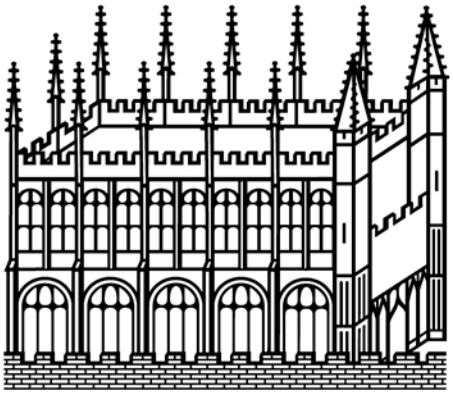

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THE RISE AND PROGRESS

OF

COATBRIDGE

AND SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD.

BY

ANDREW MILLER,

DUNDYVAN IRON WORKS.

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PREFACE.

THE title of this Book speaks for itself, as far as regards the object for which it was written, and it may therefore be considered superfluous to make any prefatory remarks; but, as it is customary to indite a few observations by way of introduction, the writer has, therefore, followed the usual rule. He has endeavoured, in the following pages, to give such details of the rise and progress of the Iron District of Coatbridge as fell within the scope of his observation and research. In collecting the various items on the subject, he has been favoured by many of the leading gentlemen in the district, who take an interest in all that relates to its prosperity. To the respective Ironmasters, Clergymen, Medical men, Teachers, and other gentlemen connected with the Coal and Iron trade, as well as to many aged natives of the Parish of Old Monkland, he has been largely indebted; and to each and all the Writer tenders his most sincere thanks for their kindness.

There are few districts in Scotland in which the results of individual energy are so fully exemplified as in Coatbridge. It may be indeed said to have been the cradle

of the Iron manufacture of the kingdom; and, in bringing up and recording the events of the past, and the names of the enterprising few who, by their science and skill, explored and searched the earth, and expended their capital to benefit their fellow-men, we shall find their names not amongst the great or the titled, and we will not require to search amongst parchments of a century back to trace their genealogy. It is from the ranks of the ploughmen, the blacksmiths, the mechanics, the weavers, and the miners of the district that they have sprung, with only a few exceptions. It will, at the same time, be our task to mark the decided change which time has wrought; compare the past with the present; and also record the mental energy and courage of those men who have elevated themselves by their own industry, and have thus become the benefactors of thousands. Such, indeed, has been the lot of the Iron and Coal-masters who have played their part on the stage of time, in this small portion of the globe, during the past eighty years.

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COATBRIDGE:

ITS RISE AND PROGRESS.

CHAPTER I.

It has been said of England, that it is peculiarly the land of iron manufactures; and the same may, with equal justice, be applied to Scotland, where upwards of 120 blast furnaces continually belch forth their flames, producing a daily supply of pig-iron amounting to nearly three thousand tons; in addition to which there are also a large number of forges and mills, with their furnaces and powerful machinery, converting the crude iron into the malleable state, and rolling it out into every conceivable shape and form, according to the purposes for which it may be required. It is assumed that nearly one-half of all the iron so manufactured in Scotland, is produced in the district of Coatbridge and county of Lanark, which has earned for it the title of the Staffordshire of Scotland. These iron works have flourished and prospered in the district for upwards of thirty years—nay, some of them for the last sixty years; and this important branch of the nation's wealth and industry, in this district, has been the nursery or handmaid for the extension of iron manufacture to many other parts of Scotland. The district of Coat-

bridge is situated in the middle ward of the shire, and is famed for its mineral resources and productions, which for nearly half a century have held a very prominent position in the mining world. Many changes have taken place during that brief period, which it will be our duty in the present little work to record.

For many years prior to the close of last century, coal mining was carried on to a very limited extent; the means of transit to a market were, however, a great drawback to the development. Evidences of these mines still exist in many places, and may be traced by the small mounds of debris or shale that are seen lying in many parts of the district, and from the old waste workings from which the coal had been excavated and brought to the surface by the primitive method of windlass or gin, long before the steam engine was applied in the winding of coal from the mines. The windlass, as a motive power, we may remark, is still applied in many parts of the country where the coal and ironstone are easily attained. About the close of last century sulphur was manufactured in this district on a very extensive scale. The chemical works were erected on the Summerlee estate, and were carried on by the proprietor, the late Mr Neil M'Brayne, and were a source of employment to many workmen for a number of years. Portions of the old buildings still stand, and a large range of workmen's houses, together with a malleable work, are now built upon the site of these works, and are locally known as Maryston Square and the Maryston Iron Works. These chemical works, together with the weaving trade, formed the chief source of employment to the small scattered population; for the Parish of Old Monkland at that period, viz., the middle of the eighteenth century, could only boast of some 2000 inhabitants, which, in the

year 1790, was nearly double that number. In the course of that year the old Parish Church was taken down, and the present one built on the same site, while the manse was built and inhabited in 1791; the minister was the Rev. Mr Bower, who was succeeded by the Rev. Mr Thomson, the next successor being the present minister in charge, Rev. John Johnstone.

The first great undertaking to open up the country was the formation of the Monkland Canal, which was surveyed in 1769 by the famous engineer of the west, James Watt of Glasgow, and shortly afterwards an Act of Parliament was obtained for its construction. The work of excavation began in 1771, but want of capital among the shareholders prevented its completion till 1790. At first the canal went only as far west as Blackhill, and was so shallow that only boats with 20 tons could be carried on it. This was found to be a great mistake, and it was therefore widened and deepened, and afterwards extended from Blackhill to Glasgow, and, when finished for traffic, was said to have cost upwards of £30,000. This canal opened up a cheap means of communication to the Glasgow market, of which capitalists soon took advantage by developing the mineral resources of the district, so that, in 1793, four collieries were established along the banks of the canal—one at Faskine by the Messrs Stirling of Drumpeller, one at Barrachnie by Mr Hamilton, one at Fullarton by Mr Dunlop, and one at Coats and Dundyvan by Captain Christie. In 1796 a sad calamity occurred at the Coats pit, by the canal bursting its banks. The water gushed into the workings, where five men were employed, two of whom escaped, but the other three perished. The pit was filled to the mouth, and the bodies were never recovered; and the father of one of the victims planted a slip of hawthorn

at the side of the pit, and the tree still stands to mark the spot. In these four collieries upwards of 400 men were employed, who, by their labour, produced, at a rough estimate, upwards of 200,000 carts of coal annually, or about 130,000 tons. The abundance of coal, and the ready transit for manufactured goods to the west market, brought another branch of industry into existence. With abundance of excellent fire clay at command, a pottery and tile work—the first in Scotland—was erected on the Coats estate, at a place now called The Pottery, by Mr James Creelman. It was situated on the banks of the canal, and gave employment to a considerable number of the inhabitants. The pottery ware produced from these works was of a superior quality, and the greater portion of it was exported to America and the West Indies. The Pottery, Brick, and Tile Work, as carried on at present so extensively by Mr Robert Brand, is built near the same site where this famous pottery once stood. The produce of these collieries, and the pottery goods, together with manure from the city for the farmers, formed the principal source of traffic on the canal; and, for many years, the revenue derived was so trifling, compared with the great outlay of capital, that the shareholders almost despaired of its ever proving a profitable investment. It is said that in 1805, when the annual meeting of shareholders took place, presided over by the late Mr Colt of Gartsherrie, at the conclusion, murmurs of dissatisfaction prevailed among the members at the very cheerless report. Many propositions were made, and, after discussion, abandoned. At last, a question was put to the chairman as to what he thought should be done; he replied, "Conscience, lads, the best thing we can dae, is for ilka ane o' us to fill up the *sheuch* on his ain lands, and let it staun'." This

advice restored good humour, and the meeting dispersed, after resolving to wait for better times.

Prior to this, the highway between Edinburgh and Glasgow was formed upon the good old principle of a height and hollow alternately, like some of the old parish roads still extant. It was a difficult matter in those days to get a man who understood the navigation of all the turns and twists over heights and through hollows of the roads in question; and it was wisely resolved to construct a new road on more approved principles, which was accordingly done upwards of seventy years ago. The present road, which passes through Coatbridge, was therefore a great improvement, and diverged from the original track in some places, more especially to the west, about a mile, and from that downwards in a north-easterly direction. On some of the farms on the Drumpeller estate, to the south-west of the present road, the farmers can still trace the old highway by the stony places through which the plough passes. There is a spring of water near Drumpark House which still bears the name of the "Cadger's well," where it is said those travelling merchants in olden times rested on their journey to refresh both man and beast; the water it contains is cool and clear, and it is never dry even in the hottest weather. The pit workings have not yet dried up its source, and long may its limpid waters run as one small link of the past with the present. About the beginning of the present century, about half-a-dozen "Coal lords" represented the trade; and these usually met at sundry times, during the course of each month, to transact business, in the Black Bull Hotel, of the city of St Mungo. At those meetings the drinking custom was then fashionable; and each had his glass, a peculiarly constructed one, manufactured for

the special purpose, bearing on its side, cut in the crystal, the motto of "The black face o't," a very appropriate term for those who used them. During the last few years, a gentleman, intimately connected with mines and mining, has endeavoured, by every inquiry, to get one of those glasses into his possession, to keep as a memento of the past, but as yet has failed in his efforts. The "Coal lords" of those days, among whom were Mr Ferrie of Farm, Mr Grey of Carntyne, Mr Merry of Nettleholes, Mr Young of Cuilhill, and a few others, formed themselves into a joint stock company, and leased the greater portion of the coal fields on the banks of the canal. They succeeded for some years in monopolising the trade, but competition came, and the co-partnership was dissolved, each getting his share of the concern; and their heirs, in several instances, are still working the fields thus acquired. The principal part of these fields lie between Coatbridge and Blackhill locks. The erection of iron works at Calder, about the close of the last century, was a small source of revenue to the Canal Company. The supplies, at least part of them, for the furnaces, were taken by water, and the carriage of iron to the market, together with an increased traffic in coal, from the collieries, gradually augmented the funds of the company, year by year, until, in 1807, the shareholders were paid their first dividend, the revenue for that year amounting to nearly £5000. This prosperity increased by degrees, more and more, until 1815, when, from that period up until 1828, the revenue remained almost stationary; its success since then, or what may be termed the dawn of the iron era, has scarcely a precedent in the annals of speculation, as the traffic returns now show the handsome sum of about £35,000 per annum.

CHAPTER II.

About the year 1805 or 1806, the great discovery of that rich and valuable mineral, Blackband Ironstone, was made by the manager of Calder Iron Works, Mr David Mushet, whose name has been immortalised by this mineral, now so widely known as the "Mushet Blackband." At first Mr Mushet made his experiments from a seam called the "Palacecraig Ironstone," taken from the side of a small burn on the west side of Coatdyke, where the metals cropped out. After several experiments made on this in a small furnace, Mr Mushet next proceeded to analyse a piece of black stone which he had discovered some 20 fathoms below the splint coal. The richness of the stone, above all others, was at once so apparent, that further researches were made for the mineral by those deeply interested, and it was found in its true position in many parts of the district, and received the name of the "Blackband" from its colour, and as Mr Mushet was the first to discover its position and value, it was called the "Mushet Blackband." Mr William Moore, M.E., Glasgow, who lately published a small pamphlet on this subject, remarks, "That the Blackband Ironstone in its raw state contains about 35 per cent. of iron, when calcined, about 70 per cent.; and that after its discovery it was but partially worked, and used at both the Calder and Clyde Iron Works for a number of years; ultimately it became the principal source of supply." The field of this mineral extended from Langloan on the west, to Arden, three

miles east of Airdrie, very irregular in breadth, but lying principally on the north side of Calder water. The depth at the eastern extremity is about 30 fathoms; on the west, at the deepest point, 140 fathoms; on the east, west, and south sides the Ironstone is replaced by coal, and on the north it crops out. It is generally observed, that where the Ironstone comes into conjunction with whin it is invariably very much impregnated with pyrites, and in that state has been worked principally for chemical purposes. There is also another seam of Ironstone of more recent discovery, termed the "Slaty Band" the position of which is said to be about 100 fathoms under the "Blackband" and from the evidence of *bores* put down, and its being found about the outcrops of the "Blackband" there is reason to believe that it extends all under the Blackband. The supplies of mineral have hitherto been abundant from many sources, and there has not yet been any great necessity to sink to such a depth, the "Slaty" has, however, been frequently *bored* for north of Coatbridge, but as yet without success.

From 1810, to 1816, the coal trade of the district continued gradually to increase. Pits were sunk at Blaiklands, Gunny and Kipps, by James Merry; at the Wilderness and Kipps, by the Messrs Frew; at Maryston, by Robert Simpson, and several other small workings were started in the immediate vicinity of the village. At Rochsolloch, a day level and a gin pit were started by the founder of Gartsherrie Iron Works, William Baird, who, with the assistance of his brothers, laid the foundation of their fortunes in this successful little colliery. They afterwards extended their operations to Maryston and Gartsherrie, and the result of their united exertions was made visible on the 4th of May, 1830, when the first

furnace was put on blast at Gartsherrie. In these speculations in coal fields, all were not successful, and many failures, after years of struggling, was the result. The cause of such cannot now be easily ascertained, but certain it is, that those who attended to their duties succeeded far beyond their most sanguine expectations, and often were able to lease the coal, and succeed where others had failed. The increasing prosperity of the coal trade after 1820, suggested to capitalists the idea of giving additional accommodation to the district by a railway. It was admitted by traders that a railway would be beneficial in developing those fields of minerals lying inland, and which, on account of their distance from the canal could not be wrought so as to compete with the collieries on its banks. A railway was projected, a company formed, and an Act of Parliament obtained for its construction, and the Monkland and Kirkintilloch Railway was commenced in 1824, and opened for traffic in 1826. As the importance of this means of transit soon became apparent, other branches were formed by other companies both to the east and the north, and these companies some years afterwards amalgamated, and the railway considerably extended, the cost of the whole exceeding £86,000. In 1845 or 1846, the railway was extended to the east to Bo'ness and Kinniel Iron Works, and in 1861 another new branch line to Bathgate, &c., was formed and opened for traffic, which is fast developing the resources of rich and abundant supplies of coal and ironstone, with which that track of country is so well provided. All these branches belong to the Monklands Railway Company, and it is strange that although this company were the first on the field, they are completely hemmed in, as far as their own railways are concerned, by other companies, and have no

communication either with Glasgow or Edinburgh. The Monklands Railway Co., have, however, paid a fair per centage all along for the capital invested, and these new feeders or branch lines must add considerably to their revenue, as the minerals are being rapidly developed. The Glasgow and Garnkirk Railway, which joins the Monklands at Gartsherrie Junction, was opened for traffic in 1831, and proved an important acquisition to the district in conveying not only the coal and iron produce to the Glasgow market, but was also a great boon to the inhabitants, who, by the passenger trains, got easy access to Glasgow. With Kirkintilloch on the north, and Bo'ness on the east, all these were now outlets for the manufactures and produce of the locality, while the superior quality of the bricks manufactured at Garnkirk, Glenborg, Heathfield, and other works of the same description, adjoining both the Kirkintilloch and Garnkirk Railways, found a ready market in this district in the construction of the respective Iron Works. The Wishaw and Coltness Railway on the south, which comes into junction with the Monkland at Whiflat was begun in 1838, and completed for traffic in 1841; the railways, east, north, west, and south, all converge to Coatbridge, and form a complete net-work, in and around it, thus affording every facility for transit that the most enterprising could desire.

In 1825, four or five years previous to the iron era, a mining engineer from the west, a gentleman of great practical experience in mining, was employed by the firm of Campbell & Barlas, solicitors, Glasgow, to make a survey of the district, and report thereon, for a West Indian capitalist, with the prospective intention of erecting iron works; but the foreigner abandoned the idea on seeing two *bores*, that had been put down to some depth, discharging

water at a rate of supply he had never witnessed from such a small hole while in the western tropics, so that the erection of furnaces was left to be carried out, as it has been, by local enterprise and perseverance alone. Shortly after the Monkland Railway was opened, and before the steam engine was brought into action for locomotive purposes, a few gentlemen, interested in the trade of the district, tried the experiment of propelling waggons by means of the wind, using umbrellas as a substitute for sails. The first trial was successful; the wind was strong in their favour, and the waggon on which they were seated rattled along at rapid speed for some distance. They wished to return by the same method, but the wind being contrary to their desires, and tacking scarcely practicable on a railway, they were forced to dismount, and apply their shoulders to the machine, to get it back to the place whence they started. The one trial was sufficient to show the impracticability of such a propeller.

In 1826 the coal trade was greatly increased by Mr Buchanan, of Mount Vernon, commencing operations on the Drumpeller estate. This was quite a new field, which in a few years was developed so rapidly that it gave employment to upwards of 300 colliers. At one period six pits were in active working order. The great thickness of the coal enabled large quantities to be sent forth annually, and its superior quality commanded a ready market in the city of the west, to which it was boated on the Monkland Canal. Like the other collieries the pits were sunk close to the side of the water; the coal being emptied from the hutches as they came out of the pits down the screens into the boats, thus combining economy with despatch. As the collieries increased, other branches of industry were called into requisition; such as iron castings for machinery,

for rails, &c., and, to meet the demand, local enterprise again entered the field. In 1829 Mr William Gray, founder, erected premises for this purpose on the side of the Monkland Railway, quite convenient and central for the district. For many months the castings produced daily at this foundry averaged from 15 to 20 cwts., whereas the same work now will produce as many tons. In the following year another foundry was erected contiguous to the Monkland Canal, by Mr John Munro, opposite the village, an appropriate site for such a work. In a very few years both these foundries carried on a most extensive business, and they are still prominent in the trade.

The iron era may be dated from 1830, after the discovery and introduction of the hot blast, by Mr J. B. Neilson. This invention produced a radical change in the system of smelting the ores; for, in the old process, with cold blast, a furnace only produced from three to four tons every twelve hours, while by the new process the quantity was more than doubled. Many improvements were afterwards effected on the air-heating apparatus and its application, the result being still greater increase in the produce of iron; and the fruits of this important discovery soon evinced themselves in the district, by the extension of the existing works at Calder and Gartsherrie, and in the erection of new works at Dundyvan, Calderbank, Summerlee, Carnbroe, and Langloan.

In 1830 Coatbridge was represented by a very few one-story houses, built in the primitive style, thatched with straw, or covered with tiles. These houses chiefly belonged to the residents, and consisted of a *but* and a *ben*, one of these being set apart for a four or six-loom weaving-shop, where the sound of the shuttles was heard to clatter from

morning till night, and plied with advantage, too, in regard to wages. In those days, the four posts of poverty could not be applied to the trade, and starvation-prices for work done was little dreamt of. What a contrast from the past to the present! The village of Langloan, a little to the west, was somewhat similar to Coatbridge, containing a few more houses, and it could boast of an "inn," which was the only two-storied building it contained. It was thatched with heather, and was a "warm, cozy bield," long known as "Dunlop's Inn." It was extensively patronized by travellers in the palmy days of stage coaches, where comforts for both man and beast were dispensed by "mine host" and his "guidwife" with no niggardly hand. These days are past, and the "inn" now stands a roofless ruin, linking the past with the present. The "Comet Inn," a more modern erection, was built a short distance to the east of its more humble neighbour, the "Heather Inn." The architecture of the new building was after the Swiss fashion, according to the instructions of the late Laird of Drumpeller, Mr Buchanan; it was, but a few years ago, converted into dwelling houses, the east wing of it taken down altogether to make room for other buildings. Previous to these alterations, a portion of it was let for offices, and it was there that the Western Bank of Scotland first started their Coatbridge Branch, which was followed, on the former being removed farther east, to what is now termed the Bank Buildings, by the Union Bank taking it as their Branch office. At the time of the failure of the Western Bank, a commodious and handsome building was nearly finished in Academy Street, as the offices for this branch, the whole of which was purchased shortly afterwards by the directors of the Royal Bank, where they have carried on a safe business ever since. In 1855 the new

building of the Union Bank was occupied. It is a plain, substantial building; and both banks are ornaments to the town. The Clydesdale Bank have opened a branch office during the present year in Church Street. The names of the respective bank agents are—for the Royal, Thomas Torrance, Esq.; for the Union, Robert Henderson, Esq.; and for the Clydesdale, James Watson, Esq.

CHAPTER III.

"A STAGE COACH carries animation always with it, and puts the world in motion as it whirls along. The horn, sounded at the entrance of a village, produces a general bustle; some hasten forth to meet friends, some with bundles and bandboxes to secure places, and in the hurry of the moment can hardly take leave of the group that accompanies them; in the meantime the coachman has a world of small commissions to execute. . . . As the coach rattles through the village every one runs to the window, and you have glances on every side of fresh country faces, and blooming, laughing girls." The days of stage coaches are now among those of the past. Coatbridge and Langloan were both stations at which the horses were changed when plying between the eastern and western metropolis, viz., Edinburgh and Glasgow. There were men of enterprise in those days as well as in the present, and the father of the late Mr Jackson, of Coats, was one of them. In 1816 (of course coaches were run long before that time), Mr Jackson, who was a shareholder in these stage coach speculations, erected a station, consisting of a large square of buildings, known by every traveller as "Jackson's stables." The coaches did their duty, the "Tally ho!" not excepted; employment was thus given by them to many of the inhabitants for upwards of thirty years. The contests between the rival coaches were often exciting, while rattling at their utmost speed, striving who would be the victor. But coachy's occupation in this line is now gone—the advent of the iron trade,

and the introduction of the iron roads, with the iron stallion of the nineteenth century, have connected every town or hamlet, and linked them in iron bonds with the two capitals of Scotland, and produced changes which many of the older inhabitants regret, and speak with garrulous fondness of the days when they were young, when they watched, and could tell the hour of the day by their time-keepers, the coaches, as they passed onwards on their journey. Instead of the musical sound of the guard's horn, we have the wild shrill whistle of the steam-engines, belching forth their fire and smoke, as they career along on the iron pathways on every side of us.

The iron trade began to flourish, and brought in its train a rising population; and with it came the march of improvement—old houses that had stood the storm of more than a century, were swept remorselessly away, to give place to buildings of a modern description. This renovation began in 1835, when the Messrs Baird of Gartsherrie built the Coatbridge Inn, and adjoining range of shops; and although the principal portion of the workmen in the respective iron works and collieries were accommodated with houses erected by their employers, still the demand for houses and shops in the town increased. The old houses and green fields disappeared, as building after building reared their heads, and street after street was formed, until the small town of former days became one of no mean proportion—surrounded by scenes of busy industry and prosperity; while here and there a solitary house of the olden time, with its blackened thatch, still remain, like a connecting link between the ancient and modern times.

The increase of population from the commencement of the iron era, compared with its progress before that period,

is very significant of the great advances made, and are so striking, that the census returns from an early period of the parish of Old Monkland may here be recorded to bear out this fact. The population of the parish in 1781 was 2000 ; in 1791, 4000 ; in 1801, 4006 ; in 1811, 5469 ; in 1821, 6983 ; in 1831, 9580 ; in 1841, 19,709 ; in 1851, 27,332 ; and in 1861, 29,543. Thus from 1831, till 1861, the population was more than tripled ; the parish being divided into three divisions, the population of 1861 were as follows :—western or Baillieston district, 6930 ; middle or Coatbridge district, 15,305 ; and the eastern district, Coatdyke, &c., 7308.

Prior to 1833, the nearest post town was Airdrie. Previous to this, a weaver, named William Stewart, residing in Langloan, was letter-carrier, and although a Government servant, Stewart was a radical in every sense of the term. A few nights previous to the Bonnymuir tragedy, the radicals in the Airdrie district had resolved to turn out. On the appointed evening, Willie started from home fully equipped for a campaign, with knapsack on back and three days' supply of provisions. The rain fell in torrents, so that on reaching Airdrie he was drenched into the skin. No way daunted, he approached the house of one of the leaders, and gave the preconcerted signal. On coming out and seeing the state of the weather, the captain declared he would not budge an inch were it to save the State from destruction, shut the door, leaving poor posty outside, ill satisfied with the weather, and disgusted with the treatment he had received. He returned home a sadder and a wiser man, meddled no more with the affairs of State, and retained his post as a Government servant.

In 1833, Alexander Morrison, another knight of the

shuttle, was appointed post-master in Langloan. In 1836, a petition, signed by a number of influential gentlemen, was forwarded to the authorities at Edinburgh, to have the post-office removed to Coatbridge, which was granted, and Mr M. Fairlie, draper, was duly installed: he still fills the office with honour and credit.

The present site of the Caledonian Railway Station was, some twenty-five years ago, occupied by the Summerlee Mansion House and Gardens, one of the loveliest spots in the locality, surrounded by a green lawn and shrubberies, and intersected with flower plots tastefully laid out—the approach to the house skirted with trees and shrubs. No traces of these are now to be seen, save a few blackened trees, stunted and withered, that stand on the bank of the Monkland Canal, which they once adorned, but are now only monuments of the past. In 1842, the Garnkirk Railway Company extended their line from Gartsherrie Junction to the present Station, and the Mansion House referred to was used for some time as the Ticket Office, and Waiting Rooms for passengers. It was, however, taken down, to give place to a range of goods sheds. A further extension of this line took place in 1844, for the purpose of connecting it with the Wishaw and Coltness Railway at Whiflat. The two Companies combined, in order to effect this, as the undertaking was very expensive, in consequence of the great mineral wealth of the land over which it had to pass. The whole was therefore acquired by purchase, and for one portion the price paid was £12,000, which included the cost of minerals underneath. In 1845 the connection was opened for traffic. The bridge over the Monkland canal, near the station, was at first constructed of wood, the span of the arch being 147 feet, resting at both sides on substantial stone buttresses.

The joiner and mason-work were contracted for by Mr William Waddell and the late James Haldane of Coatbridge. The whole cost about £3000. In 1854 the structure thus raised began to show signs of decay, the immense traffic both of passenger and mineral trains that passed over daily having shaken it much; and it was consequently condemned in 1855, at which time it was replaced by the present peculiarly built iron bridge. This structure was begun in November of the same year, and finished for traffic in February, 1856. The work of building and fitting was accomplished without interfering with the general trading arrangements, which was considered a work of great difficulty, and the bridge, when finished, a masterpiece of skill in engineering. The contractors were Messrs Joseph Butler & Co., Stanningly, near Leeds; and some idea of the strength of the bridge may be formed from the weight and measurement of material used, viz., wrought and cast iron, 167 tons; ashlar stone, 800 cubic feet; red pine wood, 2500 feet; span of girder, 147 feet; depth of girder, 16½ feet; distance between girders, 14 feet; breadth of bridge, 34½ feet: the whole forming a work of immense strength, and capable of bearing a weight of some 200 tons. In 1847 the Garnkirk, Glasgow, Wishaw, and Coltness Railways merged into the Caledonian Railway Company; and at present the revenue at the Coatbridge station on this railway is not less than £25,000 per annum.

CHAPTER IV.

THE iron trade, from 1835, increased rapidly up till 1845, when, so far as regards the number of furnaces in blast,

TABLE.

YEAR.	Calder.	Chapelhall.	Calderbank.	Gartsherrie.	Dundyvan.	Summerlee.	Carnbroe.	Langloan.	Total number built.	Out of Blast.	In Blast.	Average Produce of Pig Iron.	Average Price per Ton.	TOTAL VALUE.	Average Price of Bar Iron.
1830	4	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	7	1	6	10,000	100/	£50,000	.. ..
1831	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	1	7	12,000	126/8	76,000	....
1832	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	2	7	12,000	115/	69,000	....
1833	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	1	8	15,000	110/	82,500	.. ..
1834	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	13	1	12	35,000	75/	1312,50	.. ..
1835	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	16	2	14	50,000	95/	237,500	£11 15/
1836	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	20	3	17	70,000	91/6	320,250	11 5/
1837	..	..	1	2	..	2	..	..	25	1	24	120,000	74/	444,000	10 15/
1838	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	29	3	26	130,000	74/6	484,250	9 10/
1839	.	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	33	2	31	155,000	73/9	571,562	9 0/
1840	2	..	2	4	3	..	2	..	46	4	42	240,000	75/	900,000	9 0/
1841	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	2	52	3	49	280,000	58/6	819,000	7 10/
1842	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	55	5	50	286,000	47/6	679,250	6 0/
1843	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	57	6	51	290,000	40/6	587,250	6 15/
1844	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	60	8	52	296,000	45/6	673,340	5 15/
1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	5	55	330,000	80/3	1324,125	9 10/
1846	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	60	12	48	288,000	67/3	968,400	9 15/
1847	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	60	11	49	294,000	65/4	960,400	8 5/
1848	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	5	55	330,000	44/4	731,500	5 10/
1849	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	60	5	55	330,000	45/6	750,750	5 17/6
1850	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	7	53	370,000	44/7	824,791	5 9/
1851	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	7	53	370,000	40/1	741,542	5 7/6
1852	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	7	53	370,000	45/5	840,208	10 10/
1853	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	8	52	363,000	61/5	1114,712	9 7/6
1854	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	11	49	342,000	79/9	1363,725	9 15/
1855	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59	11	48	336,000	71/	1192,800	8 15/
1856	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59	10	49	290,000	72/4	1410,500	8 17/6
1857	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	60	10	50	400,000	69/2	1383,333	8 16/6
1858	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	61	10	51	408,000	54/5	1110,100	7 10/
1859	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61	12	49	391,000	51/10	1013,341	7 7/6
1860	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61	10	51	348,000*	53/6	930,900	7 7/6
1861	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61	13	48	385,000	49/6	952,875	6 10/
1862	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61	11	50	410,000	52/6	1076,250	6 12/6
1863	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58	9	49	412,000	55/9	1248,450	7 7/6

* The reduction on this year's produce was caused by a strike, to which after reference is made.

it then reached its highest point; but the gross production, on account of improvements in the construction of the furnaces, is still increasing. The price of the metal so produced from the numerous works was ruled much upon the same principle as at present, according to the demand and supply; but, to give a more comprehensive idea of the magnitude of the trade, and also to show its increase from year to year, the preceding table, carefully prepared, will give a better idea of the subject than can be conveyed by any other method. The information has been gleaned from many sources; and at a glance it will be seen, with one or two exceptions, first, when each work started, or each furnace put on blast; second, the number in blast, and those not working; third, the average produce of pig iron, and its annual value at the average price over each year; also the price of bar iron on the same principle, according to the market value. The totals so given are roughly estimated, as scarcely two furnaces are found to produce the same quantity of pig iron.

The following extract from the *Economist*, on the "Fluctuations in the Scotch Iron Trade," for the last twenty years, gives an excellent outline of this branch of manufacture, in its prosperity, and depression, and prices, and forms a fitting appendage to this Table.

Fluctuations in the Scotch Iron Trade.

A glance at the course of prices of Scotch pig-iron during the last twenty years, reveals an alternation of periods of prosperity and depression, recurring apparently with the regularity and certainty of fixed economical laws. In the following brief remarks, each of these periods is separated;

and some of the causes which have influenced, or the collateral circumstances which have accompanied fluctuations in prices noted. Whether we judge by inference from what has taken place under similar conditions at former periods, or from the actual indications now presenting themselves, it will be sufficiently obvious that the iron trade is now entering upon one of its decennial periods of prosperity.

Period of depression previous to 1844.—This was a period of extreme depression in the iron trade, Scotch pigs having been sold at 40s per ton, and even lower, while Welsh bars had fallen to £4 per ton. Owing to the very cheap rate at which Scotch pigs could then be produced—say about 30s to 35s per ton—an opinion prevailed that no future advance of importance was possible; just as at present many think that the cheap iron of the Cleveland district will have the effect of keeping the price low. In 1844 there was an excellent harvest; at the same time money was abundant, the rate of discount being only 2 per cent. Towards the close of the year iron began to rise; and from September till December prices steadily advanced, until 65s was reached for Scotch pigs, and £6 for Welsh bars.

Prosperous period, 1845 *to* 1847.—1845 was a year of great prosperity and speculative activity. Early in the year Scotch pigs rose to 120s per ton, at which high price very large transactions took place, and for many months the quotation was maintained above 100s. The average price of the year was over 80s per ton. Bars ranged between £9 and £11 per ton. 400,000 tons of Scotch pigs were produced this year, and at its close the stock was 240,000 tons, or *seven* months' supply. Throughout 1846 the price remained steady, at the still high average of 72s

6d, and by December the stock had declined to 140,000 tons. During the first nine months of 1847 the average price was 70s, and the stock further declined to 80,000 tons, which was the minimum for this period. Then came the commercial crisis and financial panic which culminated in October, by Government interposing its sanction to the suspension of the Bank Act, the minimum rate of discount being 8 per cent. This abruptly terminated the prosperity of the iron trade, and Scotch pigs fell to 45s per ton.

Period of depression, 1848 *to* 1852.—During these five years which followed the crisis of 1847, the iron trade remained depressed, the price ranging from as low as 36s to 52s 6d, while the minimum cost of production was about 40s per ton. Year by year the stock increased, until, at the end of 1852, it had accumulated to 450,000 tons, which was the maximum for this period; and, as the annual make had now risen to 780,000 tons, the stock was thus again just equal to seven months' supply.

Prosperous period, 1852 *to* 1857.—In 1852 there was again a very abundant harvest, and money was a drug at 2 per cent. Such was the state of collapse from the commercial activity of the previous years, that in June the Bank of England held upwards of £22,000,000 in bullion, and only £10,000,000 of bills under discount. Just then, when money was cheapest, and stocks of iron largest, resuscitation commenced; and, in anticipation of revived prosperity—indicated first by brisk demand for manufactured iron—an active speculation set in, which run up the price from 36s in June to 78s in December. Here was a rise of 42s per ton occurring chiefly in September, October, and December, coincidently with the maximum stock. In 1853 there was a reaction, from the over-speculation, which sent the price down to 50s in the spring.

The year ended, however, with pigs at 82s, and the stock reduced to 215,000 tons. In 1854 the price touched 92s 6d, and for six months of the year averaged 84s 6d per ton. By December the stock had further declined to 150,000 tons. During 1855, 1856, and the first nine months of 1857, the average prices were 70s 9d, 72s 6d, and 74s respectively; and the top prices of each year 83s 6d, 81s, and 83s 6d. The minimum stock of this period, 120,000 tons, was reached early in 1857. The disastrous crisis of October and November, 1857, when the Government was again compelled to suspend the Bank Act in order to allay panic and arrest general bankruptcy, again violently terminated this long sun of iron prosperity. Pigs declined from 80s to 48s per ton in a few months. During this period, while the highest prices ruled, discounts ranged from 5 to 7 per cent.; and those who dread the effect of war upon prices should note that iron was dearest while the Russian war and the fear of consequent complications was at its height.

Period of Depression, 1858 *to* 1863.—Now commenced a long period of depression, from which the trade is only just beginning to emerge. For the six years from 1857 to 1862 the stock steadily increased, until it reached, at the end of last year, 690,000 tons, which, singularly enough, is, at the present rate of production, again just about seven months' supply. This was the maximum stock of the period. It is now on the decline. Throughout these years the prices ranged between 47s and 61s 6d, the average being about 53s per ton. It will be observed that the minimum price of this period, 47s, was 11s above the lowest price during the previous period of depression—a difference which corresponds with the increased cost of production, owing to the expiry of

cheap leases of minerals, and the exhaustion of easily worked seams.

New Period of Prosperity, 1863.—That a new period of prosperity is dawning upon the iron trade, appears from many indications. There has just been an unusually abundant harvest; money for some time has been cheap and plentiful, taking advantage of which a great many schemes —banking and credit companies especially—have been started, tending to foster enterprise; an immense demand exists for iron for shipbuilding purposes, as well as a general demand for all classes of manufactured iron; and extensive railway schemes are projected all over the world, especially in Russia and America. During the last twelve months iron vessels measuring in the aggregate 240,000 tons have been launched. Iron, in fact, is entirely superseding wood in shipbuilding. With regard to railways, it is estimated that there are at present 20,000 miles of line in progress and projected in different parts of the world, which is nearly double the whole mileage open in the United Kingdom. The railway interest in America is at present in a highly prosperous condition; and, owing to the increased cost of production in that country—wages of iron men having risen to 5 dollars, to 6 dollars per day —she has taken from this country a largely increased quantity of iron this year, and has bought, and is now buying, extensively for next year. It may be mentioned that when America imported from Scotland eight or ten times the quantity of pig iron she has taken recently, the price, including freight and duty, amounted to 40 dollars per ton. The present quotation in New York is 40 to 42 dollars currency, which leaves about 80s per ton here. As regards the Cleveland iron,—in that district the stock is estimated at only 10 days' supply, while the makers are

reported to have sold 20,000 tons in anticipation of their future production. A similar state of matters exists in the Cumberland district; and the stock held at the Lancashire ports is said to have decreased by 30,000 tons. Another circumstance favourable to the enhancement of price is, that wages all over the iron districts are steadily rising; and, as it has been found that miners work less the higher the wages they receive, any tendency to increase of production will be held in check. It was so in 1853, when, notwithstanding an increase of 40s per ton in price, the production fell off 10 per cent. Finally, the shipments of Scotch pig iron are greatly increasing, and are only limited at present by the scarcity of vessels. Subjoined are the shipments for the last eight weeks, with those of the corresponding weeks of 1862 :—

Week ending	1863. Tons.	1862. Tons.
Sept. 15, ...	17,543	9,993
— 22, ...	16,119	13,667
— 29, ...	10,130	12,169
Oct. 6, ...	14,136	8,871
— 13, ...	16,171	9,677
— 20, ...	12,674	9,309
— 27, ...	15,772	6,518
Nov. 3, ...	14,294	6,005
Totals, ...	116,859	76,209

This shows an increase of 40,650 tons, or 53 per cent., in the shipments during these eight weeks; and there has likewise been a very large increase in the local consumption, amounting so far this year probably to 100,000 tons over 1862, which was the largest previously known.

The stock of "good merchantable brands" at present in store, represented by "warrants," is 280,000 tons, which is rather above the quantity of warrants in 1852—the beginning of the last prosperous period; but the quantity of g. m. b. in makers' hands is now very small.

It is to be observed that the prices of manufactured iron in Staffordshire, Wales, and Scotland, have advanced 30s to 40s per ton during the last few months, while Scotch pigs have only risen 10s per ton. The difference of price between Scotch pigs and common bars is now as high as £5 10s per ton.

It will be gathered from the foregoing, that the most important advances in price have been established while stocks were at their maximum; and the greatest falls when they were at their minimum,—the principal change occurring at the beginning of each period of prosperity and depression. Also, that the highest prices have been coincident with high rates of discount, and the lowest prices with low rates. It may be observed, in conclusion, that invariably while the trade is depressed, merchants and retail dealers at home and abroad purchase only for their immediate wants, and that consequently stocks accumulate at the point of production. Whereas with a more active trade and improving prices, traders acquire stocks. Hence the rapid dispersion of the home stock which took place in 1853.

In the foregoing table the year 1830 has been taken as the period from which the manufacture of pig iron assumed an importance in point of production, as previous to that time it was, comparatively speaking, small.

The relative proportions of coal, ironstone, limestone, and dross, required in the manufacture of pig iron, taking

the year 1830 as an example, may be roughly estimated as follows: Coal, 100,000 tons; Ironstone, 18,000 tons; Limestone, 5,000 tons; which, together with 10,000 tons of Dross for blast-engines, gives a total of 133,000 tons in the produce of 10,000 tons of pig iron, on the cold blast principle. The disproportion of coal used in the above calculation is accounted for by the fact that it had all to be coked before using it in the furnaces. For the hot-blast process, taking 1861 as an example, the proportions may be estimated as follows: Coal, 962,500 tons; Ironstone, 673,750 tons; Limestone, 154,000 tons; Dross for heating air and blast-engines, 288,750 tons; total, 2,079,000 tons, used in the produce of 385,000 tons of pig iron. The weight of atmospheric air consumed in blast for the furnaces, has been estimated at $5\frac{3}{4}$ tons, or 172,720 cubic feet to each ton of pig iron.

In the foregoing table and calculations, both in the produce of iron and mineral used, a margin has been allowed for stoppages or temporary repairs on furnaces. It will be observed also that in the statistics, the Clyde Iron Works have not been included; for, although they are situated in the parish, at the western extremity, they, nevertheless, properly belong to the Glasgow boundary. The Clyde Works are among the oldest in the country, having been erected as far back as 1786. The total of pig iron produced from the tabulated works from 1830 till 1862, (1863 not being included) represents, in round numbers, the sum of £24,826,250 as the price of 8,460,000 tons of iron, the average price over all being nearly £2 19s per ton. In extending the calculations to the minerals required in the process for the manufacture of such a quantity of pig-iron as shown in the foregoing table, for 32 years, and taking what may be

considered a fair average price for each of these per ton, the result would give as follows:—

Calcined Ironstone and other Ores,	14,780,000 tons,	@ 15s,	£11,135,000
Coal,	21,525,000 tons,	@ 4s 6d,	4,843,125
Limestone,	2,924,000 tons,	@ 5s,	731,000
Dross,	5,507,500 tons,	@ 2s 6d,	818,437
	44,736,500		£17,527,562

As it depends greatly on the quality of the respective minerals, the quantity required, and as nearly every iron work must have different prices for many portions of the material so used, the above is only given as an approximation. The figures, as above, might suggest other calculations as to the labour required to produce such a mass of minerals, but that must be left to the reader's imagination; and by deducting the weight of iron produced, the product for ashes, slag or scoria, &c., together with the gases that have amalgamated with the atmosphere, from the pillars of fire—all such refuse may be set down at 36,276,500 tons; the slag heaps, or mountains of refuse, at the respective works are sufficient indications of this. With the exception of two new furnaces, erected at Summerlee, no addition has been made at any of the other pig-iron works since 1844, but the greater portion of those built previously have been taken down and enlarged, or reconstructed on a modern principle, while others of them have been standing out of blast for several years. The number of furnaces on blast at the works referred to, in 1863, were as follows:—Calder, 6; Chapelhall, 3; Calderbank, 6; Gartsherrie, 13; Dundyvan, 3; Summerlee, 8; Carnbroe, 4; and Langloan, 6—making a total of 49.

CHAPTER V.

THE coal fields in the district consist principally of four excellent seams, viz.:—the Pyotshaw, Main, Splint, and Killtongue; the whole representing an average thickness of some 19 feet. The ironstone seams are the Calderbraes, Palacecraig, Mussleband, and Mushet-Blackband, with other seams of inferior quality, or so thin as to be unworkable. The Blackband seam has been the chief source of supply for many years, and extended over an area of some 4000 acres, in that which is usually termed the "Clyde Bason," which lies in both parishes of Old and New Monklands. This source, however, is now nearly exhausted, and it can only be said to exist in detached patches, of from two acres to mere fragments. The cost of working has accordingly been rendered more expensive, and were it not for the great value of this mineral, as a mixture with other ores, the cost of production, and other contingent expenses, are so heavy, that these portions yet to be worked would be abandoned, until, at least, the price of pig-iron would warrant such a sacrifice of capital. As to the division of these 4000 acres of ironstone among the respective iron works, it is scarcely possible to give such correctly; but so far as it can be roughly calculated, the division has been as follows:—Calder, $\frac{3}{16}$; Chapelhall and Calderbank, $\frac{3}{16}$; Gartsherrie, $\frac{5}{16}$; Dundyvan, $\frac{2}{16}$; Summerlee, $\frac{1}{16}$; Carnbroe, $\frac{1}{16}$; and Langloan, $\frac{1}{16}$. The Monklands ironstone field measures somewhere about ten square miles; and the great strata of mineral wealth contained

in these 4000 acres, supposing it at the average thickness usually found, viz., 18 inches, would, by a rough calculation, produce ten and a half million tons, independent of the produce from other seams, and to the proprietors of these lands they have proved golden mines, by the lordship paid to them by the iron masters. Among the richest divisions of this El Dorado, is that of Rochsolloch, which, at an early period of the present century, was offered by the Misses Aitchieson of Airdrie House, to one of our present iron masters at a lordship of, it is said, 6d per ton. The gentleman referred to was then a very young man, and ignorant of the wealth the field contained, or was afraid to venture on such a speculation; at all events, he declined this offer, and thus lost the prize. Another, namely the farmer, Mr Cullen, who for many years held a lease of the farm, which included a lease of the minerals at 1s 6d per ton, also lost the prize, by resigning the latter for a reduction on the yearly rent of his farm of £30. But knowledge is power, and it is curious to note that although Mr Mushet discovered the Blackband Ironstone, from which he made his experiments in 1806, on the west side of the small burn at Coatdyke, the east side of the water was not searched, and it was not until 1835 that the discovery was made, while all along it was in many places so *ebb* that the plough grazed its surface when turning over the soil. When the discovery took place, the respective iron masters of Calder, Calderbank, Gartsherrie, Dundyvan, and Summerlee, each took a portion of the field on lease. The first and three last works joined together in company, while Calderbank proprietors kept their own portion and worked it by themselves. The committee of the company thus formed consisted of Alexander Christie for Calder, William Baird for Gartsherrie, John Wilson for Dundyvan, and

Walter Neilson for Summerlee. The combination thus entered on was done with a view to economy, as the four portions put together could be worked with fewer shafts, and less expenses in management and oncost. Pits were accordingly sunk to the dip workings, while a great portion lying to the north-west of the field was taken out by an open cast, or mines which required little outlay of capital for machinery. The supply of this ironstone to the four works, in equal proportions, commenced in 1838, and continued till 1852, during which period the quantity produced was upwards of 305,000 tons of calcined ironstone, independent of the Calderbank portion. The average rate paid per ton for Lordship was 7s 6d, which to the proprietor, Mr Alexander of Airdrie House, produced the very handsome return of about £115,000 from scarcely 115 acres, being at the rate of a thousand pounds sterling per acre; and the extraction of the minerals in no way damaged the farm for agricultural purposes after the ironstone was taken out, as at the termination of the lease or leases, the debris or *blaes* was trenched down and levelled, covered with soil, and the land made once more arable, and quite as valuable for cropping as it had previously been. This was almost the universal condition on which the leases were held. Another proprietor of an estate of 500 acres in the immediate vicinity of the works, whose predecessors had purchased it for fifteen hundred pounds, has been so fortunate as to pocket annually, for many years, as many thousands from the Lordship on the minerals on the estate, and he still derives a handsome income from it, although the best part of the minerals is nearly exhausted. These examples are merely given to show the proportion of wealth that has fallen to the share of the landlords, without the

slightest risk or labour, and many others could be cited equally striking.

The great law plea in connection with the hot blast patent was another episode in the history of those connected with the district. Many experiments were tried to evade this patent, but all plans so adopted to heat the air as it passed into the furnaces, were declared a breach of the patent right by the decisions given in the Court of Session in favour of the patentees. The trial in 1843 (a year after the termination of the patent) was considered at that time as second in importance only to the "Great Douglas Case." It lasted for ten days, from 10th till 20th May; and the most eminent counsel in the kingdom was employed in the contest. Those employed by the pursuers were Andrew Rutherford, Esq., P. Robertson, Esq. (Dean of Faculty), Anderson (Solicitor General), and John Inglis, Esq.; Agents, Messrs G. & G. Dunlop, W.S., and Messrs Bannatyne & Kirkwood, Writers, Glasgow. The counsel for the defenders were M'Neil (Lord Advocate), Robert Whigham, Esq., Charles Neaves, Esq., and David Mure Esq.; Agents, Messrs J. & J. Macandrews, S.S.C., and Messrs A. & R. Graham, Writers, Glasgow. With such able advocates, the trial was one of profound interest, and both parties were sanguine of success. 102 witnesses were summoned in the case, all gentlemen of practical skill and talent connected with the iron trade, from the several districts in Scotland and England. 42 of these witnesses were for the pursuers, and 60 for the defenders. The result was a verdict in favour of the pursuers; these being James Beaumont Neilson of Glasgow, Engineer, and others. The defenders were William Baird & Company, Gartsherrie Iron Works; and it is needless to say that the trial created immense excitement in the district where the principals in

the action resided. The occupations of the jurymen may here be noted :—*five* were farmers, *one* lapidary, *two* merchants, *one* banker, *one* factor, *one* tobacconist, and *one* tool manufacturer. The evidence elicited from the witnesses during their examination on the trial formed of itself a history of the iron trade from 1830 till 1842. The patentees thus established their rights, and the amount of money that changed hands after the trial was enormous—one cheque, or order, on the Western Bank of Scotland, was filled up as part of the payment, for £106,000. Such a magnificent stake was worth a contest, and it was ably played for by both parties.

CHAPTER VI.

STRIKES.

"Oh man! thou slave of wayward fate,
Why wilt thou add to misery's power?"

IN every large mining district, its prosperity, more or less, has been periodically overclouded by times of adversity, arising either from a stagnation or dulness of trade, or, what is often worse, a *Strike*. The question of the utility of strikes to the workmen has been largely discussed within the last few years; and into the intricacies of that question we do not intend to enter, but rather to note, in a historical manner, the strikes, and the results which have flowed from them in this district. In 1832 the colliers were out on strike for eighteen weeks, and returned to their labour at a reduction of wages, instead of the advance they demanded. In 1837 they made another attempt to get the wages raised, and the struggle lasted for seventeen weeks. Misery and privation were endured without a murmur, and they returned to their labour without any advance. For some years afterwards there were a few local skirmishes; but between the strikes of 1837 and 1843 the bill of Lord Ashley (now Earl of Shaftesbury) came into force, which put a stop to the previous custom of employing women underground. This event took place in 1841. In 1843 another formidable strike was entered on, which lasted for upwards of three months, during which fears were entertained that an

outbreak would ensue. The yeomanry of the county were called out, and a company of the 53d Regiment of Infantry was brought from Glasgow and stationed in the town. The men on strike remained quiet but firm, and were successful in their demands; but, in the course of a few weeks afterwards, the employers gave them warning for a reduction of the advance so lately given, and the workmen, worn out by the harassing campaign, submitted to the terms. Other strikes of a trivial nature occurred during the succeeding ten years, when again, in 1853, the district became the scene of another contest, commencing in April, and continuing till August. During its course, combination was met by combination. Physically, those on strike were masters; morally, they were their own slaves; and financially, in a manner helpless. The majority, improvident and careless for the future; and the result was defeat, for the employers had the advantage in every respect. The strong arm of the law was on this, as on two previous occasions, called into requisition. Military, yeomanry, and constabulary were dispersed over the district; force was met by force; and those men who were willing to work had to be protected to and from their employment, in order to ensure their safety, as monster meetings were almost nightly held by those on strike, from which strong patrols of men were despatched to all the roads leading to the pits to prevent the men who wished to work from getting near them. This system of interference was thoroughly organised by the men, and carried out; the usual method for stopping the "black-nebs" being an invitation to attend a meeting, and, if they did not accede to the request, a stronger intimation followed, that frequently had the desired effect. At such periods, hundreds of men, who were never in a pit or mine in their lives, were employed

and trained to the work as miners and colliers, thus increasing the number in the labour market, and augmented when the men on strike resumed their work, consequently reducing the value of labour; and this has been the result of nearly every strike that has occurred in this district. It is short-sighted policy of the men, and it is certain, and may be set down as a general rule, that strikes are an evil to be avoided by every class of workmen. No matter on what grounds they are raised, or marked by whatever show of immediate success, they are sure at the end to bring misery and wretchedness, if not utter ruin, on those who engage in them. Ask the wives and children of the colliers and miners in this or any other district the result of these strikes, and they will to a certainty confirm these remarks. Their experience cannot be gainsayed. A few solitary families may contrive to live comfortably amidst the general destitution and misery,—but how? Such strikes require leaders; and this may be the secret of the comforts these enjoyed. Education is doing much in the way of enlightening our mining population, and elevating them as a class second to no other body of workmen. Better would it be for all parties, both employers and employed, were a little more "moral suasion" adopted, instead of rushing into such contests—by the workmen especially, who, from example and experience, have often found that the results gained were never adequate to the sacrifices made. The strike of 1860 was very peculiar, inasmuch as it was a combination of strikes. The colliers employed by the coalmasters stood out for an advance of wages, which they were successful in obtaining; and a proportionable increase in the price of coal was the result, for which the public had to pay. The ironmasters, having hitherto in respect of wages ruled the labour market, deemed

this an innovation; besides, they were unable, from the low price of pig iron, to advance the wages of the colliers who were employed in connection with the iron works; and rather than submit to the demands of the men, they, after due consideration, agreed to damp out the furnaces. This, with one or two exceptions, was accordingly acted on, and, to counteract the increase on the price of coal in the market, they resolved to forward such supplies as they had at command, either from stocks on hand, or from those pits where a few of the men still kept working. The market was soon glutted, and prices fell accordingly; this state of matters lasted for six weeks, causing much distress and privation among nearly all classes of workmen by the want of employment, who rejoiced when the strike terminated. The furnaces were again put on blast; but the strike was a serious loss, not only to the district, but also to the country at large, as many workmen were thrown idle at the works, and upwards of 60,000 tons of pig iron lost to the market, in the manufacture of which upwards of 150,000 tons of coal, independent of the other minerals required, would have been used. The district was, therefore, many thousands of pounds sterling poorer in point of wages for workmanship; and the loss to the country, taking the pig iron at market value, could not be less than £160,000. This, together with expenses for repairs on furnaces that had been damped out for so many weeks, and required to be put on blast again, the whole loss may be roughly estimated at £200,000. Such are a few of the evils of strikes.

CHAPTER VII.

Malleable Works.

Among the productions of the district in the early part of this century, was the manufacture of steel, which was carried on, at Calderbank, by the Monkland Iron and Steel Company, for many years, but abandoned in 1839. At that time the manufacture of malleable iron was extended by this Company, and carried on with vigour; and year after year additions were made to enable them to manufacture iron in all its branches, until the works became the most extensive in Scotland. The largest portion of these adjoin the pig-iron works of the company, and the remainder are situated at Moffat and Gartness, a short distance from each other. The works, altogether, consist of 62 puddling and 19 heating furnaces, with 6 driving engines, patent hammers, helves, and other appliances necessary for such an extensive manufactory, which was capable of turning out on an average 3000 tons of finished iron per month. In July, 1861, those gigantic works stopped, the company having suspended payments. The stoppage had a ruinous effect upon the general trade in the immediate vicinity, and also on the town of Airdrie, which, being situated some two miles from the works, was greatly benefited by the circulation of money thus brought into it. A portion of the puddling department was started a few months ago, viz., in October. And it is said that other parts of the work

will follow gradually. It is not anticipated that the business will be carried on so extensively as formerly. It has been said that above a quarter of a million sterling are invested in these works.

The Dundyvan Malleable Works commenced operations in 1839, and have been carried on successfully ever since. At these works there are 44 puddling and 15 heating furnaces, 4 driving engines, two patent (Condie) hammers, and a helve hammer. The machinery is capable of producing 1400 tons of finished iron monthly, of nearly every variety, plates, rails, bars, &c., &c. For the last twelve years the average amount of finished iron forwarded to the market annually has been 12,000 tons, to manufacture which 34,000 tons of coal were annually required. There are a number of other malleable works in the district, but as their existence dates from a later period than the two already mentioned, they will follow in order accordingly, and be noticed at the proper period.

CHAPTER VIII.

Education.

"'Tis education forms the common mind;
Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined."

A very important subject connected with the district, is that of education, the requirements for which, both religious and secular, increased in accordance with the growth of the population. In 1835 there were no churches nearer than the Old Monkland, two miles to the south-west, or the town of Airdrie, two miles to the east; and the first religious denomination that took possession of the field was the "Relief," a very appropriate name for the pioneers. On the 7th of August, 1836, the Rev. Peter Brown, late of Wishaw, delivered the first sermon from a tent forwarded from the Relief Congregation at Tollcross, by Mr Meiklam of Clyde Iron Works. The site of the first meeting was a lovely green haugh, lying about three hundred yards to the east of the bridge, and on the bank of the Monkland Canal, on the Dundyvan estate. The congregation that assembled on that memorable occasion to listen to the truths of the gospel, was very large, and had only the green sward for seats, and the blue canopy of heaven for a roof. Shortly after this a large hall was taken from Mr William Gray, Founder, where the adherents formed themselves into a congregation, and in 1839, the Relief (now the U.P.) Church was erected, at a cost of nearly £1400, with accommodation for 800

sitters. During this period those in connection with the Established Church were also busy. They set to work with vigour, and the Gartsherrie (quoad sacra) Church was built and opened for public worship, three months prior to the Relief. The erection of this substantial edifice, with its spire, &c., which stands so prominently on the hill, cost £3000, with accommodation for 1300 sitters. It is told of the late parish minister, Mr Thomson, that he jocularly remarked about the "Relief" that the citadel had been taken possession of by the enemy, and it would require hard work to drive them from such a strong-hold, a prophecy that has been fulfilled. Another staunch churchman, who was noted for his waggery, and a resident in the town, was one day asked by a gentleman who had descended at the Inn from the Stage Coach, "What building is that?" pointing south to the Relief Church, "That," said Johnny, "is just a barn, sir." "Nonsense!" was the reply. "Aye, deed sir, it's just a barn for threshing the Kirk o' Scotland in," was the rejoinder. There was room for more such barns, as was evident by the additional churches which were built. In 1841 the Saint John's Episcopal Chapel was erected, at a cost of £2000, with accommodation for 450 sitters. This was followed in 1844 by the erection of the Free Church, at a cost of £800, with accommodation for 700 sitters. The Roman Catholics, a very numerous class in the district, had a preaching station for several years, and in 1848 they erected the St Patrick Chapel, the cost of which, with additional building for manse and school, was nearly £4000. The last church added to the town was the Evangelical Union, a neat, compact structure, erected in 1860, at a cost of £700, with accommodation for 700 sitters. In Baillieston, which is nearly three miles

west from this, the Crosshill (quoad sacra) Church was erected in 1835, at a cost of £507, with accommodation for 500 sitters. The site for this church, which consists of half an acre of land, was the gift of the late George Scott of Daldowie, who, for this, claimed the right of naming the church after the farm on which it is erected, viz., Crosshill. The St John's Episcopalian Chapel was erected in 1851, at a cost of £1000, with accommodation for 600 sitters. Mr Andrew Buchanan, of Mount Vernon, presented the church with an acre of ground on which it is erected; the funds for building this structure and parsonage adjoining were collected by public subscription. This year, 1864, there will be another church added, an erection which will cost upwards of £1200, with accommodation for between 400 and 500 sitters. This church belongs to the United Presbyterians, and the feu upon which it is built is a gift from James Beaumont Neilson, who has already been mentioned in connection with the Hot Blast.* All these churches, both in Coatbridge and Baillieston, have one or more Sabbath schools in connection with them, which are excellent auxiliaries for training the young, in conjunction with the schools and academies.

About the beginning of the present century, the means of education were in accordance with the small population, and the only seat of learning near the village was a small thatched house at "Auld Muirend," on the Dundyvan Estate; under the roof of which presided Mr James Merry, or "Dominie Merry" as he was termed—

* The church was opened for public worship on 14th February; Dr George Jeffrey, of Glasgow, Rev. William Stirling, of Coatbridge and Dr Anderson, of Glasgow, officiating at the three diets.

> "There, in his noisy mansion, skilled to rule,
> The village master taught his little school.
> A man severe he was, and stern to view"—

who trained the young ideas how to spell and read, enforcing his teaching with frequent application of the *taws*. A few of the dominie's pupils are still living, who declare that he was a *hard hitter*, and made them feel on a sensible part, the great importance of education. In noticing past events, it may be interesting to record that about eighteen years ago, when the grave was opened in which the body of the *maister* had been buried in Old Monkland Church-yard, to receive the last remains of one of his descendants, the grave-digger was astonished at discovering that the body of the *dominie* was nearly entire, arms, leg, (for he had but one leg) &c., were petrified into a hard substance; the whole of the body had a blue, chalk-like appearance, which, after a few hours' exposure to the air, crumbled at the touch. It was, altogether, a curious specimen of a body petrified into stone, and from the fact of its becoming brittle when exposed to the influence of the atmosphere, showed that a few years more were required to complete the process of petrifaction. The phenomenon attracted considerable attention at the time, and was duly noticed in one or more of the Glasgow newspapers, under the title of "The Petrified Dominie." Since then, several bodies have been discovered in the same burying ground, more or less petrified, according to the time they have been buried. This petrifaction is generally believed to be the result of the mineral water, that acts upon the remains, and hardens them into this state before they decompose. Mr Merry died about the year 1807 or 1808, and the school-house was allowed to go to ruin, the site of which is now occupied by a neat cottage, occupied by

Mr Thomas Johnston of the Dundyvan Iron Works, and close adjoining is the Dundyvan Academy. At the period above referred to, the parish could only boast of a parochial school, and six private schools, and even these were but thinly attended. The successor to Mr Merry, was a Mr Robert Black, who established a school in Langloan, which, as the population increased, was succeeded by others in various parts of the district. Amongst those teachers who have, during the course of subsequent years, been engaged in training and imparting knowledge to the young, may be noted, Rev. Thomas Martin, R.P. Church, Strathmiglo; Rev. Peter Sawyers, Free Church, Gargunnock; Rev. John Gow, Free Church, Carmylie, Arbroath; Rev. John Torrance, U.P. Church, Dumfries, and many others now equally notable. The oldest teacher in the district, Mr David Reid, has, for upwards of a quarter of a century, fulfilled the arduous duties in a very unassuming manner, and is very much respected. After the iron works and collieries began to extend, the proprietors very judiciously established schools in connection with them, and now there is scarcely an iron work or colliery which has not its school, or academy, with a staff of efficient teachers, where the children of the working men receive an education qualifying them for college, or for entering upon the active duties of life, and for which the parents pay but a nominal charge, levied according to the rules of each work, and varying from fourpence to one shilling per month for all the children of each family above five, or under ten years of age. After this period a small fee is exacted for the more advanced branches of education, and for many years past both clergymen, doctors, and lawyers have had, and are still getting their ranks augmented from students trained in these schools

and academies, who are an honour to the profession; so that the opportunity and benefits derived from such a system of education are appreciated by the working classes, and many instances could be given of the great sacrifices made by working men to push on their children and give them an education qualifying them for the learned professions. The parents (all honour to them) in the struggle have the inward satisfaction and pleasure of doing their duty, and thus giving their children a heritage whereby they can elevate themselves and become orna-

TABLE—SCHOOLS.

NAME.	Designation.	District.	Head Teacher.	No. of Female Teachers.	No. of Male Pupil Teachers.	Average Attendance of Scholars.
Old Monkland	Parochial	M.	James Burdon	—	—	80
Langloan	Do.	M.	David Reid	—	—	30
Coatdyke	Do.	E.	Andrew Baird	—	—	75
Baillieston (Crosshill)	Do.	W.	Peter Jarvie.	—	—	100
Fauldshill	Subscription	W.	John Dickie.....	—	—	56
Do.	Private	W.	J. Jamieson	—	2	194
Bredisholm	Do.	W.	Misses Dobson.....	—	—	20
Faskine	Colliery	E.	W. R. Wiseman	1	—	82
Rosehall Academy ..	Do.	M.	Edward M'Haarg ..	1	4	185
Calderbank	Iron Works..	E.	James Murray.....	1	2	200
Chapelhall	Do. ..	E.	John Gibb	—	2	175
Carnbroe Academy..	Do. ..	E.	Michael White.....	1	2	205
Calder	Do. ..	E.	William C. Salmond	—	—	172
Dundyvan Academy	Do. ..	M.	Robert Blacklock ..	2	4	430
Summerlee	Iron Works..	M.	John Macnicol.....	1	3	200
Gartsherrie	Do. }	M.	{ John Gardner ... }	1	4	430
Do.	Do. }		{ George Shaw.... }			
Gartcloss	Colliery	M.	Miss Russell.....	—	—	54
Gartsherrie Academy	St Mary's.....	M.	Misses Craig.....	—	—	85
Do. Do.	St George's ..	"	Colin M'Kay	—	—	120
Do. Do.	St James's ..	"	Robert Hogg	—	3	180
Do. Do.	Classical	"	John Cameron.....	—	—	25
Free Church.....	Private	"	David Brown	1	2	145
St John's Episcopal	Do.	"	Thomas Ferguson ..	—	—	95
St Patrick's Catholic	Do.	"	William Lynch	1	4	250
			25	10	32	3488

ments to society. Thus have the collieries, the iron works and foundries, produced men now eminent in the respective ranks of ministers, doctors, lawyers, civil and mining engineers, bankers, merchants, &c., &c. Knowledge is power, and the lever, education, has been carefully attended to, and supported by the respective iron and coal masters, as the preceding table amply shows, it being an outline of the majority of these institutions, with the average attendance of scholars taken last year.

W., E. and M. in the table, are West, East, and Mid districts. There are thus 4 schools for the first, 6 for the second, and the rest for the latter; and, taking into account children attending small private schools out of the district, together with the attendance at the evening classes, the 3488, as given, may be augmented to 3700, as a fair average attendance, out of a population of upwards of 29,000 inhabitants, this being at the rate of about 13 per cent.

CHAPTER IX.

THE years 1844 and 1845 were characterised by a brisk demand in the iron trade; and, as at such periods, workmen's wages are generally good, this data is taken to show the great amount of capital required for wages, and therefore more or less circulated in the district, from both iron works and collieries around. The examples are only a few, and the data 1844, or for stated periods during its course. At Summerlee Iron Works for that year, the sum paid for wages was nearly £11,800, of which about £6,000 was advanced to the workmen between the regular pay days. At Dundyvan Iron Works, for the same period, the sum paid for wages was not less than £75,000, exclusive of sums paid to contractors at a distance. Nearly £15,200 of the above was advanced to the workmen between the regular pay days. At Gartsherrie Iron Works the sum of nearly £4,800 was advanced between the regular pay days to the workmen during the course of four months of that year. At Drumpeller Colliery, then leased by Mr Buchanan of Mount Vernon, the sum paid for wages for six months was about £5,300, nearly £3,200 of which was advanced to the workmen between the regular pay days. A few more instances could be given, but the above may be considered sufficient to show the continual influx of money to the district, and the immense floating capital required for wages alone; and these are but a tithe of them, the other works and collieries, of course, swelling

the amount to an almost fabulous sum,—thus adding prosperity to the district, commerce to our merchants, tradesmen, and others connected in business, and benefiting all.

The town of Coatbridge, although surrounded by pillars of fire, and built upon what may be termed the requisite to produce other illuminating powers, could not boast of a gas work till 1843. Previous to this period, however, one house in town appeared to be favoured above all others by a supply of gas from the bowels of the earth. This house belonged to the late Mr James Tennant, merchant and portioner, Main Street. It was the Inn to which travellers resorted to for years, where they could command all the comforts of a home. The peculiar attraction, however, being the blythe, kindly welcome of the late Mrs Tennant, whose ever ready and obliging disposition made her a universal favourite with old and young. The house was not very large, yet it was the general resort for Masonic meetings and other societies, also, dancing schools, concerts, and other entertainments. Each apartment was illuminated with nature's own gas, the supply for which existed for several years. The origin of this mysterious light was rather curious. A few months previous to its discovery, the Messrs Baird of Gartsherrie got permission to put down a *bore* at the back of the house, so as to ascertain the position or depth of certain metals, and sometime after strange noises were heard to proceed from the hole which was covered over with wood, and one Sabbath evening the sound became so loud, that Mr Tennant's son, Robert, went to make a close inspection with a light. On approaching the place he was suddenly enveloped in flame, which rose to a height of several feet. This flame had a bluish tinge, and much the same appearance as that produced by spirits

when ignited. The inspector, however, had presence of mind to throw a wet sack over the place, and thus extinguishing the mysterious fire. The news of the phenomenon spread rapidly, and hundreds of people during the week visited the place to gratify their curiosity. Meanwhile preparations were made and soon completed for fitting up a purifier and receiver, from which the gas was conducted by pipes into the house, and for three years the supply from this subterranean manufactory kept twenty-six burners constantly going, as they were required. Many scientific gentlemen from the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, and other towns at a distance, visited the scene, to examine the quality and properties of this wonderful gas. Unfortunately, a pit which was sunk at the east end of the town appeared to have struck on the source of the spontaneous combustion, as shortly after, the supply decreased, and gradually became weaker until it nearly ceased. By this time, 1844, the Gas Light Co.'s Works were in active operation, and candles and oil lamps had disappeared in a great measure from shops and dwelling houses. This improvement was the work of a few spirited influential gentlemen in the town, who, in discussing affairs about the latter part of 1842, resolved, at one of their meetings to have "more light," and, after due deliberation, a prospectus for a gas work was issued, and ere many weeks a company was formed, the capital stock being 1333 shares at £3 each. The shares sold rapidly, the works were started, and in 1843, completed so far. The price of this useful light for nearly ten years was 8s 6d per 1000 cubic feet, but the gradual extension of the pipes to four of the large iron works, together with extensions in the town, increased the

consumpt to such an extent as enabled the company in 1853 to reduce the price per 1000 cubic feet to 6s 3d; in 1854, to 5s 10d; in 1860, to 5s; and in 1861, to 4s 7d. In 1858, in consequence of additions and extensions, 333 new shares were issued to meet the expenditure. This additional stock represented the full amount allowed by the deed of copartnery, viz., £5000, but in 1862, general powers were granted by the shareholders to the directors to create new stock to the amount of £1500, for the purpose of laying new branch pipes to the villages of Whiflat, Rosehall, and Calder Iron Works. The inhabitants of these places had the pleasure of enjoying the new light at the close of last year. Like almost every other speculation in the district, these works, by judicious care and management, have proved a profitable investment to the shareholders. Prior to 1854, the average return for capital invested was 5 per cent., since that period, the following table of returns is ample proof of its success. It may be here mentioned that as the copartnery is for twenty-one years, the time will have elapsed in the course of another year, and a new deed of copartnery will therefore be required. As a proof of the stability of the Company, shares are very seldom in the market. When such is the case, they average from £4 10s to £5.

Year ending May.	Gas Consumed.	Interest Paid.	Year ending May.	Gas Consumed.	Interest Paid.
1854	3,780,000 cubic feet	8 per cent.	1859	6,660,000 cubic feet	10 pr. cent.
1855	4,600,000 "	8½ "	1860	7,500,000 "	10 "
1856	5,000,000 "	9 "	1861	7,409,200 "	8 "
1857	5,700,000 "	10 "	1862	7,884,150 "	10 "
1858	6,000,000 "	10 "	1863	9,280,000 "	10 "

Manager, George R. Hislop. Secretary, Alex. M'Laren, Treasurer, Thomas Torrance, Royal Bank.

The village of Baillieston, situated about three miles west from Coatbridge, is a thriving place, surrounded by extensive collieries. A few enterprising gentlemen connected with the district, in the latter part of 1862, formed themselves into a company, for the purpose of erecting a gas work, to supply the community with this essential element. Operations were immediately commenced, and by the beginning of 1863, the village was illuminated by a supply of gas from these works, which are built on the south side of the turnpike road, and to the east of the toll-bar. The cost of the works, pipes, &c., amounted to upwards of £1400, which was subscribed for by the company in shares of £1 each. The price of the manufactured article is at present 8s 6d per 1000 cubic feet.

The village is rapidly extending, and a handsome County Police Office has been recently erected to the west of the gas work, with ample accommodation both for constabulary and prisoners.

CHAPTER X.

THE introduction of gas into the town was a step in the right direction; but another element was still awanting, for as the population increased they suffered severely from the want of a proper supply of water. Their principal dependence for this essential element to cleanliness and health existed in the precarious supplies from a few wells in the neighbourhood, several of which during the drought of summer failed in their supplies. There were two or three wells, however, where the supply was filtered into them from the Monkland Canal, and at such seasons of scarcity the people flocked to these from all quarters, where the scenes were often amusing—women and girls, men and boys, all collected in a promiscuous crowd, waiting for hours, with their receptacles of every shape, colour, and dimension, and ranged in the order of their arrival to get a supply of the precious fluid. The slightest deviation from this rule was sure to result in a general scrimmage, in which the vessels of wood, tin, and stoneware were made to play a very important part over the heads and shoulders of the combatants. Good water was a rarity, and prized accordingly. About a mile to the west, there was a famous well at Dumbank, which was overshadowed by the trees of the Drumpeller woods, and its waters gushed forth in pure crystal streams into a stone trough built into the wall-side that skirts the Edinburgh and Glasgow Road. From it the weary traveller got a refreshing draught, and even the spirit-dealers patronised it, as

it made an excellent mixture in reducing the strength and augmenting their stock ; but now the water that supplied the fountain has ceased to flow ; the basin is there, green-moulded for want of the usual supply, mocking the passers by ; its source has gone into some other channel or pit-working, and the famed water is now only a remembrance of the past. There is also a spring well near the U.P. Church, which still retains its flow. The source of its supply is from a deep sand-bank ; and when a great scarcity prevailed, the minister's water was often in demand, when it could be obtained, for the pump was secured by padlock and key. Water in those days, such as could be used by human beings, was often at a premium, and during the few days annually when the canal was run out (which is invariably in the summer) to work repairs on the embankments, &c., there prevailed a famine for water, and the inhabitants were compelled to extremes, and use the dirty, muddy stuff left in the pools at the bottom of the canal, which was enough to bring disease and pestilence into the town. To rectify this evil, not only for the populous district of Coatbridge, but also for that of the town of Airdrie, where (in the latter), we have seen the water carted regularly through the town, and sold at a "bawbee the gang," an Act of Parliament was got by a company in 1846 for the construction of waterworks, under the title of the Airdrie and Coatbridge Water Company Act, 9 and 10 Vic., session 1846, to which the Royal assent was given on 27th July of that year. The Waterworks are situated at Roughrigg, in the parish of Shotts—an eligible site, from its high elevation. The reservoir covers about 200 acres, the whole having been constructed under the superintendence of the late Daniel W. Kane, engineer at that time to the Glasgow Water Company. At first, there was

only one filter, a very large one, which ultimately proved inadequate to the wants of the consumers, and consequently other two filters were added, under the supervision of Mr William Gale, engineer to the Gorbals Water Company. The undertaking was very expensive, and the cost of works, pipes, &c., connected therewith, went beyond the amount of capital subscribed (4040 shares). The sum expended may be set down in round numbers at £28,737, being £7,500 more than the capital. The original price of shares was £5 each. After the works came into operation in 1848, the water, from some defect at the fountain head, was very impure; and until the evil was remedied, a proportion of the consumers objected to pay for it, which was a serious loss to the company, and for the first four years the revenue could only meet working expenses. In 1853 the shareholders received their first dividend on the capital invested, at the rate of 2 per cent.; in 1854, 2½ per cent.; in 1855, 3 per cent.; in 1856, 3½ per cent.; in 1857-58, 4 per cent.; in 1859, 4½ per cent.; and for the last four years it has been 5 per cent. For several years past the supply of water and the quality is all that could be desired, and the resources are abundant. One thing is certain, that the introduction of water by the company was one of the greatest boons ever bestowed upon a community, and, in a sanitary point of view, highly beneficial. The number of consumers in the district of Coatbridge, including those at the Dundyvan, Gartsherrie, Summerlee, and Langloan Works, who are rated as householders, are about 2600, being more than half of the total number (5081), rated for in the Co.'s survey of consumers—according to the returns of 1863.

CHAPTER XI.

It has been said that "coming events cast their shadows before." In this respect Coatbridge for several years had the shadow of civic dignitaries, and consequently an annual election of Provost, Magistrates, and other officials. The Council meetings were held in the "Inn," where the affairs of town and state were duly discussed in regular form, and with a convivial spirit worthy of the realities of an actual burgh. The members of Council had no special night of meeting, but they met very frequently, for the mirth and jollity that prevailed was very attractive, so that, with a few exceptions, the attendance was regular. The fines exacted for non-attendance went to the general fund, so that all tended to harmonise and qualify each member for the duties of office, and was sufficient inducement to prolong the Council meetings or to adjourn. Strangers were considered highly favoured when admitted. This jolly Council was carried on for years, still the coming event of which this was the shadow has not yet come; and Coatbridge, although entitled from its population and position to rank as a burgh, and has gentlemen of ability connected with it, who ought to be entrusted to govern its affairs, is still, from want of spirit or something else, as it was, and it is neither a burgh on the roll Parliamentary nor Royal. As an example of how business could once be done in former years, the election

for 1845, as issued officially for that year, is herewith given :—

LIST

OF THE

MAGISTRATES,

TOWN COUNCILLORS, AND OFFICIALS OF COATBRIDGE,

Elected November, 1845.

WILLIAM MILLER, Esq., Provost.

Robert Russell, Esq.
Thomas Fell, Esq.
James Walker, Esq.
} Bailies.

COUNCILLORS.

Robert Douglas,
William Waddell, Jun.,
Matthew Fairlie,
William Hill,
David Crichton,
James Jamieson,
James Tennant, Jun.,
Adam Clark,
William Boyd,
John Lumsden.

Andrew Ramsay, Treasurer.
John M'Lachlan, Fiscal.
Robert Swan, Town Clerk.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Malcolm Miller, Deacon Convener.
William Thomson, Dean of Guild.
James Miller, Chamberlain.
James Gordon, Inspector of Buildings.
William Waddell, Master of Works.
Isaiah Clark, Civil Engineer.
William Morison, Water Bailie.
James Tennant, Sen., Inspector of Weights and Measures.
James Taylor, Foreign Correspondent.
John Cairns, Inspector of Streets.
Robert Prentice, Railway Inspector.

James Currie, Town Officer.

Note.—In 1846 another official was added to the list, a *wee* laird in town (now deceased,) having been displeased at not receiving an appointment among the officials. The following year his name appeared with the questionable title attached, "Finisher of the law."

As this election went the rounds of the Glasgow press as from a *bona fide* burgh, it was taken for granted that such existed; and not long afterwards, a minister from the west of Scotland, having occasion to officiate in the Gartsherrie Church, the congregation was both astonished and no doubt not a little amused to hear the rev. gentleman's special prayer for the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Coatbridge. The worthy man had taken it for granted that such officials did exist, and was very much surprised when enlightened on the subject.

For many years after the iron works started, the town was often the scene of drunken brawls, over which the mock civic dignitaries appeared to have no control. On such occasions it was often dangerous for the more peaceful inhabitants to venture out in the streets at night, and the whole district became so notorious for rowdies and scientific pugilism that the merchants got alarmed, and for some time employed and paid a night watchman for the protection of their property. This state of matters continued till 1846, when a regular police force was organised, the Act for which was obtained in the month of September, and was entitled "An Act to erect and constitute the parishes of Old and New Monklands, and parts of the parishes of Bothwell and Shotts, into one police district, for the establishment of an efficient police force therein, and for other purposes relating thereto," to which the Royal assent was given 18th June, 1846. The establishment of such a force was of great importance, and the results were equally satisfactory. Improvements followed, and in 1855 another Act of Parliament was obtained for the combined rural districts of Airdrie and Coatbridge. This second Act was obtained in the session of 1854-5, and was entitled "An Act to repeal the former one; to recon-

stitute and extend the police district therein mentioned, under the name of the 'Airdrie Rural Police District;' and to erect and maintain a hall, court-houses, and public offices, for the Airdrie and Coatbridge district of Lanarkshire," to which the Royal assent was given 30th July, 1855. This Act continued in force till 1858, when, in March of that year, the police merged into the county force of constabulary, under Chief Captain Mackay—Superintendent, Thomas Clarke for the district of Coatbridge and Airdrie. Inspector for Coatbridge, Mr Peter Stewart.

CHAPTER XII.

LET us now proceed to notice in detail, the erection of the respective manufactories in the district. The Caledonian Tube Works, established in 1844, by the late William Baker, the first work of this description in Scotland, for the manufacture of the patent lap welded iron tubes for steam boilers. The patent expired in 1857. The tubes so produced are exported to nearly every quarter of the globe. The number of men employed average from 30 to 80 according to the demand; and the works are now carried on by Joseph Baker, Esq., Woodside House.

The Atlas Foundry, established in 1845, by the present proprietors, Messrs James M'Gilchrist & Co. In addition to the production of Cast Iron Work, a large business is carried on in the engineering department.

The Britannia Tube Works, erected in 1851, by John Lumsden & Co., where iron tubes for blast furnace twyeers, shovels, spades and brass castings are produced. This work employs, on an average, about 30 men and boys.

The Maryston Iron Works, established in 1851, are now carried on by Messrs Hugh Martin & Sons. At these works there are six puddling and two heating furnaces, with engines and other machinery, capable of producing about 300 tons of finished malleable iron monthly.

Coats Iron Works, erected in 1854, by the late Thomas Jackson, Esq., of Coats, at which there are twelve puddling and two heating furnaces, with the necessary machinery, capable of producing nearly 600 tons of

finished malleable iron monthly. In addition to these works a neat and substantial structure was erected close adjoining, in 1861, for the manufacture of lap welded iron tubes, with all the requisite machinery. The tube work was leased to Messrs Andrew Stewart & Co., of Glasgow, in the latter part of last year, who are carrying on the work very successfully in all its branches. The total cost of the whole works as at present in operation, is said to have been upwards of £10,000. The Malleable Works are now carried on by Captain Jackson, of Coats.*

Drumpeller Iron Works, erected in 1859, by Messrs Henderson and Dimmack. At these works there are twelve puddling and three heating furnaces, with the necessary machinery, capable of producing about 600 tons of finished iron monthly.

The Phœnix Iron Works, erected in 1861, and now carried on by Mr James Spencer, have six puddling and two heating furnaces, with engines and machinery capable of producing 250 tons of finished iron monthly.

The Clifton Iron Works, also erected in 1861, by Messrs Colville & Gray, at which operations in the manufacture of iron were commenced in February, 1862. At these works there are ten puddling, and three heating furnaces, with all the appliances of machinery, capable of producing about 600 tons of finished malleable iron per month. The total cost of these works was upwards of £7000.

Coatbridge Works (lately Munroe's Foundry), now the property of Messrs Begg & Wilson, who carry on an extensive manufacture of iron tubes, pipes, shovels, spades,

* At several of these Malleable Works extensions have been made lately, which have increased their power of produce in this branch of manufacture.

&c., and also the business of brass-moulders, the whole giving employment to upwards of 30 men and boys.

North British Iron Works. These works were originally known as Ronald's Forge. The latter, when first erected in 1840, and for many years afterwards, belonged to Mr Ronald, who carried on the manufacture of axles, wheel tyres, &c., and other forgings. After it was converted into a malleable iron work, it was known as the "Phœnix," but the present lessees, Messrs Ellice and Mackenzie, changed the name to the North British. It is a very compact little work, with two puddling and two heating furnaces, along with machinery capable of turning out 150 tons of finished iron per month.

All the foregoing are situated in the immediate vicinity of the town, and have been the means of augmenting the population, and adding to the general prosperity. A manufactory for steel springs, &c., in 1860, was erected near the Drumpeller Iron Works, but after a few months' trial it was given up. The whole of these works, viz.:—Atlas Foundry, North British, Caledonia, Britannia, Clifton, Phœnix and Coats, are built on the Coats' estate, on the north side, and along the bank of the Monkland Canal. A branch off the Monkland Railway runs along the side of the Canal, thus giving every facility by land and water, for the transit of materials to, or merchandise from the respective works.

Coatbridge Tin Plate Works. These works, which are situated on one of the most eligible sites in the district, on the estate of Whifflat, at the Laigh Coats, were started at the latter end of the present year. They are the only works of the same description in Scotland, and the proprietors (Messrs Baillie and Bell) deserve credit for their enterprising spirit in thus adding another branch to our

iron manufacture, which, it is calculated, will give employment to about seventy individuals. The works are built on the most approved principles—the machinery and fittings are of the best description, with all modern improvements. There are two puddling furnaces, two lumping furnaces, a hollow fire, a softening fire, with a range of tinning pots, a couple of engines to propel the rolls, a Condie hammer, and every other appliance necessary for manufacturing the iron through all the various stages from puddling, hammering, rolling, re-heating, cutting, softening, pickling, and lastly, tinning, when it is finally packed in boxes, in quantities of $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cwt. in weight, ready for the market. The estimated produce of such a work is about 500 boxes per week. In the tinning process, females are employed, so that this is a new phase in iron manufacture in the district. The works are advantageously placed for carriage of the raw material or produce either by railway or canal, and with its energetic proprietors, there can scarcely be a doubt as to its future prosperity.

Tennant's Foundry is situated at the bottom of Buchanan Street. The enterprising lessee, Mr Robert Tennant, has recently expended upwards of £1000 in extending and re-building the same, in order to enable him to meet the demand for heavier castings in machinery and other goods of a like description. This foundry was formerly known as Smellie's engineering establishment. There are also several extensive woodyards in the town, which have saw mills attached. The respective proprietors are Mr William Waddel, Messrs Allan & James Waddell, Mr John Hill, and Mr John Murray, who give employment to a considerable number of men, in building houses, railway waggons, bridges, piers, &c. Their enterprising spirit leads them to accept of contracts in these branches in

nearly every part of the country, and their career in this respect has hitherto been very successful. At Sunnyside Messrs Tudhope and Gray have erected a bolt and rivet manufactory; these works, when fully started, will be able to produce about ten tons of the manufactured article daily.

The Maryston Works and Drumpeller Works are built on the Drumpeller estate, the former a short distance to the west of the Caledonian Railway Station, near the canal, which is convenient for transit; the latter near to the Langloan Iron Works, with every facility for transit both by railway and canal, as the latter lies close to the west side, and the former runs into the works.

The Rochsolloch Iron Works are situated near the village of Coatdyke, and were erected in 1858, and consist of six puddling and two heating furnaces, capable of producing nearly 200 tons of finished malleable iron monthly.

All the works possess the same advantages of transit for their produce, by the Monkland Canal or Railway, and additional advantages will be derived by the construction of the new line of railway (Glasgow, Baillieston, and Coatbridge branch) by the Caledonian Company, which is expected to be finished in the course of another year. This railway will form another outlet for the increasing traffic of the district, at the same time it will be of great importance in developing the valuable seams of coal in the west division, and providing supplies of that excellent mineral to the works in this neighbourhood. This branch line of railway is to give accommodation to that portion of the western district extending along the north valley of the river Clyde, and both sides of the Calder water, joining the Caledonian at Coatbridge on the north, and Whifflat on the south, and these two branches forming a junction near the Souterhouse Colliery to the west, and running west, by

Drumpeller, Dykehead, Bredisholm, Baillieston, Mount Vernon, Foxley, Tollcross, Clyde, &c., and on to the Dalmarnock branch of the Clydesdale Junction Railway, by which direct communication will be formed with Glasgow, Paisley, and Greenock. The coal fields through which this line passes are very extensive, and several large portions of them are still unwrought, the opening up of which, together with the further development of those working collieries, will add materially to the prosperity of the district. And there is little doubt that as soon as this outlet for minerals and merchandise is finished, it will at once take its place as one of the best feeders on the Caledonian Railway.

The coal required in the manufacture of iron, at the various malleable works, may be set down at upwards of 90,000 tons annually, and by calculating upon those at present in operation to turn out only three-fourths of the iron they are capable of producing, the produce of finished malleable iron would average upwards of 33,000 tons annually. The coal required in the various processes to which the iron is subjected, from its crude state until finally sent to the market as bars, rails, boiler-plates, &c., &c., is generally estimated at from $2\frac{1}{2}\frac{9}{0}$ tons, to $2\frac{1}{2}\frac{5}{0}$ tons, to each ton of finished iron. The above will, therefore, be found to be very near the mark, and by extending the calculations a little further, the 33,000 tons of iron so produced, taking the market price at a fair average over all, the sum represented by this branch of industry may be set down at upwards of £300,000 per annum.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE Blackband ironstone of the district, that source of wealth, prosperity, and industry, is now (as has been previously observed) rapidly drawing to a close. For several years past the supply has been on the decline, which has necessarily caused the opening up of other districts to get the required supplies for the respective iron works, and consequently the additional distance has increased the price of the raw material, and thus augmented the revenues of the Railway and Canal Companies. Such a constant drain upon the resources of the district in keeping so many furnaces in material for upwards of thirty years, has certainly been very great, and now the supplies have to be brought from all quarters. The principal sources are the extensive ironstone fields of Denny and Kilsyth on the north; Bathgate, Shotts, and surrounding fields on the east; Morningside, and Wilsontown, on the south; Possil, Skaterigg, &c., on the west; and even such widely separated places as Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, Stirlingshire, Fifeshire, and Ballycastle in Ireland, are all doing duty in the supply of this mineral. Fortunately, there are indications that the district still contains a rich store of another seam of ironstone, known and worked in several places as the "Slaty band," inferior to the Blackband, but excellent in quality, and, as regards quantity, it has been calculated that the adjoining parishes of New Monkland and Shotts contain a supply for all the furnaces, for fifteen years to

come. On this subject an experienced mining engineer says, that the position of the "Slaty" in both parishes holds good, but in some places the stone is absent, and replaced by a coal of a semi-anthracite character, very metalliferous, and often found with thin plates of ironstone through it. Still, as a general rule, if the "Slaty" be blotted out in one part of the field, it is not lost to the sectional thickness of 12 inches; the thickest, the thinnest, and the wants, all amalgamated, will average the full thickness over the whole of this ironstone deposit, at least such appears to be the fact in several workings in both parishes. Calculating the extent to which this deposit, prevails, (so far as is yet known,) at 11 square geographical miles, 12 inches thick, the quantity will not be less than 13,500,000 tons of ironstone calcined and ready for the furnaces, which, yielding 64 per cent. of iron, would produce seven million tons of pig-iron for the market. Such figures are very cheering and pleasing to contemplate; they are, however, borne out, by almost daily or weekly discoveries of the seam of ironstone they refer to. The future prospects are therefore bright, and who can tell what scientific skill may yet accomplish in its researches in the bowels of the earth. But independent of all this, there are other sources of supplies for the works, viz., the Hematite or iron ore of the Whitehaven and other districts in England. This ore, which is said to contain from 70 to 80 per cent. of iron, has been used at the iron works in considerable quantities, for some years past. It is considered to be a first-rate mixture with the various kinds of ironstone, and can be worked to advantage half-and-half, and even more, producing iron of excellent quality, combining all the requisites for strength and durability. Thousands of tons of this ore are weekly

imported into the district, and the revenue derived from this traffic alone, by the railway companies, is very considerable. This, of course, may be set down as an additional tax upon the manufacture of iron in this place, as it is a heavy item in the working cost, compared to what it was some years ago when the Blackband ironstone was abundant in the immediate vicinity of the respective works. From these few remarks it will be at once apparent that many years' prosperity are yet in store for the district, possessing, as it does, those peculiar advantages for export of manufactures, or import of the raw material, by means of transit which connect it with every port in the United Kingdom.

In the present method of winning and working the coal fields, the contrast is great, when comparing the system in use some forty years ago, and even earlier. The rapid strides of science and its application in pit working is at once apparent at the respective coal works, in the machinery, ventilation, fittings, safety-signals, slides and cages, all on principles calculated to protect and preserve the lives of the miners and colliers, who have to toil daily in the dark subterranean passages in the bowels of the earth, exposed to unseen dangers from fire-damp, falling roofs, fire, or in descending and ascending the shafts. As a class of workmen, they are beset with dangers unknown to those who earn their bread under the light of the sun, for the latter may avoid approaching danger, but the former are often helpless to avert it, as was the case in the melancholy catastrophe at Hartlepool Colliery, and many others of a like description. Accidents often occur that are the results of carelessness, or recklessness, and often through ignorance. A naked light carried into a part of the workings where the explosive gas may

have collected, has often destroyed many lives and much property, and non-attention to the proper signals has resulted in death to the careless. The following extract on the subject of accidents will give an idea of their extent and character. This district forms a portion over which Mr Alexander, the Government Inspector of Mines, has the supervision. "Fatal Accidents in Coal and Ironstone Mines. From the reports of the Inspectors of Mines, which have just been printed by order of Parliament, we learn that the total number of accidents in the Coal and Ironstone Mines of Great Britain, during the year 1861, were 811, as compared with 769 the preceding year, being an increase of 42. Of these, 39 occurred in the Eastern district of Scotland, and 36 in the Western district of Scotland. In the collieries of the Eastern district there were three explosions of fire-damp, 10 accidents caused by falls of coal, and 12 by falls of the roof of the mine; 5 accidents in shafts from various causes; 3 underground, and 6 on the surface. In the Western district there were 4 explosions of fire-damp; 21 accidents caused by falls in the mine; 7 in shafts; 1 underground, and 3 on the surface. Mr Alexander, the inspector for the Western district, estimates the gross output of coal from the collieries of that district, at 6,100,000 tons. The number of deaths caused by the accidents in these collieries, was 37, or 6 per million tons of coal raised. The output of ironstone is estimated at 1,700,000 tons, and the number of deaths by accidents was 13, or 7·6 per million tons of ironstone raised. The larger proportion of deaths in ironstone mines is accounted for by the fact that ironstone is more difficult to work, independent of the large proportion of rubbish which requires to be taken out, in some cases greatly exceeding the weight of the

ironstone; whereas in working coal seams there is generally sufficient space at a convenient distance underground for stowing purposes, and very little rubbish requires to be drawn to the surface. 'The statistics of ironstone mines,' says the Inspector, 'are yet incomplete, but further experience will probably prove that coal mining is a more hazardous occupation than ironstone mining, in proportion to the number employed and the work performed.' For the past year the loss of life from the destructive effect of fire-damp has been considerably reduced. The accidents from falls of coal and roof, in the Western districts of Scotland, are exactly the average of the last six years."

CHAPTER XIV.

It has been observed in the preceding part of this record, that in 1793 only four collieries were in existence in the district, which gave employment to upwards of 400 men. The following statistics, with regard to collieries and mines, were obtained in 1862, and the whole of them were taken as accurately as they could be obtained, and may be considered as a fair average of the men employed at the time, and even yet may be assumed to be nearly correct, and is presented to show the great increase or consumption of our coal-fields at present going on, in comparison of what it was at the period above referred to.

In some pits in the district, there abounds a rich *shale* or *blaes* (as it is termed), which requires to be taken out of the mines along with the coal or ironstone. For many years it was considered to be of no use, and, consequently, great hills of it were allowed to accumulate at these pits. But science has been brought to bear upon this worthless refuse, and a manufactory was erected some time ago, at Palacecraig Colliery, by Mr Greenshields, who is extracting large quantities of oil from this *shale*—which has so long been considered of no value—and the proprietors of the estate, Messrs Baird, of Gartsherrie Works, are drawing a handsome revenue from it for lordship.

Until within the last few months, the west division was considered to contain no ironstone; but a *bore* lately put down at Swinton has overturned this idea, by the discovery of what is said to be the "Slaty band" seam, in its

proper position in the strata—viz., 75 fathoms under the Kiltongue coal. The seam is represented to be 23 inches in thickness, and should it prove to be equal in quality to the "Slaty" ironstone at present produced from the mines

No. of Pits.	Colliery.	Name of Lessees.	Men Employed.			Total.	Working.
			West	Mid.	East		
3	Braehead,	John Tennant,	197				Coal
2	Nackerty,	Reid & Stewart,	120				"
1	Dykehead,	Anderson & Young,	50				"
2	Bredisholm,	John Young,	70				"
2	Ellismuir,	John Watson,	55				"
1	Carmyle,	John Horn,	52				"
1	Kenmure,	David Roxburgh,	47				"
2	Bogleshole,	Colin Dunlop & Co.	87				"
1	Heathery Knowe,	Blochairn Iron Co.,	47				"
2	Aitkenson,	James Merry,	86				"
3	Camp & Swinton,	John MacKenzie,	63				"
1	Bargeddie,	Young & Anderson,	17			891	"
8	Rosehall,	Addie & Miller,		735			Coal and Ironstone
1	Kirkwood,	John Hendrie,		46			Coal
1	Souterhouse,	Trustees of late John Wilson,		34			"
3	Drumpeller,	Do.,		80			"
1	Dundyvan,	Do.,		15			Ironstone
1	Whiflat,	Do.,		24			Coal and Ironstone
1	Quarry,	William S. Dixon, of Cadder,		30			Ironstone
1	Coathill,	Merry & Cunningham, Carnbroe,		36			"
1	Coats,	Captain Jackson,		20			Coal
1	Do.,	Wm. Baird & Co.,		10			"
3	Gartgill,	Do.,		111			"
3	Gartsherrie,	Do.,		80			"
2	Espieside,	Do.,		125			"
1	Kipps,	Do.,		30			Coal and Ironstone
1	Burnbank,	Do.,		26			"
1	Burnybrae,	Do.,		54			"
1	Airdrie House,	Robert Addie,		26			Ironstone
1	Kippsbyre,	Robertson & Addie,		60			Coal
1	Leaend,	Do.,		65		1607	"
1	Garturk,	Wm. S. Dixon, Cadder,			28		"
3	Rochsolloch,	George Cowie & Co.,			100		Coal and Ironstone
3	Palacecraig,	Wm. Baird & Co.,			130		"
1	Faskine,	Do.,			23		"
3	Hillhead,	Do.,			133		"
4	Carnbroe,	Merry & Cunningham,			258		"
1	Cliftonhill,	James Adam & Co.,			20	692	Coal
			891	1607	692	3190	

in the Shotts parish, it will be a rich storehouse for the iron works in the district, and add materially to the wealth of the west. Many years ago, several bores were put down by scientific gentlemen connected with the iron trade, in the hope that the "Blackband" ironstone existed in the western field, but nothing valuable for blast furnaces could be found under the Kiltongue coal. The recent discovery of the "Slaty" is perhaps a proof that there is some truth in the theory regarding this seam—viz., that the stone is sometimes absent, and it may be that the bores formerly put down may have struck on such parts in the strata. It is to be hoped that this is so, and that the west division will yet equal the mid and east divisions in producing abundant supplies of excellent ironstone. With regard to the strata of these three divisions, they lie in what is geologically termed the "Clyde Basin," The principal seams in the middle and south part of this field, generally called the "Glasgow Basin," are the "Upper Ell" main and splint coals, followed by the "Humph" and under seams. Those of the east lie deeper in the series. The richness or quality of either the coal or ironstone varies greatly, according to the locality. Let us now refer once more to the foregoing table as to the number of underground workmen employed in the three divisions of the district. In these there are upwards of 3000 colliers and miners; and allowing 2000 for the former and the remainder for the latter, the quantity of coal produced falls little short of 4000 tons daily; and of ironstone, after being calcined and ready for the furnaces, about 1200 tons daily. The output of coal in the whole district, about the beginning of the present century, averaged about 40,000 tons annually. This quantity is now produced in ten days, and there are prospects of a still further increase.

The estimated daily consumption of coal at the blast furnaces in the district is about 2000 tons; the other half is consumed by the Malleable Iron Works or forwarded to the market. This constant drain on the minerals for so many years must have made a deep inroad on the supplies, and imagination may fancy what a honeycomb of tunnels lies underneath the surface. It is calculated that in the course of forty years these subterranean workings will have been filled up by the gradual subsidence from the old workings up through the series of strata. But for the *debris* which have blocked up portions of these workings, the whole district from the east of Airdrie to the west of Baillieston could be traversed as through a great tunnel miles in length.

CHAPTER XV.

In proportion to the extent of the mining operations, the mineral produce raised, and the number of hands employed, there is not perhaps another mining district attended with fewer casualties to life and property than that of Coatbridge. Whether this is owing to the physical condition under which the minerals are met with, or to a more careful system of working, it is difficult to say. The accidents that have occurred are mostly of an indvidual character, and hitherto we have escaped those terrible pit calamities that swamp the fortunes of the owners, make a gap in many households, and scatter scores of widows and hundreds of helpless children on the charity of the world. But while we have escaped those terror-striking visitations peculiar to mining districts, still experience enough has been given us to form an idea of the great danger to which the miner is exposed in the course of his everyday labour; and among these suggestive casualties the Drumpeller underground fire was perhaps the most remarkable, from the amount of property that was at stake, and the ways and means adopted to overcome and subdue the fire, which for a time threatened the entire destruction of the colliery. This calamity occurred in 1851, the fire originating from the flues in connection with a furnace which supplied heat to the boilers of an engine required at the bottom of the shaft in No. 9 Pit. The smoke from the fire was carried along by means of the flues to another pit, some 50 fathoms distant. But before proceeding further it will

perhaps be judicious to present the reader with a verbal sketch of the field, including the number, thickness, and depth of the respective seams worked, and a rough estimate of the acreage over which the operations extended. This colliery is situated on a part of the Drumpeller estate, lying on the north side of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Road, and extending from near the town of Coatbridge to about two miles westward. It is divided into two triangular patches by the Monkland Canal, and contains the principal coals of the district, from the Pyotshaw coal downwards. The workings embraced the seams locally known as the Splint, Main, and Pyotshaw. The Splint is a strong coal, at that time extensively worked for furnace purposes; the two latter seams are soft, more bituminous, and better adapted for household use, or in manufactures where a strong heat and flame are required, The operations extended in a series of different winnings, situated at respective distances on the banks of the canal, covering an area of nearly 800,000 square yards, or about two miles in length, by, say, 300 yards in average breadth. The workings were drained by two pumping engines, one at the east and another at the west end of the field. The deepest winning was about 80 fathoms, the others were to the rise of the field, or near the outcrop, and did not average more than 40 fathoms. Within the above range, over which the workings extended, there were twelve pits, and of this number there were only three in operation when the fire occurred, the rest having been exhausted, but were still open to daylight, and accessible from one another. Scattered through the old workings there was a large quantity of irredeemable coal in the shape of pillars, necessarily left for the support of the roof, and forming an aggregate area of perhaps one-sixth

of the entire field. These pillars of coal, 9 feet thick in Pyotshaw and Main coal seams, which are together, and 3½ feet thick in the Splint, were in many parts crushed, broken, and spread, and just in that position most accessible to fire. In short, all the materials were there, and every facility for a grand subterranean fire. With such space, containing some hundreds of yards of old propwood, thousands of tons of coal, and an immense quantity of semi-combustible rubbish in the shape of shale, all that was required was a simple spark to set the devouring element in motion. Under these circumstances, great alarm was felt for the safety of not only the Drumpeller Colliery, but also those fields adjoining, when it became known that the pit was actually on fire. The cause of the subterranean conflagration could not be certainly ascertained, but it appeared to have commenced close to where the flues were situated, which carried off the smoke and gradually extended the fire along the face of the old workings. Almost superhuman efforts were at first made to subdue it by water. One of the Glasgow fire brigades, with hose and other appliances necessary, dashed an abundant supply of water from the Monkland Canal over the burning mass. The water appeared to feed rather than extinguish the flame, and this process was kept up for days with little or no effect. A valuable and extensive coal field was at stake ; one plan had failed, and another was decided on, and carried out at once by Mr Mackenzie, manager, Dundyvan Iron Works, and Mr M'Creath, mining engineer. The principle adopted was to exclude the air from the fire, and destroy the latter by carbonic acid gas or choke damp, to manufacture which an apparatus was erected near the pit. This consisted first of an open furnace, into which a quantity of coal char was

placed and fired, and a boiler was built to generate steam, from which pipes were conducted to the pit mouth. The underground workings around the fire were built up air-tight; the steam from the boiler descended the shaft, causing a strong current of air to pass downward through the furnace, the gas from which was propelled by the steam blast, and thus the deadly choke damp was forced in. A constant discharge of this gas was kept up daily until the contracted part of the workings was filled, and allowed to stand for about three months. When opened and properly ventilated, men of experience in mining descended and found all underneath cold and damp, the plan having proved completely successful in saving from destruction this coal field and also those lying contiguous. It was a matter of satisfaction to think that, except a considerable pecuniary loss to the proprietor, the late John Wilson of Dundyvan, and the temporary pinch to which the colliers were subjected in consequence of the suspension of the works, not a solitary individual was injured in the slightest manner.

In the month of February, 1859, a fire occurred in No. 9 Pit, Rosehall Colliery. It was supposed to have originated from an iron funnel which conveyed the smoke from an engine at the bottom of the pit, the fire from which ignited the wood-work in the upcast shaft. A few men who were working during the night in the pit were attracted to the bottom by the smell of burning wood, into which the burning timbers were falling fast, and blocking up the only road for the men to escape. Two of the number promptly volunteered to ascend the shaft, through the burning mass, and give the alarm. The brave fellows were successful in reaching the top, and at once caused the water from the engine-pumps to be

turned on, and dashed down the shaft. Those who were below also worked with desperation in throwing water on the portion of fire within their reach. The flames rose to the pit-mouth, but at last succumbed to the continued torrents of water, and in about 24 hours were completely extinguished. The other workmen were got out in safety. The energy and firmness of the men on duty probably saved a portion of this coal-field from destruction. In concluding this portion of our remarks on collieries, it may be observed, that although such quantities of coal are daily extracted from the various seams at present working, there are other seams which lie deeper in the series, of excellent quality, that have scarcely been touched yet, and these will afford an abundant supply of this useful mineral for an almost unlimited period.

CHAPTER XVI.

In the midst of all the turmoil of business, iron manufacture, produce of coal, &c., and fortunes acquiring by those engaged in them, other important matters connected with mental culture were not neglected. Besides schools and academies for the young, another auxiliary to education was established, for the working men, in the form of a Mechanics' Institute, in 1840. The following gentlemen were the promoters of the original Institute in Coatbridge, viz.:—John Mackenzie, Esq., Dundyvan; William M'Creath, Esq., M.E., Drumpark; Archibald Reid, Esq., now manager, Bredisholm Colliery; W. Goodwin, Esq., now Iron Merchant, Glasgow; and the late James Johnstone, sen., Dundyvan Store. The lectures for that season were delivered, once a week, in the hall formerly used by the Relief Church Congregation; the lecturer was Dr Gullan, of the Andersonian University, Glasgow; the subjects being principally of a practical, scientific character. At the end of the session, the committee had a surplus fund on hand of upwards of £12, which was duly lodged in bank in their names. From some cause or other, the following winter was allowed to pass over, and also the three succeeding years, without the lectures; but, in 1845, a number of the leading gentlemen in the neighbourhood again agitated for a Mechanics' Institute, and were successful in the movement. The money in Bank, consisting of the sum already mentioned, was handed over to the committee by the

original promoters; subscriptions for a library were started, and as the whole was under the management (like the previous one) of influential gentlemen connected with the district, success attended all the schemes. Since then a course of lectures has been delivered annually by practical lecturers, on subjects alike entertaining and instructive, and hitherto the directors of the Gartsherrie Academy have given gratuitously, as a place of meeting, one of the large halls, and also the use of a small room for the library, which now contains upwards of 1200 volumes. The office-bearers for the Institution—session 1863-64—are D. C. R. C. Buchanan, Esq., of Drumpeller, President; Alexander Whitelaw, Esq., Gartsherrie Iron Works; and Captain Jackson, Coats, Vice-Presidents. The acting committee are John Campbell, James Mure, Robert Clarke, John Sloss, John Lumsden, Allan Waddell, Robert Henderson, J. B. Begg, James Miller, William Hill, John Martin, Thos. Torrance, William Andrew, Dr Robert Wilson, James Lusk, David Brown, Rev. Messrs Stirling, (U.P.), Henderson, (Free), and Galloway, (Gartsherrie). Mr Andrew, Secretary. Mr Torrance, Treasurer, and Mr David Reid, Librarian. The Institute has been liberally supported by all classes of the community.*

The Old Monkland Library, which contains about 500 vols., was started in 1794, in Langloan. In its early years, the books consisted principally of Theological works, Biography, Travels, &c., the only novels were "The Man of Feeling," and "The Vicar of Wakefield." There are now

* At Gartsherrie, Calder, and Carnbroe Iron Works, Mechanics' Institutions have been started, and for a few years past a course of lectures has been delivered in the respective academies connected with the works.

but a very limited number of members connected with this library, as for many years past few additions have been made to the stock of literature. The library in connection with the Mechanics' Institute, together with a private circulating library in town, affords abundance of books both amusing and instructive, to those who desire them; so the "Old Monkland" may be said to exist only in name, and the members might very judiciously present their stock as a donation to the "Mechanics."

Wherever there is a large population, there are generally a proportionable number of societies, yearly or permanent, the principal promoters of which have been the working classes, and in this respect the district is abundantly supplied. The object of these societies is to provide protection for the members in sickness, or at death the means of paying funeral expenses, &c. The yearly societies are more numerous than those on the permanent principle, and this probably arises from the fact that a great proportion of the working classes are moving often from place to place, according as their services may be in demand, in their respective trades or occupations. As far back as 1808, the Langloan Pin Society was started by a few boys, the weekly payment at commencement was so many pins, such as are used in female attire. Their stock of this commodity soon collected to some pounds in weight, which were sold, and enabled the boys to establish a fund, after which they ceased to take payment in merchandise, preferring cash. This method soon enabled the society to give the members aliment in sickness, &c., and as the payment was then, and is still only 5s per annum, it prospered, and it is still a prosperous society. Next to it is the Old Monkland Funeral Society, which has now been established for

twenty-six years, the last returns showing that it had nearly 800 members on the roll, all of whom pay one penny per week, which entitles them to the full benefits of the society. By this means members provide a sufficient sum to cover funeral expenses, and it is a boon to many a hard working man, with a wife and family, who while struggling on a small wage, cannot be expected, when death bereaves him of a wife, a son, or a daughter, to have the means saved to pay the necessary expenses on such a sad event.

At the iron works and collieries yearly societies have been in operation for many years past. The system adopted by the yearlies are different from those on the permanent principle, as with the former the funds are divided annually, with the latter, it is only in cases of sickness, or at death that money is paid out. The working of these yearly societies is very simple:—the members have what is termed shares; each share is one shilling; they may pay in one or more, but not exceeding five shares. In addition to this weekly payment, each has to pay in twopence to support the sick and funeral fund, and should a member be unable to follow his ordinary employment, by reason of sickness or injury, the alimentary allowance for the first 13 weeks is 5s or 6s per week, which is gradually reduced after that time, and should death ensue, the allowance is from £3 to £4, and whatever money has been paid into the society as shares is returned. Many working men enrol themselves into two or even three of these societies, and thus secure a competency during trouble to support their wife and family, and at the close of the year they have a respectable fund at their disposal to meet the exigencies of the rent-day, or purchase a few household

necessaries. If, during the year, they are hard pressed to meet demands, they can borrow out of the society at a moderate rate of interest, which is deducted at the termination of the year. These societies, therefore, have been beneficial to the working classes, and hence their increase and success. There are two in the town that annually divide about £1000 each; the one terminates in May, and the other in November, to accommodate members at the respective rent-days. There are other societies that have been in existence for many years, such as the "Coal Hewers," "Boatmen," "Free Gardeners," three lodges, "Thistle," "Olive," and "Greenhouse," all having a respectable list of members on their respective rolls, each guided by the same motive—Protection, so that the working men appreciate that excellent motto—"Union is Strength." The brethren of the mystic tie ought, by seniority, to have had precedence over all others in this record, as the Old Monkland St James' Lodge dates its existence from 1779. At that period it had a deputed charter off the Airdrie St John's, and continued to work on it till 1790, when the members obtained a charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Its original number was 238, then 179, and now its number on the roll is 177. The names of the first office-bearers as recorded in the minutes may perhaps be interesting to the "brethren," they are as follow:—William Colquhoun, R.W.M.; Robert Pettigrew, D.M.; David Roger, S.W.; Matthew Pettigrew, J.W.; Alexander Baird, Secretary; Alexander Cross, Treasurer; Alexander Dunn and George Wallace, Stewards; James Murray, Tyler. Office-bearers for 1864:—R.W.M., Peter Mackinnon; P.M., George Ellis; D.M., John Ralston; S.W., James Morris; J.W., John Carrick; Secretary, Donald Grant; Treasurer, Robert Tennant;

Chaplain, John Hamilton; S.D., John Lindsay; J.D., John Stirling; S.B., James Pollock; J.G., Hugh Symington. At this period there are upwards of forty good working members in the Lodge; the roll, however, represents a strong array of brethren. In early years the Lodge assembled at Old Monkland, then in Langloan, and now it is Coatbridge.

The Total Abstinence Society in this town was formed some twenty-six years ago. With all its ups and downs during the course of its mission, it has done much good, and is at present in excellent working order. In 1847 the members built a large and commodious hall, which cost upwards of £500, and which holds about 500 people. It is fitted up with a platform and two rooms leading off from it, and is the only hall suitable, that can be hired for public meetings, concerts, &c., and it has hitherto been well patronised for such purposes. There is still a debt of nearly £200 on the building, which is a great drawback on the efforts of the society; but the committee of management are doing their utmost to reduce their burden annually, and it is anticipated that in the course of a few years they will be successful. The officials of the society for the year are,—Rev. William Stirling, Honorary President; James Lusk, President; David Brown, Vice-president; J. W. Fraser and Hugh Gairdner, Secretaries; and James Wark, Treasurer, and also sixteen members of Committee. As an auxiliary to the society, there is a "Band of Hope" which numbers upwards of 400 juveniles —they have a penny savings bank, that has succeeded admirably for several years. There are Temperance Societies and Bands of Hope in other parts of the district,* all acting cordially together in the same cause; and since

* Calder, Gartsherrie, and Calderbank Iron Works.

the district was visited by the celebrated advocate on Temperance, Mrs Balfour, a female Temperance Society has been organised, which promises to be also very successful. Sympathy for the poor and destitute induced a few philanthropic ladies in the vicinity to institute the Female Benevolent Society, which has now been in existence for seven years. It has been an inestimable blessing to many of the poorer class—women especially—and in this worthy object the ladies have been nobly supported in their labours of charity, and annually have distributed money to a considerable amount, besides clothing. During the winter months, through the kind donations of coal from various gentlemen, both residents and non-residents, upwards of one hundred carts each year of that useful commodity have been distributed to the poor recipients, adding comfort to their homes during the biting colds of the season. In this good work all denominations of Christians cordially join in co-operation. The following are the names of those ladies, who, in 1863-4, preside over this institution:—Patron, Colonel Carrick Buchanan, of Drumpeller; Patronesses, Mrs Carrick Buchanan, of Drumpeller; Mrs Alexander Whitelaw, Gartsherrie House; Preses, Mrs Lusk; Vice-Preses, Miss Fraser; Members of Committee and Visitors for 1863-64, Mrs Stirling, Mrs Henderson, Mrs M'Creath, Mrs Lusk, Mrs R. Wilson, Mrs Murdoch, Mrs Wyld, Mrs L. Johnston, Mrs Gardiner, Mrs Fairlie, Mrs Reid, Mrs A. Gray, Mrs Hendrie, Mrs Andrew, Miss Fraser, Miss Stirling, Miss Hyslop, Miss Fozier; Treasurer, Miss Stirling; Secretary, Mrs Andrew. The society's funds during the past year were in a very favourable condition, and it is to be hoped that this state of matters will long continue. The Religious Tract Society was instituted in 1853. At the last annual meet-

ing, held in October, the report showed that since the Society commenced operations the distribution of tracts amounted to 463,350, in addition to which the colporteur (Mr Cox) had sold a large quantity of religious literature. The officials for 1863-64 are—Colonel Buchanan, president; Mr Robert Barnes, U.P. missionary, vice-president; Rev. Messrs John Johnston, William Stirling, John Henderson, and Hugh Ramsay, honorary directors, with a committee of twenty-six, and twenty-four distributors; Mr Thos. Torrance, treasurer; Mr Jn. Morton, secretary.

CHAPTER XVII.

Parochial Assessment, &c.

Till 1841 there was no assessment paid by the inhabitants for the support of the poor in the parish. Previous to that time those entitled to parochial relief were supported by voluntary contributions collected at the parish church, and supplemented by subscriptions from the heritors. At the foregoing period this system proved inadequate to the demands, for with an increase of population came an increase of pauperism; the voluntary method was abandoned, and by Act of Parliament an assessment for the support of the poor was put upon rental, which in 1842 came into operation, and 1 per cent. on the rental, £56,283, produced the required sum. The gross rental, however, amounted to £75,044, on which 25 per cent. deduction was allowed. Pauperism still increased year by year, for in 1851 the rental charged on was £80,000, at 2½ per cent., producing nearly £2000; in 1861 the rental had increased to £97,000, on which 4 per cent. was charged—3 per cent. for poor-rates, and 1 per cent. for erection of a poorhouse; in 1862 the real rental was £116,350, the value of lands and heritages assessed on, £102,145; in 1863 the real rental had increased to £118,855, the value as assessed on, £102,355—these two years respectively producing about £3,820 and £4,454, at 4 per cent. which includes the 1 per cent. for poorhouse the same as 1861, so that as the expense for building the

structure has been assessed for over a few years, the cost, amounting to £4,505, will scarcely be felt—nay, it is anticipated that in the course of two years the whole amount will be paid, as it has already been reduced by £2,026. The building is most substantial, and erected on the most approved principle; it is situated on a fine healthy spot on an elevated part of the estate of Coathill, belonging to Mr John Baillie of High Cross. The feu extends to nearly four acres imperial, the feu-duty for which is £35 per annum. The house is built to give accommodation to 118 individuals. The governor and matron are Mr and Mrs Robert Gregg. The inspectors of poor who have officiated in the parish since the Act of Parliament came into operation have been as follows:—First, the late respected and highly-esteemed Mr William Johnston of Langloan; second, Mr John Baillie of High Cross, now collector and assessor for the parish; third, Mr Alexander M'Kenzie; and fourth, the present official, Mr George Campbell. From previous remarks on this subject, it will be observed that pauperism has indeed rapidly increased since 1842. In that year the sum required was only £562, whereas it now amounts to upwards of £4000. The population in 1842 was nearly 20,000; at present it may be said to be 30,000—so that, with an addition of 10,000, pauperism has increased six times.

Statute-Labour.

The taxes collected for maintaining the parish roads have varied but little for many years, as the following abstract of monies collected for two periods—viz., 1851 and 1861—will abundantly testify:—

			1851	1861
1851—To 84⅔ & 1-9th Ploughgates,	at 48s,	£202 15 2	£202 15 2	
1861— " 84⅞ & 7-12ths do.,	at 48s,	205 2 0		£205 2 0
1851— " 418 Horses,	at 12s,	250 16 0	250 16 0	
1861— " 404 do.,	at 12s,	242 2 0		242 2 0
1851— " 3141 Householders	at 3s,	471 3 0	471 3 0	
1861— " 3756 do.,	at 3s,	563 8 0		563 8 0
Total,		£1935 6 2	£924 14 2	£1,010 12 0

In comparing the two periods, the householders have increased by upwards of 600, indicative of wealth and prosperity. Horses, on the contrary, have decreased—not that there is less work going on, but that their places have been supplied by steam-power to an extent of more than an hundredfold. At every work, or even colliery, railway locomotives are doing duty in working the traffic at which horses were previously employed. Steam scows innumerable go gliding along the Canal, conveying minerals and manufactures to their respective depots. Steam power is applied and has superseded horse-work wherever available; increase of speed and decrease in expense being the great aim in this age of competition. The office of road surveyor for the last sixty years has been filled by first, the late Mr John Cairns, who for pawky humour and wit was famed in the parish; the second was another of the same school, the late Mr Andrew Brown; next in succesion was Mr Thomas Johnstone of Gartcloss; and the present official is Mr John Black of Easterhouse. The Acts of Parliament under which the tax is collected are entitled, first, The Statute-Labour Act for Lanarkshire, which dates its birth about the 12th year of the reign of George III., on which several amendments were made. The latest bears date 21st July, 1845, and is entitled " Home Drummond's Act," or Statute-Labour Conversion Money. It appears that previous to this last edict it was

optional on the part of the ratepayers whether they paid the tax in labour or in cash. This was, however, abolished by the late Act, which enforced payment in the current coin of the realm, which was perhaps advantageous to all parties, and more especially to the road trustees.

While searching for old books to glean from in recording past events in the history of the parish, a gentleman kindly placed one at our disposal, bearing date 1684. It refers to all the parishes in Scotland, and is entitled "A Proclamation anent Fugitives and Rebels," and contains the lists in each parish of the said fugitives. Old Monkland stands very prominent, but the proclamation is worthy of a place, as it shows the rigour with which the covenanters were pursued, and the opinions held by the sovereign, King Charles. It is in the following words:—"Charles, by the grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith: To our Lovits, Macers of our Privy Council, and Messengers at Arms, our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly and severally, specially constitute, greeting. Forasmuch as We, considering the frequent Rebellions that have been lately raised by rebellious and unnatural subjects, within this our ancient Kingdom, contrair to their native Allegiance, to the destruction of our Government, and the Peace and Quiet of all our good People, and the extravagant and impious Principles which have been the necessar and fatal consequences thereupon ensusing, We did, amongst other Remedies, Ordain those who were in arms and these who had reset them, to be legally cited before our Justices, to the effect they might be tryed, and notwithstanding that all fair and legal opportunities of defending their own innocence had been offered them, yet many of them being now denounced Rebels and

Fugitives from our Laws, We are resolved to prosecute them till they be brought to condign punishment; and, therefore, We have appointed an exact Roll of the said persons so Denounced to be Printed, Requiring all our subjects not only not to comfort or harbour the said persons, but likewise to do their utmost endeavours to apprehend them, as far as in their power, and to give notice to our next Sheriffs, Baillies of Bailliories and Regalities, Stewarts of Stewartries, Magistrates of Burrows, and other officers and ministers of our Law, and to the officers of our Army, when they know that any of them lurk in their Bounds. As also in caice there be any contained in the saids Rolls and List that have been denounced through their negligence or ignorance, although they have subscribed the bond or taken the Test, as was prescribed by our former Proclamations, therefore, We, with advice of our Privy Council, yet allow any of the said persons, who shall, betwixt and the First of August next ensuing, clear to our Justices, that they have taken the Bond or Test in due time to be thereupon Relaxed *gratis* before our Justices, and they are hereby allowed to desert the Dyet against them—they compearing and being Relaxed as said is. And to the end it may be better cleared who have taken the said Bond and Test, all persons who were Commissionat to Administrar the same are hereby Required and Commanded to send in to the Clerks of our Privy Council the Bond and Test so taken before them betwixt and the said first day of August next —certifying them if they failzie, Letters of Horning shall be direct against them—under the signet of our Privy Council to that effect, upon a charge of six days, under the Pain of Rebellion, &c. And to the effect Our Pleasure in the Premises may be made known, Our Will

is, and We charge you straitly and command that incontinent these our Letters seen, ye pass to the Meercat Cross of Edinburgh, and remanent Mercat Crosses of the head burghs of the shires of this Kingdom, and other places needful, and there, by open proclamation, make publication of the Premises, that all persons concerned may have notice thereof.

"Given under our Signet, at Edinburgh, the fifth day of May, one thousand six hundred eighty and four, and of our Reign the thirtieth and sixth year. Per actum Dominorum Secreti Concilij. Will Paterson cls. sti. concilij.

GOD SAVE THE KING."

Here follows a list of names in the various parishes in Scotland, numbering upwards of 1800 individuals of both sexes. Those recorded under the heads of Old and New Monkland are as follows :—

OLD MONKLAND.

John Scot, son to John Scot, Portioner of Kenmuir.
Robert Wark, son to John Wark of Rinnis.
John Mortoun, in Neuk of Fascan.
James Johnston, in Calder-Paroch.
Adam Cullen, in Garturk.
John Patton, near to Roadfoot.
Christian Johnstoun, for resetting Matthew Johnstoun in Cairnbrow-hill.
Gavin Wotherspoon of Heathery Knowe.
John Corsie, in Stanie Rig.
William Nicol, in Miln-faulds.
James Baird of Dungeonhill.
Thomas Mathie, in Barrachrie.
Alexander Crawfoord, in Garturk.
Thomas Donald, brother to John Donald, Smith in Carmile.
William Kirkwood, in Craehead of Fascan.
John Stirling, in Langline.

NEW MONKLAND.

John Thomson, Feuer in Gartqueen.
John Russell, Portioner of Eastfield.
William Craig, in Airdrie Miln.
John Thomson, son to James Thomson, in Airdrie Muir.
John Keddar, in Airdrie town, now Cottar in Rashbush.
Gavin Black, in Craigneuk, in Monklands Land.
John Thomson, in Shiels of Auchingray.
John Gardner, in Gartly, son to John Gardner there.
Samuel Yuil, in Laend.
John Martin, in Drumbowie.
John Martin, his son.
Patrick Yuil, in Braikenhirst, son to Alexander Yuil there.
Thomas Gentles, in Habbisdub.
William Ker, in Rochsoles, now Weaver in Airdrie.
William Waddell, in Riding.
Alexander Martin, in Overshank.
——— Russell, younger, in Meadowhead.
William Dobbie, Webster in Blackbog.

In 1793 the lands in the parish of Old Monkland belonged to 44 heritors. In 1862 the number of heritors was upwards of 50. Among the principal landholders are—

Colonel Buchanan, Drumpeller.
John Sligo, Carmyle.
Major-Gen. M. Douglas, Rosehall.
John H. Colt, Gartsherrie.
Heirs of M. E. Du Vernet Muirhead, Bredisholm.
James M'Call, Daldowie.
Wm. S. Dixon, Calder Iron Works.
Walter White, Kenmuir.
John Baird, Lochwood.
John Maxwell, Baillieston.
George Pollok, Rhindmuir.
Robert Scott, Greenoakhill.
Theodore Walrond, Calderpark
James Hozier, Whiflat.
John M. Nisbett, Cairnhill
Robert Finlay, Kenmuir.
James Murray, Daldowie.
Messrs Baird, Cliftonhill.
Messrs Baird, High Coates.
John Baird, Easterhouse.
Messrs Baird, Garteloss.
Messrs Baird, Dunbeith.
Messrs Baird, Faskine.
Messrs Baird, Palacecraig.
John Maxwell, Garrowhill.

Peter Ferrie, Blairtummock.
John Finlay, Spring Hill.
Capt. Elphinston, R.N., part of Monklands.
Messrs Neilson, Summerlee and Kilgarth.
Robert Wark, Bargeddie.
William Finlay, Hallhill.
Gavin Mason, Commonhead.
John Baillie, Coathill.
William Baillie, Greenhill.
James Barr, part of Carmyle.
Heirs of late John Wilson, Dundyvan.
James Murdoch, East Bartebeith.
Thomas Johnston, Greenwells.
James Cairns, Netherhouse.

Colonel Buchanan of Drumpeller takes the leading place in the above list, as the most extensive landed proprietor in the parish. And as the family have been thus connected with the district for upwards of a century, and have always taken a deep interest and prominent part in whatever tended to its prosperity and welfare, we therefore give the following short historical sketch of the

Drumpeller Family.

The founder of this family was Andrew Buchanan, merchant, and Provost of Glasgow, grandson of Buchanan of Gartichairne, born in 1691, who purchased the estate of Drumpeller in 1735. He had two sons, James and George—the former died without male issue. Previous to his death, he sold the estate to his cousin, Andrew Stirling, merchant in Glasgow, in 1792. George, the second son, purchased the estate of Mount Vernon in 1757, and died in 1762. The Stirlings appear to have been very extensive merchants in Glasgow about the period when Andrew became proprietor of Drumpeller, as is shown in the following extract, which lately came under our notice in the *Herald* (Glasgow):—

The Messrs Stirling removed their extensive warehouses first to one of the wings of the Shawfield Mansion, at Glassford Street, and afterwards to Cunningham's Great House, Ingram Street, now the Royal

Exchange. On the 1st of October, 1792, Andrew Stirling of Drumpeller withdrew from the Glasgow establishment, and formed the extensive commission house of Stirling, Hunter & Co., of London. The following extract is from the *Gazette:*

"Notice.—That from this date Andrew Stirling ceases to be a partner in the business carried on under the firm of William Stirling & Sons, and the business is continued under the same firm by John Stirling and James Stirling, the only remaining partners.

"Glasgow, 1st October, 1792.

"ANDW STIRLING.
"JOHN STIRLING.
"JA. STIRLING.

"Andrew Fraser, witness.
"Roderick Macdonald, witness."

Their names appear prominent as shareholders in the construction of the Monkland Canal, and also as coal masters in the district, as has already been noticed. From certain speculations, both at home and abroad, proving unsuccessful, they became bankrupts in 1807, and David Buchanan, son of George of Mount Vernon, who succeeded his father in 1762, purchased the estate of Drumpeller in 1808 from the creditors of the Messrs Stirling. David, in 1821, took the surname of Carrick on succeeding to the lands which belonged to the great Glasgow banker, Robert Carrick. He died in 1827, and was succeeded by his son Robert, who died in 1841, and who was succeeded by the present proprietor, David Carrick Robert Carrick Buchanan. Such is a brief outline of the history of this family. We may add that David, who died in 1827, left a family of four—two sons and two daughters—viz., Robert, late of Drumpeller, Andrew, of Mount Vernon, Mrs Hay of Morton, Fife, and Mrs Graham of Leckie, Stirlingshire.

Colonel Buchanan, the present representative of the family, is, in every respect, a true type of a country gen-

tleman—a lover of all manly and athletic sports, a keen sportsman, a kind landlord, and a generous friend—these, together with other essential qualities and accomplishments, make him beloved and esteemed by all in the district. His generosity to the poor and destitute is unbounded. In these deeds of charity he is ably supported by his worthy lady, Mrs Buchanan, who also takes a deep interest in the education of the young. Long may they both be spared to grace and adorn the station of life in which it has been their lot to be placed!

Ancient Burial Ground at Drumpeller,

Amidst the records of the past, and discoveries of ancient relics of the Druidical or Roman period of Scottish history, this parish appears to have been at one time inhabited by some of these tribes. This may be assumed, at least, from the discovery of a burial ground on the Drumpeller estate, in the spring of 1852. On this estate there are large deposits of sand, from which supplies have been taken for many years, for building purposes, &c., and while the men employed at this work were removing a portion of the sand from a field, a short distance from the Mansion House and residence of the proprietor, Colonel Buchanan, they came upon a stone coffin. After a few days they came on another, and another, until they numbered eleven. The field in question lies on the north side of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Road, to the west of what is known as the Bishopburn, and nearly opposite the entrance to Drumpark House, and about 30 yards off the main road. Nine of the coffins were lying in a circle, the feet towards the centre, and about five yards apart. They were so exactly lying in this order, that the men, after coming on the first two, could calculate when they would

reach the next, and so on. From the looseness of the sand around, it was apparent that a circular trench had been dug to a depth of about 8 feet, and the coffins mathematically arranged. On the outside of the circle of the nine coffins, one of small dimensions was lying on the west side, and a large one on the south-east side. The stone slabs that formed these last receptacles for the dead were of the same description as the stones of an old quarry, about half a mile to the south-east of the burying ground on the same estate. At the head of each of the coffins a peculiarly shaped urn was found, about nine inches in height, narrow at the bottom, bulging out in the centre, then narrow at the neck, and spreading out wider at the top. They were composed of clay, very coarsely finished, and had undergone hardening from fire, and from the blackened appearance of the interior of the coffins, they had been subjected to the same process. The urns, which were got out unbroken, contained only a little brown dust, and in the most of the coffins there were pieces of human bones. In one of them a skull was got, in which the teeth were still white and fresh-looking, so much so, that an old man, who, among the crowd, had gone to gratify his curiosity, by having a peep at these relics of mortality, remarked that he would not care to make an exchange of teeth. In the centre of the circle of coffins, about two barrow loads of charred bones were found, showing that they also had been subjected to the fiery process. Many medical gentlemen visited and inspected these remains of mortality, and were of opinion that the bones were those of male adults. The discovery created considerable curiosity at the time, and many surmises were made as to the period of history to which they belonged, but no data could be got, either from traditionary records or parch-

ments connected with the estate, to enlighten the research. Several of the urns, those ancient relics of the past, were taken by the workmen to Drumpeller House, where, we understand, they are still preserved.

Some thirty years ago, while a number of workmen were trenching a field on the Rosehall Estate, which still bears the ominous name of Lawhill Field, they came on two or three stone coffins containing human bones. It was considered at the time that in days of yore the field of Lawhill had been a place where criminals were executed, hence the name. A very curious stone hammer was got lying in one of the coffins, which is carefully preserved by a gentleman in Edinburgh, a native of the parish.

About the beginning of the present century, among the landed proprietors on the roll were the Stirlings, of Drumpeller and Faskine; M'Brayne, of Summerlee; Rymer, of Cliftonhill and Garturk, and many others. Their names, as such, are now among the records of the past, and their lands are now the property of others, who have reaped affluence and wealth from the mineral store they contained, and are still drawing wealth from the same source. Several of the estates referred to have turned out in one year, in mineral value, the full price paid for them. Fortunate speculation! for what mines of gold have been explored and worked out of them, in the shape of ironstone and coal, and such, when manufactured, sent forth on its mission of usefulness to every part of the inhabited globe. The iron that bears the *brand* of the distriet is prized for its strength, durability, aud every quality so essentially requisite in that valuable commodity.

CHAPTER XVIII.

SUMMER and winter have their peculiar pleasures for enjoyment; and in this respect the population of the district who might be willing to indulge in such have had every opportunity of doing so by joining the respective bowling, cricketing, or curling clubs. The bowling club was started by a few gentlemen in 1849, on a small plot of ground to the east of the town. Some two years afterwards it was required for building purposes. The result of this was that the club leased the grounds at Maryston from Colonel Buchanan, on which they have expended nearly £200. They are kept in fine order, and surrounded by a wall, and form an attractive place for recreation and amusement. The officials for the present year are D. C. R. C. Buchanan, Esq. of Drumpeller, president; James Miller, Esq., vice-president; Edward Bell, treasurer; James Lang, secretary. The club comprises upwards of eighty members. The next in order is the cricket club, established in 1855. The president, Colonel Buchanan, has all along taken a deep interest in its prosperity, so that under his fostering care the "Drumpeller" is perhaps one of the best clubs in the west of Scotland. The grounds are situated within the Drumpeller policies, where no expense has been spared in providing the necessary accommodation for members, and to store the necessary requisites for indulging in this healthy and athletic exercise. The officials for this year are Colonel Buchanan, president; Alexander Whitelaw, Esq., Gartsherrie, vice-president;

Job Freeth, Esq., secretary; and John Isaac, Esq., treasurer. The members of committee are Messrs George Shaw, Thos. Seaman, Dougal M'Donald, David Griffiths, Thomas Crichton, and Henry Lewin. The club numbers about eighty members, who have hitherto been under the instructions of a "professional," paid by the Colonel; and for several years past they have been able in many instances to contest successfully with some of the crack clubs in the west of Scotland.

This district has for many years past been famed for its curlers, but up till 1849 there were no regular organised clubs. In that year the Coatbridge club was established, the president of which is Alexander Whitelaw, Esq., Gartsherrie Works. The Old Monkland club sprung into existence in the following year, the president of which is Colonel Buchanan. The list of officials for both clubs, as given in the "Curlers' Annual" for 1863, is as under :—

Coatbridge.	Old Monkland.
James Baird, Esq., patron.	Mrs D. C. R. C. Buchanan, patroness.
Mrs Alex. Whitelaw, patroness.	D. C. R. C. Buchanan, president.
Alex. Whitelaw, president.	John Neilson, vice-president.
Dr Joseph Wilson, vice-president.	John Baillie, representative
John Baird, representative	John Mackenzie, members.
John Campbell, members.	Rev. John Johnston, chaplain.
Rev. B. J. Bell, chaplain.	Thomas Carswell, treasurer.
Robt. Stewart, M.D., treasurer.	David Donald, secretary.
James Taylor, secretary.	Committee of Management, eight.
Committee of management, six.	Honorary members, five.
Honorary members, eight.	Ordinary do., twenty-six.
Extraordinary do., eight.	Occasional do., fourteen.
Ordinary do., twenty-three.	
Occasional do., fourteen.	

During the course of the respective winter campaigns of the past these "knights of the broom cowe" have had

many a well-contested "bonspiel" with the brethren in other parishes, and it is seldom they have not been able to give a good account at the close of each engagement. The lochs in the immediate neighbourhood afford ample facility for practice when "John Frost" is pleased to confer that favour to the lovers of this healthy, exciting, and what is generally termed "roarin' game." During the course of the past three seasons an amalgamation of the two clubs has been spoken of, but as yet they are both distinct.

The Adelphi Theatre, which may now be considered an established institution, was erected in September, 1863. The proprietors are Messrs David Prince Miller and Walter Edwin. The structure is built of wood, and stands on that site locally known as "Robin Ross's Haugh." The whole building is 120 feet long by 45 feet broad, and fitted up with gallery, pit, side boxes, and boxes, giving accommodation to about 1500 of an audience. The stage is 30 × 45 feet, well fitted up with internal arrangements for machinery, &c. The decorations, paintings, and other scenery, were executed by Mr F. Fisher of Glasgow, and Mr William Preston of Manchester; the latter being scenic professional to the establishment for the season. The drop scene (the work of Mr Fisher) represents a local sketch of the iron bridge of the Caledonian Railway that spans the Monkland Canal. For the past season the theatre has been liberally supported, a sufficient indication that such a want previously existed. The *drama* has been creditably sustained by the company of artists engaged, and the management all that the most fastidious could desire. The success hitherto augurs well for future seasons, and that even here

> "A little nonsense now and then
> Is relish'd by the *most* of men."

When the war panic took place in 1859, this district was among the foremost in showing its loyalty in the Volunteer movement, and in a short time three companies were organised—viz., 29th Coatbridge, 32nd Summerlee, and 43rd Gartsherrie. These three, together with the 48th Airdrie and 95th Baillieston, form the 4th Administrative Battalion of Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers. The following is a list of the officers, &c. :—

Lieutenant-Colonel,	William Wallace Hozier,	Tennochside.
Major Commanding,	John Alexander,	Gartsherrie.
Adjutant,	James Orr,	Airdrie.
Captain Commandant,	James Kidd,	Do.

Names of and No. of Companies.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.
Coatbridge, 29th.	Thomas Jackson.	Robt. Henderson.	James B. Begg,
Summerlee, 32nd.	John Neilson.	James Lang	James Muir.
Gartsherrie, 43rd.	John Alexander.	John Campbell.	James Addie.
Airdrie, 1st, 48th.	James Kidd.		Wm. Fleming.
Do. 2nd, 48th.	Henry Lees	John Hendrie.	Robert Watt.
Baillieston, 95th.	John M'Call.	George Pollock.	James Hunter.

Chaplains.
Rev. William Stirling, U.P., Coatbridge; Rev. Benjamin Brown, Airdrie.

Surgeons.
Robert Stewart, M.D., Coatbridge; Thomas Torrance, Airdrie; James Dickson, Baillieston.

The following is the official return of the effective strength of the Battalion, as inspected by Lieutenant-Colonel Young, on Saturday, 3d October, 1863 :—

Company.	Captain.	Lieutenant.	Ensign.	Sergeants.	Rank & File.	Absent.	Total Effective Strength.
1st—29th, - - -	1	1	1	2	40	29	74
2nd—32nd, - - -	1	1	1	3	36	19	61
3rd—43rd, - - -	1	1	—	4	50	22	78
4th & 5th—48th, - -	1	1	1	4	80	40	127
6th—95th, - - -	—	1	—	4	23	13	41
Total, - - -	4	5	3	17	229	123	381

CHAPTER XIX.

"There is a history in all men's lives,
Figuring the nature of the times deceased."

SHAKSPEARE.

IN the history, or rise and progress, of those connected with the coal and iron trades, there is perhaps not another district in either Scotland or England where so many iron and coal lords, as they are often termed, have, by their own perseverance, risen from the ranks of the working classes. This is exemplified in almost every work; and, taking each into detail, the first on the list is Calder Iron Works, which were erected about the year 1795 by a company consisting principally of stocking weavers from the city of Glasgow. The works were originally intended for the manufacture of both iron and steel, and cost somewhere about £15,000. It appeared, however, to have been an unprofitable speculation, for after a brief period the partnership was dissolved, and the works were sold, it is said, for the small sum of £4000. The purchasers were William Dixon of Govan, who was one of the partners in the former company; James Creelman of Pottery; and David Mushet, who became manager, and whose name is still associated with the discovery of the Blackband Ironstone. These three continued in partnership for about two years; but from some cause or other they disagreed, and a dissolution of the copartnery was the result, and the works, which, during the interval, had been considerably improved, were a second time, viz., in

1802, brought to the hammer, and sold in Edinburgh for the sum of £19,000. The purchaser was again William Dixon, who thus became sole proprietor, the former manager again acting.

Such are a few of the leading outlines of the early history of Calder; and now for that of its proprietor, in giving which it will be necessary to go back some years. In the year 1770 a number of young lads left their native county, Northumberland, England; and, after a time, they arrived in the county of Lanark, where they obtained employment. All of them, with two exceptions, never rose from the ranks of the working classes; and these two were William Dixon, the founder of the Dixons of Govan, and his cousin, the late Mr Dixon of Knightswood. The former was born in 1753, so that when he left home to seek a fortune in the world, he was but 17 years of age. His first settlement appears to have been Govan, for a few years afterwards he became lessee of the Govan coal field, and ultimately proprietor of the estate. In 1775 he married an Ayrshire lady named Janet Smith, by whom he had several sons and daughters. Twenty years afterwards we find him a partner in the Calder works, and shortly thereafter proprietor. At this period there was no opposition in acquiring leases for the minerals in the neighbourhood of Calder and Coatbridge, and consequently Mr Dixon secured one portion after another, until the whole district may be said to have been under his control, so that his leases extended over a vast area of ground, and included the lands on which the majority of the present iron works are standing. Whether it was the expiration of the leases, or necessity for an immediate working of the minerals according to terms, certain it is, that a few years before the iron

works commenced, lease after lease was given up, and latterly secured by others, until but a very small portion of the minerals, comparatively speaking, were retained for the Calder works. In the year 1803 Mr Dixon acquired, by purchase, the estate of Palacecraig, and that of Faskine in 1819; the property of Wilsontown he acquired in 1824, with the blast furnaces and malleable works, the iron-tone fields in connection being of great value. He died in 1824, when the property was left to John and William, the eldest and youngest sons in the family; but the former having, it is said, no inclination for the business of iron manufacture, the latter purchased his share in the Calder works, and, in order to do so, had to take in partners for a term of years. The partners were James Christie, Matthew Pearston, and Alexander Christie, the latter acting as manager. This copartnery continued till 1835, when it was dissolved, and the works reverted again wholly to Mr Dixon.

A short time previous to the dissolution of the copartnery, the Townhead works, Glasgow, were started by the Calder company, along with some other partners. The company thus formed was shortly afterwards dissolved, and in the interim the name of the works was changed to that of the Govan Bar Iron Works. William Dixon was born at Govan in the year 1788, and was married in 1821 to Elizabeth Strang, sister of the late city chamberlain of Glasgow, by whom he had a family of four children, of whom only two now survive, viz., William S. Dixon of Calder, and his sister. In 1843 he acquired the estate of Carfin, which abounds with excellent coal for furnace purposes. Previous to this, however, viz., in 1841, he sold the estates of Palacecraig, &c., containing valuable seams of both ironstone and coal, to the Messrs Baird of

Gartsherrie, for the sum of £90,000. He died in 1862, and was succeeded by his son, William Smith Dixon, the present proprietor of the works, who was born in 1824, and who married, in 1851, Miss Napier, daughter of Dr Napier of Singapore, and granddaughter of the editor of the "Encyclopedia Britannica." The present proprietor and his father were educated at the Grammar School in Glasgow, and afterwards went through the curriculum at the University. Such are a few of the leading events in the history of the Dixons, and their worthy progenitor, the miner boy of Northumberland. The Calder works are erected on the estates of Easter and Wester Garturk.

The Monkland Steel and Iron Works, now Calderbank and Chapelhall Works, were at first erected by a company, about the latter end of last century, consisting of three partners—viz., Messrs Aitken, Fleming, and M'Gregor—who carried on the manufacture of steel. In 1805 the works changed hands, the purchasers being Francis Murray, who had a small colliery at that time in the neighbourhood of Banknock, Stirlingshire. In the venture he was joined by John Buttery, who was proprietor of a steel work, which stood a short distance from the High Kirk of Glasgow, close to the Molendinar Burn. This work was originally a manufactory for hair powder, which was converted into a steel work, when powdered wigs, &c., went out of fashion. Of the first-named proprietors of the Monkland Steel Works little can be learned; they, however, belonged to Glasgow. Want of success in the business was the cause of their disposing of the works, which were at the time not very extensive, and were carried on at what is now termed the Old Forge. The next proprietors, Messrs Murray and Buttery, in a few years made considerable extensions in the works, and for more than a

quarter of a century carried on the manufacture of steel on a large scale. In 1830 they had two blast furnaces at work at Chapelhall, when, in 1831, a third one was added; in 1835 they commenced to erect furnaces at Calderbank, and by 1840 had six; and in addition to the pig-iron they had previously entered on the manufacture of malleable iron, and had stopped the steel works.

The partners of the Monkland Iron and Steel Company at first, as we previously observed, consisted of Francis Murray and John Buttery; the former was a native of Stirlingshire, and the latter belonged to England. They were both married, and had families; and when Mr Murray died he was succeeded by his eldest son, William. Ultimately James, brother to the latter, and Alexander, son of Mr Buttery, were taken into the partnership, and later still, Francis, son of William Murray, was included in the company. John Buttery died in 1842, at an advanced age, and William Murray died in 1859; therefore the partners in these works are now said to be James Murray, Alexander W. Buttery, and Francis Murray. Such is a very imperfect outline, gleaned from aged residenters at Calderbank, of the Monkland Iron and Steel Company.

CHAPTER XX.

GARTSHERRIE IRON WORKS, the proprietors of which are the Messrs Baird, are the next in order, and their career has been without a parallel for success in the West of Scotland, and who, as iron masters, are second to none in the kingdom. Their ancestors for several generations belonged to this parish (Old Monkland); and their father, Alexander Baird, who died at an advanced age in the winter of 1833, was an industrious farmer, being a tenant on both Drumpeller and Rosehall estates of the farms of Kirkwood, Newmains, and High Cross. The family consisted of two daughters and eight sons. The three eldest were born at Woodhead, the next five at Kirkwood, and the two youngest at High Cross. The elder sons aided their father in the work on the farms, and he lived to aid by his counsel and pecuniary assistance to establish the Gartsherrie Works, with two blast furnaces. Seven of the brothers were ultimately partners in the works, John, the second son, being the only one that followed his sire's occupation of a farmer. The year of birth of the respective members of the family—were Janet, 1794; William, 1796; John, 1798; Alexander, 1799; James, 1802; Jean, 1804; Robert, 1806; Douglas, 1808; George, 1810; and David, 1816. The most of them received their education at the parish school, under the late Mr Cowan, parochial teacher. Several of the younger members attended the schools in Glasgow; and David, the youngest of the family, had the advantage of receiving a first-class education,

which was finished under the best tutors that Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Paris could provide.

When the Messrs Baird commenced to erect their first furnace at Gartsherrie they had difficulties in a financial way that would have proved a serious obstacle to men of less determination, but they manfully wrought away until success crowned their efforts. In 1830, the manufacture of iron in the district was but in its infancy; the Bairds, shrewd business men, prepared for the future by securing leases for extensive supplies of both ironstone and coal. At that time there was little or no opposition, and such leases could be and were secured on very reasonable terms, which may be considered the most important acquisition towards the future prosperity of an iron work. But the great secret of their success could also be attributed to another source, and that was their indomitable energy, attention, and strict personal surveillance over all the various departments connected with their business. This appears to have been their mode of conducting whatever undertaking they engaged in, whether as farmers, coalmasters, or ironmasters, and is traceable from their first starting-point as coalmasters, when they became lessees of the small portion of the coal-field on the estate of Rochsolloch in 1816, and on from one point to another, up till the present time, their career has been one of patience, toil, and industry; and now, in the autumn of their days, those who have been spared are reaping their reward in the possession and enjoyment of those comforts and luxuries which wealth can sometimes bestow. In developing mineral resources, they have been equally successful in other districts, for, in addition to the works at Gartsherrie, they have four iron works in Ayrshire. In 1846 they started the Eglinton Iron Works, at which there are

eight blast furnaces; in 1852, they acquired the Blair Iron Works, with five blast furnaces; and in 1856, both the Lugar and Muirkirk Iron Works, at which there are seven blast furnaces, and at the latter a malleable work—thus, taking in Gartsherrie along with these other works, they have a total of thirty-six blast furnaces, twenty-six of which are at present working. The produce of iron from these, taking an average, cannot be less than 650 tons daily.

The Messrs Baird, as landed proprietors, are represented in eight counties in Scotland, viz.:—Lanark, Ayr, Fife, Dumfries, Kincardine, Inverness, Aberdeen, and Roxburgh. Taking the brothers in their respective order of seniority, we find William* was proprietor of the estates of Rosemount, in Ayrshire, and Elie, in Fifeshire, the former purchased in 1853, for £47,000, and the latter in the same year for £155,000. John is proprietor of the estates of Lochwood, in Lanarkshire, and Ury in Kincardineshire, the former being a gift from William, who inherited it from his father, the father having purchased it in 1825, and Ury was bequeathed him by his brother, Alexander, who died in 1862. The latter estate was purchased in 1854, for the sum of £120,000. James is proprietor of the estates of Cambusdoon, in Ayrshire, and Knoydart, in Inverness-shire, the former purchased in 1853, for the sum of £22,000, and the latter in 1857, for £90,000. Muirkirk estate, also purchased in 1863, for the sum of £17,500. The estate of Auchmedden, in Aberdeenshire, which was purchased in 1853 for the sum of £60,000, was bequeathed to him by his brother, Robert, late of Auchmedden, who died in 1856. Douglas was proprietor of the estate of Closeburn, in Dumfriesshire, which was

* William died in March of the present year, 1864.

purchased in 1850 for the sum of £225,000. At his death, which took place in 1856, it became the property of his two children, twin daughters. George is proprietor of the estate of Stricken in Aberdeenshire, and Stichell in Roxburghshire, the former purchased in 1855, for the sum of £145,000, and the latter he inherited by his brother, David, who died in 1860. Stichell was purchased in 1853, for the sum of £160,000. All these estates represent in round numbers upwards of a million and a half of capital thus invested, independent of what is held by them as a company, such as the estates of Palacecraig, Faskine, Cliftonhill, High Coats, Gartcloss, Dunbeith, &c., and for the first two of which, the sum of £90,000 was paid in 1841. The extents of the respective estates are as follows:—Rosemount, about 1000 acres; Elie, 3000 acres; Ury, 6000 acres; Cambusdoon, 100 acres; Knoydart, 67,000 acres; Auchmedden, 6000 acres; Muirkirk, 17,500 acres, Closeburn, 13,000 acres; Strichen, 11,000 acres; Stichell, 4000 acres; and to several of these estates considerable additions have lately been made, by the purchase of farms adjoining. From these facts it is evident that iron manufacture has been a very lucrative business, when conducted on the energetic principles applied by the firm of Gartsherrie Iron Works.

In politics all the brothers were what is termed conservatives. William and James, for many years, represented, in Parliament, the Falkirk district of Burghs, In 1841 William opposed the late Mr Gillon of Wallhouse, Linlithgowshire, for the Falkirk Burghs, and was returned by a majority of 51 votes, and kept his seat till 1846, when he accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, and retired when Lord Lincoln was returned as the representative. At the election which followed, on Lincoln

becoming Duke of Newcastle, in 1851, the seat was again vacant, and James took the field in opposition to Mr Loch, factor to the Duke of Sutherland, when the former beat his opponent by a majority of 55 votes. In the course of the following year a dissolution of Parliament took place, and at the general election James was opposed by Mr Anderson, of London, and was again successful in being returned by a majority of 50 votes. The votes polled in each of the burghs at both elections were as follow:—

	1851.		1852.	
	Baird.	Loch.	Baird.	Anderson
Airdrie,	280	127	272	106
Falkirk,	114	168	111	171
Linlithgow,	33	45	28	52
Hamilton,	75	133	64	142*
Lanark,	97	71	104	58
	599	544	579	529

James continued to be member for these burghs till 1857, when he retired at the election in that year, and James Merry, of Carnbroe Iron Works, was elected for the seat. Thus for upwards of eleven years was the Falkirk Burghs represented in Parliament by William and James Baird. William was married in 1840 to Janet Johnston, daughter of Thomas Johnston, of Gartcloss, by whom he had a family of four sons and five daughters. John was married in 1848 to Margaret Finlay, daughter of John Finlay, of Springhill, by whom he has a family of two sons and one daughter. James has been twice married, first in 1852, to Charlotte Lockhart, of Cambusnethan, who died at Nice, in Italy, in 1857, and then to Isabella

Agnew Hay, daughter of the late Admiral Hay, in 1859. There has been no issue by either marriage. Douglas was married in 1851 to Charlotte Acton, daughter of Captain Acton, of a Shropshire family, in England, by whom he had twin daughters; their father died in 1854. George was married in 1858, to Cecilia Hatton, daughter of Admiral Hatton, of London, by whom he has one son. The other three brothers, Alexander, Robert, and David, were never married, and died the first in 1862, the second in 1856, and the third in 1860. William died on the 9th March of the present year. Janet, the oldest daughter, was twice married, first to Alexander Whitelaw, farmer, Drumpark, who died in 1826; then again, in 1834, to John Weir, farmer, Dunbeith. By her first husband she had a family of four children, two of whom died in infancy, and by her second husband she has a family of two, son and daughter. The surviving children by the first marriage are Alexander Whitelaw, Esq., Gartsherrie House, who was married in 1859, to Barbara Forbes Lockhart, of Cambusnethan, by whom he has two sons and two daughters. His sister was married, in 1846, to Thomas Thorniecroft, Esq., ironmaster, Hadley Park, Wolverhampton. Jean, second daughter, was married in 1831 to the late Thomas Jackson, Esq., of Coats, and has had issue, two sons and four daughters, the eldest son, Thomas, being now proprietor of Coats Malleable Iron Work, and on his father resigning the Captaincy of the 29th L.R.V., (Coatbridge Company) in 1862, he was unanimously elected to take the command.

In the encouragement of education in the district the Messrs Baird have always taken a very active part, especially in the education of the children connected with their works, in furtherance of which schools have been

established in almost every place where they have works of any extent. In concluding this brief outline of the history of this family, it is to be remarked that they have been singularly fortunate in their career, and illustrate forcibly the story of the old man, his sons, and the bundle of sticks.

CHAPTER XXI.

DUNDYVAN IRON WORKS. The founders of these works were Colin Dunlop of Clyde and John Wilson. The latter was a native of the parish of Govan, and was born in 1787, at the farm of Broomhill, a few miles from Glasgow. In early youth he received a good English education, and afterwards assisted his father, who was a farmer, in the management of his farm, continuing thus until he was eighteen years of age. At his leisure hours he improved himself considerably in various branches of education, and having shown considerable talent as a draughtsman, he was, on the recommendation of some friends, brought under the notice of Colin Dunlop, of Clyde Iron Works, who appointed him to be one of the managers at the collieries. Having displayed great natural talent in the duties intrusted to him, he was promoted step by step, until he became manager at the Iron Works. In 1824, when Mr J. B. Neilson, of the Glasgow Gas Works, commenced his experiments with the hot blast, he found an able and willing coadjutor in Mr Wilson, who took a deep interest in these experiments, and introduced the hot blast into practical operation at Clyde Iron Works, and became one of the partners in the venture, when the patent was taken out in 1829, the success of which, in point of revenue, being perhaps without a precedent in the annals of patents. The profits arising from the hot blast patent were divided among four, in the following proportions :— Mr Neilson, *three-tenths;* Mr Dunlop of Clyde, *three-*

tenths; Mr Mackintosh of Crossbasket, *three-tenths;* and Mr Wilson, *one-tenth.* A writer in the "Encyclopedia Britannica" remarks that the transfer of the shares to these gentlemen was judicious and necessary. Mr Dunlop was one of the most sagacious iron masters of his time, Mr Mackintosh was distinguished as a man of much practical science, and Mr Wilson was a man of tried practical talent, and therefore the co-operation of these gentlemen was essential to the steady and successful trial of the novel though simple process. During the existence of the patent from 1829 till 1843 the profits to the proprietors is said to have exceeded £300,000. In 1833 the ground at Dundyvan was selected by Mr Wilson and Mr Dunlop on which to erect the iron works to manufacture pig-iron. In 1837 Mr Dunlop died, and Mr Wilson became sole proprietor. In 1839 the works were greatly extended by the erection of machinery, &c., for the manufacture of malleable iron, and also other four blast furnaces. The works, when these extensions were completed, were said to have cost little short of £300,000. In 1838 Mr Wilson purchased the estates of Arden and Barblues, which are situated about three miles east from the town of Airdrie, and consist of 1100 acres, the purchase-money being £18,000. This was a most fortunate speculation, as the lands contained not only the excellent seams of coal of the district, but also the superior seams of famed Blackband ironstone, thickness and quality corresponding, which proved a valuable acquisition in supplying the works with the best materials for manufacture (the recent discovery of the Slaty band ironstone seam * on the estate has enhanced its value con-

* There is also a seam of shale, of workable thickness, near the "Slaty," of great richness, which will no doubt be worked for the purpose of manufacturing oil.

siderably). In 1845 Mr Wilson leased from the Duke of Hamilton a portion of the Kinniel estate at Bo'ness, Linlithgowshire, along with the minerals, on which he erected four blast furnaces, for the manufacture of pig-iron. In 1846 he, in company with the Messrs Dunlop, of Clyde Iron works, leased a portion of the Lugar estate, in Ayrshire, from Sir James Boswell of Auchinleck, and erected iron works there, the ironstone on the estate being of excellent quality. Previous to this, Mr Wilson had become one of five partners in acquiring and carrying on the Muirkirk Iron Works, and in 1850 he became sole proprietor of the Lugar Works, by purchasing the share of the Messrs Dunlop, so that at this period he, as an individual, was the most extensive manufacturer of iron in Scotland.

Mr Wilson was married in 1817 to Margaret Marshall, daughter of the late Mr Marshall, baker, Glasgow, by whom he had a large family, several of whom died in infancy, and only four sons and two daughters reached maturity. At his death, which took place at Ardenconnel House in 1851, John, the eldest son, succeeded to the Dundyvan, Lugar, and Muirkirk property, and also to the estate of Arden, under certain burdens, a detail of which would be superfluous. William, the second son, inherited the Kinniel Works, while the other two sons, Colin and George, and also the two daughters, were handsomely provided with competent fortunes. John was married in 1849 to Marion, eldest daughter of the late Dr Barr of St Enoch's Church, Glasgow, by whom he had two sons. He only survived his father about two years, as he died in 1853. Jessie, the eldest daughter, died the following year. In 1857, Miss Wilson, the only surviving daughter, was married to Sir Henry Orlando Chamberlayne, Bart.

William, the second son, was married to Jemima, a second daughter of the late Dr Barr, in 1860; and in 1861, George and Colin were both married, the former to Miss Halkett of Cramond, near Edinburgh, and the latter to Miss Hoyle, daughter of Major Hoyle of Montrose. William and Colin both died within a few months of each other in 1862, and neither of them left any children. George, the only surviving son, was for some time partner with his brother-in-law in the Cramond Iron Works, but ultimately retired out of the partnership. The Dundyvan Works, since the death of Mr Wilson, have been carried on under trustees. In 1856 the Lugar and Muirkirk Iron Works were exposed for sale, and purchased by the Eglinton Iron Company; and since the death of the two sons, William and Colin, the Kinniel Works are carried on by the firm of George Wilson & Co. The ground on which the Dundyvan Works and other properties adjoining are erected is a feu off Mr Buchanan of Drumpeller. In 1840 Mr Wilson purchased the remainder of the Dundyvan estate for the sum of £14,000.

We cannot conclude this sketch without remarking that Mr Wilson was altogether a man of very superior attainments; and for activity, shrewdness, and all other essential qualities required in business, few could excel him; strict in discipline to all under his control, he invariably followed up his precepts by giving the example. Fortune smiled upon him, as it does on those who are endowed with the firmness, patience, and perseverance which were his peculiar characteristics, coupled with a strong will and iron nerves that could scarcely be shaken. In politics he was a Liberal, and took a very active part in them. In 1846 he contested the Falkirk district of burghs against Lord Lincoln, now

Duke of Newcastle, and only lost that election by the very narrow majority of 11 votes, the contest being very keen. In Airdrie, Falkirk, and Linlithgow he was at the top of the poll—not so in Hamilton and Lanark. This, however, was only what might have been anticipated, considering the great influence that the Hamilton family possess in these two burghs, and the powerful support brought to bear on all the burghs by the Conservatives to return the son-in-law to the Duke of Hamilton. The following is a list of the votes polled in the five burghs on that occasion :—

	Wilson.	Lincoln.
Airdrie, . . .	143	112
Falkirk, . .	184	106
Linlithgow, . .	55	27
Hamilton, . .	44	165
Lanark, . .	69	96
	495	506

At the next election, in 1847, the Liberals again solicited Mr Wilson to become a candidate for the burghs, but he declined. He was highly respected in the district, and at his death in 1851 was deeply regretted.

Summerlee Iron Works. These works were erected in 1837 by a company, under the name of Messrs Wilson & Co., which the firm still retain. The original partners consisted of George Wilson, John Wilson, Walter Neilson, and Alexander Wilson. The first two were brothers, and sons of John Wilson, proprietor of the Hurlet Alum Works, and were both born at Hurlet—George in 1791, John in 1792—and received their education in the Glasgow University. Walter Neilson is the son of the late Walter Neilson of Oakbank. Alexander Neilson was cousin to the two first-named partners, and died

in 1842. The copartnery was for twenty years; at the termination of that period the Wilsons, who survived, went out of the concern. George died in 1861, and John in 1856. The Neilsons (Messrs Hugh and Walter, along with John, son of the latter) are therefore now sole proprietors of these works. Their brother, James Beaumont Neilson, was the patentee for the hot blast; and their father, Walter Neilson, carried on the engineering business at Oakbank, in which he was assisted, in early years, by his sons, that large establishment sending forth annually great quantities of machinery to all parts of the country, consisting of some fine pieces of mechanism, in the shape of pumping and winding engines. At the same works the first iron steamboat was built, named the *Fairy Queen*, and altogether the Messrs Neilson were trained in a school eminently fitted to qualify them for ironmasters.

CHAPTER XXII.

CARNBROE IRON WORKS. These works were erected in 1838 by a company, consisting of Alexander Allison, James Merry, and Alexander Cunningham; in 1844 Mr Allison retired out of the copartnery. Mr Merry was born in 1803 at Nettlehole, in the parish of New Monkland. His father was a coalmaster there, but removed to the Coatbridge district about the year 1809, having leased the coal on the farms of Blaiklands and Gunny, then the property of the Maxwells of Baillieston, but which now belongs to the Messrs Baird of Gartsherrie. This colliery was carried on very successfully for many years, the produce being boated to the Glasgow market by the Monkland Canal. Mr Merry received his education at the schools in the town of Airdrie and village of Langloan. After he left school he assisted his father in the management of the colliery, where he had every opportunity of acquiring a thorough practical knowledge of pit working, and the business connected with it. In 1833 he leased the coal-field of Old Carnbroe from the proprietor, Mr Meiklam, which turned out an excellent speculation, and was successfully carried on by him until the expiry of the lease in 1853. The Carnbroe works were started, as before mentioned, in 1838, and in 1844 the company or firm of Messrs Merry & Cunningham leased the minerals on the Woodhall estate. Mr Merry, amid the toil of business, appeared to have been able to enjoy the pleasures and pastimes of the sporting world, for which he had always

evinced a fondness; his penchant for the turf and other field sports, and his successes, are well known, and have been duly chronicled, and few commoners can boast of such honours as are recorded in the racing calendar of England in the name of James Merry. In 1847 he married a daughter of the late Mr M'Hardie, Sheriff-Clerk of Glasgow, and shortly afterwards purchased as a residence the large estate of Belladrum, in Inverness-shire. Mr Merry's career has been apparently a successful one, whether as a coalmaster, ironmaster, or sportsman. At the general election in 1857 Mr Merry took the field as a candidate for the representation in Parliament of the Falkirk District of Burghs, in opposition to Mr George Baird, one of the partners in the firm of Messrs Baird of Gartsherrie. Mr Merry was the popular candidate, and carried the election by 279 votes of a majority, as the following list of votes polled on that occasion shows.—

	Merry.	Baird.
Falkirk, . . .	201	87
Airdrie, . . .	212	195
Hamilton, . .	182	114
Lanark, . . .	98	68
Linlithgow, . .	77	27
	770	491

Notwithstanding this overwhelming majority, the Conservative or Tory party, on the 22nd May, presented a petition to the House of Commons against his return, for corrupt practices, &c., at said election, supported by such evidence that a committee was appointed to investigate the case and examine witnesses, the result of which was that the petitioners were successful in their opposition. Mr Merry was accordingly unseated, and Captain Hamil-

ton of Dalziel was elected without opposition on the 8th August, and continued to represent the burghs till the next general election in the year following, when Mr Merry was re-elected and returned to Parliament without opposition, and since then has fulfilled the duties as the representative of the Falkirk Burghs in the House of Commons. It is worthy of notice that since 1841, up till the present time, with the exception of those periods when Lord Lincoln and Captain Hamilton sat as members, the Falkirk Burghs have been represented in Parliament by ironmasters of this district.

Alexander Cunningham was born in 1803 at Craigends, in Renfrewshire, his father being proprietor of that estate. The Cunninghams of Craigend are a branch of the Glencairn family. Mr Cunningham was educated partly by private tuition, and finished in the Glasgow University. Shortly after he left the college, he started a small colliery and lime work on a part of the Craigends estate, which he carried on until the period when he became a partner in the Carnbroe works. In 1848 he married Miss M'Hardie, sister to Mrs Merry.

In 1843 the partners in the Carnbroe Iron Works purchased the Glengarnock Iron Works, Ayrshire, at which there were two blast furnaces nearly finished; other seven have since been added to the number. In 1854 they acquired the site at Ardeer, in Ayrshire, at which they have four blast furnaces; thus, taking in Carnbroe, they have at the whole of their works nineteen furnaces, and of these sixteen are in blast. Carnbroe Iron Works are built on the estate of Carnbroe. The feu consists of about 12 acres in extent.

Langloan Iron Works. These works are erected on the Drumpeller estate; and when operations were commenced

in 1841, the partners in the company were Robert Addie, Robert Miller, and Patrick Rankine, the designation of the firm being Messrs Addie, Miller & Rankine, which continued till 1855, when Mr Miller retired from the copartnery. In 1860 Mr Rankine also sold out his share, and Mr Addie became the purchaser and sole proprietor of Langloan Iron Works.

Robert Addie was born in the parish of Blantyre, in 1799. His father was overseer on the estate of Earnock, He, however, removed with his family to Airdrie in 1807, to fill the office of overseer on the Airdrie estate. so that the boy received his education in the town of Airdrie. In the year 1822 Mr Addie's father took a lease of the Gartlee farm, in which he assisted until 1829, when he took a lease of the farm of Whiterigg; and eight years afterwards he, in company with Mr Miller, took a lease of the minerals on Whiterigg from the proprietor, Mr Thomson. In the same year the two partners leased the minerals on the Rosehall estate, which are the chief sources of supply for the Langloan Iron Works. Mr Addie has been twice married, and by his first wife he had two children, one of whom died; by his present wife he has nine of a family, all living. In 1851 he purchased the estate of Viewpark, in the parish of Bothwell. Since then he has been adding to its extent considerably, by purchasing portions of land contiguous. The whole now acquired is said to have cost about £40,000. He is also proprietor of several farms to the east of Airdrie. Of the other two gentlemen who were partners in the Langloan Iron Works, little requires to be said farther than that Mr Miller was born at Glenmill, in the parish of New Monkland, in 1790, and died in 1857; Mr Rankine was born at Mavisbank, in the same parish, in 1788.

The successful career of the ironmasters carries along with it lessons of what can be done by industry and perseverance. Their success, no doubt, has been partly augmented by the peculiar branch of manufacture, which in this district has been very lucrative. Still, many, with the same favourable opportunities, might have failed; at least, in absence of evidence, let those who have prospered get the credit. In other districts where iron works have failed, it is worthy of remark that they have prospered so soon as they passed into the hands of proprietors from the Coatbridge district; and it is such men that sustain the prosperity or greatness of a country. The fruits of industry from this district have spread from Calder to Govan; from Gartsherrie to Eglintoun, and Blair; from Dundyvan to Kinniel, Lugar, and Muirkirk; from Carnbroe to Glengarnock and Ardeer, and many other places on a smaller scale; so that the district of Coatbridge has been instrumental in developing the resources of other districts in Scotland, and the far-famed "Mushet Blackband" ironstone, with the superior seams of coal, can with truth be termed the source from which the wealth has been extracted to aid in the development and general prosperity of the iron trade in Scotland. The Coatbridge district has been highly favoured in many respects; and in proportion to the rapid increase of population, drawn thither by the increase of the iron and coal trades, the wants of the people, both spiritually and physically, called forth the services of ministers and doctors eminent in their respective professions, and who, in fulfilling the duties of their office, must have found it no sinecure; it is therefore unnecessary to remark that they deserve to be noticed, and not only those who are doing duty at present, but also those who have gone "to that bourne

whence no traveller returns." From the very important position that professional gentlemen occupy, it may be considered that in the present case they should have preceded the ironmasters; but, with all due respect to them, however high or important their station, their services or success invariably depend upon the population to whom work is provided by the employers; consequently it may be assumed that although last, they are not least. Churches, ministers, and doctors have, in history, something interesting about them, connected as they all are with the more prominent events, both of a publie and private nature, in all stages of a people's existence, from the cradle to the grave.

CHAPTER XXIII.

MINISTERS.

"In the mind of the politician, the mechanist, the man of trade, or any of the numerous classes who spend their intellectual energies on the things of time and sense, the expected result of their operations must occupy the first place, since it furnishes the only efficient motive for their exertions. But the defender of religious truth acts in obedience to the principles of duty, and leaves the result with God. The men who are by office the especial standard-bearers in the army of Christ, are bound to 'contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints,' whether their efforts are likely to be accounted the greatest or the least in the annals of human achievements."—BISHOP HOPKINS.

THE Parish Church of Old Monkland,

"How like an image of repose it looks;
That ancient, holy, and sequestered pile.
Silence abides in each tree-shaded aisle,
* * * * * * *
On moss green'd pediments and tombstones grey,
And spectral silence pointeth to decay."

DELTA.

As was before mentioned, the present church was built about the year 1790; a portion of its ancient predecessor still stands in the old burying ground, inside of which is the last resting-place of the members of the Douglas family of Rosehall. There are still a few very aged residents in the parish, who remember the old church standing, when the Rev. Robert Park, a native of the parish of Dollar, was the minister, and who died at an

advanced age, in 1785. An aged lady, named Mrs Crawford, who was born, and has resided in the parish for upwards of fourscore years, is one of that number, and has a vivid recollection of the taking down of the old, and the building of the present, church. When the workmen at the former were removing the belfry stairs, they came upon the skeleton of a man, firmly built into the wall, in an upright position; it was surmised and generally credited at the time that the man had been buried alive, and that this was the punishment inflicted by the Free Masons, in olden times, when any member of the order was found guilty of divulging its secrets. What a terrible fate! but as it is only a story, it must be taken for what it is worth. In the days of the "Monks of old" this parish must have been a favourite spot for these holy men, as is indicated by its name—the land of Monks or Monkland. A number of years ago the late sexton of the Parish Church, while digging a grave close to the precincts of the old church, came upon the supposed remains of one of these holy fathers, as a crosier and other symbols of the monastic order were found lying beside the human relics.

In 1786 the Rev. John Bower, a native of Dumfriesshire, was ordained pastor of the church. In early life Mr Bower had been trained by his father, who was a blacksmith, to the same trade, and of this he often boasted in after years, when visiting his parishioners, by whom he was highly respected. In the early part of his ministry the peasantry and other classes of the inhabitants of the district were strongly imbued with the superstitious belief in ghosts, witches, and fairies. Each wood or grassy knoll had its peculiar story—but still the people had a zealous regard for religion. In Sinclair's Statistical Account of Scotland, published in 1793, Mr Bower com-

piled that portion connected with the parish of Old Monkland. With regard to the people and manners he thus writes:—"With a few exceptions, the whole people adhere to the church, and are regular in attending on religious ordinances. About 800 communicants are usually at the Lord's Supper. In the present manner of dispensing that holy ordinance there is great need of a reform. Owing to the crowds that assemble, much irregularity takes place." It is curious to note his opinion on Sabbath schools at that period. "Sunday schools seem not to be unexceptionable institutions, for how pious soever may be the intention of their promoters, they undoubtedly weaken the authority of parents, and tend to make them negligent in their duty." This latter assertion may now be considered a fallacy; the benefits of Sabbath schools, to the young, are considered to be second only to the pulpit instructions. With reference to the irregularities that occurred on the sacramental Sabbaths, the same language could have been applied to these events for fifty years afterwards, as the scenes witnessed year after year, on such occasions, might have rivalled, in some particulars, the Scottish bard's description of "The Holy Fair." Happily, for some years past, the sacred day is more becomingly observed, and the remarks applicable to former times cannot now be said to apply.

Mr Bower, in his annual visitations among the parishioners, had no easy task to perform in counteracting the instilled superstitious notions so prevalent at that period. The colliers, as a class, were scarcely liberated from their serfdom or bondage, and they were therefore rude, and ignorant of the Gospel truths. What, indeed, could be expected from them, when they had little or no opportunity of giving their children education?

for no sooner were they able to perform the lighter duties connected with coal working, than they were taken down the pits. The females also had to bear their share of the work in these pits, which undoubtedly tended to degrade and demoralise them, the latter especially; and when the mothers had to undergo such training, what could be expected from the children? Illegitimacy prevailed to a great extent, and many instances of the prevalence of that vice could be given, but one will suffice to show the hardened nature of those with whom Mr Bower had to come in contact: Jenny Greenhorn, a young woman, had given birth to her third illegitimate child. It was born in the pit, and was found lying dead beneath a heap of dross, having, as was thought, been suffocated by the mother. Mr Bower called upon her to make inquiries regarding the occurrence, and, after eliciting from her the name of the father, and other particulars, he asked her name. "Jenny Greenhorn, sir." "Aye, Greenhorn aneuch; but where was the child born, Jenny?" "In the room, sir." "And wha was in the kitchen at the time?" Jenny looked up with a stare of astonishment, and exclaimed, "Dae ye hear the auld fule? wha ever heard o' a kitchen in a coal pit?" Jenny was apprehended for the crime, and tried at the Justiciary Court, Glasgow, and was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment. With such rough specimens of humanity, a suitable admonition or a kind advice was all that could be given; and in this respect Mr B. was every way qualified, being kind and courteous. To all who came under his ministrations he was more like a personal friend in soothing their afflictions. His visits to the sick and bereaved were always acceptable, for his language and manner were kind and conciliating. Mr Bower died in 1821, deeply

regretted, having discharged the duties of parish minister for 36 years. He was succeeded by the Rev. William Thomson, a native of Kilmarnock, who was inducted the following year. Like his predecessor, Mr Thomson took a warm interest in all that related to the welfare of his flock. He had a genial humour in his manner and address that made him sincerely beloved. He died in 1841, and was succeeded by the present minister, the Rev. John Johnston, who was born at Greenock in 1815, his father being a cooper in that town. Mr Johnston received the rudiments of his education at various schools in Greenock, the Grammar School in particular. In 1830 he entered the Glasgow College, where he went through the usual curriculum, and passed with honour, taking out his degree of B.A. in 1835, and M.A. in 1836. It is worthy of notice that, in the following session of 1837-38, Mr Johnston, from his high scholastic attainments, was selected, on the death of the Greek Professor, Sir Daniel K. Sandford, to fill the Greek chair in the Glasgow University, one of the highest honours that could be paid to a student. In consequence of the troubled state of matters in connection with the church about that period, he delayed taking licence till May, 1841, and in December of that year was elected minister of the parish church of Old Monkland, and ordained in March, 1842. Mr Johnston has all along faithfully and laboriously (when health permitted) discharged the important duties of his office zealously, and has hitherto taken a very active part in all the church judicatories of which he is a member. His high character and talent secure for him a prominent place in all matters connected with the church. He is now in the 22d year of his ministry.

The U.P. Church. The Rev. William Stirling of the

U.P. Church was born in 1811, in the parish of Kilsyth. His father was a farmer, and, in his boyhood, Mr Stirling attended the school in Banton, a mining village two miles to the east of Kilsyth. In October, 1826, when about 15 years of age, he entered the Glasgow College, where he studied for five sessions, and was admitted to the Relief Divinity Hall in Paisley, at that time presided over by the late Rev. Dr Thomson. Having studied there for four sessions, he was, in May, 1836, licensed to preach the Gospel by the Relief Presbytery of St Ninian's, and, after a probationary period of eighteen months, he received a call from the newly formed congregation of Coatbridge, in December, 1837. Having accepted the call, he was duly elected, and, on the 27th March, 1838, ordained to the pastoral charge of that congregation. Mr Stirling is now in the 26th year of his ministry, and during that period he has exerted himself and done much good among all classes. As a consistent total abstainer, he has advocated the cause from pulpit and platform, and thus aided by his talents its excellent tenets. As a lecturer on liberal subjects he is greatly admired. Quiet and retiring in manner, he holds on the "even tenor of his way" in the diligent and faithful discharge of his duties, and anxiously promoting the cause of truth. He is beloved and respected by all classes and creeds. There are three Sunday schools in connection with the church, with an average attendance of 400 scholars.

The first pastor of the Gartsherrie (Quoad Sacra) Church was the Rev. James M'Latchie (now Dr M'Latchie of Edinburgh), a native of Ayrshire, who was elected minister to this charge on 24th November, 1837. On his leaving, he was succeeded by the Rev. James Gray Wood, a native of the parish of Wiston, in the Upper Ward of

Lanarkshire (his father was minister of the united parishes of Wiston and Roberton), who was elected on 29th July, 1841, and left in the latter end of 1843, and was succeeded by the Rev. John Fraser, who came from Glasgow, and was elected 30th January, 1844. He did not survive his appointment a year, for after a lingering illness of several months he died, 25th December, 1845, deeply lamented by his flock, who erected a tablet to his memory over the place where his remains lie interred in Gartsherrie Churchyard. The next in succession was the present pastor, the Rev. Bryce Johnston Bell, who was born in 1815, in the parish of Mouswald, Dumfriesshire. Shortly after this his father removed to the parish of Closeburn, where he had leased the farms of Rosebank and Kirkbog, the latter being the residence. In early youth, Mr Bell received his education at the Wallace Hall Academy, Closeburn, and at the age of fifteen entered the University of Edinburgh, where he studied for eight years, and in May, 1840, was licensed by the Presbytery of Penpont. For some time after this he remained at home, and only officiated occasionally. On 24th September, 1846, he was duly elected to the charge of the Gartsherrie Church, so that he is now in the 18th year of his ministry. There are three Sabbath schools in connection with the church, the average attendance of scholars being about 300.

The St John's Episcopal Chapel was duly consecrated in the month of May, 1843. The following is a report of that ceremony, as giving in the *Church of England Magazine* for June :—"This neat and commodious edifice was consecrated on Thursday, 4th May, by the Right Rev. the Bishop of the Diocese. The petition for its consecration and relative documents were presented to the

Bishop by the Rev. H. Kennedy, the incumbent of the chapel, in the name of the trustees. The Rev. G. Almond of St Mary's, Glasgow (who acted as chaplain in the absence of the Dean), read the deed of consecration, which was then signed in the usual way. The morning service was read by the Rev. W. Wilson of Trinity Chapel, Ayr (now Bishop of the diocese), and the Rev. R. Montgomery of St Jude's, Glasgow, preached an appropriate sermon from 2 Chron. vi. 40. The Rev. Messrs Wade of Paisley, Keane of Christ's Church, and Henderson of Hamilton were also present, and took part in the services." From the foregoing it will be observed that the first incumbent of this chapel was the Rev. Mr Kennedy, who left in 1847, and was succeeded by the Rev. Robert Aitken (now of Penzance, Cornwall), an eloquent divine, who left in 1849, and was succeeded by his son, the late Rev. Chas. Aitken. On his leaving in 1852 he was succeeded by the Rev. L. Leyland (now of Lanark), who also left in 1853, and was succeeded by the Rev. J. E. Pattison, now of Banff, who left in 1861. The present incumbent is the Rev. E. J. Jonas, a native of London, late Hebrew teacher in the University of Oxford, and is the author of "Travels through Syria and Palestine," his experience of a seven years' sojourn in the Holy Land. Mr Jonas was nominated to the St John's in May, 1861, by Colonel Buchanan of Drumpeller, who is the patron and liberal supporter of the church, guarantees the clergyman's stipend, and has made ample provision for the future endowment of the church.

For a few years previous to the building of the St Patrick's Chapel the members of that congregation were under the ministrations of the Rev. William Welsh, of Airdrie. When the two districts were divided, in 1844,

Mr Welsh was appointed to Coatbridge. He was a native of County Cork, Ireland, and received his education in the Irish College at Paris. In the winter of 1845, while in the discharge of his duties among his flock, during a severe epidemic fever, he was seized with the disease, when visiting a family about three miles north of the town, and with difficulty reached home, and died in a few days. For more than a year after his death there was no regularly appointed clergyman. The present minister, the Rev. Michael O'Keeffe, was appointed to the charge in 1847. He was born in County Limerick, Ireland, in 1821, and educated in Drimcondra College, Dublin; ordained in 1845, and for two years officiated in Glasgow. He has now been sixteen years in charge of the St Patrick Chapel Congregation. Those under his ministrations number upwards of 5000 of the population; this may give an idea of the laborious work connected with such a numerous flock. There are about 500 children attending the Sabbath school.

The first pastor in connection with the Free Church Congregation was the Rev. Samuel Connell, a native of Duntocher, who was ordained to the charge on 12th September, 1844. He left in 1858 for Glasgow, and for about a year the church was vacant, when the Rev. William Graham of Glasgow, assistant to the Rev. Mr Trail, Free Tron Church, was duly elected to the charge, and ordained 18th August, 1859. He left in 1861, and was succeeded by the present minister, the Rev. John Henderson, a native of the parish of Lochmaben, Dumfriesshire, who was born in 1834 at Womanrigg Farm, his father being a farmer. In early youth he received his education at the Dumfries Academy, and, at the age of sixteen, entered the Edinburgh University, where he

studied for four years, and was then admitted to the New College, where he studied other four sessions, graduated M.A., and was licensed in February, 1859. Shortly afterwards he was appointed assistant to the Rev. Mr Adam, South Free Church, Aberdeen, where he laboured for upwards of six months, and was then appointed Town Missionary in Rothesay; and, after a period of eighteen months, he was elected pastor to the Free Church, Coatbridge, and ordained 12th September, 1861.

The Rev. Mr Inglis, pastor of the Evangelical Union Church, was inducted to the charge in 1861. He is a native of Kilmarnock, was born in 1821, and was educated in that town, and studied in the Theological Academy there, an institution which was established by that denomination under Mr Morison, their founder, in 1843.

The Crosshill Chapel Congregation, in the west district, had for their first pastor the Rev. Andrew Gray, a native of Glasgow, whose father was a blacksmith in Gallowgate, and who was ordained in 1835. For two years previous, Mr Gray acted as missionary. He left in 1843, and went to Dumbarton, and was succeeded by the Rev. Matthew Graham, who came from the Scottish Church at Whitehaven, England, and was inducted to the charge that year; but in 1855 he resigned, in consequence of the delicate state of his health, and died in the course of a few months. His successor is the present minister, Rev. Hugh Ramsay, who was born in 1828, at Bankhead Farm, parish of Loudon, Ayrshire. His father was a farmer, who shortly afterwards removed with his family to this district. Mr Ramsay was, therefore, educated at the schools here, and in 1846 entered the University of St Andrew's, where he passed through the usual curriculum with high honours,

and was licensed in July, 1854, by the Presbytery of Hamilton. A few weeks afterwards he was appointed minister of Gartmore Chapel, in Perthshire, and continued there till 1856, when he was duly elected by the congregation of Crosshill to be their pastor, and ordained accordingly in July. The Sabbath school has an average attendance of 240 scholars.

When the Episcopal Chapel was erected in 1851, the Rev. James W. Reid (now Incumbent of Christ Church, Glasgow), son of Dr Reid of Glasgow, was appointed minister, who left in 1854, and was succeeded by the Rev. James Davidson of Aberdeen. He left in 1856, and was succeeded by the present Incumbent, the Rev. William Hay, who was born at Turiff, Aberdeen, in 1829. In early youth he was trained in the Grammar School, and afterwards the Marischal College of that city; also Trinity College, and latterly Glenalmond, Perthshire, where he studied Theology, was ordained to the ministry in 1855, and appointed incumbent of the Episcopal Chapel, Baillieston, in 1856.

The United Presbyterian Church, lately erected at Baillieston. The members of that denomination have had occasional preachers only, and therefore the record of the reverend gentleman who may be ordained to that charge, lies in the future.

The missionaries at present connected with the mid district are three in number; the senior of these is Mr Robert Barnes, in connection with the U.P. Church (Rev. Wm. Stirling's). He was born in Kilmarnock, in 1798; his father being a market gardener in that town, where Mr Barnes, in early youth, received but a very limited education, and, when very young, was apprenticed, and served his time to the same occupation as his father, in the

nursery department. Though toiling hard early and late, he took advantage of every opportunity to improve himself and instruct others. For eighteen years he was foreman in the Braehead Nursery Gardens, and from the prominent part he took, and earnest endeavours in promoting the cause of religious education, he was, in 1845, appointed town missionary in Kilmarnock, where he remained till 1847, when he was selected for missionary to the U.P. Church, Coatbridge. Since that period he has laboured assiduously in the district. To the sick and bereaved his visits are ever welcome. Quiet and unassuming in manner, anxious in the discharge of his duties, and earnest in the cause of his Heavenly Master; with these essential qualities as a missionary, he is respected and esteemed by all classes of the community.

The Rev. David Galloway, in connection with the Gartsherrie Church, is a native of Fifeshire, and was educated at the College of St Andrew's, Fife, where he took out his degree of B.A. He was appointed missionary to that church in October, 1859.

The Rev. James Hamilton, M.A., assistant and missionary in connection with the Parish Church of Old Monkland, was born in 1834, at Rench, Avondale, and educated at Drumclog School, in his native parish; passed through his college curriculum in Glasgow University, and was licensed as a preacher of the gospel in connection with the Church of Scotland in May, 1861, by the Presbytery of Hamilton, and received his present appointment in March, 1862. Since writing the foregoing, Mr Hamilton has been appointed assistant and successor to the Rev. Mr Weir, of the second charge in Campbelton.

CHAPTER XXIV.

PHYSICIANS.

"A wise physician, skill'd our wounds to heal,
Is more than armies to the public weal."

THE present century was more than twenty years old before the district could boast of a resident disciple of Esculapius. Previous to that period the natives, when suffering from those diseases which flesh is heir to, had either to get medical assistance from the towns to the east or west, or quietly submit to be doctored by the "unco skilly auld wives." Of this class there were a few famed for their superior skill and treatment in such cases; a fame or name acquired not only by long practice, but also in the study of that celebrated book entitled "Buchan's Domestic Medicine." An aged dame of this school, who died a few years ago, in the 85th year of her age, has been heard to boast that she had enjoyed more practice in the medical line than many a city practitioner, and had ushered into the world upwards of six score of children, which was considered excellent practice for the population. But as the latter increased, so did their requirements for attention and attendance by medical practitioners; and to those of the past let us now advert. In the Baillieston division, Dr Robert Mann, a licentiate of the College of Edinburgh, settled down about the year 1821. He was highly esteemed for his skill among children; and, after a long practice of nearly 40 years, died in 1858, at the

age of 69 years. The first medical gentleman in the village of Langloan was Dr Kirk, a son of the then under-factor to Mr Colt of Gartsherrie; but, after a brief period, he left and went to America. He was succeeded by Dr Robert Lawson, son of Captain Lawson of Cooperhead, a young man of great promise, who died somewhat suddenly in 1829. Dr Matthew Stevenson, a native of Kilsyth, and licentiate of Glasgow College, commenced practice in 1831, and left in 1836. Dr James Tennant, a native of the parish of New Monkland, whose father was proprietor of Bredenhill estate; in other words, he was a gentleman farmer. In early life Mr Tennant was educated at the parish school, which he left for the Glasgow University, and passed the usual curriculum for medical students. About the year 1831 he commenced to practise in this district. Previously he seldom followed his profession; but, having become surety for a friend to a considerable amount, he was called upon to pay it, and the estate of Bredenhill, and all he possessed, was sold to meet the demand. Thus ruined, he began the world anew, and continued to practise, respected for his integrity and kind disposition, till he died in 1855, at the advanced age of 82 years. In his latter years his work was principally done by his brethren of the profession, who always respected, and assisted when necessary, their elder brother; and many in the district, whom he attended, still remember, with kindly feelings, the good old doctor. Such is an outline of the professionals of the past. Let us now say a few words regarding those who are still in our midst, doing duty to the suffering and afflicted. The first on the list is Joseph Wilson, born in 1804, at the farm of Knowhead, in the parish of Glassford, where his father was a farmer. In early youth he was educated at

the parish school, and entered the Glasgow University in 1822, where he studied four years, both in the classical and medical classes, and received the diploma of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, in 1827, and shortly afterwards commenced as a practitioner in Coatbridge, where he still continues, aided by an assistant, a nephew of his own. The next in seniority is James Dickson, who is a native of Linlithgowshire, born in 1809 in the village of Blackburn, at the schools of which, in early youth, he received his education. In 1826 he commenced his medical studies in the University of Glasgow; and, having passed through the usual curriculum, he received his diploma in 1832 from the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, and shortly afterwards began as a practitioner in the Baillieston, or western division of the district. Robert Stewart was born at Bartebeith, Kirkintilloch, in 1812, and received his early education at the parish school of Chryston, where he passed through the usual course of grammar school studies. In 1828 he entered the University of Glasgow, where he attended the various classes necessary to qualify him for the profession. Being desirous of adding to his professional knowledge, he acted as a private assistant for a considerable time in several medical institutions in Glasgow, under eminent professors, and graduated as M.D., with high honours, in 1839, and immediately afterwards commenced practice in Coatbridge. During his career he has earned for himself a high reputation in the profession. For many years past his practice has been such as to require a young and energetic assistant. To enumerate those who have been in his service, or give details regarding them, would be superfluous. Many of them are now practising with both honour and profit in other districts. The present

assistant, Alexander Allison, is a native of Hillhead, parish of Avondale, born in 1840. In early youth he was educated at the parish school, and also the Hamilton Academy. In 1856, he entered the Glasgow University, from which he graduated as M.D. in May, 1862; and, in August following, passed the Board as a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.

Robert Wilson, born in 1815, in Glasgow, where he was also educated. After completing his medical curriculum at the University there, he acted for three years as private assistant to Dr Mackenzie, the eminent oculist, and received the diploma of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, in 1839, and during the course of the following year commenced practice in Coatbridge.

Charles Adam is a native of Old Monkland Parish, born at Calder Iron Works, in 1827. His father was a mining contractor. In early youth he received the principal part of his education, under various masters, at Calder Works School. In 1844 he entered the Glasgow University, where he studied six sessions, four medical and two classical, and graduated with honour as M.D. in 1850, and shortly afterwards commenced practice in Coatbridge.

Robert Munro was born in 1836, in Coatbridge, where his father carried on the business of an iron founder. About eight years afterwards his father removed to Goodoakhill, in the Shotts Parish; he therefore received his youthful education at Murdieston School. In 1855 he entered the Andersonian University, Glasgow, where he studied for two sessions, allowed two to elapse, then entered again, and, after the usual curriculum, received the diploma of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in 1862, and commenced practice soon after in his native town.

George Willis, surgeon, Baillieston, a native of England, is a licentiate of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, and has been a practitioner in Baillieston for the last ten years.

As a conclusion to the foregoing sketches of our medical practitioners, we may add that although the iron works and collieries emit great quantities of smoke daily, the district cannot be said to be an unhealthy one, although a great revolution must have taken place in the quality of the atmosphere since these works were erected; and still, if such has a deleterious effect, it must be of a very mild description, as the general appearance of the population is not of the milk and water cast which prevails in crowded towns, but rather the reverse. In Sinclair's statistical account of the district in 1793, the following is given on this subject:—"Though there is no instance of remarkable longevity, it must be concluded that the situation is healthy. Local diseases are unknown; fevers and consumptions are most frequent, the former prevails after harvest if the weather has been hot," &c. In March, 1832, that fearful disease, cholera, broke out, and carried off many victims. Its ravages were great among the inhabitants at Calder Iron Works, Greenend, Coatdyke, Faskine, and Langloan, and it lasted till about the middle of May following. The contagion was said to have been brought to the district by a boatman from Kirkintilloch, who was the first that died. Amidst all the fears and alarm that prevailed, there were many narrow escapes recorded, and, among the rest, that of a very respectable weaver, which we here insert; it was said to be a "cholera chase." The weaver had occasion to go to Glasgow, and before setting out on his return journey he had a dram in the city. Now a dram without a smoke, to the weaver,

was "even down pizhen." There being no fire in the dram-shop, he came out *minus* his smoke; the consequence was, that in trudging along the Gallowgate, he felt a certain squeamishness, and stood for a moment at the corner of a street, uncertain as to what might be the result. At this alarming moment up comes a man "wi' a black coat on, and a cane in his haun," and says, "What's the matter with you?" "O nothing," was the reply, "but the want o' a smoke?" "I think," says the gentleman in black, "ye'll better go with me to the Cholera Hospital?" "Will I feth," roared the man, "I'll see you hanged first." So, taking to his heels, and running with all his speed, he stopped not, nor once looked behind, till he reached Park-head, where, thinking himself out of harm's way, he gently opened a door, and inquired, "Mistress, hae ye ony Brods o' Health here?" "I dinna ken," quoth she. "That's a very gude sign then; will I get a licht o' my pipe wi' ye?" "Ou aye." This was what he wanted before he left the Gallowgate, and after a gude whiff he was jist as weel as e'er he was, only a wee forfoughten wi' the race he had, and the narrow escape frae that man in the black coat, and the Cholera Hospital.*

In November, 1848, the district was again visited by the same scourge. It commenced in the Bank Buildings, Coatbridge, on the side of the Monkland Canal, extended

* About this period, a man named Watson, residing at Calder Iron Works, was seized with cholera, and had a narrow escape from being buried alive. He was supposed to be dead, the coffin was ordered, and he dressed and laid out in his grave clothes; the house was ordered to be fumigated after the funeral. After a few hours, while his daughter was sitting by the fireside alone, he rose up and asked for a drink; the girl looked round, and replied, "Ye canna get a drink, faither, for ye're deed." The man recovered, and lived for many years afterwards.

rapidly, and was most virulent in Marystone, at Carnbroe Iron Works, and several other places. The physicians had to get additional assistance, and a Cholera Hospital was erected on the south side of the Monkland Canal, at Pottery, capable of accommodating upwards of thirty patients. The Board of Health met daily, for some time, in the Coatbridge Inn, to receive the reports, and organise measures for the suppression of the disease. Houses were fumigated, and white-washed; quantities of tar were poured out upon the streets, and set fire to, and all measures adopted, that human skill could suggest, to purify the tainted atmosphere. Still, hundreds were carried off in the district during its course. It continued till the end of February, and left as it came, in the same mysterious manner, leaving behind many sad and sorrowing households; some, indeed, with none left to mourn—all gone—the cholera had done its work.

In 1855 the same disease made its appearance, but not in such a virulent form as that of '32 or '48, and it soon passed away. Other diseases, such as scarlatina, fever, &c., have prevailed occasionally during the last few years; but it has been remarked by one of our medical staff of upwards of thirty years' experience, that the mining population, during a strike, have hitherto required little or no medical attention, and quite the reverse when both work and wages are abundant; so that if this be applicable to one class of workmen, the same may be applied to all. Temperance in all things is a good maxim, and if practised, would relieve many from troubles and afflictions to which they are subjected by their own excesses; but human nature is human nature, and the disciples of Esculapius have still their duty to perform.

Local Celebrities—Poets.

It has been written "That poetry is a creation, the essence of which is passion. Of all poetry passion is the marrow, the life, the soul—and why? simply because by its means alone are our sympathies awakened, and our minds laid open to the deepest and most lasting impressions; and because by it the active faculty of the poet must be influenced before these impressions can be conveyed, or these sympathies awakened."

> "It mounts from lowly earth to heaven,
> And comes from heaven again."

As a poet of no mean order stands the name of Janet Hamilton, whose writings, whether in prose or poetry, have won for her a fame for which the district may be justly proud. We therefore extract the following sketch of this lady from the *Hamilton Advertiser*, in 1863, shortly before that lady's writings, in poetry and in prose, were published in a neat volume :—

"Many of our readers are familiar with the name of Janet Hamilton; but the majority of them will be inclined to ask, Who and what is Janet Hamilton? Janet Hamilton is a lady—we beg her pardon; for though she is a lady in the best sense of the term, she will not thank us for the epithet—close on the borders of threescore and ten. She is as fine a specimen as we ever saw of a plain, hard-headed, warm-hearted, sturdy auld Scotch wife. She has still a sturdy and stark look, which tells that, in the days of her prime, she must have been a *braw buirdly* woman. The cares of a wife and mother, and old age, have had their effect upon her, and too much study of

books has almost deprived her of sight; but the strong intellect, and unimpaired good sense which she displays in conversation, protect her from being treated or spoken of as a *puir body*. Janet Hamilton is a shoemaker's daughter, and a shoemaker's wife, at present living in Langloan, near Coatbridge. She is a very remarkable example of the pursuit of knowledge under difficulties. She never was at school, but her mother taught her to read the Bible. This power to read the Scriptures was the key by which she has been enabled to unlock the treasure-house of English literature, and to appreciate many of its most precious stores. At an early age she became a shoemaker's wife, and the mother of a large family. A strange life her's must have been—a queer mixture of rubbing and scrubbing, reading and dreaming, mending and musing, porridge and poetry. But while she frequented Helicon, she did not neglect her home. Until she was fifty years of age she read and wrote, mused and sung, merely to please herself. The cares of her family kept her from thinking of fame. But then, when her sons and daughters were able to do for themselves, and even to help the mother, she was induced to think of giving some of her thoughts to the public; and, in *Cassell's Working Man's Friend,* some eighteen months ago, she made her debût as an author. Since then she has published much that has been read and admired by first-rate judges of English literature. Her difficulties were at first very great, and her perseverance was greater. Often at night, when others slept, she thought and composed, retaining the result in her memory till daylight and her husband's leisure admitted of its being committed to writing. This, however, was soon found to be too hard work. The strain on the memory was too severe; and

she felt that she must by some means acquire the power of writing. A woman of her years could not think of going to school; and she was more accustomed to help herself than to be helped by others. She set to work, and, after a time, succeeded in being able to write in neat characters, so shaped that at a little distance they might readily be mistaken for printed Greek. These she can read herself with facility, and a few of her more intimate friends can also decipher them, but with difficulty. She was, after this invention, able to relieve her memory by writing her compositions in *Hamiltonian*, and could wait on her husband or her son's convenience to get them transferred to legible English writing.

"She has written prose and poetry in about equal proportions; but it is as a poet that she is best known to our readers. From what has been said, it will not be denied that she is a wonderful woman, and therefore worthy of admiration and respect. We think, moreover, that she is a true poet, and entitled to notice as such, independently of all other considerations. There is a polish and a correctness in some of her poems that many a poet of no mean eminence might envy. 'The Drunkard's Wife'—'The Child of France'—'Girls at Play'—'Lines to the Calder where it passes Rosehall'—are beautiful in themselves; but considered as the productions of a poor shoemaker's wife on the verge of seventy, who never was at school, and who taught herself to write after she was fifty, they are truly marvellous.

* * * * * * *

"We give a few verses from the 'Drunkard's Wife':—

"O Jeanie, my woman, whaur is't ye are gaun,
Wi' ae bairn on your arm, and ane in yer haun?

There's snaw on the grun', and nae shoon on yer feet,
An' ye speak na' a word, but just murmur and greet.

Your ae drugget coat is baith scrimpy and worn,
And your auld lillac tonsh is baith dirty and torn;
And round your lean haffets, ance sonsy and fair,
Hings tautit and tousy your bonny broun hair.

Waesucks for ye, Jeanie, I kent ye fu' weel,
When a lass, ye were couthie, and cantie, and leal,
Wi' cheeks like the roses; your bonnie blue e'e
Aye glancin' and dancin' wi' daffin an' glee.

They tauld ye that Davie was keen o' the drink,
That siller ne'er stayed in his pouches a blink;
An' a' he got haud o' he wared on the dram,
An' ae pay ne'er ser't till anither ane cam."

* * * * * * *

"There is no character more useful or honourable than that of a reformer, whatever be his country or station. Human society is at all times fallible, and therefore subject to errors and abuses in every department, and those, who by the pen, the platform, or any other medium of effort, awaken public attention to pressing evils, point out the remedy, or even attempt to do so, belong to the number that merit the gratitude of their species."

The subject of the following sketch, (my father) the late William Miller, Coatbridge, died in November, 1862, at the advanced age of 65 years. He was a man of very superior abilities, and a thorough staunch reformer. In early years he took a very active and prominent part in the local political struggles of 1819-20, and was well known as the Secretary for the Lanarkshire Radicals. At that period a deep-rooted discontent prevailed in the public mind—when the question of reform was the

leading topic—it was a time of great excitement, and one holding such a conspicuous position as secretary to the agitation, could scarcely hope to escape from the Government officials. The town of Airdrie, and surrounding district, was considered one of the great hotbeds of these so-called rebels, or reformers, and strong patrols of military were stationed for the purpose of suppressing any outbreak on the part of the Radicals. Mr Miller was one of the few who were apprehended as ringleaders; twice did he suffer imprisonment for periods of not less than six weeks, in Hamilton prison, and again, a third time, for three months in the prison of Glasgow. When taken at each time out of the town of Airdrie, he was escorted by cavalry and infantry, as a guard; the authorities, it was said, being under the apprehension that a rescue would be attempted. While in Glasgow prison, he had for a companion, in the same cell, poor Wilson of Strathaven, who shortly afterwards, and about the same period as Baird and Hardie, suffered the extreme penalty of the law. After a judicial examination in Glasgow, Mr Miller was acquitted of the serious charges of high treason and sedition, but before being released, sureties to the amount of several hundred pounds sterling were required, and he was brought back to Airdrie to enable him to get parties to sign the deed. On that occasion the town was crowded by an excited multitude; the streets in every direction, near the Royal Hotel, where the prisoner was lodged, presented a moving mass of people, and Captain Smith, who afterwards became the great Sir Harry Smith, the hero of Alliwal, was in command of the artillery stationed in the town—head quarters being the hotel—who, on seeing such a dense crowd, requested Mr Miller to go out on the balcony and advise

the multitude to disperse. This he accordingly did, and after a short address, in which he advised them strongly to go home, he concluded with a request for three cheers for the good old cause, which was responded to vigorously, they then dispersed in good order.* Shortly afterwards the deed of security was signed, by the late Dr Clarke, of Wester Moffat, and Dr Tennant, of Bredenhill. On being released from custody, Mr Miller went and resided with some friends in the Upper Ward till the political storm blew over, when he returned to Airdrie, and became a teacher, which he followed up for upwards of sixteen years, and during that period took an active part in municipal affairs, and was connected with several newspapers in Glasgow, to which he contributed many papers both in prose and poetry. He ultimately removed to Coatbridge, where he resided till his death—a period of nearly 25 years. His company was much courted, and in 1845, and other years, when the civic dignitaries were chosen, he was elected as Provost of the Mock Burgh. We will not now refer to his prose writings, but his poetic productions display the stamp of genius—whether in feeling, satire, or wit—as the following pieces selected from his numerous contributions amply testify.

LINES

WRITTEN IN 1827, ON VISITING MY MOTHER'S GRAVE.

'Twas a calm lovely evening in mellow September,
The reapers had ceased from the toils of the day,

* Captain Smith, on seeing the multitude disperse so rapidly, remarked to one of his "sub's," that Mr Miller was, if inclined, a dangerous man to the Government, and so young too. He then turned round, shook hands with the young reformer, and thanked him for what he had done.

The pale moon, unclouded, in silvery splendour,
  Was sailing alone through her bright azure way.
The groves and their sweet little minstrels were silent;
  The flocks in the meadows lay hushed in repose;
All nature was still—and the beautiful sky lent
  A charm to the scene and a balm to my woes.

As I reach'd the lone grave where my mother lay buried,
  The town clock the knell of the evening began,
While the inmates of Salem,* in strains sweet and varied,
  Were praising the Lord and Redeemer of man.
The scene and the sounds touch'd my soul's inmost feeling,
  And brought many day-dreams of youth to my mind,
When hope and affection were fondly revealing
  Illusions of bliss, I was never to find.

Then, musing, I gaz'd on the green turf that cover'd
  The dearest of parents—the fondest and best,
And I water'd, as round her dark mansion I hover'd,
  With tears of affection the place of her rest.
I thought of the form that so pleas'd—so delighted—
  Hung o'er me in infancy—train'd me in youth!
And I felt my own heart sad, bereaved, and benighted,
  As I mused on her meekness, affection, and truth.

My mother! I whisper'd, thy conflict is over,
  And here thy weak frame lies in darkness and gloom;
But while piety, worth, and good sense find a lover,
  The virtues that graced thee in verdure shall bloom.
Peace—peace to thy ashes, and sweet be thy slumber,
  Until that bright morn, when with shouts shall descend
Thy Saviour to wake thee as one of that number,
  Who in glory shall praise him in songs without end.

A FATHER'S GRIEF.

There is a grief though calm, yet eloquent,
Like sleeping waters when the storm is spent;

* Minister's Manse.

Like shadowy eve, that speaks a joyous morn;
Like faith in Christian, hope in the forlorn.
Mine is that grief: the burst of passion's soothed,
The smiling billows of the heart are smoothed;
As streams that brawl loud at their fountain-head,
Run stiller, calmer, in a deeper bed.
Mine is the grief that speaks the morning nigh,
When hearts are healed, tears wiped from every eye,
Like faith points upwards, spreads the heavenward wing,
Like faith extatic, glorious scenes doth bring.
And thou, the partner of my griefs, when thou
Didst note the cloud that hung upon my brow,
You dashed the trembling tear from out thine eye,
And all the woman's 'suasive powers did try.
Yea, even while bitter thoughts swept through thy brain,
You wore a smile to ease me of my pain.
But ah! in midnight's sleepless hours, to think
That thou alone thought's scalding cup should drink,
That I might taste not! Then I loved thee more,
And wept the pledge that all thine image bore.
No more—no more at night, when labour done,
Will thou, with open arms, to meet me run;
Clasp round my neck; nor, while upon my knee,
Please with thy prattle and thy guileless glee!
My child! my child! could words assuage my grief,
Or the heart's fountains to it bring relief,
My lips would ope not, and no tear should steal
Out o'er my cheek, the secret to reveal,
But I would clasp the dear, delicious pain,
My all on earth of thee that doth remain,
And wait, still hoping that when death shall smite,
The blow that severs, strikes but to unite.
The flower hath faded! wither shall the stem!
Heart, throb not so—one earth must cover them!

LINES

ON THE DEATH OF A YOUNG AND BELOVED DAUGHTER.

My Jeanie was aye near to me,—
My Jeanie was aye dear to me:

She cheer'd my heart with guileless art,
When all around was drear to me.
No care had I when she was by,
Her love beguil'd my leisure:
The will to do was all she knew,—
To please was all her pleasure.

Her book was ever near to her,—
Her God was ever dear to her;
And her delight each morn and night,
Was blessing him who car'd for her.
Now, she that blest and me carest—
The soul that hymn'd Heaven's pleasure—
Is gone—is flown, for Heaven alone
Is worthy such a treasure!

BONNIE BURNSIDE.

AIR—*The Banks of the Devon.*

Oh! bright were the joys when in youth fondly roving,
I mused on the stream that so swiftly did glide,
And gazed on the charms of the maiden so loving,
That graced thy fair gardens, O bonnie Burnside!

She was tall, fair, and comely, and modest as winning,
The fairest of forms, and of beauty the pride;
And bright were our joys when the mavis was singing,
Adown in the woodland, O bonnie Burnside!

But gone now, Oh! gone are the hopes that then cheered me,
And dark, deep, and mournful the streamlet doth glide,
And dimm'd is the lustre that then so endeared thee
To thy warmest admirer, O bonnie Burnside!

O flow, onward flow, thou dark rolling river:
My spirit afar doth still fondly abide,
With bright thoughts of youth, that can part from me never,
Or the form that once cheered thee, O bonnie Burnside!

LINES

ON THE LAMENTED DEATH OF THE REV. MR BOGLE, LATE PARISH TEACHER OF CADDER.

He is gone! and the tale of his death has imparted
More sorrows, I ween, than when conquerors fall,
For in him perish'd one of the few honest hearted
Who rejoiced not in faction, but freedom for all.
Ah! not for vain glory, or sham declamation,
Or the shouts of the throng, stood the patriot forth,
But to rescue from thraldom a still-enslaved nation,
And restore to loved freedom the sons of the north.

He is gone! but the Christian, the patriot, and brother,
In him suffered much for the glorious cause,
And freedom and Scotia may long lack another
More deservedly worth the real patriot's applause;
For though few knew his worth, or the deeds unrecorded,
That made him so dear to the friends he has left,
While there's feeling, or fancy, or memory afforded,
He will be remembered by those now bereft.

He is gone! and though gently and nobly descended,
In Bogle the poor found a father and friend;
For each act of his life was with charity blended,
And each wish of his heart went its claims to extend.
And though grief may gush forth on rehearsing his story,
Yet faith, hope, and love still embellish the sky,
To allure us from earth to the mansions of glory,
Where the patriot may dwell with his Saviour on high.

LINES,

ADDRESSED TO A COMMON BUTTERFLY, WHILE FLUTTERING AT LARGE ON A NEIGHBOURING ESTATE IN THE DEPTH OF WINTER.

Lonely, helpless, beauteous stranger,
While you hover nigh,
Tell me why you thus court danger
'Neath a wintry sky?

No cowslip decks this snow-clad plain,
  Nor primrose scents the dells;
No fragrant blossoms now remain
  To ope their mellowed cells.
No basking sward remains for thee
  To spread thy speckled wing;
Nor flowery plot, nor daised lea,
  To yield their offering.
    Then lonely, helpless, beauteous stranger,
      While you hover nigh,
    Tell me why you thus court danger
      'Neath a wintry sky.

Art thou like thousands of our race,
  Without a friend or home,
Compelled to leave thy resting-place,
  A wintry world to roam;
To seek in other lands less dear,
  Through peril, want, and pain,
Those homely joys—that humble cheer
  They sought at home in vain?
    Lonely, helpless, beauteous stranger,
      While you hover nigh,
    Tell me why you thus court danger
      'Neath a wintry sky?

Art thou on some bleak mission bent,
  Like Parry to the Pole—
Like him resolved, like him intent,
  To reach thy frigid goal?
If so, weak, thoughtless, daring worm,
  Restrain thy wild desire,
For Nature never meant thy form
  Should brave stern winter's ire.
    Then lonely, helpless, beauteous stranger,
      While you hover nigh,
    Oh! be admonished of thy danger—
      Homeward—homeward—fly!

The following verses were written about the period when "The Ten Hours Factory Bill" was first brought before the House of Commons. On that occasion a select committee was appointed to investigate the matter, and the late Daniel O'Connell was the chairman. The fact that he gave his casting vote against the "Bill" caused unfavourable reports to be mooted; and, whether true or not, he was blamed for taking a consideration from the factory lords.

TO DANIEL O'CONNELL, Esq., M.P.

" You know the right, and you approve it too,
Condemn the wrong, yet still the wrong pursue."

O'Connell, O'Connell, the learned and the big,
With the lynx-leering eye and the pretty jet wig,
Tho' the *boys* call you patriot, bould and brave Dan,
The friend of *Ould* Ireland—of Britain—of Man!
Tho' like Darrynane Abbey, you look high and wild,
Remember—you sold the poor factory child.

O'Connell, O'Connell, the ONE THOUSAND POUNDS!
Nay, stare not—the fact through the wide world resounds,
That to laden your bags with perfidious pelf,
And to pamper your greedy political self,
You sold—yes, you sold, and by deep cunning HOYL'D
The injured, confiding, poor factory child.

O'Connell, O'Connell, recant like a man;
Or, be aisy, if not, be as aisy's you can;
For as sure as Kilkenny was once built of mud,
And as sure as Ould Noah was saved from the flood,
Just as sure will your "TWO PENNY TICKET" be soil'd
By the curses and tears of the factory child.

O'Connell, O'Connell, though great be your might,
With your *tail* like a comet the Whigs to affiright;

Tho' your poor devotees with their pence never fail,
Year by year to enrich you, their wrongs to *repale ;*
Yet with blarney *alone* have your dupes been beguiled,
Like the *still enslaved,* victimised factory child.

O'Connell, O'Connell, your countrymen cry ;
And Erin, loved Erin, looks up with a sigh,
For the aged and helpless, the weary and worn,
Whom your cold-hearted policy looks on with scorn.
Oh ! patriot (?) or traitor, bepraised or reviled,
Will you sell Erin's poor like the factory child ?

O'Connell, O'Connell, the day is at hand
That will take from thy grasp the insidious brand ;
The day when from churchmen and demagogue's strife
Lov'd Erin shall rise as with newness of life ;
When by priest and by parties no longer embroil'd,
She will cheer with her harp the FREED FACTORY CHILD.

The following verses appear to have been an effusion delivered at a social meeting at Calder Iron Works, about 1838 :—

CALDER BRAES.

Oh brightly glows Gartsherrie Works,
And bright's the low's about Dundyvan ;
And Summerlee, tho' bright they be,
Nae better trade than us they're drivin'—
Braw, braw lichts.

Braw, braw lichts on Calder braes,
How brightly on yon sky they're glancing,
And, lighting up ilk knowe and glen,
Gars ilka tree and bush seem dancing—
Braw, braw lichts.

The very moon an' stars at times
Glow'r doon as if wi' perfect wonder;
And, when they view the fields illumed,
They think the *sun* has made a *blunder*—
Braw, braw lichts.

But now a health I'm gaun to gie,
A better chiel we couldna fix on:
Come fill your glasses to the brim,
A bumper gie to "Willie Dixon"—
Braw, braw lichts.

LINES

ON MEETING THE AUTHORESS OF "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN," AT COATBRIDGE, ON THE EVENING OF 13TH APRIL, 1853.

I.

I press'd with pride that potent hand
Which wielded Freedom's pen,
And made the slaves of every land
Shout forth with joy again.

II.

I gaz'd upon that form and face
In gratitude and prayer;
And crav'd that God, for Afric's race,
Would her protect and spare;

III.

Till all the sable sons of earth,
Shall, freed from bonds and woe,
Proclaim, in songs of praise, the worth
Of HARRIET BEECHER STOWE!

The following verses were written on the occasion of the Royal train passing along the Caledonian Railway, on the

homeward journey from Balmoral of the Royal Family, on the 30th September, 1848 :—

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO DUNDYVAN.

Hurrah for the Queen! for our praiseworthy Queen!
Wha ilk Scottish scene can enliven;
For she's charm'd a' the north frae the Clyde and so forth,
And now she's dumfounert Dundyvan.

Frae Balmoral she sped, by Dundee, as they said,
Whaur the Provost his speech was contrivin';
But they little ken'd what our dear Queen would be at,
Till they heard she was aff for Dundyvan.

Passing dukes, earls, an' lords, an' great Highland hordes,
Wi' steam *versus* time, she kept strivin';
For her heart was intent, an' she wouldna' relent
Till she ance saw the glare o' Dundyvan.

So, on Saturday last, lang ere mid-day was past,
There was racin', an' chasin', an drivin',
To get up on the ridge that ascends frae Coatbridge,
Whaur the Queen was to pass to Dundyvan.

The crowd rush'd in scores through the station house doors,
Tearin', swearin', an' ruggin', an' rivin';
But peace was restor'd when Gartsherrie guns roar'd
There's the Queen on her way to Dundyvan.

Then cheer after cheer greeted Royalty's ear,
As the Queen, an' the Prince, an' their hivin',
Rush'd alang like the wind, leaving Coatbridge behind,
On their way to the far-famed Dundyvan.

There, entranc'd-like, they gaz'd, as the furnaces blaz'd,
While the enginemen seem'd a' contrivin'
To cut matters short, for puff, puff, an' snort, snort,
Hurried train, Queen, and Court through Dundyvan.

So to London they're gone to be nearer the throne,
Whaur lang may they live and keep thrivin';
For sic' a nice Queen, Prince, an' chubs ne'er was seen
Since the flood drowned the burn o' Dundyvan.

We conclude this part by the following three poems :—

LINES

ADDRESSED TO THE AURORA BOREALIS.

I.

Wild and wavering fays of light,
Ever varying, ever new—
Corruscating-meteors bright,
Boreal pilgrims—what are you?

II.

Come ye from Lapland's trackless wild,
Or from the frozen Polar Sea?
From Arctic heights, or realms more mild?
My pretty fays—come, answer me.

III.

Now in robes of peerless sheen,
Thy silv'ry spires delight the eye;
Anon with tints of red and green
Ye wreath gay garlands in the sky.

IV.

Proteus-like, ye change and fly,
Clothed in clouds of sable hue;
Your sylph-like freaks again on hlgh,
With ten-fold beauty to renew.

V.

Some call ye harbingers of storm,
Precursors of stern winter's ire;
And that ye sport in fairest form,
When 'tis your aim to be most dire.

VI.

Some say, like men ye come and go
As time, and tide, and laws conform;
That when a blast appears to blow,
Ye fly, like them, the coming storm.

VII.

'Tis shrewdly done; but where's thy home?
Thy hope, thy place of bliss on high?
Where, free'd from tyrants' laws, you roam
Unfetter'd by their tyranny.

VIII.

Poor Poland! now I think of thee,
And of thy sons exiled—forlorn;
Of all their deeds of bravery,
Ere hope and home were from them torn.

IX.

Oh God! be Thou their shield and aid,
Where'er they wend their weary way;
Soon, soon, may Freedom's blest crusade
Restore them home and liberty.

X.

My pretty fays, thy freaks are o'er;
The sky resumes its wonted hue;
But, *when will man* to *man restore*
The rights that Heaven hath made his due

REMINISCENCES

During an evening's ramble through scenes connected with the Author's earlier and happier days.

Ye sylvan shades, to mem'ry dear,
Those halcyon hours can I forget,
When, arm in arm, I wander'd here
With her I love and cherish yet;
When smiling hope, or beauty's smile
Could all my latent cares beguile?

Can I forget yon roseate bower—
  The social friends that met me there—
The murmuring rill—the varied flow'r,
  And shrubs that deck'd this sweet parterre—
When every ling'ring step I wend
Reminds me of some long lost friend?

Can I forget the warbling throng
  That wanton'd round each blooming spray,
Chanting their love-awak'ning song
  In choral sweets the live-long day—
When through these scenes I wont to rove,
The musing votary of love?

Or yet the well-known hallow'd seat,
  Beneath the wide-spread beechen tree,
Where night by night we wont to meet,
  To breathe our vows of constancy;
Where oft, on moon-lit eve like this,
We form'd our plans of future bliss?

Shine on, thou silv'ry orb of light—
  Ye lucent gems that gild the sky!
'Twas thus ye shone that peerless night
  I join'd in hymen's votive tie;
When youth, and love, and beauty shone
Around my bride's hymeneal throne!

Ah! days and years have roll'd apace,
  Since all that charm'd me centr'd here;
Yet still I love the well-known grace,
  That made those charms so doubly dear;
And round my heart of hearts I'll twine
Kind thoughts of her and auld langsyne.

Dear scenes of friendship's mystic power—
  Of love's all-potent magic spell—
Of many a guileless social hour—
  Of hope's enchantment—fare-thee-well!

But while I live, thrice charming spot,
By me thou ne'er can be forgot!

Nor will that sainted spirit bright,
  Whose home is far beyond the sky,
Reject, from her abode of light,
  This humble, heartfelt symphony,
Which virtue, worth, and beauty crave,
Though these lie slumb'ring in the grave.

SONNET TO A BABE.

Smile on, smile on, my sprightly infant boy,
These looks express no mock felicity;
Nor yet those sportive limbs a mimic joy,
By which thy heart dilates with ecstacy.
Truth—feeling—nature—all unite to show
The pure and guileless thrillings of thy breast,
The fount of innocence from whence they flow—
The sweet diffusive joy, by which they are express'd.
And such were once thy father's feelings, when
His childhood claim'd a tender mother's care;
But time and trials in the ways of men
Have sear'd and chang'd them much from what they were;
Yet do they wake unchang'd—without alloy—
When blest by thy sweet smile, my sprightly infant boy.

CHAPTER XXV.

To all who may have visited an iron producing district such as Coatbridge, around which the fiery beacons flash, the scene on a dark night must have been most impressive; but what strange ideas would enter the mind of any man who had never been near or heard of an iron work, were he to be placed on the top of the hill near Gartsherrie Church, and looked down for the first time on nearly two score and ten blast furnaces belching forth their forked flames, while the innumerable stalks and furnaces of the surrounding mills and forges darted out their meteor-like flashes of glaring white heat amid the gloom of darkness. Such a sight, under such circumstances, might bring up to imagination those lines of Milton:—

> "A dungeon horrible, on all sides round
> As one great furnace, flamed; yet from these flames
> No light, but rather darkness visible
> Served only to discover sights of woe.
> ——————————A fiery deluge fed
> With ever burning sulphur unconsumed;
> With floods and whirlwinds of tempestuous fire."

The whole a land of wonders, raised by man's ingenuity and perseverance; the work of hands, the labour of years, which still goes on increasing and spreading its branches of manufacture. The coal fields are nurseries for all; and the precious metals required are by no means exhausted. Away down, down in the depths of strata, lies

buried that which is more precious than gold, which skill and enterprise, so eminently successful in the past, will undoubtedly bring to light at no distant day. Science and art are still progressing with rapid strides in improving those agents required in developing the mineral storehouses of the kingdom; and already this district is teeming with machinery and appliances for such work on the most modern and approved principles. Strength, economy, speed, and safety, all combined, show what enterprise and skill have performed, and what they may yet be expected to accomplish; in evidence of which, turn where you will, east, west, north, or south, there is range after range of large and small chimneys, pouring out dense volumes of smoke and flame from these iron works, forges, mills, foundries, collieries, and works of other descriptions, indicating the scenes of industry in which the great giant steam is propelling the enormous wheels, the ponderous iron walking-beams, and intricate machines that drive the heated air into immense furnaces continuously; or give strength and weight to the crushing hammer, beneath which the shapeless mass of toughened iron assumes form, and is prepared for the embrace of the iron rollers that revolve in endless circle—through these it glides in successive courses till the mass shoots forth a perfect piece of itself, ready for ship or railway. What prodigious trains of minerals pass along the various lines of railway, laden with their burdens, drawn onward with speed, over bridges, houses, and canal, by the iron horse, snorting, hissing, and whistling, as it puffs along on the iron road; iron boats, propelled by steam engines, or drawn by horses, and filled with the black diamond, the rich ores, pigs of metal, bars and sheets of iron, and other traffic, pass to and from their places of manufacture along the waters of

the canal,—steam and iron everywhere, steam and iron, controlled, directed, and guided by the busy hives of workmen, amid the smoke, heat, clanking of hammers, and rattle of machinery. But this is only the surface work; there are two sections, one above, the other below—the latter, the grand source of all; and to inspect a portion of these subterranean wonders, the descending shaft to which is dark and dismal, again steam and machinery are the motive powers to gain a glimpse into the mysteries underneath. There are many entrances to such, as seen by the numerous pits that stud the district in all directions. They stand in the immediate vicinity of iron works, and houses, by the canal bank, in the centre of plantations or gardens, and in the richly cultivated fields; anywhere and everywhere most convenient, as the *bores* indicate the position of the minerals. The desired seams of coal or ironstone are attained at depths varying from 30 to upwards of 100 fathoms, and there the work of excavation goes on. Down in these subterranean caves a tenth part of the population of the district, yclept, colliers and miners, dig and burrow the half of their lives, for the precious metals, which are converted, after various processes, into yellow gold. In order to follow the footsteps of these workmen from the pit-mouth to the scenes of their laborious occupation, take your place on the iron-bound, iron-covered cage, which is about to descend the shaft. At the appointed signal the engine is set in motion, and the cage is lowered gently downwards, guided in its course by the wooden slides on either side of the shaft, for which the iron grooves on the cage are so nicely fitted. The bottom is reached, and for a few minutes wait till your sight becomes accustomed to the darkness, made visible by the dim light reflected from the

burning wick of the oil lamp you carry. The place is all in commotion, and constant communication is going on between the upper and this lower world by means of the signal bell or hammer, as hutch after hutch of the mineral is despatched up the shaft in rapid succession. Time is money; and the produce of these eighty or a hundred labourers comes rattling along from the level, the dook, or the rise workings. There is a smart current of air passing inwards; from whence comes it? Let us look around. The shaft is divided by strong planks of wood from bottom to top, which is termed the midwall. On the one side the current of air is blowing down, and on the other side it is blowing up. The air by the downcast is conveyed round the whole of the workings, and guided by air courses to the upcast. The ventilation is aided by means of a rarifying furnace, built at the bottom of the latter, and kept constantly burning, thus causing a strong draught to ascend and draw the vitiated air from the workmen, who are thus continually provided with the essential element of life by a very simple, yet ingenious plan. If the pit has been in working order for a series of years, the working faces may probably extend in ranges of tunnels several hundred fathoms in length, the whole a city in miniature, with main streets from which, breaking off at right angles, are lanes or rooms, in which the miners are busy excavating; and, by the dull flicker of their little lamps, you see them, their faces and bodies begrimed with the black dust, as they hew and cut, stripped to the trousers, to give freedom of action to every muscle, and for all positions of the body. With pick, mallet, and wedge they undermine the "black diamond," and make it fall from the face in blocks of tons in weight. Seams of coal, tier above tier, may be in working order in the

same pit, and the produce of each ascending by the same shaft, thus throwing forth three or four hundred carts of coal daily. No class of men are exposed to such dangers as the collier and miner; and these exist in air, earth, and water. The first may be obstructed by accident; the second close around them; and the third rush in from some old waste working, causing them to be suffocated, buried, or drowned. What cannot be cured must be endured. With this reflection you retrace your intricate route to the bottom of the shaft, step on the cage, glad to get out of the heated atmosphere, and ascend to the blessed light of day, leaving behind the active throng of workmen, toiling at the great fountain or source of wealth.

Iron Workers.

Carron, Clyde, Wilsontown, Omoa, and Muirkirk Iron Works, were in operation before the manufacture of pig-iron was started in this district, and when it was commenced at Calder, it required men who understood the practical working of blast furnaces, and the workmen were brought to Calder from these works already in operation. Pig-iron at that period commanded high prices in the market, there was little or no competition, and the workmen had liberal wages—which were paid according to a tariff of rates on each ton of iron produced from the furnaces—and this encouraged the men to keep the furnaces in good working trim; for the more iron they produced it was beneficial both to employers and employed. This system of paying the workmen for their labour, still continues, but the tariff of rates are very different, just as great as the produce and competition now, with the hot blast system, to what it was then with the cold blast.

In furnace keeping there are various grades of workmen, who are paid at rates in proportion to the importance of their position. They are divided into the following classes:—keepers, assistant keepers, fillers, assistant fillers, and since the introduction of the hot blast there are firemen for the heaters. For many years preceding, and after the Calder Works were started, "keeping" was considered a sort of hereditary occupation, which, like that of the colliers, descended from sire to son; but when other works of the same description commenced operations, the original stock failed in supplying the demand. This led to the employing of labourers for the work, who were easily trained if they had muscular strength to wield the heavy sledge hammers, and *bar* the furnace well. This, together with the requisite knowledge of timps, twyeers, &c., and how to regulate all, and keep the furnace in proper trim was acquired in a short time, as also the filling of the furnace with the necessary minerals for the production of iron. Blast furnacemen have always been easily distinguished from the rest of the community, by the peculiar red and scorched appearance of their faces, caused by the intense heat to which they are exposed, a heat which creates in them a great thirst, and often a desire to quench it in something stronger than water. Many of them thus acquire habits of intemperance, and with all their good wages, they are generally, as a class, comparatively poorer than many of the labouring classes with scarcely half their incomes. At many of the works the great majority of the men now employed at the furnaces are Irish.

When the manufacture of malleable iron commenced at Dundyvan and Calderbank Iron Works, in 1839, the skilled workmen required were brought chiefly from the

iron manufacturing districts of England and Wales, the greatest numbers being from Staffordshire. These workmen had their respective departments in the manufacture of the iron from its crude state into malleable, and were designated, refiners, puddlers, shinglers, and rollers, and like those employed at the blast furnaces, were paid in proportion to the weight of iron produced. The wages earned by these men for some years were enormous, compared with present rates. The majority were very illiterate, purse proud, and arrogant, quarrelsome and over-bearing towards the other working classes, which led to frequent brawls and fighting; they thus earned a questionable reputation in pugilism, by no means favourable in the estimation of the more peaceably inclined working classes; but gradually as the wages were reduced, and other classes of workmen got initiated and were trained to the same work, these scenes decreased; this, together with intermarriage among the Scotch residents, brought about changes for the better.

The dwellings of the English workmen were invariably patterns of cleanliness and order. The houses were built for their accommodation after the same style to which they had been accustomed to reside in, when in their native place. They consisted of long ranges of two storied tenements, each family having four apartments. There are now, after the lapse of twenty-four years, only a very few of the old hands in existence or working. Their places have been supplied partly by their descendants, while the great majority are those who have been trained from boyhood to work in the various departments, and may be described as a mixture of all classes—the Irish element strongly preponderating. The great increase of malleable iron works, in the district, during the

past ten years, has necessarily required the training of additional workmen. The labour in many departments is severe, yet the wages are a great inducement to the youths of the labouring classes, who are fond of getting employment at these works, where, after a few years, they acquire the requisite knowledge and skill to enable them to fill the ranks of the workmen in the several stages of malleable iron manufacture.

The iron workers, therefore, now form a considerable proportion of the population. They have no distinct characteristics, which may be accounted for by the fact that they have been drawn from the other working classes; and their habits and manners are somewhat similar.

In blast furnace working, great caution has to be observed by the men in the management of the twyeer pipes and blow pipes, water being required to flow round the nozzles inserted into the furnace, to prevent them from melting by the heat to which they are exposed; for should any water be allowed to escape from the pipes into the interior of the furnace, a very explosive gas is immediately formed, which would endanger the lives of the workmen, and cause the destruction of property. Several casualties of this description have occurred at works in the district, when several lives were sacrificed. About 40 years ago an accident occurred at Calder, which, from its rarity, we here record. One of the keepers, while moulding in the pig bed preparatory to the running of the metal out of the furnace, was so severely burned that he died in a few hours afterwards in great agony. The molten iron had suddenly forced its way out of the furnace, and, being unable to get out of the way, the keeper was carried along on the top of the burning lava to a considerable distance in presence of the other work-

men, who were powerless and unable, from the nature of the accident, to relieve him for a few minutes, or save him from such an excruciating death.

From the immense steam power required for machinery in the manufacture of malleable iron, boiler explosions of a very serious and destructive character have occurred, by which many lives have been sacrificed. Fortunately they are rare. The accidents by machinery are more frequent; but they are generally isolated cases, and the great majority are the fruits of carelessness on the part of the workmen themselves. Although iron manufacture is fraught with dangers of this description to those employed at it, still the avocation is a safe one compared to that of the colliers and miners, in their labours in the subterranean caverns.

The Mining Population.

We do not require to trace back very far in history to learn that the colliers, scarcely a century ago, were in a state of bondage. A few old men still living remember distinctly when their parents and friends were by law held as the property of the coal masters, much in the same way as the Russian serfs were lately held by the landholders and aristocracy of that country; and we find that Sheriff Barclay of Perthshire, in his "Digest of the Law of Scotland," at page 138, under "Coal Mines and Colliers," states that "Colliers were at one time astricted to and in sale passed with the collieries, Act 1606, c. 11; 1661, c. 38, and further." In a competition for possession of colliers, the Sheriff of Lanarkshire found that the men "did work as colliers at the pursuer's coal of Stonelaw, which is his property, before they wrought at the defender's coal of Corsehill, and therefore *that they*

belonged to the pursuer in property, and ordained the defender to deliver up the foresaid coaliers." The Court of Session reversed, and found "that the coaliers are not bound to the tacksman, *but to the coal* in which they wrought during the currency of the tack, 1764." Then again: "A boy who enters into a coal work where his father is a bondman becomes a slave, not by consent, but from the nature of the slavery, which extends from father to son, and from which rule practice has introduced an exception with respect to children that abstain from working, 1764." Colliers were held, because of their servitude, not bound to work on the highway, 1755; yet it is said that in 1747 "The colliers were found entitled to vote in a burgh election as Burgesses of Rutherglen," which might, however, have been only local. Additional evidence is also given in the following extract from the "North British Review" of November, 1845:—"Prior to 1775 the colliers were, by the common law of Scotland, in a state of slavery. They, and their wives and children, were the property of their masters, and were transferable with the coal works, in the same way as the slaves on a West Indian estate were (till the Abolition Act was passed) transferable on a sale of the estate. This state of things was changed in 1775 by an Act which declared them 'free,' and found them entitled to 'enjoy the same privileges, rights, and immunities with the rest of His Majesty's subjects.' But the spirit of the Act was destroyed by its restrictions and regulations, and in 1799 another Statute had to be passed enacting that 'All the colliers in Scotland shall be free from their servitude.'" This second Act would, therefore, lead us to believe that the first had failed to effect the object for which it was intended, and that until the second Act was passed in

1799, the colliers were in reality serfs. It is, therefore, now only some sixty-five years since the colliers were released from bondage, and permitted to choose for themselves, or were entitled to enjoy the same rights and liberties as their more favoured fellow-countrymen. Previous to their emancipation it has been affirmed that they were kept comfortable so far as bodily wants were concerned, but that the cultivation of their minds was sadly neglected, and accordingly, ignorance, superstition, and immorality prevailed to a great extent. Thus degraded, it could scarcely be expected that, after their legal manumission, their social reformation would be of a very rapid character. To eradicate their deep rooted prejudices and superstitious notions required time, education, moral training, and example. There were obstacles in the way of attaining this state of affairs, and they remained for a long time as before, a distinct class, having little or no intercourse with the other working classes. These barriers have happily diminished greatly during the course of the last quarter of a century, and the great majority of the rising generation are keeping pace with other classes in the march of improvement, and taking advantage of the means so abundantly provided for elevating themselves in the social scale by the great lever, Education. With them, as well as other classes, there are still too many who are allowed to neglect the golden period of youth for instruction, and, trained in ignorance, cling with tenacity to the habits, customs, and practices of their forefathers.

The principal portion of the colliers who began operations to any extent in the district, were brought from Carron, Fife, and Mid Lothian. The ironstone miners were of a later date, and were engaged chiefly from the Muirkirk mines in Ayrshire. With the colliers there was

one great drawback to their social advancement, viz., the employment of their wives and daughters, in the pits, as drawers of coal (this appears to have been an eastern custom, as it is said never to have been practised in the west). Household duties were thus neglected, the children uncared for, the comforts of home, with all its social and softening influences, comparatively unknown. The absence from home and children, or the manual drudgery imposed on the females, were not the worst parts of the evil. They were daily exposed to the contaminating influence of the licentious jests, brutal oaths, and coarse language of the men, until they became, as a general rule, their superiors in the use of a vulgar and obscene vocabulary. Thirty years ago, it was no uncommon sight to see bands of these pit-women, returning from their occupation, their attire besmeared with dirt, and in many cases scarcely covering their nakedness, and as they trudged along, giving vent to some obscene song, or immoral jest; and many of these women were the mothers of children.

A group of such females, in working garb, at the pit, formed a most uncouth picture. Their feet encased in heavy tacketed shoes; legs covered with a species of stockings termed *huggers*; petticoats of the shortest description and coarsest material, in many of which the original had disappeared under a mass of patchwork, the front part of the garment scarcely covering the knees, (the style being considered necessary to prevent the wearer from treading on the front part while bending forward to the load, when drawing the large corves or wicker baskets, then in use, for conveying the coal from the working face to the bottom of the shaft); the upper part of the dress consisted of either, shortgowns, jackets, or old coats of every variety and shape, caps, or mutches,

for the head, of all dimensions, and equally free from uniformity; the whole of their strange apparel bedaubed with the mud of the mine, from which a peculiar damp smell arose. In a dark night the scene at the pit was peculiarly striking, as the occasional flutter from the light of the little lamps which they carried, threw a feeble glare on all around, just sufficient to show, by the dim light, the faces begrimed with soot, from which the twinkling eyes peered forth amid the gloom, and the peals of laughter that burst occasionally forth from their midst, indicated that mirth and cheerfulness prevailed. The toil of the day was over, and it would have puzzled a sharp detective, an hour afterwards, to recognise in the clean-looking, comely dames, and bright eyed maidens, sitting in the respective dwellings of the colliers, that they were those who had formed that strange-looking band of females, on the pit bank of the colliery.

The homes of the colliers chiefly consisted of but one apartment, often very scantily furnished, with two bed places, and those who had large families sometimes had two such apartments converted into one dwelling. On entering a village or colony of these workmen the outside of the houses denoted a want of tidiness, and disagreeable odours arose from the accumulated heaps of filth and stagnant pools of water that lay in front of each door, in utter defiance of all sanitary laws (if such existed in those primitive days). The buildings so erected were placed in rows or squares, and of but one storey in height, covered with tiles or thatched with straw; the interior displaying hard earthen floors, low roofs, or where the plaster work overhead had been dispensed with, the bare rafters and joists met the view. These were the sort of hovels provided for the coal miners, who spent half

their lives in the then ill-ventilated mines, on emerging from which, in their quaint black garb, and blinking eyes, a feeling of pity would arise for them, as they bent their weary steps to their lowly dwellings in which they lived, but how? Their habits were anything but cleanly, for, with a few exceptions, they appeared to have little idea of personal cleanliness or comfort. We have seen many as they returned from labour sit down without even washing their hands, black and dirty looking as they were, and partake of dinner from off a stool or chair, with a relish apparently as satisfactory as if it had been off a fine covered table, furnished with the most sumptuous fare. Then followed the washing process; divested of all but the short plaiding breeks, and seated on a stool in front of the fire with a tub full of warm water, the face, neck, arms, breast, and legs, as far up as the knee, got a dip, but the rest of the body, quite as dingy and black as the "coal wa'," escaped. They had then, and hundreds still have, the idea that to wash the black weakens it.

An anecdote is told of a genuine type of an old collier, who on one occasion was invited to a dinner party. It was his first outset in a public way, and when seated at table, and commenced to the first service, he made great havoc on a fine piece of roast beef, within easy reach, which, along with the necessary auxiliaries, ultimately brought him to a halt, inwardly satisfied with himself, and chuckling at others, on whom he had been keeping his weather eye, that he had done his duty. The tables were cleared for the second course, and he, poor fellow, having no expectations of what was coming, was horror struck when the nice tempting dishes, loaded with the dessert, were spread out before him. He surveyed the scene for a few moments, but unable to restrain contending emotions, he

clasped his hands, in apparent despair, and groaned forth in audible tones, "Oh, for twa stomachs." The effect on the company may be easier imagined than described. Yet there are many in the world who have, doubtless, in silence expressed themselves like the old collier, on certain occasions, and wished for "twa stomachs." The recreations of the colliers were varied. In winter, card or draught playing, was their chief resource; in summer evenings groups might be seen huddled together at the back of the hedges, or by the wayside, earnestly engaged with a pack of dirty cards, playing at "Catch the Ten," "All Fours," "Loo," &c., while the pile of small pieces of tobacco lying in the centre, indicated the value of the stakes invested; another lot, not far off, busy training dogs or cocks for the approaching combats; in an adjoining field several couples of brawny fellows, stripped to the trowsers, displaying their pugilistic skill to a crowd of admirers, and to the delight of the youngsters, the latter imitating the example on the first convenient occasion. Bullet playing (now nearly obsolete) was a game, exclusively belonging to the colliers, but was dangerous alike to players and spectators. The bullets were round and formed out of whinstone, each about two pounds in weight. In this game there was generally eight players, four a side; the distance, two or three miles from *hail* to *hail,* along the best part of the parish roads. Each was provided with two bullets, in the throwing or *hainching* of which they were very expert, and could send them a great distance; to whichever of the two sides the bullet belonged that reached the *hail* first, they were the winners of the game. District matches were often played for £5 or £10 a side, but as the population increased it became a nuisance; the parish authorities interfered, and

it was put a stop to. We believe, however, that in the east country districts, where coal mining is carried on, the game is still practised to a great extent.

We have thus, perhaps imperfectly, given an outline of the dwellings, the habits, and recreations of the colliers, but a very important portion of the community has yet to be noticed—viz., those who, from their age and infirmities, were looked up to as the patriarchs of the tribe, whose duty it was to legislate for the commonwealth of collierdom. If no question of mining importance was in agitation, they might be seen in small groups, stretched at full length on the roadside, or sitting on their *hunkers*, as only colliers can sit, enjoying their smoke in listless apathy, or settling disputes in some game to which the players had submitted the case to their arbitration. If times were stirring and trade prosperous, then the legislature had work to get grievances redressed, and all met in council, when they discussed, in their own simple but often boisterous manner, the necessity of "a hutch off the day's *darg*," or a penny on the cart, the result generally ending in a resolution for a general meeting, which was effected in a very simple manner the following morning, by the representatives for each pit going out very early and getting down the shaft first; and as each relay of colliers descended, notice was given to all, and soon the pit bottom, and around it in side roads, displayed a scene which could not be realised above ground. Women or boys were dismissed into the interior of the workings, while the adult male portion, in their picturesque garb, held the council meeting, crouching in their usual attitudes, with their lamps burning, the lights only making darkness visible—above, and on all sides, the irregular strata of rocks jutting out in ill-defined shapes,

with huge trunks of trees at intervals, in all their blackened state, supporting the misshapen roof; the place—the dark forms assembled—would have required no great stretch of imagination to have conjured up the whole scene as a conclave of the demons of the mine.

The men in charge at the pit head soon learned the result of such deliberations by the boys and women ascending from the depths below, followed by the men, and the pit for that day was idle, to enable the delegates appointed to meet the master, and settle the matter. The colliers cannot now hold such meetings in the pits, as in terms of the Act 23 and 24 Vic., cap. 155, clause 42, "Meetings of colliers and other workmen, in a body, within the coal workings, or in any of the roads or air courses of the colliery, are strictly prohibited."

Though rude in manners and speech, the colliers were invariably kind and tender-hearted, charitable to the poor, and frankly aided any of their brethren who might be unfortunate in getting injured at their dangerous avocation. Generally speaking, as a class of men earning wages far above the average of other workmen in those days, they were comparatively improvident, and seldom provided for the emergencies to which their labour exposed them, spending their hard-earned money freely, and leaving the future to chance. The shows on the pay nights were visiting crowds of packmen, &c., with gaudy trash of merchandise, who often took advantage of their ignorance by charging extortionate prices for almost worthless articles. This, together with intemperate habits, kept the majority of them poor and in debt; and when creditors had to resort to compulsion to get their debts by employing the officers of the law, "moonlicht flittins" followed, but change of name or locality often failed. A story is told of

a sheriff-officer, whose frequent visits to one of these colonies made him an unwelcome intruder, and, as such, detested by the female residents. Accordingly, on one occasion, they pounced upon him in one of the houses. The ladies handled him pretty roughly, and compelled him to eat a piece of bread and butter, the bit of law paper forming part of the whole, after which he was dismissed, amid shouts of laughter from the rude administrators of justice.

The original stock of Scottish colliers were a hardy, stalwart race, capable of enduring great fatigue, of a stubborn nature, easily duped by the designing, but real despots in combinations. The characteristics of these men are still retained in some measure by their lineal descendants. Emigration to other countries, &c., has reduced the ranks of this stock, and, comparatively speaking, there are now but few in number of this class that do not endeavour to push themselves on by the advantages of education and cultivation, which their sires did not enjoy. There were many of the latter who, although uneducated, possessed great natural abilities, and to their practical suggestions may be attributed in a great measure the rapid strides in mining science and the improvements in pit working. The colliers had their superstitious ideas at that period—viz., some fifty years ago—somewhat similar to the peasantry and other working classes. The belief in witches, fairies, ghosts, and death warnings was quite popular, and many a sequestered spot and shady nook are still pointed out by the aged, where at the midnight hour strange sights have been witnessed, or fancied to have been ; but these places have, by the torch of education or the flames of the blast furnaces, lost their spectral tenants, and they are now among the ashes of the

past. The unlucky omens that were believed by the colliers made them lose many a day's work. If on proceeding to their toil in the morning they met a woman with red hair or naked feet, if a hare crossed their path, if a few magpies happened to fly past them,* or if they saw in meadow or hillside the fiery vapour or dancing lights known as "Will-o'-the-Wisp," and various others too numerous to detail, any one of them was quite sufficient to stop the colliers from going to work. It was quite a common custom on the Sabbath morning, when a child was to be named in church, for the father to go and beg a shawl from every old woman who had the misfortune to be a reputed witch, and when taken to church the infant was enveloped often in half-a-dozen such coverings to protect it from witchcraft.

They had also strange stories to tell of one "Uncle Hairey," a mysterious being, who performed great and wonderful feats; a species of the *geni* of the mine, that followed certain families, who were sure of prosperity when under the care of this patron saint. *Uncle Hairey* was to the colliers what the *brownies* of old were to the farmers, or the *banshee* to the genuine Irish. Their belief in the supernatural powers of this mythical being was unbounded, and rested principally on tales of tradition handed down from father to son. If danger threatened any of the favoured few, they got timely warning of its approach; if in want, the magic touch of "*Hairey*" caused great falls of coal to come tumbling down during the night in

* The omen for good or evil depended on the number of birds seen together, as indicated by the old doggrel rhyme—

"Ane's joy, twa's grief,
Three's a weddin', and four's death,"

which may have given rise to this superstitious belief.

the mine, the wages from which soon relieved the collier from his difficulties. An old collier belonging to the east country, who was a firm believer in the saint, very seriously remarked that "Uncle Hairey" aye wrocht for them he liket in the nicht time, and could howk as muckle coal in ae nicht as ony ten men. But, like the *brownies* and *banshee*, the belief in "Uncle Hairey," and his kindly endeavours to aid the favoured mortals of the mines, exist only among the aged or grossly ignorant, and will soon be among the superstitions of the past. The origin of "Pay Weddings," which prevailed at one time to a great extent among the colliers, cannot now be easily traced. The supposition is, that as they have always been proverbial for entering the matrimonial state when very young, and perhaps not prepared with capital necessary for taking such an important step, they had to depend upon the generosity of those invited to the marriage for the means to enable them to begin life under a new phase; so that the custom became, as it were, established under the pithy term of "Pay Wedding." The preliminaries to this event were settled on the "bookin nicht," a most appropriate title, for on that night the names of the parties, along with the fees for the session clerk, were handed in to that functionary to be recorded, and the banns proclaimed; ending in a jovial scene, second in importance only for mirth and music to that of the wedding itself. On the wedding night, out of the number assembled, perhaps twenty or thirty of the more youthful couples escorted the bride and bridegroom to the minister, and, at the head of the procession, marched the *fiddler*, cheering them on with strains of music from his violin. After the ceremony, on emerging from the manse or residence of the minister, the outsiders, who had guns,

fired a salute, and kept blazing away with blank shot on the return journey. Meanwhile a few of the more youthful males started to run the *broose.* The first that arrived at the domicile of the newly wedded pair was handed a bottle of whisky, with which he again started to meet the marriage party, when they quaffed in bumpers the health and happiness of the young couple, the victor in the race having as his reward a kiss from the young wife. The bridal supper over, music, dancing, and drinking followed. During the course of the night a collection was made among the males, and the contributions were frequently very liberal; the proceeds going to aid the young folks in their start in housekeeping. The expenses otherwise were defrayed in the same fashion. The ceremony of bedding the pair may be passed over. The "backin" of the wedding, as they termed it, continued for several nights in hilarious, and often uproarious, mirth and dancing. The musician on these occasions was well cared for, but the situation was no sinecure. All appeared to be happy, while the jolly god Bacchus presided over the revels. There was spirit in these meetings, and the enjoyments were in no way restricted by the conventional rules of polite society.

That the drinking customs were a barrier to their social advancement cannot be denied. On the Saturday evenings, after receiving their wages, the general aspect of the dwellings presented carousing parties, who had joined together to enjoy themselves, both men and women subscribing to the common fund, to obtain the necessary supplies; and many of these clubs extended their sittings till the Sabbath was far advanced. All this had a demoralising effect, which brought in its train poverty, misery, and wretchedness. This evil, however, as they

became more enlightened, gradually abated, and now it may be said to exist only among those who have lost caste; and it is to be regretted that there are still too many of that class, not only among the colliers, but also in the ranks of many of our working classes.

The numerous strikes that have occurred in the district have been the means of introducing into the mines and collieries a very different class of workmen from the old Scottish colliers, the great majority of the former being Irish, chiefly of the very lowest grade, and consequently illiterate and uneducated; and the amalgamation in no way tended to elevate the colliers. Yet it must be admitted that the descendants of the original colliers retain their identity, and look upon the others as interlopers in the mines, not belonging to the brotherhood. Trained as the Scotch colliers were, this feeling is not to be wondered at; for they looked upon their profession as a sort of hereditary right, which had descended from generation to generation, and for which they had to undergo a regular apprenticeship. At the age of eight or nine the boy was sent to work in the pit as a "trapper," where he opened and shut a door which aided in the ventilation of the mine. In a couple of years he became a "putter," and assisted in pushing the loads of coal from the workmen to the pit-bottom. In a couple of years more he was termed "a half man," when he assisted the working colliers; and after other two or three years he was entitled to rank as "a man," and invested with full powers to wield the pick, wedge, and mallet at the coal wa'. Thus, step by step, he was trained to the work; and it was doubtless very provoking for all who had thus served their time to see, during the period of strikes, great numbers of above-ground labourers taking their places in the pits, and

jump, as it were, into ready-made colliers. It has been said that it required years of practice ere the latter were able to accomplish the same work as the thorough-bred collier. But the barrier was broken down; and now the calculations are that about three-fourths of the mining population in the district cannot trace back their experience in the mines beyond a very few years.

Until the "Truck Act" was passed, it was quite a common practice for the employers to hire the colliers by the year. Each man, on engaging, received a bounty of £5 or £10, as a binder on the engagement, and the money so given was often foolishly squandered by treating their companions. In fact, to do so was considered as an established rule. This bounty-money was deducted off the collier by instalments during the course of the year, thus reducing his wages, and forming a bond of power in the hands of the employers not altogether advantageous to the employed, for whatever grievances existed during the course of the year, the colliers seldom could get these redressed until the expiry of the term. The result was that many of them broke through the engagement, giving often reasonable evidence for doing so, such as want of proper ventilation, or, from the nature of the coal, their inability to produce the required quantity to make a fair day's wage; and many who were thus placed, and had gone to other coal works, were brought back and punished for breach of contract, which often created a bad feeling among the men, until the evil partially wrought its own cure by a gradual decrease of the yearly system, until finally it was abolished by law. Another great epoch in the history of the colliers was the passing of the Act 5 and 6 Vic., c. 99 (1842), which came into force in March of the following year, prohibiting the employment of women

and girls in the mines. It was a very old custom, and belonged to the eastern districts of Scotland; at least it was brought to the Coatbridge district by the colliers who came from the east, for those belonging to the west do not appear to have permitted their females to descend the pits to labour; as from Baillieston westward none were employed at any of the collieries, while from the mid district of Coatbridge (which appeared to be the line of demarcation between the east and west), female labour prevailed. The same law that applied to the exclusion of women and girls from the pits extended also to boys under ten years of age. The whole appeared so unjust to the men that they grumbled sadly at what they considered an infringement of a right so long established. The most stubborn among them, after a short trial, however, admitted that their position financially was not so bad as they had anticipated under the new law, but rather the reverse; and it was soon discovered that the change was not only beneficial to the workmen, but also to society. The wives and daughters, released from the drudgery and contaminating influences of the mine, devoted their attention to, and increased the comforts of home, and began to pay some attention to the wants and education of the young. On the latter subject, viz., education, we cannot do better than give the following extract, taken from the report of Mr Alexander, inspector of mines, for year ending 31st December, 1862 :—

"The provisions for education, to which I referred in my last report, remain very much the same. The salutary regulations for securing a certain amount of education for the children of the mining population, before being admitted into the mines, are not in every case observed. In some cases, where I have had occasion

to direct attention to boys being employed apparently under age, it has turned out that they had been taken into the pit unknown to the managers, and under such circumstances I have seen the boys dismissed and sent up the pit at once, but in others there appeared to be, if not a wilful violation, at least a considerable amount of indifference, and in two of those cases I have placed the particulars before the Lord Advocate.

"I am certain it is not of any advantage to employers to allow boys, under the prescribed age, to be employed in mines; but as many parents are indifferent about whether their children are educated or not, it is plain that, unless the employers are firm and decided to see the provisions of the statute carried out, the results will fall short of what has been anticipated. It is unnecessary to remark that, if the workmen themselves were determined to carry out the regulations defined by the statute, in so far as they relate to the education of boys under twelve years of age, little or no encouragement would be held out by employers to induce them to act otherwise.

"The importance of at least a certain amount of education for the children of the mining population will be very apparent when it is stated that the whole of the subordinate officers, indeed nine-tenths of the persons entrusted with the direction of mines, are drafted from the workmen themselves. And if the education of boys is neglected between nine and twelve years of age, it is very doubtful if in after years they will either effect much progress or indeed attempt it. Much may be done at evening schools and otherwise, but it will generally be found that those who take advantage of such places of training are in nearly all cases those who have received a certain amount of education when young, and before commencing to work

at all. Through force of character or otherwise there are certainly exceptional cases, but they are very rare."

On the foregoing subject we may remark, that among the mining and also the labouring classes there exists a carlessness on the part of the parents towards their offspring that might with truth be termed a criminal neglect. The plea of necessity is sometimes urged, on the ground that the parent is unable to earn sufficient to do so, and the children so neglected are required to go to work as soon as they are able to assist in maintaining the younger members of the family. This may be the exception, but the rule would be found, if tested, that the parents who are careless regarding the education of their children are not so in applying the wages earned to feed their own vitiated tastes on strong drink. The boys generally find employment in one or other of the iron works until they are beyond the age prescribed by the Act of Parliament for admission into the pits, after which they merge into that class who form the very lowest strata in our mining population.

We previously remarked that emigration had thinned the ranks of the descendants of the old Scottish collier, and those who have gone may be termed the better class of workmen—young men in the prime of life and vigour. The mining districts of America, the British colonies of Australia and New Zealand, with their attractive gold fields, now include in the ranks of their miners, hundreds who have been trained to the work in the mines and colleries of this district. Compare the past with the present, what a contrast to the times in which the forefathers of the colliers were chained as it were to the locality in which they were born—nay, held as mere chattels appertaining to the coal. Since then the changes

have been great. Laws have been enacted which gave them freedom, protected them from oppression, expelled from the mine to their proper sphere at home their wives and daughters, prohibited youths of tender age from being employed in the mines, so that they might receive the benefits of an education, compelled owners of mines and collieries to adopt those stringent rules in force for the proper ventilation of pits, and other appliances necessary for the protection and preservation of life. Legislation has done much for the benefit of the colliers, but like other classes of the community there are evils that exist among them which neither laws nor enactments can reach. They have, at many collieries in the district, more commodious dwellings than in days of old, while at others, the houses appear to have been built in the old style, and on the very cheapest principle. The coalmasters to whom they belong may be excusable for doing so, seeing that such are only built to serve the purpose of giving their workmen accommodation during the period of the lease or tack, which extends in general to about nineteen years. The system is bad, for often large families are huddled together into one small apartment; of all ages and sex, in sickness or in disease, the whole family are accommodated under the same roof, breathing the close, sickening, and, it may be, tainted atmosphere. All this must be injurious to health, sap at the foundation of morality, blunt the feelings of virtuous modesty, and pave the way to something worse. With all the most improved methods of ventilation, the air which the colliers breathe while at work is often not the purest; they ought therefore, if possible, to get pure air in their abodes at home; and the best of the modern erections are types of what ought to be provided for them, and they are the antipodes of the old hovels inhabited in the

primitive days of coal mining. The colliers and miners are not now, as they were in former times, looked upon as an inferior race; the majority of those already referred to are progressing in the onward march of improvement, and mining, in whatever form, has become a science of no mean importance, and the productions of these men from the bowels of the earth form one of the great staple trades of the country. In conclusion, it is pleasing to remark that there are many who are reaping the fruits of the advantages they enjoyed in youth at the schools and academies of the district; some fill the ranks of the various professions, others are leading the van in the science of mining, both in theory and practice, and a few more figure as coalmasters, on the high road to fortune, and instead of the lowly dwellings of their ancestors, the old Scottish colliers of the beginning of the nineteenth century, they can sit amidst the comforts and splendour of their country house or city residence in the West End of the great western metropolis.*

From these records and retrospective gleanings of the history of the district, it is obvious that the germ of its greatness and prosperity lay within itself, which by skill and labour was brought forth from the deep recesses of the earth to the light of day. In the coal trade we have the forerunner of its twin sister the iron trade, both at first of insignificant proportions, but gradually extending in power and strength as facilities for transit by canal and

* The Inspector of Mines for the district, in his report, remarks as follows:—"The Glasgow School of Mines, which has now been in operation for three years, is very well adapted for bringing forward industrious workmen desirous of improving themselves; but it is a fact that no one has presented himself, wishing to be admitted as a student there, who has not had a previous education, or is unable to read and write."

railways were brought into operation, until they have both attained a magnitude little dreamt of by the most sanguine among either the coal or iron lords of the beginning of the nineteenth century. Honour is due to the memory of such men as the Stirlings of Drumpeller, Hamilton of Barrachnie, Dunlop of Fullarton, Christie of Coats, Dixon of Calder, Murray and Buttery of Calderbank, Fairrie of Farme, Merry of Nettleholes, Gray of Carntyne, Young of Cuilhill, and a few others of minor note. As the pioneers of the iron and coal trade, they cleared the way and marked out the chart to guide their successors, who have with energy and perseverance followed in the track.

The name of "Mushet" has been immortalised in the district, as one of its chief benefactors, by the discovery, at the proper period, of that precious seam of stone, "Blackband," the superior quality of which at once made the locality famous for its iron. When "Mushet" tested, by the crucible, the richness of the ironstone, the only recipients of supplies from the sources, were Clyde and Calder Iron Works. A quarter of a century passed on, and a solitary furnace beamed forth on the Gartsherrie estate which in due course was followed by "Neilson's" grand discovery of the "hot blast;" a discovery that caused a revolution in this branch of industry, of greater importance to its progress, than all that had been done since the famous Dudley of Staffordshire, more than two centuries before, when he introduced coal char instead of *charcoal,* in the manufacture of iron. Neilson, in conjunction with the late Messrs Dunlop of Clyde, Mackenzie of Crossbasket, Wilson of Dundyvan, put it practically before the world, after it was sealed by patent right. Scientific men of eminence were, for a time, sceptical of

its success; it was contrary to all preconceived notions or principles in the science of iron manufacture. The test of its superior power, however, proved its advantages over the old system. It was an innovation of the right stamp, and the benefits of the invention were practically demonstrated during the next ten years, by the rapidity with which iron works sprung into existence in the locality, followed, in due course, by the manufacture of malleable iron, at Dundyvan, and Calderbank, a branch of industry which has increased, since that period, nearly tenfold; each new work or branch of trade adding to the population and wealth of the district.

In the education of the working-classes, the iron and coal masters have always evinced a great interest. The numerous schools, academies, and other institutes of the same character, with proficient teachers, are all sufficient indications of this, and of their desire to encourage the tastes of the working-classes in this respect, and engender in them the desire to acquire knowledge in literature, science, and arts.

The quiet country solitude, of sixty years ago, has gone. Trade and commerce in all their noisiest forms now prevail, giving substantial evidence of what has been accomplished by the Dixons, the Bairds, the Wilsons, the Neilsons, the Murrays, the Butterys, a Merry, a Cunningham, an Addie, a Rankine, and a Miller, or Jackson, Colville, Gray, Ellice, Mackenzie, Henderson, Martin, Dimmock, Spencer, and M'Gilchrist; a little further on and we find Baker, Lumsden, Waddells, Murray, Hill, Begg, Wilson, Baillie, Bell, Tennant, and Gray; each in their respective spheres, whether great or small, past or present, have been, or are associated with, the working out of the prosperity of the district, with its pits, iron

works, forges, mills, and other branches of trade, that has raised towns and villages, wherein reside those brawny sons of toil that have congregated together from all parts of the three kingdoms. After all, what can be more pleasing than the contemplation of those bright gems of prosperity that glitter and gleam so brightly in irregular ranges, and thickly stud the district in all directions. Such a scene shows us that the elements that produce those illuminating powers, are the sources from whence the toiling thousands of our population receive the reward of their labour, and by which they are maintained and provided with the required comforts and necessaries of life. The gradual rising hills of debris at each pit; the rapidly increasing mountains of slag; hill and dale, fields, trees, houses, and roads, all are stamped with the black impress of a mining and iron producing district.

> "The days that were; Oh! time is like a well,
> Whose waters turned to diamonds as they fell."

In the preceding pages we have endeavoured to glean, (perhaps imperfectly) at least, a portion of the history of the district for the past eighty years, tracing the onward course and gradual development of all that has made it what it is; and, perhaps, our readers who have followed us thus far will concur in our introductory remark, "That the district is worthy, in every respect, of that name it has earned for itself, 'The Staffordshire of Scotland.'"

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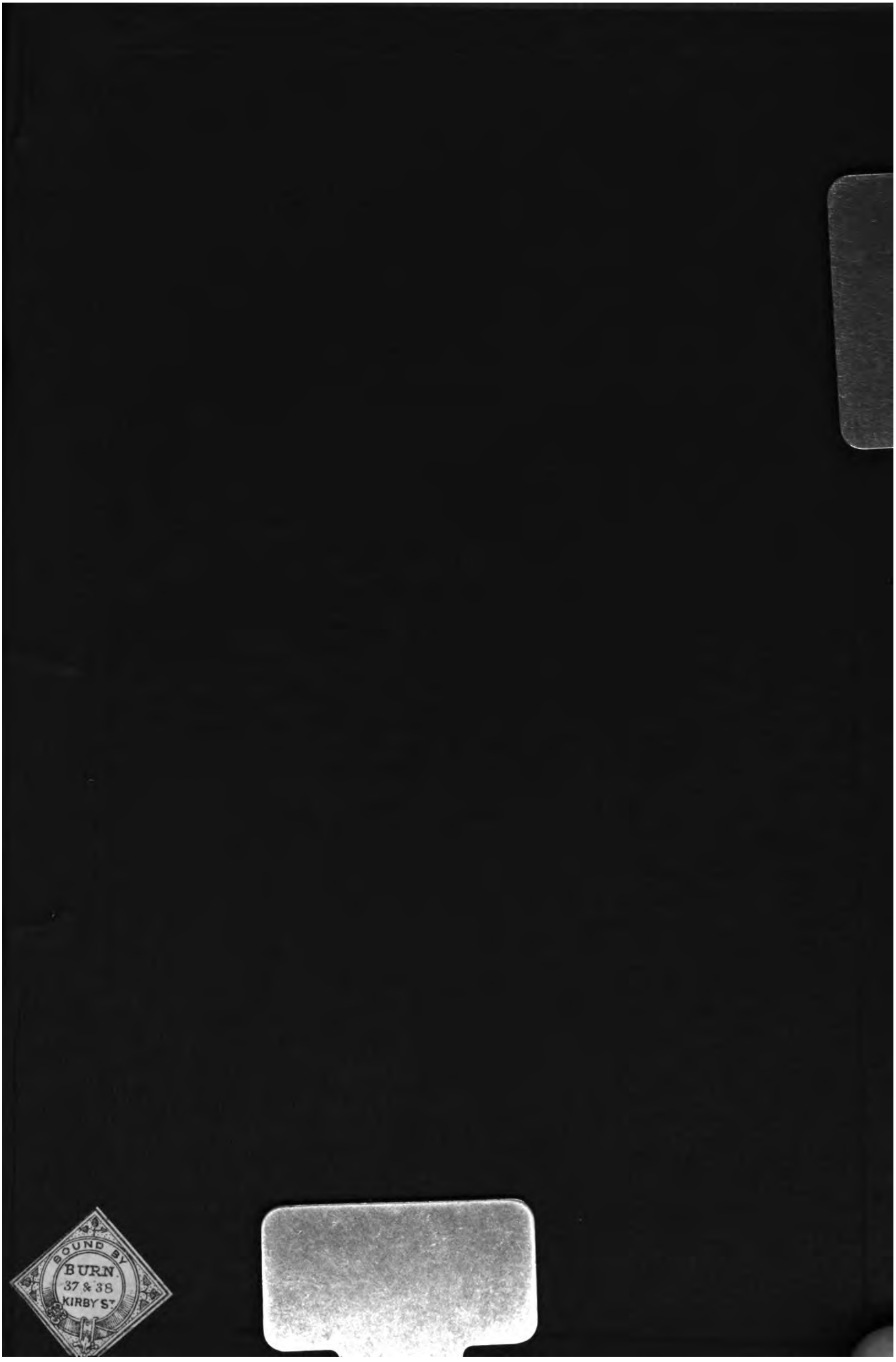
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