

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF PETTINAIN.

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

By the Rev. Mr. JAMES FERGUSON.

Situation, Extent, Surface, Climate, &c.

THIS is one of the smallest parishes in this part of Scotland, and affords but little scope for statistical observation. The parish of Libberton bounds it on the E., those of Carnwath and Carstairs on the N.; and that of Lanark on the N. W. These parishes are situated on the opposite side of the river Clyde, excepting a small part of the haugh ground belonging to Libberton. Upwards of sixty acres belonging to Pettinain are likewise, at different places, thrown on the other side of the river. The frequent changes of its course has, most probably, been the cause of this inconvenient situation. Its figure is irregular, but may be considered as a rectangle, nearly 3 miles long, and 2 broad. About 1700 acres are, in their course,

course, employed in tillage: the remaining part, which may be nearly of the same extent, is either coarse pasture-ground and mofs, or is covered with plantations of trees. The church and village are situated towards the N. E. extremity of the parish, about half a mile from the nearest part of the river; $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the eastward of Lanark, and 7 miles to the north-westward of Biggar. There is only one hill in the parish that divides itself into two summits, which are sometimes distinguished by the names of Pettinain and Westraw hills. The last, and most westerly of these is the highest, and rises about 500 feet above the level of Clyde, and about 1000 feet above that of the sea. The other part of the hill extends itself, in a long bending ridge, towards the S., and runs into the neighbouring parish of Covington. These high grounds are mostly covered with short heath, intermixed, in several places, with bent, and other coarse grass. This gives them a bleak appearance, and renders them, comparatively, of small value. A large track of moorish and mossy ground lies immediately behind the hill, on the S.; and in such a high situation, that it would not be advisable to attempt to cultivate any part of it. The rest of the lands in the parish, which lie lower, are generally of much better quality, and more agreeable appearance. The haughs, or holms, belonging to this and the neighbouring parishes on the opposite side of the river, are very extensive; and are clad in beautiful verdure during the summer months. The Clyde, which has formed these haughs, by depositing its mud, and which, by its frequent inundations, annually enriches them, adds greatly to their beauty, by its various windings. The grounds, interposed between these haughs and the hill, are finely diversified by beautiful swells. The extensive plantations of Westraw, and the hedges, which separate or subdivide the farms, give a pleasing look of cultivation to this part of the parish. The west
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and south parts are likewise much beautified by small plantations at Westown and Clowburn, and by the hedges and other fences, which enclose a great proportion of the low grounds. Part of the enclosures belonging to Carmichael, one of the seats of the Earl of Hyndford, falls within the boundary of this parish on the S. W. and greatly improves its appearance in that quarter. From the height of the ground, the air must be cold and penetrating. The river, where it runs slowly, is frequently frozen over for several weeks together, in a severe winter. The frost is, probably, rendered more intense by the moorish and wet lands, which lie around the skirts of the hill, as well as by the river itself. In the year 1782 and 1784, the crop was greatly damaged by it.

River, Fish, &c.—The Clyde, which rises about 25 miles to the southward, is here swelled into a large river. Along the upper part of the haugh-grounds, it runs with a pretty rapid current; but, about 2 miles below, its motion becomes much slower, and its depth increases. For several miles downwards, except in a few places, it continues very deep, and makes many beautiful windings through the haughs. About half a mile before it leaves the parish, it rushes with an impetuous torrent over the rocks which lie in its bed. In the upper part of this course, there are several good fords; but they are often rendered impassable, especially in winter, by the heavy rains, or melting of snow. In such cases, the communication to the eastward is by the bridge at Thankerton, in the parish of Covington, which is at the distance of 2½ miles from the village of Pettinain. This very useful bridge was built about 14 years ago, by voluntary subscription, and cost upwards of 700l. The country, on this account, is much indebted to the public-spirited exertions of the clergyman who was then minister of that parish, and of some of the

the neighbouring farmers. Hyndford bridge, which is placed about the same distance westward, opens a ready passage to Lanark, and other places in that quarter. The inundations of Clyde, though, in general, they undoubtedly fertilize the adjoining haughs, are hurtful at particular seasons. In the spring, the ploughed ground is, sometimes, so much washed and smoothed, that the seed cannot be sufficiently covered; in some places, where the current is strong, the soil is swept away; the seed is frequently displaced, and laid in the furrows. The summer floods, by covering the pasture-grass with sand or mud, make it unfit for the cattle, till it be washed by the rains. But the greatest damage is sustained when the corns are in the short-blade, immediately after the ear begins to make its appearance. A high flood, at that time, destroys, in a great measure, the crop. The farmers are careful to prevent the loss that might be occasioned from inundations in harvest, by removing the corns, as they are cut down, to higher grounds. Trout of a large size, and delicate taste, abound in this part of the Clyde. They are often caught about 20, and sometimes even 30 inches long. The red coloured are preferred to the white. The deepest places of the river produce, likewise, pike and perch. The best season for catching large trout with the rod, is reckoned to be from the middle to the end of June.

Soil, Agriculture, Produce, &c.—The lands in the parish are very different in quality. A considerable part of them is moorish and spongy on the surface; and as this kind of soil readily imbibes the rain, so, when it lies upon a clayey till, which, in many places, is the case here, it retains it long, and continues wet through a great part of the year. The grounds which form the sloping sides of the hill, are mostly of this sort; and cannot be cultivated by the plough to any considerable

considerable advantage. Some parts of them, however, are more clayey, and yield pretty good crops: Other parts, which have a gravelly bottom, are dry and light; and though they do not give very plentiful returns, are more to be depended on than the wet lands. But the greater part of the arable ground, which lies towards the river, is of a dry and good soil. Near the village it is a rich loam, inclining, in some places, to clay. Towards the N. E., it becomes light and sandy. In the west end of the parish, it is partly sandy, and partly clayey; and, in the Clowburn lands, it is, in some places, gravelly and sharp, in others, soft and mixed with clay or moss. The bottom of these arable grounds is various; sand, clayey till, or gravel. By proper management they may all be made to produce good crops. The soil of the haughs or holms is a mud which the river has brought down from the highest parts of the country. In general, it appears to have a considerable proportion of clay in its composition, from its adhesive quality when it is moistened by rain or the overflowing of the river. The depth of this mud is various, from 2 to 7 or 8 feet. Below it, there is generally found such a stratum of gravel and small stones, as lies in the fords. This stratum may, perhaps, serve the purpose of a drain to the haughs, which are generally dry. A singular fact seems to support this conjecture. A large haugh, towards the west end of the parish, is not so dry as the other grounds of this kind, nor do the crops ripen so soon upon it as upon them. The soil of that haugh is not deposited upon a stratum of gravel, but of moss, which probably imbibes the water of the river, and communicates an uncommon degree of moisture to the superincumbent mud.

The mode of farming is not very different from what it was 20 or 30 years ago. Men are naturally attached to old customs; and it requires some time, and repeated observation,

tion, to be convinced of the propriety of changing them for new ones. Improvements in agriculture, however, when real and lasting, are gradually communicated and adopted. The attentive farmer sees it to be his interest to imitate the practice of those of his neighbours who turn their lands to better account; and he learns, by experience, to follow that plan which is best suited to the soil and climate of his own grounds. There are several very judicious farmers in this parish and its neighbourhood, who have introduced many substantial improvements, and whose example will have its proper influence upon others. It is still, however, the practice with many to lay all their dung upon the croft-land, except what the out-field may receive by folding, or in the course of pasture; to take 2 crops of oats, and 1 of barley (or beer) * from the former, and 3 or 4 crops of oats running from the latter; and to lay out their ground without sowing any grafs-seeds. Too little attention, likewise, is paid to the killing of quick-grafs and other noxious weeds. A great part of the lands here is well adapted to the culture of turnip and potatoes. This has been carried on, for some years, to a small extent; and the good effects of it, in cleaning the ground, and preparing it for barley and grafs-seeds, ought to render it more prevalent. The turnip are employed in feeding milch-cows, once, or, at most, twice a-day, upon the fading of the pasture grafs after harvest. When given oftener, they impart a disagreeable taste to the milk and butter: but this may be, in a great measure, prevented, by mixing with the milk, when it is put warm into the vessels, a small quantity of salt-petre dissolved in water. They are, likewise, very usefully employed in rearing young black cattle, and in fattening for

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* *Barley* is the name usually given to a better kind of grain that is not much sown in this higher part of the country; and the inferior sort that is more generally cultivated, is called *beer* or *rough beer*.

the butcher ; but so small a quantity has hitherto been raised here, that little attention has been paid to the last of these objects, though, in other places, it has justly been reckoned a very important one. The potatoes are either consumed at home, or sent to Lanark, where they bring from 5 s. to 6 s. the boll. They are found to be an excellent food both for horses and black cattle. Formerly they were almost universally planted with the foot-dibble ; but this work is now generally done with the plough, in the drill-way. The haugh-ground is generally ploughed 3, and sometimes 4 years, for oats, and then allowed to lie as long in natural grass. Usually it gets no other manure but what it receives from the cattle in pasturing, or from the mud or slime, which is left upon it by the inundations of the river. Some very successful experiments were lately made by manuring a part of it with dung and lime. The crops were greatly improved by this new treatment. Excellent wheat and barley have been raised upon it. Pease are reckoned a precarious crop, in this part of the country ; yet they are sometimes sown, with advantage, upon sharp and clayey grounds. Beans are seldom planted, and only in particular spots of rich clayey land. Flax thrives well in many places of the parish. It is common to have 4, and even 5 stones of scutched lint from a peck. It is not, however, of such a fine quality as in the lower parts of the county ; and it is justly reckoned a severe crop. Several ploughs, made after the model of Mr. Small's, and drawn by 2 horses, are now used here. They are found to be well adapted to the soil of the haughs, and to all ground that is free of stones. In coarse and stony land, the common plough is found to answer better. The number of farms may be reckoned 16, besides small possessions : but one of these is rented by a farmer who lives in a neighbouring parish ; and another was lately thrown into grass. The principal crops are

are oats, barley or beer, and potatoes. Of oats, the best croft land may be reckoned to yield from 8 to 12 bolls (Linlithgow measure) the acre; the haugh or holm ground from 3 to 6 bolls; and the other outfield ground from 2 to 4. An acre of barley (what is here called beer) gives from 8 to 13 bolls, of land that has been properly cleared of weeds, and otherwise prepared; of the foul land, from 6 to 9 bolls. From 40 to 80 bolls of potatoes, planted generally without dung upon the croft-land, is reckoned a good return from the acre. The produce of an acre of pease varies from 2 to 8 bolls. Wheat has been tried with some advantage, in a favourable season; but the situation of the ground seems to be too high, and the frosts too severe, to allow its being cultivated to any great extent. The sowing of grafs-seeds has increased of late; and the good crops of hay that have been produced, give reason to hope that a still greater proportion of land will be employed in this manner. Two crops of hay have generally been taken from the small fields that were laid down with sown grafs, after which they were pastured for 2 or 3 years: But a species of rye-grafs has lately got into the country, which continues only for 1 year, and which often disconcerts this plan. Many of the farms here are remarkable for producing good butter and cheese; and perhaps there is not a greater quantity produced from the same extent of ground in any place of this country. The pasture on the haughs is undoubtedly very rich: and much attention is paid both to the breed of the cows, and management of their milk.

The horses are of a large size, and very fit for draught. A few are annually sold, at good prices. The number of work-horses may be reckoned about 90; and of young horses 44. That of the black cattle, of all ages, 366; and that of sheep about 450. These numbers may vary a little occasionally. The valued rent of the parish is 1570l. 8d. Scots. The real

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rent may be nearly 900*l.* Sterling. The yearly rent of an acre of arable ground may be reckoned from 25*s.* down to 5*s.*, according to its quality*.

Population.—The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was 330. There is reason to think that the number of inhabitants has decreased since the beginning of the current century. It appears, from an old register, that the average number of baptisms in a year was then 11 $\frac{1}{4}$. About 30 years ago it was 9: and, for 12 years past, it has been nearly 8 $\frac{1}{4}$. The account which the oldest persons give of the state of the parish in their youth, supports this conjecture. The farms, by being increased in size, have decreased in number; and many cottages have been demolished. In 1780, when an exact list was taken, the total number was 409: At the present time (May 1792), it is only 386. Of this number of persons there are,

Under 10 years of age,	94	Of whom there are,	
From 10 to 20,	- 87	Males,	- 180
— 20 to 50,	- 144	Females,	- 206
— 50 to 70,	- 44		—
Above 70,	- 17		

The number of families is 77; the average number of persons in a family, therefore, is 5. In the village, which contains

* *Price of Labour, &c.*—The wages of servants and day-labourers have risen considerably of late, from the great encouragement that has been given at the iron-foundry in the neighbouring parish of Carnwath, at the cotton-manufacture near Lanark, and other great works. For particulars, see the account of the neighbouring parish of Libberton. The demolishing of the cottages may justly be reckoned one great cause of the increased price of labour, in this part of the country. By this the number of hands has been diminished, whilst, from other causes, the demand for them has become greater.

tains 26 families, and 110 persons, it is about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$: In the country parish, which includes 276 persons, who reside in 51 separate houses, it is nearly 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. This difference arises from the numerous families of some of the farmers, who live in the country part of the parish. The number of married persons is 84; that of widowers and widows 18.

The great part of the people are employed in farming, or in occupations relative to it. At present, the number of professed farmers, or of such as may be said to live by this business, is only 14; and of these some possess but small farms. The servants which they usually employ, are about 60. But besides these, there is a considerable number of persons who have small possessions of land, and who follow, at the same time, some other employment. There are, likewise, a few tradesmen, such as are usually employed in the country; wrights, masons, weavers, and shoemakers. Of these the weavers are the most numerous, amounting, with journeymen and apprentices, to 11 or 12. Some of them are employed in the cotton manufacture, and use the fly-shuttle. The inhabitants are generally healthy; and many attain to a great age. Very lately there were 5, and still there are 4 persons above 80 years; 2 of them near to 87. A few years ago, a man died about the age of 92, who had been bred a mason, and had resided in this parish till a short time before his death. He was so stout and healthy, at the age of 86, that he was able to work, for some time, at his particular occupation. The health and longevity of the people may be owing, in some degree, to their being much employed in the open air. Stomach complaints, however, rheumatism, and consumptions, are not unfrequent; and the small-pox and measles carry off a number of the young. Inoculation for the small-pox has not yet become general, though it has been very successful wherever it was tried. The houses in the village, and over
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great part of the parish, are generally pretty neat and commodious. This must contribute to the health, as well as to the comfort of the inhabitants.

Poor.—The number of poor has been very small, for several years past. This has been owing, among other causes, to the care taken by the Kirk-session to give a little aid sometimes, to those that were likely to fall into necessitous circumstances; and thus, to prevent their coming upon the poor's list. It is too often found that many of those, who are accustomed to a regular supply, become idle and improvident. By losing their sense of independence, they lose regard to character. The manner of supporting the poor, in this part of Great Britain, though it be well calculated to check these evils, cannot altogether prevent them. When a small assistance, seasonably administered, will enable a poor man to continue his occupation, and to earn his bread for many years, it is certainly much better to afford it, than, by allowing him to sink into extreme poverty and wretchedness, to be obliged to admit him as a constant pensioner. The price of meal was so much raised in consequence of the great frost in harvest 1782, that it was thought necessary to give some temporary assistance to a number of the poorer class of people in this parish. Meal, and beef (which was then cheaper than meal) were sold to them considerably below the market price, till, by the next plentiful harvest, provisions were brought down to their ordinary rate. The same plan, to a smaller extent, was adopted in the end of 1784, another hard year: and, by these means, the distress, in which several industrious persons must have been involved, was prevented. The annual interest of 40 l. of stock, together with the ordinary collections, mortcloth-money, &c. has hitherto been sufficient for the support of the poor.

Church,

Church, School, Heritors, &c.—The church is said to have been built towards the end of the last century. The date 1698 is found on the bell-house. The stipend consists of 80 bolls of meal, 21 of bear, and 7 l. money. The Earl of Hyndford is patron. The glebe contains about 8 acres, part of which is very good land. The manse was built in 1711; but has been repaired at different times.—There is a good house for the school and schoolmaster, and a small garden. His salary, including the annual produce of a mortification, is 9l. 11s. 8d. The number of scholars is about 30.—There are only three heritors, none of whom reside in the parish. The far greater part of the lands belongs to the Earl of Hyndford.

Antiquities.—In the confines of the parish on the S., and on the high moorish ground formerly mentioned, the vestiges of a large camp, or fortified station, are still very visible. It contains about 6 acres, which form an irregular figure, approaching to that of a circular area. The wall seems to have been very thick and high, and to have been composed chiefly of coarse stones, many of them a kind of flag, collected, probably, from the adjoining grounds; but there is no appearance of mortar or cement. It is situated upon the side of a deep moss, within which, at a little distance, are the remains of a small fort, scarcely including a rood of ground, which has evidently been connected with the large one by a passage made through the moss. The figure of this small fortification is likewise round, and the wall of it has been built with the same kind of stones. The large camp includes several springs of excellent water. Some urns were found, under the ruins of the wall, a great many years ago, by some people that were digging out the larger stones, for the purpose of building. They were each of them enclosed within four coarse flag stones, set on edge, and covered with one laid flat. The
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space included by these flags, was filled to a considerable depth, with a fine whitish sand, among which the urn was standing in an inverted position. Upon removing the urn, something of a soft slimy nature was found upon the sand, which, probably, might be the ashes of human bones. A large urn, surrounded with five small ones, was found in the bottom of a cairn of stones about a quarter of a mile distant, and enclosed in a similar manner. This large camp has two smaller ones in its view; one of them to the north westward, upon the highest top of the hill, and the other to the south eastward, on the top of a little hill in Covington parish, each about the distance of half a mile. The first of these appears to have been surrounded with two walls, between which there has been a deep ditch. The walls have been built of large rough stones, such as are found upon the hill. A vast number of them still remain upon the place. This fortification has likewise been of a roundish figure,

On the top of a little rising ground, about half a mile W. from the village, there has stood one of those long stones which are known by the name of Crosses. It still lies near the place, and a socket of stone remains, in which it is said to have been fixed. From this place, which is connected with the plantations of Westraw, there is a delightful view of the house and enclosures of Carstairs, on the opposite side of the river,

The house of Westraw, or Westerhall, (as it is sometimes spelt in old writings), is probably ancient; but it has undergone so many alterations, that it has lost, in a great measure, the appearance of antiquity. The lands of Westerhall were given to Sir Adam Johnston of that ilk, in the time of James II. King of Scotland, in reward of his loyalty, and, in particular, for his activity in suppressing the rebellion of the Earl of Douglas. (Vide Crawford's Peerage.) It is probable that

that when these lands in Lanarkshire were alienated, the same name was bestowed upon a part of the estate in Annandale, in order to keep up the memory of this event. The present Sir James Johnston of Westerhall is a descendant of this family. There have been several other old houses of some note in the parish, of which some are in ruins, and others entirely demolished. One of these was at Clowburn, in which the first tea used in this country is said to have been drunk towards the end of last century. It had been brought from Holland, according to the tradition, by Sir Andrew Kennedy, who was then proprietor of that part of the parish; and who, being Lord Conservator of the Scots Privileges at Campvere, had received it as a present from the Dutch East India Company.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The custom of thirlage to mills still prevails in this part of the country: but there is something singular in the state of this parish in that respect. A few only of the farms are thirled (or bound to grind corn) at the mill within the parish; the great part are thirled to that of Carmichael. It is but a little more distant than the other, and the multure is only one half.—A considerable quantity of meal, as well as of butter and cheese, is usually sent to market from this parish. Formerly it was the practice to send the meal to Carlisle, or farther, in its way to Glasgow. Of late a great part of it has been sold at Lanark, where the demand was much increased since the erection of Mr. Dale's cotton-works.—The moorish and high grounds in the parish might be rendered of greater value, and the country much beautified, by large clumps and belts of plantations. The great rise in the price of wood is another motive to this improvement. Within the last 40 years, the price of hard wood has been doubled, and that of fir quadrupled. The large size, and thriving state of the larches at Westraw, seem to recommend

this kind of trees in particular.—The fuel generally used in the parish is coal, and a few peats, which are brought from the other side of the river. The coal is mostly brought from Ponfeigh, which is near 7 miles distant from the village. The roads have been greatly mended within the last 20 years; but the materials are generally soft, which renders frequent repairs necessary. Some of the cross roads are very bad. The statute-labour is converted into money, and amounts to about 12 l. a-year. This sum, judiciously laid out, will soon accommodate the parish better in this important respect. The people, upon the whole, may be said to live comfortably in their situation. They are industrious and sober, and, in general, pay a commendable regard to religious institutions. There has only been one or two seceders in the parish for many years past. There are 3 ale-houses, which are so little frequented, that the industry, or morals of the people, do not appear to be, in any considerable degree, hurt by them. No person belonging to the parish has been prosecuted for any capital crime, within the memory of the oldest inhabitant,

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