

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF CAMPSIE,

(PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND Ayr,
COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES LAPSLIE, Minister.

Situation and Name.

THE parish of Campsie measures eight English miles in length, and seven in breadth, following the two great lines of road which intersect the parish nearly at right angles; the mean length is about six miles, and the mean breadth six, containing 36 square miles; and allowing only 400 acres to every square mile, the amount will be 14400 acres; it contains 101 plough gates of land, and is valued at 6429 pounds Scots. §

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§ This parish, previous to the disjunction in the 1649, made a particular district of country by itself, not a little marked by peculiar manners and customs. It was bound on the North, by a range of hills running parallel to the Strath for near ten miles; on the South, by the river Kelvin, which, in these days, formed a swamp impassible in winter; on the East, the Gurrel Glen became another natural barrier; on the West, Craig-Maddie Muir and the Brawzet Burn separated this district from Strathblane and Baldernock.

Campsie

It is bounded on the North, by the parish of Fintry; on the West, by Srathblane and Baldernock; on the South by Calder and Kirkintilloch; and on the East by Kilsyth; forming a distinct commissariat along with Hamilton, stiled the commissariat of Hamilton and Campsie.

It is presumed, that the winding appearance of the strath in general, and particularly of the glens near which the parish church is situated, has given rise to the name Campsie, or Camsi, which, in the Celtic language, is said to signify crooked Strath or Glen.—Of course, the Clachan of Campsie, is, the place of worship of the crooked glens.

Indeed, if we attend carefully to the appearance which this district presents to those who view it from any of the neighbouring stations, particularly the bending of the hills in the form of an amphitheatre, above the village of Clachan, from which five streams, pouring down from five winding glens,

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Campsie, in its original state, was eleven English miles long, from West to East; its breadth varied on the West march, from Calder house to the Earl's seat, it was at least nine English miles; whereas, on the East march, its breadth was scarcely six.

It contained 150 plough gates of land and was valued at 9670 pounds Scots. It may be observed that Campsie is situated in the Lennox, and formerly made the eastern division of that ancient territorial thaneship. In the year 1649, the Lords Commissioners for Valuation of Teinds, disjoined all that part which lay betwixt Inch-Wood Burn and the Garrel Glen on the East, annexing it to the parish Monniabrug, now better known by the name of Kilsyth, which portion contained 30 plough gates of land, and is rated at 2000 pounds Scots valuation. In like manner they disjoined all that portion on the South West, which is situated betwixt Balgrochan and the Brauzyet Burn, annexing it to the parish of Baldernock, containing 21 plough gates of land, and valued in the county books at 1241 pounds Scots. These two disjunct portions will no doubt be described by the ministers of the respective parishes to which they belong.

form the water of Glazert, this etymology of Campsie will not appear unnatural.

External Appearance and Soil.—It would not be easy to reduce the superficial appearance of this parish to any regular figure; it can neither be said that it is a square, a parallelogram, or a triangle; the irregular bending of the hills prevents the eye from comprehending it in one view, and the bounding lines of the parish have never been accurately measured: in loose terms, it may be said to consist of two hills, with a considerable valley or strath between them; the South hill being the continuation of the Kilpatrick Braes, sloping gently down upon the Glazert and Kelvin; the height is about seven hundred feet, arable to the top.—Between this South brae and the North hill, (better known by the name of Campsie Fells,) there is a considerable strath, narrow indeed on the West, but as it runs East, it widens into an open champaign country. The surface of the strath is uneven, excepting a few haughs on the Kelvin, and Glazert.—Not that the land can be styled rugged or broken; for almost on every side of the gentle swells, with which this strath abounds, some small rivulets collect the waters from the rising grounds; so that, even supposing the arable part of the parish to be in the highest state of cultivation, the husbandman would neither find it easy nor expedient to plow the ridges long in one direction.—One meets with boggy, stannery, croft, and clay ground, almost in every farm.—The haughs which ly upon the Glazert and Kelvin, are composed of carried earth, brought down from the hills in floods; of course, those upon the Glazert, as being nearer the hills, contain a considerable quantity of gravel, and are better calculated for raising potatoes, and turnip. The Kelvin haughs, on the other hand,
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being formed of the sleigh which the river deposits on overflowing its banks, must be better adapted for the culture of beans and wheat; and as the Kelvin, by the new cut which is making, will soon be confined within its proper channel, it is to be presumed, that the farmers will then make the most of the excellent soil which lyes upon that river. At the kirk of Campsie, there is a haugh of near three hundred acres, capable of producing all sorts of green crops, at least equal to any in the county. *

Climate.—The climate of this parish, like every other part in the West of Scotland, consisting of hill and dale, is exceedingly variable; at the same time, there is reason to believe, that more rain falls at the kirk of Campsie than in any of the neighbouring parishes to the South and East: Nor is it to be wondered that the climate should be wet, when the situation of

* Although the soil of this parish be so exceedingly varied, nevertheless that part of it which contains coal and lime, uniformly appears to be clay, forming two belts of unequal breadth; the one upon the North of the water of Glazert, is nearly a thousand yards in breadth, commencing about a mile East from the church, and continuing all along the base of the hills to the eastern boundary of the parish. The other belt encircles the South braes, and its breadth is somewhat greater; such is the appearance of the surface in the Strath. As to the Campsie Fells, which make about two fifths of the whole parish, they run parallel to the Strath, from one end of the district to the other. The face of the hill is somewhat broken with craigs and glens; the summit and back part is a deep muir ground, interspersed with moss hags; the soil on the face of the hills produces a short feeding grass, equal to any brae ground in the kingdom; while the muirs are thought to be well calculated for the rearing of young black cattle in the more marshy parts, and for keeping stocks of ewes upon the drier ground. In general, it may be said, that the soil in the West end of the parish, and particularly North of the Glazert, is most adapted for pasture; whereas the land on the South and East side, seems fitter for grain.

of the place is considered; the Campsie Fells being situated betwixt the Friths of Forth and Clyde, the vapours which collect from either sea, as they float along, are intercepted by the high ridge of the mountain; and being thus compressed, they descend in showers upon the valley; nevertheless, it being a light gravelly bottom, the Strath being well ventilated, and the streams of water, owing to the great declivity, running off quickly, the parish is, upon the whole, uncommonly healthy. Perhaps the great plenty of coal, which enables the meanest cottager to obtain a hearty fire, along with the uncommon purity of the spring water, may not a little contribute to the salubrity of a climate which in other respects might be prejudicial to health from its dampness. Whatever other observation one might be disposed to make on the weather in this district, it must be allowed, that it is remarkable for variety; we have often seen snow in a morning, rain at mid-day, and frost in the evening, and this alternately for several days.—Of course, it would be impossible to say, as it is said in some parts of the island, that such a month is dry, or such a month is warm; the drought of August we have often witnessed in November, and the tempestuous showers of February are often experienced in July.

Water

† Old people pretend to say that the seasons are altered, and particularly that they have become colder; and in corroboration of their opinion, they adduce the very flattering but fallacious testimony of what they felt in their youth, and how the corn ripened sooner on the braes than now: The testimony of an old man, about what he felt in his youth, when his blood was warm, and his spirits high, can by no means be considered as an unequivocal proof of the state of the weather; nor is the circumstance of the corns on the high ground ripening sooner than at present, an index of the alteration of the seasons. For we all know, that where the soil is thin, and often ploughed, the scanty meagre crop will be disposed sooner to whiten, even if
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Water, Wood, and Mountains.—This parish may be said to be uncommonly well watered: In the greatest drought, the number of springs from the hills afford such quantities of water, that the machinery at the different print-fields have a constant supply. There is properly speaking but one river in the parish; and even this one is on a small scale; it is formed by three streams, uniting below the kirk of Campsie: it then receives the name of Glazert, which is said to signify in Gælic, the water of the gray, or green promontory, alluding perhaps to the greenness of the hills from whence the streams flow. The Glazert, allowing for all its windings, runs about five English miles, before it joins the Kelvin opposite to Kirkintilloch. It runs with considerable rapidity; the fall from the kirk of Campsie to the Goyle-bridge being somewhat more

the climate should be wetter and colder, than upon well-wooded rich land. As far, however, as we can pronounce any thing certain, relative to the climate, it may be said that we have scarcely any permanent frost, till after Christmas: we have seldom wind from the North and East, except in the time of a storm of frost and snow, and usually for a few days about the beginning of May, when in general it is accompanied with an Eastland charr, very destructive to blossoms of fruit trees. Our rain in general is from the South West; and we scarcely ever fail to have our Lammas floods, and our Equinoctial storm, the first calculated to lodge our corn, before they are ripe, and the last to rot them in the fluke. Summer 1781 was remarkable for a cold drought, which continued several weeks withering the grass, and introducing a black fly upon the corns, which prevented the grain from being so plump as usual. 1782 was remarkable for being a backward season, so that some of our corns were buried below the snow on the 31st of October. Summer 1783 was remarkable for a thick fog, whereby the sun was scarcely visible for three weeks; we felt that summer a slight shock of an earthquake. Our summers, upon the whole, for these six years bygone, have been rather cold; our winters, on the other hand, have been open and fresh, as it is termed. So wet have our summers been, as almost to countenance the fanciful opinion of old people, that the climate was altogether changed. Summer 1794 has been remarkably warm.

more than 100 feet, above 20 feet per mile. Besides the Glazert, there are no less than 19 small burns which fall into it. Perhaps to people who have been accustomed to reside chiefly in a level country, few scenes will appear more truly picturesque than that of the streams of water rushing down the sides of the Campsie Fells in a flood, while the top of the mountain is perfectly hid in the blue mist. This stream of water, though highly picturesque, and exceeding useful, is still accompanied with some inconveniences. In the 1st place, when there is a great drought, the spring water is apt to be impregnated too much with mineral water coming from the coal-levels, which must prove highly prejudicial to the bleacher. In the 2^d place, The least shower brings down such a quantity of moss from the hills, as to prove very troublesome in the finer operations of preparing the cloth: the manufacturers, however, have contrived in a great measure to remedy both defects, by filtrating the water through the fine beds of gravel, upon which their works are situated; there is one accident which happens, against the bad effects of which there is no guarding, but by turning off the water altogether from the works; and that is, when the stagnating water in some old coal-waste breaks out, it will tinge every stone in the river, for miles, and kill every fish which comes within its poisonous influence. We have seen the trouts, after such an irruption, floating on the surface, gathered in baskets full, and eaten by the country people, yet no bad effect following from eating such poisoned fish*. This district originally must have been much better wooded than at present, as is evident from

* The Glazert, in former times, was a great deposit for salmon spawn, whereby an uncommon quantity of fry was yearly produced, for recruiting the fisheries on the Clyde, the number of its fords and sand banks being well calculated for such a nursery. It is said that the raising of the Damhead at Dartick

from the remains of large trees occasionally dug up in the swamps, and of the scattered copse-woods in the glens and braes. There are still three considerable woods in the parish; the three together contain at least one hundred and ten acres of ground, and consist of oak, alder, birch, sallow, and ash; though the timber of these woods be reckoned good, they are but of slow growth; the woods upon the banks of Lochlomond arrive at fuller maturity in 18 years, than the Campsie wood in 28.

The different articles made from these woods are sold at the following prices on the spot: stobs at 4s. the hundred, four feet long; kebbres for houses at 3s. per dozen, if made of birch, and 6s. of ash; cart-trees at 1s. and 1s. 4d. the pair. A woodman receives 1s. 2d. for cutting and making the hundred stobs; and peelers of bark, if men, 1s. per day, and women 8d. Bark sells at 15s. the boll, 12 stone weight; and

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Dartick mills, upon the Kelvin, is the sole cause why the fish come not up in rodding time to the Glazert. Perhaps there is some truth in saying that one great reason of the scarcity of salmon in the Clyde, is the little regard paid to the young fry.

It would at least be an object to the country at large, and particularly to that city, that greater attention should be paid to this article, so that the tributary streams which formerly supplied the Clyde with fry, should not be rendered totally useless. I have not heard of a single salmon being seen in our river for 18 years; whereas, in former days, they were so plenty in spawning time, that it was customary, though unlawful, for the country lads to go out with torches made of the dressings of lint, and with long spears to kill considerable quantities of these foul fish.

Although sometimes the water from the coal-wastes destroys the trouts in the Glazert, yet as the glen and burns, at the head of the parish, are well stocked, the river is quickly replenished.

Our trout seems to be of two distinct species; the muir trout, with the black back, is a poor, lank, insipid fish; the Kelvin trout is yellow in the skin, and much plumper and richer in the flesh. There is only one loch in the parish, containing about 32 acres, where there is a considerable quantity of perch.

the respective proprietors are bound by their leases to drive it to market. Although the strath of Campsie be remarkable for growing barren-timber, there is much less planting, either in belts or in hedge-rows, than might have been expected: To say that the spirit for planting is only beginning in the end of the eighteenth century, in a country so calculated by soil and shelter to produce fine timber, is not saying much to the praise of our industry. As to fruit trees, it may literally be affirmed, that there is not one orchard in the whole parish; therefore it cannot be said, from recent experience, whether it be a soil adapted for the production of apples or not. Considerable attention of late, however, hath been paid by the gentry to their kitchen gardens; it is to be hoped, that the spirit of gardening, so long dormant, will exert itself in the formation of orchards, and the laying out of plantations: Indeed, in a country where grazing is so much practised, it is rather matter of surprise to the proprietors themselves, that self-interest long ere now should not have led them, to form shelter for their cattle in winter*.

Wild Beasts, and Birds.—There are two species of badger found among the loose rocks of Campsie Fells, the one somewhat resembling a fow, the other a dog; the first is more arched in the back, and is not so nimble in turning itself; there has occasionally been hams made of it in this place. The fox too is a native of this parish; the huntsman says, that the
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* As to small vegetable productions, they are both exceedingly numerous and varied: most of the Scotch plants common to glens, woods, and rocks, are to be found in this district. Our ingenious friend, Mr David Urc, declares that he hath enjoyed considerable pleasure in searching for plants in our sequestered vale; and that his curiosity was not a little gratified. Particularly all the different species of the lichen is found here.

three different kinds peculiar to Britain are found here : The gray-hound-fox, with the long bushy tail, white on the top, skulks on the Fells, and is particularly destructive to the lambs. The other two species lurk in woods and old waste coal-pits ; the one is low and thick made, of a very dark brown ; the other very small, of a lively red and a black tip on its tail ; the last are the most mischievous to our poultry. There are likewise weasles, otters, polecats, hedgehogs, wild cats ; and, of late, several martins have been seen among the rocks. As to birds of prey, there are four species of hawks ; one pair of the gentil falcon breed regularly every year, in the Craig of Campsie, a species much sought after by sportsmen ; we have likewise the kistral, that species which we perceive so frequently in the air, fixed in one place, as it were fanning with its wings, and watching for its sport : The Goshawk, which builds its nest upon trees in sequestered places, is likewise a native of this parish ; it dashes through the woods with vast impetuosity after its prey ; and the sparrowhawk is so common in the upper parts of the strath, that the children of the villagers amuse themselves by taming them ; both the sluggish inactive buzzard, and the soaring glade or kite, are natives of this district : So common is the glade with us, that its various modes of flight are considered as an almanack for the weather, and its note is a symbol of moral conduct ; we observe, when it soars high in the air, it prognosticates good weather ; and every boy will tell you that it is not for nothing that the glade whistles ; alluding to the note of that bird when it glides though the air, watching for its prey. The golden eagle used formerly to build in our rocks, though of late it has discontinued the practice ; but we have a visit of them annually for some months in the spring and early part of the summer ; they are commonly known

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among the shepherds, by the name of the earn, a visit of which amongst the flock is dreaded as much as that of the fox. But of all the birds of prey amongst us, the hen-harriers, or white aboon-glade, as he is called, is the most destructive to game, both partridges and muirfowl. They breed on the ground amongst rushes in the muirs, and fly low along the surface of the earth in search of prey; the corbie or raven, the hooded or carrion crow, rooks, jackdaws, and the red legged crow, are natives of this district. There are about six pairs of ravens, which breed annually in the rocks, and are exceeding destructive to young lambs in a bad spring. I have seen, again and again, a raven attack a lamb, beat with its wings about its head, till the poor creature fell headlong over a precipice; and before the shepherd could climb to the spot, the raven had picked out its eyes. The red legged crow is but scarce with us; we seldom meet with above a pair or two in the whole range of the Campsie Falls; when we do meet with them, it is amongst the jackdaws, of which there are a considerable number which haunt our rocks. A very curious scene is frequently exhibited in our hills. If it should happen that a fox leaves his hole, and basks himself in the sun, among the rocks, immediately all the birds of prey within a mile of him will assemble, and flutter, and scream over the spot where the thief is lurking; eagle and hawk, raven and kite, and jackdaw forget their animosities, seemingly combining in a mutual league to disturb the retreat of reynard, so that the huntsman considers these birds as infallible guides to his sport. It may be observed, that beasts of prey are every day becoming scarcer. Till within these two years, we had a regular bred huntsman, who hunted this district; his salary was paid by the tenants, at so much per plough, which huntsman and dogs were kept and fed by each tenant in his turn. The father

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and son-in-law performed the office of public huntsman, from the year 1715, till 1792, a period of fourscore years: They were said to possess some of the largest fox hounds in the three kingdoms; they were slow but remarkably staunch.—The cry of the hounds, and the animating blast of the buglehorn, re-echoed by every rock along the range of Campsie Fells, will be long remembered by the natives of this strath.

Now there are scarcely as many beasts of prey in the whole district, as to afford amusement to the graziers in an idle winter day; the only reason which has been assigned, is, the converting of sheep pasture into grazing for black cattle, whereby there is less food for such ravenous animals; of course, the large fox has migrated to the high lands, where his food is more abundant. In proportion as the beasts and birds of prey, have left this district, the singing birds have increased; several species have appeared of late, which were formerly unknown, particularly the bulfinch and the wood-lark. It is perhaps at the Clachan of Campsie, which is situated in the neighbourhood of copsewoods and retired glens, that a person is enabled to comprehend the meaning of a proverbial expression in this county, the screech of day light;—here and there, the lark begins the song, which is soon heard and accompanied by all the little feathered choiristers within reach of its note;—The air seems to vibrate with the sound.—As to our migrating birds, the statement in the following table is founded on the observations of ten years:

NAMES.

NAMES.	ARRIVES.	DISAPPEARS.
The <i>White Breasted Swallow</i> ,	from the 7th to the 8th of May.	September 24th till September 28th.
The <i>Cuckoo</i> ,	27th of April to the 2d of May.	becomes silent about the end of June.
The <i>Woodcock</i> ,	about the 26th of October.	about the beginning of March.
<i>Gray Plover or Loptwing</i> ,	about the 26th of March.	about the end of July.
<i>Water Wox tail</i> ,	about the 1st of April.	about the 1st of October.
<i>Stone Cbecker</i> ,	about the 1st of May.	about the middle of August
<i>Curlew</i> ,	about the 1st of March	about the 1st of October.

In former times, particularly during a hard winter, it was customary for wild ducks, wild geese, and even swans, to visit the swamps of this parish; these being now drained, such fowls are scarcely to be seen. There are plenty of grouse in the Campsie muirs; at the same time partridges have of late become uncommonly scarce; many causes have been assigned for the rapid decay of this species of game, such as the wet summers, and the pretended increase of the birds of prey, which is not fact.

Perhaps it will be found, that this country at present is rather in an unfavourable state for nursing partridges; the broom, and furze, and briers, being mostly grubbed out, and the land formerly waste, put under cultivation; whereas artificial shelter by belts of planting is not yet produced; while the number of idle boys, belonging to the public works, let loose upon a Sunday, strolling about the fields with their tarrier dogs, ferreting out the partridge nests by the smell, may be an additional cause of the uncommon scarcity of this game in the parish.

Strata, Minerals, Lime and Coal.—The hills of which in part the parish of Campsie is composed, are according to the distinction

tion of naturalists, of two species, *primary* and *secondary*; in the first, it is said that coal and lime are never to be found, whereas the second abounds with both.

The highest ridge of the Campsie Fells, is about 1500 feet above the level of the sea, and about 1200 from its base; where, properly speaking, the mountain commences, the ascent is very rapid; and from examining the glens, and gullies formed on its sides, it seems to be composed of the following strata: At the base of the hill, immediately after the coal is cut off, you meet with several layers of camstone, (as it is termed with us,) which is easily burned into a heavy lime. Immediately above the camstone, you find at least a dozen strata of ironstone, of different thickness, with a soft slate intervening betwixt the layers; it is said by those who have examined the ironstone, that it is of an excellent quality. These different seams make up 200 feet of the base of the mountain. Then 15 strata of muirstone rise above each other to the summit of the Fells, where they jut out; in the face of the braes, they go by the name of daffes or gerrocks. Betwixt these strata of muirstone, you meet with various coloured stuff, sometimes of a copperish, sometimes of an ironstone colour; and it is said, there are appearances of copper; but the working of it has not as yet been attempted. Lately, when forming the new turnpike-road along the side of the hills, several veins of spar and chrystal were found, not unlike those which accompany lead-mines; and persons who had wrought at the different lead-mines in Scotland, declared, that the appearances of that metal were both frequent and favourable: no attempt as yet hath been made to follow out these appearances. In the whole range of the Campsie Fells, there is only one place where the rocks assume a basaltic appearance; and by those who admire such columnar appearances,

ances, they are said to be very beautiful. Here and there, there were dug out, when forming the turnpike-road on the hills, several strata of most excellent clay marle, both white and speckled;—it has not as yet become an object of attention to the country people. Beautiful pebbles have been found among the rocks, of which a gentleman lately procured as many as, when polished, furnished a set of elegant buttons for a coat. About the middle of the strath, you meet with excellent quarries of free stone, calculated for all the purposes of the builder; but the minerals of which we have the greatest reason to boast, are the inexhaustible seams of lime and coal, which merit a particular description. The coal and lime in this parish are generally found in the same field: The coal, throughout the whole parish, possesses a caking quality; at the same time it is very foul and sulphurous, leaving, when burned, an uncommon quantity of rusty coloured ashes, which make excellent manure for certain sorts of land.

The coal on the North of the Glazert, takes on about a mile East from the Clachan of Campsie, and continues without much interruption to the eastern extremity of the parish; it runs parallel to the Fells, and seldom exceeds a quarter of a mile in breadth: The field on the South side of the river, which forms a belt around the South braes, is considerably broader, and is of much superior quality to the other. The coal is found of different depths from the surface; on the North side, from seven to fifteen fathoms; on the South, from fifteen to twenty two; the seam throughout the whole parish, is, at an average, from forty two inches to four feet in thickness, with two small bands, of an inch and an inch and half, running through it. The strata above the coal is found uniformly in the following manner: After the soil there is found a species of till, interspersed with stones; after which comes a blaze, as it is termed, and which continues to a considerable

ble depth ; then slate, which, at a medium, is from seven to eight feet in thickness ; after which, there is uniformly limestone, being a seam of four feet ; then a slate, and then the coal : Such is the regular strata in Campsie in sinking for coal ; with this difference, however, that the slate in the North of Glazert, betwixt the lime and coal, is fifteen feet in thickness ; on the South, it is scarcely four ; below the coal, there is eighteen inches of a stuff, which the workmen term *dalk* ; then the white lime, of an inferior quality to the other, and as yet but seldom wrought.

The coal in this district is full of irregularities, stiled by the workmen *coups*, and *hitches*, and *dykes* ; the truth is, the coal partakes a good deal of the irregularity of the ground above, which is very uneven. If one was to speak in general terms of the whole coal in the parish, as one field, it might be said, that the depth was to the South East, and the rise to the North West ; such really being the ascent and declivity of the lands in this district ;—but as there are a number of gentle swells in the strath, it will happen, that according as the pit is put down on this side of the swell, or upon the other side, the dip and rise of the coal will appear favourable, or the contrary.—The dip is sometimes so sudden as to be one foot in three, in other places, only one in twenty. Besides these coups and hitches, which are found where the strata above and below the coal suddenly approach, or retreat from each other, by this means coupling the coal out of its regular bed, there are complete breaks in the strata, termed *dykes*, which cut off the coal entirely in various directions ; these dykes are sometimes observed upon the surface of the earth, from which they sink down to an unfathomable depth ;—There are two of these dykes in this district, which are remarkable, and seem to be uniform throughout : *First*, There is a coup-dyke, which runs from West to East ; North

of this coup-dyke, the coal dips about fifteen feet, and then they may work about three hundred yards into the hill, where they seem to be cut off entirely by a whinstone dyke; so there are two great barriers which intercept the ly of the coal upon the North of the Glazert; the coal on the South of the coup-dyke, takes on almost within six feet of the surface, and is not above six inches thick, with something like a clay roof.

Manner of Working.—There is reason to believe that coal has been wrought in this district for several centuries; but the working of it seems to have been carried in a very awkward irregular manner, taking advantage of the ly of the ground: They used to make large excavations upon the surface, which they termed creeping heughs; from these excavations, they drove a road into the coal heads, and by this means brought the coals to the hill, dragging them on their small sledges up the declivity, which was not very great, as the excavation was always made as much to the dip side of the hill as possible: It is evident, that in this manner they could only work the crop of the coal, where the water created little disquiet; a method, however, highly prejudicial both to the landlord and the public; the next stage of working was by sinking perpendicular pits, stiled windlafs heughs. On the North of the river Glazert, these pits were in depth from sixty to ninety feet; but they so contrived it, that these pits were placed near some gully or burn, where, by running a level from a certain part of the burn, all the coal round the pit bottom became drained; and in the sinking of every new pit, they must always do it with a retrospect to their former level; still, however, the coal upon the dip side might be lying under water; for although the declivity in the ground favoured
greatly

greatly these imperfect short levels, there were many fields of coal which could not thus be drained but at a most enormous expence, in driving subterraneous mines: In this stage of carrying on the work, there were employed at least two men at the windlafs, putting up the coals in skiffies, termed hutches; and it is more than probable that they had likewise to pull up the water for a considerable time every morning, before the workmen had got the coals raised; the coal business in this district was carried on in this slovenly manner during this century: The country was ill supplied; the landlords complained that they never made a shilling of their coal, while every person was surpris'd, that a district, possessing such natural advantages, should make so little good use of them. About two years ago, coal becoming exceedingly scarce, and the price rising suddenly, there became an absolute necessity of working it in a better style; accordingly, Mr Dunmore of Ballindalloch, a gentleman to whose activity and patriotism this part of Scotland is much indebted, becoming the lessee of several works in the parish, he immediately erected gins, driven by horses, for pulling up the coals; which improvement is answering the purpose, and is either already, or will be quickly followed by the other proprietors; so that now we have every probability of this necessary article of life being wrought in a style far superior and more expeditious than hitherto experienced.

All the coaliers in this parish now work with the pick and wedge: this, however, is only a late improvement; they pool in the middle of the seam, where a small band of stone, about an inch of thickness, lyes, called the pooling band, and then shear down what is above, siled the roof coal, and drive up the soal coals with wedges; they carry on their drifts or rooms eight feet by fourteen, leaving stoops eight feet by twelve; but this

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varies

varies according as the coal is soft or hard ; every coalier may be said to be his own drawer ; seldom or ever has he any person to assist him ; they commonly go to their work at four in the morning, and continue until two in the afternoon ; formerly the coals were put out by the *dark*, consisting of twenty eight hutches, for which dark the coalier received one shilling and eight pence, and the proprietors had for lordship one shilling and ten pence ; an active workman could very easily put out two of these darks per day, making three shillings and four pence ; these hutches becoming more and more uncertain as to the quantity contained in them, both the landlord and public being imposed upon, it became necessary to adopt some new regulations relative to the measure ; which has been done accordingly ; so that now we compute by loads ; each load contains 2184 cubic inches, equal to twenty one Scotch pints and a half, water measure ; six of these loads make an exceeding good cart, which should weigh betwixt twelve and thirteen hundred weight ; the price, at the pit mouth, being eighteen pence per cart, or threepence per load ; a tolerable workman can put out twenty four loads per day, for which he has three shillings ; and the landlord the other three shillings. In order to ascertain the quantity of coals raised at the different pits, of which there are no less than sixty going this month of December 1793, we shall calculate the average out-put of the coaliers : There are, in all the different pits, forty six coaliers ; allowing three carts and a half per day to each, makes one hundred and sixty one carts per day, supposing them only to work five days in the week ; the out-put per week will be eight hundred and five carts ; reckoning the coaliers weeks in the year only to be fifty, the out-put in the year will be forty thousand two hundred and fifty carts ; supposing that the measure, at a medium, does not exceed eleven hundred weight
per

per cart, the out-put in the year will be 22 135 tons and a-half; the price at the hill is somewhat better than 2s. 6d. per ton; the total value is 2750l. Sterling, of which the coaliers receive 1375l; the remainder goes for lordship, and to support the hills-men and gin-boys, along with the tear and wear of the work.

According to the calculation of men skilled in coal-mines, these 20,000 tons will at least exhaust three acres of coal annually, a waste, which, great as it may appear, we are able to support for 150 years to come; but in reality we are raising this season, at least, double of what was raised formerly, nay, 10 times more than what was put out about 20 years ago; this great quantity of coal is used in the following manner: The two printfields consume annually 3500 tons; above 2100 tons is used in burning lime; and the remainder in supplying the parishes of Campsie, Fintray, Balfrone, Kilmairn, Strathblane, Baldernock, and partly Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth. It is doubtful if even yet the coal in this district be wrought to advantage; in reality, we are as yet but working the crop of the coal; it being absolutely necessary that they should either drive their levels, or erect their steam engines upon the dip side, so that they might work to the rise. Many great fields at this moment ly buried under water, owing to this defect ¶.

It

¶ No map being made of these subterraneous works, and no documents being in the possession of the proprietors, to point out when and how such a field of coal was wrought, it is only by some vague tradition, handed down from one generation of coaliers to another, that we pretend to judge whether the ground be wasted or not; so that too often the pit is put down upon a trouble, or waste, to the great detriment of the adventurer; which mistake might be easily rectified, by each proprietor getting an accurate chart made out of these subterraneous works, for the benefit of posterity; besides many lives might

It has been observed that limestone is always found in the same field with the coal; it is in general a seam from three feet to five in thickness, and is wrought in the following manner: They take off the earth from the surface, called tiring, which is from 10 to 30 feet; seldom or never have they as yet wrought the lime-stone by mining. The probability is, however, that they will soon be compelled to it; the workmen take tiring at 3d. the square yard; they put out the lime-stone at 50 much per chalder, and by experience they know what number of square yards of broken stone, makes a chalder

might be saved, which are unfortunately lost by the workmen striking through upon old waste; as was the case February 1789, when five coalliers were killed in the Newk coal pit of Campsie. I consider the wages of the coalliers, as by no means in proportion to the wages of other labourers in the parish; the labourer having only sixteen pence per day: Allowing the coallier a third more on account of the danger and disagreeable nature of the work, viz. two shillings, then there would be one third of the wages, which he receives at present, saved to the public.

Coal, in every inland district in Scotland, should not be considered as an article of commerce, which the landlord as a merchant, may speculate upon for his own advantage: It should be considered as an article of the first necessity: Proprietors of land should recollect, that every circumstance which increases population, ultimately benefits their estates; wherever water is plenty and firing cheap, there the manufacturer and labourer will always resort. Campsie, at present, is conspicuously blessed with both; and it will discover the folly of the landlords, if ever they permit coals to become much dearer; it is not the richness of the soil which always brings the highest rent to the proprietor; some particular local advantage acts in his favour; and perhaps there is none to surpass the advantage of cheap fuel.

A small farmer (such as we have in this district) considers good oat meal and a good fire as great luxuries; and while the tenants possess these, they will make a considerable shift to pay their dear rents.

It is with pleasure that we take notice of the public spirited attempts made by several gentlemen last year, to prevent the coals from rising in this district; and they have fully succeeded: They have perhaps sunk a little money, but their tenants and dependants have reaped the benefit, and the public hath paid them every respect which an elevated mind can desire.

chalders of lime; the lime is burnt chiefly in small kilns, holding from 10 to 15 chalders, the stone being more completely burnt, than in those of a larger size; the layers of stone and coal are made alternately in the following proportions: 1st, Six inches of coal, then 20 inches of lime-stone, broken to the size of a two-penny-loaf. Two firlots (wheat measure) of burnt stone make four firlots of flacked lime; of course, 32 firlots make a chalders of lime, sold, till within these two years, at 4l. Scots, at the quarry, now, 8s. the ready money price; formerly it was sold with at least 6 months credit. It is doubtful if the state of the country as yet will permit this alteration, small as it is; it requires 6 or 7 loads of coal to burn the chalders of lime. There were employed this summer (1793) 40 workmen in the different lime quarries in the parish, who raised at least 3000 chalders of flacked lime; the Campsie lime is reckoned of an exceeding rich quality, much sought after by plaisterers; in common building, to every boll of lime one boll of sand is required, to make proper mortar. The great facts relative to our coal and lime work, are stated in the following table:

No. of COALLIERS	46	Wages, 3s per day, or 1375l. per annum.
— Carts	42,250	per annum, at 18d. per cart.
— Tons	22,135	per annum.
Price -	18d.	per cart consisting of six loads.
Weight -	12	hundred weight.
LIME-STONE	3d.	per square yard, tiring.
Chalders	1s. 8d.	the putting out.
Price -	8s.	per Chalders, when burnt at the kiln.
—	8d.	per ditto for setting and selling lime.

Coal

COAL	-	3500	Tons consumed by the printfields:
—	-	2100	consumed in the burning of lime.
—	-	16,465	consumed by this, and neighbour- ing parishes.
VALUE	L.	2750	of out-pit this year 1793.
LIME	-	3000	Chaldrons burned and sold in the year. 6 Loads of coal, to the burning of 1 chaldron of lime: so that every chaldron, besides tiring, costs the tacksmen in expence of putting out, in sett- ing, and in coals, 3s. 6d. before he can bring it to market.
MEN	-	40	employed in working lime.

State of Property.—This parish contains one hundred and one ploughgates of land, 73 of which are possessed by eight great proprietors; the other 28 ploughs are possessed by 37 feuars, or portioners, holding charter and feisin; the valuation of the whole parish, being 6429l. 4900l. is possessed by the eight great proprietors, in the following proportions:

	Valuation.
William Lennox of Woodhood	922
John Lennox of Antermony,	888
Sir John Stirling of Glorat,	800
Sir Archibald Edmiston of Duntreath,	686
John Macfarlane of Kirkton	537
John Buchanan of Carbeth,	403
John Kincaid of Kincaid,	417
John Stirling of Crajbarnet,	300

They all reside in the parish, except Sir Archibald Edmiston, who possesses large estates in the parishes of Kilsyth, Strathblane,

Strathblane, Kilpatrick, and Dunbarton : Mr Buchanan of Carbeth, Mr Stirling of Craigharnet, and Sir John Stirling of Glorat, possess, each of them, likewise landed property in other parishes ; of this property there are 2260 pounds Scots entailed, and in all probability there will be more added by the present proprietors. The small proprietors are feuers of the families of Montrose, Keer, Glorat, and Bardowie, and beame so at the following periods :

Feuers of Montrose 1632 ; feuers of Keer 1714 ; feuers of Glorat 1742 ; feuers of Bardowie 1713. Landed property in this district hath changed its masters as seldom as in most parts of Scotland ; whether this be an advantage to the country, or not, is a question upon which speculative men have differed ; but this at least is certain, that the following families ; viz. Kincaid of Kincaid, Stirling of Craigharnet, Stirling of Glorat, Lennox of Woodhead, and Edmiston of Duntrath, were, in the year 1470, proprietors of the same lands which they possess at this day ; the estate of Auchinreoch fell by succession, in the beginning of this century, to the Buchanans of Carbeth, an ancient family in the parish of Killern : Macfarlane of Kirton, a cadet of the family of Macfarlane, became proprietor of Kirton in the year 1624 ; the estate of Antermony is the purchase of Captain John Lennox of Antermony, a younger son of the ancient family of Woodhead. Perhaps this circumstance, which may please the pride of family, is one great reason why the improvement of land is so very backward in this district ; wherever families resided long upon an estate in Scotland, the object of our Scotch ambition was to possess a numerous tenantry, live as they may. The laird sought other means of bettering his situation, than by the slow returns of agriculture ; whereas,

if an estate often changed its master, it became in reality an object of commerce, and every new proprietor made it somewhat better for his own interest.

It is curious to observe the progressive rise of the land rent in this parish, since the year 1642; the rent of the plough-gate in those days, was about one hundred merks, besides feu services; and there is reason to believe, that the valuation in Cromwel's time, in this district, was made as high as the land could really afford in rent; during the first years of the Restoration, land seems to have risen, (as appears from some old tacks :) From the 1680, till the year 1715, it appears that the rise was but trifling; after this period it rose considerably; and, in the year 1748, was about 1500 l. Sterling; the next rise was in the year 1763; and, considering the value of the land in the natural possession of the small proprietors to keep pace with the tenantry, it rose to about 3000 l. Sterling. The land-rent this present year, is betwixt seven and eight thousand *per annum*, upon leases, or in the natural possession of the small proprietors.

YEARS.	1642	1715	1748	1763	1793
VALUE.	500	800	1500	3000	7000

By this statement, it is evident, that land gives fourteen times more rent in money than it did 150 years ago; allowing for the services and other prestations payed by the tenants in those days, perhaps we ought not to reckon so highly; whether this rise, however, is to be ascribed to the gradual improvement of landed property, or the depreciation of money, becomes another question; and perhaps the landholders will not have so much reason to boast of their advanced rents, if the enquiry be fairly made; in this rental, that of cot-houses is not comprehended, which is at least five hundred

dred *per annum*; these houses have increased their rents four times the sum of what they were in 1745; even so late as 1760, four pounds Scots was the rent of a cottage with a small yard annexed to it; such houses rent now at twenty shillings; but, from the improvement made on cot-houses, the rent of a room and kitchen, or what in the language of the place is stiled a *but* and a *ben*, gives at least two pounds Sterling; so that the same class of people pay for lodging six times more than they did thirty years ago; this increase arises chiefly from the introduction of manufactures; now, if the rent of the coal and lime, together with that of the cot-houses, be added to the land, the total rent of the parish may be stated to be eight thousand four hundred pounds Sterling *per annum*.

Present State of Agriculture.—It is not possible to say exactly what number of acres there are arable, and what not, as there is no map of the parish, nor has the whole ever been accurately measured: If the parish contains fifteen thousand acres, it will be found that five thousand of these are arable; of the other ten thousand, consisting of brae, of muir, and pasture land, three thousand more may be made arable:—Of course, it is about fifty acres of arable land to each plough.

There are ninety-six heads of families, who live on this property, either as tenants or feuers; and whose employment is either grazing or agriculture; but it is to be observed, that there are eighteen heads of families in this list, who do not make agriculture their chief employment; possessing only a few acres of land, and who principally employ themselves as masons, or carriers, or road makers; there is another distinction to be made of these heads of families, who employ themselves in agriculture; 28 of them are feuers, who farm their

own lands, the remainder are tenantry; seven of these last make grazing their chief employment.

The following is a table of the rents paid by the different graziers and farmers in this district, in 1793.

No. 1	L. 600	No. 1	L. 400
1	167	1	100

comprehending the feuers who farm their own land. The rents of others run betwixt twenty and seventy pounds, excepting upon the forfeited estate of Bancloich, where some tenants pay as low as five pounds *per annum*, they having got leases of three nineteen years in 1748.

The labour of these hundred plough gates of land was performed in 1793, by seventy ploughs, drawn by 222 horses, yoked in the following manner:

20	ploughs drawn	4	horses. each.
24	ditto drawn by	2	horses.
26	ditto drawn by	3	horses.

The following table exhibits the manner in which the five thousand acres of arable land was cropped in the year 1793, viz.

2000	acres in tillage and sown grafs, of which were,
200	acres in barley.
100	acres in potatoes.
30	acres in lint.
200	in sown grafs.

1500 in oats; of which, we may deduct 20 for pease and beans; the remaining 3000 acres in ley pasture for milk cows, and young beasts.

There were not ten acres fallow, in the whole parish; neither were there above four acres in wheat or turnip. Perhaps there is no country in Scotland more calculated for raising

ing turnip than Campsie; at the same time, I rather think they do not stand the winter well in this district; I have said 20 acres for pease and beans, the wet climate rendering these a very unprofitable crop with us, growing all to the straw, without any pods: The produce per acre, at an average, is about six bolls;—small as this may appear, it is at least one third more than it was thirty years ago: If a stranger was to view our crop at Lammas, when growing, or even in the shock, he would be apt to conclude the product to be a great deal more; the truth is, our moist climate produces much straw and little corn; I believe, it may safely be affirmed, that at an average there is not above fifteen pecks of meal out of the boll; the barley produces better, the soil being adapted for that grain; and it is said to malt remarkably well; but the fault lies more in the style of farming, than in the ground itself; so late as the year 1763, the farms were possessed in run rigg;—there was scarcely any inclosing; the moment that the crop was separated from the ground, the cattle of the neighbouring tenants grazed in common, till next Whitsunday; the distinction betwixt out-field and in-field, was kept up with the most scrupulous exactness; there was no rye-grass and clover sown, for making hay; and the bulk of the farmers ploughed their land with what is stiled the broad plough, the four horses yoked abreast: These peculiarities are now worn out; at the same time, farming, both as to science and practice, is yet but in its infancy in this parish.*

Tacks

* It is true, that the climate is not good, but the soil is excellent; and as the crops might be adapted to the climate, there are great hopes entertained, that we shall one day excel in farming: The following defects in our mode seem to be most flagrant: 1/2. The land being full of springs gushing out, whatever any change of the soil takes place in the farms;—of course, noth-

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Tacks in this parish are commonly let for nineteen years; with a clause that the tenant shall bear the public burdens, which, considering the land tax, the statute labour, and sometimes the minister's stipend, at least the vicarage, and school-master's

ing but underdraining can clear the soil of such a nuisance; and yet unfortunately it is but little practised: *2dly*, Our inclosures are little better than rickle dykes, built of stones, gathered from the land, without any mortar;—of course, totally incapable of meliorating the soil by keeping it warm; which would be the case, if the inclosures were made with of quick-set hedges, and belts of planting, for which the parish is so remarkably calculated; these dykes give the parish a cold and uncomfortable look. *3dly*, A great proportion of our arable land is laid down in the most miserable manner without sown grass, and impoverished by three succeeding crops of oats; by this management, it is in a most wretched condition, indeed, when broken up to dergo anew the same rotation of crops of oats. *4thly*, Our land, from being in general a light soil, and situated in a moist climate, is much addicted to weeds; it is foul even to rankness;—Of course, as the corns grow much to straw, the stalk of corn is kept constantly wet at the root by the weeds; it soon rots, and the least blast of wind in August, lodges the corn on the croft-lands before they are ripe; whereas, if summer fallowing was practised, there cannot be the smallest doubt, but our crops would be clean and much earlier; yet summer fallowing is scarcely ever practised in this parish: Along with these defects, I must mention two other causes, which have not a little contributed to retard our progress in agriculture: In the *first* place, an over attachment to grazing; which hath led the farmers to study more the raising of fodder, than the raising of grain; by this means, the early-feed oats have never received much countenance in this district; but, if we consider the moistness of the climate, there is no parish which requires them more; and from the experiments we have had of sowing early oats, upon land well cleaned from weeds by summer fallowing, there is every encouragement to proceed;—the grain was fully ripe and early housed. *2dly*, I am not sure but the proprietors themselves have, in some measure, contributed to the little progress which agriculture hath made in this district. From an opinion that land was always upon the increase, it has not been their object to grant such long leases, as to encourage the farmer to sink money in improving the land: The opinion that has gone abroad amongst land-

lords,

master's salary; the poor man's rent is considerably augmented by such items.—These things I don't mention as grievances, for the tenant subscribes to them with open eyes; nor can the landlord be called an oppressor, because he receives them; they are all prestations of a fair contract; and of course, if the proprietor did not exact them, he would be entitled to more rent: I simply state them as defects in our mode of husbandry; and which it would be the interest both of landlord and tenant to have removed—Let the tenant know determinately what he is to pay, and let him have the complete use of his time, and the complete management of the product of his farm. As to a regular rotation of crops, it is but little known in this district. The old mode of allowing the land to ly ley for three years, and then liming it, and taking three crops of oats, is, indeed, fast wearing out; but no regular system is as yet introduced in its stead.

The rent of the arable land per acre, is stated in the following table;

For

lords, that the raising the rents of their lands forced the tenants to be more active, might be productive of some good effect; providing that indolence was the only impediment to a flourishing state of agriculture in this parish: Compulsion is but a bad argument, when the object of that compulsion has not strength to obey: I could wish that such an idea was exploded; for it is no longer the interest of this country to consider the tenantry upon an estate, as part of that estate.

In England, things seem to be better managed. There are still several servitudes remaining in this parish, annexed to the leases of lands, such as kain hens, and the driving of the lairds coals; these are indeed but small to what took place about 30 years ago; but, even these are fetters upon the industry of the tenants;—of more hurt to them than of benefit to the landlord; and it is to be hoped, from the many instances of an enlightened mind which the present proprietors have shown, that all such casualities will be abolished on the first opportunity.

For potatoes	from 4l. to 7l. per acre.	A flying crop.
For lint	- ditto ditto	ditto
For good arable	a guinea and a half.	on lease.
Ordinary arable	1l. per acre.	- ditto

There is scarcely any land in the strath of the parish let below 1l. per acre. The brae farms, and the pasture land, are let by slump; it is impossible to say what they rent per acre.

It may be proper here to take notice, that lime, though in such great abundance in this parish, was made but little use of as a manure till very lately; the inhabitants pretended even to say that it spoiled the ground by raising weeds: the truth is, the objection lay in their injudicious management; there is not the smallest doubt, where ground is foul, as is the case in the soil and moist climate of Campsie, that lime puts the weeds in vegetation; but if the land had been fallowed, or even permitted to lie long in ley, till the ground was properly swarded, there is no country in Scotland, where liming produces a better effect, than in this district: As some recent experiments have shewn, we now lime at the rate of from six to eight chalders per acre. Such being the state of agriculture in this parish, it may be said, without disparagement, that it is, as yet, but in its infancy; and yet it is but doing justice, both to the proprietors and tenants, to observe, that the improvements are going on with great spirit and success.

Grazing.—There is considerable attention paid in this district to the management of black cattle, both for the purposes of the dairy, and likewise for that of the butcher. The following table exhibits the number of cattle and sheep kept in the parish in 1793.

Milk

Milk cows,	-	-	-	749
Calves and queys	-	-	-	503
Fat cows and young beasts for the Falkirk market, and the butcher,	-	-	-	917
Winterers, being mostly grazed next summer for the butcher	-	-	-	300
Sheep, being mostly brood ewes,	-	-	-	1600

These 749 milk-cows are kept by 177 people; there are ten principal dairies, which consist of betwixt 14 to 20 milk cows; the remainder are split down in small dairies, containing from 4 to 10 cows. It is not easy to say what milk at an average is given per day by the cows of this district; I should think from 7 to 11 Scotch pints; below 7 they are not thought worth keeping for the dairy: above 11 they are considered as remarkable.

About 60 of those persons who have cows, may be considered as tradesmen and manufacturers; it may be doubted, whether it be of any use to such a person to keep a cow or not; some are apt to imagine that it is calculated to instill habits of idleness into the minds of their children, who may be employed in herding them by the dykes-side: no doubt, it will be considered as an eye-sore by the farmers, to allow the children of tradesmen to feed their cows on the road-side, to the prejudice of his turnips and pease; on the other hand, it is of the utmost importance to the state at large, that the children of tradesmen and sedentary people should be healthy: I know of nothing more calculated to promote that end than plenty of fresh milk. Our milk cows, within these 30 years, have increased considerably in bulk; at an average, if fattened, they would weigh 20 stones, Tron weight. In general, they are the breed of Highland bulls; hence they have a tendency to take on flesh, more than to

give large quantities of milk; at the same time it must be owned, that the milk is remarkably rich; it being very common for a cow, which only gives 8 Scotch pints per day, to produce nearly a pound of butter from that milk per day. Campsie has been long remarkable for making excellent butter: Till of late, it was only skimm'd milk cheese which they made, of course it was not very rich: Now, however, there are several dairies, which make cheese equal to any from Dunlop; and from the price which they receive for such cheese, they consider this plan as more profitable than to make butter.

There are about 1600 muir-ewes kept in the parish, whose lambs are sold to the Glasgow butcher in the season, from 6s. to 8s. per head; they are commonly taken away by the butcher during the month of June, and the first two weeks of July. Perhaps we have the best stock of black faced ewes that are to be met with in Scotland; they are completely muir ewes, and yet they weigh twelve Tron pounds per quarter, twenty two ounces and a half to the pound: They are sold at a guinea per head when fat; the flock which I allude to belongs to Mr David Dun, grazier, and they are pastured upon the muir-lands of the estate of Kirkton, belonging to John Macfarlane, Esq; In former times, there were at least 4000 sheep in the parish; they were of two sorts: the black faced sheep, with coarse wool, bought at the market of Kilbryde and Linton; and the small country sheep, with white and yellow faces, and remarkable fine wool. From what the writer of this account recollects, the country sheep must in a great measure have resembled the Shetland breed:—they were the common breed of the country; it being wedder-hogs and Dinmonts alone, which were bought at Kilbryde and Linton market. By some strange fatality, this Southland breed hath crept in, though the creature is less hardy and courser

courser in the wool ; at this moment there is not the smallest vestige of our country breed remaining, all the stock ewes in the parish being black faced and coarse wooled : Two causes have been assigned for the total neglect of the native breed : 1st, Since the rise of the flesh-meat took place, it hath been the object of the graziers to pay more attention to the bulk of the carcase than to the fineness of the wool. 2dly, About the year 1763, a new mode of grazing was introduced ; the face of the hills being appropriated to the feeding of black cattle, it was found that our native breed of sheep were not fond of the coarse grafs in the muir, constantly seeking after the short bite on the Campsie Fells, it became absolutely necessary, therefore, if we were to follow this system of grazing, to procure such a breed of sheep as were fitted for the muir ground.

At present, the wool in this parish I believe to be as good as any wool of the Tweedsmuir breed of sheep ; when smeared with tar and butter, it sells betwixt six and seven shillings per stone ;—white, as it is termed, sells at ten shillings per stone ; we expect eight pounds of clean washed wool out of the stone of that which was smeared ; and twelve pounds from the white wool. It is chiefly sold to the country people in the neighbourhood. The grazing of black cattle upon brae ground, is perhaps as well understood in this parish, as in most places of Scotland ; above 900 are fed annually in this district, either for the butcher, or the Falkirk market ; perhaps 300 of these may be wintered ; the remainder bought in at the Whitsunday markets.

The winterers graze in the open fields, during the whole winter season, and are fed once or twice a day with coarse hay, made of sprats and grafs,—gathered in autumn amongst the cows feet in their pasture ; the graziers commonly begin

to fodder, as they term it, about Christmas, (It is considered as a severe winter, when they are forced to begin before Christmas,) and continue till about the beginning of April, when the cattle refuse it. There are few cattle grazed with us but Highlanders, and we prefer those from Argyleshire, and the isles: North country cattle are rejected, as they are considered by the graziers as sour and difficult to feed: grazing of Highland cattle upon brae-ground in this district, owes much of the perfection to which it has been brought, to Mr David Dun, a native of this parish.—He has spent the better of his life in the profession of a shepherd, grazier, and breeder of cattle; and his countrymen acknowledge, with pleasure, the obligations they are under to him for his skill and attention in these particulars.—He has, with some propriety, been styled the Scotch Bakewell; for several years, he gave 1400 l. *per annum* for grafs-lands, and at that time did not so much as grow a cabbage plant; at present, he pays about 800 l. *per annum* on current leases; he has been known, again and again, to sell cattle of the Highland breed, of his own rearing, at twelve and fourteen pounds Sterling *per head*, to the butchers;—he has brought his breed of muir ewes to such perfection, as often to sell his tup-hogs at a guinea *per head*, to the Highland shepherds for brood rams:—He has sold forty or fifty at this rate, in a season. Besides the uncommon skill, which, from long experience, he must have acquired in the judging of cattle and sheep; there are certain uniform principles which he goes upon in grazing, which may be proper to mention: In the 1st place, never to stock his land so heavily as his neighbours, or even perhaps as the land could bear; by this means, his cattle have always the choice of grafs, and he is enabled to gather enough amongst their feet to fodder them in winter. The cattle by this means are fully fed, which gives him the option of merchants. 2^{dly}, By having farms

farms of different complexions, he has it in his power to fort his cattle in such a manner, as to suit each farm.—He has it in his power to vary their food, and to change them from farm to farm, as he perceives them healthy, taking on flesh, or the contrary. 3dly, In the manner of buying his cattle from the Highland dealers, he is very particular: he must have the worst and oldest, draughted again and again from the drove, before he will purchase it; by this means, he acquires none but healthy cattle; perhaps they may cost him a few shillings more *per* head, but it is soon repaid.—Scarcely ever any of his cattle die; and they are so evenly, that it is hardly in the power of the butcher to challenge a bad beast; by this management, his profits are uniform over the whole head; whereas, when cattle are shot, as it is termed, the profits are greatly diminished. §

We are not to imagine that the profits of graziers in our brae lands are very great; when the cattle are bought in at Martinmas, and kept for one year in the pasture, two guineas per head is expected as grafs-mail; when bought at the Whitfunday market and kept till Martinmas, one guinea is expected per head; when these profits are deficient, it is considered as a bad year by the grazier; and when they exceed, it is considered as good times. *

Roads.

§ This gentleman hath been unfortunately killed by accident, since writing this account. It happened on the 27th of May 1794, as he was attending on sheep shearing:—Leading a sheep across a wooden bridge, the rail of the bridge gave way; and he was thrown into the river; falling upon a stone, he was killed on the spot.

* Notwithstanding the district of Campsie seems to be so well adapted for the grazing of cattle, perhaps there are some defects attending their plan, which it may be proper to mention: 1st, It seems to be the misfortune of the Scotch in general, and particularly of the people of this district, that when they

Roads.—Great attention and skill have been shown in this article; the parish is intersected by two great roads, the one a turnpike, leading from the military road at Kippin to Glasgow, the other from East to West, joining the great Edinburgh road

they observe their neighbours thriving in any profession, they immediately run into it, without considering whether they have industry or talents to succeed; such has, of late, been too much the case in the grazing line; so that now, the utmost industry and talents can scarcely enable them to live. The country banks afforded abundance of credit to every adventurer; from such a competition amongst these *would-be-graziers*, the grass-farms are too high rented; the cattle are dear bought from their rearers; and the result has been, that notwithstanding the cry of the goodness of the times, very little profit has been made by the people embarked in this profession; for these ten years past, many bankruptcies have taken place among that class of men; It indulges the adventurous spirit of the people, and therefore will always be a favourite profession, let the profits be what they will. *2dly*, The rage for Highland cattle is too great, more so than these cattle deserve; it is true, where ground is high and much exposed, such cattle is more adapted for the pasture, than the cattle which the low country produces; but perhaps it would be the interest of the grazier, to turn all our brae ground in sheep pasture, and the grounds of the valley into grass farms, for lowland cattle, where, if once winter food were produced, and the land either protected by planting, or shades built where they might be fed with turnip in the open air; the prospects of greater profits upon the fattening of beasts would be procured, than by the imperfect mode of buying either winterers at the Down markets, or lean cattle at Belting, and selling them at Martinmas. *3dly*, There is another defect which attends the present system of grazing in this country, and which tends to render the beef of Highland cattle too dear to the consumer; there being no less than three different classes of people who must have their profits within the year: There is the drover, who collects these cattle in small parcels from the rearer, and sells them at fairs, at an advanced price to the graziers; the grazier, again, very often sells his cattle to the *couper*, who runs them at fairs to the consumer, and sometimes exacts a profit almost equal to that of the grazier: In short, there is too much of the spirit of adventure in this profession, whereby both the grazier and consumer are losers.

road at Auchinreach house on the East, and the turnpike road by Strathblane to Glasgow, on the the West; besides these two great lines, the turnpike road from Edinburgh to Glasgow by Falkirk, passes through Campsie for two miles; and there are two cross branches which strike off to Kirkintilloch; so that there are in all 20 English miles of road in this district, 10 of which are kept up by the converted statute labour: It will be easily believed that there are few districts more complicably intersected, and, it may be added, fewer still where the roads are better kept in order. The roads in this district, before the act for converting the statute labour took place, were miserable indeed; for although the labour of 100 plough-gates, according to the mode of three days of a man and horse in spring, and as much in autumn for each plough, might appear adequate to the purpose; still, from the awkward and careless manner in which they wrought, the roads were hardly passable in winter; at the same time, I am convinced that this was as much owing to the want of skill in the overseers as to the want of dexterity in the labourers. As to any positive advantage gained to the public, from the conversion act, 12s. per annum is by no means equal to the labour of six days of a man and a horse. The sum levied in this parish varied exceedingly of late years, owing to the increase of inhabitants; every cotter or householder paying 2s. per annum, it hath amounted to 70l. per annum, 50 of which is paid by the farmers and landholders, and the other 20l. by the cottars. Till within these 3 years, this sum was expended in making and repairing, and keeping up 18 out of the 20 miles of road the parish contains: Now, by one great line of road being made a turnpike, the whole money will be expended in future, in improving and keeping up 10 miles, and in making such cross-cuts to the
great

great branches, as the farther improvement of the district shall suggest; one of which improvements is evident to the most careless observer; viz. in cutting a line of road from Campsie kirk to the Crow road, the distance is not much more than 600 yards, and yet to the people who travel to Stirling from this part of the county, it must shorten the road fully 3 miles.

Considering that the roads were made upon no determined plan, but sometimes altering and mending the old lines, as circumstances occurred, it is wonderful, that in a district where the ground is so uneven, and particularly when it is considered that one of the roads crosses part of a mountain 800 feet high, that there should be so few pulls in it; seldom or ever is the rise more sudden than that of one foot in 20||.

Upon

|| As sometimes it hath been proposed to carry a turnpike road from Killyth to the military road near Buchanan house, the seat of the Duke of Montrose, through the straths of Campsie, Strathblane, and Killearn, and if a bridge was thrown over the Leven, at the boat of Ballach, there cannot be the smallest doubt, that the great line of travelling from the West Highlands to Edinburgh, must be through the valley of Campsie, it being much nearer than either by Glasgow or Stirling: (since writing this account, a bill has passed, qualifying the heritors of Stirlingshire to carry this East and West direction through the valley of Fintray, to the North of Campsie hills, and through the valley on the river Blane. It may not be improper to observe here, that the people who grumble most in paying money instead of the statute labour, are the cottars and tradesmen; and yet they are the greatest gainers: They don't recollect, that wherever good roads exist, raw materials are easily imported, and manufactured articles have ready access to the market: such local advantages, along with the circumstance of cheap fuel, have been the great reasons of encouraging manufacturers to settle amongst us: the truth is, the public, or the trustees for the public, may be said to have made a bad bargain when they agreed (as the act of Parliament expressly) to receive two shillings from a cottar in lieu of four days labour, although
the

Upon the different lines of roads, there are no less than 19 stone bridges, 4 of which are across the Kelvin. It may be observed, that there are several old causeways in the parish, on the line of road leading to the parish church, which, tradition says, were made by offenders in ancient times, by way of penance; particularly the causeways made by the seven brothers of the name of M^cDonald; these shew the stile in which roads were formed in those early days; as far as can be perceived, they consisted of one large whinstone in the middle, with smaller ones on each side in rows, the breadth of the road being about six feet. There is one radical defect attending the roads of this district; the soil being gravelly, when a sudden thaw comes after a severe frost in winter, the ground becomes so spongy, as to be almost impassable, which can only be rectified by making a layer of beat whinstone below the water gravel, a practice seldom followed. The following table exhibits the state of our roads, and the prices levied at the toll-bar:

	Miles.	£.	s.	d.
Total line of road	20			
Turnpike road	10			
Country road	10			
Money levied per annum in the parish		70	0	0
From the ploughgates		50	0	0
From the cottars		20	0	0
Price of cattle at the toll-bar		0	0	0
Horse and cart		0	0	2
Single horse		0	0	1
The score of cows, sheep, lambs, &c.		0	0	5
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the act expresses, that all those receiving public charity shall be exempted; perhaps it might be an improvement, if women and men, after a certain age, should be excused from paying parish burdens; it would please them, and the public would not be great losers by such mitigation.

Manufactures — At present the leading feature of this parish is its manufactures: Two very extensive printfields have been erected within these nine years; the one in the 1785, at the French mills, stiled the Kincaid printfield, the firm, Henderson, Semple and Company, upon a farm which they have rented from the laird of Kincaid, at three pound per acre: They have constructed not only the most elegant machinery for the calico printfield; but have likewise completed a set of works for the manufacturing all sorts of grain; the fall at this printfield is 22 feet; the grounds are laid out with great taste; and in order to obtain soft pure water, they have dug a reservoir of 120 yards in length, and seventy in breadth, with a small island in the middle, planted with shrubs.

The other was erected in the year 1786, containing a farm annexed to it of about thirty acres; likewise at three pound per acre, where works uncommonly commodious have been erected: The firm of this second, is Lindsay, Smith and Company; both fields are upon a lease of 99 years.

Both these works have been carried on with spirit, and, it is believed, with considerable success. Two circumstances induced the manufacturers to settle in this parish; viz. plenty of pit-coal, and the uncommon supply of water in all seasons; perhaps the circumstances of being situated in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, and of the Canal, might not a little contribute to fix their choice. There are about 306 persons, young and old, employed at each field; each employs 37 tables for block printing, and 17 copperplate presses; they in general bleach their own cloth for printing.

At the Lennox mill print-field, there is another field laid out for bleaching lawns, which there is every reason to believe will succeed perfectly well. The work people at the Wester
field,

field, are commodiously lodged at the new village of Lenoxtown; and at the Kincaid, or Easter Field, several of the printers have feued steadings on the grounds; so that there is every probability of a neat village being built, for the convenience of its servants: At first, (as was to be expected in all new works,) the operative people were a little turbulent; and considering that they were a collection from all the different corners of the country, enjoying high wages, and carried away by the licentiousness of the times, their turbulence was not to be wondered at; but that is now all over; and there are scarce any works in the country, where the people behave more circumspectly towards their employers, and are more regular in their deportment.

These public works employ each of them two Excise officers; and they pay of revenue to Government about four thousand pounds each per annum.

It may be proper to notice, that although the wages of calico printers seem to be the highest of any in the country; no doubt, when the long apprenticeship is considered, along with the unwholesome nature of the work, the wages perhaps should be greater than of most other operative people; at the same time, when it is considered, that the highest wages do not always make the wealthiest tradesman; perhaps, if some method could be fallen upon to reduce the prices, both the tradesman and the public, would be gainers.

The following table exhibits the present situation of one field, as far as is known to the public. There being nearly the same workmen at both, the same table may apply to each.

DENIGNATIONS.		WAGES PER WEEK.	
Block Printers . . .	36	from	18s. to 21s. per week.
Copperplates ditto . .	12	from	17s. to 21s. ditto.
Pencillers	160	from	4s. to 6s. ditto.
Tearing Boys	34		2s. ditto.
Bleachers	26		8s. ditto.
Engravers	16	from	18s. to 22s. ditto.
Miln-Wrights	2		12s. ditto.
Labourers	6		7s. ditto.
Furnace Men	8		7s. ditto.
Excise Officers	2	50L	per annum.
Revenue to Government.		Scool.	per annum.

It may be observed, that as the greatest number of block printers at each field are apprentices, so, of course, their wages are small in proportion: Their masters are only bound, by their indentures, to allow them 3s. per week, for the first four years, and 4s. per week, the last three years; but, owing to the briskness of trade for some years by gone, it was customary to allow the apprentices to work for as much as they could make, giving them the half of the journeyman's price; at present, the wages of the calico printers in this district are somewhat fallen, owing to the great number of turn-overs (as they are termed,) from those fields which have stopped payment. Whether this depression of their wages shall continue or not, the ebbs and flows of the trade must determine. These two printfields pay annually about nine thousand pounds Sterling in wages. This parish may now be said to possess a spirit for carrying on manufactures of different sorts; there being no less than 105 operative weavers in it; 9 of which are employed by private families; the remainder weave to the manufactures in Glasgow, and, as far as can be well ascertained,

tained, earn, at an average, from twenty pence to two shillings per day. †

Population.

† It will not be improper, to take notice of a species of manufacture which has existed in this parish for some ages : We know that it was manufactured, to a considerable extent, as early as the reign of James the 6th, which goes by the name of the Campsie gray ; and was then considered as the staple of the country. It may be proper to describe it : It was spun about the grist of nine cuts out of the pound of wool, each cut consisting of sixty threads, six quarters long ; it was dyed a blue colour in the wool, and wove for a penny farthing the ell, in a ten porter or two hundred reed ; they seldom made it broader than half an ell and a nail of dressed cloth ; and they sold the double ell from half a crown to three shillings ; so that the weaver had for the single yard little more than fifteen pence : It was spun by the women in private families during the summer ; it being customary for each family to have two of these webbs, one of which was got dressed against Martinmas, and sold to pay the master's rent ; the other against New-years-day ; the profits of which went to supply the demands of the family. The fairs of Kilsyth were the great markets for the disposal of these gray webs ; the servant lads used to collect from all the neighbouring parishes, in order to supply themselves with suits of Campsie Gray ; which they would easily do, at the moderate expence of nine pounds Scots ; and perhaps, few countries ever supplied a more cheap, decent, and profitable cloathing for working people — It was all spun, as it is termed, upon the *muckle* wheel ; and a woman used to earn three pence per day besides her victuals : It would be improper to pass over the breaking of the gray web, a scene of joy and gaiety, which will not soon be forgot in this part of the country : If a private family was to have their wool prepared for spinning, a number of country lasses were invited in order to card it ; they generally assembled in the barn ; during the day, a large piece of cheese was cut from the kebbock, and wrapt up in a white cloth, and hid by one of the damsels ; at the gloming, the young lads used to assemble, in order to search for this cheese, and peculiarly fortunate was that young man considered to be, who (having received a watch word from some of his fair friends,) found out the cheese, and had the opportunity of dividing it amongst the simpering damsels. Both the manufactures and days of innocent amusement are gone ; nor has the manners introduced by public works repaired the loss ; it must be owned, however, that since manufactures were introduced, there is an uncommon degree of activity which pervades this district, and which accompanies the people in all their operations ; and perhaps, indeed, I would rather be disposed to pronounce the character of the people in this place inclined to merchandise and adventure.

Population.—This present year, 1793, when the numeration was made, there were 2517 souls. The population of this parish has increased 900, since December 1783, the number then being 1627. In Dr Webster's account it is given up at 1400. From several facts in the possession of the writer of this account, the population of this parish seems somewhat to have declined from the Revolution till the year 1763. The chief cause which has been assigned for this circumstance, was the throwing several small tenements together, making one large farm, whereby a number of families were thrown out of bread, and obliged to emigrate to large towns for their daily subsistence. The number of householders or reeks, previous to the 1783, I cannot mark positively; in that year there were 317; population then being somewhat better than five to a family; in the present year, there are 609 householders, or people who keep reeks, so that the number of souls have not increased in the same proportion as that of householders: the reason is obvious: several young people, printers and pencilers, at the different printfields, keep house, either singly, or perhaps, though married, have not as yet more than one child; so that the population in this parish, even supposing the householders not to increase, is not come to its just level. To shew the proportions from the Revolution to the year 1763, I have subjoined the following table; each statement containing the average of baptisms for five years:

It

Years.	Baptisms.	Average.	Years.	Baptisms.	Average.
1696	49		1734	32	
1700	47		1733	43	
1701	47		1734	28	
1704	41		1735	44	
1705	49		1736	43	
	—	46		—	38

Years.	Baptisms.	Average.	Years.	Baptisms.	Average.
1750	37		1773	33	
1751	51		1774	39	
1752	39			—	37
1753	42		1781	38	
1754	37		1782	40	
	—	41	1783	42	
1760	37		1784	50	
1763	26		1785	46	
1764	44			—	43
1765	34		1789	94	
1766	29		1790	79	
	—	34 *	1791	75	
1770	36		1792	89	
1771	44		1793	115	
1772	35			—	90

It may be observed that the register of marriages seems to confirm the same opinion, that the population had decreased from the Revolution to the year 1763 †:

Years.	Marriages.	Average.	Years.	Marriages.	Average.
1696	17		1790	26	
1697	19		1791	34	
1698	22		1792	27	
1706	18		1793	26	
1707	28			—	28
	—	21			

It is not so easy to ascertain the average of deaths, as no register seems to have been kept, previous to the year 1790, but for these last four years it stands thus :

Years.

* This period seems to have been the lowest, as is likewise evident from the register of marriages.

† It appears, as far as the register of marriages is entire, that the number decreased to about 12; it is now about 28 annually, as appears from the list of the 4 last years.

Years.	Deaths.	Average.	Years.	Deaths.	Average.
1790	38		1792	34	
1791	41		1793	34	36

Allowing our registers to have been accurately kept, which I believe to be as much the case as in most country parishes; it is evident that they are regulated by no general rule: The sudden influx of inhabitants have varied these registers exceedingly. The following table exhibits all the facts relative to the present state of population:

DESIGNATIONS, &c.		Of the three last years of burials, the diseases stand thus:	
Householders,	609	Died of fevers,	8
Inhabitants,	2527	Small-pox,	15
Males,	1234	Consumptions,	26
Females,	1293	Palsy,	2
Below 10 years,	882	Asthma,	1
Born in the parish,	1334	Chincough,	6
Incomers,	1190	Bowelhive, (vulgarly stiled.)	1
Baptisms,	90	Measles,	6
Marriages,	48	Child-bed,	1
Burials,	36	Still-born,	1
Above ninety,	0	Mortification,	1
Above eighty,	5	Old age,	26
Above seventy,	100		

What is now stiled consumption, seems to have been unknown in this district about 60 years ago; and I believe generally unknown in Scotland: Many causes have been assigned for this fact, by medical men. Where people were clothed in plaiding, which somewhat resembles flannel, as was the case till very lately in this district, and where they seldom were confined to work in warm houses, as is now the case, great colds, the forerunners of consumption, would not easily affect them.

Of

Of this population we have subjoined the following table, shewing how they were employed spring 1792

Of the 882 below ten years of age, there were, at the four different schools in this parish, 200	Block-printers 74
The remaining were infants in their parents houses, capable of no employment, 682	Stocking-makers 6
The remaining 800 mâles above ten years of age, are employed in the following manner :	Copperplate press-printers 22
Gentlemen who live on their rents 8	Tearing boys 70
Minister of the Establishment 1	Coaliers 46
Minister of a Relief meeting house 1	Lime-quarriers 40
Surgeon 1	Hill-men at the different pits 10
Farmers and graziers 96	Carters and Carriers 10
Weavers 105	Labourers 20
Tailors 8	House servants to the gentry 11
House-carpenters 11	Farmers and graziers servants 90
Miln-wrights 6	Publicans 17
Black-smiths in four shops 9	Schoolmasters 4
Shoe-makers 5	Students 4
Excise-officers who reside in the parish 2	Grave-digger 1
	Millers 7
	Lint-dressers and glovers 7
	Shop-keepers and chandlers 11
	Bleachers 60
	Dyers 16

A TABLE,

Shewing how the 800 females are employed in 1793.

Wives to the different householders 410	Midwives 3
Daughters, residing in their parents families 170	The remaining seventy-one are either widows or unmarried women, who reside in cot-houses 71
Sevants in gentlemen's families 26	Of the married women and young persons, residing in their parents houses, there may be about one hundred and sixty who pencil calico to the print-fields.
Menial servants to the farmers and different householders in the parish 110	
As sempstresses and mantua makers 12	

Poor.—Every attempt hath been made by the heritors and session to discourage begging ; as yet their efforts have proved abortive ; and although at this moment there is not a single person in this parish understood to be a common beggar, we are still pestered with vagrants. The poor which we countenance as such, generally reside along with their children, or some near relation ; they receive their allowance on the first Monday of each month ; 6s. per month is the highest sum given ; none receive less than three ; at an average there are 20 constantly upon our list. The funds from which they are paid are the collections at the church door, the mortcloth fees and proclamation money, together with the interest of 570l. of which 500l. is secured on heritable property at 5 per cent interest, payable twice in the year : The other 70l. is lodged in bank, payable on demand in case of an emergency ; from those funds we have been able as yet to supply the wants of our poor. The collections at the sacrament, including the preparation and the thanksgiving days, are applied to the relief of those indigent householders, whose situation is not so pressing as to make them objects of the ordinary charity. Although it is believed that the law allows kirk sessions to take possession of the effects belonging to the paupers, so soon as they grant them supply ; we have anxiously avoided being too strict in this particular ; for, callous as the relations of the pauper may be, it is still an inducement for them to assist a little ; whereas, if they had no prospect of succeeding to the trumpry, small as it is, the whole care of their relation would be thrown upon the parish ; and it is well known that 18d per week is not adequate to all the necessities of lodging, clothing, and feeding a pauper. The English system is to support the poor, the Scotch to assist them

The

The session in this parish has hitherto taken the complete management of supplying the poor; the heritors meet once in the year, or two years, as it suits them, to examine and pass their accounts; and it may be said here, as in every parish in Scotland, that it is the cheapest and best managed public fund in Great Britain; the only expence incurred with us is of one guinea per annum allowed to the session-clerk, for keeping the books. Besides the public parochial charity, there are two other charitable institutions, which have lately been founded in the parish, the one known by the name of the Campsie Benevolent Society, instituted in the year 1786, and whose capital already amounts to 110*l.* which Society allows 3*s.* to its members per week if bed-ridden, and 2*s.* per week if merely incapable of work; the other institution is connected with the Lennox-Kilwinning mason lodge; its capital is 70*l.*; it likewise allows liberally to its indigent members.

The annual disbursements by the session are between 60 and 70*l.* Sterling per annum. This parish, considering its riches and its population, could afford its poor a great deal more, providing an assessment took place; the mode of provision by collections at the church-doors, has been considerably hurt by a Relief meeting-house, which hath lately been erected in the parish; the collections made at these houses being either employed to pay their ministers, or to pay the debts incurred in building their chapels, none is given to support the regular poor; such houses, therefore, upon their present footing, are extremely prejudicial to the Scotch mode of providing for the indigent ||.

3 A 2

|| From the opportunity that the writer of this account has had, as a native of this parish, of attending to the state of the poor in this district, he cannot help taking notice of a remarkable trait of the degeneracy of the present age.

Of the Church.—Campsie was a parsonage; the parson of Campsie was the Sacristan of the Cathedral of Glasgow; of course, he must have been one of the residentiary canons; he had a house in the Ratten-row of Glasgow, said to be still in existence; and was accustomed to serve the cure at Campsie by a vicar. As this parish, in Roman Catholic times, contained above 150 plough-gates of land, from which the parson drew tithes; the probability is, that the living was considerable.

Attending

age. About 35 years ago, it would have been considered as disgraceful to children to have allowed their parents to be supported by the session, or even the more distant relations of brethren or nephews, to have heard of their sisters or uncles cast upon the box, as they termed it; it is now astonishing with what greediness people receive public charity; they somewhat consider it as a pension, to which they are entitled. It is not uncommon to perceive children enjoying high wages, and indulging in many of the gaieties of life, neglecting their aged parents: such unnatural conduct was not congenial once with Scottish independence, and that dignified pride, which characterized our forefathers, in their more virtuous days. When a pauper dies, it is customary for the session to provide the coffin and winding-sheet, and mortcloth, gratis. And if there shall be no relation of the deceased in the parish, to contribute for the little entertainment necessary at the funeral, which seldom happens, 5s. is allowed for such expence. As it might tend to throw more light upon the political situation of a country, to examine at what age, and what are the class of people of which the paupers of a parish are composed, I have subjoined the following table, comprehending the different periods of admission, and the sums given.

No. of paupers on our list,	25
Of these there are females,	16
Males,	9
Above sixty years of age,	19
The average of the years of their receiving charity,	8
Of this number of paupers, there are no less than five facile in their mind,	5
The highest sum given is per month,	6s.
It would appear that it is only the hundredth part of the whole inhabitants who require public charity,	
Of these twenty five paupers, eight are unmarried women.	

Attending to that distinction of bishops churches, and mensal churches, it was one of the bishops churches gifted by Donald, Earl of Lennox, to the See of Glasgow, in the year 1270. Those who delight in magnifying the riches of the church of Rome, take particular pleasure in pointing out the yard where the parson of Campsie's corn-stacks were arranged, and the site of the mill which was constantly employed in grinding his grain. There is reason to believe, that he was not the least wealthy heritor of his parish. Previous to the Reformation, we know that Lamberton and Beaton were parsons of Campsie, and afterwards both of them bishops of St. Andrews, men who made some figure in their day *.

The

* Since the Reformation, the names of the clergy who filled that charge, and the dates of their admission, have been preserved in the presbytery records of Glasgow; and they furnish us with a pretty good specimen of the spirit of the times. There is reason to believe, that the clergyman of this parish continued Roman Catholic, and occasionally performed this sacred function in the parish, till the year 1572; he is said to have been a branch of the family of MARR: about that time, we find a Mr William Erskine, a relation likewise of the MARR family, parson of Campsie; he was afterwards titular Archbishop of Glasgow; he is said never to have been in holy orders: How long he continued parson of Campsie, we know not; but we find,

1st, Mr Stoddart, presbyterian minister of Campsie, on the 3d of November 1581.

2^d, Mr James Stewart is settled assistant and successor the 25th of March 1607.

3^d, Mr John Crichton was admitted the 23d of April 1623: He was deposed for what was called corrupt doctrine: There is a tradition in the parish, that he was such a remarkable stout, well breathed man, that he could walk in forty minutes to the top of the Campsie Fells, eating a pease bannock, to a spot which, to this day, goes by the name of Crichton's Cairn.

4th, Mr Alexander Forbes was admitted the 16th of December 1629; and was deposed for not conforming to the Synod of Glasgow, on the third of April 1639.

5th,

The progress of the stipends of this parish, I have not been able to ascertain accurately prior to the year 1618: It is then declared to be two chalders of meal and 600 merks: In the year

5th, Mr John Collins was admitted the 2d of November 1641; he was murdered in returning from the presbytery about Martinmas 1648; the suspicion fell upon the laird of Balglaß, a small heritor in the parish, who was obliged to fly the country to avoid punishment.

6th, Mr Archibald Denniston was ordained the 30th of March 1649: He was deposed by the protesters in 1655, about which deposition Principal Bailie, in his letters, makes the following remark: He was restored in the year 1661, and died 1679; there is a traditionary anecdote mentioned of him, which somewhat marks the character of the man.—In the year 1655 he had begun a discourse on a text, and half finished the first head—In the year 1661, when restored, he took up the second, prefacing his discourse, by saying, that the times were altered, but that the doctrines of the gospel are always the same.

Principal Bailie, in his letters, speaking of Mr Denniston says, “ he was deposed by the protesters in 1655; for his part, he saw nothing evil of the man. The protesters, says he, put in his room a Mr John Law, a *poor Baxter callan*, who had but lately left his trade, and hardly knew his grammar; but they said he was *gifted*.”

7th, Mr John Law was ordained by the protesters in 1656: He was ejected 1661, and was restored 1688; he never officiated again in Campsie.

8th, Mr George Miln was instituted 24th June 1681: He was turned out at the Revolution, and was exceedingly ill used; the worthless part of the parish having risen in a mob and broke his furniture, and threatened his person; this gentleman, however, by way of retaliation, carried away the records of the parish.

9th, Mr John Govan, who had been imprisoned in the Bass, in James the 7th's time, was ordained minister of Campsie on the 5th of December 1688; he died a bachelor the 17th of September 1729.

10th, He was succeeded by his nephew Mr John Forrester, a brother of Forrester's of Dinovan; he died in September 1731, at the age of 25.

11th, He was succeeded by Mr John Warden, a son of the minister of Gargunnoch; he was ordained the 3d of April 1732; which gentleman was translated to Perth, and afterwards to the Canongate of Edinburgh; He was succeeded by Mr William Bell, a native of Ecclesfechan, Dumfriesshire; who

was

year 1649, an augmentation of a chalder of meal, and one hundred pounds Scots, was granted; and in the 1785, a new augmentation was granted; so that the stipend now is 80 l. Sterling in money, two chalders of meal, and one chalder of barley: It would appear, that very soon after the act passed, ordaining glebes to the reformed clergy, that four acres and a half of arable land was allocated to the minister of Campsie: In the year 1646, when a disjunction and annexation took place, three acres and a half more were allocated for pasture; but, owing to the turbulence of the times which followed, the minister never seems to have been in possession of them; so that at present the glebe of Campsie is deficient in pasture; the heritors, about 30 years ago, bought an acre of land, adding it to the four acres and half, without specifying whether it was in part of pasture or not. Till lately, it was customary for the minister to use some overt act to prevent prescription running against him, anent the three acres and a half which had been allocated for pasture. For some time after the Reformation, it would appear that the clergyman had lived in the vicar's house. In 1627, a house was built alternately for the purpose of lodging the minister; it was a small house of two stories, thatched with straw: In 1727, a new house was built on the same site; which house, along with the offices, was repaired in the year 1785, at the very moderate expence of one hundred and twenty nine pounds. The church consisted

was ordained the 24th of September 1747, and died the 8th of May 1783.

1316, He was succeeded by the present incumbent. Thirteen clergymen have therefore officiated in this parish since the Reformation, at least since the year 1582; which, at an average, is nearly 16 years to each incumbent; but what is very astonishing, out of that number no less than five were ejected on account of the turbulence of the times, and one said to have been murdered; facts, which should lead us to value the peaceable and happy times in which we live.

consisted originally of three parts : 1st, What they called the kirk ; 2^d, the quire ; and, 3^d, the vestry ; which corresponded to the uses required in the Roman Catholic times ; it was repaired in the year 1772 : At present it would be by far too small for the parish, if a relief meeting-house had not been erected. The kirk of Campsie, like most of the churches in popish times, is situated at the end of the parish ; whether this was from accident, or from choice of the clergy, to fix it in the most desirable spot, is not easy to determine. If, however, the population of this district continues to increase, there will be an absolute necessity of building a more commodious church in a more central spot, for the better accommodation of the inhabitants. I observed, that in the 1649 there was a disjunction and an annexation of considerable portions of this parish to Kilsyth and Baldernock ; it appears, however, by a dispute which lately took place betwixt the minister of Baldernock and the heritors of Campsie, anent the augmentation of the stipend of Baldernock, that the part disjoined was only annexed *quoad sacra* ; and the probability is, that the proportion annexed to Kilsyth is in the same predicament. All the lands in the parish are now valued, and the free unappropriated tithe is better than 600 l. Sterling annually, as the fund from which the clergymen may have future augmentations. Mr Campbell of Shawfield is titular, in virtue of his being the purchaser of the estate of Kilsyth, from the creditors of the York-building. There is an opinion entertained by some people, that if an act of Parliament does not render all ministers stipendiaries, that on account of certain peculiar circumstances, the minister of Campsie is still titular of the tithes.

The duties of this parish consist in visiting and regularly examining the congregation once in the year, besides preaching three discourses every Sunday, from the 10th of April till the

the 10th of October ; and in winter, two discourses, one of them always a lecture : The sacrament is given once in the year ; three discourses on the fast day, two on Sunday, two on Monday : The action sermon in the church, and the evening sermon ; besides preaching at the tent. People have complained, that the tent preaching was prejudicial : I am inclined to believe the contrary from experience : 1st, On account of its bringing a considerable collection for the poor ; and, 2^{dly}, it accustoms a number of people to meet together in a decent, cheerful, and respectable manner.—I have never heard either the sober, or the serious, or the industrious, complain ; and considering the simplicity of our service, in most other respects, I have all along been accustomed to consider these public religious meetings as beneficial to the manners of the country. The ecclesiastical discipline of this parish is still kept up. As for discipline against fornicators, two days doing public penance in the church, are required, besides a fine of a crown, for each guilty person, to the poor. There has been an opinion entertained, that this public penance has been productive of very bad effects in society ; so far has an idea gone forth of this sort, that, for this reason, some writers have pretended to say, that so long as doing public penance was permitted, no person should be put to death for child murder : I am inclined to believe, that it would be much more the interest of the community, in a political light, that the laws of discipline should be more rigidly adhered to ; for if once the vulgar of any country, consider incontinency as a venial fault, they are almost ready for the commission of any crime ; and as I can easily see, that the shame of doing penance operates to deter others ; in this point of view, it is to be considered as answering the ends of edification. Public baptism is regularly adhered to ; parents requiring pri-

vate baptism for their children, pay half a crown to the poor.

Schools.—There are in this parish two established schools. The parish school was erected in the year 1661, according to the form therein required, under the patronage of John, Archbishop of Glasgow; the legal salary was fixed at 100 pounds Scots: It is remarkable, that in the deed of erection, there is an express clause, declaring, that the schoolmaster, in all time coming, should teach Latin; and that the school should be constantly held at the Clachan of Campsie. There was another school erected in 1727, on a mortification of fifty pounds, left by one Young, a pedlar in Gloucestershire: It is situated at the distance of four English miles from the other. The heritors of Campsie have, somehow or other, permitted the half of the salary belonging to the parish schoolmaster, to be added to the further emolument of this school, of the eastern district.—It is to be expected, in a little time, this mistake will be rectified, and that the parish schoolmaster will receive his legal salary; and, at the same time, the other schoolmaster be sufficiently provided. Besides these two schools, there was a third erected lately at the new village of Campsie, for the benefit of the inhabitants; the teacher has no salary: at the same time, they have always found teachers ready to accept the office upon the bare emolument of the school wages: In the summer season, in the South quarter of the parish, there is commonly a fourth school taught by some young man from Glasgow, who finds it convenient to keep school during the vacation of the College; so that at, an average, there are somewhat above 200 children educated annually in the parish: There are at least one fifth part at school of those who are below twelve years of age. The inhabitants of this parish are, upon the whole,
rather

rather disposed to give their children a good education ; at the time this account was wrote, there were thirteen Latin scholars at the two parish schools ; the other children are certain of being taught to read English, write and cast accompts ; the common style of education is carried on in the following manner : They learn the sounds of the letters, and the union of syllables, in the small spelling book ; then they receive the large spelling book ; then they get the New Testament, and the Bible, in which they commonly read some time ; and then the Collection : they get a question in the common catechism to repeat every morning : there is a public repetition on Saturday, with a psalm on Monday. There being several public works in the parish, the night-school is considerable, being wholly made up of grown persons, who attend for the purposes of writing and arithmetic, &c. The wages are fixed for the parish schools by the heritors and session, at 1s. 6d. per quarter for children, half-a-crown for writing and arithmetic, and 3s. for Latin per quarter, besides what they voluntarily give as a new-year's-gift. It is evident that the encouragement is too low ; perhaps it would be the interest of Government that they should have some little addition of salary given to them ; let the wages remain as low as possible, to induce the people to send their children to school ; from this circumstance of the want of encouragement, and likewise from being in the neighbourhood of an University, from whence students come to be our schoolmasters, who have farther prospects, there have been no less than thirteen school-masters in the parish school, since the year 1759. Upon the whole, I would style the common education of Scotland, partly religious, and partly philosophical ; It would not be our interest to see it violently broken in upon ; it is this mode of education which gives the Scotch nation such an attachment to speculation in religion ; it is only following out what they have been taught in the early period of their

3 B 2

lives.

lives. There are in this parish, three students of divinity, one preacher and two gown students*.

Character, Morals, Genius, &c.—The inhabitants of this district, during the last, and early part of this century, were somewhat conspicuous for drinking and fighting with their neighbours: If any person in this parish, however mean his situation, had received an injury or affront from an inhabitant of another parish; his neighbours considered themselves bound to support him, and to avenge his quarrel: such conduct, however, seems to have proceeded more from pride and

* The peculiar customs of this parish are fast wearing out. It was customary, till within these few years, when any head of a family died, to invite the whole parish: They were served on boards in the barn, where a prayer was pronounced before and after the service, which duty was most religiously observed: The entertainment consisted of the following parts: *First*, there was a drink of ale, then a dram, then a piece of short bread, then another dram of some other species of liquor, then a piece of currant-bread, and a third dram, either of spirits or wine, which was followed by loaves and cheese, pipes and tobacco: This was the old funeral entertainment in the parish of Campsie, and was stiled their service; and sometimes this was repeated, and was then stiled a double service; and it was sure of being repeated at the dredgy. A funeral cost, at least, a hundred pounds Scots, to any family who followed the old course. The most active young man was pointed out to the office of server; and in those days, while the manners were simple, and at the same time serious, it was no small honour to be a server at a burial. However distant any part of the parish was from the place of interment, it was customary for the attendants to carry the corpse on hand spoked. The mode of invitation to the entertainment, was by some special messenger; which was stiled bidding to the burial, the form being nearly in the following words: You are desired to come to such a one's burial to-morrow, against ten hours. No person was invited by letter: and though invited against ten of the clock, the corpse was never interred till the evening; time not being so much valued in those days. It was customary for them to have at least two lyke-wakes (the corpse being kept two nights before the interment) where the young neighbours watched the corpse, being merry or sorrowful, according to the situation or rank of the deceased.

and rustic gallantry, than from a settled malevolence of disposition. The more improved manners, and a more general intercourse with society, have, in a great measure, done away this turbulent disposition; still the natives of Campsie may be considered as a keen tempered people, by no means averse to expose themselves to bodily danger at any time: the young people have no objection to a military life, being fond of novelty and adventure; during the present war, no less than 28 have enlisted in the land service, and seven have entered on board the navy; these remarks chiefly apply to the lower class of people. The gentry, for at least these 40 years, have been remarkable for their sobriety, decent behaviour, and economical habits; of course, they are all in prosperous circumstances; rigid economy was not the virtue of their forefathers*.

Eminent

* About ten years ago, the sudden transition from strict to loose manners was felt very remarkably in this parish; a number of wandering people, from different parts of the kingdom, having settled amongst us at the different parishes:—people, to say no worse of them, not over attentive to regularity of conduct; these persons, however, have now for the most part, left the place. The more sober and industrious have been retained; the younger part of the workmen being now natives of the parish, and more immediately under the eye of their parents and relations—I consider therefore the morals of the manufacturing part of the community, as more regular than they were even five years ago.

The people of Campsie cannot be said to be of a litigious disposition: It is true, from their apparent keenness, you would be apt to imagine that they should be constantly engaged in lawsuits.—The reverse is the case: The higher born and better informed class of people, studiously avoid litigation. Amongst the other description of the inhabitants, much threatening, and a few hasty words, generally terminate the dispute. Neither writer nor messenger at arms reside in the parish; at the same time, considering the number of the transactions which must inevitably take place in a rich and populous district, (even though no law-suit intervenes) a great deal of business is afforded to both professions. Although I could not take upon me to say that the inhabi-

tants

Eminent Men.—This parish has produced no eminent men whose history hath arrested the attention of world, except Mr Bell of Antermony, a gentleman well known to the learned, on account of his travels to China and Persia; this gentleman possessed an uncommon faculty for speaking the modern languages of Europe; nor was he less remarkable for an amiable simplicity of manners, in private life, and the most sacred regard to truth in all he said or did. He was a native of Campsie, having inherited a considerable paternal estate: he died in the 1780, at the venerable age of 89.

Prices of Provisions and Labour.—Provisions of every sort in this parish are regulated by the Glasgow prices; the common people have such an inveterate custom of carrying their eggs, poultry, and butter, to town, that we could often buy these articles cheaper at the cross of Glasgow than in the parish of Campsie. I have subjoined a table of the prices of provisions and of labour, for the year 1794.

	L.	s.	d.
Ducks per pair	0	3	0
Hens per pair	0	3	4
Eggs per dozen, for four months 8d; for eight months, 6d.	0	0	6
Chickens per pair, ready for the spit	0	1	4
Butter per Tron lb. 9d; during two months 11d.	0	0	9
Butter-milk per Scotch pint	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$
Potatoes per peck, corn measure	0	0	$4\frac{1}{2}$
			Best

tants of this district are fond of literary pursuits, it would be doing them injustice, if I did not say they were people of capacity and genius; at the same time, the tendency of their mind is rather towards an active than a contemplative life.

	L.	s.	d.
Best beef per lb. Tron weight, at an average	0	0	6
Ditto ditto in the spring months from 7d. to 8d.			
Lamb per quarter, at an average in the season	0	1	8
Fed veal no fixed price			
Oat meal, per peck, at an average these two years	0	1	2½
Barley at an average per boll - - -	0	18	6
Straw per thrave for thatching - - -	0	3	6
Cheese of skimmed milk per stone - - -	0	4	6
Tarry-wool per stone - - - -	0	7	0
White-wool per stone - - - -	0	10	0
Milk new milked per mutchkin ½, and skimmed, at ½ per choppin.			

It will appear, that living of all sorts is equally dear with any of the great towns in the kingdom; and, I believe, from the following table, that labour will appear equally high.

	L.	s.	d.
Wages of a man servant per half year with board, &c.	5	0	0
Wages of a woman per half year, including ditto,	2	10	0
A common labourer per day, 1s. 4d. in summer; in winter 1s. 2d.—average,	0	1	3
Taylor, besides board per day, - - -	0	0	10
Servants at the printfields per day, during the whole year - - - - -	0	1	0
Miln-wright, - - - - -	0	1	8
Mason, per day, - - - - -	0	1	10
Horse and cart per day, - - - - -	0	3	6
Digging ground, building dykes and ditching, is done at so much per piece, equally high with any part of Scotland,			
Women spin wool per day, with victuals,	0	0	4
Linen yarn spun out of the house per spindle,	0	1	6
Digging potatoes per peck, corn measure,	0	0	0½
			Bark

	L.	s.	d.
Bark-peelers per day,	-	0	0 10
The hire of women per day is regulated by the prices given at the printfield.			

Appearance of the Inhabitants, and Diseases.—The inhabitants of this district may be considered as uncommonly healthy; they are a clean limbed, well made people, rather lean of flesh, in general from five feet seven to six feet high; one half of the young men being above five feet ten, scarcely any above six feet: There are a few who live to a very great age; although, in general, the heads of families live to the age of seventy; which circumstance would induce me to style the place more healthy than if we found extraordinary instances of longevity: there is one circumstance to be taken notice of, which is, the uncommon number of accidental deaths, being somewhat more than two per annum; during the last ten years there were no fewer than twenty three. †

A TABLE, pointing out the manner of their deaths.

† Killed in a coal pit by the choak damp, July 1783,	3
Killed in a coal pit February 1785, by damp,	5
Killed by falling down a coal pit,	3
Killed by the stroke of a horse,	1
Killed by the machinery of the different mills,	3
Killed in a quarry,	1
Killed by a falling of a tree when cut down,	1
Killed by a the fall from a bridge,	1
Killed by the storms when travelling through Campsie Fells,	2
Drowned,	3

Of course, one eighteenth part of the deaths in this parish may be styled accidental; and if we were to carry back the calculation for thirty years, there would be found the same proportion

Antiquities.

Antiquities.—There are few in this district which merit description, except two Caledonian Forts; and even these scarcely arrest the attention, unless so far as they prove that the Caledonians chose to occupy places of strength directly opposite to the Roman wall, no doubt with the design of watching the motions of the legionaries.—These mounds are perfectly circular, with regular fosses; the one is styled the *Meickle Reive*, in the language of the country, and is about a hundred yards in diameter: The other is styled the *Maiden Castle*, about twenty yards diameter: They are both situated at the foot of the Campsie Fells, to which the natives could easily fly, if attacked; and by due North, at the distance of two computed miles, from the peel of Kirkintilloch, said to be one of the chief Roman stations on the wall.

There have been several urns found in the parish, containing ashes and burnt bones; the urns were about five inches in depth, and fifteen in diameter; made of course clay, apparently baked in the sun; a species of freize work encircles the lower edge; they have been found in cairns, generally placed between two flags.

It may not be improper to mention, that Campsie, (before the disjunction and annexation took place,) extended for eleven English miles along the Roman wall; and, of course, many skirmishes must have taken place in this strath, betwixt the legionaries and Caledonians: after a particular examination of the country, I have not the smallest doubt, but that the security of this Roman barrier, depended more upon the almost impassable swamp formed on the North side, than on the strength of its forts; even at this day, it would be no difficult matter to lay the whole valley under water from Bonny, to Balmully bridge, where Graham's dyke crosses the river Kelvin: And the names of the different farms in Camp-

fic, such as Inchwood, Inchterf, Inchbreak, and Inchbelly, evidently point out, that they were once surrounded by water: Inch, it is said in the Gaelic language, signifies an island: thus, the Caledonians would find it impossible to approach the wall on foot; and it is presumed, that the morafs was not sufficiently covered by water, to permit them to cross it in boats. Many people, unacquainted with the situation of the country, have expressed surprize that the Caledonians were so ignorant of the art of war, as to be unable, for so long a time, to penetrate through Antoninus's wall; the truth is, it could not be attacked, but at the extremities. The natives found it easier to pass over the Friths of Forth and Clyde, than to get across the almost impassable swamp opposite to Graham's Dyke; so that when any incursions were made into the Roman province, it is scarcely possible to conceive that these inroads could take place from that quarter which is now known by the name of the parish of Campsie; from the top of the Barrhill, where there was a considerable Roman Fort, any person at this day, taking a view of the country, will concur in the above opinion.

About five years ago, a considerable quantity of silver coin, chiefly of the coinage of Elizabeth, James and Charles I, mixt with a number of Danish and Dutch pieces, were found by one of the *portioners* of the lands of Birdston, when digging a ditch through a morafs; they were supposed to have been hid in the morafs, about the time when the battle of Kilfyth was fought betwixt Montrose and the Covenanters; the marauding parties of Montrose's army having stretched as far West as Birdston, the inhabitants, flying from their depredations, must have hid this treasure, and have forgot where it was deposited, when they came afterwards to search for it.

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous Observations.—It may be here proper to mention a remarkable fact, which marks very much the turbulence of the times, and the impotence of the laws, so late as they ear 1744. The father of the present minister of Campsie paid *black mail* to M'Grigor of Glengyle, in order to prevent depredations being made upon his property; M'Grigor engaging, upon his part, to secure him from suffering by any *hardship*, as it was termed; and he faithfully fulfilled the contract; engaging to pay for all sheep which were carried away, if above the number seven, which he styled *lifting*; if below seven, he only considered it as a piking; and for the honour of this warden of the Highland march, Mr John Lapslie having got fifteen sheep lifted in the commencement of the year 1745, Mr M'Grigor actually had taken measures to have their value restored, when the rebellion broke out, and put an end to any further payment of *black mail*, and likewise to Mr M'Grigor's self created wardenship of the Highland borders.

The last instance in this district of a Baron of Regality exercising the jurisdiction of pit and gallows over his dependents, is said to have been exercised by the Viscount of Killyth, in the 1793; having condemned one of his own servants to be hanged for stealing silver plate from the house of Bancloich: the fellow was executed upon a hill on the barony of Bancloich, styled the Gallow-hill; a part of the gibbet was lately found lying in a swamp, adjoining to this field of blood.

Lunardi, an Italian, the celebrated aeronaut, alighted from one of his aerial excursions in Campsie; having ascended in a balloon from St Andrew's church yard, in the city of Glasgow, upon the 5th of December 1785. At two o'clock in the afternoon, he descended in this parish, at twenty minutes

part two, the distance being about ten miles; the spot where the balloon first touched the ground was upon the property of Sir Archibald Edmonston, Baronet, of Duntreath, on the farm of Easter Muckcroft.

Although this parish has been always conspicuous for its attachment to its sovereign; whether of the Stewart family, as in the last century, or of the Hanoverian family, as in the present century; having raised a militia both in the years 1715 and 1745,—still I cannot help taking notice, in this Statistical Account of a remarkable fact relative to the conduct of some of the inhabitants of this district, which one would almost say contradicts the opinion of their loyalty. In the midst of the most profound peace, and, I may say, of the most unparalleled prosperity; all at once, as it were by enchantment, the operative part of this community conceived themselves to be groaning under the most abject slavery. They immediately associated themselves under the appellation of the Friends of the People: The first society was constituted at the Milton of Campsie, I think, upon Thursday the 8th of November 1792; the second was constituted at New Birbiston of Campsie, the Saturday thereafter: Two other societies were attempted to be formed in other parts of the parish: I believe, however, they did not succeed: The two former met often, kept books, subscribed small sums of money for purchasing political pamphlets, and sent delegates to the different Conventions met at Edinburgh. Concerning the impropriety of such societies, the laws of our country hath already given ample testimony. It may not be improper, however, in the Statistical Account of this parish, to give some description of the people which composed these societies: They were chiefly formed from amongst the journeymen and apprentices at the different print-fields, and a few operative weavers in the village of New Birbiston, mostly
lads

lads from 17 years of age to 30 : There might be amongst them a few half educated people, whose vanity consisted in raising the astonishment of their more ignorant companions, by a detail of political grievances, which had never entered into the hearts of the other to conceive ; various causes co-operated to render Campsie a proper hot-bed for such folly.

In the *first* place, a considerable degree of licentiousness had begun to prevail in this district, owing to high wages ; and as the influx of such wealth had been rather sudden, due subordination of rank was almost totally forgot. In the *second* place, a Relief meeting, about 10 years ago, being erected in this parish, which had drawn off a considerable number of people from the Establishment, and rendered them, in some measure, hostile to the the powers that be ; and I am doubtful but the spirit of innovation was encouraged in a certain degree, by their public teachers, with a view to increase the adherents to their own tabernacle. In the *third* place, Mr Muir, advocate, the unfortunate gentleman who was tried for sedition, having some connexions, and being well acquainted in the place, was naturally induced to try the power of his eloquence upon the inhabitants ; and he succeeded. If to these causes we add the particular circumstance of the character of young people at the different printfields ; men, who have abundance of time in the evenings to cabal together ; men, too, from their profession, rather given to wandering, and fond of novelty, and somewhat naturally addicted to form associations against their master's authority ; we will not be surpris'd that Campsie should be so often mentioned as friendly to these Jacobin societies.

Nevertheless, I am entitl'd to say, that the farmers and the inhabitants in general, (there being no fewer than 2527 people in the parish,) were remarkable for their loyalty, and attachment to Government : They very early formed them-
selves

selves into constitutional societies, for the defence of Government, and published resolutions. Notwithstanding all the bustle which was occasioned by their folly, the different Jacobin societies in this parish altogether, never contained above sixty persons.

Relative Situation of the Parish.—If we compare the situation of the inhabitants this year with certain periods, either in the beginning or middle of this century, it will appear remarkably improved. I have subjoined a table, containing the most remarkable facts, relative to parish œconomics, taken at four different periods: The two first I cannot speak of from my own observations; at the same time, from the opportunities I have had of being made acquainted with them, as a native of this parish, I can affirm that the facts are fairly stated.

Year 1714.

1st, Only three cows said to have been killed for winter beef in the whole parish, the gentry excepted.

2^d, The wages of a man-servant for half-a-year, 9l. Scots; some of the best get 12l. Scots; a woman-servant, 6l. Scots for half-a-year.

3^d, No wheaten bread eat in the parish.

4th, No inclosure whatever in the parish, except about gentlemen's gardens or woods.

5th, No cart or chaise; the gentry rode to church on horseback.

6th, All broad ploughs, the horses yoked abreast.

7th, The men wore bonnets and plaids, and plaiding waistcoats, and plaiding hose; no English cloth whatever was worn by the inhabitants, the gentry excepted.

Year

Year 1744.

1st, The better sort of farmers joined and got a cow for a winter mart, betwixt two of them; the price then being thirty five or forty shillings only for a fat cow.

2^d, No chaise was as yet kept in the parish; some few carts, but these were only used to carry out manure in the spring; the wheels were not shod with iron; and the moment the manure was carried out, these timber wheels were taken down till next spring.

3^d, Perhaps about five or six inclosures were made in the parish: it must be owned, though few, they were most substantially built; they remain entire and firm to this day.

4th, No wheaten bread, no English cloth used by the inhabitants.

5th, A man servant's wages were from thirty shillings to two pounds per half year; a woman's, from nine pound Scots to one pound Sterling; servants in this period uniformly got a pair of hose and shoes besides their fee.

6th, No potatoes, carrots, or turnips, &c. were used by the inhabitants, only a few kail were planted in their yards, for the pot.

Year 1759.

1st, Carts were become more numerous, there being then about twenty in the parish, their wheels shod with iron.

2^d, The broad plough still continued in many places, though, in general, the horses were now yoked, two and two; still there were no fanners for the milns or barns, the farmers being obliged to winnow the corn in the fields.

3^d, A man-servant came now to receive fifty shillings and three pounds Sterling per half year; and a woman twenty five or thirty shillings only per half year.

4th, There were now two wheeled chaises in the parish; and English cloth began to be worn occasionally by the bet-
ter

ter sort of people, along with worsted stockings, and buckles in their shoes.

5th, Potatoes still were only cultivated in *lazy* beds.

6th, Very decent farmers thought it necessary to have some part of a fat cow or a few sheep salted up for winter store.

7th, By the leases granted by the proprietors of land at this time, the tenants were taken bound to inclose some part of the farm; still there was no sown grafs in the parish, and the cattle grazed promiscuously in the winter season.

8th, There were no clocks in the parish, except in the houses of the gentry and principal inhabitants.

Year 1794.

1st, There are nearly two hundred carts in the parish, perfectly equipped for any draught.

2d, There are four post-chaises, and three coaches, and one two wheeled chaise, kept by the gentry, in the proper style.

3d, The wages of a man-servant is betwixt five pounds and six pounds per half year; and a woman's from two to three pounds ditto.

4th, Potatoes is now universally used by all ranks of people, for at least six months in the year.

5th, Wheaten bread is now universally used by every description of people; there being no less than two bakers stationary in the parish, besides some hundred pounds value of wheaten bread brought annually from Kirkintilloch and Glasgow.

6th There have been near three hundred fat cows killed annually about the Martinmas time for winter provision; besides the mutton, beef, and lamb, killed through the season, by two butchers residing in the parish.

7th,

7th, Every lad now dresses in English cloaths and fancy vests, with thread or cotton stockings; and every girl in cotton stuff, black silk cloaks and fancy bonnets.

8th, The quantity of liquor drunk in the seventeen public houses in this parish must be very great indeed; as, I have been told that four and five pounds, at a *reckoning*, have been collected from a company of journeymen and apprentices on a pay night.

9th, The houses of every decent inhabitant of this parish, consist at least of a kitchen and one room, generally two rooms, ceiled above, and often laid with deal floors, with elegant glass windows; and I believe, few of the tradesmen sit down to dinner without flesh meat on the table, and malt liquor to drink: Such is the relative situation of a parish in the year 1794, when some designing people used every effort to convince them, that they were poor, and miserable, and *enslaved*.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The advantages of this parish have been considered as of a very superior kind: The soil is naturally dry; the streams of water for bleaching and driving machinery are numerous; the quantity of coal and lime is inexhaustible; it is completely intersected by excellent roads; and, it is believed, that it is able to supply itself with all the necessaries of life; and, considering the number of strangers which take up their residence amongst us, we are led to believe, that few places are more comfortable to the inferior class of people; Glasgow affording a ready market for the produce both of their farms and their industry.

On the other hand, it may be considered as one of the dearest places in Scotland for all sorts of living, and particularly so for those who live upon fixed incomes; and I am likewise

inclined to believe, from the turn that the young people have taken to manufactures, that farmers have rather found it difficult to procure servants and labourers for the purposes of cultivating the land : Perhaps it will be the interest both of the landlords and the farmers, to fall upon some mode of management which may counteract this growing evil.

NUMBER