

NUMBER XXX.

PARISH OF MONIFIETH,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARN,
PRESBYTERY OF DUNDEE.)

By Mr JAMES ROGER, *Preacher of the Gospel.*

Situation and Extent.

THIS parish is pleasantly situated on the S. border of the county of Angus. The S. E. point of the parish is about a mile west from the light-house, built in the year 1753, which stands beside the narrow, variable, and difficult entrance into the æstuary of the Tay, formed by a sand-bank, seen at low water, stretching from the coast of Fife in a N. E. direction, and lies about $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles S. W. from Arbroath, about 7 miles N. E. from St Andrew's, about $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles east from Dundee, $56^{\circ} 27'$ N. lat. and $2^{\circ} 55'$ W. long. from Greenwich. From the S. E. point of the parish, along the æstuary, about the distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, is its S. W. boundary. From the æstuary, it stretches N. W. to the distance of about 6 miles, decreasing irregularly to a point, in form of a wedge, inserted

VOL. XIII.

3 P

between

between the parishes of Dundee and Murroes, on the S. W. and W.; that of Barry on the S. E. and of Monikie on the E. N. E. N. and N. W. No actual survey has been made of the parish; but he who supposes it to contain 3710 Scotch acres, will not be far from the truth. The parish seems anciently to have been of less extent than at present. Its proportion of the links which skirt the coast, may be safely supposed above 400 acres, and seem all once to have been covered with water. Adjoining to these links in this parish, tradition relates that some part belonged to the parish of Ferry-Port-on-Craig on the opposite side of the æstuary; but what that part was, or when the separation was made, it might be vain, at this distance of time, to enquire.

Surface, Rivulets, &c.—From the N. W. point of the parish, out of a well at the foot of the hill of Dodd, in that low range, reaching thence to the Knockhills near Arbroath, and about 4 miles E. from the bill of Lorn, in that high ridge of hills called Sidla, which extend from Perth to Redhead, and are the southern boundary of Strathmore, there issues a rivulet which waters for about a mile the S. W. border of the parish, crosses it in an eastern direction, and after meandring through the parish of Monikie, returns, and dividing this parish for about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from that of Barrie, and receiving the name of the Buddon Burn, loses itself in the æstuary. About $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile S. W. from the Buddon Burn, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in the same direction from the village of Monifieth, the river Dighty falls into the æstuary, after a S. E. course of about 11 miles from its rise in the lake of Lundie, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile from its entrance into this parish. Where the Dighty enters the parish, it is joined by the Burn of Murroes, which, rising in the western part of the parish of that name,

name, runs eastward, and at last washes for a mile, the S. W. boundary of this parish. From the N. W. point of the parish, about the distance of 2 miles, the road from Dundee to Brechin crosses the rivulet, which, near its efflux into the æstuary is called Buddon, in a northern direction. About 4 miles from the N. W. point of the parish, the old road from Dundee to Arbroath crosses the Burn of Murroes, in an eastern direction. About 5 miles from the N. W. point of the parish, the new turnpike-road from Dundee to Arbroath crosses the Dighty in a N. E. direction.

Beach.—Within water-mark, on the bounds of this parish, a very few rocks only are seen; the far greater part is sandy and level. The links which skirt the coast, and stretch from the village of the East Ferry, so called, in contradistinction to that of the West Ferry, in the parish of Dundee, to which it joins, rise in a few places into small knolls, but oftener approach to a plain.

Soil.—From the links on the W. of the Dighty, the ground suddenly rises, and then gently declines towards that river; and the soil is generally an excellent loamy black. From the links on the E. of the Dighty, there spreads for more than a mile almost a level plain; and the soil is at first light and sandy, but extremely fertile, and then assumes a rich blackness of colour. Black and excellent, the ground now gradually swells towards certain hills of inconsiderable height, which at large intermediate spaces traverse the parish from N. to S. from the village of Drumsturdy-moor, built on the sides of the old road from Dundee to Arbroath, to the vicinity of the village of the East Ferry, near Broughty castle. From these hills the ground again descends towards the Burn, near its termination

mination, called Buddon, and in its descent, by degrees, loses its excellence. It again rises somewhat towards the N. W. point of the parish, and shews to the eye of the traveller spots yet moorish and waste.

Hills.—Of these some may deserve notice. The highest and most remarkable, is the most southern of that collection of hills called *Laws*, in the vicinity of the village of Drumsturdy-moor. Its height has not been ascertained by measurement; but is supposed not much to exceed 530 feet above the level of the sea. It lies from E. to W. is of an oval figure, and is covered with a pleasant verdure; its summit is 133 yards in length, 66 yards in breadth, and 316 yards in circumference. From this hill westward, may be seen the coast of Fife, the level and pleasant country, which stretches to the rich and populous city Dundee, part of the fertile carse of Gowrie, and almost all the æstuary, as it beautifully winds to Perth, and the distant prospect is bounded by the mountains in the shire of Argyle. South and eastward may be seen the bay of St Andrew's, the hills of Lothian, the agreeably varied country to Arbroath, and the German Ocean to the utmost extent of the horizon. Around the summit of this hill, are to be seen the broad foundations of an ancient fortress; and on the E. end of it, several large vitrifications, or masses of sandy and whin-stones firmly united, by means of the fusion of certain parts of the whin-stones*.

From

* These vitrifications have plainly been caused, by the application of external fire; as small pieces of burnt wood are found in the heart of the masses when they are broken. But the question occurs, how was this fire applied, so as to vitrify these masses?—One ingenious gentleman has conjectured, that before the use of lime, as a cement, was introduced by the Romans into the island, whoever wished to strengthen their forts, made

From this hill of Laws, at a little distance S. W. is the Gallow-hill of Ethiebeaton, on which, it is said, the Barons who were the proprietors of the adjoining farms of Ethiebeaton, Laws and Ornochie, were wont to sit in judgment on their vassals, and to hang such as were convicted of theft. Farther to the S. is the hill of Balgillo, which will be included in the account of Broughty castle, in its immediate neighbourhood.

Broughty castle.—Broughty castle * is situated on the most southern point of this parish, whence to the coast of Fife,
is

made a wooden frame, of the same dimensions they wished their defence to be, filled it with sandy, and whin or plum pudding stones, set fire to the frame, and by the intenseness of the heat, vitrified the inclosed mass, and produced a strong munition. (See William's treatise on vitrified forts.) A second agrees to the conjecture of the first in every thing but this, that fire was applied to the frame, not by friends who wished to strengthen the fort, but by enemies who wished to demolish it. (See Essay on Vitrified Forts in Phil. Trans. Ed. Vol. II.) But by whatever process the vitrifications on other hills have been effected, it appears probable, that the vitrifications on this hill have been effected, neither at the construction nor demolition of its fortrefs,* but at a different period. When that period was, it is not easy with precision to tell; but surely a supposition which occupies little time, where supposition only is to be had, can do no harm. In A. D. 838, the Picts had been finally expelled by Kenneth II whose father King Alpin, in a battle fought on a plain N. W. from Dundee, they had taken prisoner, and with barbarous cruelty slain. Most of the Picts at their expulsion sought for shelter in Denmark, whence, it is said, their ancestors sprung. Incited by them, the Danes rose for revenge, and frequently invaded the eastern coast of Scotland. From these warring invaders, the fortrefs on this hill might afford a temporary refuge. On the E. end of it, which is most conspicuous, fires might be kindled to alarm the more distant parts of the country, when these incursions happened in the night; and the frequent fires might at last vitrify the stones which they touched.

* The following note, the substance of which has been extracted from the Kirk-session records, will afford a proof that there is no reason to question,

is not above a mile distant. It might thus, it is not unlikely, be originally spelled *Borghbtay*, from Borgh, a security, and Tay; or, the security of the Tay. When it was built will not, perhaps, be easily ascertained. It cannot be one of the castella, or forts, which Tacitus, in his life of Agricola, says that general erected, in the third year of his expedition, when he came to the æstuary of the Tay; for these forts, we are informed by Boece, in the fourth book of his History, were erected not on the north, but on the south side of the æstuary; not in the county of Angus, but in the county of Fife. Dr Macpherson seems to be right, who supposes that the square towers, like Broughty, were built at a much later period. The earliest mention of it with which I have met, is in the year 1492, when, according to the credulous Boece, in the Delineation of the Scottish Kingdom, prefixed to his History, it witnessed a foolish prodigy.

tion, as some do, whether Broughty belongs to this parish. Towards the end of last century, a man committed a trespass within the bounds of Broughty, for which he was summoned to appear at the tribunal of the Kirk-session. He refused obedience, under pretence that Broughty belonged not to this parish, but to that of Caputh, in the neighbourhood of Dunkeld, about 26 miles N. W. To ascertain the true situation of Broughty, the minister wrote to a Mr Webster, then its proprietor; who replied, that it lay neither in the parish of Monifieth nor of Caputh, but in that of Kirriemuir, about 16 miles N. On this the minister applied to the presbytery, who by their deed annexed Broughty and its pertinents for ever, *quoad sacra*, to the parish of Monifieth. Had the Kirk-session records been fully consulted, it would have been found that Broughty was already annexed, not only *quoad sacra*, but *quoad temporalia*, to this parish; for there it is expressly said, that on December 12, 1658, Broughty among others paid for the reparation of the church. It follows not indeed always, that a place belongs to that parish for the reparation of whose church it pays. It seems, however, an acknowledgment of Broughty's belonging to Monifieth parish, that it paid for the reparation of the church there. For had there been any evidence that Broughty belonged not to this parish, Mr Webster, its proprietor, when called on, would surely have been able to produce it, and not have founded his opinion wholly on tradition.

digy. From the year 1547 to 1550, it was the scene of deeds not unworthy to mention, and which are connected with events that form a striking æra in history.

On the death of James V. of Scotland, Henry VIII. of England, to save that blood and treasure which were expended in defence of either nation, sought to unite the two neighbouring kingdoms, by the marriage of his young son Edward, to Mary, the infant Queen of Scots. To this measure all that nation had sworn agreement: But, incited by Cardinal Beaton and the Queen Dowager, who dreaded the downfall of the Popish religion, by an union with a heretical nation, they were prevailed on basely to break their oath. To enforce acquiescence, Henry arose in his might, and at his death the cause was espoused by Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, who was elected Protector of the kingdom during the minority of Edward his nephew. Moving along the eastern coast of Scotland with a numerous army, which was seconded by a powerful fleet, on Saturday, September 10. 1547, he met the 30,000 Scots under the conduct of the Earl of Arran, Regent of the kingdom, on the west of the river Esk, near Musselburgh, and discomfited them with great slaughter; but was soon after, by reason of the advanced season of the year, and intelligence he received of designs forming against him in England, forced to return thither, without completely prosecuting his victory. Immediately on this his fleet, besides the fortresses on the isles in the æstuary of the Forth, seized this of Broughty, and filled it with an English force *.

Ancient

* As the Duke of Somerset departed with his army by the east of Scotland, the Earl of Lennox, who had received a disgust in the court of that kingdom, and had been honoured with the alliance of Henry VIII. entered by the west. His presence spread terror and dismay, and none met
but

Ancient state of rivulets, roads and hills, &c.—From time immemorial the rivulets and river above mentioned have run in their present channels; but of late the roads in this parish have undergone considerable alteration. Within the last twelve years, the road from Dundee to Brechin has been made wider and straighter. Within twice that number of years, the old road from Dundee to Arbroath was formed; and the new turnpike road is yet scarcely finished. Within the last 50 years, no trees shaded any hill in the

but to do him homage. The heart of Arran, the regent, which was never intrepid, now shrunk within him. To conceal his fear, however, he collected the scattered remains of his enfeebled host, and, from the western parts of Scotland, where he had taken refuge after the unfortunate action at Muffelburgh, marched by Perth and Dundee to blockade the castle of Broughty. After having lain before it from the 1st of October 1547 to the 1st of January 1548, he departed from the siege with the loss of one of his best generals, and with that of all his ordnance, lamenting his doom to perpetual misfortune. Inspired with this success, the English fortified the hill of Balgillo, about half a mile northward, and, notwithstanding the active exertions of James Haliburton, provost of Dundee, with a hundred horse, and of Sir Robert Maule, in his castle of Panmure, about six miles northeastward, and about half a mile east from the present beautiful seat of that family, in the parish of Panbride, laid waste Dundee, and most of the county of Angus. With rage the Earl of Argyll heard the report. He collected his valiant clans, and, indignant, marched to Broughty; but felt the mortification of repulse. Not long after, a similar fate awaited three regiments of French, commanded by D'Esse, and as many regiments of Germans, commanded by one of their own princes. At last dissensions at home, and war with the French abroad, engaged the whole attention of the English. Provisions, arms, and ammunition, ceased to be regularly sent to their garrisons in Broughty, and the fort of Balgillo; and thus, on February 20, 1550, they fell an easy prey into the hands of the allied army of Scots, Germans, and French, commanded by Des Thermes, the successor of D'Esse. Both fortresses were then dismantled; and though they have been more than once repaired and fortified, yet history describes them as the scene of no action which merits record. At present, there are only a few vestiges of fortification to be seen on the hill of Balgillo; and Broughty castle is fast wasting down to ruin.

the parish, as at present they shade several; and within the same period, the extensive and beautiful plantations around the two seats Fintry and Grange were reared. The house of Fintry stands where the Dighty enters the parish, and is a modern elegant mansion. Nearly where the Dighty falls into the æstuary, stands the house of Grange, which displays marks of ancient magnificence.

Population.—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 1421. In this parish there are at present 1218 persons of all ages. Of these 620 are males, and 598 females. There are 246 families, of which 233 belong to persons who have been married, and 13 to persons who were never married. Below the age of five, there are 136; between 5 and 10, 183; between 10 and 20, 223; between 20 and 30, 251; between 30 and 40, 132; between 40 and 50, 136; between 50 and 60, 86; between 60 and 70, 53; between 70 and 80, 15; between 80 and 90, 3. The three villages of the parish are thus peopled: In the village of Drumsturdy-moor, there are 132, *viz.* 70 males and 62 females; in that of Monifieth, 175, *viz.* 84 males and 91 females; and in that of the East Ferry, 230, *viz.* 114 males and 116 females. Of late years there have been annually married 12, been born 39, and died 18. The great inequality of deaths to births, seems to arise from this: Many inhabitants of this parish early in life settle in Dundee; many go aboard merchantmen, may perish by the dangers of the sea, or be impressed into ships of war, and perish by the hands of the enemy*.

VOL. XIII.

3 Q

Agriculture.

* The parish appears at no former period to have been much more populous than at present. About the year 1660, the annual average of marriages was 5; of births 26; and of deaths 14: So that whether a calculation be made from the marriages, births, or deaths, the increase in population

Agriculture.—The subsistence of the people is chiefly by agriculture. Of the 3710 acres of which the parish may consist, 140 may be supposed in plantation, 400 in links, and 170 otherwise unarable. Of the remaining 3000 acres, the one half may be supposed in fallow, pasture, and green crops. Of the other half, nearly 100 may be supposed in wheat, and the rest equally divided into oats and barley. Here the farms are generally extensive. There are ten farms that rent between L. 99 and L. 200; two between L. 200 and L. 300; one between L. 300 and L. 400; one between L. 400 and L. 500; and one between L. 600 and L. 700. Below L. 99 of rent, there is no ground possessed by any farmer, properly so called. The other possessors of land are the 46 pendiclers, who are generally tradesmen, and hold a few acres of a proprietor; and the forty-two cottagers, who have each a house and an acre or two from a tenant. Here the means of improving land are embraced, and their good effects are visible. Sea-weed cannot be found in sufficient quantity on that part of the coast which belongs to this parish, to be of use as a manure. Marl also lies at too great a distance, as well as the dung of Dundee, much to profit the farmer. There is, however, abundance of lime brought from the south of Fife, and from north and south Sunderland, in England, which is landed

3

at

tion must have been considerable. If a calculation be made from the births, the parish will be found to have increased in number 406, which is precisely one-third of its present inhabitants. From the period now mentioned to the present time, the increase in population has been gradual. About the year 1750, indeed, the annual average of births was 44; but that of marriages was only 9; and of deaths 15. Some years before 1750, a malignant fever had raged, which sent many to their graves. The extraordinary number of births in the years which immediately followed, only filled up the breaches the fever had made. About the year 1760, the annual average of births was only 35, and that of deaths was 18. The marriages are omitted in the record.

at the villages of Monifieth and the East Ferry; and of which about 6000 bolls of Winchester measure may be annually used in this parish as a manure. The crops in the lower part of the parish are very liberal; but those in the upper part are less productive. The time of sowing and reaping in the lower part, is much the same as in the east of the Carse of Gowrie, or the centre of Strathmore; but in the upper part is latter. Though a considerable quantity of grain be yearly exported from the villages of Monifieth and the East Ferry, yet its price is regulated by the market at Dundee.

Cattle.—Besides a considerable number of cattle fed on common pasture, there are between 300 and 400 fattened every summer in grass enclosures, and about a fifth part of that number fattened by turnips in winter. A few sheep pasture part of the links.

Within the last 50 years, the agriculture of the parish has been much improved. It ought not to be omitted, that this was entirely owing to Mr Hunter, then proprietor of Grange, a gentleman whose name deserves to be recorded. Some years before 1750, he, first of this parish, began to enclose land, and between the years 1750 and 1752, to use lime as a manure. In the year 1753, he introduced the culture of turnips, and in the year following, that of potatoes. By fallow, dung and lime he prepared his grounds for the crop, and he sowed them at the proper season with grass-seeds. Now had his fields begun to assume a fairer surface and a softer mould; but still their displeasing form remained. The ridges were wide at one end, narrow at the other, and bent in various curvatures. They were soon rendered regular and straight. His fields lay beside the road to the parish-church, and the parishioners, as they passed, beheld their beauty and fertility with wonder.

What

What they beheld they imitated, and many soon saw with satisfaction their own fields covered with a similar beauty and fertility. The old Scottish ploughs were dismissed apace; and at present there is not one in the parish. The old Scottish plough improved, however, continues in general use. A few of Small's newly invented make, have been introduced, but are found to succeed only in lands that are level and free from incumbrance. There is but one thrashing machine in the parish, used on the largest farm. The other farmers employ men to thrash out their grain, called *lot-men*, who generally reside in the neighbourhood, and receive as wages the twenty-fifth boll of grain they thrash out, with breakfast, and a small allowance for dinner.

None can ever hope to see the agriculture of this parish increased, but by a very small part of the links. They must either be allowed to remain, as at present, in pasture; or be planted with trees. If they were planted, the roots of the trees would harden the soil, and prevent the encroachment of the sea. An extensive clump of firs planted in the links of the neighbouring parish of Barrie has thriven well. If some plan of this sort be not adopted, the period perhaps, is not distant, when they will all be again completely inundated. From the links between the light-house and the village of Monifieth, (a space of about 2 miles,) within the last 40 years, the sea has plundered upwards of 50 acres.

Fisheries.—The fisheries of this parish are inconsiderable. The salmon fishings pay a yearly rent of no more than L. 130. Fifteen years ago, before any were sent from this parish to London, they were sold in the adjacent villages, and in Dundee at 1½ d. the lb. Since that period, a pound of salmon has not been sold under 4 d. At first sight, it would

would be thought beneficial to the salmon fishing, if a method could be invented, by which the porpoises, or *Gair fish* as they are called, which devour so many salmon, might be destroyed. But it is to be considered, that the fear of the porpoises forces the salmon nearer to land than they would otherwise be willing to come. If the porpoises were destroyed, the salmon would be safer; but the fisher would catch less in his net.

About 10 years ago, the white fishing on this coast began to decline. Soon after, the haddocks, which were caught in the greatest abundance, totally left the coast. While they remained, they chiefly had given constant employment to 3 large boats belonging to this parish, which earned annually, at an average, L. 100 each. The 3 boats are still retained, and frequent their old fishing grounds; but as they seldom catch any other kinds of fish than some cod and ling, or when any other kinds chance to be caught, as it is in small quantity, they afford a very scanty and precarious subsistence. Whether the haddocks were banished by lack of proper food, or pursued by some voracious enemy, it is the less important to inquire; as they have now begun, in small quantities, to revisit our coasts. A few small shell fish might be found within the bounds of this parish, if one were at pains to gather them. Lobsters and crabs are caught in their greatest perfection on this coast, in the parishes of Panbride and St Vigeans.

Manufactures.—There is little in this parish which deserves the name of manufacture. There are only 38 weavers, who, as they at one time weave osnaburghs, and at another time household cloth, and are scattered over the parish, the quantity of cloth which they weave cannot easily be ascertained. But it must be very inconsiderable, as several of them occupy a few acres of land, which requires

quires a portion of their time. There is an oil mill on the Dighty, which annually extracts oil from 800 bolls of lint-feed. A small quantity of oil only is used in the neighbourhood, and is sold at 1 s. 3 d. a Scotch pint. The rest is sent to London. A small quantity of oil dust also is sold in the neighbourhood between 6 d. and 8 d. a stone Avoirdupois, and is used in spring, before the rising of the grafs, to increase the milk of cows, and to assist in fostering calves. The rest made up in cakes about 18 inches long, 5 broad, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, are put into casks and sent to England, up the river Humber in Yorkshire, to fatten cattle. But though there be little in this parish which deserves the name of manufacture, yet it is well stored with those who furnish the necessaries and conveniences of life. Besides the 38 weavers and 2 oil-millers, there are 3 corn and 7 flax-millers, 1 fuller, 3 flax-dressers, 4 gardeners, 10 tailors, 20 shoemakers, 9 blacksmiths, 8 masons, 13 wrights, 2 bakers, 3 brewers of ale, 9 sellers of drink, and 5 sellers of small wares. Beside the oil mill, there is on the Dighty a corn and fulling mill, together with a thread mill belonging to a manufactory in Dundee. The Dighty, in its progress through this parish, affords many fine falls of water, on which machinery might be erected, and by which manufactures might be greatly improved.

Rent, &c.—The present rent of the parish may be estimated at L. 3832 : 2 : 9. In the year 1656, during the usurpation of Cromwell, when the lands of the different counties in Scotland were valued for the purpose of taxation, the rent of this parish was precisely L. 457 : 13 : 9¹¹; which is less than an eighth part of the present rent*.

Poor.

* The prices of provisions, of the implements of husbandry, and of labour are high. The price of $\frac{3}{4}$ lib. butter, 10 d.; 1 lib. cheese, 3 d.;
1 lib.

Poor —The charity which this parish gives to the poor, is a branch of expenditure which does it honour. There is collected in the church every Sabbath throughout the year at an average 7 s. 3 d. exclusive of the larger sums collected at the time of the celebration of the sacrament. These collections, and a considerable sum arising from money at interest, with the lending of a hearse and mortcloths, and the letting some seats in the church, more than amply supply the necessities of the 12 poor of late years commonly on the list, and of the two which the general dearth of last year has added *. Before the year 1678, several sums had
been

1 lib. salmon, 6 d. ; a hen, 1 s. 3 d. ; dozen eggs, 7 d. The price of a pair of horses is L. 52, 10 s. ; harness, L. 3. 3 s. ; a cart, L. 10, 10 s. ; a plough, L. 2, 2 s. ; a pair of harrows, L. 1, 1 s. The wages of a male servant a-year, are L. 10 ; a female servant a-year, L. 4 ; a male reaper, L. 1, 4 s. ; a female reaper, L. 1 ; a labourer a-day without board, 1 s. 3 d. The prices of provisions, implements of husbandry, and labour, have much increased within the last 40 years. At the commencement of that period, the price of 1 lib. butter was 4½ d. 1 lib. cheese, 1½ d. ; 1 lib. salmon, 1½ d. ; a hen, 4 d. ; a dozen eggs, 1 d. The price of a pair of horses was L. 10 ; harness, 5 s. ; cart, 10 s. ; a plough, 9 s. ; a pair of harrows, 2 s. The wages of a male servant a-year, were L. 2, 2 s. ; a female-servant a-year, L. 1, 6 s. ; a male reaper 11 s. 8 d. ; a female reaper, 10 s. ; a labourer a-day without board, 6 d.

* In the year 1578, the usual collection on Sabbaths was $\frac{6}{12}$ d. ; and on June 29. the same year, the fund of the poor amounted to no more than $6\frac{2}{3}$ d. These days afforded small provision for the present exigence of the poor, and laid up little in store against the season of uncommon need. The cottagers gave to the masters of whom they held their little hovels, all the children they needed as servants. The rest found it often vain to apply to a trade, for almost every man was his own tradesman. Away, therefore, they were sent by the cravings of hunger, to beg that bread which they could not earn, and the poor preyed on the poor. Before 1651, the times seem to have grown better ; for the usual collection on Sabbaths that year was $4\frac{2}{3}$ d. ; and on Sabbath November 23, the parishioners were able to collect L. 2, 5 s. for the support of their brethren in
the

been bequeathed to the kirk-session for the benefit of the poor; and the usual collections on the Sabbaths had risen to 8 d. an increase of precisely 12 times in the space of a century; from that to the present year 1793, the weekly collection has increased nearly 11 times. The charity which the parish thus gives to the poor, is no doubt owing in a great measure to its increased opulence. It will not be supposed, however repugnant to their liberality, that in common with many other parishes, they enjoy that useful instruction which a church and two schools may be expected to communicate.

Church, Stipend, Heritors, &c.—The church, which is situated at the village of Monifieth, is an ancient building; but the period of its construction is unknown. It must have been built before the æra of the Reformation, as on the E. end of it is a quire, in which mass, in the days of Popery, was wont to be celebrated *. The church-living, including

56

the prison of Dundee, who had been taken captive by the English army under General Monk, as they passed through this parish to the siege of that city, and which sum Mr John Barclay, the minister, and another gentleman, were commissioned to carry.

* Tradition relates, that there were once at the same time four chapels in the parish; one at the East Ferry, where there is still a burying-place; a second on the banks of the Dighty, at the Mill of Balmossie, the foundation-stones of which were dug up by the present farmer; a third on that spot in the land Ethiebealin, which is still called Chapel Dokie; and the fourth at Monifieth. The chapel at Monifieth, it is said, being found likely to endure the longest, was made, as it continues at present, the parish church, and the rest were shut, and suffered to decay; but when this happened, tradition is altogether silent. Before the Reformation, Monifieth was annexed to the diocese of St Andrew's. In 1560, when Presbyterianism was first established in Scotland, its superintendent was appointed to reside in Brechin. After 1606, it belonged to the Presbytery of Dundee, and Synod of Angus and Mearns.

56 bolls of meal, 56 bolls of barley, 8 bolls of wheat, L. 45 : 6 : 8, a manse, garden, and offices, 4 acres of glebe, and a right of pasturage, may be estimated at L. 147 a-year. The Hon. Mr Maule of Panmure is patron. Sir Alexander Ramsay of Balmain, Baronet, is the principal heritor. Besides these two gentlemen, there are seven others who are heritors. None of the heritors are resident.

Schools.—Of the two schools, one is parochial. Its salary of L. 11 : 2 : 2 $\frac{3}{4}$, the school-house and garden, the emoluments arising from proclamations and baptisms, L. 2 for the office of clerk to the kirk-session, and the fees, for teaching 50 scholars, may yearly amount to L. 40. Here was Mr William Craighead, for several years schoolmaster, a man whose treatise on arithmetic is not wholly unknown to the lovers of that science, and who died in 1763. The other school was founded by the generosity of Sir Alexander Ramsay in 1782, for the benefit of the upper part of the parish. He has endowed it with 2 acres of land, and a garden rent free, besides an annuity of 2 bolls of meal; 20 s. are given by the kirk-session to the teacher, and these emoluments, with the fees for 20 scholars, may be worth L. 15 a-year.

Character of the People, &c.—As their situation is so salubrious, that multitudes resort every summer to the villages of the East and West Ferry for the benefit of sea-bathing; as the employments of few are sedentary; as the ground is no where marshy; as the access to coals is easy; they are generally healthy. But it is of more importance to characterize the minds than the bodies of a people; it is of more importance to be told, that within the last 80 or 90 years, this parish has increased as much in religion and

morals, as in the arts of life. The kirk-session register informs us, that from 1676 to 1710, a period of 34 years, during the ministry of Mr John Dempster, the last Episcopal clergyman at Monifieth, and from whom the present Mr Dempster of Dunnichen, so well known for his patriotism is descended, the strictest church discipline was observed. From among the numerous proprietors, who then shared the lands of the parish, but whose race have all long since left the possessions of their fathers, and are gone, he selected seven elders to watch over the morals of the people, and the same number of deacons from among the tenantry, to watch over the state of the poor. Great was then the need for inspecting parochial conduct. Little regard was paid to the Sabbaths. On these days some were occasionally convicted of having fished with the rod or the net. Scarcely was there a Sabbath on which some delinquent was not justly and publicly reprov'd; and it was seen necessary, after public worship was finished, to send a committee of the kirk-session to perlustrate the inns of the parish. By degrees decency and devotion began to reign. The pious exhortations and worthy example of Mr Dempster and his kirk-session were long remembered and imitated, after death had stilled their voices, and withdrawn their presence. At this day the parishioners attend the church with the utmost regularity and graveness of deportment; and they are extremely steady in their religious principles. About two years ago, the sects called Burgher and Antiburgher built each a conventicle in this vicinity; but they are thinly attended, and have not been able to gain over from this parish more proselytes than 20, of whom 15 are Burghers, and 5 Antiburghers. There are only two other sectaries in the parish, the one an Independent, and the other a Methodist. But the inhabitants of this parish are not only regular and decent
in

in their attendance on church, steady in their religious principles, but distinguished for their industry and sobriety. Successful diligence has given to several the blessings of moderate wealth; and laborious exertion has been able to banish from the dwellings of all, save the 14 poor on the fund, the wretchedness of abject poverty. Since the beginning of the present century, none in this parish has deprived himself of life, been deprived of it by the law, or been doomed to exile.

N U M.