the result worthy of observation.” Though it may favour of arrogance, the high authority quoted must be flatly contradicted. There is not within the bounds of this parish a single bull, nor a male of any other species, except a few goats and rams, with horns. The experiment the philosopher wished for, has been tried a thousand times, and the result has been observed to be a calf, sometimes with, and sometimes without horns, but never, as the Doctor most probably expected, an *unicorn*. A few cattle are fatted here for home consumption, and for the Dumfries market; but the far greater part of those reared are disposed of, at 3 and 4 years of age, to the drovers, who carry them up to London, but chiefly to Norfolk and Suffolk.

Some

Some drovers turn from L. 30,000 to L. 35,000 *per annum*. With respect to other provisions, this parish does more than supply itself. At Dumfries there is a ready market for fat swine, which are bought up and cured for the use of the English. Some barley, and a very great quantity of oats and oat-meal, are annually sent by land carriage to New Galloway and Damellington, to supply the moor country; and still greater quantities are shipped at the foot of the Urr and the Dee, for Liverpool, Whithaven, and the manufacturing towns in Lanark and Renfrewshire. Hares and partridges abound here, and they are even increasing, although none of our heritors are so attached to the game laws as to make an annual publication, in the newspapers, of their determined purpose to become the avengers of blood on the iniquitous generation of poachers.

*Roads.*—About a mile of the great military road (made by government) from the English border to Portpatrick, passes through the south end of this parish. Some years ago, the statute labour was converted by act of parliament. The inhabitants of this district pay at present the *maximum*, which is 15 s. Sterling for each L. 100 Scots valuation. Several good lines of road have been fixed on, and some of them are about half made. There is still much room for improvement. There are no turnpikes in this, or in the neighbouring county of Wigton. Turnpike roads would be very acceptable, if the ceremony of collecting money at the toll-bars could be dispensed with. It is doubted how far they would be expedient on any other terms. If they shall take place, manures ought to be exempted, and a very moderate tax should be laid on cattle, where the trade in them is carried on to so great an extent.

*Antiquities;*



*Antiquities.*—There are in this parish ten irregular heaps of loose stones, which antiquaries called *Pictish cairns*. Three of these have been opened by persons still alive; and in each of them some human bones have been found, in coffins considerably above the ordinary size. There are several moats, as in other parts of Scotland; remains of ancient and later fortifications. The foundations of a very large convent was lately discovered, about which record and tradition are silent. Farmers in ploughing, and labourers in digging, have frequently found Roman urns, swords, and other implements.

*Language, and Etymology of Names of Places.*—The language spoken here is neither English nor Scottish, but a mixture of both. With the exception of a few provincial words and phrases, the inhabitants speak with more propriety than those of the same station in most parts of Scotland. The names of places are derived from the English, the Gaelic, and from combinations of both. Many of them are descriptive of the situations of places, or of their dependence on the church, &c.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The advantages of this place, as must appear from what hath been said, are very considerable. The chief disadvantages which it labours under, are the scarcity and dearth of fuel, and the length and badness of the roads over which it must be brought. The plough has almost totally removed the whins, and other brush-wood, which formerly were of material service to the poor. As there are few mosses in the parish, most of the peats must be brought from the distance of 4 or 5 miles; and even there the proprietors will scarcely dispose of them at any price. Some people bring coals, by land carriage, 40 miles from Damellington in Airshire. This country might be furnished with English coals,  
were

were it not for the duty preposterously imposed on those that are water-borne, and exacted by the revenue officers with great rigour. Scarcely any grievance calls more loudly for redress. If a duty must be had from coals, it would certainly be more consistent with the wisdom of parliament to lay it on at the pit, than to collect it solely from those whose local situation subjects them to the additional expences of freight and insurance.

N U M.

## N U M B E R XXII.

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

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM DONALDSON.**Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.*

**T**HE name of this parish, for more than 300 years past, has been spelt Parton; and Parton, though probably altered, both in orthography and pronunciation, from the Gaelic, whence it is derived, is said to signify in that language *the hill top*, which is perfectly descriptive of the situation. Most of the names of places here are derived from the Gaelic, and, under all the disguises of writing and pronunciation, are still understood and interpreted by those who are skilled in that language. This parish lies in the stewartry and presbytery of Kirkcudbright, and synod of Galloway. It approaches to a square form, 5 miles on each side. It is bounded on the north by Balmaclellan; on the east by Kirkpatrick-Durham, from which it is separated by the small river Urr; on the south-east by Crossmichael; on the south by Balmaghie, from which it is separated by the Dee; on the west and south-west by Kells, from which it is separated by the Ken, a river that is in some places near a mile broad. The parish is from 10 to 15 miles from the nearest sea-port; and no roads are opened up to its interior parts. The arable ground is of a light or sandy quality. The ground is very unequal. There are

no considerable mountains, but many little hills. The flats and eminencies are generally covered with heath, except in the southern border, where furze and broom used to prevail before the improved mode of cultivation.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The number of farms is between 40 and 50. Each hath a plough. The old Scottish plough is used in breaking up the ground, when 3, and often 4, horses are used a-breast. In the subsequent ploughings, a lighter plough, with 2 horses and 1 man, is used. It is supposed that 400 acres may be annually employed in raising oats, 6 or 8 in barley, and 50 in potatoes. Potatoes make a principal article of food of the lower classes of the people; and, with a small degree of attention, the old crop continues good till succeeded by the new. On the sale and exportation of sheep, wool, black cattle and oats, the farmers depend for the paying of their rents. Oats are sown from the middle to the end of March, and reaped from the end of August to the end of September. Potatoes are planted in the beginning of April, and are ready at Lammas. Most part of the farms are inclosed with stone dykes. The advantages of such inclosures are well known. The land rent of the parish is near L. 2000. Land sells from 27 to 32 years purchase. The nature of the ground in different farms is very different. One, consisting of 45 acres, lately let at L. 48 *per annum*; another, of more than 400 acres, let for L. 40. The rent of farms is from L. 10 to L. 120 *per annum*. Although the rents of some farms have been even doubled within these last 30 years, yet the condition of the people is much improved.

*Air and Distempers.*—The air is salubrious, and there are no epidemic distempers, if we except rheumatic complaints, which, for these last 40 years, have prevailed among all ranks.

*Mineral Springs, Lakes, and Rivers.*—There is a mineral spring, which is supposed to possess, in some degree, the qualities of the old well at Moffat. It was formerly much frequented by the common people, but is now quite neglected. No cures have been properly authenticated. Perhaps the water was used in an injudicious manner. There are seven small lakes plentifully stored with trout. The river Dee joins the Ken about half a mile above the kirk, from whence it has the name Dee till it enters the Solway Frith at Kirkcudbright. In a flood, the Dee sometimes rises 8 feet perpendicularly, by which large tracts of meadow ground are overflowed. This, in summer, is very hurtful to the hay; but, in winter and spring, considerably improves the crop. Opposite to Parton, the river is from 100 yards to half a mile broad, and from 10 to 30 feet deep. It abounds in pike and perch. The former are caught from 3 to 40 lb.; the latter from 1 to 4 or 5. Formerly the moors afforded great plenty of black and red game; hares and partridges are still in abundance; woodcocks appear in the end of October.

*Quarries.*—A slate quarry, not a mile from the river, was formerly wrought, but by unskillful management has gone into disrepute. In the opinion of judges, it might still be rendered valuable, considering the spirit of improvement, especially of building, which seems to prevail much in this part of the country.

*Population.*—The return of the population to Dr Webster

was	-	-	-	-	-	396
Inhabitants in the year 1790	-	-	-	-	-	409
The annual average of marriages from 1744 to 1782						4
————— births	-	-	-	-	-	11
————— deaths	-	-	-	-	-	8
						13

In 1761, the number of souls above six years of age, exclusive of seceders and Papists - - - 400  
 (The diminution since that period is owing to great farms)

Inhabited houses	- - - -	100
Families (4 of them Catholics and 4 Seceders)	-	80
Persons in a family, at an average,	- -	5
Proprietors of land (the patron and three others reside in the parish)	- - - -	12
Mechanics of all descriptions	- -	10
Horses	- - - - -	120
Cattle	- - - - -	1000
Sheep	- - - - -	3000
Goats, not above	- - - - -	60

A few years ago, a man died above 90, who, about 8 months before his death, got a complete set of new teeth, which he employed till near his last breath to excellent purpose. He was four times married, had children by all his wives, and at the baptism of his last child, which happened not a year before his death, with an air of complacency expressed his thankfulness to his Maker for having "at last sent him *the cled score,*" i. e. 21.

*Church and Stipend.*—The church, situated within 200 yards of the river, is remarkable for little else than its darkness and disproportion, being 65 feet long, and 14½ broad. The pulpit is of solid oak, curiously carved, and bearing date 1598. The manse, rebuilt in 1777, had additions and repairs in 1789, and is now large and commodious. The stipend is L. 83:6:8; the manse and glebe L. 10. William Glendonwyne of Glendonwyne, Esq; is the patron.

*Poor.*

*Poor.*—At an average for 20 years past, the number of poor who have received stated or occasional supplies are 6. The annual collections, and the interest of lent money, amount to L. 10 *per annum*. In 1782—3, though the meal got up to half-a-crown the stone, yet the poor were competently supplied, and the other inhabitants lived much in their usual stile.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—In 1761, the yearly wages of a man servant were L. 2 : 10, of a maid servant L. 1 : 10. In 1790, the former have advanced to L. 8, or L. 8 : 10, and the latter from L. 3 to L. 4 *per annum*. A labourer's wages are 8 d. and his victuals; a mason's or carpenter's 1 s.; a taylor's 8 d. There is no stated market here for provisions. In 1761, a fat sheep, weighing from 40 to 50 lbs. sold for 7s. or 7s. 6d.; a dozen of eggs for 1 d.; a hen for 4 d.; a pound of butter for 6 d.; a stone of cheese for 3 s.; and a stone of oat meal for 1 s. Now, all these articles, except the last, are nearly doubled.

*Fuel, &c.*—Peat is the general fuel. It is scarce in the southern parts; and the poorer sort of people use broom and furze. It is plentiful in the middle and eastern parts, and of the best quality. The mosses are of difficult access, as no proper roads are opened. The inhabitants are obliged to carry home their peat on horse-back in corn sacks, as carts cannot be used. There are no turnpike roads in this part of Galloway. The principal road here, which goes along the river, will be made good by a commutation of the statute labour, at the rate of 15 s. the L. 100 valued rent, which annually produces L. 22 Sterling.

*Antiquities.*—Near the church there is an artificial mount,

120 yards circumference at the base, which is circular. It is surrounded with a ditch from 6 to 9 feet deep, whence the earth which composes the mount appears to have been taken. About half a mile north there is another mount, nearly double the dimensions of the former, inclosed with two ditches. On a gentle eminence, at 200 yards distance, is seen the remains of a small Druidical circle. About 3 miles north from the church there is a remarkable heap of stones, from which the farm where it lies seems to have been named *the Cairn*. The circular base is 120 yards in circumference. A similar cairn, but on a smaller scale, about a mile's distance, was opened 50 years ago, and in, or toward the centre, was found a kind of stone coffin, containing something like fragments of human bones.

NUM.



## NUMBER XXIII.

## PARISH OF COVINGTON,

By the Rev. Mr BRYCE LITTLE.

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

**T**HIS parish derives its name from Convent Town. It is in the county of Lanark, presbytery of Biggar, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. Its length from south to north is 3 miles, and its breadth 2. It is bounded on the east by Libberton; on the west by Carmichael; on the south by Symington and Wiston; and on the north by Pittenain. There is some barren heath; but the soil is in general fertile. The haughs of Clyde are mostly of a good quality, but they are subject to inundation; which, though pernicious at certain seasons, at others enriches the ground, and supplies the place of manure. Part of the country is mountainous. Tinto is 1720 feet above the level of the Clyde.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Every farmer keeps two ploughs at least; one of them is the old Scottish, and the other Small's. There are about 630 acres in tillage yearly: About 90 in barley, 60 in pease, 70 in potatoes and turnip, 10 in lint, and the remainder in oats. There are about 60 acres of sown grass. Oats are sown in March, and barley in the beginning of May. The best croft land is let at L. 1 : 1 : 0 per acre; the best pasture

at

at 12 s.; the worst at 2 s. 6 d. The average rent of farms is L. 50. The rent of the parish is L. 920 *per annum*. If inclosures are surrounded with wood, the farmers are convinced of their great utility. Harvest, in general, commences about the beginning of September. The parish usually exports one-fourth of the produce. In 1782, three-fourths of the crop were destroyed by the frost. In 1783, the crop was remarkably good, feed being procured at a distance, and the season being favourable. The heritors gave a generous assistance to their tenants. Hence, the bad effects of the season 1782 were not so severely felt as was at first dreaded. The oat meal sold at L. 2:6:0 per load of 16 stone. The farmers who were so fortunate as to have any of the former crop, got an additional price for it: But this fell heavy on the poor labourer; especially as he was often obliged to remain idle, the tenants being unable to employ him.

*Population.*—Fifty years ago, the inhabitants were 600. The principal cause of the depopulation since that time has been the enlarging of the farms. The return to Dr Webster was 521. In 1779, the number of inhabitants was 484.

Males	-	-	-	-	-	223
Females	-	-	-	-	-	261
Annual average of births	-	-	-	-	-	10
_____ marriages	-	-	-	-	-	4
Heritors (only 1 resides)	-	-	-	-	-	3
Farmers	-	-	-	-	-	21
Household servants, about	-	-	-	-	-	45
Tradesmen	-	-	-	-	-	17
Seceders	-	-	-	-	-	16
Poor	-	-	-	-	-	9
Yearly collection for their support about L. 16.						

Labouring

Labouring horses	-	-	-	-	-	75
Young horses	-	-	-	-	-	40
Milk cows and black cattle	-	-	-	-	-	505
Sheep	-	-	-	-	-	1000

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—A common labourer's wages are 1 s. per day. With the assistance of his wife, he is able to support his family. The women contribute much by spinning: An ordinary hand will earn 4 d. per day. Men servants get L. 6; women L. 3 : 5 : 0 *per annum*; carpenters get 1 s. 6 d. and taylor's 1 s. 2 d. per day. Fifty years ago, hens were 4 d. butter  $3\frac{1}{4}$  d. per lb. and cheese 2 d. Now, hens are 1 s. butter  $7\frac{1}{2}$  d. and cheese 3 d.

*Church and Stipend.*—One half of the church is an old cathedral. The other half was added more than a century ago. The value of the stipend is L. 80. Mr Lockhart of Carnwath is patron.

*Antiquities.*—Within the bounds of this parish there are four camps, all of a circular form, surrounded with one or two deep ditches. One named the Castledykes has two subterranean passages, leading from the east gate. There are two large cairns of stones, one standing on a hill called Wallbrae, measuring in circumference 107 yards. There are many smaller ones in an adjoining moor. Several have been opened, which contain a coarse coffin, composed of flat stones. The other large cairn stands on the top of Tinto, which signifies a *hill of fire*, and is said to have taken its name from the Druids keeping a continued fire on the top of this cairn. On a round hill at the foot of Tinto there is a circle, surrounded with large stones, erected on one end, close to one another. At the distance of 10 yards, there is another wall,  
nearly

nearly resembling the former. In this place a large mound of earth is erected. This was probably a sheriff's court, where, on a certain day, the adjacent country attended to have justice done. The name of the adjacent farm seems to favour this tradition, for it is called Sheriff flats. According to immemorial tradition, a bullock's skin full of gold lies buried in this place. Covington was formerly the feat of a knight baronet named Lindsey: In 1420, the laird applied, and obtained leave from parliament to build a fort, which was finished in 1442. The walls are 10 feet thick. It was made strong by every circumstance that art could invent. An old sword of very large size, called Wallace's, is still preserved. The ruin continues a grand and majestic object.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The fuel used here is coal. The distance from the coal hill is about 9 miles: The price there is 3 d per cwt. When laid down here, the price is nearly doubled. There is one village called Thankerton, beautifully situated on the river Clyde. There is a bridge over the Clyde at this village, built in 1778 by public contribution. It is kept in repair by the county. The roads are made and repaired by the statute labour commuted. The people, in general, suppose that turnpike roads would be of advantage. Some farmers in this parish pursue improvements with spirit; but the climate struggles against them. Plantations of wood in this part of the country would be of great advantage. The inhabitants, in general, are very humane, industrious, decent, and devout. None have enlisted in the army since 1778.



The rental in 1752, ascertained before the Court of Session,  
 is - - - - - L. 950

Hence, the present rental is five times the rental in 1752. This vast rise of land in Troquire is in a great measure owing to the people having abandoned a wretched mode of husbandry, in which they laid all their dung upon 3, 4, or 5 acres, of a field adjoining to the house, which they called *crofting land*, upon which they yearly sowed bear or barley, that yielded the farmers only four or five for one, owing to its being choaked with weeds. The rest of the farm had no other manure but what dropped from the cattle in the field; consequently, their outfield crop, being oats, was very poor, and could scarcely pay the labour.

Laying lime upon the land, which began near 40 years ago, chiefly contributed to the improvement of the land and the rise of rent. Some little shell marle and sea mud, which were only got on some farms, were likewise used. These means of improvement introduced a sensible mode of husbandry, and will account for the great rise of land in Troquire, together with the increased price of cattle and grain.

Ploughs in Troquire	-	-	-	-	58
Supposing every plough to work 25 acres in wheat, barley, oats, pease, potatoes, turnips, and fallow, there will be under tillage yearly	-	-	-	-	1450 acres
Arable land not in tillage	-	-	-	-	3625
					<hr/>
Total arable land in the parish					5075
In woods and plantations, at least	-	-	-	-	550

There are 4 oat mills, 1 wheat, 1 waulk, 1 barley mill, in the parish; 2 breweries, and 2 malt houses.

The

The rotation of crops in the greatest part of the parish is usually as follows: In the 1st year of breaking up land oats are sown; 2d year fallow or potatoes; the land is manured; 3d year wheat; 4th year barley, or sometimes oats, with rye grass and red clover; 5th year rye grass and clover; 6th year, the preceding rotation is recommenced. Oats are the prevailing grain. The best arable land in the parish near Dumfries is rented at L. 1 : 10 : 0 per acre: There are few at L. 2. Arable land sown with grass feeds yields, the first year, about L. 2 : 10 : 0, when the produce is sold for hay; the second year about L. 2. The rent of arable land, in general, is from 25 to 18 shillings per acre. The farms are generally inclosed; and the tenants find much advantage from inclosures. Wheat is usually sown about the beginning of October; oats in March and April; barley in April and May. Wheat and barley are usually reaped in the beginning of September, and oats about the middle; in dry summers sooner. Two things are still wanting to make the agriculture more perfect; assiduity to increase manure by composts, straw yards, &c; and attention to keep the horses always employed, which might be done if fallowing were increased. What is called the *servitude of tenants*, and *bailie work*, to the proprietors of land, is now almost entirely abolished in this parish. It was a cruel mode of oppression.

*Price of Labour, &c.*—The usual days wages to men is 1 s. without victuals; to women, for working at hay and weeding, 6 d. Carpenters, bricklayers, and masons, get about 1 s. 8 d. The wages of a man servant yearly is from L. 6 : 6 to L. 8, besides maintenance. A maid servant gets from L. 3 to L. 3 : 10 : 0. The price of provisions is about the double of what they were 47 years ago. They are now about the Edinburgh prices, except poultry. Many families are chiefly supported

supported by potatoes. They furnish the farmers with feed and dung, who, from this consideration, allow them to get the crop, which they take up at their own expence. This practice deserves to be adopted in the neighbourhood of towns and villages, where there is much dung.

*Population.*—The inhabitants of Bridgend, of all ages, are

	1302
The inhabitants of other parts of the parish are	1298
Total inhabitants of all ages and denominations	2600

Mechanics in the village of Bridgend :

Shoemakers, masters, journeymen, and apprentices	84
Smiths	4
Coopers	3
Clogmakers	6
Bakers	3
Tailors	26
Weavers	20
Wrights and carpenters	11
Masons	3
Sawers of wood	4
Bricklayers	5
Maltsters, besides servants	2
Ropemakers	3
Butchers	8
Barber	1
Brewers, besides servants	2
Bleacher	1
Total	186

Mechanics



Mechanics in other parts of the parish.	
Smiths	7
Weavers	13
Shoemakers	9
Taylor s	3
Wrights	5
	<hr/>
Total	37
Mechanics in Bridgend	186
	<hr/>
Total mechanics in Troquire	223

Of the above number of inhabitants there are 200 Papists, including the children of Papists. About a fourth part of that number is an influx of Irish Papists, who within these few years have settled in Troquire. A Popish priest officiates among them; and he has met with no disturbance for these 50 or 60 years past.

There are some Seceders, Relief people, and M'Millanites, who have places of worship in Dumfries.

*Church and Stipend.*—The church seems to have been a chapel of ease. The stipend is L. 81 : 2 : 6. The glebe consists of about 11 acres, which might let from 30 to 40 shillings the acre. The manse was built in 1707, and has got several repairs.

*Schools.*—There are three schools in Troquire. The salary of the parish school is L. 10 yearly. The salary of the school erected by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge L. 10. The salary of a school in Bridgend L. 2 : 10 : 0. Besides these three, there are three other schools for ground-  
ing

ing young children in the Bridgend: One of them has 10 s. yearly from the session; the other two teach for school wages. All the teachers in schools get school wages.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The air is pretty healthful. Some shell marle is found in the parish. The fishing is let for L. 75. Fuel is expensive. Coal is sold at 7 d. and 8 d. per cwt. Four hundred acres were lately planted, mostly with fir and oak. There are a considerable number of natural woods. There are 6 four wheeled chaises, and about 50 carts. The roads are greatly improved. The military road that goes from Dumfries to Portpatrick runs through Troquire. The high price of grain was much felt by the poor in the years 1782 and 1783. Several heritors contributed some money, when mobs were threatened, to buy oats, which, being converted into meal, were sold below the market price. The village of Bridgend contains many beggars. In it, and other parts of the parish, above 40 get alms, some by begging, others from the collections and parish funds, which amount to about L. 34 yearly. One female has been executed for child murder. Two persons have been banished. Only one has been guilty of suicide in the course of 47 years. A few young men go to sea: Several enlist in the army. The mode of living and dress is much improved.

## NUMBER XXV.

## PARISH OF MUIRAVONSIDE.

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN BERTRAM.*

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

**T**HIS parish takes its name from the river Avon, which divides the counties of Linlithgow and Stirling. It is situated in the latter, although it belongs to the presbytery of Linlithgow, and synod of Lothian. It is bounded by the parishes of Borrowstounness, Linlithgow, Torphichen, Polmont and Slamnan. It is about 6 miles long, and 2 broad. The east end is of a light gravelly soil; the rest clay, with a mixture of moss and moor. A considerable part of the parish has been inclosed within these few years. The farms are very small: The rents commonly are high: The harvest early. There are 50 ploughs in the parish; and no farmer has more than one. As the farms are small, grass parks are commonly taken from year to year for feeding cattle. More corn is raised than is necessary to supply the parish. Twenty acres of lint were sown last year. The rental of the parish may be about L. 2000.

*Population* — The return of the population to Dr Webster is said to have been 1400; but there seems to have been a mistake here, as one who knows it well asserts, that there has been

been no material alteration since the year 1745. At present, the number of souls amounts only to 1065. Of these, there are 302 under 10 years of age. The oldest man in the parish is 90. The barony of Almond has been all laid out in grass, and the farm houses have become ruinous. This may be assigned as one cause, and it seems to be the principal one, of the decrease of the population; but that estate being now all inclosed, considerable plantations made, and to be let out in commodious farms, will add greatly to the beauty and population of the place. The annual average of births is 45; deaths 35; but the Seceders, in general, do not insert their names in the parish register. The number of this sect here is 65. There are 37 heritors. The greatest part of them reside in the parish. There are no vagrant poor belonging to the parish. There are 20 pensioners on the poor's roll.

*Church and Stipend.*—The church is old. The stipend is L. 83 : 6 : 8, at the old conversion of L. 8 : 6 : 8 the chalders of victual. The glebe consists of 4 acres. The crown is patron.

*Antiquities.*—There still remain some ruins of an old abbey, called Manuel, on the side of the Avon, about half a mile above Linlithgow bridge. It was built in the 12th century. There is an old castle called Almond hard by the church, which belongs to the Callander estate, but is not inhabited.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are several coal mines, and a great quantity of iron-stone in the parish. The fuel is coal and peat; but the former is chiefly used. There are 17 mills in this parish on the river Avon. There is 1 flour

and 1 barley mill; 4 corn and 4 lint mills; 2 snuff and 2 fulling mills; 1 bark, 1 bleaching, and 1 flint mill. The wages of men servants, living in the house, are commonly L. 6 a year, and of women servants L. 3. Labourers get 10d. and 1 s. per day.

NUM.

## N U M B E R XXVI.

## PARISH OF PENPONT.

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM KEYDEN.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.*

**T**HE name of this parish is probably derived from *pendens pons*, an arched bridge, there being a bridge of one semicircular arch, supported by two steep rocks, over the river Scarr. It is of very remote antiquity; nor is it known when it was built. The singularity of the structure, when nothing of that kind existed here, might give occasion to the name. At any rate, the name of the parish is very antient, as appears from inscriptions on the communion cups, in the beginning of the 14th century. Penpont is a presbytery seat, and is situated in the synod and county of Dumfries. It is bounded by nine parishes, Glencairn, Tynron, Keir, Closeburn, Morton, Durrifdeer, Sanquhar, New Cumnock, and Dalry. New Cumnock is in the presbytery of Air, Dalry in that of Kirkcudbright. The parish is 16 Scottish statute miles long, and, at an average, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  broad. It extends from south-east, at the lower extremity, by a continual ascent, to the north-west, where the ground on the banks of the Scarr, which has its source there, is 3500 feet above the level of the river at the lowest part of it. In this tract there are 4 steep ridges, lengthways, with 3 deep and narrow glens, each watered by a very pure and plentiful stream.

The

The lower end is washed by the Nith, a considerable river, which divides Penpont from Durrifdeer and Morton, and by the Scarr, which is the march between it and Tynron and Keir. On the south-west, the Scarr runs between Penpont and Tynron for 5 miles. The hills on both sides are so steep and high, and the bottom so narrow, rocky, and woody, that the general view is pleasant to those who have any taste for romantic scenes. At Chanlockfoot, the ridge, which springs up suddenly between two valleys, has its face wholly covered with trees, and the other, farther up, with grass of a beautiful green, both of which views are particularly delightful. In the bosom of the north-east ridge you discover Glenquhargen Craig, almost perpendicular, and above 1000 feet in height. It has two faces that strike the eye, and no other rock is to be seen on either side. It is a hard brownish whin stone. Some small pieces are fallen down, with sharp edges and angular points. It is one of the greatest curiosities in the south of Scotland. The north-east side is bounded by the Mar-burn, which, lower down, is called the Canal. The general prospect down the rivers Nith and Scarr is extensive and beautiful, consisting of level ground highly cultivated, gentle risings, woods, villas, and mountains. The manse and church stand on a plain, about 30 feet above the Scarr, which winds about, in the form of an S, from south-west to north-east. There is from hence a distinct view of the rivers for 8 miles, first separate and then united. The pools here and there shew themselves as smooth sheets of water; and in floods the low ground is inundated for a mile broad, and 6 farm towns surrounded to the very doors. Prospects worthy of notice every where present themselves. At the old bridge, already mentioned, the banks of the Scarr are high, and skirted with wood; the channel rocky, and full of large stones; the bridge itself venerable, by a complete mantle of ivy and woodbine. Very near it, the  
water

water falls over a ragged rock 10 feet high, that reaches from side to side: A little farther down, the Shinnel, between high and woody banks, runs into the Scarr at right angles. At this spot is a large cairn, and the upper end of a fine sheet of water; 3 mills, and the houses belonging to them, in a cluster; the dam-dyke, 18 feet above the rock, close to, and below which, is a tremendous mass of unequal rocks, 100 feet long, among which, as the fall is considerable, the water, especially after rain, "rages, foams, and thunders down;" beyond, a large wood, and green hills rising suddenly, and in various shapes.

Cairnkinnow is a high mountain standing in the middle of the parish, and towards the north-east side; the precise height unknown; but it is the highest land in this line between the Friths of Solway and Clyde. From the top of it may be seen Airshire, Clydesdale, Annandale, and Galloway; and Cumberland and Westmoreland in England.

The soil is in general sandy, in some places light, but mostly deep, and capable of great improvement by lime, which, in 15 years, has made an uncommon alteration on the face of this part of the country. The hills are green, except a few that are covered with a short heath.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The Scottish plough is chiefly used, on account of the small stones so frequent in a sandy soil. Sowing commonly begins on the 1st of March, and reaping about the middle of August. All the common kinds of grain, and turnip, potatoes, clover, and rye-grass, are raised with success. About 138 acres are sown with barley annually, and 25 with wheat. In this neighbourhood land lets from 18 s. to 1 l. 5 s. per acre. The real rent of the parish is L. 2,500, which, in  
the



the last 15 years, has been increased L. 900. There are many inclosures; and the disposition to inclose seems to increase.

*Rivers, &c.*—Near the Scarr, which rises at the head of Penpont, are likewise the sources of the Ken, whose course extends to Kirkcudbright; of Afton, which falls into the Nith near New Cumnock; and of the Youghan, which joins the Nith at Sanquhar. The Scarr runs down the middle of the parish 12 miles, and for 6 more divides it from Tynron and Keir. A vast water spout, accompanied with tremendous thunder and lightning, emptied itself near the source of the Scarr in July 1783. Every one here was surprised by an uncommon flood in the evening. Herds of cattle, and their keepers, were suddenly surrounded: People at work were obliged to flee for fear of being inclosed. Hay and timber were carried off; one stone bridge and a house, with the wool of 1200 sheep, were swept away: Dreadful gulphs of whole acres were made on the face of the hills. There are 15 brooks in this parish. The fish in the rivers or brooks are salmon, caught chiefly in July and August, and sold at 3 d. per lb.; sea-trout; hirlings, caught in the same months; burn-trout, pikes, eels, and parrs. Dowloch is a small lake on the top of a hill, and famous, in the reign of superstition, for curing all manner of diseases. Those who resorted to it for relief left some part of their dress to the guardian demon or faint. By all accounts it has some mineral qualities.

*Population.*—The population of this parish has increased upwards of 100 within these 15 years, owing chiefly to the division of some large farms. The return to Dr Webster, however, was 857.

Inhabitants,

Inhabitants, anno 1790	-	-	-	800
Cameronians	-	-	-	77
Seceders	-	-	-	73
Annual average of baptisms	-	-	-	24
Heritors	-	-	-	8
Tenants	-	-	-	39
Carpenters	-	-	-	7
Masons	-	-	-	4
Smiths	-	-	-	4
Shoemakers	-	-	-	9
Weavers	-	-	-	12
Tailors	-	-	-	6
Houses	-	-	-	166
Horses	-	-	-	150
Cattle	-	-	-	980
Sheep	-	-	-	12000

*Poor.*—The poor in Penpont are tolerably provided for. None go about asking alms except 2 lunatics. The kirk-session has L. 450 at interest. The Duke of Queensberry gives a bounty of upwards of L. 10, and likewise 25 stones of oat-meal. The collections are L. 12 *per annum*. The whole annual amount of the contributions for the poor, who consist of 25 families, and several individuals, is about L. 46. Their principal food is oat-meal and potatoes. The articles of clothing, especially shoes, are far more expensive than formerly; fuel has also advanced in price. The rent of houses is tripled. When a person stands in need of a nurse as well as necessaries, a relation commonly takes the charge, and the session pays at the rate of L. 5 *per annum*. A case of this kind seldom happens. Fourteen shillings are allowed for the expence of a funeral. Four-fifths of the parish, which is mountainous, consists of sheep farms; and the failure

failure of crop in 1782 was less felt here than in many other parts of the kingdom. The poor belonging to the Cameronians and Seceders receive supplies from the parochial funds; yet not one of these sects contribute a farthing to the maintenance of the parish poor: Moreover, many of the established church attend their meetings on particular days, which adds to their collections.

*Wages.*—Labourers have sufficient employment, and are able to support their families. The wages of a man servant, employed in the operations of husbandry, were L. 2 *per annum* 40 years ago; now they are L. 7. The wages of a woman servant, 40 years ago, were 13 s. 4 d.; now L. 3. About 40 years ago, a day labourer received 6 d. without victuals, now he receives 1 s. Carpenters wages are 1 s. 4 d. a day; masons 1 s. 8 d.; taylor's 1 s. They are all doubled. A man during harvest, 40 years ago, got 8 s. 4 d.; a woman 5 s. Now a man gets L. 1 : 3 : 0, and a woman 18 s. Few reap by the day; but, when they do, they receive from 10 d. to 1 s. 2 d. without victuals.

*Church and Stipend.*—The church was rebuilt in 1782. It is pleasantly situated on an eminence on the Scarr. The stipend is L. 86 : 2 : 2, with a glebe worth L. 11, consisting of 9 acres. The Duke of Queensberry is patron.

*Improvements Suggested.*—The repairing of roads, searching for coal, lead, and iron mines, might be attended with advantage. The division of some farms, and the establishment of a woollen manufactory, in particular, would be of great benefit. Vast quantities of wool and woollen yarn are carried out of this, and the neighbouring parishes, to a great distance. Penpont is so central, that it is said the farmers would

would be disposed to bring all their wool to it without any advance on the price. This parish produces annually for sale above 1500 stons heavy weight, that is, 24 lbs. English each; and 10,000 might be found in the circle, besides some finer wool, at no great distance, for particular uses. Wool has been sold these two last years at 5 s. 6 d. the stone, and for the six preceding years considerably cheaper. The late demand from England raised the price.

*Antiquities.*—An old Roman causeway runs through Tynron, close to the edge of the Scar. There are 2 moats of earth, 1 obelisk, and 4 very large cairns. The vestiges of Tiber's castle, which has been a large building, are to be seen on the banks of the Nith. A small part of the wall next the river remains. Fossae are visible, and some entrenchments where it was most accessible. It is supposed that the barony of Tiber is named from Tyber, or Tiberius. There is a Roman encampment too. The English had a garrison in this castle in the time of Sir William Wallace, who took it by surprise.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—White and red free stone, and whitish grey with red specks, abound in the lower part of the parish. There is calmsstone, and plenty of ruddle. Blue grey, and brownish whin, are very abundant. Arches of bridges are built with whin. Water stone is a blue grey, dresses neatly, and is used in building. There are some rocks composed of spar, whin, and lime stone. Large transparent white stones are found at the head of Glenmannaburn. There are some mineral springs, but of little note, impregnated with iron. Marle is found in several bogs. There are indications of lead, iron, and coal. At present, coal is brought from Sanquhar, at the distance of 14 miles. At the pit, 8 cwt. costs 10½ d. and sells here at

3 s. There are 3 orchards in the parish, and a few fruit trees besides. There is one village at the church, which contains above 100 inhabitants. The people in this parish are clean and stout, and generally above the middle size. Their houses, dress, manners, and mode of living, are much improved. Since 1770, there have been 10 students at the University from this parish. The most prevalent distempers are colds. The rheumatism is frequent. Fogs, which are unfavourable to health, creep up from the rivers. There are 10 bridges. Turnpike roads were begun to be made last summer in this part of the country. Single coal carts pay  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. toll near Sanquhar; and it is supposed that each will carry such additional weight, with equal ease, as to procure a profit of 7 d. The statute work is commuted.

NUM.

## NUMBER XXVII.

## PARISH OF CRAMOND\*.

*Situation, Surface, and Extent.*

**T**HIS parish lies in the counties of Edinburgh and Linlithgow, on the south shore of the Frith of Forth, into which the river Amon, the boundary of the two shires, falls at the village of Nether Cramond. It is in the presbytery of Edinburgh, and the synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is bounded on the west by the parishes of Dalmeny and Kirkliston; on the south of Corstorphine and St Cuthbert's; and by the latter parish on the east. The northern boundary is formed by the Forth, which is here from 4 to 6 miles over. The eastern part of the parish is rather flat, though the ground in some places forms gentle risings. Near the centre of the south side is a craggy ridge, called Corstorphine Hill, the north end of which runs into this parish, and the south end of it into that whence its name is derived. The height of this hill, which bears some resemblance to the figure of a cock's comb, with indentations in several places along its summit, is about 470 feet above the level of the sea. To the north and west of it, the face  
of

\* This account is properly an abstract merely of a very valuable MS. intituled, "the Topography of Cramond Parish," written by John Wood, Esq; which it is hoped the author will take an early opportunity of communicating to the public.

of the parish becomes more variegated than the eastern side, being diversified with rising grounds in several places. But the principal ornament of the west part is the river Amon, whose banks, from above Craighall to Nether Cramond, are high and steep, almost wholly covered with wood, and frequently chequered with bold and overhanging rocks. The land rises in general to some height, even close to the sea shore; there are, however, in three or four places along the shore, sandy plains or links. The length of the parish may be about 6 miles; and the breadth scarcely ever exceeds 2; though the shape is rather irregular, assuming at the west end a kind of furcated figure. It contains in all about 3890 Scottish acres, including the two small islands of Cramond and Inchmickery.

*Name.*—The parish is denominated from the principal village, where the church stands, called Cramond, situated at the mouth of the Amon. Cramond appears evidently to be a contraction of *Caeramon*, derived from *Amon*, a Celtic word, signifying a river in general, and *Caer*, which, in the same language, signifies a fort, viz. the *Fort on the Amon*.

*Manufactures.*—The iron manufacture carried on by Messrs Cadells and Edington, who now employ a capital of above L. 30,000, consists of 3 forges, 2 flitting mills, and 2 steel furnaces, at which bar iron is manufactured into blistered, square or faggot, and German steel, hoops and rolled iron, rod iron, boiler and pan plates for fire-engines, sockmoulds, anchor palms, bolts for ship building, and other articles. Above 30 men and boys are employed immediately at the works, some of whom earn 26 s. per week, and none make less than 4 s. There are also here spade and nail manufactures belonging to the same company, in which above 450  
cwt.

cwt. of nails, and 1000 dozen of spades, are annually made; and a file manufacture has been lately established. These three branches employ about 50 men and boys, who make from 3 s. to 20 s. per week. Much steel is exported from hence to India; and the greatest part of the rod iron made here is sent to Stirlingshire, where the Cramond company employ above 100 men to manufacture it into nails, of which large quantities were, before the late war, exported to America.

The iron used at the Cramond works comes chiefly from Russia and Sweden, upwards of 1000 tons being imported from the Baltic yearly. The average cost per ton (including customs at 50 s. and freight from 8 s. to 15 s.) is L. 17 for Russia, and L. 18 : 10 : 0 for Swedish iron; but a very fine kind of the latter, the produce of the famous mine of Dannemora in Upland, called Oeregrund's iron, from the port where it is shipped, comes to L. 24 per ton. This sort is used solely for making steel. These different kinds of iron are 50 *per cent.* dearer than they were in 1780, which rapid advance has lately induced the proprietors to erect furnaces at Clyde, near Glasgow, with the view of making bar iron for Cramond, which they hope will, in a few years, furnish them with sufficient materials, and save the great sums remitted for that article. The Cramond works are supplied with coal from the Grange, near Borrowstounness, a property of the Messrs Cadells, and they annually consume about 1600 tons, which are brought in floops for 1s. 6d. per ton freight; prime cost and other charges may be about 7 s. The forge hammers weigh from 4 to 6 cwt. each, are wrought by water, and make from 120 to 160 strokes in a minute. These hammers, and other cast iron articles used here, are made at the Clyde furnaces.

*Rent.*



*Rent.*—Of the 3890 acres, estimated to be the content of the parish, there are about 2800 distributed into 26 farms from 40 to 280 acres each, at a rent of 20s. to 50s. per acre

L.4830 0 0	
760 in the possession of the respective proprietors, valued at	1300 0 0
240 let to several different persons in small proportions, at a rent of	550 0 0
90 of waste and hilly ground, such as Corstorphine hill, &c.	20 0 0
	L.6700 0 0

making an average of about 35s. an acre. The rent of the iron-works may be reckoned L. 260, and the village of Cra-mond may yield about L. 140 *per annum*, so the total rent of this district is L. 7100. The valuation in the cels-books of the county of Edinburgh, is L. 9426 : 13 : 0, and in those of West Lothian, L. 705 Scots, in all L. 10,131 : 13 : 0.

*Produce.*—The produce of the land, taken one year with another, may be thus estimated :

	Acres.	Produce per acre.	Price.	Total per acre.	Total Produce.	Total Value.
Hay	800	160 ft.	6½d.	L.4 6 10	128,000 ft.	L.3466
Wheat	700	6½ bl.	21s.	6 16 6	4,550 bl.	4777
Beans&Pease	450	6 bl.	13s.	3 18 0	3,000 bl.	1950
Oats	400	7 bl.	14s.	4 18 0	2,800 bl.	1860
Barley	300	6 bl.	16s.	4 16 0	1,800 bl.	1440
Potatoes	150	30 bl	7s.	10 10 0	4,500 bl.	1575
Pasture	750	at 40s. per acre		-	-	1500
Fallow	250			-	-	0
Waste lands	90			-	-	20
Straw sold in Edinburgh and elsewhere				-	-	412
						L. 17,000
						which

which is at the rate of above 87 s. an acre ; so that the land rent is equal to about two-fifths of the produce.

*Crops.*—Hay is the principal article raised in this district, the great demand for that commodity at Edinburgh, securing a constant market. It is produced from red and yellow clover-feed, mixed with rye-grass, and is cut early. The frequent repetition of this crop has lessened the returns ; formerly 8 or 10 pounds of clover-feed, along with 2 bushels of rye-grass, were sufficient for an acre, and produced great crops two years successively ; now it is found difficult to raise hay the second year, although double the quantity of clover-feed is used. These feeds are sown with the foregoing crop of barley, wheat, or oats, the ground being well pulverized. Hay is a great favourite of the farmers, being an article easy to dispose of, and cheaply reaped ; the expence of cutting and making seldom exceeds 5 s. an acre, even when the acre produces above 200 stones. Sometimes, though rarely, a second crop is made in the same year.

Wheat takes the lead of all other grain here, the farmers being induced to sow as great a quantity as possible, in order that its lucrative returns may better enable them to pay the high rents common in the parish. It is sown in every situation, on every soil, and often with very little attention to the state of the ground, by which, and by frequently repeating this impoverishing article, the crops are by no means so good as they were formerly. Of this alteration the farmers are now become sensible ; and, though they still endeavour to have a considerable portion of their lands in wheat, they are more attentive to have the ground on which it is sown in good condition. Summer fallow, potatoes, beans and pease, and rag-faugh, (i. e. two or three ploughings after a crop of hay) seem  
now

now to be the systems most generally adopted for preparing the land to bear a crop of wheat.

Beans and pease, singly or mixed together, are raised in considerable quantities; part is sown in drills, and regularly horse hoed, though this practice is far from being general. Oats are still much cultivated, though not in so great a proportion to other grain as formerly. Dutch oats have, in some places, lately been substituted instead of barley; as they are well adapted to late sowing, and thus enable the farmer to work his land in the same manner as for barley. A large quantity of barley was formerly raised in this district, where the whole dung of the farm yard was usually put on the barley land, which with frequent ploughings, insured a lucrative return. But of late, the dung being almost entirely allotted to the wheat, the barley has declined in quality, and become so unprofitable, that some farmers have entirely given up that article, substituting in its place Dutch oats as before mentioned. The quantity of barley produced in the parish, is, however, by no means trifling.

Potatoes form a great article of produce, the vicinity of Edinburgh affording an opportunity of disposing of them to advantage. There are some turnips, cabbages, carrots, and yams, cultivated here, though the quantity is very small. The yams are a very productive crop, never yielding less than 50 bolls, and sometimes 100, of 28 stones each, per acre, even without dunging the land. No part of the pasture ground is let at less than 30s. an acre, and some yields a rent of 45s. and 50s. the produce is therefore moderately estimated at 40s. per acre.

*Rotation of Crops.*—No certain rotation of crops prevails in  
this

this district; one or other of the following systems is, however, usually adopted: 1st year, summer-fallow, or hay and rag fough; 2d, wheat; 3d, oats; 4th, beans and pease; 5th, barley; 6th, hay. Or, 1st, summer-fallow; 2d, wheat; 3d, beans; 4th, wheat; 5th, barley; 6th, hay.

*Manure.*—The principal manure is stable and street dung from Edinburgh and Leith, of which about 10,000 cart loads are annually brought into this district, that, one with another, cost about 1 s. prime cost, and 1 s. 6 d. for carriage, making a total expence of L. 1250, and much the same quantity of stable dung, &c. may be made within the parish. The long continued use of the town dung has filled the soil full of every kind of annual weeds, in particular, bird-seed or wild-mustard, called here *scaldricks*, of which the fields are in one continued blow in the early part of summer. Sometimes lime is used from Burdyhouse or Gilmerton, of which 40 to 80 bolls of shells are laid on each acre, and cost 1 s. 4 d. per boll. Marle was discovered some years ago, on the farms of Marchfield and Craigcrook, where a considerable quantity was procured; but the working it becoming very expensive, is now discontinued, and the pits are drowned.

*Implements of Husbandry.*—Small's chain plough, drawn by two horses, is generally used, which is much preferable to the old Scots ploughs, that required four horses and a driver. Harrows are generally of the old kind, with 4 bulls and 20 iron teeth, improved by flots instead of rungs; there are also some of Lord Kames's harrows used here. Dung carts hold above 20 cubic feet, are mounted on stout narrow wheels  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet diameter, with iron axles, weigh about 5 cwt. altogether, and usually carry 16 cwt., two horses being

yoked to each; but single horse carts are often used, in which it is asserted one horse can draw 12 cwt. as easily as two do 16 in the former. Corn carts are simple machines, mounted occasionally upon the wheels of the dung carts, for driving hay or unthreshed grain. There are many drill ploughs; plenty of stone rollers  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, and 14 inches diameter; a few of Mr Sandiland's sod-cutters; some very complete threshing machines upon a large scale, and one of a peculiar construction invented by Mr Robertson at Granton, which, though by no means comparable in strength to the former, answers the purpose sufficiently, and, costing only L. 20, is within the reach of even the inferior order of farmers\*.

*Draught Cattle.*—All draught work in the parish is performed by horses, which come chiefly from Linlithgow and Lanark shires, measure from 15 to 16 hands high, and cost from L. 16 to L. 20. There may be about 200 horses now employed in husbandry work, whereas the number was formerly double, when four horses were almost universally yoked to each plough.

*Prices of Labour.*—There are about 100 ploughmen and carters, whose annual wages are from L. 4 to L. 5 in money, 26s. for kitchen†, 10s. for two pair of shoes,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of oat-meal, diet in harvest, a free house and garden, the carriage of their coals, and some small perquisites, all which  
may

\* Of these implements, Small's plough costs L. 2, a dung cart complete, L. 8 : 8 : 0, a corn cart 15s. and a stone roller with the frame L. 2.

† *Kitchen* is an allowance instead of milk, butter, small beer, and some other articles of less value.

may be moderately estimated at L. 13 ; a great increase when compared with their wages in 1760, which were no more than L. 8, including every article ; and even so late as 1775, L. 9 was reckoned high emolument. Maid servants of farmers get L. 3 *per annum*, and are maintained in the house. Barnmen and other able-bodied labourers are paid at the rate of 5 s. and 6 s. per week, when constantly employed ; when only occasionally, 1 s. 2 d. per day. A mason's wages is 1 s. 8 d. a day, and a hay cutter's 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 8 d. per day. Reapers get from 6 d. to 1 s. a day, and maintenance during harvest. Women working in the fields earn in general 4 d. a day, and are much better employed than formerly, there now being a great deal of hoeing, weeding, and picking performed by them, infomuch that they usually have at least one half of the year outwork. When not thus employed, they betake themselves to spinning, at which they seldom make more than 3d. a day.

Work by the piece is now coming into use, in which corn is cut at 5s. per acre on an average, and threshed at 6d. per boll. Hay is cut from 1s. 6d. to 3s. per acre, according to the weight of the crop, and made in some cases at 2s. per acre. Stone and lime dikes built at 12s. per rood, materials being furnished by the employer ; houses, barns, and stables at 25s. ditto.

The following table exhibits a comparative state of the prices of labour in 1760, 1775, and 1790.

	A Ploughman <i>per annum.</i>	Maid-servant <i>per annum.</i>	Day-labourer <i>per day.</i>	Mason <i>per day.</i>	Women in general <i>per day.</i>
1760	L. 8 1 0	L. 1 16 0	L. 0 0 7	L. 0 1 1½	L. 0 0 4
1775	9 2 0	2 6 0	0 0 10	0 1 4	0 0 5
1790	13 8 0	3 0 0	0 1 2	0 1 8	0 0 6

*Fisheries.*

*Fisheries.*—The fisheries are at a low ebb, the oyster fishery being much degenerated from what it was about 50 years ago, when eleven large boats belonging to Cramond were constantly occupied during the season in dragging oysters, the greatest part of which was sold to Dutch vessels at an average of 4s the herring barrel. The scalps were then so productive, that it was usual for a boat with five hands to make 30s. a day; but they are now so much destroyed, probably with over fishing, as to employ at present no more than 4 or 5 boats, and these only occasionally. The scalps about Inch Mickery, belonging to Lady Greenwich, are let at a rent of L. 24 *per annum*, to the Newhaven fishers. The Amon formerly abounded with a variety of fish, such as trouts, grilles\*, some salmon, and great plenty of smelts; but owing to liming the adjacent grounds, and watering flax in the river, it was for some years almost totally deserted by these different kinds of fish, which are still extremely scarce. Whales have sometimes been stranded on the sands here, particularly in 1690, when no less a number than 25, though of the very smallest sort, were left by the tide on the shore south of Cramond Island; and in 1769, two of the spermaceti kind, each 54 feet long, were cast ashore not far from the village of Cramond.

*Minerals.*—Free-stone abounds in several places, as also whin-stone, moor-stone, and granite. Iron-stone is found along the shore at Caroline Park; and there is a great appearance of coal on the sea side in the eastern part of Roystoun, and the adjacent lands of Wardie, where large seams are

\* *i. e.* A smaller species of salmon, or the common salmon of a year old. Naturalists have not determined this point with certainty.

are perceivable both above and below the tide mark. The neighbouring people, when fuel is scarce, often carry off from thence parcels of coal, though of an exceeding poor quality. A pit was sunk in Piltoun wood in 1788, but was soon abandoned on account of the badness of the coal; and there are in the links of Royftoun the vestiges of several pits. On the lands of Marchfield is a spring of mineral water, called the Well of Spaw, reckoned beneficial in scorbutic cases, and highly purgative when taken in quantities.

*Village of Cramond.*—The village of Cramond, situated on the east side of the Amon, at its junction with the Forth, contains 74 families, 300 inhabitants, mostly iron workmen, sailors, and day labourers. It has a harbour, (specified in the records of Exchequer as a creek within the port of Leith) to which belong 7 sloops, chiefly employed by the iron works, measuring 288 tons, and manned with 23 seamen and apprentices. The Amon is navigable only for the space of a quarter of a mile above its mouth.

*Church, Patron, Stipend, and School.*—The church was originally built in 1656, but has been frequently repaired and enlarged since that time. The patron is Mr Ramsay of Barnton. The stipend, as augmented in 1765, is, money, L. 58 : 5 : 0; barley, 44½ bolls; oats, 33½ bolls; wheat, 10 bolls; meal, 8 bolls; with a commodious manse, and a glebe of above 5 acres of rich land. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 10 : 2 : 11, with 4½ bolls of barley. The interest of L. 25 was granted by Sir John Inglis in 1786 for a Sunday school. The fees for writing and English are 1 s. 4 d. the quarter; for Arithmetic and Latin 3 s. There are besides two private schools. The scholars at the three schools, taken together, may annually amount to 150.



*Parochial Funds.*—The parochial funds amount to above L. 1220, yielding an annual rent of above L. 56; the collections at the church doors come to about L. 39; and the profits of the mortcloths to above L. 7 annually; making a total yearly income of above L. 102. With this sum, 41 ordinary, and 16 extraordinary poor, are supported and relieved, according to their several necessities; after which there commonly remains a small surplus, at the end of each year, to augment the capital fund. This is stated from the average of the receipts and disbursements for 10 years past, including in the former the collections on sacramental occasions, the average of which L. 6 : 4 : 0 annually; a trifling sum compared with the produce at the communion 1690, L. 20 : 5 : 0, and 1691, L. 23 : 15 : 0. Towards the end of the last, and beginning of the present century, the annual contributions were much the same as at present, while the average number of ordinary poor is now more than doubled.

*Charitable Foundations.* — Craigcrook mortification is an estate of above L. 300 *per annum*, which was mortified for charitable and pious uses, but not confined to this parish, by John Strachan of Craigcrook, about the 1720. The managers are two Advocates, two Writers to the Signet, and the whole Presbytery of Edinburgh, under the controul of the Lords of Session; and these managers are, in terms of the deed of mortification, directed “to employ a discreet person  
“to uplift the rents when due, and, as uplifted, to employ  
“the same as the foresaid persons order, to poor old men,  
“women, and orphans.”

*Population* —The population has of late years diminished considerably, as appears from the following statement, taken from the parish registers:

Baptisms.

	Baptisms.			Burials.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
From 1680 to 1699	557	515	1072	680
1700 to 1719	543	509	1052	586
1720 to 1739	513	520	1033	674
1740 to 1759	511	451	962	480
1760 to 1779	386	373	759	451
<b>Total in a century</b>	<b>2510</b>	<b>2368</b>	<b>4878</b>	<b>2871</b>

About the 1750, when Dr Webster made his inquiry into the numbers of the people in Scotland, the return from this parish was 1468 individuals. From an estimate taken in 1785, there were then 319 families, and 1340 souls, viz.

Families.	Individuals.
37 Gentlemen and farmers, (servants included), containing	309
20 Iron workmen	91
13 Seamen	56
11 Wrights, carpenter, cooper, turner	45
10 Gardeners	42
8 Weavers	41
9 Masons	36
6 Smiths	25
5 Taylors	20
7 Brewer, baker, butcher, shoemaker, beadle, tide-water, and schoolmaster	38
193 Common labourers, &c.	637
<b>319</b>	<b>1340</b>

Of

Of these	14 families consist of	1 individual each,	total	14
76	-	2	-	152
64	-	3	-	192
54	-	4	-	216
39	-	5	-	195
24	-	6	-	144
18	-	7	-	126
13	-	8	-	104
4	-	9	-	36
2	-	10	-	20
3	-	11	-	33
2	-	12	-	24
3	-	13	-	39
1	-	14	-	14
1	-	15	-	15
1	-	16	-	16
<hr/>				
319				1340

Even this number has since diminished; for Mr Bonar, the present minister of Craignod, having very obligingly taken a list of the parish, found, that, in the present year, 1790, it contained 299 families only, and 1112 souls. The causes of this diminution in the numbers of the people are, the removal of mechanics to towns, the failure of the oyster fishery, and the increase of pasture ground. Some years ago, a large property, consisting of five farms, was wholly turned into grass, and still remains in the same state.

*Diseases.*—Agues, some years ago, affected the common people so much during the spring and summer months, that the necessary husbandry work was with difficulty performed, for want of hands. This disease used to be exceedingly severe

vere and distressing; but, since the year 1775, it has almost wholly disappeared from this neighbourhood, which may be attributed, in a great measure, to the thorough draining of the grounds.

*Roads and Seats.*—The roads in this district are kept in excellent repair, being chiefly composed of granite broken into small pieces, and strewed on the middle of the road; after which, the sides and ditches are cleared of rubbish, which is thrown over, and soon incorporates with the stones. The public road from Edinburgh to Queensferry, one of the pleasantest and most frequented in Scotland, traverses great part of the parish, crossing the Amon at Cramond bridge. Many seats adorn this district. Roystoun is one of the largest houses in the three Lothians.

*Eminent Men.*—Of persons meriting to be particularly mentioned, the most distinguished eminent men, who were either natives of, or resident proprietors in, the parish, are, 1st, John Elphinstone, second Lord Balmerinoch, a nobleman noted for his spirited opposition to the tyrannical proceedings of Charles I. for which he narrowly escaped losing his head, and for being the best friend that the Covenanters ever had, as he spent a great fortune in support of their cause. 2d, Sir Thomas Hope of Grantoun, well known as one of the ablest and most successful lawyers at the Scottish bar, to whose unremitting exertions, and sound advice, the firm establishment of the Presbyterian mode of worship in this kingdom is in a great measure owing. 3d, Sir William Hope of Grantoun, his grandson, who was distinguished for superior proficiency in all the fashionable accomplishments of the times in which he lived, particularly for great skill in fencing, on which he published a celebrated treatise. 4th, That fine scholar, and

pleasant companion, but crafty and slippery statesman, George Mackenzie, first Earl of Cromarty, whose numerous works are well known. 5th, John Law of Lauriston, Comptroller General of the Finances in France, one of the most extraordinary characters that this or any other country has produced, to whose great merit and abilities sufficient justice has not yet been done. 6th, George Cleghorn, an eminent physician in Dublin, the first person that established what could, with any degree of propriety, be called an anatomical school in Ireland. 7th, William Cleghorn, who was associated with his uncle George, just now mentioned, as Professor of Anatomy in Trinity College Dublin, but died soon afterwards in 1783, at the age of 28, universally regretted.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are 2 coaches, and 4 four-wheeled chaises in this parish; 7 licensed ale-houses. The corruption among the lower classes, says the Rev. Mr Bonar, the minister, is mournful; as perhaps in few country parishes, the liberties and vices of the town are any where more accurately copied.

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF DALMENY.

*By the Rev. Mr THOMAS ROBERTSON, F. R. S. EDIN:*

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*Situation and Extent.*

**T**HIS parish is situated in the shire and presbytery of Linlithgow, in the synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is, from east to west, near 4 miles long, and between 2 and 3 broad: It is bounded on the east by the parish of Cramond; on the south by Cramond and Kirkliston; on the west by Abercorn; and on the north by the Firth of Forth. There is a district of it upon the west, not included within the above limits, called *Auldcathy*, entirely disjoined from it by the parishes of Abercorn and Kirkliston, and which antiently, it is said, formed a separate parish. The lands of *Auldcathy* are, from east to west, about a mile and a half long; and, from south to north, near a mile broad. They lie about 4 miles east from Linlithgow; partly upon the south, and partly upon the north, of the great road between Linlithgow and Edinburgh.

*Name, and Language.*—*Dumanay*, the original name of the parish, is said to mean, in the Gaelic, a *black heath*; of which, probably, a great portion of the higher grounds in it once consisted. The Gaelic, or Celtic, was the original tongue of  
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the whole Island; and Gaelic names, it may be observed, still prevail to a very great extent in it, particularly in Scotland; for, although a foreign language was brought hither from the Continent by the ancestors of the greater part of the present inhabitants, many original names, particularly those of places, were naturally retained. Thus, *Dundas* (a place in this parish) is said to be the Gaelic for "hill of fallow deer\*;" *Mons* hill, for a "hill uncultivated." Instances of such derivations are numerous in the neighbourhood, and elsewhere; as the *Forth*, or the "water;" *Inch Garvy*, or "rough island;" *Kirkliston*, or "a place inclosed on a river;" *Linlithgow*, or "dog's pool;" *Torphichen*, or "fight-hill;" *Calder*, or "oak-wood." The language which was brought from the Continent, and which is now general over the Island, was partly introduced by the Anglo-Saxons, in the fifth century, into England; and partly by the Dano-Saxons, in the ninth and eleventh, both into England and Scotland. The Dano-Saxon has continued to be spoken in the greater part of Scotland, and particularly what is called the *Lowlands*, with little deviation from the original, till near the present times, in which it has been giving place very rapidly to the modern English language. The cause of this, independent of the comparative merits or demerits of the two dialects, has been the union of the Scottish and English crowns; from which, as England is the larger and wealthier country, and is, besides, the court end of the Island, the English tongue has gained the ascendancy, and become the standard of fashion and of propriety.

#### Surface

\* Horns of deer have lately been dug up in its skirts; and some bones of such dimensions, as render it probable that they belonged to the moose-deer, or some other of the largest of the stag species.

*Surface and Air.*—The parish lies high in the middle, declines somewhat to the west, has a very considerable declivity to the south, and still more to the north, where it terminates with a bold bank upon the Forth. Within it are three long rocky and woody ridges, or rather little hills, Mons-hill, Dundas-hill, and Craigie-hill; the prospects from which are both remarkably extensive and diversified. The view from Mons-hill, in particular, has been celebrated for its almost unequalled compass and beauty. Standing upon the top of this ridge, you see the mountain of Ben-Lomond on the west; the Ochil and Lomond hills to the north; North Berwick-Law, the Bass, and Isle of May, to the east; Pentland and Lammer-muir hills to the south. Besides the Forth, and the numerous towns, villages, seats, woody hills, and rising grounds, on each bank of it, the charming park of Barnbogle lies immediately under the eye, characterised for its bold waving surface, composed of the finest heights and lawns, and also for the variety, elegance, and fancy, of the rides within its circuit. The prospect extends, in general, as far as the eye can reach; and sixteen counties, in whole or in part, are said to be within the view. Different travellers have remarked, that this scenery is among the finest in Europe. This may account for the salubrity of the air, for which the parish has been noted; owing, perhaps, to its high situation, and to its being guarded from the east and west winds by the hills within its bounds. The village of Dalmeny, which lies delightfully situated, nearly in the line between Mons-hill and Dundas-hill, is, from this circumstance, protected from the north-east and south-west winds; the former the most baleful, and the latter the most violent, in this country. The longevity of its inhabitants has been often remarked: Mr Nasmith, the late minister, who was 63 years in office here, died at 91; Mrs Nasmith near the same age; the school-master



master and beadle above 80; so that the four contemporaries made up above 340 years. Near this village, three persons of one family died this year, whose ages, taken together, were about 240 years. From the parish register it appears, that, in the course of these 36 years past, 35 persons have died between 50 and 60 years of age; 48 between 60 and 70; 58 between 70 and 80; 26 between 80 and 90; and 3 at 90 and upwards. The purity of the air has, among other considerations, occasioned a great number of gentlemen's sons to be sent as boarders to the parish school here.

*Soil, Acres, and Rent.*—The soil of the higher grounds is, in general, a shallow poor clay, for the most part on a cold bottom, and which, in several places, borders on till. That of almost all Auldcaithy is nearly the same. The harvest, on this account, is near two weeks later than in the neighbouring parishes of Cramond and Kirkliston. At the same time, there are some considerable tracts, particularly the declivities and lower lying lands, which are a good loam; but, in several places, intermixed with sand. In this parish are also a few spots of what is called *perpetual soil*, exceedingly fertile, and which have had no dung, it is said, in the memory of man. Part of the minister's garden is of this kind, which has been long known to produce great crops; and, of late, surprising ones of potatoes have been reared. For experiment's sake, potatoes were lately planted on a portion of it, six years running, and the last crop was as good as the first. Dung was applied one year, but the plants ran to stalks and leaves; the roots were numerous, but very small. The number of acres in the whole parish is above 4500. Hills, plantations, avenues, &c. may occupy about 500 of these; about 2300 are in pasture, and 1700 in tillage. Rent is from 6 s. to 40 s. the acre: The greater part lets at from 20 s. to 30 s.;  
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the best land from 30s. to 40s. The total rent cannot be exactly ascertained, as in some farms it is partly paid in victual, the price of which varies every year; but it may probably be estimated at about L. 5000 Sterling yearly. The valued rent is L. 9620 Scots.

*Culture.*—From the nature of the soil, which is in great part wet, the difficulty in culture is to keep the lands clean; hence turnip crops also, and the winter feeding of cattle, are in many places debarred. On account of the distance from great towns, dung can hardly be conveyed thence; and little more of course is used, than what is made on each particular farm. There is a bed of shell marl in a marsh adjoining to Dundas-hill, but it has been little wrought. Lime, which is in the near neighbourhood, has been applied to a considerable extent. The principal white crop raised, is oats; next barley and wheat. The rotation has here, as in so many other places, been much amended of late years, by introducing green crops, and by summer fallowing; two of the most capital improvements in husbandry. Two horse ploughs upon Small's plan, another great improvement, are also coming into general use. Almost every farm is enclosed and subdivided by hedges, hedgerows, and belts of planting. The farmers here are both industrious and intelligent; and, indeed, this may be said now, of the greater part of the farmers in the three Lothjans, and in several other counties. As rents, however, seem to be too high in many places, it is to be hoped, from the great number of well informed and public spirited gentlemen in Scotland, that such leases will be granted, not only enabling the farmers to live, but to live easily, to make experiments, to run risks, and consequently to promote knowledge and improvements in husbandry. A contrary course, would both essentially en-  
danger

danger agriculture, and the population which depends on it. We know the happy state of the greater part of England, where rents are moderate, and the farmers are enjoying in security, that plenty and comfort, which are the rewards of their labours. Agriculture may be affirmed to be (without at all derogating from manufactures and trade) one of the most permanent pillars on which any nation can rest; and they would highly deserve the name of patriots, who should stretch forth a generous hand to cherish husbandmen, promote improvements beneficial both to the landlord and to the tenant, and ensure the most stable and virtuous income which a people can possess.

*Depopulation and the cause of it.*—From all accounts the parish was formerly much more populous than it is at present. According to Dr Webster, the numbers 30 or 40 years ago, were 1102; but as his survey appears in this parish, and perhaps in most others, to have been confined to *examinable* persons only, the whole number of souls was probably then 1300 or more. In 1776, the number of souls was 1034; in the present year 1790, it is only 907. The annual average of births for a century past, is 33; in the former half of it from 1691 to 1740, it is 39; in the latter from 1741 to 1790, it is only 27. And the decline (needless to be stated) has been gradual; from 1771 to 1780 the number is 25, from 1781 to 1790 it is 18. The depopulation appears to have been occasioned solely by one large district having been turned from tillage into pasture. This tract may consist perhaps of 1500 acres, upon which formerly, it is said, were 15 or 16 farmers; at present, and for some time past, there has not been one. Probably the decrease of inhabitants in several other parishes has been owing very much to a similar cause. The union of farms has often been stated as a cause

of depopulation; but the fact seems very disputable. In many instances population has been known to increase, on a great farmer's succeeding to a number of small ones. And the reason is plain to those who make an attentive observation. A small farmer has seldom any cottagers, his men servants are unmarried, and lodge in his house or offices. The reverse is the case of a great farmer; almost the whole of his men servants have separate houses, are married, and have a numerous and healthy progeny. The number of farmer-families is indeed greater in small farms, but the whole population appears in several instances, at least, to be less. But even admitting it to be greater in general, the husbandry is for the most part bad, puny crops are raised, men may be more numerous, but both men and beasts are almost in a starving condition. The recent and excellent practice of using two horse ploughs, has also been stated as a cause of depopulation, as it reduces the number of hands necessary to be employed; but besides the expence of culture being thereby lessened, and the value of land consequently raised, it may be observed, that were waste lands cultivated, and the culture of others carried to the extent, and to the perfection which it ought, and which it is to be hoped, will one day be the case, the numbers of those who subsist by husbandry, would become greater than they have ever yet been. At any rate, population is far from depending solely upon agriculture.

*Wages and Expence of Living.*—The wages of a day-labourer are now generally 1 s., of a carpenter 1 s. 6 d., of a mason 1 s. 8 d., of a maid-servant 25 s. the half year, of a ploughman between L. 12 and L. 13 annually, nearly one half of which is paid in money, and the other in oat-meal. Besides which, ploughmen have generally a free house, a lit-

the garden, carriage of coals and their victuals in harvest. A day-labourer earns between L. 14 and L. 15 yearly; but from this the rent of his house and garden, which is ordinarily about 15 s. is to be deducted. Their wives are occasionally employed by the farmers on the fields; at other times, besides earning something by spinning, washing, &c. they frequently nurse children which turns to great emolument. Their children are also at times employed by the farmers. In harvest the wages given to the Highlanders who come in great numbers to cut down the crop of most part of Scotland, are perhaps at an average, about 8 d. a day, with their victuals. The expence of living among the common people, is at least, no greater in general, than their incomes. However numerous their families may be, they seldom receive, nor need any aid from the poor's funds. Their food consists of oat-meal porridge, oat-cakes and pease-bannocks, barley-broth, with greens, potatoes, butter-milk and water. Some begin now to use wheaten bread and small-beer, but seldom any eat butcher meat. The luxuries in which they indulge, are tea, and what is worse, whisky. Scarcely any fail to put their children to school to learn English, writing, and arithmetic. In general, servants, labourers, and tradesmen, live worse, and perform less labour than in England. But while those of the same class in England have better food and more of it, it appears that in fact, they daily eat up their all; and hence when their families are any-wise numerous, recourse must be had to the parish money. On the contrary, in Scotland, many half starve themselves, in order to make savings; not a few lay by several pounds Sterling, which they reserve for old age, for putting their children to apprenticeships, or for otherwise bettering their own condition, or that of their families. A spirit for enterprise and for rising in the world, characterises the Scots in general; and this  
has

has so remarkably pervaded all ranks for these 40 or 50 years past, that perhaps no people have in so short a period, made so great advances in industry, agriculture, manufactures, refinement, public revenue, and private wealth, as the people of Scotland.

*Poor.*—The funds consist of the rent of poors-lands, interest of poors-money, weekly collections, dues of mortcloths, &c. and the hire of a hearse which was given to the parish by the family of Dundas. The annual income from these funds, at an average for these ten years past, is about L. 41, and the number of the ordinary poor, about 25.

*School.*—English and writing are taught at 1 s. 6 d. the quarter: Arithmetic, Latin, and French, at 2 s. 6 d. The schoolmaster's salary, which consists both of the parish salary and of the interest of a mortification of L. 300, amounts to about L. 25 yearly, including the emoluments of the session-clerkship. The number of scholars within the parish is from 30 to 40; of boarders from 20 to 30, at 20 guineas *per annum*.

*Church, &c.*—The parish church, from the style of its architecture, which is Saxon, or a mixed species between the Greek and Gothic, seems to be 7 or 8 hundred years old. It is a very elegant small fabric, all of cut stone, 84 feet long by 25 broad, but the breadth diminishes towards the tribune, or rounded east end. The great door and windows have semicircular pediments ornamented with many mouldings, and supported on the sides by single round columns, without any diminution. The windows have a very elegant Grecian appearance, and were it not for the Gothic capitals

tals of the columns, and the shafts being too thick for their height, the whole might be taken for Greek architecture. But the chief beauty of this church is in the inside, which strikes every spectator when entering from the west. About one half of the church on the east end is covered with vaulted roofs, commencing with a large semicircular arch, and divided nearly into two equal parts, by a smaller arch farther east. The arches are richly adorned with successive tires of mouldings, chiefly in a fluted shape: The small one has a very elegant enrichment introduced into it, consisting of a slender reed fringed at distances with little cylinders. The church of Warthwick in England, near Carlisle, and which was built before the times of William the Conqueror, has a striking resemblance to this at Dalmeny, but is far inferior in point of embellishment. The manse was built in 1777. The stipend was augmented the same year, and consists of 5 bolls of wheat; 33 bolls 3 pecks 1 lippie barley; 9 bolls 1 peck 1 lippie meal; 16 bolls oats; and L. 54 : 17 : 8 $\frac{10}{2}$  Sterling, amounting in whole, this present year, to about L. 109 Sterling, the price of wheat being between 23 and 24 s.; of barley between 17 and 18 s.; of meal between 16 and 17 s.; and of oats between 14 and 15 s. the boll. The glebe is between 5 and 6 acres of good soil. The last presentation was given by the Earl of Rosebery; against which the late Earl of Hopetoun protested, as Vice-Patron, but waved his claim to the exercise of that right till the next vacancy.

*Minerals.*—A coal pit has been recently sunk on the Earl of Hopetoun's lands of Auldcaithy; but the success of the trial is not yet known. Appearances of coal have also lately been observed on Mr Dundas's estate of Newhalls. There is whinstone rock, and also abundance of that species of grey granite called

called *moor-stone* \*, of which the many excellent roads in this parish are made. There may be mentioned a singular basaltic rock upon the south side of Dundas-hill, 250 yards long, and generally about 60 or 70 feet high. This rock is almost perpendicular in its front, and consists of light blueish granite, of a very close and fine texture: The masses are in an irregular columnar state, separated by channels or furrows; but many well defined regular prisms are to be observed. At the foot of the steep, and almost perpendicular bank on which this rock lies, is a morass of about 9 acres of shell marl. But what is chiefly remarkable and valuable as a mineral in this parish, is the vast bed of free-stone upon the sea-coast. A quarry of this excellent stone has been wrought, to the extent of 3 acres, a little to the west of the borough of Queenferry; and, besides supplying the demands of the neighbourhood, great quantities of it were privately exported for building the fortifications and quay of Dunkirk. All the fine stone carvings of Earl Fife's elegant house at Banff were executed here upon the spot, and sent thither in cases by sea. A large baptismal font, 5 feet in diameter, intended for the Continent, with its bottom uppermost, and covered with sea-weed and shell fish, lies opposite to this quarry a good way within the sea mark; and which the antiquary might fancy to be one of the remains of some Poppish church once standing there, that had been overwhelmed by the sea. Grindstones are manufactured at this quarry, and annually exported to the countries on the Baltic. It is said, that here, and elsewhere on the coast in this parish, there is such a quantity of free-stone, that scarcely any demand could exhaust it.

*Antiquities.*

\* Whin-stone, or porphyry (called toad-stone, rag-stone, &c. in England) differs from moor-stone in this, that the former contains iron, and also some lime.



*Antiquities.*—1. About a mile to the west of Barnboug Castle, on the top of a high sea bank, is an ancient cairn, called by the country people the *Earl Cairn*, of a circular shape, 500 feet in circumference, and 24 high in the middle; raised perhaps for the purpose of a sepulchral monument. The stones are all small, consisting of granite, whin-stone, quartz, iron-stone, and lime-stone, and appear to have been carried to it by the hand from the neighbouring grounds. A portion only of the cairn now remains; the greater part of the stones having been taken away. 2. In that part of the parish which lies at the west end of Queensferry, close by the shore, are the remains of a monastery, founded about the 1330 by one of the lairds of Dundas, for Carmelite Friars. The church, a small building in a very plain Gothic style, is still nearly entire. 3. Near a mile to the west of this, upon a high sea bank, where a farm house now stands, there were, about 40 or 50 years since, considerable ruins of probably an old Roman *speculatorium*, consisting of a large carved window, a square pillar, and a very considerable quantity of hewn stones, which, it is said, were carried to Dunkirk. There were found several silver medals of Marcus Antoninus, with a *Victory* on the reverse; also, the carved handle of a copper vessel, and the bottom of an earthen urn, with the word *adjecti*; the rest obliterated.

*Antient Families, and Eminent Men.*—1. The family of Dundas of Dundas, from which that of Arniston, and others, are derived, has been traced by genealogists \* back to the Saxon Kings of England; and that family has uninterruptedly enjoyed a great estate in this parish, in the male line, for near 700 years. The present proprietor is the 24th in descent from  
the

\* Sir James Dalrymple, Crawford, Nisbet, &c.

the first laird of Dundas; and has in his possession one of the oldest original writings in Scotland, being a charter granted about the year 1120. The stately castle of the family, erected on a lofty situation, still remains, but is uninhabited. 2. The Craigies of Craigy were another antient and considerable family; one of them being a witness to Dundas's charter just mentioned. After some generations they terminated in an heiress, who, in 1387, married Sir John Stewart, who thence took the title of Craigiehall, where their posterity continued till about 1640, when the estate of Craigiehall was sold; but the family still continue respectable in the parish. 3. The Mowbrays of Barnbogle have likewise a claim to high antiquity; the name of Philip Mowbray of Barnbogle occurring about 1200. In that name (of which were several Dukes of Norfolk, Earls of Nottingham, &c.) the estate remained till the 1620, when Sir Robert Mowbray sold it; whose representative, it is said, is still in the parish, but reduced to the condition of a common servant. Barnbogle Castle still remains, and is inhabited, but is no ways remarkable, except for its fanciful situation within the sea mark, and for its embrasures presenting a strong front to the sea. 4. The late William Wilkie, D. D. born in the village of Echlin in this parish, Oct. 5. 1721, and educated at the school of Dalmeny. After revolving the history of antient families in this and other parishes, many of which have fallen into decline, and may perhaps pass into oblivion, it may be observed, that the memory of a man of genius and learning is less subject to perish. The *Epigoniad* will probably be always admired. Without speaking of the happy choice of the subject, and of the merit of many of the characters in that Epic poem, it may be enough to say, that the episode of Hercules, taken by itself, is sufficient to entitle the poet to perpetual fame. Dr Wilkie was distinguished for a singular compass of knowledge, and chiefly

chiefly for an originality of genius. In his youth he cultivated a small farm, and struggled long and hard with penury. He was afterwards minister of Ratho; and lastly professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of St Andrews, where he died in 1773, in his 52d year.

*Population Table for 1790.*

Souls	-	-	907	1 family consists of	19
Families	-	-	218	2 - - of	22
Males	-	-	429	Great heritors, and who	
Females	-	-	478	reside - -	3
Aged below 10	-	-	204	Lesser heritors - -	3
— between 10 and 20	-	-	172	Very small proprietors	17
— 20 and 50	-	-	347	Clergy (Established)	1
— 50 and 70	-	-	141	Clergy (Seceders) - -	1
— 70 and 100	-	-	43	Schoolmasters - -	1
34 families consist of	-	-	1	Attornies - - -	1
40 - - of	-	-	2	Surgeons - - -	1
36 - - of	-	-	3	Great farmers - -	15
30 - - of	-	-	4	Small ditto - -	10
34 - - of	-	-	5	Bakers - - -	2
11 - - of	-	-	6	Millers * - - -	1
10 - - of	-	-	7	Ferriers - - -	1
10 - - of	-	-	8	Smiths - - -	4
2 - - of	-	-	9	Carpenters, &c. - -	10
4 - - of	-	-	10	Masons - - -	3
2 - - of	-	-	11	Tailors - - -	1
1 - - of	-	-	14	Shoemakers - - -	5
1 - - of	-	-	17	Weavers - - -	6
				Gardeners	

\* There is a flour mill, a barley mill, and an oat-meal mill at Cramond-bridge, at the last of which about 1000 bolls of oats are annually milled.

Gardeners	-	10	Shepherds	-	5
Slaters and glaziers		1	House servants	-	78
Overseers	-	5	Miller servants	-	4
Midwives	-	1	Seamen	- -	12
Carters, &c.	-	7	Widows	-	51
Horse-letters	-	2	Widowers	-	17
Inn-keepers	-	1	Seceders	-	142
Small ale-houses	-	5	Residing in 6 large vil-		
Chaise drivers	-	6	lages	- -	530
Plowmen, &c.	-	76	Residing in 5 small vil-		
Day-labourers, &c.		39	lages	- -	123
Work horses	-	150	Bakewell's breed		400
Milk cows	-	130	Dorsetshire sheep		10
Black cattle, young			Abyssinian ditto *		2
cows and horses		800	Deer	- -	30
Scotch sheep	-	2020			

In the parish are 2 coaches, 3 four-wheeled chaises, and 3 ditto belonging to the inn at Newhalls. There are more ploughs, carts, and other implements of husbandry, than are usually employed by the farmers.

\* These are part of a little flock brought here by George Dundas, Esq; of Dundas, Captain of the Winterton East India-man; the rest died on their passage home. Their fleece is hairy like goats; but next the skin, is a very fine soft down.

## N U M B E R XXIX.

## P A R I S H O F S O R B I E.

*By the Rev. Dr ISAAC DAVIDSON.**Situation, Soil, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Sorbie, in the shire and presbytery of Wigton, and synod of Galloway, is bounded by Wigton Bay and Solway Firth on the east; by the parish of Whitehorn on the south; by the same parish and that of Glasserton on the west; and by Kirkinner on the north.

From the south, where it joins Whitehorn, it stretches six miles northward to Kirkinner; and from the east, on Wigton Bay, it runs as far to the west, where it unites with the parish of Glasserton. This is its broadest part. From Garliestown Bay on the east, to the nearest part of Whitehorn parish due west, is about a mile and a furlong. This is its narrowest part.

Vessels sail from Garliestown to Whitehaven in four hours, to the Isle of Man in three, to Liverpool in twenty-four, to Dublin in twenty-four, and to Port Greenock in thirty.

The face of the country is beautiful, being variegated with little hills and fertile plains. In their seasons, the richest herbage, and the most luxuriant crops of grain, every where appear. Through the whole year, there is a delightful verdure, lessened, but seldom altogether destroyed, either by  
frost

frost or snow. In the year 1775, when the whole island of Great Britain was almost buried in snow, this parish presented the eye with its favourite colour; and green fields and happy flocks were pleasing objects to the traveller, and enriched their owners. The soil, is not deep, but exceeding fine, yielding an increase equal to Hertfordshire.

To the care and superior skill of the present Earl of Galloway, the fertility and beauty of this parish are in a great measure to be ascribed. His Lordship lives in it several months every year, and has shewn much attention to agriculture, breeding of cattle, and planting. When he came to the possession of his antient and extensive family estate in the year 1765, this parish, like the country in general, was almost in a state of nature. There were few inclosures; the roads were narrow and unformed; and scarce a tree appeared to please the eye. Things are now totally different. The fields are all inclosed, and well cultivated. The roads are of the proper breadth, well formed, and made of good materials; and plantations every where present themselves.

Galloway House was built by the late Earl, and forms part of a landscape truly beautiful and grand. Garliestown Bay is on the north; and Rigg, or Hunter's Bay, is on the south of it. From its windows are seen the richest fields; an indented coast, adorned with growing improvements; a cluster of isles, and the lofty mountains of Cumberland and Man, appearing at a proper distance. The present Earl has made great additions and improvements. The principal rooms are spacious, and the library is stored with many thousand valuable volumes.

Lord Galloway's management of his estate deserves particular notice. The lands about Galloway House are well divided, and the fields are completely sheltered by the plantations, which produces many advantages. The grass springs  
early;

early; and the cattle, defended from the storm, feed at their ease. The belts of planting, being carried along the ridges of the hills, improve the appearance of the country, and give warmth to all below them.

The Earl has studied the nature of forest trees, and the different ways of raising and treating them, with much attention. Under his care trees grow on every exposure; and every species of them thrive as well about Galloway House as in any part of England. The pine-aster, or maritime pine, is of so much use here, and indeed in such places as are much exposed, as to deserve the greatest attention. It is hardy, and makes vigorous shoots, almost on the sea-beach; and is an excellent defence for other trees. The proper method of raising this most useful plant in the nursery insures its success. The seed ought to be sown on rich ground, in the month of March. Sixteen months afterward, the plant ought to be taken up in moist weather; its tap root shortened, and the young tree planted in a rich ground well pulverized. It must be watered for ten or twelve days, till the new roots begin to strike. Thus transplanted, it must stand for eighteen or twenty-four months, and then planted out on any exposure. Transplanting and cutting them, as above described, make them put out many lateral roots, which find food for the plant, and give it firmness in its station. Whereas, if it is permitted to remain two years in the seed-bed, it puts down only one root, and is incapable of resisting the storm. Gentlemen, therefore, who plant near the shore, ought to give the maritime pine as much soil as possible, and raise a defence for it in its infant state. Its future service to them, and their posterity, will amply repay their care and expence.

The Scotch fir is of great use when planted on the south-west of other trees, by defending them from our greatest

est and most frequent storms. While speaking of firs, it may be proper to observe, that resinous plants have two seasons of growth; the first in the spring, and the second after the early harvest rains. Early planting is consequently advantageous. All trees planted here before new year's day thrive best, excepting such as are intended for wet ground, which ought to be planted in the month of March. The oak, ash, beech, alder, firs \*, &c. thrive here, and are equal to any in their quality. Lord Galloway has found that pruning makes them grow with great vigour. By experiment it appears, that plants which were pruned, advanced, at the rate of four years in six, before those which were not pruned. This treatment best suits trees which have been taken from the nursery, and should be attended to in the winter of the second or third year after they have been planted out. In the plantations of a circumference of sixteen miles, trees of every kind grow with the greatest luxuriance; and some of them have risen, in a few years, to the height of fifty feet. His Lordship's designs are great; and he is accomplishing them, by planting, at the rate of 200,000 trees every year.

*Lakes, &c.*—There is a very fine fresh water lake on the north-west border of the parish, above three miles in circumference, well stored with perch, pike, and eels. It is called Dowalton Lake, because a great family of the name of M'Dowal were proprietors of it, and their place of residence or town was near it. The lake surrounds the remains of a house and garden. The house, it is supposed, was fortified, and afforded a safe retreat to its Lords, when feudal and allodial rights produced discord and war. The fish in it are never caught for sale. From this lake a rivulet flows, through a rich valley, to Garliestown Bay.

*Sea*

\* The *larix*, or larch, is found here to be of quick growth. Its timber is excellent, lasts long under water, and resists the worm.



*Sea Coast, Fish, Tides, &c.*—There are upwards of twelve miles of sea-coast, including the bays. The shore is rather bold to the south, but becomes flat at Rigg or Hunter's Bay; and continues so to Garliestown, where it rises again. On the whole, it may be called a rocky shore, though in Garliestown Bay there is a deep, soft clay, on which vessels lie in the greatest safety, and have the best anchorage. Flounders, soles, skate, cod, crabs, lobsters, oysters, with many other kinds of fish, abound on the coast. Herrings were found some time ago in vast shoals; and there is reason to believe that they still visit this shore. Some years ago they were caught with great success; and it appears from a minute of kirk-session, dated September 1. 1700, that the inhabitants were so anxious in the pursuit of them as to be difficultly restrained from fishing on the Lord's day. The people are now fully engaged in agriculture: Fishing is nearly neglected, and the fishing boats on the coast are very few. The sea-animals are the same with those on the eastern coast of Great Britain. The sea-weeds are of the common kind. A few tons of kelp are made from them every two or three years. Some are spread upon the land, without any preparation; but the best farmers use them in composts, which produce a quick and strong fermentation. The courses of the tides are as follow. The tide flows straight out from Wigton Bay six hours, and takes the same time to return. At Garliestown, the tide flows five hours from the south, and ebbs seven. It is high water at Garliestown at a quarter of an hour before eleven o'clock A. M. at the change and full of the moon. There are no light houses, beacons, or artificial land-marks, on the coast; but there are several places where light-houses might be erected with great advantage to navigation.

The head-lands are Crugleton and Eagerness; and the principal

Principal bays are those of Garliestown; Rigg, now called Hunter's Bay, in compliment to Captain Hunter of the navy, who came to an anchor in it, with Lord Garlies on board; and Ports Allan, Whaple, and Innerwell. Many other smaller bays indent the coast in a most beautiful manner, where vessels, loaded with lime and sea-shells, deliver their cargoes.

Garliestown is well situated for a harbour, not only to serve its own neighbourhood, but all the trade of the west of England, from Liverpool to Carlisle; that of the west of Scotland to Wales and England; and that of Ireland and Man. But no trade would profit so much by it as that large and important one from Whitehaven to Dublin. This great trade, to which one tide is of vast consequence, is considerably retarded by the south, south-west, and west winds, which are more frequent there than any other. Were there a good harbour at Garliestown, the ships bound from Whitehaven to Dublin might come over to it with south and south-west winds, and deliver their cargoes much sooner than they do at present. To this desirable end the tides are particularly favourable.

*Cattle, Wool, &c.*—The black cattle of this parish and neighbourhood are of the best quality. Lord Galloway thinks he has improved the size and shape of the original breed, by introducing Westmorland bulls. His Lordship gave new life to a spirit of emulation among the breeders, by a premium of a very handsome silver cup, which he bestowed every year on the person who produced the best four year old ox or cow. With respect to Galloway cattle in general, those in the muirs differ only from those in the improved part of the country in their size. The last description of cattle weigh when fat 50, the first about 40 stone. Most of the  
cattle

cattle are without horns, and are preferred to such as have them; because they are supposed to be deeper in the fore quarter, are in less danger of being gored by each other, and are more compact in their shape. The prevailing colours are black and brown; white is not esteemed. They are even in the back; square and deep in the rib, and short in the leg; and so healthy, that they fatten sooner than any other, They cost in the country, when

One year old	-	-	-	-	L. 2	10	0
Two years old	-	-	-	-	5	10	0
Three ditto	-	-	-	-	7	0	0
Four ditto	-	-	-	-	8	8	0

They used to be sent to the English markets when four year old; but now too many of them are sent sooner. This county sends many thousands to these markets every year; and this parish breeds annually between five and six hundred. They are about twenty-eight days in travelling to the Norfolk markets, and cost about 18 s. per head driving and feeding. When they have finished their journey, it is supposed they have lost, through fatigue, above one-eighth of their weight. To this add the losses occasioned by diseases, by frights, heats, bad water, lameness, and other causes. Such losses affect not only the proprietors of droves, but also the public, by advancing the price of beef. Here the unfriendly operation of the salt-laws appears in a very clear light. Were it not for them, the vast herds of cattle produced by this truly fertile country might be slaughtered and salted at home for the use of his Majesty's navy, trading vessels, &c.

If a spirit of manufacture were once excited, wool, of which the high part of this country produces a vast quantity; flax, which might be cultivated with great advantage on the deepest of the lands; and other raw materials, might be wrought

wrought up into articles of commerce ; and a Leeds or an Halifax would perhaps grow out of one of our small villages.

Some of the most antient breed of Galloway horses are among the mountains and less improved parts of the country. They are said to be very hardy, easily maintained, and high spirited. This breed is well attended to in Cumberland, where it is much improved by crosses with English horses. A larger breed is preferred here, as being more fit for the purposes of draught and agriculture. Through the attention of the noblemen and gentry, this neighbourhood has a breed of horses fit for the saddle, and carriages of every kind. The colours of horses are various ; but the dark bay, with black legs and feet, is preferred. Their shape is generally good. They were originally galloways, and said to have sprung from a Spanish breed, which came ashore on this coast when one of the vessels of the Armada was wrecked upon it, after sailing round by the Pentland Firth.

*Population.*—The population here has been increasing for some time past.

The present amount is	-	-	-	1069
Of these there are males	-	-	-	515
Females	-	-	-	554
In the village of Garliestown there are about	-	-	-	450
In ditto of Sorbie about	-	-	-	80
The average of births	-	-	-	23
Ditto of deaths	-	-	-	14
Ditto of marriages	-	-	-	8
Under ten years old	-	-	-	276
From 10 to 50	-	-	-	586
From 50 to 80	-	-	-	180
From 80 to 100	-	-	-	27

There are farmers	-	-	-	-	-	43
Corn mills	-	-	-	-	-	3
Cloth mills	-	-	-	-	-	2
Mechanics	-	-	-	-	-	63
Apprentices	-	-	-	-	-	11
Seamen	-	-	-	-	-	30
Foreigners	-	-	-	-	-	1
Persons born in England	-	-	-	-	-	24
Persons born in Wales	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nobility, one family.						
Clergy	-	-	-	-	-	3
One of the Church of England, the other two of the Established Church.						
Episcopalians	-	-	-	-	-	24
Seceders, Ante-Burghers	-	-	-	-	-	60
Catholics	-	-	-	-	-	4
Cameronians	-	-	-	-	-	2
Merchants	-	-	-	-	-	11
In the year 1774 several families emigrated to America.						

*Agriculture, &c.*—The general rule of farming is, to have one-third of the land in tillage, and two-thirds in pasture. Oats, barley, and pease, are the grains generally raised. Potatoes have been long cultivated with much success. Wheat has not succeeded, unless with a few, though the soil is very like that of Hertfordshire. The parish does not only supply itself, but exports a large quantity of grain and potatoes to London, Liverpool, Dublin, the Isle of Man, and the West of Scotland. Every field having produced its number of crops, is laid down with red, white, or yellow clovers, rib, or rye grass seeds. The feed time commences in the beginning of March, and the harvest about the middle of August.

There

There is marle in the parish. Lime, from Cumberland, is delivered in the different bays at 1 s. the Carlisle bushel, which is equal to three Winchester bushels; and sea shells at 1 s. 6 d. per ton. Sea shells are the best of all manures; and in this neighbourhood they are inexhaustible. Every tide, accompanied by an east wind, brings in great quantities of this most valuable commodity. With these different manures, rich crops and fine cattle are raised; but, if the present treatment of a most generous soil be persisted in, there is reason to believe that it will be much injured. Three, and sometimes four crops of oats, or barley, succeed each other; and with the last of these crops grass seeds are sown, which are cut for hay in the following year. Thus four, and sometimes five, white crops follow one another; for a crop of rye grass is as severe as a crop of oats, and therefore may be called a white crop.

When the land is laid down with grass seeds, it commonly lies six years. Fallowing, in this part of the country, is little practised; and green crops are but small, and few in number; the fields, therefore, become very dirty. A partial fallow in the spring, and early in May, is of great use in cleaning the fields. It is often followed by a rich crop of light grain; and is particularly serviceable in preparing land for grass. This is almost the only fallow used here.

Carts are used in carrying merchants goods, manures, grain, &c. &c. The small plough is used, sometimes with, and sometimes without a chain; but for coarse strong land, a large plough is thought necessary.

*Rent.*—The average rent of land does not exceed 10 s. per acre: Rent of houses from L. 1 to L. 15. Leases are commonly

monly granted for 19 years. Lord Galloway has two upon his estate here of 21 years, and the life of the farmers. The size of farms is from 300 to 30 acres.

*Church and Stipend.*—The church was completely repaired about 30 years ago. The manse was rebuilt in 1778. The stipend is L. 75 *per annum*. The glebe, including grass and arable land, garden, and site of the manse and office-houses, does not amount to 10 acres. Of these there are 4 acres of the worst land in the neighbourhood. They were never thought worth ploughing till the present incumbent received them. There are 7 heritors. The Earl of Galloway is the only resident one. Dr Davidson, and Elliot William Davidson, his only son, are the present ministers. The former was admitted November 1775; the latter was ordained, September 3. 1789, assistant and successor. The King is patron.

*Poor.*—There are 13 poor on the list. About L. 27 Sterling *per annum* is distributed among them, chiefly raised by collections in the church. The legal manner of treating paupers was adopted here anno 1776; that is, they were obliged to use badges, and to confine themselves within the bounds of the parish. This distinction was very disagreeable to them; and it was found that some of them had hoarded up money. The present incumbent has never had an improper application from a native for admission to the public charity.

*Price of Labour, Fuel, &c.*—Common day labourers are paid, one quarter of the year, 10 d. per day; for the other three quarters 1 s.; carpenters 1 s. 4 d.; masons 1 s. 6 d.; taylors 6 d. or 8 d.

A farm fervant, when married, has a house and garden, a cow's grafs and fodder, ground to raife flax and potatoes for his family, his peats led home, and oats out of the barn, to the value of L. 8 Sterling. Labourers who thresh the grain receive the 25th part for their labour. They are employed in other work when the threshing is over, for which they receive an house and garden, grafs and fodder for a cow, ground for potatoes, and flax and oats out of the barn, to the value of L. 2 Sterling.

Both these descriptions of labourers maintain their families comfortably, educate their children in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and sometimes put them apprentices to mechanics.

Domestic fervants are hired at and under the following rates, very seldom above them : Men at L. 7 Sterling ; women L. 3.

Peat is the fuel commonly used ; they are sold at 3 d. the horse load at the moffes ; and, when carried home to the consumer, they are generally double that sum. This kind of fuel is commonly procured in the parish of Kirkinner. Coals are brought from Cumberland at 19 s. the ton. The scarcity of fuel is the greatest disadvantage under which this neighbourhood labours, and yet it is within four hours sailing from the English coal mines. The tax upon that necessary article, when water borne, is the cause of its high price ; and here that tax is a real grievance. Its bad effects, and unfriendly influence on manufactures, are evident. A small duty, raised at the pit, would affect every consumer equally, and be more productive. Our legislators will surely embrace some fit opportunity of revising the coal and salt laws : And, it is humbly hoped that the honourable member to whom  
this



this imperfect account of their unfriendly operation is addressed, will consider such a revival as connected with the interests of commerce, government, and humanity.

*Miscellaneous Observations, Antiquities, &c.*—There are two villages in this parish, Garliestown, founded by the present Earl of Galloway when Lord Garlies. It is in the form of a crescent. It contains about 450 inhabitants. The other village is Sorbie, also begun through the encouragement of the present Earl, in which there are about 80 inhabitants.

A tumulus, was opened in part by some road makers, and human bones were found in it. Near it, and close by Hunters, or Rigg Bay, were also found human bones, inclosed by three stones; and upon one of the stones there seemed to be an inscription. There are the remains of two castles, Crugleton and Eagerness. An unornamented arch, and some other parts of the ruins of Crugleton, shew it to have been a place of great size and strength. The fosse remains very plain. This castle is said to have been the dwelling of the very ancient and wealthy family of the Vauses, now Vanses, of Barnbarrow. Crugleton is now the property of Sir Stair Agnew of Lochnaw, Bart. Eagerness is altogether destroyed. The terminations of the names of these castles shew them to be of Saxon original. *Nest*, in that language, signifies an headland, or promontory; *ton* is derived from a word in the same language which signifies an hedge or wall; and that word, again, seems to be from one signifying a hill. Eagerness is a headland: Crugleton is upon a hill; and seems to signify a town upon a hill, surrounded by a wall. There is a rope-walk at Garliestown, well conducted; and ten coasting vessels belong to that port.

An high and independent spirit plainly marks the people of this parish. To receive charity from the parish funds is esteemed disgraceful, and therefore frugality prevails. Their industry is persevering, and secures their contentment and virtue. There has not been one criminal prosecution carried on against any of them within the memory of any person in the parish.

Two large vessels were stranded on this coast a few years ago; every possible civility was shewn to the people; and their vessels were got off again without being damaged.

The statute labour is commuted; and, by act of parliament, the roads are made, and kept in repair, by a pound rate. In the year 1782, a plentiful harvest was reaped in perfection. There were no complaints among the poor; nor was there any meal sold under the market price. The landholders and farmers had a friendly interview, and resolved to retain in the country as much grain as was sufficient to supply the inhabitants.

The manners, dress, and style of living of the people, are all much changed within the last 50 years. Before that period, they knew little of the happy effects of industry, and, therefore, lived upon meal, milk, and vegetables. Their dress and houses were very mean. They knew not the value of the inexhaustible stores of natural manures, marle, and sea shells, which were at hand, trusting to the folding of their herds for manuring their lands. Now every thing bears a new aspect, and the people share the luxuries of their station with their more southern neighbours, which may be accounted for as follows:

Improve-

Improvements in agriculture introduced such wealth as is most permanent in its nature, because the value of the land is thereby increased. A surplus of grain led the inhabitants to distant markets, and brought strangers into the country. They learned the manners of their neighbours, and became like them; so that now, other accomplishments are added to that bold, active, and warlike spirit, by which the Gallovidians were formerly distinguished, and which procured for them the privilege of appearing in the van of the Scottish armies. Caetar's description of the Belgae applies to them in antient times. "Horum omnium fortissimi sunt Belgae; propterea quod a cultu, atque humanitate provinciae longissime absunt, minimeque ad eos mercatores saepe comitant, atque ea, quae ad effeminandos animos pertinent, important;" *Comment.*

The inhabitants trade in their own vessels to London and Port-Glasgow, and every port between these, as their interests require. Commerce naturally leads to luxury; and luxury prevailing, enervates that spirit which gave it existence, and, in the end, ruins trade, and activity in every useful line.

Good roads are of high importance in improving a country. Wherever they are made, all obstacles are surmounted, and the improvement of every field, capable of it, follows as a certain consequence. The military road from Dumfries to Portpatrick has produced many good effects in this respect. By means of it, mountains, formerly appearing impervious, are now no longer formidable. The stranger passes with ease, to give and receive information; and articles of trade are transported with facility. The road making from this country

try to Edinburgh, by a nearer way than Dumfries, and that into Airshire through the mountains, must be followed by the best consequences.

Besides the great roads, cross roads are made, or making, every where through the country.

There are three schools in the parish; and all the young people are educated according to their stations. There is one inn in Garliestown, equal to any in this part of Scotland, and five ale, or rather whisky-houses. In the village of Sorbie there is one house in which foreign spirits are sold, and another in which there is nothing but whisky. There is very little ale sold or brewed in this parish of late years. The effects of public houses are most injurious to the morals and industry of the people, especially when little else than whisky is sold in them. A few pence procures as much of this base spirit as is sufficient to make any man mad. The landlords of superfluous petty public houses, generally waste their time, and ruin their constitutions, by acting like decoys on their silly half resolved neighbours. In this shameless business they are flattered with the notion of promoting trade. This evil does not prevail so much here as in some other less industrious neighbourhoods.

New houses built in Garliestown within the last ten years,	34
Ditto in Sorbie - - - - -	9
In other parts of the parish - - - - -	16
	—
	59
Vol. I.	Besides

Besides the above, several old farm houses have been taken down, and good new ones erected on their sites. There have been about 12 old houses taken down; and there is not one finished house uninhabited. Wherever cottagers are employed in agriculture, population increases. Their children are healthy, happy, and numerous.

NUM.

N U M B E R   X X X .

P A R I S H   O F   K I L T E A R N .

*By the Rev. Mr HARRY ROBERTSON.*

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*Origin of the Name.*

**K**ILTEARN derives its name from two Gaelic words, viz. viz. *Keil Tighearn*, signifying the burying place of the laird or great man ; but there is no record or tradition from which we can learn what great man was first buried here. The Munro's of Fowlis, the chief family in the parish, were buried, for several centuries, at Chanonry, and only began to bury at Kiltearn anno 1588.

It is well known that many other places in Scotland owe their names to a similar cause, viz. their giving burial to some saint or eminent person ; and the names of these places begin with *Kil*, being a contraction of Keil, as Kilmuir, i. e. Mary's burial place ; Killin, Kilbride, Kilfyth, Kildonan, &c.

*Situation, Extent, and Surface.*—This parish is situated about the middle of the county of Ross, in the district called Ferindonald, of which we shall speak afterwards. It belongs to the Presbytery of Dingwall, and synod of Ross ; and stretches along the north side of the bay that runs up from Cromarty to Dingwall, being about six miles long from Novar-

Inn

Inn at the east, to a rivulet called Aultnalait, near Tulloch, at the west. The breadth is various. That part of the parish which is well cultivated is about two miles broad, from the sea-shore on the south, to the foot of the hilly ground on the north. But there are several grazings and Highland possessions at the distance of five, ten, and even fifteen miles, from the sea. It is bounded by the parish of Alnes on the east, by Contin and Lochbroom on the north, by Dingwall and Fodderty on the west, and by Cromarty Bay on the south. The Highland district of this parish is, for the most part, wild and uncultivated, consisting of high mountains, separated from each other by rapid rivulets, and extensive tracts of moors and mossy ground. In this district, there is a considerable strath \*, called the Clare, pleasantly situated in an inclined plain, upon the banks of the river Skiack, containing about 200 acres arable land and meadow ground. And, on the opposite side of the river, there is also a plain of about 30 acres, called Bognahavin. Though the houses in this remote district are in general very mean, yet there is one on each side of the river built in a style superior to the generality of farm-houses in the parish, being the goat-whey quarters of the minister of Kiltearn, and of Mr Munro sheriff-substitute of Lewis. In either of these houses, the weary traveller, or the fatigued sportsman, can find comfortable accommodations. This circumstance is only taken notice of, because it is a perfect contrast to the miserable huts, called Shealings, which the hardy Highlanders inhabit while they tend their flocks and herds, and live on the produce of the dairy.

If we turn our eyes to the low district of the parish, which inclines gently from the foot of the hills towards the sea, a  
very

\* i. e. valley, or level land between hills.

very rich and beautiful prospect opens to our view; viz. well cultivated fields, inclosed either with stone-walls, or with thorn hedges and belts of planting. In short, every traveller is struck with the natural beauty of the country, which of late years has been so much improved by art, as must give a favourable idea of the good taste and opulence of the proprietors. The gentlemen's houses are large and commodious, and their gardens well stored with fruit-trees. About eighty years ago, there were few forest trees to be seen here, except some natural alders and willows on the banks of rivers, and a few ashes, elms, and limes, surrounding gentlemen's gardens; but now there are extensive plantations of pines or firs, several miles in circumference, besides many thousands of oaks, and other hard wood of every kind that is to be met with in North Britain. The several proprietors seem to vie with each other in raising the finest plantations of timber. Such improvements are desirable on a double account: They adorn the face of the country, while they promote the interest of individuals.

There are several hills in this parish, which, being viewed from the plains below, add much to the grandeur and variety of the prospect. Several of these hills are covered with fir plantations, which cannot fail to please the eye, as, the hill above Foulis, the hill of Swordle, and some others. Knockmartin, a small hill, compared to the rest, is situated on the east side of the hill of Swordle, and is seen from the sea side. Its chief beauty consists in its shape, it tapers gradually from the base to the highest point, forming a cone. This last mentioned, as well as the higher hills beyond it, are covered with heath. But the most distinguished hill in the parish is Ben-uais, which towers above all the rest; and must be extremely high, as it is seen in Moray and Banffshire.



shire. Ben-uaisn is always covered with snow, even in the hottest day in summer. And, in allusion to this, there is a remarkable clause inserted in one of the charters of the family of Fowlis, which is, that the forest of Uaisn is held of the King on condition of paying a snow-ball to his Majesty on any day of the year, if required. And we are assured that a quantity of snow was actually sent to the Duke of Cumberland, when at Inverness, in 1746, to cool his wine. There is a great deal of heath and coarse grass, which is excellent pasture for cattle, all around this hill; and the forest is well stocked with deer, and a variety of moor game.

*Air, Climate, and Diseases.*—The air is generally clear and pure; and it has been observed, in this, as well as the neighbouring parishes, that the weather has been more changeable for twenty years past than in former times. That rain has fallen of late years in a greater proportion than it did formerly, is a well known fact, which has materially injured the crops, and occasioned late harvests over all the north of Scotland. And, that the air is more cold and moist upon the higher, than upon the lower ground, is found to hold true, in this district, as well as in other corners of the kingdom. But, notwithstanding the variableness of the weather, the climate of Kiltarn is by no means unhealthful; nor can the inhabitants impute the diseases they sometimes labour under to any noxious quality in the air, but rather to accidental causes. We are credibly informed, that the scarcity of bread in 1782 has impaired the constitutions of several people in the lower ranks of life, and entailed obstinate diseases on them. When an infectious fever attacks any family in the parish, it is generally communicated to some of their neighbours, and makes several breaches before it ceases; but  
it

It is a providential circumstance, that the people are seldom visited with such a calamity. The epidemical disease most dreaded is the natural small-pox, which usually sweeps away a number of children once in seven years, and sometimes oftener. In the year 1777, above 30, and in 1778 no fewer than 47 children died of this disease. There is not the least doubt that this great mortality was owing in part to the improper treatment of the patients, and the neglect of inoculation, to which the people are still averse, in spite of the earnest persuasion and example of their superiors, confirmed by a successful practice in almost every instance where it has been attempted. Rheumatic complaints have also been more frequent than formerly within these 30 years, owing probably to the substitution of linen for flannel shirts among the lower ranks; and a return to the use of flannel and woolen is found to be the most efficacious remedy for this complaint.

Before we conclude this article, it may be proper to observe, that the following instances of longevity, which seem to be well attested, afford a very favourable testimony of the healthfulness of the air and climate of this parish. About the year 1706, Katharine M'Kenzie died at Fowlis in the 117th year of her age. In 1782, Mr John Brown, late factor of Fowlis, died in his 107th year. In 1775, Kenneth Munro, late of Inveran, died in this parish, in his 100th year; and Mrs Munro, his wife, died 4 years after him, in her 88th year. The only instance which we shall add is a gentleman, a heritor of the parish, who had been a member of the last Scotch, and of the first British parliament; he died about 30 years ago, in his 94th year. And, within these few years, a sister and daughter of the same gentleman died here, who were very little short of the same age.

*Soil and Produce.*—The soil here is various, as might be expected in so large a district of land. In the highland district, the soil is either mossy, or a cold clay, mixed with sand or gravel, very unfriendly to vegetation. On the banks of the rivers the meadows are covered with a tough, strong turf, producing a coarse sort of grass, fitter for pasturing young cattle than for fattening them, or producing milk. And it would probably be for the interest, both of landlord and tenant, that a plough were never used in this district; for, tho' corn may grow, yet, through the cold and moisture of the climate, it seldom ripens so as to make good bread. In the low district of the parish, again, the difference of soil is very observable. Towards the east, it is light and gravelly. In the middle, for about two miles square, there is a rich loam, fit to produce any vegetable, with proper culture. As we proceed further on, the soil is black and spongy; but, by means of drains, it has of late years been greatly improved. The western division of the parish consists chiefly of a strong clay soil, some of it of a reddish hue, which, when well wrought, produces excellent crops. The seasons for sowing and reaping, in this parish, are as different as the degrees of activity, and the unaccountable prejudices of various farmers. Some lay it down as a maxim, never to begin sowing till a certain day of the month, when their fathers and grandfathers were accustomed to sow. Others, again, embrace the first opportunity, when the soil is sufficiently dry to receive the seed; and the effect is such as might naturally be expected. The spirited active farmer, who sows early, reaps an early harvest, and the best corn; while the others suffer all the inconveniences of a late harvest. But, we must here remark, what is very observable, that the farmers on the opposite side of the bay, in what is called the Black Isle, never fail to reap their corn a fortnight or twenty days earlier than the inhabitants

inhabitants of this parish ; and yet they are exposed to the north, while Kiltearn has a south aspect. The difference must certainly be owing to the quality of the soil. That on the opposite shore is a mould mixed with sand and gravel, chiefly founded on quarry. As to the productions of this parish, were we to mention them all, we would enumerate the several animals and vegetables that are most commonly to be met with in North Britain, with the addition of those productions peculiar to highland countries. The hills abound with red deer, and all kinds of moor game ; and various birds and beasts of prey, as eagles, hawks, foxes, &c. In the extensive heaths of this district, a great variety of berries is produced, most of which are very grateful to the taste. During the winter storms, there are shoals of sea-fowls on the coast here, such as wild ducks, and a species of geese called *rood geese*, which are esteemed good eating. Some shell fish are likewise found upon the coast, such as muscles, cockles, and wilks. The sea-coast being smooth and sandy for the most part, there is little sea-weed, and none at all fit for burning kelp. Bee-hives were formerly very plentiful in this parish, but now it is probable that there are not above 20 in the whole district. The parish used to be greatly infested with rats ; but they are now almost extirpated. Whether this is owing to the industry of rat-killers, who have been employed to destroy them, or whether they have emigrated to some other district, is not known. As the prejudice against eating swine's flesh is in a great measure overcome, a considerable number of pigs is reared here. Not only every farmer, but every house-keeper, rears annually one or two pigs, and some half a dozen ; the greatest number of which are sold at the neighbouring markets ; and, when tolerably well fed, fetch from 20 to 30 shillings a piece. The breed of black cattle here is various. In the Highlands, they were small sized and hardy,

but not quite so small as the common breed of cattle in countries farther to the north. But the gentlemen and principal farmers have been at great pains to improve their breed of cattle by purchasing some from Fife and Moray, which are considerably larger than the common breed of the country. Some of the last mentioned, when full fed, sell for L. 10 or L. 12. The horses of the parish are also of two kinds; some of a large Galloway size, which the gentlemen use in ploughing and carting, value from L. 10 to L. 20 each; and a few worth L. 25. But the greatest number of horses are what are commonly called *Highland Garrons*, value from L. 3 to L. 5 each. There are few goats in the parish; and these are the property of two tenants, who occupy very remote possessions. The number of sheep at present is very inconsiderable, and, for the most part, of a very inferior quality, being of a small size, and producing very little wool. At present, there are only two or three farmers in the parish who manage their sheep properly; and one of their sheep is worth two of any other farmer's. The rearing of sheep has been rather discouraged for some time past, being found so destructive to young plantations of timber; but it is not doubted that, in a few years, the rearing of this useful animal will become a principal object both with the landlords and tenants.

We shall conclude this article, by giving a list of the number of horses, black cattle, and sheep, in the parish, which, according to the best information, cannot be far distant from the truth.

Horses of the larger size	-	-	-	60
-----of the smaller size	-	-	-	305
Black cattle, including oxen	-	-	-	1000
Sheep	-	-	-	600

*Inhabi-*

*Inhabitants; their Origin, and Progress in Civilization.*—It is well known, that in many parts of Scotland, particularly in the north, every district is inhabited chiefly by some one particular tribe or clan. So it is in this country. The name of Ross prevails in the east, Mackenzie in the west, and Munro in the middle district; *i. e.* in the two contiguous parishes of Kiltearn and Alnes, which district of country is commonly called *Ferindonald*; which name appears to be of very antient date. Buchanan relates, that, about the beginning of the 11th century, King Malcolm II. of Scotland sued out the lands in the country to the great families in it, on account of their eminent services in assisting him to extirpate the Danes out of his kingdom. And, according to tradition, it was on that occasion that the country between the borough of Dingwall and the water of Alnes, in the shire of Ross, was given to Donald Munro, the progenitor of the family of Fowlis, from which all the Munros in this country are descended: And part of these lands were afterwards by the King erected into a barony, called the *Barony of Fowlis*. From this Donald Munro is lineally descended the present Sir Hugh Munro, Bart. who is the 29th baron of Fowlis, and proprietor of about two-thirds of the lands in the parish of Kiltearn. Under this head, we may observe, that, in antient times, those tribes or clans who inhabited different districts of the country, looked upon themselves as a distinct people or nation, united together under their respective chiefs or leaders, who exercised a sovereign, and at the same time a parental, authority over them. They looked up to the chief as to their common father; he looked upon them as his children, whom he protected as well as governed. That there were constant feuds and conflicts maintained between the neighbouring clans or tribes, is a fact well known. Many circumstances concurred to occasion these conflicts, and to support this warlike spirit.

spirit. In those rude and remote ages, when trade and commerce were little attended to, men of an enterprising spirit had no other field for distinguishing themselves but by their superior skill in the use of arms. This induced them to watch for every opportunity of displaying their martial achievements; and hence it often happened, that the slightest affronts were resented as the greatest injuries, especially from one of a different tribe or clan. And it was not uncommon, for the sake of a meer punctilio, or point of honour, to see two neighbouring clans marching out to battle, and maintaining the bloody conflict till victory was declared on one side. The conflict being over, it was usual that the chief or leader bestowed some mark of favour upon those of his followers who had distinguished themselves by their valour. When both sides were wearied out with the fatigues of war, there was usually a bond of amity or friendship entered into by their leaders, in which they bound themselves, and their followers, to maintain peace; which deeds were executed with all the solemnity of treaties entered into between two sovereign powers. But, even after the chiefs of the clans became more enlightened and humanised than to encourage the old feuds, they found it no easy matter to restrain the lower ranks among their followers from assassinating their neighbours, and committing depredations on their property. A striking proof of, which we learn from a transaction that happened in this part of the country little more than a century ago, when there was a bond of friendship entered into between the families of Seaforth and Fowlis. An old record, which gives a character of Sir John Munro of Fowlis, speaks thus: ‘ He lived in good correspondence with his neighbours; for there was a mutual condescendence past betwixt Kenneth Earl of Seaforth and Sir John Munro, therein designed John Munro younger of Fowlis, of which the  
‘ tenor

tenor follows:—" At Edinburgh the twentie third day of  
 " January, javie and sextie one years, It is condescended and  
 " agreed as follows, that is to say, We Kenneth Earl of Sea-  
 " forth, and John Munro younger of Fowlis, taking to our  
 " consideration how prejudicial it hath been to both our fa-  
 " milies that there hath not been of a long time, so good a  
 " correspondence betwixt us as was befitting men of that  
 " conjunction and neighbourhood, and of what advantage it  
 " will be to us, to live in good correspondence and confe-  
 " deracie one with another, and to maintain and concur for  
 " the weal of either, For the which causes, We the said noble  
 " Lord, and John Munro younger of Fowlis, taking burthen  
 " on us for our friends, kinsmen, and all others whom we  
 " may stop or let, do by thir presents bind and oblige us and  
 " our heirs faithfully upon our honours to maintain and  
 " concur with each other, for the good of both and our  
 " foresaids and to prevent as much as in us lyes, what may  
 " be to the prejudice of either of us or of any in whom ei-  
 " ther of us may be concerned in all time coming, as wit-  
 " nefs thir presents subscribed by us the place, day, month  
 " and year above written and mentioned, before these wit-  
 " nesses, Thomas M'Kenzie of Pluscardin, Colin M'Kenzie  
 " of Redcastle, Lieutenant Colonel Alexr Munro, and Major  
 " Alexr Munro Commiffar of Stirling. Sic subscribitur, *Sea-*  
 " *forth*, John Munro." But notwithstanding this bond of friend-  
 ship between the chiefs of both clans, it cannot be denied  
 that a good deal of the old spirit discovered itself on various  
 occasions among their followers and adherents, till it was  
 most happily suppressed at the memorable aera 1745—6. It  
 is our good fortune to live in an age when we see those whose  
 predecessors, in rude and barbarous times, seldom met but  
 with hostile intentions, now living in habits of sincere friend-  
 ship



ship and social intercourse, much to their mutual honour and advantage.

*Population.*—In order to ascertain with accuracy the population of this parish, a survey was made between the beginning of January and the middle of March 1791, from which we are enabled to give the following account of that important article:

Number of houses, or smokes	-	-	385
———— souls	-	-	1616
———— males	-	-	694
———— females	-	-	922
Under 10 years of age	-	-	448
From 10 to 20	-	-	308
—— 20 to 30	-	-	219
—— 30 to 40	-	-	204
—— 40 to 50	-	-	173
—— 50 to 60	-	-	145
—— 60 to 70	-	-	81
—— 70 to 80	-	-	29
—— 80 to 90	-	-	9
Married persons of both sexes	-	-	492
Unmarried women from 18 to 50	-	-	153
—— men past 20	-	-	72
—— women past 50	-	-	84
Widowers	-	-	15
Widows	-	-	96

From the foregoing list it appears, 1st, that many of the inhabitants of the parish live to what may be reckoned old age; 2dly, that the number of females far exceeds that of the males; and, 3dly, that the number of widowers is but small,

small, while the number of widows is so great, as must excite compassion in every feeling breast. If the number of houses or finokes shall appear considerable, let it be observed, that most of them are miserable huts, and that some of them are only inhabited by a poor solitary widow, or by a single man, who works for days wages wherever he can find employment. At different periods of time the population of this parish has varied much, which can be easily accounted for. We learn from good information, that, about the beginning of this century, there were nearly as many inhabitants in this parish as there are at present. This fact seems to be farther established by some old session registers of baptisms and marriages between the year 1700 and 1728, extracts of which are subjoined. It is to be regretted that there are several chasms in those records, which prevents our giving the extracts so completely as might be wished; but to shew clearly that the population here had gradually diminished between the year 1740 and 1770, lists are given of the baptisms and marriages celebrated about that period, viz. from 1747 to 1752. The diminution of the number of inhabitants then can be very rationally accounted for. That martial spirit which has been a distinguishing characteristic of the Munros, led persons of every rank and description in this parish to fly to arms as soon as the trumpet sounded the alarm of war. By this means the flower of the young men of Kiltearn were scattered abroad in all the countries that have been the seat of war during that period; in Flanders, in Germany, in the East and West Indies, and in America; besides, several hundreds have gone as recruits to the Scots Brigade in Holland, which establishment was at that time one of the chief fields of preferment for young gentlemen of family. It is no wonder, then, that a country which for a long time had been a nursery for the army, should, in a course of years, decrease considerably

derably in population. But, at the peace 1763, such numbers, both of officers and private soldiers, flocked home to their native country, that the population is sensibly increased since that period. Add to this, that the various buildings and improvements which have been carried on in this neighbourhood within 20 years, has induced many labourers and artificers to settle among us, and considerably increased the number of inhabitants.

The following lists, extracted from the session records, will fully illustrate what has been advanced above, by giving a view of the population at three several periods, viz. at the beginning of this century, about the middle of it, and at the present time.

## Lift during the First Period.

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.
1702, from January 6. to September 17.	33	no record.
1724, during the whole year	42	8
1725	30	8
1726	18	4
1727	21	19

## Lift during the Second Period.

1747	23	8
1748	25	7
1749	27	7
1750	28	12
1751	26	9
1752	25	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	154	53
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Yearly average, nearly	26	9
		Lift

List during the Third Period.

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1784	31	9	
1785	34	11	
1786	34	7	
1787	34	7	
1788	40	8	
1789	36	8	
1790	45	15	
	254	65	190
Yearly average, nearly	36	9	27

Though no public register of the burials has been kept here, yet, from memorandums kept by private persons, and the best information we could obtain on the subject, there is every reason to believe that the above is a correct statement for the last seven years.

*Heritors, Rent, and Farms.*—There are six heritors or proprietors of land in this parish; and the two most considerable of them reside constantly in it; one resides occasionally; and the remaining three live upon other parts of their property. About 60 years ago, there were more than twice the present number of heritors; but these were chiefly cadets of the family of Fowlis, who had at different periods derived their possessions from that family; and, when those small heritors were obliged to sell off their lands, they have reverted, by purchase, to the original proprietors. The valued rent of the parish is L. 3149 : 9 : 6 Scots; the real rent about L. 1500 Sterling. Formerly, the greatest part of the rent was paid in victual; but a good deal of the victual is now converted.

It is not easy to say what the rate of conversion is, being different on the properties of the several heritors. In stating the rent of the parish, we have set no value on the extensive plantations of growing timber, which must bring a considerable revenue to the proprietors in a few years, and may probably be estimated at L. 30,000. As the greatest part of the lands in the parish have been measured by surveyors, we can give a pretty exact account of the number of acres of arable ground, which are reckoned to be about 2250, exclusive of woodlands and pasture ground that has never been cultivated. The lands have let at various prices; some acres at 20 s. some at 17 s. 15 s. 12 s. 10 s. and none below 8 s; but, as the arable and pasture grounds, both in the high and low districts of the parish, are usually let to tenants in the lump, without distinguishing the value of each acre, the above estimate is but conjectural, though founded on the best information that can be had. One third part of the whole arable land in the parish is now in the possession of the proprietors, and has been occupied by them for several years past. How far this may be favourable to their interests, they will be best able to judge when they sum up their accounts of profit and loss; but it is the prevailing opinion in this country, that gentlemen of fortune and landed property rather lose than gain by extensive farms. No doubt, much depends on their being fortunate in getting skilful, active, and faithful overseers. All the gentlemen's farms in this parish are at present managed, either by natives of the south of Scotland, or by persons bred to farming there. It may therefore be expected that the same implements of husbandry, and the same rotation of crops, will be found on those farms which are under their management, as we see in Fife or East Lothian, except when a different mode of farming is pursued, to gratify the views of the proprietor. The next in  
rank

rank to the heritors are the better sort of farmers, who may be thus classed :

Tenants paying about	L. 80	rent	.	.	.	2
—	—	—	40	.	.	3
—	—	—	30	.	.	4
—	—	—	20	.	.	4
—	from L. 20	to	10	.	.	9
—	from L. 10	to	3	.	.	56
						—
						78

The principal farmers mentioned above keep good cattle and farming utensils ; and of late years they sow some clover and rye-grass feeds, as well as their landlords. They are also ambitious to have their farms properly inclosed, on reasonable terms ; but the other classes of tenants consider inclosures as a grievance, and would rather partake of every thing in common. Their cattle are also of an inferior size ; and they never sow grass feeds ; but, instead of this, when their land is exhausted by a repeated succession of crops, they allow it to lie *lea* or untilled for two or three years ; during which time they pasture it till it gets a turf again ; and then till and sow it with oats, and leave another piece of ground *lea* in its turn. It is no wonder that these farmers should have poor returns from their lands ; for, nothing but scanty crops can be expected from such wretched management. Another class of people still remains to be mentioned, who, though they cannot be strictly called farmers, are so in part, as they occupy one, two, or three acres of ground. These are commonly called cottars, i. e. cottagers, or mailers, and often hold of the principal farmer. They do not depend on farming for their entire support, being, in general,

neral, artificers, mechanics, or day-labourers; and these last do more justice to their lands, and rear better crops on their small lots than the poor tenants do on larger possessions. We shall not attempt to give the exact number of all the cottars and mailers in the parish; but of such of them as are artificers and mechanics, together with their apprentices, the following is a complete list.

Blacksmiths . . . . .	3	Tailors . . . . .	8
Masons and flaters . . . . .	14	Shoemakers . . . . .	9
Joiners and coopers . . . . .	8	Millers . . . . .	3
Cart-wrights . . . . .	4	Shopkeepers . . . . .	4
Weavers . . . . .	6	Apprentices . . . . .	36
Dyer . . . . .	1	Bleacher . . . . .	1

We may observe, that, as the above number of mechanics cannot be supposed to find constant employment in the parish, they work occasionally in the neighbourhood, and employ their leisure hours in cultivating their small lots of land, where potatoes are always the staple crop. Among such a number of farmers as we have described, there must be various methods of culture. On the farms of the better sort, it is common to see two strong horses yoked in the plough, under the management of a single ploughman, or six oxen yoked in successive pairs, which require a driver. Others, again, join two horses and two oxen, believing that the sprightliness of the horses will carry forward the oxen with more alacrity. But the poorer tenants yoke in one plough, horses, oxen, and cows, promiscuously, which often exhibit a miserable spectacle, and clearly shews that they are more solicitous to increase the number, than improve the quality of their cattle. Within a dozen years, an improvement

ment has been introduced, which deserves to be peculiarly attended to, as it has answered all the good purposes that were expected from it, viz. The oxen are now harnessed by many farmers in the same manner as horses, which they work in the plough; the consequence is, that the animal draws with more power, and also with more seeming ease to itself, than when it was yoked by the neck. And, to prevent any inconveniency arising from the horns of the ox in putting on the collar, there is a strap and buckle used, by which the collar opens and shuts. The prevailing opinion seems to be in favour of labouring with oxen rather than horses, which are liable to so many accidents, and a certain loss in the end; but it has fared with this, as with many other just maxims, it is more readily assented to in speculation than reduced to practice. There are about 10 oxen wains now in this parish, besides 30 coops or box carts, drawn by two horses, employed by the proprietors and principal farmers. About twenty years ago, there were scarcely half that number. There are near 100 ploughs of all sorts, but many of them very light and trifling. Besides the carts now mentioned, there are about 300 small rung carts, as they are called, which are employed in leading home the fuel from the moss, and the corn to the barn-yard. These carts have, instead of wheels, small solid circles of wood, between 20 and 24 inches diameter, called tumbling wheels. It is also very common to place a coarse, strong basket, formed like a sugar loaf, across these small carts, in which the manure is carried from the dung-hill to the field. These kinds of carts are called Kellachys; and are not only used in this district, but over all the north country. To form some idea of the state of farming in this district, we subjoin the following abstract of the manner in which the ground is laid down, together



ther with the proportions which the several crops bear to each other.

	Acres.
Sown with oats, about . . . . .	1000
— barley . . . . .	500
— pease . . . . .	120
— clover and rye grass . . . . .	300
— potatoes . . . . .	140
— turnips . . . . .	30
— wheat . . . . .	30
— beans . . . . .	10
— flax . . . . .	6
— rye . . . . .	20
— leas . . . . .	94
	—
	2250

The average returns from the above sowings are very inconsiderable. The barley yields only about 5, and the oats 4 returns. Hence, even in the best years, the parish can spare very little corn for the market. The reason why flax and wheat are so little cultivated in the parish, is the want of mills to manufacture these articles.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—The wages paid to servants engaged in domestic employments vary according to the circumstances of their masters; but the wages of those servants who are employed in the labours of the field can be more easily ascertained. Of these last mentioned, some eat in their master's house, but by far the greatest number live in cottages of their own, and receive 6 bolls of meal instead of board, and L. 3 pounds Sterling of wages annually. This is the average rate for ordinary ploughmen and carters. From this rule, however, there are many exceptions. A ploughman

man who excels sometimes get L. 5 or L. 6 wages, and 8 or 10 bolls of meal. Besides the above, every man servant has the privilege of planting about half a boll of potatoes for his own use, rent free. The usual wages of female servants in farmers houses is from L. 1 : 4 : 0 to L. 1 : 10 : 0 yearly. The common method of managing the harvest work is to hire a certain number of shearers for the harvest quarter, proportioned to the size of the farm: This is the old custom. The men get about a boll and an half, and the women a boll of meal, instead of meat and wages, during the harvest season. But the active and intelligent part of the farmers begin to see the inconvenience of the above practice; because, while they are confined to a few hands, they may lose by one stormy day as much as would defray the whole charges of cutting down the crops. Hence, they now hire their shearers for the day, and increase or diminish their number according to the state of their crops. This is evidently the more rational plan of the two. The men receive 7 d. per day, and the women 6 d. The price of mowing hay is usually from 2 s. 2 d. to 2 s. 6 d. per acre. Day labourers receive for ordinary work 6 d. per day all the year through, and something extraordinary if their labour is harder than usual. They are more willing, however, to work by the piece; and then they will earn, perhaps, 1 s. and upwards per day. Trenching ground about 18 inches deep, if it be free from roots and stones, costs 4 d. the rood of 6 yards square; but, if the soil is rugged, and hard to work, it costs 8 d. The price of grain, meal, and all sorts of provisions, has been gradually advancing for several years, and is not likely to fall. Perhaps the average price of barley and oat-meal, for 20 years past, has been about 14 s. per boll. This observation, and what follows respecting the price of provisions, holds true with regard to a considerable part of the county of Ross, as

well

well as the parish of Kiltearn. Nothing can give a better idea of the advanced price of provisions, than the following comparative view of the price of some necessary articles of living in 1760 and 1790.

	Prices in 1760.	Prices in 1790.
Boll of barley, or oat-meal	L. 0 10 0	L. 0 16 0
Highland cow . . .	1 16 0	3 0 0
Beef and mutton per lb.	0 0 1½	0 0 2½ to 3d.
Fowls each . . .	0 0 1½	0 0 4 to 5d.
Stone of butter, of 21 lb.	0 6 0	0 12 to 14 s.
— cheese . . .	0 2 4	0 4 to 5 s.

The above advanced price of provisions must be sensibly felt by persons whose incomes are stationary, and who have no means of improving them.

*Poor.*—There is little difference as to the method of providing for the poor in the several parishes of this county, but what arises from the largeness or smallness of the funds appropriated for that purpose. It is truly matter of regret, that no proper and effectual scheme has ever been devised among us to provide for the poor. At present they chiefly subsist by begging from door to door, not only in the respective parishes to which they belong, but over all the county; and it would seem hard to prohibit them from begging, as they have no alternative but to starve. The weekly collections made in the churches are very inadequate to the purpose of supporting the poor in any of our parishes. In this parish, the collections never exceed L. 8 or L. 10 Sterling yearly. About L. 6 arises from charitable mortifications, which, added to the above, makes the whole fund for the poor about L. 15. After paying the session-clerk, and some other

other officers of the church, there remains only about L. 10 Sterling, which is distributed once a year among the most indigent persons of the parish by the kirk-session, in presence of the heritors. But how small a relief can this afford, when there are usually above 100 persons upon the poor's list here, who have every claim to charity that indigence and infirmity can give them? nor will it appear surprising that the poor's roll in this place should be so large, when it is recollected that there are 96 widows in it.

*Rivers, Lakes, and Fisheries.*—Among the several streams of water which run through this parish, only two of them deserve to be mentioned. First, Skiak, which falls into the sea, close by the church. The banks on both sides are covered with brushwood and trees of various kinds, most of which grow naturally. This river being traced to its source, is found to terminate in a collection of small streams that meet together in the valleys, at the foot of the several mountains. The other river which we shall mention is Aultgrande, *i. e.* in Gaelic, the *ugly water*, or *burn*, so called on account of some rocks through which it runs down, that make a very formidable appearance, which will be more particularly described under the article *Curiosities*. This river falls into the sea about half a mile east of the former, and has its banks on each side covered with trees and shrubs. When the snow melts on the mountains, this river frequently pours down its streams with great rapidity, and often proves highly detrimental to the adjacent lands. It takes its rise in Loch Glas, a beautiful fresh water lake about 6 miles from the sea. This lake never freezes till about the spring season, and not even then, unless the frost be uncommonly severe. It is about 5 miles long, and near 1 mile broad, and navigable all the way. This, together with several other smaller

lakes situated upon the north side of Ben-Uaish, affords abundance of fine trout, though they are not of a large size. There is a small island near the south end of this lake, where it is said one of the lairds of Fowlis had formerly a summer-house. Besides the trout taken in the rivers and lakes, there are a good number of salmon caught on the sea coast, sometimes by nets and cobles, called a *still fishing*, but chiefly by means of yaires, or small inclosures, built in a curve or semicircular form near the shore. At high water the salmon comes within these yaires, and at low water is easily taken, having no way to escape. This is the simplest and cheapest mode of fishing that can be devised. There are usually four or five yaires kept up in the parish; and each proprietor takes fish enough to supply himself and a few friends. In a good fishing season he can send some to market. Flounders, herring-fry, or sprats, are frequently taken in these yaires.

*Fossils, Mines, and Minerals.*—In digging for peats in the mosses of this parish, numbers of fir trees are found, which afford a clear proof that those extensive tracts of ground were once covered with trees, which must have added much to the beauty of the country, and have been shelter to the cattle. These trees that are dug out of the mosses are perfectly sound, and last long when applied to the purpose of building. One chief benefit derived from them is, that they burn well, and afford excellent light to the country people, who cannot afford to buy candles. Clay and shell marl are to be found in this parish. The clay marl is met with in a moss called Boginturie, upon the estate of Fowlis, 3 miles distant from the sea shore. There is abundance of it; and it has answered well with those who have tried it. It will probably come into more repute in proportion as the true notion of farming prevails.

prevails. The shell marl, though of an excellent quality, does not afford so rich a supply as the other, as there is only a small vein that appears near the church, and is found in the same direction about the west end of the parish. It is pretty remarkable that this shell marl is found at the distance of about 200 yards from the sea, and at least 30 feet perpendicular above its level. There are very flattering appearances of coal in all the western part of the parish, from the sea to the hills. Several years ago, one or two attempts were made to discover a proper mine, but it was not pursued with that ardour and perseverance which the importance of the object deserved. The persons formerly employed only bored in 2 or 3 places. They acknowledged that they found coal, but pretended it lay so deep, that unless the vein was considerable, it would not pay the expence of working; but we cannot help suspecting that they knew but little, and presumed a great deal. Considering, however, the public spirit and independent fortunes of several gentlemen concerned, it is to be hoped that they will once more make a fair trial of the coal mines in this district, by sinking one or two pits, and employing some skillful hands for a few months to work in the mines, and ascertain the value of the coal. The expence would not be very great: The attempt would at least be laudable, and most probably would be crowned with success. In a rock on the banks of Aultnacaorach, *i. e.* the *sheep burn*, (a rivulet that falls into Aultgrande), there are indications of lead ore. The only trial ever made of it was about 36 years ago, by one Charles Smith, a common miner, who smelted a piece of the ore taken from this rock, which produced good lead. Near the storehouse of Fowlis there is a chalybeate spring, which has been drank with salutary effects about 60 years ago. There is another spring at Teinleod, above Fowlis Castle, called St Colman's Well. Whether it has any medicinal

dicinal virtue we have not heard ; but it was a common practice, in the memory of some still alive, for superstitious persons to frequent the well, and, after drinking the water, to tye some rags to the branches of the surrounding trees.

*Roads and Bridges.*—Very particular attention has been paid of late years to the roads in this district ; and the bridges have been widened for the conveniency of carriages. The new bridge over Aultgrande is remarkably neat, and well finished, and does credit to Mr Kyle, the architect, who built it. All the bridges are built and kept in repair at the expence of the county. The roads are kept in repair by the statute labour, which the inhabitants perform personally, and very seldom by commutation. An improvement is now making on the road that leads through this parish, which will add much to the pleasure and comfort of travellers. The chief heritor has, at a considerable expence, carried off the road in a sweep or curve, about a quarter of a mile farther south than it was formerly. By this means, travellers will not only pass through the middle of rich fields and fine plantations of trees, but will also have a full view of that antient and elegant mansion, Fowlis Castle. This improved road was begun in 1790, and will be completed in the course of 1791.

*Villages, Schools, & Manufactures.*—There is only one small village in the parish, called Drummond, situated in a level field contiguous to the river Skiack. This village is yet in its infancy ; but, as the situation of it is central, and agreeable, being on the post-road between Dingwall and Novar Inn, there is every reason to believe that it will increase considerably in a few years. At present, there is a public house, two shop-keepers, a dyer of woollen stuffs, who keeps a press and scouring-mill ; and a few other mechanics. Two  
fairs

fairs or markets are held here annually; the one early in June, and the other the first week in December, where black cattle and other country commodities are sold; and, though the proprietor exacts no toll or custom, he maintains a guard while the market lasts, to keep order, and prevent riots. The fair in December is known by the name of the Goose-market. But, as no geese are sold at it, the name Goose-market has probably taken its rise from an entertainment usually given by the gentlemen of the parish to the principal inhabitants on the second day of the market, where a goose (being then in season,) always makes a part of the feast. On this occasion, there is no excess in drinking encouraged; and the company meet merely for the sake of social intercourse. Adjoining to the village of Drummond is the parish school, which is commonly attended by 60 or 80 children, and often by a much greater number. The salary paid by the heritors to the master is a chalders of barley; and, as precentor and session-clerk, his emoluments will amount to about L. 4, besides the quarter-fees paid by the scholars, which are as low and moderate as any where in Scotland; English being taught for 1 s. per quarter; writing 1 s. 6 d.; arithmetic 2 s.; and Latin 2 s. 6 d. It is no more than justice to say that the education of youth is at present conducted at the school upon the most approved plan, and with correspondent success. To which we may add, that, besides what is usually taught at grammar schools, several other branches of useful science and literature are taught here, such as the French language, geography, geometry, book-keeping, and the different branches of practical mathematics. This deserves the more to be remarked, because so few country parishes are favoured with similar advantages for educating their youth. Within a quarter of a mile of the village of Drummond, to the east, on the farm of Upper  
Balcony,



Balcony, there is a licensed distillery for aquavitaæ or whisky, which pays L. 30, and consumes about 180 bolls of barley yearly; but it is much to be regretted that a great quantity of spirits, beside the whole produce of this distillery, is consumed within the parish. On the opposite side of the river, and close to the New Bridge, is Culcairn Bleachfield, the only one in the county. This bleachfield was first established by the late John Munro, Esq; of Culcairn, father of the present proprietor of that name, in 1751. Though it promised well for several years, yet it afterwards declined much, while it passed through the hands of different managers. In the year 1779, it fortunately fell into the hands of the present manager, William Tait, from Salton Bleachfield in East Lothian. The proprietor, observing that Mr Tait was not deficient, either in skill or activity, resolved to give him every encouragement, granted him a lease of the bleachfield, and built a comfortable house for him. A clear proof of the rapid progress this field has made under the present manager is, that, in the year 1779, there were only 440 pieces of cloth bleached here; but, in the year 1790, the number of pieces amounted to 2242. The Honourable Board of Trustees, being well informed of Mr Tait's industry and success, were pleased, in 1786, to grant L. 50 for erecting a drying house. And it is not doubted that, on a proper representation, they will give some further aid towards setting up proper machinery, and a complete bleaching apparatus, at this very flourishing field.

*Inns and Ale-houses.*—There are only two licensed ale-houses in the parish which pay excise-duty; one at Drummond, and the other at Wester Fowls. These are necessary for the accommodation of travellers, and for transacting country business. But there are a number of blind whisky houses, situated

situated in obscure corners, at a distance from the public road. These last are much frequented by tipplers, and dram-drinkers, who sometimes sit up whole nights at their debauch. Such tipping-houses have proved a great nuisance for several years past, and have been very prejudicial to the health, the morals, and the circumstances, of several inhabitants of this parish. It is not uncommon to see two mechanics, or day-labourers, repairing once or twice a-day to one of these ensnaring haunts, and drinking a choppin bottle of unmixed whisky at each time, with as great ease as their forefathers would drink a Scots pint of twopenny ale, or small beer. What adds to the grievance is, that the keepers of these corrupting haunts are not always very scrupulous as to the mode of receiving payment for their drink. When money fails, they will receive meal and victual at a low price, which is often stolen from the mills, and farmers barns. When this resource fails, they receive household furniture, and wearing apparel. An evil that has come to such a height loudly calls for the interposition of the civil magistrate; and it is a great pity that the gentlemen of the district who are justices of the peace, and are remarkably temperate themselves, have not made greater exertions to suppress this growing evil.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—As it is the common lot of mankind to have their condition in this world checquered with a mixture of good and evil, so it cannot be denied that the inhabitants of Kiltearn have their own share, both of the advantages and disadvantages of life. It is a very favourable circumstance for this parish, that it is situated on a beautiful bay, and within four leagues of Cromarty; from which place there is a communication by sea once every fortnight to London and Leith. Besides, there are three several harbours in the parish, viz. at Balcony, Fowlis, and Ardullie point,

point, where vessels from 80 to 100 tons burden may load and unload, and anchor with the greatest safety, as there are no dangerous rocks or shelves near the shore. Excellent free-stone quarries, that are easily wrought, are to be met in every corner of the parish. This circumstance, added to the abundance of timber, affords great encouragement to carry on buildings, and other improvements. The advantages of education which are to be had at the public schools here, is a very encouraging circumstance to determine such as have rising families to settle among us. The prevailing taste for buildings and improvements among the gentlemen of the parish is a great blessing to artificers and day-labourers; which was particularly experienced in the hard years 1782 and 1783; being, under God, the mean of preserving many families from perishing for want of bread. But, as the gentlemen's improvements will soon be completed, many hands who are now employed will be at a loss to provide for themselves and their families, unless some manufactures are speedily established; and, considering the great number of women in the parish, it would be desirable that some manufacture should be introduced to employ the females, and children of both sexes; for it is a hard case, when a labouring man is unable to work, by age or sickness, that his family has no means of earning a subsistence, however unwilling to work. This leads us to mention another disadvantage which the poor women labour under here, which is, that they seldom have proper assistance when in child-bed, as there is no regularly bred midwife in the parish. This often proves of fatal consequence to women in that situation, which, of all others, require the most tender care, as well as skill. It is also much to be wished that the inhabitants in general were better lodged than they can possibly be in their present huts. In no country, perhaps, are the gentlemen better lodged, and the tenants

tenants worse accommodated, than in this parish; for, who could suppose that, among the 385 houses in the parish, there are not forty, in which a person accustomed to a decent accommodation, would choose to lodge a single night. Perhaps their being so frequently obliged to remove their cottages makes them less solicitous to have them comfortably built. The greatest number are built of earth, and are usually razed to the ground once in 5 or 7 years, when they are added to the dunghill. Indeed, they cannot afford to build them of better materials, not even with clay and stone; and yet, as a proof of the late increase of population, when any of these mean huts become vacant, there are perhaps five or six candidates for them; and the successful one is supposed to owe the preference to superior interest. But, among the chief disadvantages of this parish may be reckoned the extreme poverty of many who become farmers. Too many assume this character who have hardly any stock to begin with; and the consequence is, that, after struggling for a few years to keep credit,—they at last sink under the load of poverty, while the landlord has a long arrear of rent due to him. In a word, it cannot be denied that many among us have the name of farmers who ought more properly to be day-labourers. Indeed, some of their own hired servants have the necessaries of life with a greater degree of comfort than their masters, the farmers. One circumstance very prejudicial to the farmers is, that they are too much at the mercy of their servants. When a servant engages with a poor farmer, he bribes him with a promise of high wages; and, when money fails, he allows his servant to sow a quantity of corn for his own use, and to keep a cow in summer, and perhaps two or three in winter, on the farm, which brings certain ruin upon the tenant in the end. We will add, that it is a great loss to have so few justices of peace in the

district to take cognizance of this and other grievances. The last particular we shall mention, under the head of disadvantage, is not confined to this parish only, but is equally felt in the parishes around us, viz. the personal service of the tenants. These, however, were formerly more grievous than at present; for it is not long since the farmers, their servants, and horses, must have been ready at a call from the laird when he had any operations to carry on on his farm, or otherwise. They ploughed, harrowed, manured, and reaped, the landlord's farm, while their own were often neglected. Here, however, we must observe, that, in former times, these services, though a burden, were not such a grievance as they would be now. The rents were then low, and money scarce. Hence the services made a considerable part of the revenue which landlords derived from their lands. But now the case is altered; and, wherever tenants are expected to thrive, personal services must be dispensed with, and commuted. That which has been longest kept up, is the providing a certain quantity of peats or fuel for the master yearly, which interferes much with the labours of the husbandman, as his whole time is employed in providing his own and his landlord's fuel, from the time the seed is sown till the beginning of harvest. Thus, he loses all that time in which he ought to provide manure for his land. The personal services of the tenants are, however, always limited, and as exactly known as the rent of the farm. Some proprietors of lands in the parish have begun, of late, to accept of a conversion for all services, and also to grant leases to the industrious part of the farmers. If these conversions were moderate, and if the tenants were encouraged to build decent houses, it would conduce to the comfort of the farmer, and the interest of the landlord.

*Language,*

*Language, and Etymology of Names.*—The language commonly spoken here is the Gaelic, or Earse; but, of late years, the English begins to be more cultivated than formerly, and is understood by the generality of the inhabitants. The church service is performed here, as in the greatest part of the county, in Gaelic in the forenoon, and in English in the afternoon.

The names of places seem, in general, to be of Gaelic original. For example, Balcony, that is, in Earse, a dwelling-place. This is a beautiful seat, situated on the banks of the river Skiack, on a fine eminence, which slopes gradually towards the sea. This was formerly one of the seats of the antient Earls of Ross. Hence it is called Balcony vie Dhonail, or MacDonalld's habitation. Ketwal, that is, in Earse, Kead vail, or, the first possession, acquired by the Earls of Ross in this parish. Tennaird, that is, the house on the height. Mountgerald is a modern name given by Mr M'Kenzie, father to the present proprietor, to a place formerly called Clyne, being situated on an inclined plain. This name was given in allusion to Fitzgerald, who came from Ireland, and who was the progenitor of the M'Kenzies.

*Antiquities and Curiosities.*—About half a mile to the west of the house of Clyne, and a quarter of a mile to the north of the post road, is a remarkable piece of antiquity, which plainly appears to have been erected by the Druids, and used by them as a place of sacred worship. It consists of a single row of twelve large stones, placed upright, and so disposed as to form two ovals, which are joined to each other. The areas of these ovals are equal; they are 13 feet from east to west, and 10 feet in the middle from north to south. At the west end of one of them is a stone, which rises 8 feet above the  
surface

surface of the earth; the other stones are from 4 to 6 feet long. There is also, in the middle of this oval, a flat stone, which was probably the altar; it seems to have stood formerly at the east end, but has been thrown down by some accident. Distant about 3 paces from the eastern oval is a circular hollow, said to have been a well of a considerable depth, but it is now filled up; its diameter at top is 8 feet. These ovals are situated on the top of an eminence, round which are marked out three concentric circles; one at the bottom, another 28 paces above the former, and the third 12 paces higher, immediately surrounding the ovals. The circumference of the first is 80, of the second 50, and of the third, or highest circle, 35 paces. It is observable, that these curious remains have a great resemblance to many others in different places of Great Britain, particularly to those in the parish of Addington, near Malling in Kent, (an account of which is given by Mr Colebrooke in the *Archaeologia*, vol. ii. page 107.), and the celebrated ones at Stonehenge in Wiltshire\*. Large conical heaps of stones, or cairns, as they are called, are to be met with on the tops of many of the hills and eminences in the parish. About 800 paces to the west of the above ruin is a circular cairn, in diameter about 30 paces, containing, in the center, a grave 3 feet 6 inches long, 18 inches broad, and 14 inches deep, neatly lined with four flat stones, and covered by another. There are also at the circumference three graves of the same dimensions, on the east, south, and west, but they are in a more ruinous condition than the central one. It is probable that these were the sepulchres of a certain family or tribe; the chief was buried  
in

\* In order to make the above description more easily understood, Mr Robertson subjoined a sketch of the form and situation of these stones; and the Editor is sorry that the plan of this work would not suffer an engraving of it to be made.

in the center, and his relatives or dependents at certain distances around him. But we shall be at a loss to account for the smallness of these graves, unless we suppose them to have contained only the ashes or bowels of the deceased person. These, it is likely, were deposited in earthen pitchers or vases, as several vessels of that kind have been dug up by the plough in the neighbourhood of these cairns. There is also on the north side of the river Skiack, and nearly opposite to the village of Drummond, a grave of an oblong form, lined with stone in the same manner as those above described; it is called the Priest's Sepulchre, and is 7 feet long, 3 broad, and about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  deep. It is evident from these remains, and many others of a similar nature, which abound in almost every part of the Highlands of Scotland, that it was the custom of our ancestors to cover their burying places with heaps of stones; and the reason probably was, to prevent the bodies from being dug up, and devoured by the wolves, wild boars, and other beasts of prey, which then infested the country\*. There are ruins of five different chapels and burying places in this parish, viz. one at Balcony, called St Ninian's Chapel, one at Culnaskeath, one at Wester Fowlis, one at Kilchoan, and one at Limplair, near the sea shore, called St Mary's Chapel. Several families continue still to bury at the last named church-yard, and there are some vestiges of the manse, or minister's house, contiguous to it. The last incumbent's name was Mr Henry Kincaid, who seems to have lived about the beginning of the last century; for it appears from some records that he disposed of certain teinds to the Baron of Fowlis in 1607.

The

\* "I'll add a stone to your cairn," was formerly a proverbial expression of friendship among the Highlanders.



The natural curiosity that chiefly deserves notice is the rock called Craig-grande, or the *ugly rock*. This is a deep chasm or abyſs, formed by two oppoſite precipices that riſe perpendicularly to a great height, through which the Ault-grande runs for the ſpace of 2 miles. It begins at the diſtance of 4 miles from the ſea, by a bold projection into the channel of the river, which it diminifhes in breadth by at leaſt one half. The river continues to run with rapidity for about three quarters of a mile, when it is confined by a ſudden jutting out of the rock. Here, the ſide view from the ſummit is very ſtriking. The courſe of the ſtream being thus impeded, it whirls and foams, and beats with violence againſt the oppoſing rock, till, collecting ſtrength, it ſhoots up perpendicularly with great fury, and, forcing its way, darts with the ſwiftness of an arrow through the winding paſſage on the other ſide. After paſſing this obſtruction, it becomes in many places inviſible, owing partly to the increaſing depth and narrowneſs of the chasm, and partly to the view being intercepted by the numerous branches of trees which grow on each ſide of the precipice. About a quarter of a mile farther down, the country people have thrown a ſlight bridge, compoſed of trunks of trees covered with turf, over the rock, where the chasm is about 16 feet wide. Here the obſerver, if he has intrepidity enough to venture himſelf on ſuch a tottering ſupport, and can look down on the gulph below without any uneaſy ſenſations, will be gratified with a view equally awful and aſtoniſhing. The wildneſs of the ſteep and rugged rocks; the gloomy horror of the cliffs and caverns, “in-“ acceſſible by mortal’s trod,” and where the genial rays of the ſun never yet penetrated; the water falls which are heard pouring down in different places of the precipice, with ſounds various in proportion to their diſtance; the hoarſe and hollow murmuring of the river, which runs at the depth of near

130 feet below the surface of the earth; the fine groves of pines, which majestically climb the sides of a beautiful eminence, that rises immediately from the brink of the chasm; all these objects cannot be contemplated without exciting emotions of wonder and admiration in the mind of every beholder. The appearance of this singular and picturesque scene, will naturally bring to the recollection of the classical spectator those beautiful lines of Virgil, in which he describes the gulph, through which his Alecto shoots herself into the infernal regions:

—— densis hunc frondibus atrum  
 Urget utrimque latus nemoris, medioque fragorus  
 Dat sonitum faxis et torto vortice torrens.  
 Hic specus horrendum, et faevi spiracula Ditis  
 Monstrantur; ruptoque ingens Acheronte vorago  
 Pestiferas aperit fauces:——

Critics may labour to convey the force and meaning of the author's words; and travellers may, by their ingenious descriptions, give us a still more lively idea of their beauty and propriety; but he who would see a living commentary on this noble passage, must visit the rock of Aultgrande. There is also a most delightful ride from the church of Kiltearn to Ardullie by the sea side, which is only fordable at low water. Here the traveller has the sea on the one hand, and a fine view of Ferntosh on the opposite side of the bay. On the other hand there is a bank covered with various trees and shrubs, as oak, beech, larix, spruce fir; and about half way there is a perpendicular rock, about 30 feet high, also covered with shrubbery. Here there is a natural cascade, or fall of water, and close to the fall an artificial grove, and seat, planted around with flowers, and some ornaments fixed in  
 the

the face of the rock ; all which is very gratifying to any one who takes a forenoon's ride for pleasure. But, as the fine plantations contribute so much to the beauty of this parish, we cannot avoid taking notice of it as a remarkable event, greatly to be regretted, that, upon the 17th day of January 1791, the high wind broke down, and tore up by the roots, about 6000 fine firs in the different plantations upon the estate of Fowlis. We must not omit to take notice of a place called Corrivackie, which is so situated behind the great hill of Uaish, that the sun does not shine there from November to the beginning of March.

*Church.*—It has never been ascertained beyond a doubt who is patron of this parish. The only claimants are, the Crown, and the family of Fowlis. All the ministers from the Revolution, down to 1770, were settled by a call from the heritors. The present incumbent, and his predecessor, were settled by royal presentations. Mr Harry Robertson was translated from Clyne to Kiltearn the 9th May 1776. He has been married since 1772, and has 8 children now living, 4 sons and 4 daughters. The church of this parish was handsomely rebuilt in 1790, at the expence of L. 700 Sterling. The manse and offices were built in 1762, at a very moderate expence. They require some repairs ; and there is no doubt that they will soon be made comfortable. The stipend consists of 136 bolls, half oat-meal, and half barley, and L. 32 Sterling, with a glebe of 4 acres arable ground, without any grafs.

*Eminent Men.*—Though every age, and every soil, does not produce men of eminent talents, it cannot be denied that Kiltearn has given birth to several who have done honour to their native country. The Munros have distinguished themselves

selves, at different periods, by their martial spirit and warlike  
 achievements. This circumstance is taken notice of by Bu-  
 chanan, in the 17th book of his History, where, after speak-  
 ing of the difficulties in which Mary Queen of Scots was in-  
 volved at Inverness, he adds, "That, as soon as they heard  
 " of their Sovereign's danger, a great number of the antient  
 " Scots poured in around her, especially the Frasers and  
 " Munros, which (says he) were esteemed among the most  
 " valiant of the clans inhabiting those countries." And, in  
 the war carried on by Gustavus Adolphus, King of Swe-  
 den, against the Emperor Ferdinand II. there were so ma-  
 ny of the name of Munro, that, among the officers of  
 that name who served in that war, there were 3 generals,  
 8 colonels, 5 lieutenant-colonels, 11 majors, and above 30  
 captains, besides a great number of subalterns. Many of them  
 gained great reputation in this war, particularly their chief,  
 Robert Munro, the 21st Baron of Fowlis, who so distinguish-  
 ed himself by his military conduct, that he was made colonel  
 of two regiments at the same time, one of foot, and another  
 of horse. It is not necessary, on this occasion, to enumerate  
 the several illustrious characters that sprung from the house  
 of Fowlis, as this has already employed the pen of a very  
 learned and pious writer \*. But, it would be unpardonable  
 to omit mentioning the late Sir Robert Munro, who was kill-  
 ed at the battle of Falkirk on the 17th January 1746. There  
 are still many living witnesses to attest how great an orna-  
 ment he was to his name and to his country. His conduct  
 at the battle of Fontenoy was heard with just applause through  
 all Great Britain; and there is still extant a copy of a let-

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\* Vide an account of the antient family of the Munros of  
 Fowlis, in the appendix to the Life of Colonel Gardiner, by the  
 late Dr Doddridge.

ter from the Elector Palatine to his envoy at London, desiring him to thank the King of Great Britain, in his name, for the excellent behaviour of the Highland regiment, while they were in his territories, "which, (as he says expressly) "was owing to the care of Sir Robert Munro, their lieutenant-colonel; for whose sake (he adds) he should always "pay a regard to a Scotsman for the future." Sir Harry Munro, son to Sir Robert just mentioned, was highly distinguished in another line, as a scholar of the first rank. In classical learning he was an uncommon proficient. He laid the foundation of his learning at Westminster school, and perfected it at the university of Leyden. He employed his leisure hours, for near 20 years, in writing a large critical work upon Buchanan's Psalms, which he finished, and left completely prepared for the press. This work he submitted to the review of the late learned Mr Thomas Ruddiman, who gave his approbation of it, and paid the highest compliments to the classical knowledge and critical abilities of Sir Harry; which appears by a holograph letter of Mr Ruddiman's, still extant in the library at Fowls. Sir Harry having gone to Edinburgh for the recovery of his health, died there on the 12th June 1781. Some divines have also flourished in Kiltearn that would do honour to any parish; but we shall only mention two. The first is Mr Donald Munro. This eminent man, cotemporary with the celebrated Buchanan, was descended of the family of Coul, a branch of the Munro's. He was first Archdeacon of the Isles, and gave Buchanan a description of them, which he acknowledges in his History: He was afterwards appointed superintendant of Ross, and parson of Kiltearn. The other is Mr Thomas Hog, who was settled minister at Kiltearn in 1655, but was turned out at the restoration to make way for an Episcopal minister. He suffered much persecution, being long imprisoned in the Bass:

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When he obtained his liberty he retired to Holland, where he was highly esteemed for his learning and piety. There is a pamphlet published, containing memoirs of his life, and many remarkable anecdotes of him. There are several facts well attested, which indicate that he had a remarkable presentiment of future events respecting the Church in general, and himself in particular. Even at a period when, to all human appearance, it was most unlikely, and when he was obliged to fly from his country and charge, he foretold, with the most assured confidence, that there would be such a revolution as happened afterwards, and that he should return to his charge at Kiltearn, and be buried there; which accordingly turned out as he had said. And, in consideration of his eminent worth, and great sufferings, King William was pleased to appoint him one of his Chaplains for Scotland; but he died very soon after his appointment, at Kiltearn, in 1692, and is buried at the entry to the south-west door of the church. Some person, out of respect for his memory, and zealous to express the sense he had of Mr Hogg's uncommon worth, caused the following singular inscription to be put on his grave-stone: "This stone will witness against the parishioners of Kiltearn, if ever they bring in an ungodly minister here." But, while we pay the just tribute of praise to those whose stations and advantages of education enabled them to distinguish themselves in the world, it would be unjust to overlook those blossoms of genius that shoot forth in the humble walks of life. Here, a watchmaker in this parish naturally occurs to our view. This man (now about 30 years of age) was born and brought up in the Highland district of this parish, and, although he never saw a watch or clock till he was grown up to manhood, yet, by mere intuition, has made several clocks of coarse materials, which go well. He only wants a little instruction and assistance to make a figure

in

in his line. It is a pity that he can neither read nor write, and hardly speaks English. There is also a school-boy, about 16 years of age, who discovers a good taste for drawing, and promises to arrive at some eminence in that art, if his genius was properly cultivated: As he is of a weak constitution, he is not fit for any hard labour. Such instances of genius, who want the advantages of education, are frequently to be met with in the world, and naturally suggest to the feeling heart that thought which Mr Gray so beautifully expresses in his *Elegy*:

“ Perhaps, in this neglected spot, is laid  
 “ Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;  
 “ Hands, that the rod of empire might have sway’d,  
 “ Or wak’d to ecstacy the living lyre:  
 “ But knowledge to their eyes her ample page,  
 “ Rich with the spoils of time, did ne’er unrol;  
 “ Chill penury repress’d their noble rage,  
 “ And froze the genial current of the soul.”

NUM-

## N U M B E R XXXI.

## P A R I S H O F R O T H E S A Y.

*By the Rev. Mr ARCHIBALD M'LEA.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent.*

**T**HE antient Gaelic and patronimic name of the parish is Cilla'bhruic. The modern, and perhaps the antient name, by which it was generally known, by those particularly who do not speak the Gaelic language, is Rothesay. The meaning of Cilla'bhruic is, The church dedicated to St Broke, of which he is the tutelur faint. There is a yearly fair held in the town of Rothesay, called Feil-bhruic, or St Broke's fair. The etymology of Rothesay is not fully ascertained. Some suppose it Danish. If it is of Gaelic original, the most natural and probable etymology of it is, Riogh-Suidhe, that is, The King's feat, perhaps from there being an old castle in it, called the Castle of Rothesay, sometimes the residence of certain of the Kings of Scotland. By those who speak the Gaelic language, the parish is always called Cilla'bhruic, or Sgireachd Bhruic, that is, St Broke's parish. And the town of Rothesay is called Bailea Mhoide, or, The town where the court of justice is held. The island of Bute itself is called, in that language, Oilean a' Mhoide, or, The island where the court of justice sits. The parish is situated in the island and county of Bute. From the reformation to the year

1639,



1639, while presbytery was the established form of church government, the parish of Rothefay was within the presbytery of Irvine or Cuninghame, and synod of Glasgow and Air. In the year 1639, it was disjoined from that presbytery and synod, and annexed to the Presbytery of Denoon, and synod of Argyle, to which it still continues united. In the time of Episcopacy, it was within the diocese of the Isles; and, by the act of parliament in 1617, appointing the chapter of the Bishop of the Isles, the Parson of Rothefay was made Sub-dean of the Isles. The parish may be about ten miles long, and from three to four broad.

*Population.*—There is no particular account of the antient state of the population of the parish; but, from the number of ruinous and waste houses which were in the town of Rothefay, it would appear to have been pretty populous, and of some note at an early period. About the year 1762, some of these ruins were begun to be rebuilt; and, since that period, the town has been gradually increasing so much, that, not only the former ruinous houses have been all re-built, but a number of new streets laid out and finished.

Number of souls in the parish of Rothefay the following years, distinguishing the number residing in the country, and the number residing within the territory of the town of Rothefay, taken from the Examination Roll of each year.

Years.	Country.	Town.	Total.	Years.	Country.	Town.	Total.
1766	1500	1158	2658	1771	1677	1411	3088
1767	1510	1181	2691	1772	1609	1387	2996
1768	1597	1254	2851	1773	1626	1352	2978
1769	1667	1326	2993	1774	1628	1343	2971
1770	1661	1470	3131	1775	1606	1359	2965

Years.	Country.	Town.	Total.	Years.	Country.	Town.	Total.
1776	1628	1400	3028	1784	1421	1983	3404
1777	1554	1387	2941	1785	1424	2080	3504
1778	1563	1525	3088	1786	1430	2180	3610
1779	1566	1601	3167	1787	1406	2293	3699
1780	1592	1669	3261	1788	1436	2336	3772
1781	1543	1701	3244	1789	1432	2441	3873
1782	1515	1807	3322	1790	1425	2607	4032
1783	1485	1904	3389				

Number of the marriages and baptisms in the parish of Rothesay in the following years.

	Mar.	Bap.		Mar.	Bap.
1692	21	51	1760	16	96
1700	15	49	1770	25	110
1710	11	43	1780	30	96
1720	19	78	1790	42	124
1730	17	67		—	—
1740	10	82		209	825
1750	24	80			

The register for baptisms and marriages, but not of deaths, have been pretty distinctly kept in this parish since 1691, until these registers were taxed, within these few years, by act of parliament. As an object of taxation, it must turn to little account. As an object of police, attention to these registers might become of considerable importance to the state. Were the present tax given to the kirk-session-clerk, as a salary for keeping the registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials, in each parish, in a regular distinct manner; and for making out yearly, at a particular term, a full extract of each, to be certified by the minister  
of

of the parish, as a true and exact copy ; or by three elders in case of a vacancy ; together with an authentic account of the number of souls in the parish, made out in such manner as might be found necessary ; and this extract and note of the number of souls in the parish to be lodged, upon a certain day, each year, in an office at Edinburgh, appointed for that purpose ; it would be a source of valuable information, to which recourse might be had, when found necessary, with little trouble. The cause of the increase of the population in the town of Rothesay, since the year 1766, may be a custom-house established there in 1765, the herring fishery, and a cotton spinning mill, erected there about twelve or thirteen years ago.

*Church and Stipend, &c.*—The church was built about the year 1690, and the manse in 1757. The stipend is about L. 80 Sterling, exclusive of the manse and glebe. The Earl of Bute is patron. There are four heritors in the country part of the parish, and a number of small proprietors within the territory of the town. The number of poor persons receiving charity may be about 70. The amount of collections and funds for their support is about L. 60.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The language principally spoken in the parish is the Gaelic ; the names of the places seem, in general, to be derived from it. There is an old castle in the town of Rothesay, now a ruin, but formerly sometimes the residence of the Kings of Scotland, and afterwards inhabited by the family of Bute, heritable constables of it, till it was burnt during the troubles in 1685. The fuel used in the country part of the parish is peat, and some coal. Scarcely any thing but coal is used in the town. It is generally imported from Glasgow, at a great expence. The price

price at shipping there is 3 s. 6 d. a cart ; but the river-dues, or tonnage duty, &c. nearly double the price at Rothesay. The price of provisions, till within these twenty or twenty-five years, was moderate ; but, during that period, has been gradually rising, and is now regulated, in a great measure, by the Greenock market, one of the dearest in Scotland. The price of labour of all kinds has advanced greatly within these few years. A day labourer, about twenty years ago, could have been hired for 6 d. 7 d. or 8 d. a day ; but now they require 1 s. or 1 s. 6 d. The people are industrious. There is a cotton spinning mill erected in the town of Rothesay, which employs about 300 hands, young and old. Many, both young and old, are also employed in spinning, and in making and mending nets. The people are particularly fond of a sea-faring life. About thirty years ago, all the boats belonging to the parish, except one or two half-decked barks of about fifteen tons for carrying coals, were open boats, like those commonly used for catching herrings ; having in generally in that employment four men, or at least three men and a boy ; and of these there might be from a hundred to a hundred and twenty. But now, besides, from twelve to twenty of open boats, there may be between eighty and a hundred vessels belonging to the parish, from fifteen to one hundred tons burden.

During the last war, there were a number of seamen from the parish in the navy service ; and, had the prize-money due to them been properly accounted for, it is believed that press-warrants would have been unnecessary here ; but, as matters are at present managed, nothing but compulsion will induce them to enter into the navy service. Many of them, to whom prize-money is due, can get no account of, nor even find out the agent in whose hands it is. Would it not an-

answer the purposes of government equally well, were the management of prizes put into the hands of the pay-office, and government become accountable for it, as well as their wages; and, instead of obliging the seamen to employ agents and attornies, at a great expence and risk, might not the inspector of the pay-office correspond with the ministers of the different parishes to which the seamen belong, (which he is even at present sometimes obliged to do), and the situation and circumstances of each seaman's right and claim being, in the course of the correspondence, ascertained, payment might be had at the nearest bank, or an order given upon the nearest customhouse, without either risk or expence? By adopting some measure of this kind, the ministers of the parishes where there are sea-faring people would have much less trouble than they frequently have by the present mode of management, and would at the same time have the satisfaction of seeing justice done to a set of brave fellows, who have risked their lives in the service of their country.

The people enjoy, in a considerable degree, the comforts and advantages of society, and seem contented with their situation and circumstances.

The principal grievances under which the people labour, is the partial and oppressive duty on coals, to which, from their situation, they are subjected. Could this grievance be removed, either by freeing them from it altogether, or by laying a very trifling general duty on coals at the pit, it would be a great relief to the people, and be a much more productive tax to government.

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The peculiar advantages which the parish has, are the number of safe harbours and anchorages, viz. The Bay of Rothesay and of Kaimes, the Keils of Bute, and the Bay of St Ninians.

NUM.

## NUMBER XXXII.

## PARISH OF KINGARTH.

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES THORBURN.**Name and Extent.*

**T**HIS parish, situated in the island of Bute, has its name from some rugged rocks on the south end of it, against which, when the wind blows from the south, the waves of the sea beat with great violence. In the original Gaelic, it signifies, ‘A bold furious head.’ It is about seven miles long from north to south, and, at an average, two miles broad from east to west; bounded by the parish of Rothesay on the north and north-west; by the sea on the west, east, and south.

*Surface, Soil, &c.*—When viewed at a distance, the surface has a flat appearance, although there is a gradual ascent from the east and west shores to the middle of the parish. There are a few little hills on the south part of it, but none of them remarkably high. There are some plantations of fir trees, &c.; but the largest plantations are round the house of Mount Stuart, the seat of the Earl of Bute, where there are a great many fine trees of different kinds. The house is elegant, and is most delightfully situated, about 200 yards from the east shore, having a near view of all the shipping of the Frith of  
Clyde

**Clyde passing and repassing.** Nearly the whole of the parish is inclosed and subdivided with ditch and hedge, which afford shelter and warmth, and make an agreeable appearance. The soil, in general, is light and sandy, fit (when properly cultivated, which it has been in some farms, but particularly about Mount Stuart, where fields have been, and are still cultivated to the highest perfection), for crops of barley, turnip, rye-grass, and clover of every kind. Inclosed land is let, at an average, from 10 s. to 15 s. per acre; outfield land from 3 s. to 3 s. 6 d. per acre. Farms, at an average, from L. 30 to L. 60 per farm. Nearly the one half of the rents are paid by barley; the other half by oats and cattle. The tenants find a ready sale for their barley to the distillers of whisky in the island. For some years past, the price of barley has been, at an average, from 18 s. to 20 s. per boll. The parish likewise produces oats. Perhaps too many are sown in this soil. The price of oats, for seven years past, has been from 14 s. to 16 s. per boll. Largs is the only market town for oats. Potatoes are in great plenty; and these, with herrings, are the chief maintenance of the greatest number of the inhabitants for three quarters of the year. Clover and rye-grass hay is sold to the inhabitants of Rothesay at 4 s. and 5 s. per truss, equal to 15 stone English. The average price of oat-meal, for seven years, has been from 16 s. to 18 s. per boll, 9 stone weight in the boll.

**Cattle.**—The breed of horses is much improved of late. Every farmer has a cart or carts, according to the size of his farm. About twenty years ago there were none in the parish, except at Mount Stuart. Black cattle are not much improved, owing to their scanty feeding when young.

**Poor.**—The poor are maintained by weekly collections.

By



By act of the kirk-session, every one who is admitted to be a constant pensioner must sign a disposition of his effects (if any, at his or her decease), to the kirk-session, to be given to the surviving poor. Since the year 1782, we have few or rather no beggars. By the beneficence of the Earl of Bute, and by other charitable donations, they have not been so necessitous as they were before the year 1782.

*Servants.*—Their wages are advanced of late more than a third. Men-servants wages are from L. 6 to L. 8 *per annum*; women-servants wages are from L. 3 to L. 4 *per annum*; day-labourers have in winter from 6 d. to 8 d. a day, with their maintenance; in spring and summer from 8 d. to 10 d.; in harvest, women hired by the day have 8 d. a day, and their dinner; if hired for the whole time of harvest, from 16 s. to 18 s. and their maintenance. There are no men-reapers; the corn is all cut down by women; and the men tie the sheaves and stook them.

*Fish and game.*—There are fish of almost every kind on each side of the parish; but the natives never fish for any kind, excepting herrings. Of these they are uncommonly fond, which prevents them from trying to catch others. In the spring, when they are not employed at the herring-fishery, would they apply themselves to the catching of cod and haddocks, &c. they would surely be gainers. Fish of the above kinds are taken by north country strolling fishermen, and sold at high prices. Hares, partridges, and snipes, are in plenty. There are likewise green and grey plovers; some winters a great many woodcocks, abundance of ducks and teal, with other sea-fowl, which are common to the western shores of Scotland.

*Climate.*—This parish, though damp, is mild and temperate, and very healthy, owing probably to the saline particles impregnating the air, and the dry sandy soil of the parish. There are no epidemical diseases in the parish. The only distemper is the rheumatism; but it is not frequent. There are many instances of longevity in the parish. Three men died this winter, one 94, each of the other two 84 years old.

*Language and Character.*—Most of the natives speak English very well; although, in conversing with one another, they seem to be fond of the Gaelic, their mother tongue, which chiefly prevails among the old people, and may have been an hindrance to the more easy and more ready introduction of new methods of improvements in the parish. They are a sober, peaceable, and charitable people.

*Patron, Heritors, and Stipend, &c.* The Earl of Bute is patron, and almost sole proprietor of the parish. There are only four heritors of small property, not amounting to L. 200 *per annum*. The stipend consists of 78 bolls of victual, half meal, half barley; the meal at 9 stone weight per boll, the barley 4 firlots per boll; L. 36 : 15 : 4 Sterling of money, with a manse and glebe. The manse and office-houses were all new built in 1769. There are three churches in the parish. One of them is built near the south end, between the year 1000 and 1100. It is now almost in ruins. The other two are in pretty good repair, particularly the one on the shore near Mount Stuart House. Worship is only performed in it when any of the family are there. The other kirk is the ordinary place of worship, named the Mid-Kirk, being more central for the inhabitants.

*Schools.*

*Schools.*—There are at present three schools. 1st, A parish school, the salary L. 6 Sterling; 2d, a school, endowed and supported by the society for propagating Christian knowledge, salary only L. 6 *per annum*, a free house, kale-yard, and a cow, maintained summer and winter by the district. It is situated on the north-west side of the parish, where young children are too far from the parochial school. The 3d is in the north-west quarter of the parish; and the teacher is paid by the inhabitants of that quarter.

*Antiquities.*—On the south-west part of the parish, on a little rocky hill, there are evident vestiges of a vitrified wall, said to be a Danish fort; but it seems more probable that it was made by the inhabitants to defend the island from the attacks of the Danes and Norwegians. The hill, in the original, signifies, ‘The hill of the Lowland men.’ On a plain piece of ground, at a little distance from the ~~the~~ Mid-Kirk, there are evident remains of a Druidical temple, three large stones of which are still standing. It had been surrounded with wood. There are large trunks of oak trees in a morass, not above 200 yards from the temple.

*Marriages, Births, and Burials.*

Abstract for seven years.

	Marriages.	Births.		Burials.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
From 1784 to 1785	13	16	13	7	5
From 1785 to 1786	9	14	15	4	7
From 1786 to 1787	12	16	13	7	6
From 1787 to 1788	10	12	11	10	6
From 1788 to 1789	10	13	10	6	4
From 1789 to 1790	11	13	17	3	2
From 1790 to 1791	16	11	9	5	3

By

By a list taken in March 1791, the number of the inhabitants is 727. They have decreased 230 within these fifteen years. The reason is, that the town of Rothelay finds employment for day labourers, and other workmen, and affords them higher wages than they can receive in a country parish. The population, according to Dr Webster, was 979 souls.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—There is a ready sale for every kind of produce, either at Rothelay, Greenock, or the Largs. There are two packets every week from Rothelay, and a ferry-boat once every week from Scoulay, near Mount Stuart, to the Largs. Few of the inhabitants export their own commodities; buyers come to the island, and are at the expence of ferrying them over to the other side. The disadvantages are, 1st, Want of coal. Trials have been often made to find coal, and within this five years by Lord Mount Stuart sending men skilled in that employment from Newcastle; but unfortunately all their trials were ineffectual. The parish abounds with limestone, and, if a good seam of coal could be found, the island would be the wealthiest in the kingdom. Possibly that may yet be effected, if farther trials were made. 2dly, The farmers being employed the most part of the summer in casting and leading peats, cannot provide manure for their farms, the summer season being the fittest for that purpose; but what for some years past appears to be the greatest disadvantage to the farming interest of the parish is the bounty to the bus-fishing, which is carried on to a great extent in Rothelay. Few farmer's sons are bred to farming. To purchase a small share in a herring bus, and become master of it, seems to be their great ambition. It is a fact, that all the young men of the parish engage in the herring fishery; and, when once engaged, though they have

an opportunity of working in the farming line all spring, and receiving good wages, few or none are willing to work. This has formerly justly raised a complaint among the farmers, and at present their greatest. Might not government suspend the bounty for two or three years in order to try its effects?

NUM-

N U M B E R    X X X I I I .

UNITED PARISHES OF HOUSTOUN  
AND KILLALLAN.

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN MONTEATH.*

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**H**OUSTOUN and Killallan were originally separate parishes, but so intermixed, with respect to their local situation, that the people in one quarter of Killallan were obliged, if they kept the high road, to travel every Sunday close by the gate of Houstoun kirk, to attend public worship at Killallan, near two English miles up the country; and another quarter to travel across the middle of Houstoun parish, to Killallan, for the same purpose. This inconvenient situation of the parishes made it necessary for both to join together in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and to observe all the holidays usual on that occasion. Both parishes being small, and the examinable persons in both scarcely amounting to 600; the stipends not a sufficient provision for the ministers in such an expensive part of the country, the one valued at 900, the other at 1000 merks; the teinds exhausted; no augmentation could therefore be obtained. From these considerations, the patrons and heritors of both parishes, with consent of the presbytery, agreed to petition the Lords Commissioners appointed for plantation of kirks, &c. to have them  
united

united into one parish, to be called the **United Parishes of Houftoun and Killallan**. The Lords gave a decret for that purpose in the year 1760, with this provision, that the then incumbents should enjoy their stipends, manfes, and glebes, and exercise their pastoral office in their respective parishes, till the death, transportation, or deprivation, of the one of them; and the patrons to exercise the right of presenting in a vacancy by turns; and ordained the kirk at Houftoun to be the only kirk of the united parishes in future.

*Origin of the Names.*—Killallan, or Killellen, according to an inscription on the kirk bell, seems to be a corruption of Killfillan, i. e. *Cella Fillani*, the tutelar faint of the parish. There is a large stone a little distant from the kirk, with a hollow in the middle, called Fillan's Seat; a little farther, a spring well, called Fillan's Well, issuing from under a rock, shaded with bushes hanging over it, to which, it is reported, that the country women used to bring their weak and ricketty children, and bathe them in the water, leaving some pieces of cloth as a present, or offering, to the Saint, on the bushes. This custom continued till about the end of the last century, when one Mr Hutcheson, who was then minister, caused the well to be filled with stones. There is a fair held in the month of January, called Fillan's Fair, and Fillan's Day. The font stone for holding the holy water, in times of Popery, stood long without the quire door, after the reformation, but is now built in the church-yard wall.

Houftoun, in antient times, was called Hilpeter, i. e. *Cella Petri*, the tutelary faint. There is a well at a little distance, to the north-west of the church, called St Peter's Well; it is covered with a wall of cut free-stone, arched in the roof, from which flows a plentiful stream of excellent water; and

a stream of water passing hard by is called Peter's Burn. There is a fair held in the month of July in the village, called Peter's Day. Houftoun, the more modern name of the parish, may be supposed to be a corruption of Hew's town, perhaps from Hugo de Padvinan, who is said by Mr Crawford, in his History of Renfrewshire, to have obtained a grant of the barony of Kilpeter from Baldwin of Biggar, sheriff of Lanark in the reign of Malcolm IV. When families began to assume surnames from their hereditary lands and baronies, his descendants may be supposed to have assumed the name of Hew's town; and, in process of time, might be changed into Houftoun. One of Hugo de Padvinan's successors, who lived in the reign of King Alexander III. is called, in an ancient charter, Sir Finlay de Houftoun; which surname continued in the family for several hundred years. We are also informed by Mr Crawford, that Patrick, one of Hugh de Padvinan's successors, obtained the honour of knighthood from James V. of Scotland; perhaps a renewal and confirmation of a former grant of that honour to his predecessors. The barony of Houftoun comprehends the whole parish of Houftoun, and a small part of Killallan. Before the union of the two parishes, there was not a single feuer in the parish and barony of Houftoun. About 50 years ago, it was sold to Sir John Schaw of Greenock; and soon after, by him, to Sir James Campbell from Jamaica; and by his heirs to Governour Macrae. It has been in the possession of several proprietors since it went out of the Houftoun family, and is now the property of Archibald Speirs, Esq; of Elderlie. The present barony officer, a man near 80, says, he remembers to have seen 14 lairds or proprietors of Houftoun.

*Situation and Extent.*—The situation of the united parishes of Houftoun and Killallan is in the shire of Renfrew, originally



nally called Strathgryfe, from one of its principal rivers. They are bounded on the west by Kilmalcolm; on the south by Kilbarchan; on the north and east by the parish of Erskine, which separates it from Clyde. It is about 6 English miles long; about 3 miles broad; and 5 miles distant from Paisley, which is the presbytery seat. The church of Houftoun is about 9 Scots miles west of Glasgow, 6 from Port-Glasgow, and 8 from Greenock.

The only considerable river is Gryfe, which separates it from Kilbarchan on the south. This river hath its source in the high moors and mountains that are situated between Kilmalcolm and the Largs, on the coast of the Firth of Clyde. It is composed of several streams, which unite near the mansion-house of Duchal. It runs rapidly, over several precipices, to the low country at Fullwood, where it meets the tide; after which it moves slowly, in a serpentine course, receiving the river Black Cart at Moss Walkinshaw, and White Cart at Inchinnan bridge, and thence into Clyde, a mile below Renfrew. In this river there is trout, most plenty towards the high moors; in the lower part pike and perch; and, with the first flood in June or July, salmon come up the river from Clyde, and still more with floods in August, and continue in the river till spawning time is over.

*Surface and Soil.*—In the upper part of the united parishes, the soil is generally thin and dry, the surface is unevenly mixed with many whin rocks in the highest parts, and much of it is covered with short heath and bent grass, most fit for pasturing sheep. The soil is better as it descends toward the low country, which is a large plain, of great extent, from the mansion-house of Barochan and Houftoun, to Glasgow and Hamilton; and in breadth, from Paisley, and the foot of  
Nichtoun

Nielftoun parish, on the south, to the braes and hills of Kilpatrick on the north. The foil in the plain is generally good, part clay, part loam, or mixed, and the rents high. The mansion-house of Barochan stands on a freestone rock, and Houftoun on a whin rock, about one English mile from each other, and both almost on the verge of the plain. There is a large moss in the plain, not far from Barochan, of many hundred acres, from which the country all around get peats for fuel.

*Air and Climate.*—The air in the upper parts of Houftoun and Killallan is sharp in winter; the snow covering the ground when there is scarce any at Houftoun and Barochan, and none in the plain below; and the harvest is often above a week earlier at Barochan, Houftoun, and along Gryfe to Duchal and Kilmalcolm, than in any other part of the neighbouring country.

*Wood and Planting.*—There is a large natural wood at Houftoun, consisting of oak, alder, birch, willow, and some ash; besides a great quantity of old planted timber about the mansion-house, consisting of elms, planes, ash, limes, and some oaks; many of which have been lately cut down and sold at a good price. There is also a considerable natural wood at Barochan, and another at Boghall, a small barony on the north side of the parish, the property of Boyd Alexander, Esq; of South Barr, and was once the seat of another family of the name of Fleming. There is also a great quantity of planting about the mansion house of Barochan, consisting of ash, plane, oak, larch, and fir.

*Population.*—Population has lately decreased in the country part of the parish, by the union of small farms. About forty  
years

years ago, there were 16 farms in the barony of Fullwood ; there are only 8 at present. At that time, the yearly rent of that estate was little above 3000 merks ; and, when lately sold, the rental, by improvement on the land, was L. 700 Sterling.

Upon a survey lately made of the inhabitants of Houftoun and Killallan, they are as follows :

Families	185
Males	510
Females	524
Under 15	361
From 15 to 70	643
Above 70	30
Servants	159
Seceders, Relief, &c.	69

The whole males and females amounting to 1034 persons.

Marriages and births entered on the parish register for the last seven years are as follows :

	Marriages.	Births.
1784	12	26
1785	11	27
1786	11	22
1787	13	29
1788	16	28
1789	8	31
1790	11	26
	82	188
Average	11 $\frac{2}{7}$	25 $\frac{5}{7}$

It has not been customary to keep a register of burials in the parishes of Houstoun and Killallan.

The old village of Houstoun was built near the church and mansion-house, and consisted of about 16 families. All the houses in it belonged to the proprietor. There was not a feu in the whole parish. It was demolished when the New Town was built, as was formerly observed; only one house and the schoolhouse being left standing. In the new village are 35 houses, all built since the year 1781, inhabited by 57 families, which has made a considerable addition to the population of the parish. Six of the houses are two stories high, and two of them slated; many of them contain two families, or one family and a shop for looms. No houses have since been demolished of any consequence. About twelve years ago, the mansion-house on the estate of Fullwood, which was a large, elegant, modern house, and made a fine appearance in the country, was demolished by Mr Speirs of Elderslie, after he purchased that estate, and entailed it. He carried some of the best of the materials to his house at King's Inch, and sold the remainder. This estate was formerly the property of the Porterfields of Fullwood, cadets of the Duchal family. The new village of Houstoun is neatly built; the front walls are of hewn stone from the mansion-house and tower of Houstoun. There are five corn-mills in this parish, two lint and fulling-mills.

*Trades and Manufactures* — The principal trade in the village is weaving. There are 42 looms, most of which are employed in weaving cotton, muslins, lawns, and silk gauze: There are also a few carpenters, tailors, and shoemakers. Near the village, there is a large bleachfield belonging to Messrs James and Thomas Carlisle from Paisley, whereon is whitened

ed about 50,000 spindles of thread and yarn, and above 3000 pieces of muslin and lawn yearly. This and the weaving business causes a considerable circulation of money in the village and neighbourhood.

*Church, Manse, Glebe, and Stipends.*—The kirk of Killallan is still standing, and the roof is entire. The heritors were empowered, by the decret of annexation, to sell the manse, which was a bad house, and the glebe, to enable them to build a church at Houftoun, sufficient to accommodate the inhabitants of both parishes. The new church of Houftoun was built in the year 1775, and can accommodate with seats 150 persons beside the parishioners, which is very convenient when the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is dispensed. The glebe at Houftoun is about six acres of arable land, besides garden, house, and outhouses. The annexed stipend amounts to 66 bolls of oat-meal, 14 bolls of barley, and L. 78 Sterling, of old and new money stipends. The greatest part of the money stipends arises from 92 bolls of oat-meal, converted by the decret of annexation at 10 merks per boll, being the usual conversion at that time; for which the heritors now receive 16s. from the tenants; which has turned out to be a considerable diminution of the stipends. This was done by a petition from the heritors to the Lords, &c. with consent of the presbytery, because a great part of the united parishes is more fit for pasture than tillage, and might in time be used for that purpose. The above money stipends comprehend L. 40 Scots for communion elements. Mr Monteath, ordained Feb. 1748, is now pastor of the united parishes. Mr Robert Carrick was last minister of Houftoun previous to the annexation of the parishes; he was ordained in the year 1720 or 1721, and died May 1. 1771, aged 89 years, 10 months, and twenty days.

*Schools.*

*Schools.*—The public school is at the church, where reading English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and sometimes Latin, are taught. The number of scholars are about 40 or 50 in winter; but fewer in summer. There are also private schools in different parts of the parish. The schoolmaster's salary is 200 merks; he receives 4 d for a baptism, and 1 s. 2 d. for a marriage proclamation; and a small yearly sum as session clerk, and for keeping the registers, particularly an exact account of the poor's funds.

*Poor.*—There is at present near 20 poor people who are supplied from the poor's funds: Nearly the half of them are old, and unable to work: Some of them are poor widows, and small children; others infirm or diseased. The poor's stock is L. 260; the interest of which, with the weekly collections at the church door, is the only means of their support at present. They are regularly supplied, with more or less, at the beginning of each quarter, especially the aged and infirm, as far as the money in the hand of the treasurer will go.

*Inclosures, and Rents of Lands, &c.*—Most part of the parish is inclosed; the upper grounds with stone-walls, and the low lands with thorn hedges. The rent of the upper and hilly farms is from 10 s. to 15 s. an acre arable; what is rocky, and covered with heath, is of small value, very suitable for planting the Scotch fir, larch, and oaks, though it is not yet applied to that useful and profitable purpose. The rent in the low land, of a clay and loamy soil, is from 20 s. to 30 s. an acre. The upper or hilly farms produce oats, some peate, barley, and good dry potatoes. The farms in the plain and low land produce oats, barley, pease, beans, and wheat. The farmers, of late, have left off sowing wheat,  
thinking

thinking it a troublesome and unprofitable crop. They have, for many years past, sown a great quantity of ryegrass and clover-feed, which turns to good account; the hay is commonly sold at 5 d. and 6 d. a stone. They have a ready market for the hay at Greenock, &c. There was nothing but bog, or meadow hay, for horses about fifty years ago. The valuation of the united parishes of Houstoun and Killallan amounts to L. 4057 : 8 : 0 Scots. The real rent is nearly double, if not more, than it was 40 years ago. The rent of the barony of Fullwood at that time was about 6 s. and 7 s. an acre and now there is none of it below 20 s. The number of the horses in the parish cannot be well ascertained. Farmers, who have only about half a ploughgate of land, more or less, often keep only one horse in summer, buy another in winter, and hire one to make a three horse plough in the spring; and, when the ploughing is over, they sell one of them. Their horses are generally of a high price, viz. from 20 to 25 guineas. They buy them young, feed them well, and, after a year or two, sell them to advantage. The farmers who have a ploughgate of land or more keep horses in proportion to their labour. Cows cannot be said to be numerous. A farmer that has half a ploughgate of land will have 6, 7, or 8 milk cows, and a few young cattle, in proportion to their farms. In the hilly and moorish ground, they bring up more young cattle, on coarse pasture, than in the low part of the country, where grass is scarce, except when sown. There are not many sheep in this parish, except a few in the upper and moorish farms; they hurt the inclosures and the milk cows grass.

*Price of Labour and Provisions* — Oat-meal, in this shire, for some years past, has been from 11 d. to 1 s. 1 d. per peck. Last year it was 1 s. 1½ d. in summer and harvest; at present

it

it is generally 1 s. 1 d. It would be much dearer were there not a great quantity imported from Ireland. The produce of grain in this shire is not sufficient to maintain the inhabitants one-half of the year. Paisley, Port Glasgow, and Greenock, are yearly increasing; new villages, cotton and spinning mills are constantly building. The wages of mechanics, day-labourers, and servants, are more than double what they were 40 or 50 years ago. A day-labourer's wages is 1 s. 2d. at least; a wright or house-carpenter 1 s. 6 d. and 1 s. 8 d.; a mason 1 s. 10 d. or 2 s.; a taylor 9 d. and 10 d. a day; men servants from L. 7 to L. 10 a year, if they are good ploughmen; women-servants, from L. 1 : 10 : 0 or L. 2 the half year, and upwards. The farmers generally work their land by hired servants, if they have not children fit for it, except when they occasionally employ day-labourers for threshing, or in harvest. Price of flesh meat and poultry is daily increasing; beef, that used to be sold at 3 s. is now 6 s. and 7 s. a stone; and mutton, that used to be sold 40 years ago, at 2½ d. and 3 d. a pound, is sold at 5 d. 6 d. and 6½ d. The price of a couple of good hens 3 s. or 3 s. 4 d. Butter and cheese is double what it was at the above mentioned time.

*Free and Lime-stone.*—There is plenty of freestone in both parishes, of different qualities, softer and harder, very near the mansion-house of Barochan and Houstoun. There is both coal and limestone in the estate of Houstoun, but of a hard quality; the limestone is deep in the ground, and ill to burn, and is the roof of a thin coal; but, when the lime is well burnt by a skilful hand, though it has little effect the first year, its effect is more lasting than better lime.

*Manners and Dress.*—The inhabitants of this parish are generally



nerally sober, and regular in attending public worship. The farmers are very industrious. In the spring they cultivate their land; in summer they lead lime and manure; and in the hay and corn harvest times they are busily employed. They are decently clothed, especially the women; many of the young women and girls in the village flower lawns and muslins, by which they not only maintain themselves, but buy fineries. About 40 years ago, the finest dress of the women, old and young, was brown or blew cloaks, and caps; to which scarlet ones succeeded. Scarlet is now worn by the lowest and poorest people. The women generally wear black silk cloaks, bonnets of various shapes, and high crowned hats, and riding habits; and the congregation on Sabbath appears like an assembly of well dressed and fashionable ladies. So great is the change of dress that trade and manufactures have made among the common people in this part of the kingdom. The young men appear at kirk and market dressed in English cloth, and good linens. They wear hats, and bonnets are now rarely seen.

*Antiquities* —In the barony of Barochan, and on the side of the public road, stood an antient cross, about 11 or 12 feet high, set in a large pedestal of undrest stone. The cross had been neatly hewn, with much wreathed carving on all sides. No letters appear on it: It is much defaced with ruin and storm. In a square part of the front are 2 rows of small images; in the upper row there are 4 with garments to their feet; and 4 in the under row: Each seem to hold, in their left hand, a club over their shoulders, that is thickest at the far end. In a square on the back part there are also 2 rows of small figures, 4 in each row, much defaced, and coarsely executed: But when, by whom, or on what occasion it was erected, there is no record or tradition. Some  
call

call it a Danish cross: Perhaps it might be intended as a devotional cross for travellers.

Barochan is an ancient family. The original ancestor of that name is said to have come from Flanders in King David's reign; and assumed their surname and designation from the country of the Flemings. One of them is a witness to a charter in the reign of King Alexander III. and to another charter in the year 1309. In the reign of James IV. William Fleming of Barochan was sheriff of Lanark, and killed with the King, and many of the nobility and gentry, in the battle of Floudon. This family has always been much respected in the country.

The cross above mentioned was lately removed by Malcolm Fleming, Esq; the present proprietor, to a neighbouring hill, where the old mansion house of Barochan formerly stood. This house is reported to have been burnt by the English, probably in the reign of King Edward, and his invasion of Scotland.

The mansion-house of Houstoun was also very ancient. There was a large, and very high tower, on the north west corner, which was the most ancient part of the building, with a lower house joined to the east end of the tower, with vaults below, and a very long and wide paved hall above, with antique windows in the front, and without plaster in the roof.

The timbers of the roof were arched, and made of massy oak. The other parts of the building appeared to be additions, subsequently made as they became necessary. It was a complete square, with a large area in the inside. On the front to the south were two turrets, between which was the grand  
entry

entry into the area, arched above, and secured by a port culis. The building was a real fortification; being large, and built on an elevated situation, it had a lordly appearance, overlooking the whole plain towards Paisley and Glasgow. About 10 years ago it was demolished, except the east side. Mr Macrae, who was then the proprietor, desiring to have the old village near it removed to a greater distance, fenced ground for building a new village; and, to encourage the people to build, he gave them the stones of the mansion-house gratis. The tower was so thick, and the stone and lime so strongly cemented, that they were obliged to blast it with gunpowder. Mr Macrae proposed at that time to build a new house for himself, or to make an addition to the side that was then standing, and was the newest part of the whole; but that plan was never executed; and the whole is now a ruin. The building is said to have been originally a religious house of Monks of the Cistercian order.

In an aisle adjoining to the east end of the church are several sepulchral monuments; particularly a magnificent tomb of neat workmanship, in free stone. In the front, under a canopy, resembling an alcove bed, are placed two statues as big as the life: The one is said to be an effigy of Sir Patrick Houston of that Ilk, who died in the year 1450; and the other of his lady, Annes Campbell, who died in the year 1456. The one representing Sir Patrick is dressed in a coat of mail, his head lying on a pillow, and his feet on a lion with a wide mouth, holding a lamb in his paws under him. The image of the lady is dressed as in grave clothes, neatly cut in stone. Both their hands are elevated, as in a praying or supplicating posture. Round the verge of the tomb there is an inscription in Saxon capitals, but so much effaced, that little of it can be distinctly read.

Upon

Upon the south wall of the aisle there is a large frame of timber, on which 2 pictures, seemingly done with oil colours, but much worn out. On the right side, a man in complete armour, resembling that of a Knight Templar, with an inscription in Saxon characters over his head, some words of which are effaced—*Hic jacet Dominus Joannes Houstoun de eodem miles, qui obiit anno Dom. mcccc°*—On the left hand a picture of his lady, also much effaced, and over her head the following inscription:—*Hic jacet Domina Maria Colquhoun, sponsa quondam dicti Domini Joannis, qua obiit septimo die mensis Octobris, an Dom m°cccc°-quinto.*—On the same side of the aisle is a fine monument, with a variety of emblematical figures, part of fine free stone, but most of it stucco. On the top is the image of an old man, with long flowing hair, and a crown on his head, with a loose robe, having one foot on a large globe, with a small image on each side, holding a trumpet to their mouth. Across the globe is a chain hanging down on each side, and fixed below; where there are, in a standing posture, two images resembling children, each holding a link of the chain: The one on the right hand has three faces; the other, on the left hand, is blindfolded, as with a cloth bound over the eyes. There are several other figures on the sides, and below the following inscription:

*Hic sita est Domina Anna Hamiltonia, dilectissima Domini Patricii Houstoun, de eodem, Baronetti, conjux sua, quae obiit tertio die idus Maias, anno salutis partae, millesimo sexcentesimo et septuagesimo-octavo.*

There have been several urns, with ashes of human bones, found both in Houstoun and Killallan. One was lately found in the brow of a hill on the road side; and others have been

found under cairns of small stones. These urns were probably Roman urns, this district being part of a Roman province, and within the line of Antoninus's wall, or Graham's dyke. Dr Henry, in his History of Britain, observes, that the antient nations of South Britain burnt the bodies of the dead, according to the practice of the antient Gauls, from whom they were descended; and that this is unquestionably evident from the great number of urns, of British workmanship, which have been found in several places, full of ashes, and human bones half burnt; and these urns, with their various contents, were deposited in sepulchres, caves, and barrows or tumuli, according to the prevailing custom of the country; but, as the bones of men lying at full length, without any marks of burning, have been found in some of these barrows, it appears, that, on some occasions, the antient Britons of the south, both of Scotland and England, buried their dead without burning, and that the Caledonians always buried their dead in deep graves.

About 20 years ago, when the country people in this parish were digging for stones to inclose their farms, they met with several chests or coffins of flag stones, set on their edges, sides, and ends, and covered with the same sort of stones above, in which were many human bones of a large size, and several skulls in some of them. In one was found many trinkets of a jet black substance, some round, others round and oblong, and others of a diamond shape, &c. all perforated. Probably they were a necklace. There was a thin piece, about 2 inches broad at one end, and perforated with many holes, but narrow at the other; the broad end, full of holes, seemed to be designed for suspending many trinkets, as an ornament on the breast. The ground where these stone coffins were found was a little raised, with a mixture

ture of small stones and earth, in the form of a barrow or tumulus.

But whether these stone coffins were older than the Roman government in this country, or later, or upon what occasion so many people were buried there in that manner, and several in one stone chest, is not known. It seems to have been the consequence of a battle or skirmish between two hostile parties; which was the case not 200 years ago, between families, through most part of Scotland, who often met their enemy, with their vassals and dependants, and slaughtered one another.

About half a mile to the south west of Houstoun mansion-house, there is a mount composed of a vast number of small stones, in which was found one of the like stone coffins; and, opp site to it, directly northward, there is another of the same kind, composed of earth and small stones, in a circular form. They were both lately enlarged, inclosed, and planted with forest trees. These two mounts may have been the ground of two opposite camps of warriors, fighting near the place where the stone coffins were found.

NUM-

## N U M B E R XXXIV.

## PARISH OF BIGGAR.

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM WATSON.**Situation, Extent, and Surface.*

**T**HE parish of Biggar, in the county of Lanark, is the seat of a Presbytery, a branch of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is about 6 miles long from east to west; and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  broad from south to north; the figure being a sort of oval, with some irregularities. The surface is partly hilly, and partly level; in some places heathy, in others green, and interspersed with fertile fields; and is almost equally divided between tillage and pasture.

*Rent, &c.*—The present rental of the parish may amount to about L. 1800. The best ground about the town lets at 30 s. and some particular spots yield a rent of 40 s. an acre; but, in general, the land in the neighbourhood of Biggar lets at between 20 s. and 30 s. an acre, being mostly distributed into several small farms of L. 10 and L. 15 each. In the country part of the parish, some farms let at L. 50, others at L. 70, and one at L. 150 *per annum*; but the rate per acre cannot be easily ascertained, as they consist mostly of some tolerably good low grounds, and a considerable extent of hilly poor land, which is employed for pasture. There has been no  
great

great alteration of the size of farms here these many years past. The parish, in general, is open and uninclosed, though there are several inclosures here and there, especially near the town. The number of horses may be about 125, and of sheep 100 score. There are about 40 heritors in the parish, including portioners of Biggar town; Lord Elphinstone being the principal proprietor, and Mr Brown of Edmonstone the only resident heritor of any consideration.

*Prices of Provisions and Labour.*—Butcher meat generally sells at 3 d. 3½ d. or 4 d. a pound; butter 7 d. a pound; hens from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d.; and chickens 4 d. each. The fuel used here is coal from Douglas, 11 miles off; 3 loads, or 1 horse draught, comes to 3 s. 3 d.; but some people use peats from Biggar moss, though these are difficult to procure, and at the same time expensive. An expert man servant, maintained in a farmer's family, will receive from L. 5 : 10 : 0 to L. 6 *per annum*, and a maid servant L. 2 : 10 : 0 to L. 3; which is twice as much as they got 40 years ago. A day labourer has 8 d. a day in summer, and 6 d. in winter; but, in harvest, the daily wages of a man are 10 d. and of a woman 8 d. Carpenters earn 1 s. 3 d. a day, and masons 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d.

<i>Population.</i> —Total inhabitants	. . . . .	937
In the town of Biggar	. . . . .	389
In the country part of the parish,	. . . . .	348
Under 10 years of age	. . . . .	207
From 10 to 20	. . . . .	113
From 20 to 50	. . . . .	416
From 50 to 70	. . . . .	164
Above 70 years of age	. . . . .	37

The



The returns made to Dr Webster about 1750 was 1098 souls, so that the population has declined 161 since that period; though it appears that the population of the town has been for some years past on the increase. In this town there are,

Merchants, or shopkeepers . . . . .	7
Shoemakers, including journeymen . . . . .	15
Physician . . . . .	1
Surgeons, including 4 apprentices . . . . .	7
Attorney . . . . .	1
Minister of the Established Church . . . . .	1
————— Burger Seceders . . . . .	1
————— Relief Congregation . . . . .	1

This place stands on a dry and elevated situation, favoured with a southerly exposure, and is allowed to be a healthy and well aired town; no houses are unoccupied; and three new ones have been lately built. There are three fairs held here yearly; one at Candlemas, another in July, and a third in November.

*Church and Stipend.*—The collegiate church of Biggar was built in 1545, by Malcolm 3d Lord Fleming, Lord High Chamberlain of Scotland, and largely endowed by him for the support of a provost, 8 prebendaries, 4 singing boys, and 6 poor men. It is built in the form of a cross; the fabric is entire; but the steeple and spire have never been finished. It is just now undergoing a reparation, and, when completed, will be a decent place of worship. The stipend is L. 55 : 11 : 11 $\frac{1}{4}$  in money, 3 chalders of oat-meal, and 1 chaldar of barley; besides which, the minister has L. 2 : 10 : 0 allowance for grass, and a glebe of 2 acres and 3 roods, worth yearly about L. 3 : 8 : 0. Lord Elphinstone is patron.—A Burgher meeting-

ing-house was built in the town of Biggar about 1760; and about 1780 a Relief house was also erected there, the members of which are collected from 16 neighbouring parishes.

*Poor.*—The collections at the church doors, profits of the mort-cloths, &c. amount to L. 25 a year, which is disbursed among about a dozen of stated pensioners, and in giving occasional supplies to others. The poor belonging to the sectaries get some kind of supply from their own meetings; but, in general, it is very inadequate; so that they are sometimes obliged to be relieved from the parish funds. The Burgher and Relief congregations are often in debt. Part of their collections are applied in paying their ministers stipend, keeping their meeting-houses in repair, and paying interest of money borrowed.

*Roads.*—The public roads in this parish, and in the county in general, are improving every day. About 30 years ago, the inhabitants wrought at them a certain number of days in the year; while this practice continued, the work was performed with reluctance, and the roads kept in bad repair: But now, each farm pays a certain sum; and the roads, under the inspection of trustees, are well made, and preserved in excellent repair, proper materials being at hand. There is one turnpike in the parish; and the prejudices of the country people against turnpikes are diminishing, as they now see the advantages of good roads, which here enables one horse to carry from 8 to 10 bars of lead from Leadhills in a cart; whereas 5 or 6 bars were thought a sufficient load before.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The want of manufactures, and the high price of fuel, occasions rather an indolent habit among the lower classes, in whom a taste for dress seems to be

be on the increasing hand ; and tea drinking is more common than it was 20 years ago. The most prevalent distempers seem to be slow and intermitting fevers. Nothing singular occurred here in the scarcity of 1782 and 1783. The heritors affected themselves in a sum of money for purchasing oatmeal, which was sold at a reduced price to such persons as the heritors or kirk-session deemed objects of distrefs.

*Antiquities.*—At the west end of the town of Biggar is a tumulus, which appears never to have been opened ; and there are vestiges of three camps, each of a roundish figure, at different places in the neighbourhood. There is a tradition of a battle having been fought at the east end of the town, between the Scots, under the command of Sir William Wallace, and the English army, who were said to be 60,000 strong, wherein a great slaughter was made on both sides, especially among the latter.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXV.

PARISH OF DUNSYRE.

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN BRADFUTE.*

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*Origin of the Name.*

**D**UNSIR, or Dunfior, in the Celtic, signifies the Long Hill; thence it appears that a remarkable hill, called Dunfyre, near the small village where the church stands, has given name to that village, and consequently to the parish.

*Situation, Extent, and Surface.*—This parish lies at the eastern extremity of the county of Lanark, in the presbytery of Biggar, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. The arable land lies between the hill of Dunfyre and the range of Dolphington and Walfon hills to the south, which are about a mile distant from the former. Between them is a flat vale, extending near three miles in length, through the middle of which the small river Medwin (the southern boundary of the parish) runs in a winding direction. The houses are placed between the Medwin and the hill of Dunfyre, and on rising grounds, at the west extremity of the flat lands, many of them in situations improper for the farms. The rest of the parish is sheep pasture, stretching to the north; so that, though the houses are nearly in a line from east to west, the

extent of the parish is about five miles every way ; and it is bounded by the parishes of Carnwath, West Calder, Linton, Dolphington, Walfton, and Libberton.

*Climate and Diseases.*—This parish is placed very high, being about 700 feet above the level of the east and west seas, from which Dunfyre is almost equi-distant ; so that the Medwin being divided by a mill dam at the east end of the parish, one half of the stream runs to the Clyde, and the other half to the Tweed. The air is pretty good, though rather moist. The prevalent distempers are rheumatism, and nervous disorders; the last, it is imagined, are partly owing to the want of circulation of air in the houses, the windows of which formerly had moveable timber leaves below, and glass above, now the windows are sashed, and scarcely any of them can be opened.

*Population.*—On the 1st of January 1791, there were in the parish,

Males	.	.	.	.	.	.	183
Females	.	.	.	.	.	.	177
Individuals	.	.	.	.	.	.	360
Of whom there were,							
Under 10 years of age	.	.	.	.	.	.	88
From 10 to 20	.	.	.	.	.	.	80
— 20 to 30	.	.	.	.	.	.	60
— 30 to 40	.	.	.	.	.	.	37
— 40 to 50	.	.	.	.	.	.	42
— 50 to 60	.	.	.	.	.	.	20
— 60 to 70	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
— 70 to 80	.	.	.	.	.	.	12
— 80 to 90	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
							360
							By

By the returns made to Dr Webster about 1750, there were 359 inhabitants then in the parish, so that it appears the population has made little or no progress in 40 years, though it is said that, about 1783, the number of inhabitants was about 400, the decrease since that period being owing to the enlargement of farms, and pulling down of cottages. All the parishioners, except about 40 sectaries of various denominations, are of the established church; and, from the registers, it appears there were 14 baptised, and 9 buried, between 1st January 1788 and 1st January 1791. There are in the parish three heritors, none of whom reside, one clergyman, twelve farmers, two students, a few weavers, smiths, masons, wrights, and tailors, who have about half a dozen apprentices.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The annual value of the living is L. 100, exclusive of the manse and glebe, which last may be worth L. 10 a year. The King is patron, and the parson is titular of the tythes. The manse was built in 1756. The kirk is old, but in tolerable repair. The number of poor receiving charity are 7 or 8, supplied by the collections, and the interest of a small fund of L. 90.

*Natural Productions, &c.*—In general, there is not much wood in the parish; it is chiefly fir, ash, and a few limes. Some oats are sent to the Glasgow market, as are also sheep, and turnip fed cattle. The artificial grasses are clover, ryegrass, and a little rib-grass; the times of sowing and reaping are various. In good seasons, the harvest here is three, in a wet year six, weeks later than in Mid or East Lothian. Dunfyre Hill is rocky and green. The other rising grounds in the parish are covered with black heath. Peat is produced in the parish; but there is no coal nearer than twelve miles.

The

The land rent in 1735 was L. 500; it may perhaps be now nearly doubled; and the parish is divided into twelve farms, one of which is wholly sheep pasture. The day-wages of a mason and carpenter are 1 s. 6 d. each; of a taylor 1 s.; of a day-labourer 1 s.; ploughmen get from L. 6 to L. 7, and women servants from L. 3 to L. 4 *per annum*. The people are sober, economical, and industrious. The servants are well fed and treated; and, in seed time and harvest, none in Scotland can be more alert. The Medwin produces a few trouts.

*Antiquities.*—There is a row of sepulchral cairns running from the east end of this parish upon the edge of a muir towards Linton. Two of them the present incumbent has seen opened; in one the body had been buried in a large coffin of several unwrought freestones, in the other was found a small urn.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The soil in the parish, and in all that tract of country which stretches from hence to Larnark is in general light and sandy; the arable land being frequently interspersed with, or bordering on, peat-mofs. The soil is well adapted for raising turnips and potatoes, though it is only of late that the culture of the former has been introduced. In general, this tract is still uninclosed. Inclosures, with belts and clumps of planting, would much improve the parish, by sheltering the grounds, and meliorating the climate. It is a question of importance how these fences could be made at the cheapest rate. Thorn-hedges are impracticable here, as the soil has many variations from good to bad, where thorns cannot be reared. Stones are not every where to be got; and, besides, the poverty of the ground will hardly bear the expence of erecting stone-walls. Perhaps turf-dykes,  
well

well coped, is the only mode that can be adopted ; these will stand to rear a verge of fir-trees until they are pretty much out of danger from being destroyed by cattle ; and, if the outer-row of the belts were planted thick with larch, which is a hardy sort of wood, this of itself would be a good fence, and supply the place of the turf dykes when they begin to fail. Upon the whole, nothing can be done effectually for the improvement of this country without draining and screening. Perhaps the rents might be thus raised one-third in twenty years time. The gentlemen of this part of the country seem to have no idea of building villages, though, as fuel is plenty, they might be soon peopled.



## N U M B E R XXXVI.

## P A R I S H O F Y E S T E R.

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES INNES.**Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**T**HE antient name of this parish was Bothons, when the seat of the family of Tweeddale was at the old castle, about a mile from their present residence ; but, after the Reformation, the family left the castle, and began to build the house they now inhabit, which they then called Yester, and the parish has ever since gone by the same name. This parish is situated in the county of East Lothian, presbytery of Haddington, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, being bounded by the parishes of Haddington on the north, Garvald on the east, Lauder on the south, and Bolton on the west. It extends about two miles in breadth, and three in length, without reckoning that portion which makes part of Lammer-moor, and extends two miles further to the southward. From the foot of Lammer-law, to the northern boundary of the parish, the country has a very gentle descent ; and from east to west it is mostly plain ; Lammer-moor is covered with heath.

*Soil and Climate.*—The soil is very different ; in the same farm, we have rich good land and very poor ground intermixed together ; but, by means of lime and dung, the greatest

east part of the parish has been brought into very good order. Some of the best ground is near the foot of Lammer-moor hills; the most of the arable land is rather a shallow than a deep soil. The air is pure and very healthy; and no particular distemper is prevalent in the parish; though it has been observed that, of late years, consumptions have been more frequent than usual in this part of the country.

*Natural Productions.*—The hill ground is about two miles square, and the number of acres of arable land is about 4000, of which near 2000 acres are employed in raising corn and roots, and in fallow. There are sown about 200 bolls of wheat, 1100 bolls of oats, 200 bolls of barley, 180 bolls of pease, 120 acres of turnips, 100 acres of potatoes, from 15 to 20 acres of flax; but this last is not much cultivated here, the ground not being fit for it. There are often 180 acres of fallow, which is sown down with wheat and barley. Much more grain is raised than the people can consume: Much is sold in Haddington market; and a considerable quantity goes yearly to the west country. More than one-half of the ground in the parish is in pasture and sown grass; about 200 acres are covered with wood, such as elm, oak, beech, and fir; among which are some of the largest and most beautiful trees in Scotland. One oak-tree in the wood of Yester was valued some years ago at L. 25. A good number of sheep; and, of late years, a number of calves are bred in the parish. Some tenants rear in one year about 20 calves each. There may be, of saddle and work-horses, about 200, black cattle about 600, and 140 score of sheep. The usual time of sowing is the beginning of March, and of reaping the beginning of September.

*Prices of Provisions.*—Beef sells at Martinmas for 3 d. and in spring at 4 d. a pound, and mutton bears much the same

same price ; veal fells from 4 d. to 6 d. a pound, according to the season ; lamb from 1 s. to 2 s. 6 d. a quarter ; pork, in general, 4 d. a pound ; geese 3 s. each ; ducks 1 s. ; chickens 5 d. to 6 d. a pound each ; butter 8 d. to 9 d. and cheese 5 d. to 6 d. a pound. The price of oat-meal 40 years ago was 7 d. the peck, at present it is 1 s. A greater quantity of beef and mutton are now consumed by the lower class of people than formerly. The fuel commonly used is coal and wood ; the former comes from six miles distance ; one cart, holding six loads, costs 2 s. at the hill, and the carriage comes to 3 s. more.

*Prices of Labour.*—The wages of an ordinary man-servant 40 years ago were L. 2 : 10 : 0 yearly ; at present they are from L. 5 to L. 7. Women servants then received L. 1 : 10 : 0, all articles included ; now they have, on an average, L. 3 a year. Forty years ago, the wages of a labouring man, who received no victuals, were 5 d. through the winter, and 6 d. in summer ; now they are raised to 10 d. in winter, and 1 s. in summer ; in harvest, the reapers get from 9 d. to 1 s. 4 d. with their meat. A carpenter makes 1s. 6d. ; a mason 1s. 8d. ; and tailors have from 6 d. to 8 d. a day, with their meat. The common labourer, when well employed, may gain from L. 15 to L. 18 a year, which makes him and his family live very comfortably ; and a common ploughman may earn, including meal, corn, and cow, &c. from L. 13 to L. 15 a year.

*Rent of Land and Houses, &c.*—The land rent of the whole parish amounts to about L. 2000 *per annum*. A common cottage lets at about 13 s. or L. 1 *per annum* ; if the house consists of two or more apartments, the rent is L. 1. for each apartment, when occupied separately. There are about 150 inhabited houses in the parish, each of which contains 5  
fouls

souls on an average. The village of Gifford contains about 400 people, mostly small fuers; the other villages are but trifling. There are about 60 ploughs in the parish, which are drawn by 2 horses each; about 65 carts, some drawn by 2 horses, and some by 1 horse; no waggons; 1 coach; 5 four-wheeled, and 3 two-wheeled carriages.

*Population.*—About 1750, the returns from hence to Dr Webster was 1091: At present there are about 800, from 5 years of age to 90; the number of males and females being nearly equal; the latter rather preponderating. The births, on an average, are about 25, deaths about 15, and marriages about 8, every year. The parish was much more populous 100 years ago than it is now; the causes of the decrease must be attributed to the demolition of cottages, and the union of several small farms into one; but the population has rather increased since the present Marquis of Tweeddale came to reside at Yester. There are about 5 children on an average in a family: The children, in general, are not so stout as they were 40 years ago; which must be owing, in a great measure, to the different manner of living; as the common people now drink a great deal of tea, and not good small beer, which they did 50 years ago.

In the parish are 5 heritors, all of whom reside either constantly, or occasionally; 1 clergyman; 1 physician; 1 student of divinity; 18 farmers; a good many carpenters, masons, and weavers, who have all plenty of work through the season, and live very comfortably; 18 male, and 22 female household servants; 30 female, and 80 male labouring servants, most of which last are married, and have families. There is not one lawyer or attorney in the whole parish; and the people make it their study to keep their affairs as much

out of the hands of such men as possible, referring all their differences to be determined by the arbitration of neighbours. All the inhabitants are of the Established Church, except 10 Seceders.

*Church and Stipend.*—The church and manse were built in 1708. The value of the living, including the glebe, is about L. 100 a year, with a good manse and garden. The Marquis of Tweeddale is patron.

*Poor.*—The number of poor in this parish are from 28 to 32, each of whom receive from 20 s. to L. 3 yearly. The collections at the church doors amount to about L. 18; the profits of the mort-cloths, and other casualties, from L. 10 to L. 12 a year; 13 acres of land belonging to the parish yield an annual rent of L. 11; and a mortification of L. 100 by the late Marchioness of Tweeddale L. 5; so that from L. 40 to L. 45 is distributed among the poor yearly. About 1750, there appears to have been much the same number of poor on the list, who received about L. 28 *per annum*. All the poor are supported in their own houses, as in that case they are much happier, and do much more work, than if crowded together in work-houses. There is a Dispensary for distributing medicines, and giving medical advice to the poor, *gratis*; which institution is of great benefit to the country.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is in the parish a small river called Gifford Water, in which are some very fine trout: This stream was remarkable for a flood on the 4th of October 1775, which carried down most of the bridges in the parish, and a number of trees from Yester; a most unaccountable circumstance, as no extraordinary quantity of rain had previously fallen. The people are in general very industrious,

trious, having plenty of all kinds of labour. Their size varies from 5 feet 5 inches to 6 feet 2 inches. There are no manufactures in the parish except a bleachfield, which employs about 15 hands in the summer. The scarcity in 1782 had no particular effect on the parish. The heritors then bought meal at the market price, and sold it for 2 d. or 3 d. the peck lower to such as were on the poor's list, or had small families.

*Eminent Men.*—This parish has given birth to two eminent living characters, Dr John Witherspoon President of the College of New Jersey, and Dr Charles Nisbet President of the College of Carlisle, in America.

NUM-

## N U M B E R XXXVII.

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

*By the Rev. Mr WALTER JARDINE.**Situation, &c.*

**T**HIS parish lies in the county and Presbytery of Linlithgow, and makes part of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is 7 miles long, from east to west, and 2 miles broad, from north to south; being bounded by the parishes of Torphichen, Linlithgow, Ecclesmachan, Uphall, Livingstone, Whiteburn, and Shotts. Towards the north-east, the parish is high and hilly: Bathgate hills, which are covered with green, are a continuation of Cuckold Roy and Cairn Naple in the parish of Linlithgow, and are some of the highest grounds in this part of the country. Towards the south-east, south, and west, this district is flat, and almost level.

*Soil.*—About the foot of Bathgate hills, the soil is good, and tolerably dry; on the south and west sides of the town of Bathgate, which stands on a steep slope, the ground is bleak and wettish, but not unhealthy; nor are there any particular diseases to which the people are liable. The soil, in general, is pretty deep; and neither so fertile as the country lying eastward, nor so barren as that lying to the west and south.

*Minerals.*

*Minerals*—A considerable quantity of free-stone, of various quality, is dug from open quarries in the parish. A limestone rock, thirty feet deep, the property of the Earl of Hopetoun, Mr Marjoribanks, and Mr Paterfon Shairp, affords excellent lime; 20 hands are usually employed in the quarry, and burning lime. Several kinds of spar, and shells of various sorts, are sometimes met with in it. A small vein of silver ore was found in this rock a few years ago, but it was too inconsiderable to bear the expence of working. A large field of iron-stone, of a superior quality, was lately wrought by the Carron Company in the lands of Barbachlaw, in this parish. There is abundance of coal in several parts of this district. In one of Lord Hopetoun's collieries near Bathgate, there are seven different seams of coal, from seven inches to seven feet thick; the deepest seam, at present, is 40 fathom deep. In this work 20 coal miners are constantly employed; each of whom works from 15 to 25 loads a day. The load is 12 Linlithgow pecks, and sells on the hill at 6 d. the great, and 4 d. the small coal. The whole number supported by this colliery, including miners, bearers, &c. is 95; of whom 30 are children incapable of working. There is, besides, an inexhaustible quantity of moss in the parish; so that many of the farmers and cottagers burn peat, at least in part. The great increase of the village of Bathgate since 1750 has been chiefly owing to the collieries; to which cause, also, must be attributed the great influx of poor into this town and neighbourhood.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Oats, barley, pease, beans, turnips, potatoes, cabbages, flax, and sometimes carrots, are the chief produce of the parish. Nearly about two-thirds of the 1200 or 1300 acres of arable land in the parish are sown with oats; the rest mostly with barley, pease, beans, and potatoes; wheat, turnips,



turnips, &c. are only in small quantities. The barley harvest, in ordinary years, begins about the latter end of August, or beginning of September; and the pease, beans, and oats, immediately follow; the produce being generally six for one. There may be between 400 and 500 acres of hay from sown grass, as also considerable pieces of natural meadow in the parish; the last is generally cut about the beginning of August, and the former early in July. Most kinds of trees which usually grow in Scotland are to be found here; such as the ash, elm, beech, oak, and the different sorts of firs. In the parish are about 320 milch cows, 700 young and old black cattle, 250 horses fit for labour, about 60 more from 1 to 3 years old, and not above 200 sheep.

*Rent of Land.*—There are 68 ploughgates in the parish. Many of the farms are let at between 10 s. and 15 s. an acre; some at 20 s.; and several small inclosures of 10 or 12 acres are let, on leases of 19 years, at 50 s. and 55 s. an acre. The number of farms have diminished of late, two or three being sometimes let to one person, or kept in the proprietor's own hands. Hence, in some places, there is not a sixth part of the inhabitants there were 20 years ago. A considerable portion of the parish is inclosed; and several estates have changed their proprietors within the last 20 years. The price of land is from 20 to 25 years purchase of the free rent.

*Prices of Provisions.*—The present price of beef, mutton, lamb, and pork, is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d. a pound, Dutch weight; the two former often rise to 4 d. per lb. and the last is but just beginning to come into general use in this part of the country. A sucking pig is usually sold for as many shillings as it is weeks old. Hens and ducks cost from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d.; chickens 6 d. to 8 d.; and geese 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. each; cheese sells from

4 s. to 4 s. 6 d. a stone; and butter from 8 d. to 10 d. a pound: These latter articles, such as hens, &c. are nearly double; and beef and mutton at least a third dearer than they were 30 or 40 years ago. Excepting mutton and lamb, the parish is abundantly able to supply itself with provisions; and there is usually a considerable quantity of beef, barley, butter, and cheese, sent out of it. At Bathgate, there is a regular flesh-market twice a week.

*Prices of Labour.*—Day labourers wages are 1 s. a day; masons, carpenters, and bricklayers from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 8 d.; tailors, when they work out of their own houses, 8 d. and victuals. A man who can hold the plough well, and mow, &c. will receive L. 8, or perhaps L. 9; and the ordinary wages of men servants for thrething, carting, &c. is about L. 7 a year. They usually have their victuals in the house, or, instead of them, two pecks of oat-meal, and 6 d. for kitchen \* weekly. The female servants for husbandry have generally L. 3 for their yearly wages; and it is the common practice, with very few exceptions, to hire servants by the half year. The domestic and farm servants in gentlemen's families have, perhaps, from L. 1 to L. 2 a year more than those employed by farmers. The farmers, in general, keep no domestic servants, except, perhaps, sometimes one woman in harvest, employing their children in the business of the farm, both within and without doors.

*Implements of Husbandry.*—The plough universally used, till within the last two or three years, was the old Scottish plough, drawn by 4, 6, and sometimes 8 cattle; 2 of which, when there were 6, and often 4, when there were 8, were oxen.

\* See this word explained in a former note, page 218.

oxen. Small's chain plough, drawn by 2 horses and 2 oxen, or by 2 horses, or by 2 oxen alone, is now beginning to be used; and, where it is drawn only by 2, there is seldom any driver. There are no waggons; and only 2 four-wheeled chaises in the parish.

*Population.*—The population has advanced considerably within these 40 years. The returns to Dr Webster, about 1750, were 1504 inhabitants; at present they are 2309; 984 males, and 1325 females; making an increase, since that period, of above 700. About 1400 people reside in the village of Bathgate, and 900 in the country part of the parish; in the former are 327 married couples, and 113 unmarried persons who keep house; and in the latter are 122 married couples. In the 20 years preceding January 1790, it appears there were 1142 baptised, and 771 buried; and for 10 years preceding January 1734, there were 415 baptised; making an annual average of  $41\frac{1}{2}$  births in the latter case, and, in the former, of  $57\frac{1}{10}$  births, and  $38\frac{1}{8}$  deaths. There are about 21 marriages every year, and each marriage may produce about 5 children. Of the 2309 inhabitants, 1989 attend the Established Church; about 320 are Seceders; and 3 are of the Episcopal persuasion. In the parish are 27 heritors, 10 of whom reside; 2 clergymen, (the established minister, and the pastor of a Burgher congregation); 4 surgeons; 3 writers; about 12 years ago there was only 1 writer, and he had less business than any one of the three now has; 7 merchants or shopkeepers; 2 students of divinity, and 1 of medicine; 255 mechanics, of whom 50 are apprentices; 55 farmers, in each of whose families there are, at an average, 9 or 10 persons, of whom 3 are generally hired servants.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The value of the living is worth, *communibus*

*Munibus annis*, L. 110 or L. 112, including the glebe and 4 chalders of victual. The church was built in 1739; the manse is an old building, frequently wanting repairs. The Earl of Hopetoun is patron.

*Poor.*—The number of poor who receive alms from the parish is 48, which is a much smaller number than usual. The funds that support them arise from the collections at the church doors, fees for proclamation of banns, and for the mort-cloths; and from a general assessment of the parish, which, ever since 1783, has been nearly, and some years considerably above, L. 100 *per annum*, owing to the consequences of the scarcity in 1782, as will be immediately mentioned.

*Famine in 1782.*—In the year 1782, the scarcity of grain was so great, that oat-meal sold for no less than L. 2 : 2 : 0 the load (16 stone): Not only the ordinary poor, but the families of many labourers who were before decently supported, must have perished for want, without extraordinary assistance. Notwithstanding all that was done for them, many of them accumulated so much debt, that, in 1783, they were in little less distress than in 1782. That public calamity was followed by several important consequences to this parish. Many were then admitted upon the poor's list; who before that period supported themselves, but ever afterwards they have needed assistance. For the immediate relief of the poor, the parochial fund, amounting to about L. 200, was spent in buying meal, which was given to some, and sold at a low price to others. In consequence of the increased number of necessitous persons, and the want of the interest of the L. 200, a heavy annual assessment was laid on the parish; and, since this took place, the collections at the church door do not

amount to a third of their former usual sum. For eleven years preceding December 1783, the average of the disbursements for the support of the poor, not including the interest of the L. 200 above mentioned, was L. 51 *per annum*; but for six years following that period, the annual sum disbursed amounted, on an average, to above L. 137.

*Village of Bathgate.*—In the village of Bathgate are about 469 houses, or rooms, occupied by separate families, whereof 29 are uninhabited. The total rental of the town, gardens, and some small pieces of ground, amounts to L. 619 : 14 : 0 *per annum*; and the mean rent of a house or room comes to 20 s. a year. Bathgate was part of the extensive possessions given in 1316 by King Robert Bruce, as the dowry of his daughter Lady Margery, to Walter, High Steward of Scotland, who had one of his principal residences at this place, where he died in 1328: Some traces of his mansion may yet be seen in the middle of a morass or loch about a quarter of a mile distant from the town; and several causeways leading to it still remain. Hewn stones have been frequently dug from the foundation of it, as also some kitchen utensils of copper or brass; and several coffins of flag stones, in some of which were copper coins, have lately been ploughed up in the adjacent grounds.

*Food, and Expences of Labourers.*—The common people here subsist on oat meal, pease meal, barley, potatoes, milk, chiefly butter milk, greens, a little butter and cheese, sometimes the offals of beef, mutton, lamb, or veal, or a small piece of beef, and, on a particular occasion, a leg of lamb or veal. For three quarters of the year, potatoes constitute nearly two-thirds of the food of a labouring man's family. It is not easy to state the expence of such a family; but it is a fact not to  
be

be disputed, that upon 5 s. a week, (for until very lately they had no higher wages), and what the wife could earn, which, at an average, could not be above 2 s. a week, many of them have brought up families decently. They have not only provided food and raiment for themselves and 3, 4, or 5 children, but have paid for teaching their sons to read, write, and sometimes arithmetic, and their daughters to read, and often to sew and write.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The parish, in general, has many, perhaps more advantages within itself than most other parishes, and the people are in general industrious, economical, happy, and contented with their situation: But still much might be done to better their circumstances, were such branches of manufacture as the place is calculated for, established and carried on by persons of experience, ability, and spirit. The only manufactures at present are a brick and tile work, and a tannery, all on a small scale; beside a fallow chandler who carries on a pretty considerable trade. About 20 hands are employed in these branches.

*Alterations in the Manner of Living.*—A great alteration in the manner of living has taken place in this parish within the last 40 years. About 1750, there were not above 10 families who used tea, and now, perhaps, there is not above twice that number who do not use it. Butcher meat was then not more used than tea: Scarcely any cattle or sheep were killed, except at Martinmas, when some families used to salt a whole, or others only a part of an ox or cow, to serve for winter provision\*; but now there is a regular flesh market twice a week, and almost every family, who can afford it, eats flesh constantly. A much greater quantity of wheaten bread is

now

\* This practice is sometimes still continued.

now consumed in the parish in a month, than was in a twelve-month forty years ago. The alteration in dress since 1750 is also remarkable. When the good man and his sons went to kirk, market, wedding, or burial, they were clothed in a home spun suit of freezed cloth, called *kelt*, pladden hose, with a blue or brown bonnet; and the good wife and her daughters were dressed in gowns and petticoats of their own spinning, with a cloth cloak and hood of the same, or a tartan or red plaid. But now, the former, when they go abroad, wear suits of English cloth, good hats, &c.; and the latter the finest printed cottons, and sometimes silk gowns, silk caps, and bonnets, of different shapes, sizes, and colours, white stockings, cloth shoes, &c.

*Roads.*—The turnpike road leading from the iron works at Cleugh to Borrowstounness runs through the parish, as also a branch from the great road between Edinburgh and Glasgow by Whitburn. Considering the great number of coal and lime carts daily on them, the roads are in pretty good order. They were originally made, as well as kept in repair, mostly by the statute labour, which is sometimes commuted, but chiefly exacted in kind, at the discretion of the overseer. Each ploughgate of land is obliged to work at the rate, or pay 12 s. *per annum*; and the village of Bathgate pays a considerable sum for repairing the roads, though the streets of the town are in very bad order.

## N U M B E R XXXVIII.

## P A R I S H O F S T R A N R A E R,

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN COULTER.**Situation, and Description of the Town and Loch.*

**S**TRANRAER, a royal borough, and the seat of a presbytery of the same name. It is governed by a provost, two bailies, a dean-of-guild, and fifteen counsellors, and is the chief town of that district of Wigtonshire, called the Rhyns, comprehending the maritime parishes of Kirkmaiden, Stonykirk, Inch, Glenluce, Stranraer, Port Patrick, Lochswalt, Kirkholm, and the moorland parish of Newluce. The town of Stranraer is situated at the head of Lochryan. As to the origin of the name, little but conjecture can be advanced; yet, as all this country was comprehended in the antient kingdom of Galloway, and inhabited by a tribe of Celts, it is probably of Gaelic origin. Lochryan, on which the town stands, is a most beautiful, as well as a safe and commodious bay. It is about 10 English miles long from north by west to south by east; the entrance into it is nearly two miles broad; it is bounded on the east by the parish of Ballantrae, in Airshire; and on the west by Millar Point, a headland, or promontory, in the parish of Kirkholm. About three or four miles from the mouth of the loch, on the east side, is the little village of Cairn, belonging to Mr Dunlop of Dunlop.



Dunlop. Contiguous to this village is a very safe and commodious bay, with good anchoring ground, and depth of water sufficient for ships of any burden; and all vessels entering into, or coming out of the Frith of Clyde fly to it for shelter from storms. King William's fleet anchored here in their passage to Ireland. Opposite to the village of Cairn, in the Kirkholm fide, a sand bank, called the Scar, runs a considerable way cross the loch from N. W. to S. E. To prevent their running foul of this bank, vessels keep pretty near the east shore. Few accidents have ever happened on this bank. It even contributes considerably to the safety of the southern part of the bay, breaking the force of the tide by the direction in which it lies. This bank abounds with oysters of a most excellent flavour. They are found indeed all round the shores, and might be got in great quantities would people drag for them. At present they are only gathered at low water, in spring tides, for a few months in the spring. Loch-ryan immediately spreads out, on both sides, into a very beautiful circular figure, extending about four miles in breadth. Besides the Cairn Bay, there are several other good anchoring bays in the loch; such as Portmore Bay, a little within the loch on the west side; the Wig, just on the west side of the Scar; the Bay of Soleburn, at the mouth of a little rivulet of the same name, about two miles south of the Scar; and the Bay of Dalmennock on the east side, about two miles above the Cairn. In short, the anchoring ground is good, and safe every where through the whole loch. A variety of fish, as skate, flounders, small cod, haddocks, whittings, lobsters and crabs, and sometimes turbot, are caught within the loch. Between the mouth of the loch and the Rock of Ailfa, and to the west of Millar Point, along the shores of Kirkholm, the cods and haddocks are larger, and of a most excellent quality. But these fishing grounds, lying at 12 or 15 miles from  
the

the town, can only be resorted to in calm settled weather; hence the inhabitants are not so well, or so regularly supplied with fish, as might be expected from the situation of the town. The herring fishery shall be mentioned afterwards. Stranraer has no artificial harbour. Ships of 300 tons burden can come to what is called the Road, about half a mile from the town. Vessels of 60, even of 100 tons, frequently anchor close by the houses. At high spring tides the water rises at the town 10 feet perpendicularly, and retires along a gently declining, smooth, sandy beach, to about a quarter of a mile's distance. The anchorage is good and safe every where. A strong N. or N. W. wind, accompanied with a high tide, are the only circumstances that can, in the least degree, endanger vessels anchoring in the road, or near the town. The town is divided, nearly in the middle, by a little rivulet, over which there are several stone bridges. The castle, now uninhabited, is a whin-stone building, with free-stone corners and windows, of considerable height, and still very substantial. The handsome town-house and prison, built about eighteen years ago, with the many new houses built within the same time, and well finished, add greatly to the beauty of the streets. New houses, finished in a style that would not disgrace even some of our richer and more populous towns, are rising every year, and demonstrate the increasing opulence and taste of the inhabitants. The situation of the town is esteemed very healthy; and the good health commonly enjoyed by the inhabitants fully justifies this opinion. The water, though drawn from wells, is good; the air pure, and free from fogs; the winters generally mild, except when the wind blows from the N. or N. W. The laborious part of the inhabitants, exposed to the severity of many a winter's storm, to rain and snow, while following their occupations at sea, have sometimes too much reason to complain of rheumatic

matic pains. The progress and ravages of the small pox have been much checked by inoculation, which is frequently practised both in the town and in the country. Many of the inhabitants have reached the age of eighty and ninety years and upwards.

*Trade and Fisheries.*—In the year 1764 there were only two vessels belonging to the town, of 30 or 35 tons each; but now the tonnage of the port is about 1200 tons, composed of vessels from 15 or 20 to 100 tons each; there is one of upwards of 150 tons. This shipping is generally employed in the different branches of the coasting trade, and in the herring fishery. This last branch of trade was pushed with great success for many years by the inhabitants of Stranraer; but, for the last seven or eight years, they have been greatly discouraged by want of success. Last season, only six or seven vessels went to the Highland fishery, and returned with very poor cargoes; some with only 3 or 4 barrels; and none with more than a quarter cargo: Formerly 16 or 17 vessels have gone out and returned full laden. Besides the coasting trade and fishery, some of the largest vessels have lately gone annually to Norway, Gottenburgh, and the Baltic, either on freight, or on account of their owners here. Considerable quantities of deals, plank, large timber, and iron have been imported. These articles are disposed of in the country and town for building, &c.; a great part of them is employed in ship-building. The herring fishery in Lochryan was formerly very considerable: Boats and buffes flocked thither in great numbers from every quarter, the inhabitants of every description found employment, and wealth poured in upon them. The fishery is now much decreased. The herrings make their appearance generally some time in September, continue two or three months, appearing and disappearing

ing at intervals. They yield a scanty and temporary supply to the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. What is caught answers present demand, but could not be offered to sale in any foreign market.

Stranraer, being the chief town of the district, is resorted to by the inhabitants of the neighbouring parishes for such necessaries and comforts of life, as their farms cannot furnish, their fancies may demand, or their purses afford. There are, however, too many retailers of whisky, both licensed and unlicensed. The effects of it are the same here as every where else, viz. idleness, and the ruin of the health and morals of the lower sort of people. 24,426 gallons of whisky, and other British spirits, were imported into this place in the course of the year 1790; and it has been asserted as a fact, that, in the course of the same year, near L. 5000 Sterling was drawn from this town and the neighbouring parishes for whisky alone. The health and morals of the people, and the population of the country, all of which are hurt by the pernicious habit of dram-drinking, are of infinitely more importance to a state than the produce of the tax.

The spirit of improvement, altho' only lately introduced into this country, advances rapidly. About 60,000 Carlisle bushels of lime (each bushel containing three Winchester bushels), were imported into this district last year from Larne and Whitehaven; for there is no limestone in the country. The quantity commonly laid on an acre is 55 or 60 Carlisle bushels; the price at the shore 13, 14, or 15 pence a bushel; hence weighty crops of barley, oats, rye-grass, and clover, are raised, where, not many years ago, weak grey oats could scarcely be seen. Some judgment of the state of agriculture in this di-

abstract may be formed from the annexed Table of the Exports of grain for seven years preceding January 1791.

	Quarters.
Grain sent coastwise in the year 1784 . . .	7880
1785 . . .	5154
1786 . . .	2766
1787 . . .	4382
1788 . . .	8515
1789 . . .	4541
1790 . . .	7743
	40981

This makes an average of 5854 quarters, annually exported, or carried coastwise. What is entered for exportation at Port Patrick is not included in the above abstract. Potatoes are cultivated to a great extent through the whole district. Above 100 tons of them have been exported since the commencement of this year. They form a very great and important article of food, especially to the poor sort of inhabitants; 6 d. or 7 d. per bushel is an average price for exportation.

Tanning is a considerable trade here. There are two annual fairs in the parish; one in the beginning of May, the other in the beginning of September. While a friendly connection subsisted between Great Britain and America, great quantities of Galloway plaiding (a coarse fabric, fitted for the Virginia market) was sold at the last of these fairs. This was the staple manufacture here; and it brought into the country near L. 3000 annually. But the demand for this article ceasing at the commencement of hostilities, the trade was abandoned. To it has succeeded the raising of flax in greater quantities than formerly, and working it up into coarse linens.

It is brought to market, both green and bleached, and is bought up chiefly by merchants from Glasgow and Kilmarnock. The subjoined table, taken from the stamp-master's books, shews the state of this manufacture for the last three years.

	Yards.	Value.
Linen-cloth stamped in 1788,	28391,	L. 1268 14 10
Ditto . . . . 1789,	28662,	1276 14 0
Ditto . . . . 1790,	26991,	1181 8 3

No unfavourable conclusion must be drawn from the state of last year, as if the manufacture were declining. For one of the manufacturers, who is well known to have stamped a considerable quantity of linen, being from home, the amount of his produce is omitted in the account for 1790.

The farmers generally export their corn, which produces very serious consequences to the inhabitants, as they are obliged to purchase meal at the discretionary price of the seller. To remedy this fore evil, about twenty years ago, a number of mechanics, countenanced by many of the more respectable and wealthy inhabitants, formed themselves into an association, whose object was to purchase meal, to be distributed weekly to the subscribers only. Each subscriber, at his entry, originally paid five shillings, (now seven shillings and sixpence), and thirteen pence a year. It is governed by a deacon, as he is called, and twelve assessors, chosen annually. This institution has produced very good effects. The subscribers, and the poor in general, are regularly supplied at a price rather below the rate of the country. Their stock is now about L. 140 Sterling.

*Fuel.*—Scarcity of fuel is one of the greatest inconveniencies which

which Stranraer labours under. The chief fuel is peat and turf, brought from the distance of 3 or 4 miles; often of a bad quality, and always high priced. Many of the inhabitants burn coals in their rooms. These are brought from Air or Irvine by sea, and cost the purchaser about fourteen pence the herring-barrel, including the price of leading from the shore. A family, keeping only a regular fire in the kitchen, and another in a parlour, must expend six or seven guineas a year for firing alone. Would parliament take off the duty upon coals carried coastwise, the improvement of this town, and the neighbouring country, would advance with inconceivable rapidity. The late Earl of Stair made several unsuccessful attempts to find coal in the neighbourhood.

*Church and Stipend.*—A new, commodious, and even elegant church, was finished in 1785, at a very considerable expence. The stipend is, at an average, about L. 60 Sterling, payable in meal and money, as modified in the year 1649, and confirmed by a new decret in the year 1696. One of the preceding incumbents, Mr Walter Laurie, left some parks in the neighbourhood, and a house in the town, to his successors for ever, to supply the want of a glebe and manse. The parks are about 30 acres; they hold of Mr Vans Agnew, and pay L. 3 : 11 : 1 $\frac{1}{7}$ , as feu and teind. The house was rebuilt in 1761. To Mr Laurie's munificence the minister of Stranraer is indebted for the tolerably decent manner in which he lives. The minister has a right also to the vicarage teind of the herrings taken in Lochryan, by the inhabitants of the town and Clayhole, at the rate of the twentieth herring: But this depending on a subject so precarious in itself, and so difficult to be levied, can never be productive. The present minister may truly say he has not, on an average, received 10 s. a year from this source. He was  
admitted

admitted minister in 1772, and is the third minister since the Revolution.

At the eastern extremity of the town's jurisdiction is a seceding meeting-house, belonging to the Antiburghers, scattered over the whole Rhyns. There are 443 persons on the examination roll of this congregation. There are two other sectaries, Smeatonites and M'Millanites, but they are not numerous.

*School.*—The magistrates built a very convenient school-house a few years ago. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 11. The number of scholars 60 or 70. With quarter wages, and the different perquisites commonly annexed to the office, it may be worth between L. 40 and L. 50 a year. There are some private schools also; some of them pretty numerous in scholars.

*Poor.*—The town is oppressed with Irish vagrants, who come over in crowds, and lodge in the suburbs and neighbouring cottages; and, besides occasional depredations on property, levy very heavy contributions from the humanity of the inhabitants. The poor are supplied from the weekly collections; from the interest of a capital of L. 200, accumulated from different legacies; and from an annual benefaction of the Earl of Stair.

*Population.*—The return made to Dr Webster of the population of this town, about 40 years ago, was only 649 souls; but now, according to a very accurate enumeration of the inhabitants recently made, there were, at the beginning of the year 1791, no less than 1602. Of these, 1276 were 8 years of age and upwards; 260 below 8; and 66 sectaries of different



rent denominations. In 1780, there were 1050 above 8 years. Children below this age, and sectaries, were not included in the enumeration then taken\*.

Abstract of Marriages and Baptisms from 1st January 1780.

Married in 1780	9	Baptised	49
———— 1781	9	————	42
———— 1782	7	————	46
———— 1783	10	————	41
———— 1784	11	————	38
———— 1785	12	————	38
———— 1786	11	————	38
———— 1787	12	————	43
———— 1788	10	————	48
———— 1789	21	————	40
———— 1790	9	————	36

The register of burials cannot be depended on.

*Rent.*—The rent of houses is in proportion to their situation and conveniencies. The land contiguous to the town, on the east and south, is in the parish of Inch, and belongs to the Earl of Stair; that on the south-west and west to Mr Vans Agnew, and is in the parish of Lochswalt. It is divided into small inclosures with turf fences, to accommodate the inhabitants, and is let at various rates, from 20 s. to 2 guineas an acre.

*Prices.*

\* Two villages, Clayhole and Hill-head, belonging to the parish of Lochswalt, are so closely joined to Stranraer, being separated from it only by an ideal line, that they may be, and indeed often are, considered, especially by strangers, as part of the town. They contain about 500 inhabitants.

*Prices of Provisions and Labour.*—The price of oat-meal is about 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 10 d. a stone. The scarcity occasioned by the bad and late harvest of 1782 was less severely felt in Stranraer than in most places. The late Earl of Stair, and some of the more wealthy inhabitants, procured meal early in the season, at a reasonable price, and sold it at 2 s. a stone; 70 or 80 poor families in the town were indeed supplied at 1 s. 8 d. a stone. The price of good beef, last Martinmas, was 2½ d. and 2¾ d. a pound, of 16 ounces, when taken in whole carcases, or by the quarter; mutton the same; they are now 3 d. and 3½ d.; veal 4 d.; lamb, when plenty, 2½ d. and 3 d.; salmon, from Glenluce and Ballantrae, 2 d. a pound; butter 8 d. a pound, of 24 ounces; eggs 2 d. a dozen; fowls 8 d.; geese, at Martinmas, 1 s. or 1 s. 2 d. a piece; a turkey 2 s. 6 d. or 3 s.; rabbits 5 d. a pair without the skins; water fowls at reasonable prices; sea fish, sold by the hand, is extremely cheap. Little cheese is made in this country, and is of the poorest kind; it sells at 4 s. the stone, of 26 pounds. A labourer's wages are 1 s. a day for nine months, and 9 d. or 10 d. the rest of the year; a mason's 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d.; a house carpenter the same; a taylor 6 d. with, or 1 s. without victuals.

*Roads.*—The great road from Carlisle to Portpatrick goes through the town. This road was made, and is kept in repair, by government. Government has also given a sum of money to finish some cross roads, which, when finished, will render this county as easy of access, both from England and from Airshire, as any county in the island. The mail coach from London passes through the town every day; a diligence from Air to Portpatrick passes thrice a week. The other roads in the district are made, and kept in repair, by the con-  
version

version of the statute labour, at the rate of 15 s. for every L. 100 valued rent. The principal ones are in good order.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Strangers, struck with the beauty of this situation, and the many advantages that forcibly obtrude themselves on their eye, are surpris'd to hear that no manufactures are established here; but the scarcity and high price of fuel must be an eternal barrier to the establishment of any extensive manufacture in the town or neighbouring country; yet there are very good artificers of every kind, who supply the demands of the inhabitants and neighbours.

A great number of the young men are bred up to the sea. When the Hon. Keith Stewart was appointed to command the Berwick last war, 70 or 80 volunteers from this town and neighbourhood entered with him.

The only natural curiosity in this parish is St John's Well, considerably within high water mark. It is flooded every tide by the sea; and in five minutes after the tide retires, it boils up in a copious spring of excellent soft fresh water.

NUM-

## N U M B E R   X X X I X .

## P A R I S H   O F   K E T T L E .

*By the Rev. Mr PETER BARCLAY.*

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*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**K**ING'S KETTLE, formerly called Catul, or Katul, is situated in the county of Fife; in the presbytery of Cupar, and synod of Fife. The origin of the name is uncertain. It is, however, proved by authentic records, that the lands of Kettle were once the property of the crown, and were afterwards fued in 8 divisions, in perpetual tacks, at the rents then received; which are still paid to the King, under the name of Crown Rents. Kettle is bounded by Falkland on the West; by Markinch, Kennoway, and Scoonie, on the south; by Ceres, Cult, and Collesie, on the east; and by Aughtermuchty on the north. The parish contains somewhat more than 9 square miles. It is of a curved oblong figure, narrowest towards the west; in length, from east to west, nearly 8 miles; and in its greatest breadth a little more than 2 miles. The village of Kettle is situated in the flat of the strath, rather low and wet, on the south side of the Eden; the floods of which reach to the skirts of the village. Balmalcolm is situated about a furlong south-east, at the foot of the rising ground; and the road by Cupar, between the Forth

and Tay, runs through it. Coalton is on the brae head above it, and is clayey.

*Soil, and Surface.*—The largest and most valuable part of the parish lies in the course of that strath which extends from Kinross to St Andrews. Here the surface is level; but towards the south, south-east, and south-west of the village, which is nearly in the center of the parish, it becomes bleak and hilly, including the higher grounds which run eastward from the Lomonds. The hills are in general covered with verdure, and in summer afford excellent pasture for all sorts of cattle; yet, in some places, there are many large rugged stones projecting considerably above the surface. Woods are only wanting in this part of the parish to realize the poets description:

Jussit et extendi campos, subfidere valles  
Fronde tegi sylvas, lapidosos surgere montes.

The nature of the soil is various. In many places on the banks of the Eden, which nearly bounds the parish towards the north, there are excellent carse soils; yet, at a small distance from them, extensive beds of sand, with a moorish, or mossy surface, are frequently found. The stratum of sand is in many places covered with a strong stiff clay, in others with a light friable mould. Even in the hilly part of the country, the soil is in general excellent, and of a dark colour.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The climate is, for the most part, dry and healthy. It is not subject to any local diseases. Some years ago, the ague was frequent in the lower parts of the parish; but, for the last 20 years, it has almost entirely disappeared;

appeared; owing, most probably, to the many drains that have been made in this and the neighbouring parishes. The common people are now peculiarly liable to dropfical swellings of the limbs. During the above mentioned period potatoes have been introduced, and now form the principal part of the sustenance of the poorer householders. It may perhaps be suspected, that this change of diet has produced some alteration in the constitutions of the inhabitants.

*Rivers, Springs, &c.*—There are no considerable lakes or rivers in the parish. The Eden, whose stream in summer is scarcely sufficient for a corn mill, abounds with excellent red and white trout, pike, and eels. There are several springs, some of which are supposed to be impregnated with minerals. The course of the Eden being down a low strath, bordered on each side by hills for a considerable distance above Kettle, and the river having very little fall, frequently overflowed its banks, so that the crops on its carse haughs were always precarious, a plan was projected of making a cut so deep as to confine the water; but it was never executed, owing to the disagreement of the proprietors of the lands which lye on the opposite sides of the river. About 10 years ago Mr Johnston purchased the whole, and formed the projected cut on an enlarged plan. A spacious canal was made for the water, 12 feet wide at the bottom, and 30 at the top, secured on the sides by raised banks and hedges, which include a space of 70 feet in breadth, and serve to confine the water at high floods. This cut has been carried on a considerable way, but not with equal effect, as the direction of the stream was obliged to be accommodated to the convenience of persons with whose property it interfered. Mr Johnston, since his residence at Lathrisk in 1783, has built an elegant house on the estate. He has also got several of the farms in-

to his own hand, and has improved them; subdivided them mostly with ditch and hedge, and belts of planting; adorned them with clumps of trees, and elegant farm houses of two stories and garrets, covered with blue slate, and rigged with lead; all which give more vivacity and beauty to this part of the country than it had before, and will, when the planting is grown up, enliven it much more.

*Minerals.*—In the farm of Barntark there is a quarry of free-stone. It is covered by a stratum of earth 4 feet thick. When this is removed, we observe upon the surface of the rock numerous impressions of vegetable bodies, apparently formed by branches of trees, of various diameters, curiously ramified and interwoven. The stone is of the same nature with that below, but of a darker colour. A large piece of petrified wood, and a petrified horn, were lately found here. About a furlong to the eastward of this quarry, on the declivity of the hill, some persons searching for minerals discovered a large mass of petrified shells of various kinds, some of which were completely filled with transparent concretions. The mass is situated at the lower extremity of a lime-stone rock. The forms of the shells are most distinct on the surface. There are not any petrifying springs in the parish; but, in some places, stalactites are formed by the ooziings of coal water. There is no marble or slate here; but an almost inexhaustible abundance of moor-stone and free-stone, which are of an excellent quality, and much employed in dyking and building. Lime-stone of the best kind is also abundant: One quarry at Forthar, belonging to Dr Pitcairn, physician in London, and farmed by James Blythe, Esq; employs, on an average, 60 persons throughout the year, in the different processes of digging, wheeling away the earth, blowing, and breaking the stones, and filling the kilns. A great number of men  
and

and horses are also engaged in conveying the lime to Newburgh port, for the Carse of Gowrie, and other parts of Perthshire, &c. The coals with which it is burnt are brought from Balbirnie and Balgonie, about 3 miles distant. A large quantity of iron-stone, excellent in quality, is found on several parts of these estates.

In Barntark Muir, the surface of which is a common, and covered with heath, coals have long been procured. For want of proper contrivances to carry off the water, they have not as yet been wrought far below the surface. These mines, which are the property of Alexander Murray, Esq; of Aytoun, have been let, for the last 40 years, to Alexander Low, Esq; who is now seriously engaged in attempting to obviate those inconveniencies which have hitherto impeded the working. The coals are of a superior quality, most of them resembling the oily Newcastle coal. There is another stratum of coal, but inferior in quality, at Dovan, belonging to Dr Pitcairn. Coals have also been procured at Clothie, an estate belonging to Mr Balfour. Some time since, when sinking a shaft to discover the extent of the coals, some metallic ores were discovered, which have not as yet been essayed. When thrown into the fire, they emit a sulphureous smell, and in appearance resemble pyrites. The price of coals at Balgonie and Balbirnie Hill is 7 d. per 18 stone Dutch weight.

*Church.*—The annual value of the living, including L. 3 : 6 : 8 for providing the communion-elements, and L. 2 : 3 : 4 for pasturage, is L. 52 : 3 : 4 in money, 24 bolls of barley, and 41 bolls of meal. The glebe is one of the poorest in Scotland, its yearly rent not exceeding L. 2. The King is patron. The number of heritors is 28 ; but only the half of them are superiors, the others being feuers. The present minister



minister is Mr Pèter Barclay, who was settled in May 1778. He is married, and has four sons and one daughter. The church appears, by a date on it, to have been built in 1636. It has been twice repaired since, and is in good condition. The manse is at present in such bad order, that it is intended to move for a new one in the spring.

*Poor.*—There are at present about 14 persons who receive alms constantly or occasionally, being almost all infirm old people. The collection for the poor has been, for the last 12 years, L. 16 *per annum*; and there is L. 300 out at interest at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  *per cent.*

*School.*—The school and master's house are in good repair. The master is rather too old for much activity; but he has an assistant of considerable abilities. The salary, with the house and session-clerkship, is about L. 22 a year, beside the school-dues, which are, for English, 1 s. 3 d.; writing, 1 s. 8 d.; arithmetic, 2 s.; Latin, 3 s. 6 d.

*Price of Provisions and Labour.*—From the vicinity to Edinburgh, and many coast towns, provisions are commonly kept at the Edinburgh prices. The grain is always lower than the lowest Edinburgh or Lothian grain. A day-labourer is paid 10 d. a day, on an average; a carpenter or mason 1 s. 6 d.; a taylor 1 s.; but the common way of charging is by the piece. Labourers generally earn about 13 guineas a year; and their wives, if industrious, about L. 7 or L. 8 by spinning, when not otherwise engaged. The women always spin with both hands. Domestic men-servants wages, at an average, L. 6; female servants L. 2; 15 10.

*Population.*

*Population.*—Number of inhabitants by Dr Web-  
ster's account in 1755 . . . . . 1621  
By survey in 1778 . . . . . 1643  
Males in the parish in Dec. 1790, above 8 years old . . . 639  
. . . . . under 8 years old . . . 187  
Females . . . . . above 8 years old . . . 753  
. . . . . under 8 years old . . . 180  
Total inhabitants in Dec. 1790 . . . . . 1759  
Increase in 12 years . . . . . 116  
Householders . . . . . 414  
Separatists from the establishment above 8 years . . . 587  
Of the establishment above 8 years . . . . . 805  
Children under 8 years old . . . . . 367  
Males born in 12 years, from 1778 to 1790 . . . . . 323  
Females . . . . . 328  
Total born from May 14. 1778 to May 14. 1790 . . . 651  
Males dead in the same 12 years . . . . . 200  
Females . . . . . 178  
Total deaths in 12 years . . . . . 378  
Increase of population from births and deaths . . . . 273  
Increase in fact . . . . . 116  
Persons who have left the parish in 12 years . . . . . 157  
Average of males married in 12 years . . . . .  $14\frac{1}{8}$   
Of females . . . . .  $12\frac{1}{8}$   
Total average of marriages . . . . .  $26\frac{1}{3}$

The higher average of males marrying must be owing to a greater number of them getting wives from other parishes than females husbands. More males are twice, or even thrice, married than females. Women are better qualified, at least, according to the manners of this country, for living single than men.

Average

Average of males born in 12 years	26 $\frac{10}{12}$
Females	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total average of births	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
Average of males dead in 12 years	16 $\frac{2}{3}$
Females	14 $\frac{5}{8}$
Total average of deaths	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
Average of a family nearly	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
30 families consist only of one individual.	
Kettle village contains of inhabitants	516
Balmalcolm	81
Coalton	78
Country part of the parish	1084

The mean population may be nearly had by multiplying the average of births by  $31\frac{1}{2}$ ; or the average of deaths by 54; or the average of marriages by  $64\frac{1}{2}$ ; or the average of a family by the number of families. The mean or average population, for any time, is the real population increased or diminished by half the decrease or increase in that time: Thus, the real population 1759, diminished by 58, half the increase is 1701. But this can only be true on the supposition that the increase or decrease is uniform. The true mean population must be deduced from the following Table, which possesses many more important uses than merely determining the population.

A Table, shewing the number dead in 20 years, viz. 625, and the number who have died at each age.

Age,	dead.	Age,	dead.	Age,	dead.	Age,	dead.	Age,	dead.
0	20	20	7	40	3	60	10	80	4
1	40	21	7	41	3	61	10	81	4
2	35	22	7	42	3	62	10	82	4
3	20	23	6	43	3	63	10	83	4
4	15	24	6	44	3	64	10	84	3
5	10	25	6	45	3	65	10	85	3
6	8	26	5	46	3	66	10	86	3
7	6	27	5	47	3	67	10	87	2
8	4	28	5	48	4	68	10	88	2
9	3	29	4	49	5	69	10	89	2
10	3	30	4	50	6	70	10	90	2
11	3	31	4	51	6	71	10	91	2
12	3	32	4	52	6	72	10	92	2
13	4	33	4	53	6	73	9	93	2
14	4	34	4	54	6	74	8	94	1
15	5	35	4	55	7	75	7	95	1
16	5	36	4	56	8	76	6		
17	6	37	4	57	9	77	5		625
18	6	38	4	58	9	78	5		
19	7	39	4	59	9	79	4		

$625 \div 20 = 31.25$  medium deaths in the parish. This Table, upon trial, is found to answer better for Scotland than any yet published by Mr Wilkie.

By this Table, there will be found living together 25392 souls; so that, supposing the number of deaths and births equal, viz. 625 yearly, the population would be 25392. Hence 1 birth and 1 death would give a population of 40.6;

or the expectation of life for a child in Kettle parish is 40.6 years. Thus,  $625 : 25392 :: 1 : 40.6$ . Kettle population, by this rule, would be  $31.5 + 54.25$  (i. e. medium deaths and births),  $\div 2 = 42.87$ , which  $\times 40.1$  ( $-.5$  deduced for the time of the year in which an infant may be born),  $= 1719$ , the medium population of 12 years.

Beside the people employed in a manufacture, to be mentioned afterwards, there are,

Blacksmiths, including 3 apprentices	7
Shoemakers, including 2 apprentices	8
Tailors, including 4 apprentices	10
Butchers	2
Bakers	2
Carpenters and wheelwrights	8
Lint-dressers	5
Masons	12
Clockmaker	1
Colliers, about	12
Hired servants, exclusive of apprentices	130
Day-labourers, who have families, about	90
Gardeners	4
Students at college	4
Shop-keepers	3
Gentlemen's families	6
Clergy, 1 established and 1 relief	2
Batchelors, not including domestic servants, and children who have not left their father's house	10

*Manufacture.*—A considerable quantity of linen, from 7 d. to 2 s. 6 d. a yard is made in the parish; a small part of it is bleached; but the most of it is sold as it comes out of the loom in Cupar or Auchtermuchty, and thence sent to Glasgow,

gow, Leeds, and London. There are about 170 looms, which are wrought or superintended by about 60 master-weavers; the number of apprentices is 18, and the rest of the workmen are journeymen. During their apprenticeship, or stay in their master's houses as journeymen, they pay 2 s. a week for board, and live wonderfully well. The average gross produce of a loom, including apprentices and old men who do little work, is about L. 60 a year, (a good hand will fetch considerably above L. 100); and the average gross expence to the master in lint, spinning, boiling, working, &c. is about L. 46 : 15 : 0, most of which is laid out in the parish and near neighbourhood. The looms find employment for women and children; and hence, a family being advantageous, the men marry early; and hence one of the principal causes of the increased population. This manufacture circulates above L. 10,000 annually; the greatest part of which is brought into the parish, as all the work is performed by the inhabitants; and the greatest part of the raw-material is home produce. Of the flax used, about  $\frac{1}{8}$  is Dutch, and  $\frac{1}{8}$  Riga; the rest is the produce of Kettle.

*Agriculture, Produce, &c.*—The farms in the parish are 32, and the average of servants on each is 5, viz. 3 men and 2 women. Most of the farms have cottages, whence they obtain assistance in hay-time and harvest. Besides these, there are many pendicles (*prædiola*), partly let off the farms, and partly let immediately by the proprietor; and a great number of small feus, from 1 to 5 acres. The farms are very unequal, both in size and rent. The rent of pasture grounds is from 4 s. to L. 1 : 5 : 0, and of arable land from 5 s. to L. 1 : 11 : 6 an acre. About a fourth part of the arable ground is inclosed; and the advantages of inclosures is now so universally acknowledged, that all new leases are let on inclosing plans. The fences are ditch and hedge, or stone-walls,

walls, as is most convenient or suitable. Three commons lie on the confines of this and the adjoining parishes, and are now under the process of division.

	Scotch acres *.
Contents of the parish . . . . .	5668
Of which there are, in	
Wheat . . . . .	64
Barley . . . . .	360
Oats . . . . .	756
Flax . . . . .	100
Green crop . . . . .	100
Fallow . . . . .	49
Pasture not arable . . . . .	160
Grass for hay . . . . .	400
Arable pasture after hay . . . . .	2870
Planting . . . . .	160
Common yet undivided . . . . .	650
Black cattle in the parish . . . . .	1050
Horses . . . . .	260
Sheep of the common kind . . . . .	500
Ploughs . . . . .	76
Carts . . . . .	128
Valued rent in Scots money . . . . .	L. 6965 : 13 : 4.

The parish produces both more corn and cattle than is sufficient for its own maintenance, and of course brings the surplus to market. Wheat is sown, from the middle of September to the end of November; pease and beans in the beginning of March; oats from the middle of March to the end of April; and barley in the month of May. The harvest generally lasts during September and October.

*Roads.*—Statute-labour for the roads is partly exacted in kind,

\* To convert Scotch acres into English multiply by 1.270773.

kind, and partly commuted. A turnpike bill for the county was obtained last session, and the gentlemen of the county are using every exertion for putting it in execution.

*Antiquities, &c.*—On Banden Hill, which overlooks Coalton from the eastward, and commands an extensive view of the Strath of Eden, from Kinrofs to St Andrews Bay, are some remains of a circumvallation and rampart, of which tradition is silent. It is of a circular form, and nearly 200 yards in diameter. About half a mile to the eastward is another eminence, with ruins of the same kind on its summit. It is called Down Hill; is the highest in the parish; and commands the whole Strath of Leven, the Firth, and the Lothians. From the situation of these buildings, they were probably used as places of observation. The Knock of Clathe is a beautiful hill, rising smoothly without any appearance of fortifications. A regular coffin, of six stones, was found here some time ago, by men who were digging for gravel. Within it were human bones, and several trinkets; among which was the brass head of a spear, now in the possession of the Earl of Leven. There are at least 8 barrows in the parish, 3 of which have names: Pandler's Know, and Lowrie's Know, in Forthar ground; and Liquorich Stone in Kettle ground. Bones have been found in the rest. There is a tradition about the first, that, when dissensions arose between families in different parts of the country, they met there to decide their contention by arms, and those who fell were buried in the tumulus. The barrow in Forthar is said to have been a regular place of burial, and to have had a church or chapel near it. But of this no vestiges are now extant.

The lands of Clatto, which constitute the east end of the  
parish



parish of Kettle, and through which lay the old road from Cupar to Kinghorn, belonged to a family of Setons, who are celebrated in tradition for the most cruel robberies and murders. The grounds about Clatto Den are still desert. In the face of the brae, which forms one side of the den, is a cave, that is said to communicate with the old castle or tower of Clatto, a furlong distant, the remains of which are still visible. The same cave is said to have had another opening to the road, at which the assailant rushed out on the heedless passengers, and dragged them into the cavern, whence there was no return. All appearance of a cave is now obliterated, by the breaking down of the banks. A similar cavern was found, not many years ago, at Craighall in Ceres parish. Of these Seaton's many stories, replete with the superstitions of preceding ages, are still current among the country people. One may suffice. One of the Scottish Kings, said to be James IV. passing that way alone, as was common in those days, was attacked by a son of Seaton's. The King having a hanger concealed under his garment, drew it, and with a blow cut off the right hand that seized his horse's bridle. This hand he took up, and rode off. Next day, attended by a proper retinue, he visited the Castle of Clatto, wishing to see Seaton and his sons, who were noted as hardy enterprising men, fitted to shine in a more public station. The old man conducted his family into the King's presence. One son alone was absent: It was said, that he had been hurt by an accident, and was confined in bed. The King insisted on seeing him, and desired to feel his pulse. The young man held out his left hand. The King would feel the other also. After many ineffectual excuses, he was obliged to confess that he had lost his right hand. The King told him that he had a hand in his pocket, which was at his service if it would fit him. Upon this they were all seized and executed.

*Miscellaneous*

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people are in general charitable, and well disposed. Both living and drefs have undergone a remarkable change within these 20 years, owing to the influx of wealth, and rise of wages. Few, however, have proved insolvent. Property has, in consequence, increased in value, and is now rated at 29 years purchase. A martial spirit seems to pervade the lower ranks, who can scarcely be prevented from entering into the army or navy on the report of a war. Their condition might perhaps be meliorated by improving the lands still farther, and encouraging the loom; but, on the whole, few districts in the country have more reason to be satisfied with their present state.

Kettle possesses very material advantages in its coal and lime works. Marl is easily procured. The lands are improved and drained with facility, from their sloping direction, and plenty of water. It affords employment and subsistence for the whole of its inhabitants. The language commonly spoken is English, with a provincial accent. The names of places are said to be derived from the Gaelic.

No essential hurt was felt from the severe years 1782 nor 1783 in this parish. Some individuals, perhaps, might be a little distressed; but, in general, the farmers made money in those years. The crops being early, and tolerably reaped, yielded much meal, and supplied several places with good feed. Whatever degree of improvement this parish has yet attained, has almost all been given it (excepting the estate of Wester Lathrisk) within these 12 years. Much, however, yet remains to be done, both in acquiring system and execution.

There are 7 or 8 public houses in the parish, but they  
produce

produce no bad effects: Most of them are places of accommodation, and could not be wanted. The inhabitants of this parish are neither chargeable with the vice of drunkenness, nor of wasting their time or money. Several new houses have lately been built. Few cottages have been built, and as few allowed to become ruinous. There is no jail in the parish. Feudal services are wholly obliterated.

N U M.

## NUMBER XL.

## PARISH OF DELTING.

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN MORISON.**Name, Situation, Extent.*

**D**ELTING, or, perhaps, with more propriety, Deltaing \*, is of Danish or Norwegian origin. The parish is in the county of Orkney and Shetland, and presbytery of Shetland, which has synodical powers within itself, the General Assembly being the immediate court of appeal. It is bounded on the west by the parish of Northmaving, from which it is divided by a long narrow voe, called Sulom Voe; on the east by Nesting and Lunnasting; on the north by Yell Sound, which separates it from Yell; and on the south by the parishes of Wiefdale and Sandsting. It is difficult to state with any degree of precision the length or breadth of this parish, as it is much intersected by narrow voes, and no part of it is above two miles from some sea. The appearance of the country is hilly, bleak, and barren. The hills afford plenty of excellent peats, which is an article of no small importance in such a high latitude, and under such inclement skies. That part of the parish which is under cultivation, and which bears but

\* *Taing* is a neck of land jetting out into the sea, and *Dell* a valley.

but a very small proportion to the waste and uncultivated part; produces, in good seasons, very tolerable crops of barley, and a kind of bleak oats, and abundance of potatoes. Cabbage thrive in every kail yard; but turnip, carrot, parsnip, &c. are only to be found in gentlemens gardens.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The air is moist, but not unhealthy. The old people say that diseases are now more common than formerly, which may be ascribed to the change in the mode of living, especially to the general use of tea, of which the consumption is amazing, even in the poorest families, who will stint themselves in many essential necessaries of life, in order to procure this article of luxury. The most common distempers are the scurvy, which is not to be wondered at, as the people live much on fish and flesh, and use very little vegetable food. The dampness of the climate may likewise contribute to bring this terrible disorder to the height in which it often appears. Rheumatic and nervous complaints are said to be more common now than they were some years ago. Many diseases are introduced by the ships of different nations, which occasionally touch at these islands. Convulsion fits, of a very extraordinary kind, seems peculiar to this country. The patient is first seized with something like fainting, and immediately after utters wild cries and shrieks, the sound of which, at whatever distance, immediately puts all who are subject to the disorder in the same situation. It most commonly attacks them when the church is crowded; and often interrupts the service in this, and many other churches in the country. On a sacramental occasion, 50 or 60 are sometimes carried out of the church, and laid in the church-yard, where they struggle and roar with all their strength for five or ten minutes, and then rise up without recollecting a single circumstance that had happened them, or being in the  
least

least hurt or fatigued with the violent exertions they had made during the fit. One observation occurs on this disorder, that during the late scarce years it was very uncommon; and during the two last years of plenty it has appeared more frequently.

*Lakes, Coasts, Islands, Fisheries.*—There are in the parish some small lakes or lochs, and some small rivulets, but no stream that deserves the name of a river. In these lakes and rivulets, the only fish is a small kind of trout; but, about the beginning of August, sea trouts, of a very large size, are caught in nets made for the purpose in the mouth of the different rivulets. No fish of this kind are ever sold, but given in presents through the neighbourhood. The inhabitants fit out boats for the ling, cod, and tusk fishing, on the coasts of the neighbouring parish of Northmaving. The season of this fishery is during the months of June and July, and a part of August. How far the people, in general, are benefited by this fishing, will appear from the following statement.

#### The Expence of a Shetland Fishing Boat.

	Scots money*.
A boat 18 feet keel, completely rigged, &c. with	
a sail containing 28 yards of canvas	L. 104 9 0
120 ground lines, at 26 s. each, fitted	. 156 0 0
8 ground lines for buoy ropes, at 20 s.	. 8 0 0
4 buoys, at 20 s. each	. 4 0 0
4 haddock lines, fitted with hooks, &c.	. 24 0 0
	<hr/>
Total expence for boat and lines	L. 296 9 0

The

\* Scots money is divided like Sterling, but is only the twelfth part of it.

The boat may last six years, and the lines four; hence it appears,

	Scots money.
That the annual expence on boat and lines will	
be . . . . .	L. 65 8 0
Add wages of six men, suppose L. 20 each	120 0 0
15 lifpunds of meal, 48 s. at an average . . . . .	36 0 0
12 pints of spirits, at 24 s. each . . . . .	14 8 0
	L. 235 16 0
Total expence during the season	L. 235 16 0

The fishermen carry many articles of provision from their own houses to the fishing stations, such as butter, milk, &c. on which no value is here put. Neither is any thing stated for insurance, which in this trade ought to be very high, as the risk is great.

The fishery is carried on in these open boats, at the distance of 10 or 15 leagues from shore; and when bad weather overtakes them during the night, which is often the case, the poor men are obliged to desert their lines, and make for the shore, which, alas! in many instances they never reach. The present minister remembers two boats being lost in one night, by which accident 10 widows and 53 fatherless children were left.

#### Annual Expence, and Annual Returns.

The fish is delivered to the proprietors, as caught, at 42 s. per quintal. At the principal fishing stations, each boat may catch, at an average, 800 ling, which may weigh 100 quintals, a little more or less.

Total

	Scots money,
Total expence on a year's fishing . . . . .	L. 235 16 ●
100 quintals ling, at 42 s. is L. 210 0 0	
8 quintals cod and tusk, at 30 s. 12 0 0	
30 cans oil from the livers, at 10s. 15 0 0	
Total returns on an average —————	237 0 ●
<hr/>	
Balance in favours of the sharers in a boat L. 2 16 ●	

It may be proper to add, that, on the east side of the country, each boat does not carry above 45 or 50 ground lines. The fishery on that side is carried on at much less expence; but is, in general, proportionally smaller than on the west side. This year the fishery has been very unsuccessful; so that the boats will not have 400 ling, instead of the 800, which is stated as an average. The consequence must be, that the poor fishermen, disappointed in this only source of gain, must this year fall greatly in arrears to their landlords.

These fish are cured for exportation to Spain, Hamburgh, and Ireland. They sell, when dried, from 16s. to 11s. a cwt. This year, in general, no higher price than 11s. has been given, besides the 3s. allowed by government for every cwt. exported. The greatest part of the cod and tusk is sent to Leith, and sold at between 16s. and 19s. a cwt. The proprietors of the lands, or receivers of the fish, make, on an average, a profit of L. 10 Sterling from every fishing boat belonging to their estates. Every tenant is obliged to fit out a certain share of a boat, in proportion to the extent and value of the land he possesses.

The voes, by which the parish is intersected, furnish, in most years, plenty of small fish, from the livers of which a considerable



considerable quantity of oil is made. This fishing is the most beneficial to the poor tenants, as it is attended with no expence, and brings not only wholesome food to their families, but oil, which generally sells at 30 s. or 35 s. and sometimes at 50 s. a barrel.

The common sea weed, here called *tang*, is pretty generally, and successfully, used as a manure for the lands. It is but very lately that the attention of the gentlemen of this country has in any measure been turned to the making of kelp. This article has, however, been increasing for some years past; so that it is now believed there may be from 200 to 300 tons annually exported from the whole country.

There are several creeks and harbours in the parish, which would be of high importance in many parts of the kingdom, but are here of very little consequence. There is an inlet of the sea from St Magnus Bay, through a place called the Minn, a sound which divides the Island of Vehementry, in Sandsting parish, from Mickle Rhoe in this parish. This inlet or voe furnishes several excellent harbours; such as Bufta Voe, South Voeter, and Alnafirth. In all of these there is safe anchorage for vessels of a considerable burden; as also at Elwick and Mavinigrind, both at the head of Sulom Voe, which divides this parish from Northmaving. If a canal was cut from the head of Sulom Voe to Bufta Voe, which could be done at a very moderate expence, it would open an easy communication between all the most considerable fishing stations in the country, and afford a safe navigation to ships of any size through the middle of the country. If ever such a canal should be cut, the banks of it would be a most convenient situation for a manufacturing village, which is not more wanted in any part of his Majesty's dominions than here: For, during one  
half

half of the year at least, a great part of the people are idle; and during the other half, what little work they perform can make no adequate return for their labour. Nay, after all their toil, they often do not receive the original value of the raw materials employed in their homely manufacture of single stockings; which, however, is the only way by which many of the inhabitants can earn a single penny. It would be preferable for them to sell the wool, rather than take up their time in manufacturing it in so unprofitable a manner.

The islands on the coast of this parish, and which form a part of it, are, Mickle Rhoe, 24 miles in circumference, containing 14 families, who live on a few spots which have been brought under cultivation within these 40 or 50 years: These lye along the sea coast: The other parts of the island are covered with a kind of heath, which affords no bad pasturage for sheep, horned cattle, and horses; of all which a great number might be reared with a small degree of attention. This island lies on the south coast of the parish. On the north end are the islands of Little Rhoe, containing 2 families; Brother Isle, 2 families; Fishholm, 1 family. These 3 islands are in Yell Sound, on the northern extremity of the parish. None of them would be inhabited but for the sake of the fisheries, as the little corn they produce is generally blasted by the sea. Bigga is another island in Yell Sound, containing 4 families; half of it belongs to Delting, and half to Yell.

*Agriculture, Cattle, &c.*—There are not above six ploughs in the parish, and these of a very singular construction. They are made of a small crooked piece of wood, at the end of which is fixed a slender pliable piece of oak, that is fastened to the yokes laid across the necks of the oxen. The man  
who

who holds the plough walks by its sides and directs it with a stilt or handle fixed on the top of it. The driver, if he can be so called, goes before the oxen, and pulls them on by a rope tied round their horns; and some people with spades follow the plough, to level the furrow and break the clods. The only crops are black oats, sown in April, and barley, sown in May. Both are reaped in the end of August, or during the month of September. The want of inclosures has prevented any attempts to sow artificial grasses; but the meadows furnish a considerable quantity of natural hay. The parish can never supply itself with meal. A considerable number of black cattle and sheep is annually sold to the Lerwick merchants, who kill them, and send them packed to Leith market; meal, flour, biscuits, barley, and other articles, being bought in return. The hills, in general, are covered with heath, and afford good pasturage for sheep, which go wild without any herdsman to attend them. They are in general, however, so far tame, that they can be driven into pounds or small inclosures, where the wool is *pulled* off, the young lambs marked; and such ram-lambs cut as are not intended for tups to the flock.

Lime has never been used as a manure, except in a very few instances, where it never failed to produce great returns; in some thirty, in some sixty, and in some an hundred fold. But improvements by lime, or any other means, is seldom attempted here, for this obvious reason, that the tenants have no leases: They consider themselves as the tenants of a day, and have neither inclination nor spirit to attempt any effectual improvement of the grounds they possess; thinking, and with justness, that another may reap the benefit of all the endeavours they might use to meliorate their farms.

The

The parish abounds in horses, horned cattle, and sheep: The pastures might no doubt bear a much greater number of each than they now contain. There is no faying, with minute exactness, what may be the number of each. If the sheep are stated at 8000, it will not be materially under or above the truth. There may be about 700 milch cows, besides oxen and young cattle. What the number of horses may be it is impossible to say; but there is certainly a great number: They are very small; and, owing to the little attention paid to the selection of proper stallions, they are becoming smaller every year.

The winter of 1784 was very severe, and cut off a great number of sheep and horned cattle in every part of these islands. An account was taken, at the desire of the minister, in this parish, and the return was 4506 sheep \*, and 427 black cattle, dead in the course of the winter, besides horses, of which no accurate account could be obtained. This, joined to a year of as great scarcity as the country had ever experienced, was very hard on the poor tenants; and they have not yet recovered the loss. In that winter, the sheep were often dug out of the snow, after continuing under it for 20 days; during all which time they had no food, but eat the wool from the backs of each other. Some that died after they were taken out were opened, and a hard ball of wool was found in their stomach. The general poverty of the inhabitants; their being obliged to be from home during the fishing season; the smallness of their farms, and the precarious tenure by which they hold them; all conspire to keep them in a state of indigence.

Every

\* This was the number of dead sheep that were found; many perished whose carcases were never found.

Every man, from the age of 18 to 70, must attend the fishing from the 1st June to the 14th August. None are left at home but a wife, with perhaps a number of young children, who require all her attention. Every thing in the farming line must consequently go to wreck,

The horned cattle and sheep are small, but the beef and mutton sweet and well flavoured. The sheep, in general, carry very soft fleeces. A few are to be found which carry wool of a very fine quality, of which stockings are made, that sell at different prices, from 15 s. to 40 s. a pair. Some are knit so fine as to be easily drawn through a common ring, and do not weigh above 2 ounces. In the year 1782, the best ox could have been bought for L. 20 Scots; the best cow from L. 12 to 15 Scots. This year, 1790, and for a few years past, L. 36 Scots is thought a moderate price for a good ox; and L. 24 Scots is often paid for a fat cow. The price of sheep seems to have varied very little in the memory of man. In the neighbourhood of Lerwick, 5 s. are paid for a wedder; but in this parish, and many other parts of the country, 3 s. is thought a high price. The carcase of an ox weighs from 3 to 4 cwt.; that of a cow from 170 to 230 lb. A well grazed cow yields from 32 to 42 lb. tallow; a well grazed ox from 48 to 70 lb. sometimes 90 lb. tallow.

*Population.*—In 1752, the number of souls in the parish were 956. In 1785, there were 1417. In 1790, there were 1504. There are now alive only 5 householders who were living 25 years ago. One woman is now alive aged 101 years; another died lately at the age of 105; and another died in 1784 at the age of 98. She died in the same house in which she was born, and had slept only two nights out of it. The number of families is now 223. Each householder has a  
small

small farm, which in good seasons, and when the small fishing of fillocks and pullocks does not fail, may supply his family for three quarters of the year. Including farm servants, there were, in 1782, 364 of all kinds in the parish. The number is much the same at present.

The population of the parish is materially different from what it was some years ago. The alteration proceeds from this obvious cause. The inhabitants have not been long compelled by their landlords to prosecute the ling fishery; but, since the proprietors thought proper to employ their tenants in that line, it has become an object to have as many men as possible on their grounds. This circumstance has induced them to split the farms, and make them so small, that there are now, in many instances, four families on a farm which was possessed, 20 or 30 years ago, by one.

There are very few batchelors. The people, in general, marry young. A young lad, when he comes to the age of 18 or 19 years, goes to the summer fishery for a fee of L. 16 to L. 26 Scots. Sometimes the fees are as high as L. 28 Scots for 10 summer weeks. When they have been one season at the fishing, they generally consider themselves as men. They are encouraged to marriage by their landlords, in order to prevent them from leaving the country; and the consequences commonly are, that they find themselves involved in debt and large families in a very few years. There is a set of very old regulations, called *Country Acts*; by one of which it is enacted, that no pair shall marry unless they be possessed of L. 40 Scots of free gear. This regulation, as well as all the rest, is now not enforced; though all of them appear to have been well calculated for the good police of the country. It is said that these regulations were approved and confirmed

confirmed by the parliament of Scotland, in the reign of Queen Mary, or of James VI.

There has been no emigration from the parish during the time of the present incumbent: But, almost every year, a great number of young lads engage with the Greenland ships, which touch at Briffay Sound on their outward passage in the month of March and April. They receive from 30 s. to 40 s. a month. Many of these men are landed on the island when the ships return from Greenland; but many go at last into the navy. It is a fact well ascertained, that in the year 1763, there were 900 Shetland men paid off. What number remained in the fleet after the peace it is impossible to say.

The number of inhabited houses is 223. In each house, on an average, there may be from 6 to 7 people. There are at present no uninhabited houses.

Abstract from the Register of Baptisms and Marriages.

In	Year	Baptisms.		Marriages.
		Boys.	Girls.	Pairs.
	1752	14	8	8
	1753	13	12	15
	1754	22	21	13
	1755	18	17	9
	1756	18	12	9
	1757	16	8	5
	1758	18	14	12
	1759	13	16	9
	1760	22	17	5
	1761	10	10	8
	1762	19	22	13
				<b>In</b>

In	Baptisms.		Marriages.
	Boys.	Girls.	Pairs.
1763	14	19	19
1764	14	18	10
1765	15	25	12
1766	13	13	5
1767	12	14	8
1768	20	20	12
1769	27	24	14
1770	14	13	11
1771	25	30	12
1772	28	19	5
1777	12	13	13
1778	16	16	14
1779	21	18	4
1780	23	24	9
1781	9	13	5
1782	19	23	9
1783	14	14	13
1784	14	17	9
1785	17	7	15
1786	18	21	10
1787	22	17	7
1788	6	7	11
1789	10	29	13

*Division and Rental of Land.*—The arable ground in the parish has never been measured, so as to ascertain the number of acres. An acre is a mode of measurement little known in this country. The old and standing mode is by merks of land, which are of very different sizes in different parts, according to their goodness. The lands have been, time immemorial, divided into 12 penny, 9 penny, and 6 penny land.



land. In a few instances, some of the 12 penny land has been measured, and was found to be  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre to each merk, and 6 penny land  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre to each merk. The rents of the different quality of land is thus stated: 12 penny land pays yearly 16 merks of butter, and L. 1 : 4 : 0 Scots; 9 penny land pays yearly 12 merks of butter, and L. 1 Scots per m.; 6 penny land pays yearly 8 merks of butter and 12 d. per m.; each merk butter being commonly converted at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. It is to be observed, that what is paid for these lands has not been raised, perhaps, since these islands were annexed to the crown of Scotland. Of late, however, the price of the butter-rent, when not paid in kind, has been raised from 5 to 7, 8, and 9 s. a lispund. Till a few years ago, it was considered as a standing regulation, that the butter part of the land-rent should be converted at 5 s. a lispund; a lispund contains 24 merks, equal to 32 lb. English; but the factor for the superior thought proper to charge the current price for the feu-duty butter; and many of the proprietors of the country followed this example: So that a merk of butter, which weighs  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lib. English, is sometimes 3 d. 4 d. and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d. instead of being fixed at the old conversion of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. a merk, which was the former regulation. This the tenants consider as a hardship, as few of them can pay their butter rents in kind.

What is called the rented land of the parish amounts to 854 merks of land, about 600 acres. Besides this, there are many outsets, or new improvements, which are made by the proprietors, in order to find a settlement for the young men who marry, and whom they cannot accommodate with settlements on rented or improved lands. It appears rather doubtful how far these outsets or new inclosures have been for the real good of the island.

These

These attempts to improve have generally been undertaken by young beginners in the world, who had neither strength of hands to improve the grounds, nor stocks of cattle to furnish manure.

The whole rent of the parish is 547 lispund 22 merks in butter, and L. 1152 : 11 : 4 Scots in money ; or, converting the butter at L. 3 a lispund, L. 2796 : 6 : 4 Scots in all, or L. 233 : 0 : 6 $\frac{1}{3}$  Sterling.

To the above may be added, 40 d. from each family for services, when not paid in kind, and a hen and cock from every 2 merks of land in the parish. Besides the above land-rent payable to the proprietors, the tenants pay several other duties, such as corn-teind, which varies from 4 merks of butter and  $\frac{1}{2}$  can of oil for each merk of land, to 2 merks butter and  $\frac{1}{3}$  can of oil. They likewise pay the cefs ; and certain payments are claimed by Sir T. Dundas, called Scatt, Wattle, and Ox-penny. These payments vary. In some places they are only 4 d. or 5 d. a merk of land ; in other places they are as high as 12 d. and 13 d ; payable in butter and oil in most instances. These payments are generally considered of Danish origin, as taxes paid to the crown of Denmark, and continued since the annexation of the country to the crown of Scotland. When the lands are let in lease, or, as it is here called, tack, the tacksmen commonly pays rent, and half-rent ; and in many instances, double the usual rents, for the profits of fishing.

The parish is so extensive, that it is impossible to say what proportion of the land is waste. No proper division of the waste lands or commons has yet taken place, nor perhaps ever will. For this reason, the sheep and cattle of different

ferent proprietors must occasionally incroach on each other's property; no herds attend to prevent these incroachments, and they must bear with one another. The marches of the pastures of the different towns or farms are very imperfectly ascertained.

*Church.*—The living is now let for L. 56 Sterling, exclusive of an augmentation of L. 11 : 3 : 4 lately obtained. The present incumbent is Mr John Morison, who was settled in April 1782. Sir Thomas Dundas is patron. The manse was repaired after the admission of the present incumbent. There are two churches; the principal one about 7 and the other 3 miles from the manse; both in extremely bad order. There are 26 heritors, all resident except one; but the greatest part of them have only very small properties.

*Prices of Provisions and Labour.*—Beef commonly sells at 1½ d. a pound; slaughtered veal is seldom sold; a living calf is sold for 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d. the skin of which will sell again for 8 d. or 1 s. 3 d. Mutton is never sold by the weight; an ordinary sheep may sell for 3 s. or 5 s.; a lamb for 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 6 d.; pigs newly farried 6 d. or 8 d.; a good goose may weigh 10 lib. and is sold for 8 d.; chickens 2 d. a piece; a hen 4 d.; a cock 2 d.; Butter has been formerly stated. Cheese is never made. The price of barley and oats varies according to their plenty or scarcity. Wheat is not known in the parish.

In this country, every labourer, and workman of all kinds, must be maintained in the family where they work. A common day-labourer's wages is 6 d.; masons, 10 d. to 1 s. 2 d. The only fuel is peat. This article is not to be bought. Every householder employs such a number of his friends and neighbours

neighbours as he thinks necessary, to dig the proper quantity. These are entertained with meat in abundance, spirits, and tobacco. The expence, on these occasions, may be about 1 s. 8 d. for every man employed. Women-servants, for the care of the children, and other work within doors, have L. 1 Sterling, a shirt at 3 s. and a pair of shoes at 2 or 3 s. for their yearly wages. Farm women servants L. 6 Scots each, and a pair of shoes. A man-servant, for three quarters of the year, has L. 9 Scots, and a pair of shoes. No man-servant can be got during the fishing season, as they have better wages at the fishing.

*Antiquities.*—There are three Pictish castles in this parish, one at Burravock, one at Brough, and another at Burranefs. These are all of a circular form, and have no entrance but from the top. They are built of stones of such a size as could not have been raised without the use of engines which could hardly have been supposed to be in use at the rude period in which these buildings must have been erected. There are, in different parts of the country, Pictish castles, more entire than those in this parish. No tradition, or historical account, can now be had; owing, perhaps, in a great measure, to this circumstance, that very few of the descendants from the original inhabitants now remain. When these islands were transferred from Denmark to Scotland, many from Scotland came over in different lines. By dint of superior wealth, superior wisdom, or some other means, many of them acquired estates, by buying out the Norwegian proprietors, whose possessions in general were small, owing to a regulation they had, of dividing their lands equally among their children. This regulation had rendered the possessions of each individual very trifling in many instances.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people in general are not disposed to industry; for which they cannot, however, be much blamed, as no way has yet been pointed out to them by which they might turn their industry to account. No manufactures are established; and, excepting what the men may gain by fishing, the wives and children at kelp burning during a few weeks in summer; they have not a probable chance of earning a penny, but by the manufacture of single stockings, which is lots of time, to call it no worse.

Most of the young men who leave the country embrace a seafaring life. It is the only line with which they have a chance of being acquainted. Many, who have left the country in this line, in a very mean way, have risen to independent and genteel stations. On the present alarm of war, one hundred men were demanded by the Admiralty before they would grant protection to the trade and fisheries of these islands. The proportion of this parish was six men. Sixteen, however, entered voluntarily.

The people are rather expensive and luxurious for their circumstances. This may be ascribed to many causes; one in particular is, that their landmasters give them unlimited credit. The people think they are entitled to this, because they fish for them. Whatever they want, or think they want, is furnished from the booth or storehouse of the proprietors, or bought from the shops in Lerwick. When the day of account comes, it very often happens that the gainings of the year cannot nearly pay for the expence.

The people in general are hospitable in the extreme, and disposed to humane and generous actions. Few wrecks have ever happened on the coasts of this parish, but, when they have  
happened,

happened, every attention has been shewn to save and comfort the distressed. When the watch was not very strict, attempts indeed might be made to pilfer from the wreck.

The circumstances of the inhabitants cannot be materially bettered, nor their situation rendered more comfortable, until one radical evil is removed, viz. the short and precarious nature of the leases. For no man can have a spirit for improvement, or pay any great attention to rear a stock on a possession from which he knows not but he may be turned off next year. Another thing essentially necessary would be to erect fishing and manufacturing villages, and the introduction of proper manufactures among them, so that the industrious part of them might have constant employment, which is now far from being the case. The manufactures most proper for this country are, 1st, woolen manufactures, in which the inhabitants are so far back, that they often sell their wool to the Orkney people at a very low price, and next year buy their stuffs, made of the same wool, at a very high price. A well conducted manufacture of fishing lines would save a great deal of money to the country, and secure to the inhabitants a more certain supply of this important article than they can have while they depend entirely on an importation from *Hamburgh*. A tannery might be of considerable advantage. At present, raw hyses are exported, except a few which are tanned in the country, but so indifferently, as to produce leather of no durability.

A total suppression of smuggling would contribute greatly to the prosperity, and preservation of the morals, of the people; provided, at the same time, the excise was taken off such spirits as are consumed by the fishermen during the fishing

ing season. They cannot prosecute the fishing without a little, and they cannot afford to use duty paid spirits.

A material alteration would be necessary in conducting the few improvements which are attempted. Instead of settling the youngest and poorest beginners on the new outsets, they ought to be given to men of stock and wealth sufficient to enable them to make a proper improvement of the soil. The leases ought to be long, and, for a few years at least, the rents very moderate.

Until the agriculture of the country be brought to more perfection than it is at present, until manufactures shall be established, and villages erected, it would be proper to discourage, as much as possible, early marriages, when the parties have nothing to begin the world with, and perhaps both parties considerably in debt before marriage. The tenants complain that they are obliged to sell all their fish, oil, &c. to their landlords. It is, however, doubtful how far any alteration of this system would be beneficial to them, were they allowed to sell their fish, oil, &c. to the highest bidder. Their land-rents would of course be raised, and they might be deprived of that assistance, which they will always need in years of scarcity, until proper manufactures are established among them.

Some years ago, a linen manufacture was established, and a bleachfield laid out, but was soon given up, after the company concerned had expended about L. 1600 Sterling on the houses, works, and machinery. The principal heritors in the country had shares in this enterprise; but, whether it was owing to the improper management of those employed to conduct it, or from the company beginning on too extensive

a plan, the scheme failed, and the partners lost every penny of their respective shares. A linen manufacture was surely improper as a first attempt to introduce manufactures into this country, far back in improvement, because no flax is raised in the island, and the people had never been previously instructed in the mode of spinning lint. The same sum expended in establishing a woollen manufacture would have done essential good to the inhabitants, and would have employed many a hand which is now idle, or employed in destroying materials, which ought to be turned to a more profitable account.

Another way by which the situation of the people in this country would be considerably bettered, would be to use less of English cloths, and fineries of different kinds, which have of late been imported in amazing quantities, and to be satisfied, as their forefathers were, with cloth and stuffs made from the fleeces of their own flocks, and manufactured by their own hands. But, at present, few or none will appear from home in any manufacture of the island, even on ordinary occasions. All are clad in English cloths or stuffs, a very few of the most frugal excepted.

There are no bridges, nor so much as the form of a road, through the island. The traveller goes on his way with caution, through the hills and deep mosses; and, by turning sometimes to the one hand, and sometimes to the other, endeavours, in the best manner he can, to get clear of the mires and ditches, and peat-banks, that fall in his way. No such thing as statute-labour is exacted, which appears a great defect in the police; for, though regular roads could not perhaps be made; yet, by very little attention every year, a much more  
com-



comfortable communication might be opened between the different parts of the country.

The situation of this, and indeed of every parish in these islands, in the years 1782 and 1783, and for four years after that period, was deplorable indeed. The crop of 1782 failed; the crop of 1783 was still worse; and, to complete the calamity, a general mortality of the horned cattle and sheep took place during the winter, as before mentioned. Few, in comparison, were left alive; and the distressed possessors of their poor remains were obliged to sell the greater part, in order to purchase meal for their families. The meal was from L. 2 : 5 : 0 to L. 2 : 7 : 0 a boll. The most substantial farmers, after the loss of their cattle and sheep, could not afford to purchase any adequate supply, and many of the poorer could purchase little or none, but lived mostly on wilks, limpets, and such other shell-fish, as the sea-shores afforded, added to the charity of their richer neighbours, which, in such circumstances, could not reach far, as there were many to seek, and very few that could afford to give a morsel. This parish had a deep share in the general distress, being the poorest parish in the country. Government gave some supply; and news of their distress called forth liberal subscriptions for their relief, both in England and Scotland. With these provisions were bought, and sent to the country, and distributed in proportion to the distress of individuals. This, joined to a general good small fishery which providentially prevailed during most of the scarce years above mentioned, greatly assisted the landholders to preserve their tenants from perishing. Every proprietor exerted himself to the utmost of his ability in importing meal, which was sold out in such proportions as were thought prudent, according to the number in each family. There is reason to think that none died from mere want; but there is

no doubt that many, from the unwholesome food which they were sometimes obliged to use, contracted diseases that brought them to the grave.

Eagles, corbies, and crows, often do great damage to the corn and young lambs. A price has been set upon them by the commissioners of supply, viz. 5 s. for the head of an eagle, 4 d. for a corby's head, and 2 d. for a crow's. This regulation has made these birds of prey less numerous than they formerly were. Plovers, snipes, and ducks of all kinds abound, but no moorfool, hares, or partridges. The migratory birds are, the chalder, resembling the lapwing. In mild seasons they appear in the month of January. Sometimes not till the beginning of March, and disappear in the month of September. Swans appear in great flocks in spring, in their course to the eastward, and in autumn on their return. They rest themselves for several days on our lochs and voes, but none bring forth their young in this country. Kittyweaks come in great flocks in the spring, and breed in the face of the highest rocks. Their young are esteemed more delicate than chickens. Hens, geese, and other domestic birds, abound in every place.

The parish has some peculiar advantages, and some peculiar disadvantages. The northern parts lie very conveniently for the small fishing of fillocks, pullocks, haddocks, whittings, and a small kind of cod; some of which are caught at almost every season of the year, and very near the shore. It has already been observed, that this kind of fishery is more generally beneficial than the great fishery of ling, cod, and tusk, which can only be prosecuted during a few of the summer months. In the different voes on the south part of the parish, there is often caught great quantities of herrings, from  
the

the month of August to December. These are sold to the lairds, or their tacksmen, at the rate of 5 s. to 6 s. a barrel, as they are brought ashore. Two barrels of the fresh fish are taken to make a barrel of repacked herrings; so that the fishermen receive 5 s. to 6 s. for from 800 to 1000 herrings.

The language is the same as in the Continent of Scotland. The inhabitants, however, have less of a provincial brogue than many parts of North Britain.

The names of places in the parish, and through all Shetland, are derived from the Norwegian language; and those who understand that language say that the name is, in most instances, very expressive of the situation and convenience of the place.

NUM.

N U M B E R X L I .

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

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM BEAT.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, and Soil.*

**T**HE name of this parish seems to be derived from the saint to whom the church was dedicated, viz. St Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, whose fame for piety was at that time great throughout Christendom. What serves to confirm this origin of the name is, that the fishermen, who have marked out the steeple of this church for a meath or mark to direct them at sea, call it St Irnie to this day; and the estate which lies close by the church is called Irnie-hill; but, by the transposition of the letter i, Rinnie-hill. What adds to the probability of this interpretation, is a tradition still existing here, that the devotees at Anstruther, who could not see the church of Kilrenney till they travelled up the rising ground to what they called the Hill, then pulled off their bonnets, fell on their knees, crossed themselves, and prayed to St Irnie.

This parish lies in the county and synod of Fife, and presbytery of St Andrews. It is about 2 miles long, and 2 broad, almost in the form of a circle, somewhat elliptical on the coast. It is bounded by Crail on the east; Anstruther on the west;

Deninno on the north; and one continued ridge of black rocks, that set bounds to the sea, on the south. The ground rises gradually from south to north, and forms such a declivity as is a barrier to inundation. After a storm, abundance of sea weeds are thrown on the shore, which serve for manure. The land, at an average, lets at 40 s. an acre.

*Fish.*—The incumbent was born, and has spent the greatest part of his life, in this parish; and, within his remembrance, vast quantities of large cod, ling, haddocks, herrings, holi-but, turbot, and mackarel, have been caught here; but the fisheries are now miserably decayed. He can remember, when he was a young man, that he numbered no less than 50 large fishing boats, that required 6 men each, belonging to the town of Cellardykes, all employed in the herring fishery in the summer season. He can recollect that he saw such a number of boats throwing their nets at one time as he could not number, but heard that the Collector of the Customs at Anstruther at that time, who kept an account of them, said they amounted to 500, being gathered together from all quarters to this shore; and the winter fishery was proportionally great. He has seen 10 or 12 large boats come into the harbour in one day, swimming to the brim with large cod, besides 30, 40, or 50, strung upon a rope fastened to the stern, which they took in tow; and, what will hardly be credited, many a large cod's head lying for dung on the land. At that time, a gentleman in Dunbar had the largest cod in tack for 4 d. each, on this proviso, that every inhabitant of the parish should be at liberty to pick the best fish for their own use at his price; and of all the thousands he ever saw, the largest were bought for 4 d. At that time, he remembered no less than 24 small brewers in the town of Cellardykes, probably so called from a range of cellars along the shore,

shore, built for preparing fish for exportation, but now they are reduced to two or three, owing to the decay of the fishery. So strong is the contrast between that time and this, that not only few or no fish are caught, but, to the amazement of every body, the haddocks seem to have deserted this coast; and for two years past it has become a rarity to see one.

*Population.*—The population of this parish has considerably decreased within these 30 years. According to Dr Webster's state of the population, the number of inhabitants was 1348. The numbers have been diminished by the decay of the fishery and the union of farms.

33 families consist of	1 person	33
49	2	98
46	3	138
44	4	176
29	5	145
19	6	114
10	7	70
11	8	88
4	9	36
6	10	60
1	11	11
5	12	60
1	13	13
2	14	28
1	16	16

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261 families

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inhabitants 1086

Annual

Annual average of births from 1770 to 1790	34
Males born in the preceding period	331
Females	350
Annual average of deaths during the same period	20
Males who died	177
Females	235

*Prices of Provisions.*—The incumbent remembers, that, when the fishermen used to lay up their winter provisions, they bought beef for a merk Scots a stone; a good hen was got for 4d.; a pound of butter for 3½d.; and other victuals in proportion: Now, 4d. a pound is paid at all seasons of the year for beef, mutton, veal, lamb, and pork; a pound of butter costs 8d.; a hen 1s.; and the price of geese, ducks, &c. is proportionally raised.

*Stipend, &c.*—The value of the stipend, including the glebe, amounts to L. 100 Sterling. Sir John Anstruther of Anstruther is patron. Of 9 heritors only 3 reside. The manse was originally built by Mr James Melvil, an eminent reformer. On the lower lentile of the highest window, which directly overlooks the town, he ordered this inscription to be made, “The Watch Tower,” which remains distinct to this day.

*Rent.*—The valued rent is L. 8470 Scots. The real rent is difficult to be precisely ascertained; but it may be stated at L. 2195 Sterling.

*School.*—The schoolmaster is accommodated with a neat little house, fronting the public street, containing a school room and kitchen on the ground floor, 2 rooms and a closet above, with a garret, and a small piece of ground before the door,

door, inclosed for a garden. His salary, as schoolmaster, and perquisites as precentor and session-clerk, amount to about L. 11 Sterling, besides what he can make of school fees, which are here very small. The number of scholars is about 50 or 60, at 1 s. 2 d. a quarter for English; writing 1 s. 6 d.; writing and arithmetic 2 s. 6 d.; Latin 3 s. which few are disposed to learn.

*Antiquities.*—On the eastern extremity of the parish, at the very verge of the sea mark, is a cave, which seems to have been the habitation of some solitary saint in the days of old. The successive tenants of this mansion have left figures of crosses, rudely cut, here and there. It has been converted into a barn, and is large enough to admit two threshers at a time.



NUMBER XLII.

PARISH OF ARNGASK.

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM LANG.

*Name, Situation, Extent, and Soil.*

**T**HE antient as well as the modern name given to this parish is Arngask. The name of the farm which includes the hill on which the church stands, is the same with that of the parish. From this farm the parish probably derived its name, which is descriptive of the nature of the parish, and is entirely composed of hills. It is compounded of *Arn*, which is probably derived from the Latin word *Arvum*, and *gask*, which is commonly understood to signify what is large. Arngask may hence signify elevated or large arable land; and, in truth, the hills in this parish are almost all capable of culture. The parish is in the presbytery of Perth, and the synod of Perth and Stirling. It is nearly of a circular form, and about 4 miles in diameter. It is bounded by the parishes of Strathmiglo, Abernethy, Dron, Forgandenny, Forteviot, and Orwel. In this parish there is a considerable variety of soil. Upon some of the hills it is light and shallow; but there are several banks of very rich fertile ground, capable of producing almost any crop. The hills are generally green, and afford excellent pasture. There is more land in pasture than in tillage in this parish. There

are

are two or three moors, mostly covered with heath; and there is very little meadow ground in the parish. The arable ground is let at more than 20 s. an acre. It is not many years since the practice of inclosing began here; and it is only a few years since grafs was sown. Seed time, if the season answers, begins in March or April, and harvest in September and October. The parish supplies itself with the necessaries of life; and sends to market corn, butter, cheese, fowls, cattle, and some sheep.

*Air, and Distempers.*—The air is pure and wholesome. The inhabitants are not oppressed with excessive heat in summer, nor do they suffer intense cold in winter, as the hoar frost is less frequent and severe than in low places. The most common distempers are colds, which in several instances terminate in consumptions. The scurvy is likewise a common disorder, which originates, as is supposed, from the frequent use of oat meal. Agues were frequent some years ago; but there has not been a single person afflicted with that disease since 1783.

*Population.*—For a long time past, the population of this parish seems to have been nearly the same.

Return of the inhabitants to Dr Webster	. . . . .	736
Inhabitants, anno 1790	. . . . .	554
Annual average of births from 1783 is nearly	. . . . .	16
————— of deaths exactly	. . . . .	14
————— of marriages within the parish, during the same period, nearly	. . . . .	3
The number of persons under 10 years of age is	. . . . .	127
Between 10 and 20	. . . . .	120
Between 20 and 50	. . . . .	229
		Between

Between 50 and 70 years of age	62
Above 70	16
Heritors (all of whom except 4 reside in the parish)	32
Freeholders	1
Farmers	34
Mechanics	25
Seceders	152

Including herds, there are 59 male, and 35 female servants, who reside in the families which they serve. Several others have families of their own. The people are seemingly content with their condition. They are generally frugal; and almost all of them sober and decent.

*Poor.*—There are 7 poor people, who are every month supplied with a quantity of meal. The highest allowance is 8 pecks; the lowest 2. Money is also distributed to some of them occasionally. About 16 acres of land were purchased by the session, for the benefit of the poor, in 1726, at 2600 merks: They now let for L. 15 Sterling *per annum*. This, with L. 4:5:0 Sterling, the interest of a fund, with what arises from the use of the mort-cloth, and the ordinary collections at the church, constitute all that is applied to the relief of the poor. The collection at the church from Whitsunday 1789 till Whitsunday 1790, amounted to L. 8:0:10 Sterling. In 1782 and 1783, the managers of the poor's funds collected a voluntary contribution through the parish for such of the lower ranks as were in distressed circumstances.

*Wages.*—A day's wages for a labourer in husbandry is 10d.; for a wright 1s.; for a mason often 1s. 8d.; for a taylor 6d. and 8d. with his victuals. The usual wages of male servants

servants are L. 6, and sometimes L. 7 Sterling *per annum*, with their victuals. The wages of female servants are about L. 2 : 10 : 0. The prices of provisions in this parish are regulated by the neighbouring towns, Perth, Kinross, &c.

*Church and Stipend.*—Part of the church, at least, must have been built before the Reformation, as there is a place in the wall for the font; and the statue of the foundress (said to have been a Mrs Barclay) has the beads used by Catholics hanging round the hands. The church was originally a chapel, built for the accommodation of the family of Balvaird, and their dependants. The stipend is L. 513 : 19 : 3 Scots, with 30 bolls and 1 firlet of meal; the glebe is scarcely worth L. 6 Sterling; so that when the meal sells at 16s. a boll, the stipend, including the glebe, will amount to about L. 70 Sterling. The manse was repaired about 10 years ago. The church has got few repairs for these last 100 years. Messrs David and Adam Low of East Fordel are joint patrons.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is one quarry of good whin-stone in the parish, and more might be discovered if the ground were dug to a sufficient depth. After much rain, the river comes down with great force. It is said, that, in the place where a barley mill now stands, a fulling mill was entirely swept away by a flood. There are about 52 ploughs in this parish; many of them are drawn by oxen; but the number of such ploughs is gradually diminishing. There is only 1 two-wheeled chaise. A very small hill stands near Damhead, between the new road to Kinross and the water of Farg, which is called Gallow-Hill, where it is said stood a gallows, upon which persons belonging to the barony of Balvaird were executed during the feudal system. On the south of East Fordel house there is a piece of ground named the

Captain-Ward, 'because there, it is alleged, Oliver Cromwell pitched his camp, and lodged in the house of Fordell. The highway between Perth and Queensferry passes through this parish. Many of the roads are in a state of nature. The inhabitants highly approve of turnpikes: Some pay the statute-labour half in kind and half in money. There are 3 counties which meet in this parish; the county of Fife to the east, divided by the river Farg from the county of Perth to the west and north-west, and the county of Kinross, which borders with both these counties, to the south. The real rent is not known, as the lands are generally occupied by the proprietors. The valued rent of the parish is L. 2600 Scots. A house and yard are let at about 10 s. There are at present several uninhabited houses. There are 123 inhabited.

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## NUMBER XLIII.

## PARISH OF DUNNICHEN.

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*Situation, Extent, and Name.*

**T**HIS parish is situated in the county of Forfar. It is 15 miles to the north-east of Dundee, 9 north-west of Arbroath, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  south-east from Forfar. It is bounded on the east by the parish of Forfar; on the north by Recobie; on the south by Carmislie; and on the south and east by the parishes of Kirkden and Recobie. It contains about 3200 Scots acres. It takes its name from the largest hill in the parish. *Dun*, a Gaelic word, is invariably applied in Scotland to hills on which some castle, or place of strength, has stood; *Ichen* is unknown, but probably a proper name. On the south side of the hill is an eminence, now called Cashells, or Castle-hill, with visible remains of the foundation of some antient building. The only other hill in this parish is called Dumbarrow, probably from having been the burial place of some person of eminence. A rock on its north side is still called Arthur's Seat. This hill is not so high as that of Dunnichen. The hill of Dunnichen was lately measured with great geometrical accuracy. The mill stream of Muirton fulling mill, at the base of the hill, is 200 feet above low water mark in the harbour of Arbroath; and the height from  
that

that stream to the highest part of the road over the hill is  $443\frac{4}{5}$  feet, above which the highest summit of the hill may rise about 80 or 100 feet; so that the height of the hill is about 700, or 720 feet above the level of the sea. The hill of Dunnichen runs about 3 miles, in a south-east direction; its summit forming the northern boundary of the parish. The parish extends, from east to west, about 4 miles, and from south to north, in one place, about 3 miles, narrowing a little to the eastward.

*Division of Property, and Description of Soil and Surface.—*

This parish consists of three estates :

	Acres.
Dunnichen, containing . . . . .	1800
Dunbarrow . . . . .	600
Tullows, conjectured . . . . .	800
	<hr/>
Total	3200

The soil, in general, is fertile, producing wheat, flax, oats, and barley. The seasons are late, on account of its elevation. One field is now sown with wheat near the summit of the hill of Dunnichen, and at least 500 feet above the level of the sea; no small proof of the possibility of extending agriculture successfully on the sides of the high hills of Scotland. Dunnichen, containing about 50 acres, is in the center of the parish. The mofs of it was drained about 30 years ago, and now affords a large supply of peats: In all probability it will furnish the neighbourhood with fuel for about 30 years longer, and may then be made a rich meadow. The rest of the fuel is coal, brought by land from the port of Arbroath; and a small supply from extensive fir plantations, about 30 years old.

*Rivers,*

*Rivers, &c.*—This parish contains no river nor lake. It is watered by one small brook, called Vinny, some say Finny, or Attle, which takes its rise in a neighbouring moss. It runs from west to east, along the south base of the hill of Dunnichen, and in its course turns one flax mill, and one mill for washing yarn. It joins Lunan water about 4 miles below. The burn of Craichy, which forms one of its sources, turns a corn mill. It contains some trout, much diminished of late in their number, by flax being steeped in and near its stream. A small brook runs out of the moss of Dunnichen, and falls into Vinny at the eastern extremity of the parish.

*Manufactures, Villages, and Fairs.*—Many weavers, principally of coarse linen, inhabit this parish. An attempt is now making to introduce the manufacture of coarse cottons. Dunnichen is itself a very small village, consisting of the houses of the proprietor, the manse, a public house, and the houses of a few mechanics and labourers, not exceeding 14 in all. To the eastward is the village of Drimmitormont, a very old village, inhabited by weavers, each of whom occupy six or eight acres of land. In the year 1788, a farm of 66 acres, called Letham, has been laid out by the proprietor of Dunnichen for a village. Streets have been marked out on a regular plan, and lots of any extent are let upon perpetual leases, at the rate of L. 2 an acre. It contains already about 20 families, and new houses are rising on it daily, the situation being favourable for such a plan, by having Vinny water on the south, the perennial brook of Dunnichen moss running through it, plenty of freestones on the farm itself, and thriving woods and a moss in its neighbourhood. Here a fair or market has lately begun to be held, once a fortnight, on Thursdays, for the sale of cloth, yarn, and flax; and L. 400 or L. 500 are some-



sometimes returned in one market-day. An old established fair is annually held at Dunnichen, on the 2d Wednesday of March, old style, called the fair of St Caufnan. It is a toy fair, at which neither horses, corn, nor cattle, are sold.

*Church and Stipend.*—The church is small and old. It was dedicated to St Caufnan. There are some doubts, even in the Popish kalendar, of the existence of this saint, although a large well near the church also bears his name; and the falls of snow, which generally happen in March all over Great Britain, is in this neighbourhood called St Caufnan's Flaw. The minister's stipend is about L. 70 a year, paid chiefly in oat-meal and barley, besides a glebe of 4 arable acres, and 2 acres of grass ground.

*School.*—There is a parish school here. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 8 : 6 : 0 yearly, with a house, school-house, and kitchen-garden. The present schoolmaster, by his assiduous application to the duties of his office, has raised a considerable school, having seldom fewer than 50 or 60 scholars, whom he teaches to read and write English, arithmetic, and Latin, when any of the children require that branch of education.

*State of the Poor, Parochial Funds, and Records.*—There may be about a dozen of poor and indigent persons belonging to this parish, principally reduced to poverty by old age or distempers. A sufficient fund for their maintenance arises from the voluntary contributions of the parishioners, collected on Sundays, and at the time of the sacrament. It amounts at present to about L. 20 Sterling a year, and is yearly increasing; and from it a reserve of L. 62 : 1 : 10 has been made as a provision for bad seasons. Of these poor people some  
receive

receive a quarterly, and some a weekly allowance, according as their necessities require. The fund is managed by the clergyman and kirk-session, who being intimately acquainted with the circumstances of every poor person in the parish, are enabled thereby to proportion the supply to their wants and exigencies.

This parish affords one, among perhaps many instances in Scotland, how safely the maintenance of the poor may be left to the humane and charitable disposition of the people, and how unnecessary it is to call in positive laws to their assistance; for, if such laws provide funds for maintaining the poor, they also provide poor for consuming the funds.

*Population.*—This parish has much increased in its population since the returns made to Dr Webster about 40 years ago, and it still continues on the increase. At the above mentioned period, it contained only 612 inhabitants; whereas it appears, from a survey made last year, that their number amounts to 872, whereof 75 belong to the anti-burgher meetings of Forfar and Dumbarrow. An abstract of the marriages, baptisms, and burials, for the last ten years, is subjoined.

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1781	19	10	14
1782	19	15	20
1783	29	9	12
1784	22	5	13
1785	25	12	30
1786	24	7	45
1787	29	10	14

Years.

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1788	22	4	18
1789	33	14	10
1790	25	3	14
	—	—	—
	237	89	190
	—	—	—
Yearly average	24	9	19

As the disproportion between the deaths of males and females appears somewhat extraordinary, it is inferred from the grave-digger's Report,

	Men.	Women.
1781	11	3
1782	18	2
1783	9	3
1784	11	2
1785	27	3
1786	40	5
1787	12	2
1788	18	0
1789	7	3
	—	—
	153	23

Disproportion nearly  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to one.

*Mode of Cultivation and Produce.*—This parish, like the rest of the country, has of late received considerable improvements in agriculture. About 30 years ago, the old system began to be altered. Leases, which formerly were few, and seldom granted for a longer term than 9 years, have lately been

been granted for 19 years, and the life of the tenant, and some for longer and more indefinite terms. On the principal estate in the parish called Dunnichen all servitudes were abolished, viz. thirlage to the mill and blacksmith's shops, carriages, and bonnage, a word of Gothic extraction, which means shearing corn. Money-rent was substituted in the place of oat-meal, barley, kane-fowls \*, yarn, and mill-swine. The farms were inclosed with fences of free-stone. Better houses and offices were built. The breed of cattle and horses was improved. Turnip, potatoes, kale, and clover and rye-grass, were planted and sown for winter provision. The distinction of out and infield was laid aside, and all the fields were cropt and cultivated in due rotation. But these improvements were much facilitated by means of a valuable manure which began to be used about that time in this and the neighbouring parishes, viz. shell marl, to which the late considerable increase of the value of the lands may in a great measure be ascribed. This valuable manure being found in greater plenty in this neighbourhood than any where else in the kingdom, or even perhaps in the known world, it may not be thought impertinent to describe it more particularly. About two miles north from Dunnichen, there are a chain of lochs which abound with marl, viz. the lochs of Fortar, Restineth, Recobie, and Balgavies. In these lochs, it lay long an inaccessible treasure, till, about forty-five years ago, Captain Strachan, proprietor of the loch of Balgavies, began to drag it, much in the same manner that ballast is dragged from the bed of the river Thames. This he performed with so much success, as not only amply to supply his own farms, but to have a surplus for his neighbours. His example was

\* Part of the rent was formerly paid in fowls, which were called kane.

soon followed on the other lochs; and, about 30 years ago, the late Earl of Strathmore, by means of a drain, lowered the surface of the water of the loch of Fortar, thereby opening a still more extensive supply of marl; and, in the year 1790, Mr Dempster of Dunnichen drained the loch and moss of Restineth, by which an inexhaustible mass of shell-marl has been made accessible. Marl is sold at 8 d. a boll, containing 8 solid feet; sixty bolls are commonly used for the first dressing of an acre of land. Its qualities are precisely the same with those of lime. Which of these manures is preferable, has been long a subject of frequent dispute among the farmers; but the chemical analysis of marl shews clearly that marl is in every respect the same with lime, and possesses the additional advantage of being found in a pulverised state, and requiring no calcination previous to laying it on the land. The similarity of the two has been still farther evinced by Mr Dempster having constructed a kiln on a plan suggested by Dr Black \* for calcining marl, which, after calcination, makes

\* The construction of the kiln, and method of calcining the marl, will appear from the following extract from a letter of Dr Black's to George Dempster, Esq; dated 28th November 1789.

“ There is no doubt but that such marl as you describe may be burned to very good lime, if the proper degree of heat can be applied to it. In a country where the only fuel is peat, I have no hopes of success with the Reverberatory. With such fuel, in such a furnace, it would be expensive beyond measure, and perhaps impracticable, to produce the necessary degree of heat. Neither is the experiment likely to succeed in a draw-kiln, in which so much dust and rubbish must be produced by the descent of the lime, and attrition of the masses against one another, that the passages for the air would be too much obstructed. But, in a kiln in which the masses of marl would be little disturbed, the operation might succeed very well. I would therefore prepare the marl as the harder kinds of peat are prepared in some places, by laying it, while soft, on a plot of  
grass,

makes a very strong cement. The calcination of marl will, it is hoped, prove an useful discovery in this neighbourhood, to which other lime must be fetched from the distance of 14 or 16 miles.

The improvements made in this parish have been principally confined to the estates of *Dunnichen* and *Dumbarrow*. *Dunnichen* paid, about 30 years ago, nearly L. 300 of yearly rent,

grafs, and forming it into a bed some inches thick ; this bed, while drying, may be a little compacted, by beating it with the flat of the spade or shovel, and, before it be quite dry, it may be cut into pieces of the size of peats. The best kiln for burning it should have nearly the shape of a draw-kiln, or should have a much deeper cylindrical cavity than the vulgar kilns in which lime is burnt ; it may be from 20 to 30 feet deep, and from 8 to 9 feet in diameter ; the top of it should be covered with a dome or arch, having an opening at top, 3 feet diameter, to let out the smoke, &c. and a door in the side of this dome for introducing the materials ; at the bottom, where the kiln is a little contracted, should be a grate 5 feet square, the bars of which being loose, might be drawn out occasionally. In charging this kiln, lay first 18 inches depth of peats over the whole grate, then throw in prepared marl and peats intermixed until the kiln is filled to the top, and at the top of all there should be some peats without any marl ; then shut up the door at the top of the kiln with stones and mud, and throw in the kindling at the vent of the dome. The fire will be slowly communicated from the top to the bottom, so as to char the whole peats, and to expel the remains of humidity from the masses of marl ; and this will be accompanied with very little consumption of the inflammable matter ; but, when the whole is charred, it will begin to burn with abundance of heat, first at the bottom, and gradually upwards, until all the peats are completely consumed. Then, by drawing the bars of the grate, the kiln may be drawn. I cannot say what proportion the peats should bear to the marl, but am of opinion that a very moderate proportion may be sufficient in the middle and upper parts of the kiln. To know whether the marl is thoroughly burnt, slake the lime with water when fresh drawn from the kiln, and try if the slaked lime will dissolve in aquafortis, or spirit of salt, without effervescence."

rent, in corn, money, and other articles, in kind. The farm-buildings were ruinous hovels; the ground was over-run with broom, and furz or whins, and many parts of the arable land were wet and boggy, and all without trees. It has, since that time, been drained and inclosed. Most of the mours, which make a fifth part of the estate, have been planted with thriving timber. The fences of many of the fields are surrounded with hedge-row trees. The land has been marled. The present rents may be fully treble the former. The arable ground now lets, when out of lease, from L. 1 to L. 1 : 10 : 0 per acre. The meanest cottager is now better lodged than the former principal tenants. Wheat grows well on several of the farms. There is no where better flax, turnips, potatoes, and artificial grasses. There are several different systems of cropping the ground. The rotation of the best land is oats, flax or fallow for wheat with dung, barley, and sown down with grass seeds, grass for the three or four following years. A second rotation is, two crops of oats, a crop of barley, a green crop, a crop of oats or barley, with dung, and sown down with grass-seeds, hay cut one year, and the grass pastured three or four. Ten bolls of wheat are raised on an acre, and sixteen stone of scutched flax \*. The inclosed fields are let for 40 or 50 s. an acre for pasture, and for L. 5 an acre for flax. Compost dunghills are in general use, with a certain proportion of marl, about 8 or 10 bolls to an acre, which is found to answer well; and it is generally now understood that, if fields are not over-cropt, they cannot be over-marled. It is difficult to ascertain accurately the increased produce of an acre, in consequence of the improved agriculture. But it is universally allowed that the farmers were poorer when the rent

of

\* A stone of flax is worth 12 s.

of their land was from 4 to 5 s. an acre, than now when they pay three or four times that sum.

*Minerals.*—Little search has been made for minerals in this parish. The most valuable is free or grit stone; it is easily quarried, and is found in every part of the hill of *Dunnichen*, and other parts of the parish, and is very fit for building houses and stone-fences. A few strata of whin-stones appear in some places, and a coarse iron-bar in the hill. No symptom of coal has as yet discovered itself any where in this county.

*Air and Climate.*—The air of this parish is supposed to be remarkably healthy, from the many old people in it; and the climate is nearly the same with that of all the eastern coast of the island. In the spring, and beginning of summer, easterly winds generally prevail after mid-day, attended with chilliness, and sometimes fogs, though in a less degree than nearer the coast of the German Ocean. The heaviest rains come in autumn and winter, from the south-east, attended by violent winds, which last sometimes two or three days, and occur twice or thrice in the year.

*Antiquities.*—There are only a few antient tumuli or barrows in the parish, which, when opened, are found to contain human bones, in rough stone coffins. Pots of a coarse earthen ware are also sometimes found in them. Neither coins nor arms have as yet been discovered in or near them, to assist our conjectures as to their date. In the moss of *Dunnichen* have been found very large roots of oak trees, and some horns of the red-deer, and also a stratum of coarse marl below the moss, and six feet under sand.



*High Roads.*—The late act obtained two years ago, for erecting turnpikes on the great roads, and for commuting into money the statute labour for improving the parochial roads, promises soon to effect a thorough reformation on the roads of this country. The commutation has nearly quadrupled the effective labour applicable to the roads, and this must be employed within the parish where it is levied. The proprietor of Dunnichen intrusts the application of the fund to the principal farmers in the parish, who are far from grudging to pay a tax from which they reap so much benefit. Many of the roads have, in the first year of the tax, been formed, and the dangerous parts amended. The sum levied in this parish is about L. 27 Sterling yearly, and that of the whole county exceeds L. 2000 a year. Turnpike roads, between Cupar of Angus, Forfar, Arbroath, Dundee, Cupar of Angus, and Meigle, and from Dundee to Montrose, are in great forwardness, and will probably be fully completed in the course of this and the next summer, in spite of some antient prejudices, by which their progress has been considerably retarded.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The small-pox frequently proving fatal to the children of the parish, Dr John Adam of Forfar has attended some days this spring for inoculating all the children of the parish *gratis*. But, although this measure was publicly recommended in church by the minister, and privately by the whole kirk-session, yet, so strongly do the antient prejudices prevail against this mode of communicating the distemper, that only nine or ten children have been inoculated. They have all recovered; and it is hoped that inoculation will soon become general in the parish, from the success with which this first experiment has been attended.

Although the granting of leases for nineteen years, at least, is now become universal, yet there prevails a considerable diversity of opinion among proprietors of land as to the expediency of including the life of the farmers in their leases. Some advantages, however, seem to give a decided preference to this last sort of lease. The tenant knows he is settled for life, and is therefore afraid to over-crop his land, lest he should thereby injure himself. Many law-suits are thereby avoided on this subject. The tenant is also supposed to be more attentive to the repairs of his buildings and fences; and he certainly requires a much less vigilant inspection on the part of the proprietor, or his factor.

In order to protect the newly planted trees round the farmer's inclosed fields, the proprietor of *Dunnichen* has given the heirs of the tenants a right to one third part of them, at the expiration of the lease; and he engages not to prosecute the tenants for any accidental damage the trees may suffer from cattle, or otherwise. The tenants on this estate consider the trees as a part of their own property, and are at pains to protect them from injury, and to have other trees planted in the room of such as have suffered. A sensible warmth is derived to the fields from such of these fence-rows as have been planted fifteen or twenty years ago.

It is apprehended, until farms are transmitted from father to son, like an inheritance, as is much the case in England, agriculture will not attain all the perfection of which it is capable. *Veteres migrate coloni*, is an odious mandate, marking bad times for the country. When leases are granted for the tenant's life, he has a chance of getting his son's life added to his own, by paying a moderate fine to the proprietor.

When

When the estate was begun to be improved, many of the tenants were unable and averse to the modern system. These were generally left in possession of their houses, with a small portion of land, on a lease for their own life and that of their wives. The remainder of the ground was laid out into new farms, and let to more enterprising tenants.

It may not be improper to explain the meaning of some words used in this account, which, though well understood at present, will require to be explained to after generations, full as much as the most barbarous customs of our ruder ancestors require to be explained to us.

*Thirlage* \*.—When the proprietor of a barony or estate builds a corn-mill on it, he obliges all his tenants to employ that mill, and no other, and to pay sometimes nearly double what the corn might be ground for at another mill. As this servitude tends to make millers careless and fauky, it will without doubt soon be universally abolished.

*Smiddy or Smith's Shop*.—Formerly one blacksmith, who was also a farrier, was only allowed to exercise his business on a barony or estate. He had the exclusive privilege of doing all the blacksmith and farrier work. For this he paid a small rent to the proprietor, and every tenant paid him a certain quantity of corn. About thirty years ago, a person of this description had this sole right on the barony of Dunninghien, for which he paid L. 1 yearly.

*Services*.—These are of various kinds. On some estates, the

\* Some of these customs have been briefly explained in different notes in various parts of this volume.

the tenants are bound to dig, to dry, and to fetch home and build up, as much peat as is necessary for the proprietor's fuel through the year. In this manner the tenants are employed during most part of the summer. It prevents them from fallowing and cleaning their grounds, fetching manures from a distance, sowing turnip, &c. On other estates, it is the duty of the tenants to carry out and spread the dung for manuring the proprietor's land in the seed time, which frequently interferes with his own work of the same kind. It is also the duty of the tenants to fetch from the neighbouring sea-ports all the coal wanted for the proprietor's use. The tenants are also bound to go a certain number of errands, sometimes with their carts and horses, and sometimes a-foot, a certain number of long errands, and a certain number of short ones, are required to be performed. A long errand is what requires more than one day. This is called *carriage*. Tenants are also expected to work at any of the proprietor's work a certain number of days in the year. In some places, this obligation, it is said, extends to 52 days, or a day in the week.

*Bonnage*—is an obligation, on the part of the tenant, to cut down the proprietor's corn. This duty he must perform when called on. It sometimes happens, that, by cutting down the proprietor's crop, he loses the opportunity of cutting down his own.

This whole catalogue of customs is so adverse to agriculture, and to the true interests of the proprietor, that, in a short time, their very names will probably be obsolete, and the nature of them forgotten.

The following plan of a navigable canal, not indeed within

the bounds of the parish, yet, being connected with it, ought to be mentioned. In the year 1788, Mr Whitworth the engineer was employed to take a survey of the country, for the purpose of bringing a navigable canal from the port of Arbroath to Forfar. That gentleman made out an accurate plan of this canal, which he reported to be highly practicable. It required 25 locks to conduct it from Muirton Fulling Mill to Arbroath; the distance 13 miles 1 furlong and 2 chains; the perpendicular height above low water-mark 196 feet. The expence he computed at L. 17,788 : 17 : 8. As there is no reason to believe the trade on this canal would at present defray this expence, the plan is laid aside, and the surveyor's Report is deposited in the town-clerk's offices in Forfar and Arbroath. This useful work will probably be resumed again when the country shall have attained more wealth, and further improvements. It would serve to convey coal, lime, and wood, into the center of a very populous country destitute of these articles.

NUM.

NUMBER XLIV.

PARISH OF CARMYLIE.

By the Rev. Mr PATRICK BRYCE.

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*Origin of the Name.*

THE parish of Carmylie furnishes very little scope for statistical inquiry. The origin of the name cannot now be ascertained. In some antient records of the presbytery it is called Carmylie, probably from the high grounds which compose the greatest part of it: But this is merely conjectural. Previous to the period of the Reformation, the church was a chapel, built by the heritor of the estate of Carmylie, where the Monks from the Abbey of Aberbrothock, in its vicinity, performed divine service, according to the rites of the Church of Rome, in their courses. It was erected into a parochial charge, after the Reformation, by the Lords Commissioners for Plantation of Kirks.

*Situation, Extent, and Productions.*—The parish is situated in the county of Forfar, presbytery of Aberbrothock, and synod of Angus and Mearns. It is of an oblong form; surrounded by the parishes of Panbride, Guthrie, Monikie, Kirkden, Dunnichen, Inverkillor, St Vigians, and Arberlot. It is about 3 miles long, from east to west, and about 4 miles broad. It may be called a hilly and mountainous tract of ground,

ground, when compared with the conterminous parishes. The land is wet and spongy, and was thought, some years ago, to be better adapted for pasture than for grain. About 20 years ago, there were many farms in the parish occupied by farmers in the neighbourhood, who used them for grazing their cattle in the summer; but, ever since that time, the proprietors have obliged the tenants to reside on them; who, by driving lime and marl to their respective farms, and by draining their lands by sunk fences, &c. have greatly meliorated the ground, and for several years have raised heavy crops; which, though they were not equal in quality, yet, in quantity, were not inferior to those produced on the grounds in the neighbourhood, that have been long in a proper state of cultivation. On a very moderate computation, there is four times the quantity of grain, especially of barley, raised in this parish than there was 20 years ago.

*Rent.*—The land rent is supposed to be about L. 1000 Sterling. It has risen about a third within these last 20 years. There are only 3 heritors in the parish, none of whom reside in it.

*Church and Stipend, &c.*—The walls of the church were repaired about 40 years ago, and a new roof was thrown over it last summer. It is decently fitted up within for the accommodation of the congregation, who are a sober and industrious people, and regular in their attendance on divine ordinances. The stipend amounts to about 400 merks Scots in money, and a little more than 5 chalders of victual. The manse was built about 18 years ago. There are very good funds for the poor; and they are liberally provided for without any assessment on the heritors.

*Population.*

*Population.*—The population of the parish, as returned to Dr Webster about 40 years ago, was 730 souls. It has since rather decreased. Some mechanics, especially weavers, have removed to the trading boroughs of Dundee and Aberbrothock, where they meet with good encouragement from the manufacturing companies in these towns. Its inhabitants may now amount to about 700. The number of burials do not exceed 15 or 18 yearly. The births are from 20 to 24 annually. There are very few dissenters in the parish; not exceeding 20. There is only 1 brewer; 4 persons retail ale.

*School.*—There is a parochial schoolmaster here. His salary is 100 merks Scots; a house, but no garden. The perquisites belonging to him are very inconsiderable. His whole income does not exceed L. 20 Sterling. He has about 50 scholars in winter, and 30 in summer. Much praise is due to the people for promoting and encouraging the education of the youth of both sexes. They have subscribed a certain sum for building a school-house; and are determined to give every support in their power to the person who is to have the charge of instructing the girls in the different branches of needlework.

*Birds, &c.*—The dotterels, birds of passage, alight on the rising grounds about the beginning of April, continue here about three weeks, remove to the Grampian Hills, about 12 miles to the northward, and revisit this parish about the beginning of August: After abiding here about three weeks, they fly off to the southward, and are not seen till the 1st of April following. There are quarries of grey slate and pavement stones here, which have been wrought for some centuries. They supply the neighbourhood, and are exported to Fife, Perthshire, the Mearns, &c.



## NUMBER XLV.

## PARISH OF PANBRIDE.

*By the Rev. Mr ROBERT TRAIL.**Name, Situation, Extent, and Surface.*

**T**HERE is reason to believe that this parish was called Panbridge about 200 years ago, and that it was an abbreviation of Panbridget; the church here, which is very old, being built by St Bridget, or at least in honour of her. An inscription has been seen on an old grave stone, mentioning that it was erected in memory of such a person of the parish of Panbridge. *Pan* is probably a corruption of the Latin word *fanum*; if so, Panbride signifies Bridget's church. This parish is situated in the county of Forfar, in the synod of Angus and Mearns, and in the presbytery of Aberbrothock. It is more than 5 miles long, and about 2 broad. It is bounded by the sea on the south; by the parishes of Barrie and Monikie on the west; by Carmylie on the north; by Arbirlote on the north-east; and a detached part of St Vigians on the south-east. The general appearance of the country here is rather flat than hilly; but there is a considerable declivity for some miles from the north to the south end of this parish. The shore is flat, and very rocky.

*Population.*

<i>Population.</i> —Dr Webster's state . . . . .	1259
In 1765, the number of inhabitants was exactly	1183
In 1790 . . . . .	1460
Annual average of baptisms from 1762 till 1790 . . . . .	39
————— of burials from 1767 till 1790 . . . . .	27
————— of marriages . . . . .	10
Seceders . . . . .	20
Episcopalians . . . . .	4
Independants . . . . .	2
Heritors . . . . .	1

The number of baptisms in 1790 was 55, which is 4 more than was ever known here before.

*Poor.*—The number of poor varies from 8 to 10: They are all maintained in their own houses; and there is not a beggar in the parish. But, besides the ordinary poor, there is a considerable number of householders in indigent circumstances, each of whom get a boll of coals from the session yearly. The funds bearing interest do not much exceed L. 100; but a considerable sum arises from the mortcloth and hearse fees. The weekly collections in church are from 5 s. to 7 s. or 8 s.

*Stipend.*—The stipend is  $\frac{1}{2}$  chalders of wheat, 3 chalders of oatmeal, 2 chalders of barley, and L. 30 : 5 : 6 Sterling; in which sum is included L. 5 for communion elements. The glebe consists of 4 acres, 1 rood, and some falls, of very good land. The King is patron.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is one mineral spring of the chalybeate kind, but it is not much frequented. There is plenty of sea-weed along the coast for manuring land; but it has rarely been made into kelp. Haddocks, cod, &c. were wont

wont to be caught here ; but for some years past scarcely any haddocks have been seen. Every crew pays 5 merks for the privilege of fishing. The price of provisions and labour is greatly increased. About 27 years ago, beef was 2 d. a pound ; it is now 3½ d. and 4 d. A fowl, which could then have been bought for 5 d. is now 9 d. or 10 d. The parish exports articles of provision. A taylor's wages is 6 d. a day and his meat ; a carpenter's 8 d. and his meat. Some labourers get 6 d. and others 8 d. and their meat. The English is the only language spoken here. Exclusive of the large inclosures of Panmaure, the yearly rent of the parish exceeds L. 1000. Hector Boece's ancestors, for several generations, were lairds of Panbride. A short history of the county of Angus, written in elegant Latin by a Mr Edward, minister of Murroes, in the presbytery of Dundee, containing both a geographical description of it, and an account of every family of note, was published in 1678.

N U M-

NUMBER XLVI.

PARISH OF LUNAN.

By the Rev. Mr GOWANS.

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*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**L**UNAN, antiently Lounan, or Inverlounan, is so called from a river of that name, near the mouth of which the church stands. The source of the river is a quagmire, at a small village called Lunan-head, in the neighbourhood of Forfar; the Gaelic word *Laonon* signifying boggy or marshy ground. Lunan is situated in the county of Forfar, presbytery of Aberbrothock, and synod of Angus and Mearns. It is nearly a rectangle, about 2 miles long, and 1 broad, being one of the smallest parishes in the county. It is bounded on the north by Marytown and Craig; on the west by Kinnell; on the south by Lunan water, which divides it from Inverkeillor; and on the east by the German Ocean. The extent of sea-coast is about a mile, being a portion of Lunan Bay, famous as a place of safety for ships in all hard gales, except those from the east. The shore is sandy, and bounded with hillocks overgrown with bent; but the adjoining land is for the most part steep and high. The ground rises so rapidly from the river towards the north, that, when viewed from the south, the parish has the appearance of being situated on the side of a hill; but, at the top, it becomes again flat, and con-

tinues so to the distance of several miles beyond the parish. The situation is at once pleasant, and advantageous for agriculture. The higher ground commands an extensive view of the country around, and of the German Ocean; and the sloping ground answers well for draining, which in many places is much wanted; for the land abounds with bogs and springs, or what husbandmen call *spouts*. The greatest part of the parish stands on rock of moor-stone, commonly called *scurdy*: It is of a dark blue colour, and of so close a texture that water cannot penetrate it; and the surface of the ground, especially during the winter months, is consequently very loose and wet. This rock is the only stone found in the parish fit for building. It is quarried by blasting with gunpowder, by which it is broke into such irregular pieces, that, unless the masons be at uncommon pains, walls built of it are not water tight.

*Soil, Produce, Rent, &c.*—The soil of the higher part of the parish is frequently shallow; but of the lower, deep and rich, except a little on the sea-shore, which is sandy. The land is on the whole fertile, and produces grain of the best quality. The rent of the arable land is at present from 9s. to 15s. Sterling an acre, but will probably be raised at the expiration of the present leases, some of which are not long. No value is put on waste or pasture ground. The valued rent of the parish is L. 1550 Scots; the real rent about L. 525 Sterling.

There are eight farms in the parish, very different in size and rent; and this number has been the same beyond the memory of man. Six of these farms, called the Barony of Lunan, measuring 790 acres, including 196 acres of moor, common to them all, belong to the Earl of Northesk. Arlukie,

lukie, measuring 400 acres, including 180 acres of moor, or coarse pasture, belongs to Robert Stephen, Esq; of Letham. Lunan, measuring 215 acres, including 62 acres of moor and waste ground, belongs to Alexander Taylor Imray of Lunan. The whole parish, accordingly, when the glebe is taken into the account, consists of 973 acres arable, and 438 waste land. Of these, 40 acres annually bear wheat, 187 barley, 270 oats, 45 turnip or cabbage, 10 potatoes or yams, 16 flax, 40 pease, 324 sown grass, and 40 lie fallow. Some tenants have made attempts to inclose part of their farms with fences of earth topped with furze; but few of them are so complete as to answer the purposes of a fence. The farmers appear fully sensible of the advantages of inclosures; and most of them in the neighbourhood have begun to inclose with stone-walls; a practice which would be generally adopted, were it not for the difficulty in some places of getting stones, and the shortness of many leases. The parish does much more than supply itself with provisions; more than one half of the produce being annually carried to market, to which there is easy access by the high road. This road, and the bridges on it, were chiefly made, and have been hitherto wholly kept in repair, by the statute labour, which was sometimes exacted in kind, and sometimes commuted; but, by an act of parliament passed 1790, it was made turnpike, which farmers at present consider as a very great grievance. The season for sowing wheat is October; oats from the middle of March to the middle of April; barley in May; and turnip in June. Hay and harvest time generally continue from July to September. There are in the parish 250 black cattle, 62 horses, 21 carts, and 16 ploughs, drawn usually by 4 horses or 4 oxen, except in the seed time, when 2 horses only are used; and then the number of ploughs are about a third more.

*Prices*

*Price of Provisions, Labour, Servants Wages, &c.*—Provisions have risen in price since the commencement of the present century at least two-thirds, and in some instances more. Butcher meat is at present from 3 d. to 4 d. a pound; chickens 3 d. a piece; hens and ducks 1 s.; butter 9 d. and cheese 3 d. a pound. The wages of a mason are 1 s. 8 d. a day; of a carpenter 1 s. 4 d.; of a taylor 1 s.; or 6 d. with victuals; of a day labourer in husbandry 1 s. The wages for harvest-work of a man are from L. 1 : 5 : 0 to L. 1 : 10 : 0; of a woman from 18 s. to 20 s. The yearly wages of a male servant are from L. 6 to L. 8; of a female servant L. 3. Servants wages are nearly trippled within these last 50 years. Farmers prefer men servants who are unmarried to cottagers, chiefly because they are always at hand, while the cottagers go to their own houses after the stated hours of labour. Cottagers, however, are preferred for harvest-work, as they do not require lodging, which it would be difficult to find for so many as are wanted at that season. When a cottager is employed through the whole year, which is done in a few instances, he is allowed a house and yard, with about L. 6 of wages. Some eat in the farmer's house; and others are allowed, in name of maintenance, 6½ bolls, or 52 stons of oat-meal, with pasture for a cow; but, in the latter case, the wages seldom exceed L. 5, or L. 5 : 10 : 0 at most. By the wages he receives, with the produce of his wife's industry, arising chiefly from spinning, he is enabled to live pretty comfortably, to bring up three or four children, and to give them an education suitable to their station. It is evident, indeed, that doing this with an income of about L. 10 must require good economy; but, unless it be wanting, there are no cottagers in straitened circumstances. Their ordinary food consists of meal, partly of oats, partly of barley, potatoes, and milk. A family of few persons, viz. a wife and four children,

children, the husband eating at his master's table, will consume 6 bolls of oat-meal, value L. 4; 4 bolls of barley-meal, value L. 1 : 16 : 0; and 3 bolls of potatoes, value 10 s. 6 d. There remains about L. 3 : 15 : 0, which is generally found adequate to all the other necessaries of such a family.

*Population.*—From comparing the present number of inhabited houses and of baptisms, with those of any particular period of the present century, it does not appear that the parish has suffered any material alteration in population. If there be any difference at all, it seems rather to have increased in a small degree. The present amount of its population is 291; of these 136 are females, and 155 males; among whom are 46 married or widowers, and 26 marriageable bachelors. There are 46 souls under 10 years of age, 74 from 10 to 20, 114 from 20 to 50, 51 from 50 to 70; and 6 from 70 to 100. The annual average of births, for 50 years backwards, is about 9, being in proportion to the whole population as 1 to 32, of marriages 3, and of deaths 4. A farmer's family, at an average, consists of 10 persons. There are in the parish 13 weavers, 1 carpenter, 1 blacksmith, 1 shoemaker, and 4 apprentices. The number of servants in the parish is 68; of people born in other parishes there are 176; and it is remarkable that there is but 1 farmer, and a very few other householders, who were born and now reside in the parish. The number of children for each marriage is, at an average, about 4. All the inhabitants, except one female servant, who has only a temporary residence in the parish, are of the established church.

*Church.*—The value of the minister's living, including the glebe, at a moderate conversion of what is paid in victual, is about 88 guineas. The patronage of the parish belonged to the  
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the Earl of Panmure, and fell to the crown by forfeiture in 1715; but the representative of that family is still titular of the teinds. From that period, to 1781, the right of presenting to the church lay dormant, government being either ignorant of the forfeiture, or not careful enough to claim the patronage. The present incumbent, who is married, was admitted minister of Lunan in April 1790. Mr Walter Mill, or, as he is called by some historians, Sir Walter Mill, a Popish priest, held the office of pastor of Lunan 20 years; but, afterwards embracing the doctrines of the Reformed, he was forced to abandon his charge. He was apprehended in the town of Dysart by order of Cardinal Beaton, carried to St Andrew's, tried, condemned, and burnt, at the age of 82, in April 1558. One of the ministers, Mr Alexander Pedie, who died in 1713, bequeathed some plate for the Lord's Supper in the church of Lunan, on this singular condition, that any Episcopal congregation within seven miles of Lunan requiring them should have the use of them for that purpose. There is a marble monument erected in the church to his memory, for upholding which his widow bequeathed an annuity of L. 4 Scotch, payable to the kirk-session. The church is an old edifice, repaired in 1773. The manse and offices were built in 1783, and stand nearly a mile north of the church.

*Poor.*—The poor in the parish of Lunan have been always well supplied. They have never been numerous, which has occasioned the funds to be uncommonly large. Besides the weekly collections, there is a capital of L. 500, for the maintenance of the poor, and other purposes to which parish funds are usually applied. The number on the poor's roll has been generally from four to six; but, from 1783 to 1790, there were eight; and consequently, during that period, the  
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disbursements of the session were much about equal to the whole income. The dearth, at the commencement of that period, was certainly the cause of the additional number; for they are again reduced to six, who receive from 3s. to 4s. 6d. a month, with a small sum annually for purchasing fuel. As no heritor, nor any person of superior rank, resides in the parish, and the congregation is small, the weekly collections, which are only from one to two shillings, would not be nearly adequate to the wants of the poor, were it not for the annual rent arising from the accumulated stock. The origin of this capital appears to have been legacies left long ago for the behoof of the poor.

*School.*—David Jameson, formerly a farmer in the parish, left 2000 merks Scots, half of the interest of which was for the poor, and the other half was made payable to the schoolmaster for teaching six poor scholars. Till lately, this was all the schoolmaster enjoyed; but, by decret of the commissioners of supply, the heritors are now burdened with the payment of 200 merks Scots of yearly salary. This, with the salary, and usual emoluments belonging to the offices of session-clerk and precentor, and fees for teaching from 30 to 40 scholars, makes a living of about L. 25 Sterling.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The English, or that dialect of it peculiar to North Britain, is the only language used or known by the inhabitants of Lunan. Many places in the parish, it is probable, owe their names to their being situated in the neighbourhood of Redcastle, now a ruin, in the parish of Inverkeillor, and formerly a royal residence. Hence Courthill, where the courts of justice had been held; Hawkhill, where the King's falconer had resided; and Cothill, where the shepherd, it is likely, had his habitation and cots

for

for his flock. The names of some places are evidently derived from the Gaelic, as the name of the parish, and Dunbartnet (called also Drumbartnet) from Dun a hill, which is so named from being situated on an eminence. There is a salmon fishery at the mouth of the river, but it has been very unproductive for several years past, yielding nothing but trout, with which the river formerly abounded. They are now much destroyed by the steeping of flax, large quantities of which have of late years been raised in the district. It is not improbable but this operates also as a cause of the salmon having deserted the bay, where they were sometimes caught in great plenty. The fishery is annexed to the farm of Lunnan, and no particular rent specified for it. Besides the stated rent; tenants, in some instances, are bound to give their landlords, in the summer, one draught of their carts; their servants a day in the hay-harvest; and their reapers a day in autumn. The difficulty of getting people to hire at a time when all are busy, is the reason assigned for continuing to exact the two last. Tenants require like services of their subtenants; but they are always limited to a certain number of days, and seldom exceed three or four yearly. Tenants in general complain more of being obliged to grind their corn at some particular mill, and pay high stipulated miltures, a custom which prevails almost universally in North Britain, than of these trivial services, which are seldom exacted so rigorously as to make them distressing. The fuel commonly used in summer is turf, or broom, valued from 1 s. to 2 s. a cart load, of which there is plenty in the parish; and, in winter, coals, 70 stone of which, called a boll, cost 6 s. at Arbroath, where no duty is exacted.

N U M B E R XLVII.

PARISH OF AUCHTERDERRAN.

*By the Rev. Mr ANDREW MURRAY.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.*

**T**HE name of the parish, as well as many places in it, is said to be derived from the Gaelic. This parish is situated in the county of Fife, presbytery of Kirkcaldy, and synod of Fife. It is of an irregular form, about 4 miles long, and 3 broad. It is bounded by Auchtertool on the south, Abotshal on the south-east, Dyfart on the east and north, Kinglassie and Portmeak on the north, and Balingry on the west. A great part, if not the whole, of the fields are upon coal. Where the stratum connected with the coal comes near the surface, the ground is barren; and, even where this is not the case, it is not remarkably fertile. It is moist throughout. Part of the soil is clay, and part black earth. The valley in which this parish lies is bounded on the south and east by a ridge of ground, and on the west by a similar ridge. Though the height of the ground excludes the view of the Firth of Forth, yet the highest part of it, which can scarcely be called a hill, is under tillage. There are many little inequalities in the fields, so that they appear rather broken and disjointed. The same is the case with a great part of Fife. There are some rocks of a singular appearance. What strikes the eye

most is a number of detached pillars standing perpendicularly on the base of the rock, and separated both at the sides and behind from the general mass. They are of a regular figure, resembling the trunk of a large tree. The rising grounds are all green, but rather of a dusky tinge, as if the plant did not delight in its situation.

*Agriculture, &c.*—About a fifth of the ground in the parish is employed in raising corn, roots, &c. There is very little wheat. Oats, barley, and pease, are the common grains. Green crops of potatoes, turnips, and cabbages, are introduced; but, except potatoes, they are not in any great quantity. The sowing of oats is begun about the 1st of March, and finished about the 20th of April. The sowing of barley is begun about the 20th of April, and finished about the 20th of May. The harvest, in a good season, begins about the 1st of September, and ends about the middle of October. In a bad season, it continues till the beginning of November. The pasture, including sown grass, comprehends 4-fifths of the parish. There are 51 ploughs, 17 of which are drawn by horses only; and black cattle are used in the rest. Small's new plough is introduced here. There is generally a cart to every plough, and about 18 more employed in leading coal, &c. They are all two-horse carts. The best arable ground taken through a whole farm does not exceed 20 s. an acre when inclosed; and the same farm will let for as much on the same lease when in grass and pasture. The poorer farms are let at 8 or 10 s. an acre when inclosed. The rent of one-half of the farms is from L. 10 to L. 20. There are six whose rent at present is about L. 30 each, which, at the expiration of the old lease, will let at L. 100. Only five are let at L. 100 at present. The land-rent of the parish is about L. 2000 Sterling *per annum*. The number of farms rather diminishes, which is partly

partly owing to life-rents and feus. They are, in general, inclosed; and the ground is so much more suited to grass than corn, that the most of the remainder of the arable land will be soon converted into grass. The people and proprietors are sufficiently convinced of the benefits of inclosing. Inclosing has banished sheep from the neighbourhood; for sheep cannot be confined within the same inclosures as black cattle. On one large farm there are rows of hedges and strips of planting throughout, which is a complete fence; and this mode of inclosing adds to the beauty of the country; and the plantations thrive. But the cheapest, the most valuable, the most speedily raised, the most lasting, and most general fence, is the Galloway dike. The stones are either found on the surface, or got from quarries in the neighbourhood. A field of 10 acres may be inclosed for L. 20; and the money is generally repaid in additional rent in 4 years. Fallow is not so general as in a more advanced state of husbandry. Of late, the arable lands are scarcely ever left in grass without sowing artificial grasses in them. The farmers pay their rents chiefly by raising and feeding a great number of black cattle, by which the circumjacent markets of Dunfermline, Kinghorn, Dyfart, &c. are supplied. Agriculture has advanced greatly within these few years; and the face of the country begins to change rapidly. The rise of rents has contributed to the progress of agriculture, by promoting additional industry, and calling forth exertion. The rents are all paid in money, except a few poultry to the proprietors, and 50 bolls of grain to the minister. Winter provender is scarce and dear, owing to the number of cattle; but the farmers are beginning to provide stacks of hay from their fown fields, which will prove the best remedy for the evil. Good hay, at an average, sells from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d. to 4 d. a stone. The parish does more than supply itself with provisions. It exports particularly live-cattle,  
butter,

butter, cheese, and poultry. It imports rather more wheat bread than could be made of the wheat that grows in it. It raises oats nearly equal to the consumption of oat-meal. No remarkable hardship was suffered here from the season of 1782, although the harvest did not yield above 4 months provisions. The late Baron Stewart Moncrieff remitted rents to his tenants. The patron of the parish, with a well timed benevolence, directed the grain of the vacant stipend to be sold at a cheap rate among the poor. The corn is ground by water-mills; but the rude custom of thirlage still remains on some estates. Landed property in Fife changes more than in any other county in North Britain; and the land sold of late in this neighbourhood has generally been about 35 years purchase. Leases of farms are in general for 19 years.

*Roads.*—The roads hitherto made were done by statute-labour, but are very indifferent. The statute-labour is of late partly commuted; and turnpike roads are making. One of them is to pass through this parish, leaving the great road between Kirkcaldy and Cupar of Fife at the inn called the *Plasterers*. It takes a western direction, through the parishes of Leslie, Kinglassie, and Auchterderran, and lands the passengers on the Queensferry road at the kirk of Beathe. This line of road is already in use in the summer months; but a free communication through this inland district would be highly advantageous. The general opinion of the common people is not against turnpikes. This parish has hitherto been distinguished for bad roads, and is inaccessible on the north for 6 months in the year. Hence the farmers on the opposite side must sell their commodities at an under rate, being shut out from the coast towns.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants, according to Dr Webiter's state, is 1194; at present they are 1200.

Inhabited

Inhabited houses . . . . .	293
Established minister . . . . .	1
Burgher ditto . . . . .	1
In 1783 the families of the established church . . . . .	105
— Individuals belonging to it . . . . .	430
— Families of seceders, and other sectaries . . . . .	188
— Individuals belonging to them . . . . .	770
Heritors, besides feuers, (only one resides in the parish)	12
People in their families, including themselves . . . . .	322
Farmers . . . . .	47
Families of colliers nearly . . . . .	31
Cottagers houses built within these 10 years . . . . .	17
Houses become uninhabitable . . . . .	7

There is 1 village called Lochgellie, containing 342 people.

*Poor.*—There are no poor belonging to this parish that are vagrant. The poor are supplied in their usual residences. Pride prevents our poor common people from making themselves burdensome to the public, which in general they never do but from necessity. The number of poor in the monthly list at present is 22. There are about L. 600 left in legacies, &c. in the management of the session; the interest of which, with the collections, is applied to the support of the poor. Their situation is much better than that of the poor in many of the neighbouring parishes. The kirk-session give their services *gratis*, (as every where in Scotland), and are from their situation well qualified for pointing out the proper objects of charity. The weekly contributions for the poor does not exceed 2 s.

*Provisions and Labour* —There is no weekly market in the parish. Kirkcaldy is the chief market. Beef, the long weight,



weight, at an average, is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d. a pound ; a hen 1 s. ; a dozen eggs 4 d. A day-labourer not retained gets 1 s. a day. When promised work from one person, at one place, throughout the year, he gets 11 d ; but this is not general, and is thought the better bargain for the labourer. The average prices of artificers work differs according to their trade ; some get 1 s. 3 d. ; some 1 s. 6 d. some 1 s. 8 d. a day.

Annual earnings of a day-labourer, his wife, and three children ; deducting four weeks earnings of the man on account of holidays, bad health, attendance on funerals, &c. and excessive bad weather ; and four weeks earnings of the woman, on account of holidays, bad health, and lying-in.

To 48 weeks labour of a man at 1 s. a day	L. 14	8	•
To 48 weeks labour of a woman, in spinning, besides taking care of her house and children		3	12 •
To the earnings of 3 children at the age of six, seven, and eight years, nothing.			
	<hr/>		
	L. 18	0	0

Annual expence of a day-labourer, his wife, and three children.

By 2 pecks oat-meal a week, at $11\frac{1}{2}$ d. per peck	L. 4	19	8
By 2 pecks barley or pease-meal a week, at $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. a peck		3	5 0
By 6 bolls potatoes, at 5 s. a boll		1	10 0
By barley for kail, at 3 lb. a week		0	16 3
By a kail-yard, and a wretched house		0	13 0
			By

By milk, at 4 d. a week . . . . .	L. 0 17 4
By falt, cheefe, and butter . . . . .	0 12 6
By foap for washing clothes . . . . .	0 2 6
By coals in a year, with carriage . . . . .	1 0 0
By shoes to the whole family . . . . .	1 0 0
By body-clothes to the man . . . . .	1 10 0
By ditto to the woman and children . . . . .	1 5 0
By worsted thread for mendings . . . . .	0 7 0
	<hr/>
	L. 17 18 3

The preceding statement is favourable for earnings, from the number of children, which is rather small ; and particularly on account of the ages of the children, as at that period of their lives it is supposed in the calculation that the woman has it in her power to work half work at spinning, and yet take care of her house and children. The day-labourer of this district, and his family, are more decently clothed than a family of the same description in England, and therefore it is somewhat more particularly stated than in the Printed Extract accompanying the Queries. The fuel is also higher charged. They are obliged to use coals, a much finer fuel than that mentioned in the Extract, and, at the lowest, it amounts to the expence above mentioned ; but it serves them for light, as well as heat, in the winter season. The greatest evils of their situation arise from the lowness of their diet, and the wretchedness of their lodging, which is cold, dark, and dirty ; exposing them to a numerous class of diseases incident to such a condition. The meagre food of the labouring man, too, is unequal to oppose the effects of incessant hard labour upon his constitution, and, by this means, his frame is often worn down before the time of Nature's appointment.

That

That people continue to enter voluntarily upon such a hard situation, shows how far the union of the sexes, and the love of independence, are principles of human nature; and, from such causes, this situation is not thought, by the people themselves, to be wretched, nor without some share of comfort. Within these last twelve years, the wages of a man have risen from 8d. to 1s. without a proportional rise upon his expence. When this class of people have got such additional wages as will enable them to have better lodging, and to have that quantity of animal and other foods, which their labour and the climate require, they will then have nearly their share of human enjoyment. About the year 1755, the yearly wage of a domestic man-servant was L. 28 Scots, of a woman-servant L. 16 Scots. The wages of servants, when maintained by the employer, in different branches of husbandry, is now L. 3 sterling a year for a woman, and L. 6 a year for a man. The wages of domestic servants is the same. Work people are rather scarce, owing to the drain of wars, and the increasing industry of the country.

*General Character of the People.*—The inhabitants are very regular in their attendance on public worship. Formerly they were fond of long church services, and considered it as a point of duty to continue long in religious exercises. Perhaps the services, though shorter than before, are still too long for answering the ends of devotion and spiritual edification. The people are not illiterate. In common with the rest of Scotland, the vulgar are, for their station, literate, perhaps, beyond all other nations. Puritanic and abstruse divinity come in for a sufficient share in their little stock of books; and it is perhaps peculiar to them, as a people, that they endeavour to form opinions by reading, as well as by frequent conversation, on some very metaphysical points connected with religion,

gion, and on the deeper doctrines of Christianity. They likewise read, occasionally, a variety of other books unconnected with such subjects. The parochial schools are by no means supplied with such enlightened teachers as those that were formerly instrumental in diffusing this knowledge. No one of good education and ability now accepts of this reduced pittance, where the situation is not favourable for procuring lucrative scholars: And the village teacher, brought in by the subscription of needy people, is a still more unqualified person. In such cases, the people do not propose seeking out the best, but the cheapest. The consequence will be, that the poorer districts of the country, and the poor classes of the people, must become more ignorant. Although the parish consists wholly of the poorer ranks of society, newspapers are very generally read and attended to: The desire for them increases; and the reading of them seems to be attended with advantage. With regard to the intellectual character of the people: They are deficient in imagination, vivacity, humour, &c.; their apprehension and judgment are very good, and they make a decent figure in the common professions of life. With respect to their moral and religious character, they have all a profession of religion; but, in the points where their situation more immediately leads to temptation, they too frequently and even habitually contradict their profession. Their civil character is excellent: They seem in some degree capable of reflecting on the advantages of government; and they obey it peaceably, and on principle. They could, however, be easily stirred up to sedition in matters of religion. There is one Burgher meeting in this parish. The religious toleration granted seems to answer, in this district, the full ends of good government and public utility: It could hardly stand on a better footing. Secession now begins to diminish; and the

bitterness of contending sects is greatly subsiding : This partly proceeds from the novelty being over ; partly from the great variety of sects which have taken place ; and partly, it is hoped, from more enlightened views of true religion. As to holidays for recreation or merry-making, the people have only one in the year, called Handsel-Monday ; and even the manner in which this is employed shews the sober mindedness of the people. Instead of meeting in large assemblies for diversions, each family collects its own kindred from the different parts of the district, provides a feast, and spends the time in eating, drinking, and conversation. The holidays, besides Sabbaths, for religious services, in the Establishment, are three days in the year ; among the Seceders six. The people have scarcely any sports after they are grown up. Among the infinite advantages of the Reformation, this seems to have been one disadvantage attending it, that, owing to the gloomy rigour of some of the leading actors, mirth, sport, and cheerfulness, were decried among a people already by nature rather phlegmatic. Since that, mirth and vice have, in their apprehension, been confounded together. Some of the sectaries punish attendance on penny weddings, and public dancing, with a reproof from the pulpit, in the presence of the congregation : So that the people must either dance by themselves, or let it alone. This censure, in several congregations, is falling into disuse. There are a few persons, called *tinkers* and *horners*, half-resident, and half-itinerant, who are feared and suspected by the community. Two of them were banished within these six years. Strangers complain of the pronunciation in this district being drawling, and that it impresses them with a belief that the person speaking is sour and ill tempered. The inhabitants are improving in their mode of living and dress. Intemperance from spiritous liquors is by no means frequent among them ; but, unluckily,

luckily, the use of whisky is increasing, and that of beer diminishing. The blue bonnet, a national badge, is disappearing rapidly. The prevalent colour of the mens drefs is blue.

*Church, School, &c.*—For seven years past the stipend has, at an average, been L. 100, including the glebe, which is large, beside the house and garden. Claud Boswell, Esq; of Balmuto, is patron. A new manse was built in 1784, and a new church in 1789. The income of the schoolmaster may be about L. 10, independent of the scholars fees, which are from 1 s. 3 d. to 2 s. a quarter; the number of scholars from 50 to 60. There are, besides, two private schools: The scholars at both, taken together, may amount to 80.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The air is moist, but not unhealthy: Fogs are not frequent, nor of nearly so long continuance as in the southern parts of the island. There is a mineral well at the bottom of the rocks formerly mentioned, recorded in Camden's Britannia, and Gordon's Itinerarium, for its medicinal qualities; but it has not been resorted to for some time past. The lake called Lochgellie is 3 miles in circumference; that called Camilla about 2 miles. There is a common free-stone quarry for house-building, &c. There is peat in the parish, but it is little used for fuel. Coal is to be dug in every corner of the parish, and scarcely exceeds a farthing a stone at the pit mouth. There is likewise great abundance of lime-stone, which, when burnt and flaked, sells at 7d. a boll. The use of it in agriculture is increasing; but not so much here as in other places where the price is perhaps double or triple. Industry is increasing; and there are very convenient situations on which manufactures might be established. Several weavers living at Lochgellie, and neighbourhood, connect themselves with the manufactures of Kirkcaldy. There is a thriving

ving bleachfield here. The inhabitants have no predilection either for the army or the navy; but more of them go to the latter. They enjoy, in a tolerable degree, the comforts and advantages of society. The music here is between the quick sprightly music of the north, and the slow plaintive music of the south. A peculiar sourness of aspect is observed in the people here, and a seeming unwillingness to converse with, or shew expressions of good will to strangers.

There are 6 alehouses, or inns, chiefly supported by the trystes at Lochgellie, i. e. fairs or markets where no customs are exacted on the commodities sold; the chief of which is black cattle. The number of Lochgellie trystes is 5 in the year.

A collier earns, or can earn, about 10 s. a week. The coal-works just now working in this parish draw for coals L. 1700 a year; L. 500 of which is for coal exported, the rest for the consumption of the neighbourhood. Private families here never brew their own beer; but private baking is still in use. There are but 2 public bake-houses in the parish.

The advantages and disadvantages of employing unmarried hired servants, or married cottagers, are, to the immediate employers, pretty nearly balanced: A mixture of each, where the farm is large, is most convenient. The preference beginning to be shewn for married cottagers is far more beneficial in its consequences. The best servants for husbandry are raised from these cottagers families; otherwise they become scarce, dear, and unskilful.

This neighbourhood and county were long distinguished for excellent pigeons and well stocked pigeon-houses, but  
which,

which, of late, have been falling off. It has been doubted whether our law authorising pigeon-houses is not, in some degree, contrary to natural equity; as it does not seem reasonable that any one should keep a house furnished with a multitude of animals, over which he has no government, and which prey on his neighbour's corn as freely as on his own, while he alone has the profit. It has also been doubted, whether, on the whole, pigeons are not detrimental to the public, by devouring more corn than the profit of them is worth; it having been stated as a fact, that a pigeon-house of an ordinary size, moderately stocked, will consume 200 quarters of feed in a year.

As an instance of remarkable industry, it may be mentioned, that a young man of this parish went into the north of England as a labourer, and laid by, out of his earnings, in the course of somewhat more than 20 years, L. 400 Sterling. He then returned to his native parish, purchased and furnished a pretty extensive feu, upon which he has lived with his family 28 years.

NUM-



## NUMBER XLVIII.

## PARISH OF KINLOSS.

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN HOYES.*

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

THE antient and modern name of this parish is Kinloss, derived from *Kain*, a Head, and *Loch*; i. e. the Head of the Loch; Kinloss being situated on the head of the Bay of Findhorn. This parish is in the shire of Elgin and Forres; in the presbytery of Forres, and synod of Moray. It is of a square form, being between three and four miles long and broad. It is bounded on the east by the parish of Alves; on the south and south-west by Rafford and Forres; and on the north by the Moray Firth. It is a very flat level country. The soil is various; in some places light and sandy; in others a rich and deep clay, moss, and loam, make up a considerable part of the soil; and all of it, when well managed, produces good crops of grain of every kind. This parish, being flat, is but poorly supplied with good water; and most of the springs taste of minerals. The shore is flat and sandy. The fish caught here are mostly haddocks and whittings, and, in the season, cod, skate, and ling, which are all sold in the country, and at Forres, at about 1 d. or 1½ d. a pound.

*Climate*

*Climate and Distempers.*—The air is sharp, dry, and healthy. The most prevalent distempers are cutaneous diseases, scurvy, and rheumatism; owing, perhaps, to hard labour, the sharpness of the air, a spare or fish diet, and want of cleanliness.

*Population.*—The amount of the inhabitants of this parish is 234 families, which contain 1031 persons, being nearly  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to each family. There are 4 heritors, 40 farmers, 56 fishermen and failors, 9 shoemakers, 6 weavers, 6 carpenters and wrights, 2 taylors, 2 smiths, 2 millers, 2 masons, 2 coopers, 1 merchant, 1 brewer, 1 thread manufacturer, 10 day labourers, and 6 traveling beggars. Dr Webster's state of the inhabitants is 1191. The annual average of births from 1700 to 1720, is 25 males and 21 females; from the beginning of the year 1779 to the beginning of 1789, is 29. In this last period were born 147 males, and 145 females. The decrease of population is owing to the spirit of traveling, and the engrossing of farms.

*Church and Stipend.*—The manse was built in 1751; the church in 1765. The value of the living is uncertain; a process of augmentation having been carried on since the year 1781. The patrons are Lord Moray and Miss Brodie of Lethen.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are no rivers in this parish but the Findhorn, which runs south and west, and falls into the Moray Firth at the town of Findhorn. This river abounds with salmon, which, in the spring, and beginning of summer, are boiled at Findhorn, and kitted and sent to the London market. Fresh salmon is sold here at 4 d. a pound.

The

The only harbour in this parish is Findhorn, which has a bar that is continually changing, and prevents ships of great burden from entering; so that the trade is carried on in small merchant vessels, or floops. The imports are merchant goods, sugar, wine, porter, bark, &c. The exports, oats and barley, salmon, linen yarn, &c.

NUM-

## NUMBER XLIX.

## PARISH OF OATHLAW.

*By the Rev. Mr THOMAS RAIKER.*

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*Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE antient name of this parish seems to have been Finhaven. It is situated in the county of Angus, presbytery of Forfar, and synod of Angus and Mearns. It is 5 miles long, and about 2 broad. It is bounded by the parish of Tannadie on the north; Aberlemno and Rescobie on the south; Carraldstone on the east; and Karriemuir on the west. The general appearance of the country is flat. The air is moist.

*Hills.*—The hill of Finhaven lies on the south side of the parish, in a direction from east to west, for the space of 10 miles. On the top of this hill are the remains of an old castle: The foundation of the whole of it is yet visible. Its dimensions are 137 yards in length, and 37 in breadth, nearly in the form of a parallelogram. The foundation seems to have been built without mortar. The ruins discover something like vitriable stones, and plainly appear to have undergone the action of fire. It is said that the family of Finhaven were wont to retire to this castle in times of danger. There are evident marks of a well on the west end of it. The height of the



Families consisting of	1 person	1
	2	1
	3	4
	4	3
	5	3
	6	3
	7	1
	8	6
	9	1
	10	1
	11	2
	13	3
	15	1
	17	2
	18	1
	19	1
	21	1
	23	1
	28	1
	33	1
	44	1

Land rent of the parish about L. 1178 Sterling.

Ploughs	34
Carts about	70

*Poor.*—The number of the poor of this parish is, at an average, two. The annual amount of the contributions for their relief is about L. 15 : 16 : 8 Sterling. The number relieved at present is from two to four. The elders of the kirk-session, in the different parts of the parish, give information concerning the state of the poor. In 1782, the kirk-session purchased a small quantity of corn, made it into meal, and divided it among poor families,

*Price*

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—The increase of labourers wages in husbandry, since the year 1740, has been very great. For 20 years after that period, their wages were from L. 2 to L. 3 a year; at present they are from L. 5 to L. 10 a year, and maintained, as formerly, in the family. Women servants wages, during the period already mentioned, were L. 1 : 10 : 0; they are now from L. 3 to L. 4. Day labourers, at the same period, got 2½ d.; at present they get from 8 d. to 10 d. exclusive of victuals. Harvest wages for the season are from L. 1 to L. 1 : 10 : 0; by the day 1 s. and victuals. Oatmeal is the principal food of the labouring people. The price of it, from 1740 to 1760, was about 8 s. and 10 s. 6 d. a boll; at present, and for some years past, it has been from 12 s. to 14 s. The general mode of living was much the same at both periods. Butter is from 6 d. to 9 d. a pound. Cheese from 5 s. to 6 s. a stone.

*Stipend.*—The money stipend is L. 500 Scots; and there are 2 chalders of victual. The manse, offices, and garden, are estimated at L. 6 Sterling, and the glebe at L. 4. The patron of the parish is Lord Aboyne.

*Antiquities.*—There is a vestige of a camp, supposed to be Roman. Its dimensions are 1200 yards in length, and 600 in breadth. There are 2 tumuli in it, which have never been opened. According to tradition, it was part of a great forest, called the Forest of Claton, which extended from Finhaven to Kirriemuir, about the distance of 6 miles. The site of the camp is now a well cultivated farm, called Battle-dykes. The names given to the other farm houses on the forest are descriptive of its former situation, such as Birkenbush, Drake-mire, Forrester-Seat, King's-Seat, Wolf-Law, &c.

## NUMBER L.

## PARISH OF GAMRIE.

By the Rev. Mr WILSON.

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*Origin of the Name.*

IT has long been a general report, and the prevailing tradition in this country, that, some time before the year 1004, in which the church of Gamrie is said to have been built, (and there is at this day the date 1004 on the steeple), that thethane of Buchan pursued the Danes to the precipice or brow of the hill above the church, and there defeated them with great slaughter. Several of their skulls (most likely of their chiefs who had fallen in battle) were built into the church wall, where they remain entire: From hence it came to be called by some the Kirk of Skulls. In the Gaelic language, the word *Kemri*, from which, probably, Gamrie is derived, signifies *running step*, or *running leap*. And this derivation seems a natural one; because, from the situation of the hill, which is one of the highest on this part of the coast, and very steep on one side, it must have been a running skirmish, and very fatal to the vanquished. In some old registers, the name of the parish is written Ghaemrie. On the said eminence, above the kirk of Gamrie, at the east end of one of the most level and extensive plains in Buchan, are a number of vestiges of encampments, which at this day are called by the name of *bloody pots*, or *bloody pits*.

*Situation,*



*Situation, Extent, &c.*—The church and manse of Gamrie are built in a very extraordinary and romantic situation, on a sloping piece of ground in the middle of a hill, and not a mile from the town and harbour of Gardenstown. By two headlands, called Gamrie and Troup-head, which project a considerable way into the sea, a beautiful bay is formed, where there is fine anchoring ground, and vessels can ride in safety. At high water, a person could fling a stone into the sea from the church; and looking out of it, it has the appearance, to a stranger, as if the sea washed its foundations. The church is built, after the manner of some very old edifices, with unflaked lime, and with very thick walls; and, although it has already stood upwards of 700 years, it may, if the roof be kept in proper repair, last for hundreds of years to come. The north side of Gamrie parish is bounded by that part of the German Ocean called the Moray Firth; on the east by the parish of Aberdour; on the south by the parishes of Monwhiter and King Edward; and on the west by the river Dovert, which separates the parish of Gamrie from Banff. This parish stretches  $9\frac{1}{2}$  miles along the sea-coast, which is a very bold one. It is almost a continued chain of stupendous rocks, in many places perpendicular, and 200 yards above the sea. It is between 3 and 4 miles broad. Gamrie parish lies in the county of Banff, presbytery of Turriff, and synod of Aberdeen. The soil, in many places, is very fertile, and in others as barren; and, though much has been done of late years, there is still great scope for improvement. The hilly ground is in general covered with heath, and in some places with a coarse kind of grass, on which sheep and young cattle are fed. Sheep, indeed, are very much banished from the parish. When Mr Wilson first came to the parish, there was scarcely a farmer who had not a flock; but now there are only two or three that have any at all. This is in a great measure

measure owing to the introduction of fown grafs, and the difficulty there is in winter herding, unless the practice was general.

*Sea Coast, and Fisheries.*—On this coast a variety of different kinds of fish are caught, viz. ling, cod, haddocks, whittings, turbot, skate, &c. with which this country used to be remarkably well supplied, and a considerable quantity of them, when dried, were carried to the Burth of Forth, and sold there. From the best information, it appears that the fishermen in this parish have sometimes received for their salt fish L. 250 annually. Of late years, the fishing has been to remarkably poor, (to what cause it is perhaps difficult to say, but most likely one principal reason is, the immense quantities of sea-dogs, a kind of shark, with which this coast has been infested), that there has hardly been fish sufficient to supply the markets at home. Of consequence, it is to be supposed they have risen much in value. Long after the present minister was settled in the parish, he could have purchased haddocks at one penny and three half-pence a dozen, which now cost a shilling to eighteen pence; and in proportion for other kinds of fish, and every other article of food. On this coast, great quantities of sea weed, called ware, are thrown up on the shore, which the farmers lay on the ground, and find very profitable in raising crops of barley. In this parish, it is laid on with a very sparing hand, owing to the steepness of the coast, and the bad access to the shore. Considerable quantities also of this sea-weed are cut off from the rocks, for the purpose of making kelp. At an average, about 30 tons are made annually, which sell from L. 3 to L. 5 a ton. On the river Doavern, which separates the parishes of Banff and Gamrie, is an exceeding good salmon fishery, the property of Lord Fife, which lets for

L. 1000

L. 1000 *per annum*. The salmon are all cured in the town of Macduff. The pickled fish are all sent to the London market, and what are salted are generally exported to France and Spain.

*Mineral Springs, Quarries, &c.*—Near the sea-coast, and in the neighbourhood of Macduff, is a pretty good mineral spring, called the Well of Farlair, which has been useful in gravellish complaints. Of late years it has come into considerable repute, and a number of people resort to it annually. In this parish, upon the estate of Melrose, now the property of Lord Fife, is a very good slate-quarry. The quantity annually made has been various, depending on the demand, and the number of hands employed. The slates are of a good quality, of a beautiful blue colour, not inferior to the Easdale slate, only thicker, larger, and make a heavier roof. Quarriers are commonly paid by the piece, which is certainly the best way for themselves and their employers. Common day-labourers usually receive from 7 d. to 9 d. a day in winter, and from 9 d. to 1 s. in summer.

*Natural Curiosities.*—Near the east end of the parish, and not far from the house of Troup, are three great natural curiosities. 1. A perpendicular rock of very great extent, full of shelves, and possessed by thousands of birds called Kitty-weaks. These arrive in the beginning of spring, and leave it again towards the end of August, after they have brought forth their young. Some people are fond of eating the young Kitty's; but the shooting of them is a favourite diversion every year. The season for this is commonly the last week of July. Whither these birds go in winter is not known; most probably it is to some place upon the coast of Norway. 2dly, A cave, or rather den, about 50 feet deep, 60 long, and

and 40 broad, from which there is a subterraneous passage to the sea, about 80 yards long, through which the waves are driven with great violence in a northerly storm, and occasion a smoke to ascend from the den. Hence it has got the name of Hell's Lumb, i. e. Hell's Chimney. 3. Another subterraneous passage, through a peninsula of about 150 yards long from sea to sea, through which a man can with difficulty creep. At the north end of this narrow passage is a cave about 20 feet high, 30 broad, and 150 long, containing not less than 90,000 cubic feet. The whole is supported by immense columns of rock, is exceedingly grand, and has a wonderfully fine effect, after a person has crept through the narrow passage. This place has got the name of the Needle's Eye. There are in the parish several tumuli. Not many years ago, one of them, in the neighbourhood of Macduff, was opened; and there was found in it an urn, containing a considerable number of small human bones.

*Population.*—The population of the parish is nearly double since the year 1732. At the above period the parish contained 1600 souls, and now nearly 3000. About the years 1704 and 1705, it appears by the Registers that the number of births annually, at an average, were then 45; and, for several years past, they have not been under 60. The number of deaths cannot be ascertained so far back. About 30 years ago they were from 10 to 12, and for 7 years past nearly 20 annually. About 30 years ago there were from 12 to 14 marriages annually, and, for 7 years past, not less than 26.

In this parish, many instances of longevity might be mentioned. It is only a few years since a fisherman in Macduff died at the age of 109; and there are living at present several persons 90 years old and upwards. Mr Wilson is in his 97th

year; and last autumn, at the conclusion of the harvest, the age of him, and the two servants that assisted in taking in his crop, amounted in all to 257; and it is worthy remarking that one of these has been his servant 50 years. Mr Wilson was the first that introduced turnips and potatoes into the parish. He had a few of them in his garden, which the people in coming to the church used to look at as a great curiosity; and it was thought, at that time, that none but a gardener could raise them. It was long before the method of hoeing came to be thought of. Being sown thick, and hand-weeded, they came to no size. Another singularity deserves notice, viz. that, when he came to Gamrie, there was not a watch in church except the laird's and the minister's.

*Church.*—The minister's living is, *communibus annis*, L. 100 Sterling; the crown patron. The present incumbent was settled in the year 1732. He has been a widower for ten years past; has had 14 children; ten of whom (five sons and five daughters) he has lived to see well settled in the world.

*Poor.*—In such a popular parish, it is to be supposed there will be several poor, and accordingly between 50 and 60 receive charity out of the parish funds; and of these the year 1782 added several to the list. The weekly collection at Gamrie and Macduff is at an average 14 s. L. 450, which is at interest, belongs to the poor of this parish.

*Rental.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 5489 : 6 : 8 Scots. The present real rent, exclusive of fisheries, is nearly L. 1680 Sterling.

*Towns, Villages, and Miscellaneous Observations.*—The principal causes of the increase of population are, the number of fishing

**fishing towns on the coast, the breaking of large farms into smaller ones, the encouragement given by the heritors to improve waste ground, and their endeavouring to introduce a better mode of culture. The principal town in the parish is Macduff, the property of Lord Fife. In 1732 there were only a few fishermen's houses in Macduff, but now there are several well laid out streets, and 1000 souls in the town. The harbour, on which his Lordship has already laid out upwards of L. 5000, will, when finished, be one of the best in the Moray Firth. There are ten vessels from 60 to 120 tons burden, and 6 fishing boats, belonging to Macduff. Three of them are in the London trade, two in the east country trade, and the others trade most commonly to the Firth of Forth.**

Since the great increase of population in this part of the parish, his Lordship has erected a Chapel of Ease in Macduff, for the accommodation of the inhabitants, who are nearly six miles from their parish church, and gives a salary to a qualified clergyman to preach and dispense the ordinances of religion among them.

On the east end of this parish, there are very near to one another two other small towns, Gardenston and Crovie, both the property of Lord Gardenston, and not far from his house at Troup. The town of Gardenston contains nearly 300 souls, and Crovie 100. In these two places are the same number of vessels and fishing-boats as in Macduff, only the vessels are of a smaller size. Lords Fife and Gardenston are the only heritors. Lord Fife does not reside in the parish, but one of his principal seats (Duff-house) is very near it, being only about an English mile from Macduff. His Lordship has paid the greatest attention to the improvement of his estates, and the good of the country, by encouraging,  
inclosing,

inclosing, binding his tenants to have yearly a certain quantity of their ground in turnip, so much in fallow, and so much laid down in grass feeds. These regulations were highly proper and necessary some years ago, because people are led in chains by habit; and it is by slow degrees, and well digested plans, they are made to depart from established customs: But, now that the propriety of these regulations are seen, it would be difficult to make the farmers have such small quantities of turnip, &c. as it was necessary at first to restrict them to. Lord Fife has also converted the whole customs and services (usually called bonnage) at a moderate rate. This is of the utmost importance to the tenants. Not many years ago, many of them paid nearly one-half of their rent in fowls, eggs, sheep, &c. delivered in kind, and the labour of themselves, their servants, horses, in seed-time and harvest, carriage of peats, and many other works in the different seasons throughout the year, when called for; by which means they were often obliged to plough, dung, and harrow their landlord's ground, and lose the season for their own. Planting is a mode of improvement in which no person in this country has been more successful than the Earl of Fife. His Lordship has planted not less than from 7000 to 8000 acres on his different estates, which he continues yearly to increase; and at this moment the whole is in a very thriving state. An account of the various kinds of trees, and the method taken to rear them, will be seen in Young's *Annals of Agriculture*, and the *Minutes of the Society of Arts and Commerce*. The most considerable plantation in this parish is what is called the *Tore of Troup*. There are upwards of 600 acres planted with trees of various kinds, in a thriving state. These were reared chiefly by the direction of the late Mr Garden of Troup, and begun by his grandfather. Mr Garden, who is now succeeded by his brother Lord Gardenston,

ston, was unanimously elected member of parliament for the county of Aberdeen, during three succeeding sessions of parliament; he constantly resided at Troup, in this parish, excepting the time he attended parliamentary business, and paid great attention to the improvement of his estate, and the good of his country. He never gave a shorter lease than for a life; and to several of his tenants he gave very long leases, viz. a life, two nineteen years, and a life. He was not like many others, who, when they saw a tenant thriving, thought he had too good a bargain, and would demand a very high rent at the next letting. It was his joy to see his tenants carrying on their improvements, and prospering by their honest industry. Nor, when any of his leases fell vacant, was it ever known that he did not prefer the tenant's own son, and continue him in the possession, if he was disposed to follow the same occupation with his father. And it may be safely said, that, owing to the encouragement given by Lord Fife and Mr Garden, there are few tenants in the north of Scotland more thriving than in the parish of Gamrie. In the year 1782, when many others were not able to pay their rents, scarcity was not much felt except by the poorest class.

The language spoken in this parish is the Scottish, with an accent peculiar to the north country. There is no Erse.

The fuel used in the parish is partly coals and partly peats. The latter has of late years become very scarce; and coals are every day much more commonly used; which, owing to a partial and oppressive tax, cost very dear, and is a very great hindrance to improvement in this part of the country. It is certainly very unfair, and highly absurd, that this necessary article, which at any rate must be considerably higher in price to consumers in the North, from the expence of carriage,



riage, than it is to those on the other side of the Redhead, should also be loaded with a tax from which the southern inhabitants are exempted : And it is to be hoped the wisdom and justice of the legislature will soon provide a remedy, either by a total repeal, or by making the tax payable at the pit, which would thereby become general, and be much less partially felt.

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## NUMBER LI.

## PARISH OF GASK.

By the Rev. Mr DAVID KEMP.

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*Name, Situation, &c.*

**G**ASK, the name which the parish has had for time immemorial, is Gaelic, and signifies, it is said, in that language, *a Slope*. As the parish is situated on a rising ground, the name is descriptive of its situation. Gask is in the county of Perth, presbytery of Auchterarder, and synod of Perth and Stirling; is nearly a square, each side of which is somewhat more than two English miles. The ground slopes on each side of the Roman causeway, which runs through the middle of the parish upon the highest ground; the south slope is a pleasant fertile bank, laid out into cultivated fields, and bounded by the river Earn, which bounds the parish on the south; on the north slope are plantations of fir, oak, birch, &c. interspersed with corn-fields and pastures. Gask is bounded on the south by Dunning, on the west by Trinity Gask, on the north by Maderty and Methven, and on the east by Tippermuir and Forteviot.

*Population.*—The population is much the same as for half a century past, but has rather increased since 1745. In 1790, there were in the parish 486 individuals, of whom 141 were under

under ten years of age; and of the 345 above that age, 164 were males, and 181 females. Of the total number, 335 belonged to the established church, 140 were seceders, and 11 of the Episcopal persuasion. There are 110 inhabited houses dispersed over the parish, of which 1 is occupied by an heritor, 22 by farmers, 41 by carpenters, wrights, masons, shoemakers, and taylor, 12 by perpendiculars\*, 13 by day-labourers, 15 by single women, 4 by married servants, and the remaining 2 by the minister and the schoolmaster. The number of male servants is 48, and of female servants 40. There are, on an average, 10 baptised, 6 buried, and 5 couple married in a year.

*Stipend, Poor, &c.* The living is L. 43 in money, 2 chalders of meal, 1 chaldar of barley, and a glebe of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres. The manse was built in 1750; the kirk is old, but kept in good repair by the heritors. The king is patron. The average number of poor upon the funds for these 25 years is 6; and the amount of collections and donations for their support is L. 15 annually.

*Produce, &c.*—The parish produces wheat, barley, pease, potatoes, turnips, sown and pasture grass; and supplies itself with all sorts of grain, beside selling considerable quantities to Perth, Crieff, &c. There are pretty large beds of marl here. Free-stone and grey slate abound, and are easily quarried.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The air is dry and healthy. The Earn, which forms the southern boundary, is a considerable river, though not navigable, producing salmon, trout, and

\* Cottagers, who hold a small piece of ground of the tenant.

and pike. There are 131 horses, 648 head of cattle, and 50 sheep in the parish; of wild quadrupeds there are foxes, badgers, polecats, and rabbits; of birds, partridges, woodcocks, black-cocks, snipes, &c. A mason's wages are 1 s. 4 d. a wright's 10 d. a taylor's 6 d. and a day-labourer's 6 d. a day, with victuals. The fuel used here is coal and peat; the former costs 1½ d. a stone. The air is dry and healthy.

*Antiquities.*—A Roman caufeway runs through the middle of the parish, on the higheft ground; it is 20 feet broad, composed of rough stones, closely laid together, and points westward to a camp, still distinguishable, in the parish of Muthil, and eastward to another, also visible, in the parish of Scone. This caufeway is in entire preservation, as the proprietor of the adjacent grounds, though he inclosed the fields on each side with stone-dikes, did not suffer a stone to be taken from the road. Along the caufeway are stations capable of containing 12 or 20 men; they are inclosed by ditches, yet very distinct, and seem to have been designed for the accommodation of the overseers of the work. Within Gask's policy, in this parish, vestiges of two Roman camps, one on the south, and the other on the north of the caufeway, are still visible; and the ditches, with the Praetorium, are distinct, though the ground is planted with fir. One of these camps seems to have been capable of containing 500 men, and the other half that number.

## NUMBER LII.

UNITED PARISHES OF LISMORE  
AND APPIN.

By the Rev. Mr DONALD M'NICOL.

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*Origin of the Name.*

**K**ILLMULUAG, and Island Mund, were the old names of these parishes, and the only names by which they are designed in the Teind records at Edinburgh. *Killmuluag* literally signifies the Cell or Chapel of St Muluag, a faint of the seventh century, who was the first dignitary here, and probably laid the foundation of the cathedral. *Island Mund* signifies the Island of St Mungo, a small island in Loch Leven in Glenco, dedicated to that faint. The island has been long the common cemetery, or burying place, of the inhabitants of Glenco. *Lismore*, the modern name of this parish, signifies large, or extensive gardens. *Lis*, or *Lios*, in the Celtic language, denotes a garden.

*Extent.*—The extent of this parish will hardly be credited by an inhabitant of the south of Scotland, being, from the south-west end of Lismore to the extreme part of Kenlochbeg, to the north-east in Appin, 63 miles long, by 10, and in some places 16, broad. It is intersected by considerable

derable arms of the sea, and comprehends the countries of Lismore, Airds, Straith of Appin, Durror, Glencreren, Glenco, and Kingerloch: The last is 9 computed miles long, situated in the north side of Linneheloch, an arm of the sea about 3 leagues over, which divides it from Lismore. This united parish is bounded by the seas that divide it from Ardchattan and Killmore to the south and south-east; by Glenurchy or Clachandyfart on the east, at the King's House; by Killmalie on the north-east; by Suineart, a part of the parish of Ardnamurchan, on the north-west; by Morvein on the west; and by the Island of Mull, and the great Western Ocean, on the west and south-west.

*Situation and Surface.*—This parish is situated in the shire and synod of Argyle, and presbytery of Lorn. In a parish of this prodigious extent, the soil must be various. The Island of Lismore, where the minister resides, is 10 miles long, and from a mile to a mile and a half, or two miles broad. It is founded totally on lime-stone rock. The surface is mostly very rugged and uneven, by the interfection of the rocks. The soil is rich, consisting of black soft loam, formed from the surface of the lime-stone mouldered down, and produces much grain. The parish of Appin is a happy mixture of soil, equally suited to corn and grafs; but by far the greatest part of this extensive parish is mountainous, and well adapted for sheep. There is very little grain raised in Kingerloch, or even in the higher parts of Appin, since sheep stocks have been found beneficial. Many of the sheep farms are very extensive \*, and, considering the height of the hills, produce excellent grafs, and, of course, very good sheep, perhaps among the best in these western districts.

\* One of them is 18 Scots miles long.

districts. There are few hills in the Highlands where the grass grows higher up towards the tops than in these mountains. The very summits of them all are rocky. A very small proportion of the land in Kingerloch and Appin is now in tillage.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The climate here, like all the countries exposed to the great Atlantic Ocean, is generally moist and damp; the two last years have been more remarkably moist than any in the memory of this generation. A great deal of rain falls here, but there are seldom such floods, or heavy falls, as in the south, except a few thunder showers in very warm summers. There is seldom such deep snow here, or of such long continuance, as in the south; nor is the frost generally so intense, though arms of the sea have been known to freeze over. Few local or epidemical distempers prevail here. The rheumatism, the general complaint of all moist climates, is very common in these parts: It is rather matter of surprise that it is not more frequent, considering the dampness of most of the common people's houses, and how much the inhabitants are exposed to rain and cold; especially as their ordinary mode of living is not very luxurious. Fevers and fluxes sometimes prevail among the country people; and colds and coughs are very frequent in severe winters and springs. Agues are almost unknown here. Within these two or three years, the jaundice is become very frequent in this and some neighbouring parishes. Many of the inhabitants live to a great age. During the residence of the present incumbent, many instances of longevity have appeared. Many live to the age of 84, and 85, some to 90, 94, and 96, and even to 100 years. One man died last year in Appin at the age of 105. In the year 1744, the present incumbent saw a woman in Appin who was allowed to  
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be 116. She then sat in a very erect posture, spinning at a rock or distaff. Innoculation is beginning to gain ground among the common people, though some of them still retain violent prejudices against it. The inhabitants are, on the whole, abundantly healthy, owing, probably, in part to their not living pent up in towns or villages, or being more or less employed in sedentary occupations. They live mostly in houses detached from each other; and are industrious, cheerful, and constantly engaged in active employments in the open air, which greatly tends to the preservation of their health. The constant sea-breezes likewise prove very favourable to their constitutions. The inhabitants of Lismore have universally the benefit of as fine fresh water springs, issuing from lime-stone rocks, as any country can boast of. When they engage in sowing or reaping, they often work very keenly; and, in rowing their small open boats, they often over-exert themselves, to the great detriment of their health. The military ardour of all Highlanders is a well known characteristic.

*Rivers.*—The rivers Creren, Co, or Conn, (the Fingalian Cona, a beautiful romantic river), the river of Coinich in Kingerloch, with those of Durror, Bailichelish, Laroeh, and Leven, are the most considerable. Most of these contain salmon, more or less, and all of them yellow, or moss and sea trout, in the proper seasons. None of the trouts are ever sold; and few of the salmon are sold in the country; when they are, they fetch 2 d. and 3 d. a pound. There are several fresh water lakes in these parishes, containing abundance of fine trouts; particularly three lakes in Lismore, two of which contain plenty of fine yellow trouts. About 50 or 60 years ago, there were some sea trouts carried to these lakes, the breed of which preserve their distinction perfectly



fectly clear to this day. They retain their shining silver scales, though they have no communication with the sea; their flesh is as red as that of any salmon, and their taste is totally different from that of the yellow trouts. Another small lake in the island contains large eels, but no trouts. Whales are frequently seen about Lismore in summer and harvest, when they are in pursuit of the shoals of herrings that pass by to Fort William and Lochial. A few herrings are sometimes caught in this neighbourhood; but they seldom remain in the bays long enough to be caught in great numbers. Seals, or sea calves, are caught frequently with nets on funk rocks about Lismore. The same sea-fish and sea-fowl as are on the rest of the western coast abound here; such as seas or cuddies, both large and small, in vast shoals; red or rock cod, lythes, mackerel, and a few flounders.

*Hills.*—The hills of Glenco and Bailichelish are by far the highest in this parish. The tops of them are conical; and some of them are thought to be among the most romantic in Scotland. There is now an excellent line of road carried through Glenco, from whence these romantic stupendous hills, when contrasted with the delightful valley below, appear uncommon objects to strangers, and never fail to attract admiration.

*Woods.*—There are abundance of natural woods and planting on different estates in Appin. Some old natural grown firs remain in a few places in the higher parts of the country.

*Animals.*—In Lismore, there are neither rats, moles, or foxes. There are otters in great abundance, with a few wild cats. Weasels made their appearance here within these 12 years,

years, but never before; and they are now very numerous. In Appin and Kingerloch, there are moles, weasels, white rats, martins, pole cats, wild-cats, common and mountain hare; the last as white as snow in winter. There was not a common hare in the valleys in Appin, or in the neighbouring parish of Ardochallan, 20 years ago. There are foxes, badgers, and otters, in Appin. In the lower parts of Appin, particularly on the Marquis of Tweedel's and Mr Campbell of Aird's properties, there are roes in great abundance; not the she of the hart, as some of our English Dictionaries falsely denominate them; for the roes have their bucks and does as the deer have their harts and hinds. In the higher parts of Appin, a few red or mountain deer frequently appear, when they are scared or frightened from the neighbouring forest of Buachail \*, &c. A few deer occasionally appear in Kingerloch; but the sheep will soon banish them, as they cannot endure to pasture with them; nor are the roes fond of it. The squirrel is now become very rare, if not totally extinct, in this part of the Highlands.

The birds in this parish are much the same as in other parts of the West Highlands. Eagles abound in Kingerloch, and the higher parts of Appin, together with ptarmigans, black cocks or heath-fowl, grouse or moor-fowl. There are a few partridges in Lismore and Appin. A variety of hawks are found in Lismore, from the smallest kinds to the falcon or hunting hawk. Wild geese hatch in some of the islands round Lismore. Though the very existence of the jackdaws with red feet and bills is denied by some of the inhabitants

\* On the banks of the river Ete, the Fingalian Ufnoch, and his three renowned sons, Naos or Naois, Ailli, and Ardau, were born, as set forth by Mr M'Pherson. This is a piece of traditionary history well known in these countries.

habitants of the south of Scotland, yet there is nothing more certain than that they are to be found hatching in the rocks about Lismore. They are nearly of the same size with the grey-headed ones. The cuckow, swallow, water-wagtail, wood-cock, corn-crake or rail, with the lapwing, or green plover, make their appearance at the stated seasons. In severe winters, a few swans visit the lakes of this parish; but they seldom remain long in this country.

*Number of Horses, Sheep, &c.*—It is difficult to ascertain the number of cattle in these parishes. Very few horses are now bred here; and all the black cattle bred are principally intended for common family use. There are 25000 sheep in the parish, or perhaps many more, as they are daily on the increase. The value of wool here has been always fluctuating, from 3 s. 9 d. to 6 s. and 7 s. the stone, the white, and that laid with tar mixed. At an average, from 7 to 8 fleeces go to a stone.

*Population.*—There is no ascertaining whether population is on the increase or decline here, though, at first view, the immense tracts of sheep-farms might naturally induce us to think it decreasing. The inhabitants amount at present to 3526 souls. Lismore contains 1121 of that number.

A rage for emigration has got to a great height, of late, in the Highlands. There have been two emigrations from these parishes, particularly from Appin. The inhabitants are now become so crowded, that some relief of this sort, in one shape or other, seems absolutely necessary. In 1775, the first ship, completely loaded with emigrants, mostly from these parishes, sailed for North Carolina. The American war, which broke out next year, put a stop to all attempts of this nature  
till

till last autumn, when another ship, with emigrants, mostly from Appin, and the higher parts of Ardchattan parish, carried away about 200 people for North Carolina. Preparations are making for another emigration from these parishes this year.

*Births, Deaths, and Marriages.*—It is a difficult matter to ascertain exactly deaths, births, or marriages, in these extensive parishes, particularly on account of the great number of Episcopalians and sectaries in Appin. It is impossible to keep any register of deaths, because there are seven or eight different places of interment, and some of these at great distances from each other. There are several christenings in Glencob not inserted in the Register, as also all that are baptised by the sectaries.

*Rent, &c.*—The rent of these parishes has increased exceedingly within these few years. When the present incumbent gave in a rental lately, in a process of augmentation, it amounted only to L. 4400 and odd pounds yearly. At present, the rental is about L. 8000 Sterling yearly, exclusive of kelp, woods, &c. Some lands in the parish are let at 10 s. the acre, and some even higher; but this is not the case in general. There are 17 heritors possessed of property in these parishes; eight of whom are resident.

*Crops.*—The only crops raised in these parishes are oats, barley, and potatoes, with a little flax. From the small trials made by a few gentlemen, clover, ryegrass, and turnips, answer very well in both parishes. The minister has sown a little clover and rye-grass on his glebe for 18 or 20 years past, and he finds great benefit from it. Most of the rents of Lismore are paid in kind, i. e. in meal and barley. Some

farms in this parish sow 20, some 26 bolls, of barley yearly ; and from 60 to 70 bolls of oats. But the returns are very small, owing to an unhappy desire among the farmers of labouring yearly too much unripe ground, that is, ground that is not allowed age sufficient to strengthen it. There is both rock and moss marl in Lismore in great quantities, and also some in Appin. This the tenants often use with too liberal a hand, to the great detriment of such ground as is not allowed age enough. But the invincible impediment to cultivation in general (besides the obstruction given by the rocks to the plough in Lismore) is want of fuel to burn lime. Peats are the only fuel in both parishes. The process of making them in Lismore is difficult beyond conception, as they are first tramped and wrought with men's feet, and then formed by the women's hands. There is a necessity for this ; because the substance of which they are made contains no fibres to enable them to cohere or stick together. This tedious operation consumes much of the farmer's time, which, in a grain country, might be employed to much better advantage ; and affords serious cause of regret that the coal-duty is not taken off, or lessened, which would remove the everlasting bar to the success of the fishing villages, and to improvements in general over all the coasts of Scotland. It may be averred, with some degree of confidence, that, unless the coast-duty be in some shape altered, the fishing villages, justly considered at present such flattering national objects, must be laid aside. Grain is not so strong here as in the south, owing to the incessant rains. Lime would perhaps, in some measure, remedy this evil.

*Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.*—The Duke of Argyle is patron of this parish. All the inhabitants of Lismore are of the Established Church of Scotland ; as are those of King-erloch ;

erloch ; and, excepting a few, there is not a Seceder in either parish. There are four or five Papists in the parish of Appin, all of whom came from other parishes except one man, who was converted by his wife, an Irish-woman. There are great numbers of Episcopalians, in the higher parts of the parish of Appin ; and a clergyman of their own persuasion resides among them. There are four places of worship in the parish, viz. Lismore and Appin, Glenco and Kingerloch. There is a missionary established by the committee for managing the royal bounty between Glenco and the neighbouring glens belonging to the parish of Ardchattan. The missionary of Strontian preaches four times in the year at Kingerloch. It is the opinion of the judicious, that the funds for missionaries and catechists should have been all allotted, long ago, for building new churches in these extensive parishes. It would unquestionably turn out to much greater advantage to the public. Lismore was a Bishop's See, the residence of the Bishop of the Isles, and, at certain periods, of the Bishop of Argyle. The present church of Lismore is the chancel of the old cathedral new roofed about 40 years ago, after lowering the old walls from ten to seven feet. The font and confessional chair remain. The walls of the Bishop's Castle still remain pretty entire, four miles to the west of the cathedral. It has a square open court within. There was a small temple, with a burying ground, on an island, or rather peninsula, called Bernera, on the farm where the castle stands. In Appin, there is a neat, small church, lately repaired. The church yard is inclosed with a wall of stone and lime. The manse in Lismore is not very good. It was built about 34 years ago, and repaired within these 20 years. The present incumbent, Mr Donald M'Nicol, was admitted minister of Lismore and Appin the 15th of July 1766. The living was only L. 60 : 19 : 7 Sterling yearly, by the old conversion,

version, till the Lords of Session granted an augmentation, in June last, of L. 38 : 18 : 3 yearly. The victual consists of 21 bolls 2 firlots of barley, 52 bolls 2 firlots of oat-meal, (9 stones to the boll), which, by the old conversion of 100 lib. the chalders, makes the living now L. 99 : 17 : 10 Sterling yearly, including 100 merks for communion-elements, besides a glebe of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres arable, and about 6 acres of pasture ground, mostly bog or marsh. The value of the glebe cannot be easily ascertained. The posterity of the sextons hold a small piece of free land, that fetches a rent of about L. 12 Sterling yearly. They held their charter (a Latin one) originally from the Bishops, on express condition that they were to preserve the *baculum more*, probably the crozier. Twenty-five years ago, the property paid only L. 4 Sterling yearly rent. It is supposed to be among the oldest properties in the parish, handed down regularly in a lineal succession. Buchanan, in his History of Scotland, asserts that, in his time, there were some remains of religious houses in the islands Dreinich and Ramasa, on the north side of Lismore. Dr Walker, Professor of Natural History at Edinburgh, and the present incumbent, searched for these ruins 26 years ago, but no vestiges of them were then to be found.

*Poor.*—The poor are supported chiefly by the the charity of the inhabitants, by begging from house to house. Any support they get here from the kirk-session is not adequate to their maintenance. From L. 18 to L. 20 are distributed in both parishes, arising from the Sunday collections, fines, and some other small funds. The Episcopal congregation contribute sometimes one or two guineas a year, to make up the above sum.

*Schools.*—There is a parochial school in Lismore, and another

ther in Appin, with a salary to each of them, from L. 18 to L. 20 Sterling yearly, over and above the school emoluments. The salaries arise in part from a parochial assessment of 4 d. in the pound of old valued rent, amounting to 200 merks Scots yearly, and partly from money mortified by King William for establishing schools in these parishes. There is an excellent good new school-house in Appin. The school-house in Lismore is very bad; but there is money for building a new one. There is one school, with a salary of L. 10 Sterling yearly, at the Slate Quarry in Glenco, granted by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. The number of scholars is so fluctuating, that they cannot be easily ascertained. The school in the Straith of Appin consists of 60, and sometimes 80 scholars. The Society School at the Slate Quarry consists of about as many; and the one in Lismore of 40 or 50. There are sometimes one or more smaller schools kept up at the expence of the inhabitants in the more remote parts of the parishes.

*Antiquities.*—There are some Druidical cairns, or conical heaps of stones, in different places in the parishes, which formerly contained urns or earthen vases filled with ashes, and some pieces of human bones. One of these cairns, of very considerable magnitude, and of a regularly conical form, stands within a very small distance of the cathedral. One of these earthen vases or urns, containing ashes, and pieces of human skulls and bones, was turned up last year by the plough in a neighbouring farm. In the island of Lismore, there are several vestiges of Roman fortifications; and particularly an old castle, with a fusee and draw-bridge, said to have been built by the Danes, or Scandinavians, when they infested these coasts. There is also, within half a mile of the cathedral, one of the circular towers so frequently to be met with



with in the Isle of Skye, and on the western coast of Scotland, and which Dr Johnson, contrary to the general opinion, ridiculously asserts to have been erected for preserving the cattle from the depredations of thieves in the night-time. These towers have been probably intended, partly at least, for raising beacons or fires on them, to alarm the coast and country, on the approach of enemies. For this reason, the greatest care has been always taken to place them in a situation commanding a most extensive view, so as to be seen from the neighbouring towers and heights. In constructing the walls of the tower in this island, neither lime nor mortar of any sort is used.

*Curiosities.*—The prodigious strata of marl, from 10 to 16 feet deep, in the bottoms of all the lakes in Lismore, may be ranked among the curiosities in this parish. There is in this island, in the face of a lime-stone rock, seven or eight feet above the surface of the ground, and quite beyond the reach of tides, a seam, 12 or 15 inches broad, of a concretion, composed of all the varieties of shells to be found on these coasts, with now and then a small mixture of charcoal, as firm, and nearly as solid, as the rock surrounding it, to which it seems to be perfectly united, and to make a part. Pieces of it have been carried to Edinburgh. Water running over the face of the lime-stone rocks in this island generally dissolves softer particles of it, and leaves the more solid parts in a variety of fanciful grotesque figures.

The lime-stone rocks in Lismore lie all in one direction, in layers, one above another, nearly from south-east to north-west. There are seams or spars three or four feet broad, of remarkably hard flinty rocks or stones running across the island, at the distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 miles. These seams appear  
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in a direct line with those in Lismore, on the opposite coast of Morvein, where there is no lime-stone. But, of all the curiosities in this island, the most remarkable seem to be deer, and perhaps elk-horns, of great size, and cow-horns of still a much greater size in proportion. The pith of one of the latter, though much shrivelled and withered, is 12 inches in circumference at the root. Tradition asserts that this island was of old a deer-forest; and the number of deer-horns, and a deer-skeleton found quite entire, confirms the assertion. It is said that the seventh most successful hunting-chace which Fingal ever had was in this island; and the inhabitants pretend to point out *Slia nan ban fionn*, the hill or eminence of the Fingalian fair ladies, on which they sat to view the diversion.

*Language.*—The common language of the parish is the Gaelic, a branch of the antient Celtic. The names of all the places in the parish are manifestly derived from it. The minister preaches, in the long days, both in Gaelic and English; particularly in Appin, where there are some who understand English only. It is believed that few preachers in any part of the world, except those in the Highlands, preach in two languages. This is one of the many inconveniencies under which a clergyman labours in these extensive parishes.

*Prices of Provisions and Labour.*—As there is no public market in these parishes, there is no possibility of ascertaining the price of grain or provisions. Barley generally sells from 18 s. to 20 s. and 21 s. the boll; meal from 14 s. to 16 s.; butter generally for 12 s. the stone, (this stone should be 24 lb.), and cheese for 5 s. and 6 s. the stone. What is sold in spring, or late in the season, is often at a higher price. Most of the work in these parishes is managed by servants  
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hired for the year, and maintained by the respective families that employ them. As the Justices of the Peace found it impracticable to fix any standard for servants wages, it is in vain to attempt saying any thing decidedly on this subject. One man pays servants, both men and women, a third, and sometimes one half, more than others, owing to the difference both of treatment and the manner in which they are employed. Such as work for day's wages have from 8 d. to 1 s. a day, and maintain themselves. At severe work, such as kelp-making, wood-cutting, and coaling, &c. they have much more. A taylor has 6 d. or 8 d. and his victuals; and a shoemaker much the same; carpenters, and other mechanics, 1 s. or 1 s. 2 d. and their victuals.

*Services.*—Although personal services performed by tenants still prevail in different parts of the Highlands, they are becoming obsolete in these parishes. The services were seldom discretionary, but limited. Some tenants go from this island to the main-land to perform these services, at the distance of 8 or 9 miles. They devote at least 6 or 7 days yearly to their master's or landlord's service in this way; and they get some allowance, for the most part, to support them while performing their work. This is over and above 2 or 3 days that some of them work yearly at roads. Some proprietors in neighbouring parishes carried these services to a shameful, not to say oppressive, pitch, in obliging their tenants and cottagers to cut, stack, and house their peats, &c. and to find their own provisions all the time. This is one of the innumerable grievances occasioned by the heavy coal duty.

*Roads and Bridges.*—Since the residence of the present incumbent in the parish, roads and bridges have undergone a remarkable change for the better, especially in Appin. There

is an excellent line of road, mostly finished, from Shian Ferry through Airds, Strath of Appin, Duror, and Glenco, to the King's House at Lubnamart, with 6 or 7 bridges, for a course of 17 or 18 computed miles, besides several by-roads. Last year a line of road has been opened to Glencreren. There has been little done to the roads in Lismore. There are no tolls in the Highlands.

*Post-Office.*—When the present incumbent came to the parish, and several years afterwards, the nearest post-office was at Inverary; and a few of the gentlemen of Appin employed a runner, who went once a week to Inverary to bring their letters, newspapers, &c. Mr Seaton of Touch, who bought the estate of Appin (a gentleman particularly attentive to the good of the parish, and of the country in general) after much trouble and sollicitation, got a post-office established in Appin, becoming himself security for making good any deficiency that might happen. For several years the office barely supported the expence of the runner, &c.; but the circulation of correspondence increased so rapidly, that this last year it made a clear return to the revenue of about L. 74 Sterling, which would defray the whole coal duty of this county yearly, as it stood lately, by a state taken from the Customhouse books. A runner goes now thrice every week from Appin to Bunaw, and from Bunaw to Inverary, and returns as often. A branch of this post-office extends from Bunaw to Oban; and from Oban, where there is a Customhouse, to Arofs in the Island of Mull. Another branch extends from Appin to Fort William, the north line, and likewise to Strontian. A letter may come in three days, or even two days and a half, from Edinburgh to Appin. The establishment of this post-office contributes highly to the pleasure and advantage of this country and the neighbourhood;

though it must be acknowledged that it costs nearly L. 70 Sterling yearly. Numbers of carriers are employed monthly between Appin, Benderloch, Oban, and Glasgow; and vessels called *packets* run generally once a month between Greenock, Oban, and Mull, with goods of various sorts for the accommodation of the neighbouring countries. The post-office in Appin is at present kept by Mr John M'Laren school-master, for a small salary of not more than about L. 5 Sterling yearly.

*Massacre of Glenco.*—It were to be wished that a veil could be thrown over this part of our history, as it was the most barbarous transaction of modern times sanctioned by any regular authority from government. The massacre of Glenco happened in King William's reign, and is a circumstance well known. As it does not add much lustre to the humanity of the times, it may suffice to observe, that all the inhabitants who could be seized were indiscriminately butchered in cold blood, mostly in their beds, by the soldiers and officers who were their guests, and hospitably entertained for ten days before. The officers were playing cards with Glenco and Mrs M'Donald the early part of the night: Before day, Glenco was murdered in his wife's arms. Mr M'Donald of Achtrichatain shared the same fate.

*Public Houses.*—In Kingerloch there are 2 public houses, at the two ferries to Lismore and Appin, where they cannot be wanted; in Appin there are 9 or 10; in Lismore 7 or 8. These houses cannot be supposed to improve the morals of the people; though, in a country situated as this is, a few of them cannot be wanted. Four or five of those in Appin are slate houses, and pretty well kept; the others are but of a very ordinary kind.

*See*

*Sea Coasts and Currents, &c.*—There is a vast extent of sea-coast in these parishes; perhaps from 80 to 90 miles in all directions. Where it lies contiguous, a great deal of seaweed is used for manuring the ground for barley and potatoes. There is a violent current between the west end of Lismore and Mull, well known to sea-faring people, at the dangerous rock of Carrig, which is covered with the tide at high water. There are a number of smaller currents, though not so deserving of notice. There is a small, but strong one, at the Ferry of Bailichelish, leading up to Lochleven and the slate quarry. There is a pretty strong one at the ferry between Lismore and Appin, and another at Shian Ferry, between Appin and Benderloch. Between the west end of Lismore and Morvein three streams meet, in consequence of contrary tides, which, in tempestuous weather, occasion a smart swell and broken seas. All the above currents change their courses regularly with the tides. The best anchoring about the island, for vessels of any burden, is in the narrow sound between Ramasa and Lismore, near the north point of the island. There is likewise very safe anchoring a little to the west of Ramasa, in the Bay of Island Lochofcair, (Oscar's Island), by Buchanan termed *Molochafcair*, where vessels of any burden can conveniently ride in a pretty safe road, and free of any breakers.

*Mines, Quarries, &c.*—Several appearances of lead mines are to be found in Appin: Only one of them was attempted to be wrought, but it did not turn out to any advantage. There is some appearance of marble in Appin; but the slate quarry of Bailichelish, at Laroch in Glenco, is the only quarry of this nature in the parish that has turned out to any material advantage\*. There are a great number of hands at work; and

\* There are 74 families in the quarry, containing 322 souls.

and a great quantity of flates are sent yearly to the north and east countries, to Leith, Clyde, England, Ireland, and even to America. Vessels of any burden can load most commodiously in fine smooth sand, so near the shore, that they may be loaded by throwing a few planks between the vessels and the shore; and there is little or no swell in the road. The quality of the flates is thought very good. Burning of lime for sale has been begun by adventurers in Lismore and Appin; and, as the lime is of a most superior quality, this undertaking might turn out to advantage, not only to the adventurers, but to the public at large, as an encouragement to building, husbandry, &c. were it not for the check given to it by the coal duty.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The principal advantage in these parishes is the vast extent of sea-coast, with bays and inlets. The snow seldom lies deep or long on the sea-coast, a circumstance highly favourable to sheep and black cattle. The good roads and bridges in Appin are of great and general utility. Peats are the common fuel of the country, but they take up the very best part of the season to secure them. The frequent rains here often destroy some of this part of the farmer's industry. The high duty on coals is the greatest disadvantage these parishes labours under, and prove an unmountable bar to manufactures and improvements of all sorts. The want of public established markets is likewise a great disadvantage. A ton of coals costs from 18 s. to 21 s. and 24 s. The duty on salt is likewise a great grievance, as managed at present, and requires to be remedied. The trouble of preparing, and the time consumed by the inhabitants in securing their fuel, in Lismore in particular, where attention to their crops and tillage, would take up all the labour they could spare, is a most serious grievance, and to be remedied only by an alteration  
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in the coal duty. This is an object of high national concern, in which the gentlemen of property are most deeply interested, and to which, it is hoped, they will pay particular attention; and, if they wish that these countries should ever turn out to any proper account in the way of manufactures, tillage, or any other improvements, they should all unite as one man to endeavour to rectify this grievance, and get their country relieved from so unhappy a nuisance.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is a remarkable echo near the Bishop's old castle at Achinduin: It repeats distinctly seven or eight syllables. There is another at an old castle in Kingerloch, much the same as the above. There are five different remains or ruins of old castles in these parishes. On the south side of Lismore, opposite to Oban, there stands on a small island, (Eilleanna clòich), a curious rock, covered in part with ivy, and perfectly resembling the ruins of an old house. Mr Pennant was so struck with its romantic appearance, that he made it the frontispiece to the last volume of his travels. Several estates in these parishes have been regularly surveyed; but where there are so many proprietors, and the whole not surveyed, it is impossible to ascertain the number of acres.

The people in this parish are, in general, laborious and industrious. Crimes of an enormous nature are hardly known here. No instance of suicide, or of murder, has occurred for 25 years past. The common people are less addicted to drinking than they were 20 years ago. All ranks are remarkable for their charity to the poor. In severe seasons, many of them double their attention to relieve the wants of the needy. No inhabitant of these extensive parishes has been executed or banished for 25 years past. One or two persons, guilty  
of



of some irregularities, voluntarily banished themselves. There has been no instance of child murder in the parish in the memory of man. This is a crime hardly known in the west Highlands. The people in this part are much less fluctuating in their religious opinions than they are to the southward.

A man of singular frame was born in Appin. He was the stoutest or thickest man in Britain, or even perhaps in Europe, at the time. His name was Carmichael. He was a soldier in the 42d regiment, and died above 30 years ago. He was said to be not above six feet high; but was so singular for the stoutness of his make, that his portrait, as large as the life, was painted, by order of the King, and placed in the Tower of London as a curiosity. He was noted for the mildness of his disposition. He could carry on his back, with ease, 1 cwt. more than the strongest porter in Dublin.

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## NUMBER LIII.

## PARISH OF MEIGLE.

*By the Rev. Dr JAMES PLAYFAIR.*

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*Situation and Extent.*

**T**HE parish of Meigle, in the center of Strathmore, is bounded on the north-west and north by the rivers of Isla and Dean; on the east and south by the parishes of Effay, Nevay, and Newtyle; on the south-west and west by those of Ketins and Coupar; lying in  $56^{\circ} 36'$  N. latitude, and  $5'$  E. longitude from Edinburgh; being  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles from S. W. to N. E. and 1—2 miles broad.

*Strathmore*—Is an extensive plain, reaching from the vicinity of Perth to Brechin, almost 40 miles long, and 4—6 broad, bounded by two ridges of mountains. The south ridge, called Sidla, extends from Perth eastward to Red-head, a promontory on the coast of the German Ocean, between Arbroath and Montrose. The Grampians form the northern boundary, and traverse the island. The elevation of several mountains on the borders of the Strath has been ascertained by barometrical measurement, as follows: Dunfinnan-hill, on which a castle or fort was erected by Macbeth,  $1024\frac{1}{2}$  feet above the level of the sea at low water mark; King-feat, a mile eastward, 1238 feet; the meridian mark of Belmont,

759 feet; Kinpurnie-hill, noted for a tower on its summit, 3 miles S. E. of Belmont, 1151 feet; Sidla-hill, a mile S. E. of Kinpurnie, 1406 feet; Barry-hill, on the opposite border of the Strath, 3 miles northward of Belmont, 688 feet. This level and fertile Strath is beautifully diversified with plantations of trees, cultivated fields, towns, villages, and seats: But several considerable tracts are still barren, and covered with heath.

*Rivers.*—The river Isla has its source in the Grampian Mountains, several miles northward of Mount Blair. Bathing the foot of that mountain, it turns eastward, traverses longitudinally the narrow valley of Glenisla, below which it forms a cascade, called the *Reeky Linn*, upwards of 30 feet high. Afterwards, proceeding through a deep and rocky channel, it is augmented by two small streams at the base of a rocky peninsula, on which lie the ruins of Airly Castle, which was antiently a strong fortress, constructed at different periods, and demolished during the Commonwealth. Thence the Isla descends with rapidity into the plain, and runs southward near a pleasant seat formerly called Ruthven, now Isla-bank. Suddenly changing the direction of its course to W. S. W. it slowly moves, in a winding passage, through a flat country, which it frequently inundates, receives the Ericht two miles north of Cupar, and falls into the Tay at Kincleven. There are three bridges on the Isla; one between the lower extremity of Glenisla and Airly Castle; another near the church of Ruthven; and a third a mile N. W. of Cupar. In the neighbourhood of Meigle, there is a ferry-boat on the Isla, in the road from Dundee to Alyth. Several attempts have been made to raise L. 800 for building a bridge at that ferry; but these have been hitherto frustrated by the societies who were peculiarly interested in their success. In rainy seasons,

sons, the Isla and Ericht prove very prejudicial to the adjacent fields. Increased by many rapid torrents, they overflow their banks, and sometimes, with resistless force, sweep away whole harvests, and ruin "the well earned treasures of the labouring year."

The Dean flows from the lake of Forfar, passes by Glamis Castle, in meanders glides gently along the north borders of Effay and Meikle, and loses itself in the Isla, half a mile N. N. W. of the town of Meikle. The course of this river, in a direct line, does not exceed 10 miles. Across it is a narrow and badly constructed bridge, in the road from Cupar to Kirriemuir.

A rivulet originates in Kinpurnie-hill, runs N. W. through the parish of Newtyle, waters the western part of this parish, and augments the Dean a mile above the influx of that river into the Isla.

*Antiquities.*—There are many remains of antiquity in this parish and neighbourhood; but, with regard to these, tradition gives us little information, and ancient records still less. The accounts handed down through each succeeding generation are grossly corrupted. The tales and stories related by fabulous writers are, for the most part, too wild and extravagant to merit belief. Abandoning, therefore, all such legends to those who can find instruction or entertainment in them, we shall proceed to a review of the most remarkable monuments of antiquity in this corner, taking notice of the most plausible conjectures concerning them.

In the inclosures of Belmont there is a tumulus called *Belliduff*, which tradition will have to be the spot where Macbeth

fought and fell; and, at some distance, a stone of granite, 20 tons in weight, stands almost erect, to commemorate, it is said, the death of one of his generals: But that tyrant, it is more probable, was slain at Lumphanan, a village in the Mearns.

In the church-yard of Meigle are the remains of the grand sepulchral monument of Vanora, also called Vanera, Wanor, and Guinevar, the British Helena, as her name, according to Prideaux, imports. This princess was the wife of Arthur, who flourished in the 6th century, and whose history is involved in fables. In a battle between the army of that monarch and the united forces of Scots and Picts, Vanora was taken prisoner, and carried, along with other spoils, into Angus, where she lived some time in miserable captivity on Barry-hill. Such is the doubtful account recorded in the antient annals of this country. The character of that unfortunate personage has been drawn in the blackest colours. She has been represented as one who led a lascivious life, and held an unlawful correspondence with Mordred, a Pictish king, which provoked the jealousy of her husband, and excited him to take up arms in revenge of the injury. As a punishment of her enormous crimes, it is added, she was torn in pieces by wild beasts; her body was buried at Meigle, and a monument erected to perpetuate her infamy. Whether this detail be genuine, or has arisen from the symbolic characters on the stones, it is impossible to determine.

That monument seems to have been composed of many stones artfully joined, and decorated with a variety of hieroglyphical or symbolical characters, most of which are of the monstrous kind, and represent acts of violence on the person of a woman. On one stone are three small crosses, with many animals above and below. On another is a cross adorned with

with various flowers, and the rude representations of fishes, beasts, and men on horseback. On a third is an open chariot drawn by two horses, and some persons in it; behind is a wild beast devouring an human form lying prostrate on the earth. On a fourth is an animal somewhat resembling an elephant. On another, 8 feet long, and 3 feet 3 inches broad, standing upright in a socket, there is a cross. In the middle are several figures with the bodies of horses, or camels, and the heads of serpents; on each side of which are wild beasts and reptiles considerably impaired. On the reverse is the figure of a woman, attacked on all sides by dogs and other furious animals. Above are several persons on horseback, with hounds, engaged in the chase. Below is a centaur, and a serpent of enormous size fastened on the mouth of a bull. Accurate drawings of those stones are to be found in Pennant's Tour. Many other stones, which originally belonged to this monument, have been carried off, or broken in pieces, by the inhabitants of this place. As several of those which remain have been removed from their proper position; as many of the figures are defaced; and as we are, in a great measure, unacquainted with the art of decyphering hieroglyphics, the history delineated on Vanora's monument is now irrecoverably lost. The antiquary may amuse himself with the fragments which remain; but he can scarcely form one plausible conjecture with respect to their original meaning and design. The fabulous Boece records a tradition prevailing in his time, viz that, if a young woman shall walk over the grave of Vanora, she shall entail on herself perpetual sterility. But, whatever apprehensions of this nature the fair sex in his time might have entertained, the most credulous are not now afraid of making the experiment.

Barry-hill,

Barry-hill, the supposed place of Vanora's confinement, merits some description. It is one of the Grampians,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile N. E. of Alyth, it commands an extensive view of Strathmore, and of several remarkable hills in the Sidla range, viz. Dunfinnan, Kinpurnie, Sidla, Finhaven, &c. all of which might have been antiently used as watch towers, or places of defence. History informs us that the Picts kept possession of Dun-barry, and the adjacent country, from a remote period to the 9th century, or later; but the precise dates of their settlement in those parts, and of their expulsion, cannot be ascertained. The hill itself is of an oval form. Its summit was levelled into an area 180 feet long, and 72 or 74 broad. Around the area a mound of earth was raised, from 6 to 8 feet high, and 10 to 12 broad at top. On this mound a wall of free-stone was built without any cement whatever. The foundation of the wall was composed of rough granite, and still remains. It is of the same breadth with the summit of the mound; but the height of the wall cannot be known: Gordon's estimate of it is extremely erroneous. Among the ruins there are several pieces of vitrified stone; but these vitrifications must have been accidental, as they are few and inconsiderable. Along the west and north borders of the area, barracks, or huts, were built of dry stone, and sufficiently sheltered by the mound and wall; but no structures of this sort can be traced in the south part of the area. As the north and west sides of the hill are steep, and of difficult access, there was no need of an outer ditch in those quarters: But, towards the south and east, where the hill gently slopes, there is a ditch 10 feet broad, and 12 to 16 feet below the foundation of the wall. At the S. E. extremity of the fort, a narrow bridge was raised over the ditch, 18 feet long, and 2 broad, except towards each end, where the breadth was increased. It was composed of stones laid  
together

together without much art, and vitrified above, below, and on both sides; so that the whole mass was firmly cemented. That an opening was left below, after the process was finished, is doubtful. On the upper part of the bridge a stratum of gravel was laid, to render the passage smooth and easy. This is the sole part of the fort intentionally vitrified. A few yards distant from the ditch, there is an outer wall, the foundation of which is about 8 feet lower than the summit of the mound. The approach to the fort is from the N. E. along the verge of a precipice; and the entrance was secured by a bulwark of stone, the ruins of which are extant. There is no vestige of a well within the fort; but, westward, between the basis of the mound and the precipice, there was a deep pond or lake, recently filled up by the tenants in that neighbourhood. About a quarter of a mile eastward, on the declivity of the hill, there are some remains of another oval fort, of less extent than the preceding, consisting of a strong wall and ditch. Tradition says, that there was a subterranean communication between these forts, which is not improbable. From the account now given, it would appear, 1. That both were constructed before the Romans introduced the art of building with lime and other cement. 2. That the Picts, and antient Scots had stone edifices, which Macpherson is not inclined to admit. 3. That they sometimes vitrified particular parts of their forts, to render them the more durable.

There is no vestige of a Roman highway in the neighbourhood of Meikle, though traces of one have been discovered in other parts of the country. At Cupar are extant the outlines of a camp formed by Agricola's army in his seventh year's expedition. On the praetorium, Malcolm IV by the advice of his grandfather, founded an abbey for the reception  
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of Cistercian Friars, A. D. 1164, and endowed it with a considerable revenue.

*Population.*—About a century ago, a considerable part of this parish, viz. the estates of Kinloch and Bamyle, belonged to that of Cupar. From a list then given in to the presbytery by the Bishop of Brechin, it appears, that, in Cupar, there were 850 communicants, and 550 in Meigle. According to the report transmitted to Dr Webster, A. D. 1739, concerning the population of the latter, it contained 1000 inhabitants: But that report was not accurate; for, though its numbers have been considerably diminished since that period, it still contains 1148, including all ages and denominations. There are 86 below 3 years; 165 from 3 to 10; 269, 10—20; 188, 20—30; 145, 30—40; 97, 50—60; 43, 60—70; 20, 70—80; and 8 from 80 to 90.

Rating the entire number at 1150, the proportions of certain ages are nearly as follows, viz  $\frac{1}{17}$  below 3 years;  $\frac{1}{7}$  from 3 to 10;  $\frac{1}{4}$ , 10—20;  $\frac{1}{6}$ , 20—30;  $\frac{1}{8}$ , 30—40;  $\frac{1}{9}$ , 40—50;  $\frac{1}{12}$ , 50—60;  $\frac{1}{17}$ , 60—70;  $\frac{1}{17}$ , 70—80; and  $\frac{1}{14}$  from 80 to 90.

In 1148 inhabitants, there are 37 unmarried persons of both sexes who have houses; 163 married pairs; 42 of both sexes in widowhood; and 242 families; so that the number of widowed persons of both sexes is to that of married pairs as 1 to 4 nearly. There are born annually  $37\frac{25}{100}$  children; viz.  $20\frac{30}{100}$  males, and  $17\frac{65}{100}$  females: So that  $6\frac{1}{2}$  families nearly, produce 1 child a year. The proportion of the births to that of the whole inhabitants is as 1 to  $30\frac{25}{100}$ . There are  $7\frac{2}{100}$  marriages annually.

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The proportion of persons who die at certain ages every year is as follows, viz 9 below 3 years;  $1\frac{7}{10}$  from 3 to 10; 2, 10—20;  $2\frac{4}{10}$ , 20—30; 2, 30—40;  $2\frac{3}{10}$ , 40—50;  $3\frac{4}{10}$ , 50—60;  $3\frac{5}{10}$ , 60—70;  $3\frac{5}{10}$ , 70—80; 1 from 80 to 90: In all 31, or  $\frac{1}{37}$  of the whole inhabitants. The proportion of females to males who die yearly is 16 to 15; the reverse of what is usually stated in bills of mortality. The proportion of births to deaths is 38 to 31 nearly.

The whole parish is divided among eight proprietors. The valued rent is L. 4200: 17: 2 Scots; and the real rent is about six times that sum.

*Towns, &c.*—There is no town or village of any note in the parish. Meigle, an antient, inconsiderable, meanly built, market town, containing 271 inhabitants, is pleasantly situated on a rivulet of the same name, in the center of the parish, at the intersection of two turnpike roads, 12 miles N. W. of Dundee,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  N. E. of Cupar, and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  S. W. of Glamis. The weekly market is on Wednesday. Annual fairs are held on the last Wednesday of June and of October. Meigle was a village, and burying place, before the introduction of Christianity, as appears from some sepulchral monuments and tombstones lately found in the walls of the church.

*Seats.*—There are three seats in the most advantageous situations; and two of them are in good repair. Belmont Castle, a modern edifice, stands on a gentle eminence, 204 feet above the level of half flood mark at Panbride, and commands an extensive view of the plain. Finished in the neatest and most commodious manner, it contains a considerable number of elegant apartments, with a library consisting of a select collection of books, chiefly mathematical, classical, and historical,

historical, of the best editions. The observatory, on an adjoining lawn, is in  $56^{\circ} 35' N.$  latitude, and  $3^{\circ} 11' 15'' W.$  longitude from the royal observatory at Greenwich. The gardens and fine inclosures, with which this place is surrounded, conspire to render it the most delightful residence in Strathmore. Drumkilbo and Kinloch are pleasantly situated: But the latter is in a ruinous condition.

*Church.*—Meikle is the seat of a presbytery, containing 13 parishes, in the synod of Angus and Mearns. Formerly it was annexed to the see of Dunkeld. Several of the Bishops of that diocese resided here; and two of them, viz. James Nicolson and William Lindsay, were interred in the church. The first presbyterian clergyman was Mr Millar, who being translated to the Grayfriars in Edinburgh, A. D. 1709, was succeeded by David Thompson, who served the cure 47 years. His successor, Alexander Scot, was removed from Kingoldrum to this place A. D. 1757, and died in November 1776. In the year following, Dr James Playfair, the present incumbent, was translated from Newtyle. The stipend of this parish is 9 chalders of victual, and about L. 4 Sterling vicarage. The King is patron. The greater part of the stipend of Dunkeld is paid out of this parish. The church was lately rebuilt, and the manse is in tolerable repair. On all occasions the heritors have expressed their alacrity in granting whatever is necessary to the support of these fabrics.

*School.*—The parochial school is endowed with a salary of L. 100 Scots, besides a dwelling-house and small garden. The profits and emoluments arising from 45 scholars are about L. 16 a year. The session-clerk's fee is L. 1 : 10 : 0, and his perquisites L. 2 : 10 : 0. The present incumbent, by  
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age incapacitated from teaching, the education of the youth has, for some time past, been committed to an assistant.

*Improvements.*—Since the year 1745, a fortunate epoch for Scotland in general, improvements have been carried on with great ardour and success. At that time, the state of this country was rude beyond conception. The most fertile tracts were waste, or indifferently cultivated, and the bulk of the inhabitants were uncivilized. The education, manners, dress, furniture, and table, of the gentry, were not so liberal, decent, and sumptuous, as those of ordinary farmers at present. The common people, clothed in the coarsest garb, and starving on the meanest fare, lived in despicable huts with their cattle.

The half ploughed fields yielded scanty crops, and manufactures scarcely existed. Almost every improvement in agriculture is of a late date; for no ground was then fallowed; no pease, grass, turnip, or potatoes, were raised; no cattle were fattened, and little grain was exported. Oats and barley were alternately sown; and, during seven months in the year, the best soil was ravaged by flocks of sheep, a certain number of which were annually sold, and carried off to be fed in richer pastures.

The inactivity and indolence of tenants were astonishing. When seed-time was finished, the plough and harrow were laid aside till autumn; and the sole employment of a farmer and his servants consisted in weeding his corn fields, and in digging and conveying home peat, turf, and heath, for winter fuel. The produce of a farm, holding a proportion to those exertions, was barely sufficient to enable the tenant to

pay his trifling rent and servant's wages, and to procure for his family a scanty subsistence.

The rent of an acre of infield was 8—14 s. ; and of outfield 2—5 s. The wages of a male servant were L. 1 : 10 : 0, or L. 1 : 15 : 0 ; of a female, 12—15 s. The price of an horse L. 4 : 6 : 0 ; of an ox L. 2 ; of a sheep 5 s. ; of a hen 4 d. ; of a dozen eggs 1 d. A cart or coup 14 s ; a plough 5 s. ; an harrow 6 d. ; and other utensils of husbandry nearly in the same proportion to the present rates.

To emancipate the inhabitants of this country from a state of barbarism, and to rouse a spirit of industry, was a bold and arduous enterprise. A gentleman, distinguished by his rank, fortune, and public spirit, undertook and accomplished the task. With a zeal and perseverance becoming an enlightened and liberal mind, he formed plans of improvement, inclosed farms with proper fences, banished sheep from infield grounds, combated the prejudices of his tenants, furnished them with marl, distributed premiums, and otherwise rewarded their exertions. The good effects of those measures soon appeared ; and other proprietors imitated the example. In a few years, improvements were diffused through the whole country. The tenants, as if awaked out of a profound sleep, looked around, beheld his fields clothed with the richest harvests, his herds fattening in luxuriant pastures, his family decked in gay attire, his table loaded with solid fare, and wondered at his former ignorance and stupidity. The landlord rejoiced in the success of his schemes, and shared in the honours and profits of this new erection. The manufacturer, mechanic, and tradesman, redoubled their efforts to supply the increasing demand for the conveniencies and elegancies of life.

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In this parish considerable improvements have been made, but much remains to be effected. The greater part of it is inclosed and subdivided with hedges and hedge-rows; but two of the proprietors being minors, their tenants have not sufficient encouragement to proceed with vigour. The soil, in general, is a fine black mold on a bottom of mortar, and yields excellent crops of wheat, barley, oats, turnip, flax, and grafs. About eight years ago, the author of this memoir procured a few grains of oats of an excellent quality, but unknown in this country. During the first three years he sowed them in his garden, and afterwards in his glebe. The increase has been considerable; for last year, viz. A. D. 1790, there were upwards of 500 bolls of them in the neighbourhood. They are 17 stons English per boll, are several weeks earlier than the common oats, and are not liable to be shaken by the wind. There are 9 farms in this parish, from L. 50 to L. 200; about 20 from L. 20 to 50; the rest are inconsiderable.

The rent of the infield, *i. e.* of four-fifths of the whole, is 15—30 s. per acre. The hire of a day labourer is 10 d. or 1 s.; of a man servant L. 7 : 9 : 0; of a female L. 3. The price of beef, mutton, and pork, 3½ d. and 4 d.; of a turkey 3 s. 6 d.; of a goose 2 s. 6 d.; of a hen 10 d. a dozen eggs 3 d; butter 8 d. a pound of 22 ounces; cheese 5 s. a stone, same weight. The prices of wheat, oats, barley, and meal, are generally regulated by the market at Dundee. Utensils of husbandry are expensive. A coup is L. 8 : 10 : 0; a plough L. 1 : 10 : 0, and L. 2 : 2 : 0; a harrow 8 s.; harness for two horses L. 2 : 16 : 0.

*Manufactures.*—The principal manufacture in this corner is linen. There are 91 weavers in the parish, who work every week

week about 4000 yards, the profit arising from which is L. 25. A stamp-office was established here several years ago. In the year 1788, 147,024 yards of cloth were stamped at this office; in 1789, 150,174 yards; and in 1790, 136,998 yards. The linen manufactured here is of a superior quality, and used chiefly for buckram, hat linings, &c.

*Poor.*—In a corner of the country where a spirit of industry pervades every rank, there must be, in proportion, few objects of charity. At present, there are from six to eight on the poor's list; and the necessities of these are relieved according to the judgment and discretion of the members of session. About 50 years ago, the monthly collections for the poor were 7 s. 9 d.; 30 years ago, they amounted to 14 s.; and are now L. 1 : 10 : 0. In the year 1782, the sums received, and those distributed in charity, were nearly equal. The public fund is considerable, and adequate to any exigence.

The principal disadvantage under which this parish and the neighbourhood labour, is their great distance from proper fuel. The lower class are indifferently supplied with peat or turf from mosses in the vicinity; and the rest with coal from Dundee. The expence of the carriage of coal is nearly equal to the original price: But this disadvantage might, in a great measure, be removed by a navigable canal.

*Canal.*—About 30 years ago, a merchant in this corner, a man of uncommon sagacity and enterprise, apprehending the utility of a canal through Strathmore, found means to procure a survey of its course from Perth towards Forfar, together with an estimate of the expence: But the plan he had conceived

conceived being on too large a scale, and improvements and manufactures being then in their infancy, the design was laid aside. The utility and practicableness of a canal between Perth and Forfar will appear from the following remarks: 1. The whole extent of its course would be about 36 miles, through a tolerably level and fertile country. 2. Its greatest elevation, at the eastern extremity, would not exceed 220 feet above the level of the sea. 3. A channel 15 feet broad, and 6 deep, with recesses at certain intervals, and 22 locks, might be sufficient. 4. From the higher grounds many rivulets and small streams descend; and by these it would be amply supplied with water. 5. The nearest port towns are Perth and Dundee, distant 12—18 miles. 6. From those places, coal, lime, foreign wood, and merchandize, are at present conveyed by land carriage. And cloth, barley, &c. are transported thither in the same way. 7. An extent of country, 35 miles long, and 6 broad, containing upwards of 20,000 inhabitants, would derive essential benefit from a canal. Useful and practicable, however, as the plan may appear, the situation of the Strath, with regard to the port towns already mentioned, and the expence to be incurred, will, it is to be feared, for ever prevent such an undertaking from being carried into execution. For the sum requisite to the construction of a canal cannot be estimated at less than L. 28,000 or L. 30,000; nor the land carriage of 22 parishes in its neighbourhood at more than L. 1100 *per annum*. A vessel might convey by water 50 tons; that is, as much weight as 125 horses could carry by land from Perth or Dundee. But, unless the water carriage were rated at 7 s. 6 d. per ton, competent interest could not be had for the original sum expended on the canal; and, if the carriage by water were so highly rated, the greater part of the inhabitants would rather convey their commodities by land.

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The most effectual method of removing this bar would be a voluntary contribution of the proprietors who, in process of time, would no doubt be indemnified by an increase of the value of their estates.

**END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.**





