

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF ALFORD,

(PRESBYTERY OF ALFORD, COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABER-
DEEN)

By the Rev. Mr THOMAS BIRNIE, Minister.

Name and Situation.

No accounts, but such as are merely conjecture, can be given of the origin of the name of this parish, though it bears the same with the presbytery, and a considerable tract of circumjacent country. Some say, that the name has arisen from the circumstance of the river Don, (which is the northern boundary of the parish, and which runs through the whole length of the county called Alford,) being almost every where, in this part of its course, fordable, when in its ordinary size. Others maintain, that the church was built upon a deserted part of the bed of the Lochel, a small river which passes very near it, and where there had been anciently a ford; and,
from

from that circumstance, *auld fuirde* came to be the name of the church and parish; both these derivations seem to be of modern date, and entirely dependent upon the present manner of spelling; for the names of almost all other places in this county are of Gaelic original; and the name of the parish, in records two hundred years old, is written *Awfurde*, an orthography which corresponds with the present pronunciation.

The county of Alford is situated from 20 to 31 miles West from Aberdeen; and besides the parish of that name, which is the largest, and the subject of this account, comprehends four other parishes, Forbes, Keig, Gillynefsle, and Tough. It is surrounded on every side by hills and mountains, and there is no entrance to it, but by ascending considerable heights to gain the hollow passes between them. On the South, it is bounded by Coueny §; on the East by Menoway or Cainwilliam; on the North East, and North, by Bennachee *, and the hills of Careen; and on the West by Calievar. These boundaries contain a country which, reckoning from the brows of the opposite mountains, is about 11 miles in length, and from 4 to 6 in breadth. A considerable portion of this space is a level country, especially in the lower parts; but the flatness is every where varied by gentle swells, and eminences, which in the upper parts rise to greater height. The climate of this country can neither be said to be very wet or very dry. Its distance from the ocean occasions more intense frosts, and longer lying snows; but, on the other hand, that, and the surrounding mountains, protect and cover this country from the North East fogs and winds, which are so unfavourable to vegetation in less sheltered situations, and places which are upon the coast. Besides several inferior

§ Both anciently royal forrests.

Inferior streams, Alford is watered by the Don, a river of some size, which, gushing through a narrow gullet, between the mountains on the West, winds its course in a direction from West to East, through the whole length of the country, and, after adorning several gentlemen's seats on its banks, flows away through a narrow valley, encompassed on the North, by Bennachie, which rises up into high and magnificent Alpine tops.

The parish of Alford is in length, from South-West to North-East, from 7 to 8 English miles; and from 3 to between 4 and 5 in breadth. It contains nearly 8000 Scotch acres; of which there may be 3600 arable, 3700 of hill, muir, mofs, and pasture grounds, and about 700 of woods. These last consist of planted Scotch firs, intermixed with larixes, beeches, oaks, ashes, birks, and other trees of different ages, besides a good deal of grown timber about gentlemen's seats, and the tenant's yards.

Soil.—The soil on the banks of the Don, is generally a good light loam, very fit for corn crops, but better adapted for grafs, because of the mildews arising from the river, which are hurtful to grain, especially to barley. In the Eastern parts of the parish, the soil is in some places a good deep loam, in others, a strong, but workable clay, and sometimes a mixture of both. In this quarter, and the adjoining parish of Tough, there was formerly a large marsh, now called the Strath of Tough, or Kincaraigie; which was partially drained in the end of the last Century, when the proprietors are said to have gained immensely, by the rich crops which this new soil produced. That part of it which lies within this parish, is mossy; and, though there are some strong clay lands in it, they have, in general, a considerable mixture of mofs. All these soils of lands, which, in this country, are called laighs, or laigh lands, yield precarious corn crops, as their wetness

and lowness subjects them, in late seasons, to frost ; but they would make excellent meadows, if they were properly drained.

All the mosses ly in this quarter of the parish, and they are very much wore out. The largest, called, for its extent, the meikle moss, was accidentally fired, about 1730, in the summer season, and being unluckily very dry at the time, was nearly consumed. The remains of it now afford no better fuel than turfs, which are very clayey, and not only give, but retain a strong heat. The soils in the centre and western parts of the parish, are dry and light, sometimes of a deep, sometimes of a shallow staple, well adapted for lime, and the turnip husbandry, and no less fit, with proper cultivation and manure, for raising heavy crops of corn and grass. The most westerly parts are hill grounds, and, with proper management, would make pretty good sheep walks.

Farms.—The size of farms it is difficult to average, as they differ prodigiously from one another, not only in the whole extent, but also in the quantity of the different soils of land which make up a farm in that country ; and they are in general still under the old divisions, with very irregular marches, as when antiquated notions of convenience, and no idea of inclosing, or regular fields, were in view. The rents run from 60l. and 70l. to 7l. or 8l. for those who are accounted farmers. Under that rent, the possessors of land are croppers, who frequently, however, have cattle sufficient to work a plough. A considerable part of the rent is paid in victual, by the farmers, and sometimes even by the croppers ; and they are in general desirous enough to convert the victual into money, though they will rarely give it's value. Mul-tures have generally been changed into paid rents, and the tenants only pay knaveships to the miller, besides the usual mill services. They are bound likewise to deliver poultry, &c.
for

for which they are paid at an old conversion, which is from $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 6d. for a hen, and so in proportion. On some estates, the tenants are still bound to perform services, such as ploughing, casting and carrying peats, carriages, &c. ; but as they are rarely, or very few of them, at least, exacted, the tenants are not desirous to convert them into money ; and, in general, they would give nothing in lieu of them. On one estate in the parish, the barony of Alford, the cotters and sub-tenants pay for their houses and firing, to the landlord only, a reek hen, and one day's shearing in harvest. Leases were formerly granted for long terms, and for lives ; but they do not seem to have given any spur to the industry of the people : When a lease dropped last Whitsunday, which had been granted in 1743, the son of the original tenant refused to give the same rent for the possession, which had been so long paid. Now, when improvements are commencing, they might be perhaps more beneficial ; but, at present, no leases longer than 19 years, are granted, and frequently they do not exceed 11 or 13.

Agriculture.—In this quarter of the country, all the old-fashioned prejudices of husbandry are still looked upon as sure and infallible rules of good management ; for no differences in extent of possession, or in rent, make any difference in the plans or exertions of the farmer ; and all possessors of land, of whatever description, pursue the same methods, and almost entirely in the same manner.

As agriculture is, perhaps, in this country, in as low a state as in any other part of Scotland, that has the advantage of a good soil, and not an unfavourable climate, it may not be improper to detail the mode of management practised here, which, it is believed, has at one time or other prevailed, even in those parts of the kingdom, which, by the pro-

gress of improvement, are now so well cultivated and so productive. Such a detail, while it presents the real state of this country to the reader, will, at the same time, hold forth a picture of the former state of Scotland; and, by comparison with what it presently is, shew that agriculture has arisen, from the midst of prejudices, supported by popular opinion, and sanctioned by long habit, to be an art practised upon reasonable principles, founded upon facts and experiments; and that the time may come, when the strength, and wealth, and power of the nation, will, by the resources of the soil, and attention to the interests of agriculture, be raised to the highest pitch of which they are capable.

Every farm in this county, is composed of land of different qualities, and managed in different manners, which are distinguished by the names of,—1. Infield, 2. Outfield, 3. Laigh-lands, 4. Pasture-grounds. Of these different species of land, there are no fixed proportions for a farm. The smaller possessions and crops generally consist altogether of in-field; but all the more considerable farms must be made up of the 1st and 2d sorts; and there are many who have no land of the 3d or 4th description; and there are some which are composed of all the 4 different kinds.

The in-field or in-town lands, are constantly in white crop, unless when the farm has very little or very bad pasture, and then, perhaps, a ridge or two is left untilled, to throw up the weeds which ages have nourished in it, to maintain the farmers cattle. One third of it is regularly manured yearly, with all the dung of one year's gathering; and thus, in three years, all the in-field on a farm has been once dunged. The in-field land is generally all stirred immediately after harvest, and the dunged third part is again ploughed in spring, and sown with bear about the beginning of May, and this crop is succeeded by two crops of oats, sown upon the
winter

winter furrow, as soon as the season will permit; when the land comes again in course to be manured, and undergoes the same rotation. The in-field land is generally an excellent soil, full of manure, but stocked with destructive weeds, of which wild oats and knot-grass are among the worst. Without the intervention of grass and green crops, to destroy the weeds and recruit the soil, the produce of the corn crops cannot be supposed to be in any proportion to the goodness of the land. An average, in tolerable seasons, will not exceed from 4 to 5 bolls *per* acre.

The outfield lands are managed in different ways, either by folding or cropping, without manure, or by water falling. This last method can be practised only in particular situations, having the command of water, and where the ground hangs considerably *, to admit of spreading the water easily over it; and it is intended to fertilize the soil, for a succession of three or four crops of oats. Though no great care or attention is bestowed, in spreading the water equally, the first and second crops are said frequently to equal those produced on the same lands by liming; but the two last are, as it may be supposed, *equally inferior*. After these corn crops, the land is left two or three or four years, to get a sward for another watering, and succession of grain crops. As this mode of cultivation is limited to particular spots, out-field lands are more generally managed, by folding and cropping, without any manure; and their extent, and the stock of cattle which the farmer possesses on the pasture on his farm, will enable him to keep all the circumstances, which lead him to follow either of these methods. Where the out-field is extensive, and does not produce better than ordinary grass, it is impossible in
general

* Land is watered in this county for cropping, and meadow grounds are never watered, as in England, for pasture.

general to fold upon the whole, unless the pasture grounds are of a proportionable extent; and therefore one part is folded upon, and the other is not; and where the out-field is small, it cannot be divided into folds, of which *eleven* † is accounted by the farmers of this country, the most proper number for their rotation. One of these folds is every summer furrounded with a feil (turf) dyke, and the cattle are inclosed in it during the night, till after harvest, when the dyke is knocked down; the land is ploughed, and left in that state all winter. In spring, oats are sown; and as soon as the crop is off the ground, it is again ploughed for a second, and so on till it has borne *five* ‡ successive crops of oats; and then it is left five years lee, to throw up whatever poor grafs such worn out soil will produce. The first two years the grafs is as bad as possible; and though, during the other three it thickens, yet even at the best, it gives but a scanty bite to the cattle. The sixth year it is again folded upon and dunged; and thus, in eleven years, where the number of folds is eleven, a fold is 5 years in corn **crop**, 5 lee, and one in preparing for another similar succession. The out-fields, which are not
dunged

† This number is thought the most proper, where 5 successive crops are taken; but, upon some farms, the out-fields are in divisions of 9 and 19 folds.

‡ It is said that *three* crops only of oats, upon toathed or dunged out-field, were allowed by the ancient customary law of Scotland; and that action for damages lay at the instance of the landlord, or of the incoming against the outgoing tenant, if he injured the possession by a more severe round of crops. Some documents of the use of this action, are said to be still extant, in the records of the Sheriff Court of Perth. It is certain, that where out fields were formerly managed by folding, and where they still are so, the most general practice is to take three crops only. In some places, five crops were probably allowed of old by the landholders; and the record of a court of the barony of Alford, 11th May 1794, affords very good evidence that this was the case in this county.

dunged by folding, (or as it is here called, toathed,) are cropped with oats, upon the same plan as those that are, with the difference of being one or two years less in tillage, and one or two more lee. Under this division of the lands on a farm in this county, faughs or faughlands, (a corrupt pronunciation of fallow) are included. They are ploughed once in summer, and left in that state till spring, when they are sown with very inferior oats, of which they bear three or four successive crops; and are then left to the operations of nature for several years, to recruit them for another period of tillage. The soil of out-field land, in general, is inferior to that of in-field, only by the difference in cultivation, and being more stony. The bad usage of the untoathed out-fields and faughs, will easily account for their want of fertility, in raising grain crops; but more especially in producing grass, the badness and poorness of which it is not easy to describe. The oats sown upon out-field lands, are in quality according to the goodness of the soil, and the state in which it is. In the best dunged folds, the white oats, and in the inferior lands, and on faughs, grey oats, called here hairy and barley corn, are generally sown. As, after folding, the land is only once ploughed, and frequently with a deep fur, the dung is buried the first year, and works its effects on the second and third crops; and, therefore, the first three crops are nearly alike, and will rarely run beyond four bolls per acre, on an average; and for the two last years, they dwindle down to betwixt two and three, and often less. The produce of the untoathed out-fields, is much inferior in quantity, as well as quality; and indeed the return from faughs in grain, will seldom defray the expences of labour and seed; and the farmers are tempted to plough them, though it is to their own loss, merely for the sake of the small quantity of straw which they

they yield ; and because, under their bad management, such lands will give no grafs.

Lairhlands are in general a strong deep heavy foil, and in this country are either alternately in oat crop, and lee, or 2 years in oats, and one or two in lee. In dry early seasons, they give good crops of good grain, and always a great quantity of straw ; but in wet and late harvests the grain is never fit for feed, and sometimes not good enough for meal, as these lands, owing to their lateness and wetness, (for they are not sufficiently drained in this country,) are liable to be frosted before the corn is perfectly ripe. They however through up abundance of good natural grafs.

The pasture lands consist either of benty muir, marshy grounds, which cannot be ploughed, the banks of rivers and rivulets, or hill grounds. These lands have never received any manure to meliorate them, but that which drops from the cattle during the day ; but they have for centuries been wasted by the practice of cutting up the sward into turf, for the different purposes of mixing it with the stable and byre dung, (muck-fail* ;) of building the walls of houses, when it is called

* The practice of cutting up sward for manure or muck fail, was prohibited by an Act of Parliament, made for the county of Aberdeen, as long ago as 1685, under a penalty of 100l. Scots bolls, *toties quoties*, to the masters of the ground ; and in case of their neglect to execute the Act, the sheriffs and justices were enjoined to put it in execution. There are still many places in this county where this law should be enforced. This Act shows that the Legislature was, even in those times, not ignorant of the bad consequences of continual grain crops, and the want of proper provender for cattle in winter, and that they knew green crops to be the proper remedy ; for it contains an enactment, whereby a certain proportion of the in field of every farm (valuable according to its Highland or Lowland situation) was ordered to be sown with pease yearly, and regulations for punishing persons who should steal the pease. Pease was the only green crop known in those times.

led fail; of roofing houses, when the sward is pared thin, and for fuel, which they call troves. The hill grounds have been likewise much much injured by burning the heath in improper seasons and places; and no pains are taken, even where the situation will admit of it, to extirpate heath by watering. A considerable part of the pasture lands in this parish, might be made good arable soil, by draining, and the other means of improvement. The hill grounds might, by good management, be greatly bettered; and there are several tracts of ground which fall under the division of pasture lands in this district, that are only fit for plantations.

In this county, and indeed pretty generally over this country, farmers almost never change their seed, using always the produce of their own farms; but they are at some pains to have it as good and sound as the best of their corn with repeated winnowings will give. The best oats in this country are of an excellent quality; for in tolerable seasons, the boll † will yield 8 or 9 stones, and even more of meal, which is ground much smaller and better sifted than in the South of Scotland. The gray oats, or barley corn, neither give so much in quantity, nor of such quality; and they are sometimes so bad, as to require two bolls to produce eight stones of meal. In spring 1783, when there was great reason to apprehend that the crop of 1782 was too scanty and faulty to afford a sufficiency of good seed, a cargo of fine Dutch oats was sent to this country by the late Mr Farquharson of Haughton, for his own tenants and the neighbours, and they contributed to secure the next crop. These oats were, however, said to degenerate by bad cultivation, and they were liable to shake before they were perfectly ripe; and for these reasons they are not now sown. The Montgomery or Magbiehill oats have

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been

† Our boll is 9/67 per cent. better than the Linlithgow or standard measure.

been lately introduced by Mr Leith of Whitehaugh, upon his own very extensive farm, in the neighbouring parish of Tillyneshle; they possess the advantage of ripening three weeks before the common oat, and therefore the extension of their use will be a great improvement

The bear grown in this country by common farmers, is all of the Scotch kind; and though the seed is procured in the same way as that of oats, weighs, in general, 18 stones per boll †, and will, in particular situations and seasons, even come to 20 and 21 stones. A considerable quantity of meal and bear, probably from 800 to 900 bolls, is annually sent from this parish to Aberdeen, our only or chief market for grain. Bear and oatmeal have given good prices of late years, though the smallness of our meal is a great disadvantage to it in the West country market, to which it was usually sent some years ago. Oats are never carried to market by our farmers, though there is a demand for them; a circumstance which must be attributed more to habit than the effects of thirlage. Potatoes are not much used here, though every person who rents land plants a small quantity. The common people are not very fond of them, and they think them unwholesome; nor will farm servants make a meal of them, or even eat them without milk or butter, so readily as in other parts of Scotland. To pease-meal or bear-meal they have rather a dislike; and in general, garden vegetables of all sorts are not so much cultivated or used as in other parts of the kingdom. Very little flax has been hitherto raised in this country; and as we have excellent soil for it, and the country people are under the necessity of buying all the linen, when they might get it much cheaper by manufacturing it at home, this want of flax must be attributed to the difficulty in dressing the lent; but

† One barley boll is 9.767 per cent above the standard.

but as that obstacle is now removed by the erection of a lint mill in the neighbourhood by Mr Leith of Whitehaugh, the culture of this plant is becoming much more general and extensive.

Field turnips and sown grasses, with ordinary attention, have answered remarkably well in this country; and as the farmers are convinced, by small trials, of the benefits which attend that mode of husbandry, they are more desirous than formerly of improving in that way, though it is still no easy task to persuade them to abandon their old habits and prejudices.

The number of black cattle in this parish (in December 1793, when the year's sale is over) is 953. Of these 346 are oxen for the plough, of which there are 65 in the parish, almost all of the old Scotch construction. Every farmer is ambitious of having many pairs of oxen in his plough; some have 6, many have 5, and few common farmers, with any extent of possession, have less than 4 pairs. Smaller tenants yoke oxen, horses, and even bulls, cows, and young cattle, promiscuously, to make up what they deem a sufficient strength. No difference in the nature of the soil is attended to in proportioning the strength and number of the cattle; for a farmer, who yokes 10 or 12 oxen, employs them all, whether he plow his in-field land, or the most rugged stony out-field. Neither does this make any great difference in the quantity of land ploughed at a yoking, which is from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre*, and which corresponds with the poor feeding of the cattle. Oxen, which sold 40 years ago at 2l. or 3l. sell now from 5l. to 7l. and those of the best kind and size among common farmers, will even rise to 8l. and 9l. Every farmer sells one or two pairs of oxen yearly, and replaces them by others of his own rearing.

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Forty

* The country people compute land by the quantity sown with a boll of seed; which may be very little more, if any thing, than a Scots acre.

Forty years ago, 11. 5s. or 11. 10s. was the price of a cow that will now bring from 31. to 51; but as they are poorly fed, they are of a small size, and will not give above 4 or 5 Scotch pints of milk per day, even in the best of the grafs. A farmer's dairy, therefore, is barely sufficient for family consumption, and as the milk is used sweet, little butter or cheese is made, and that little is rarely sent to market, but laid up for winter use, when milk cannot be had. The cows calve in the beginning of March or end of April, which is an additional reason for their giving little milk; but, on the other hand, early calving is thought, by the country people, to be advantageous to the calf, by giving it more time to acquire strength, before the approach of winter. For the same reason, calves are universally permitted to go at large through the fields, during summer, and pick up the grafs at the roots of the corn. This practice is occasioned by the want of proper food and inclosures; as the calves would be much injured by feeding or being confined with the large cattle in the folds, or in houses, during the summer season; and it is attended with much damage to the corns by their lying upon, and treading it down; and the calves get a restless habit, so that ever after it is impossible to confine them but by the strongest and most impenetrable fences. In winter, the calves and all other cattle, are housed, during the night, and fed with straw, which, when the land is overrun with weeds, is not a great deal inferior to coarse hay. After the first winter, they accompany the other cattle, till they are cows or oxen; for it is not usual to sell very young cattle in this country. In the spring season, all cattle in this country are in very low condition, the straw being by that time not only scarce, but dried, sapless, and less nourishing: and by want of shelter, and on account of the poor state of the land laid out for grafs, it is very late in rising.

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The number of horses in this parish is 172. They are well bodied and clean limbed, but they want a sufficiency of bone *; and, as they seldom rise above 13, or $13\frac{1}{2}$ hands high, they are under sized for draught. Their other characteristics are, a large ill-shaped head, with a thick neck and stiff mane; they are hardy, and easily fed, and, upon the whole, serviceable horses. In this country, horses are not generally employed in ploughing, but they draw the harrows, which here are only used to cover the seed, and are by much too light and unfit for any of the other purposes of agriculture, to which proper harrows are applied. They perform all the cart work, which principally consists in journeys to mill and market; in carrying home the corn in harvest, and preparing and carting out dung. Their food is the same as that of horned cattle, with the addition of the light corn; and this, with a little more attention to their cleanliness and bedding, (though they are not rubbed down or curry-combed) keeps them more in flesh, and in better condition, than other cattle. By the rise of price, † which, 40 years ago, was from 2l. to 3l. for a horse, that now costs from 9l. to 12l., the breeding of horses has turned a profitable use of land; and farmers endeavour, at least to supply themselves, by keeping mares. The number of carts in this parish, has increased greatly within these 20 years, and is now 79.

Creels

* Some ill-judged attempts have probably been made, long ago, to raise the size of the native horses of the country, by crossing them with tall well bred horses, from other parts of the kingdom, without giving the progeny proper and sufficient feeding to keep them up to the standard; for the description does not correspond with the common unmixed breeds of Scotch horses.

† The rise of price lately, is owing to the demand from the Southern parts of Scotland, or North of England, where our small horses are said to work in the collieries.

Creels and crook-saddles are entirely in disuse. The ignorance and inattention of the farmers of this country, are more conspicuous in the management of their sheep, than in any other branch of rural œconomy. There are in the parish, at present, about 1300; but, in summer, there will be twice as many. The greatest part of these are the small white faced Scotch sheep, which seem to be natives of this country; but there are a few which are bred between these and the black faced Tweeddale, or Linton breed, here called *bruket* sheep; and there are others, which, by the remoteness of the original, crossing and intermixing again with the sheep of the country, partake, more or less, of the two species.

This cross breed has probably been at first brought into the country, with a view to raise the size of the carcase; but, although the price of sheep has nearly tripled within these 40 years, neither the carcase nor the wool have been much attended to by our farmers, whose principal object, and, by their own account, chief gain, is in the dung which manures their folds. They are looked upon as prejudicial to cattle, because the country people think that they eat up a great deal of the grass; and, therefore, none but those who have extensive hill-grazings, keep any sheep.

The hill grounds are not, however, particularly kept for sheep; but young cattle and young horses are turned out upon them. The flocks of several tenants generally range the same pastures in common; and as every one is desirous to keep as many as he can, they are very generally over-flocked. When a farmer has not a sufficient stock of his own, or more pasture ground than is proportioned to his winter feeding, he takes in sheep during the summer, at the very moderate rate of 2d. *per* head for three months, though, as he looks upon the dung of the animal as his profit, they are allowed

to

to remain five. In the summer, sheep are turned out to the hill, to range at their own discretion, and, at night-fall, a boy is sent to drive them down to the folds, from which they are frequently not released till the morning is far gone.

As we have no shepherds, nor even good sheep dogs, so there are no divisions of the flocks, according to their sexes, or ages, nor any ground hained for winter. In this season, they are turned out upon the arable lands of the farm, which have not been in corn crop; and seldom sent to the hill, unless the weather is very mild; but during storms and falls of snow, their subsistence must depend upon heath || broom, or any thing else, which can be reached by scraping. No salve or smearing is used in this county; and if a farmer's stock is not very numerous, the sheep are crammed into small houses, built for the purpose, during the night, and what with the alternate heat and cold they thus undergo, and the poor scanty feeding of this season, they are in spring reduced to a very lean weakly state, which it requires a considerable part of the summer to restore. The grounds, however, are healthy, and no very mortal or difficult diseases prevail among the flocks on account of the pasture. The improper burning of heath grounds has been highly detrimental to sheep in this country; for the farmers never consult the proper situation of the place in regard to shelter, the nature of the soil, and the favourableness of the season for this purpose; nor do they herd the burnt ground, to preserve the tender grass, which springs up, from being plucked out at the roots, by the sheep.

|| In deep snows, the country people uncover the heath with spades, to enable the sheep to pluck it. Farther up the Don, in the country called Strathdon, which is more stormy, but where they have many more, and much better sheep than here, this is a common practice. There, likewise, the farmers cut off the heath, when it is in flower; and after drying them, lay them up for winter provision.

sheep. The bad consequences of improper burning are now felt, and likely to be put a stop to by the proprietors §. Swine are never kept here but by millers, who dispose of the refuse of the grain from these mills in feeding them. We have a good many markets round the country, at from 4 and 5, to 12 and 14 miles distance, where lean cattle are bought up by drovers, principally from the South country, and all for the southern markets. Horses are likewise bought and sold in these markets, as well as lean sheep. The Aberdeen butchers, in the autumn, buy the best grass-fed widders, at from 10s. 6d. to 12s.; but few if any cattle are felled here for the shambles, as either by combinations among the butchers, or for some other cause, the price given by them is very low, and full 30 *per cent.* under that given in Angus. There were anciently weekly markets held at Meiklendovie, in this parish, and great yearly fairs at that place, and Kirkton of Alford. Those at Meiklendovie have been discontinued for many years; but there are still three fairs at the Kirkton, for the sale of cattle, horses, sheep, &c. and small wares; but they are of no great consequence.

The general manure in this county, is stable and byre dung, which the common farmers mix up with a considerable quantity of muckfail or clay. The muckfail is very poor turf, cut up in the nearest muir, a practice which was once in vogue, in every quarter of Scotland; and which is still looked upon in this country as a most important article in husbandry, and occupies a great deal of time. Where good clay is to be had, it is used in preference to the muirish fward; and it is certainly much better, though our in-field
lands,

§ There are many laws, respecting the burning of heath grounds. They are all intended with a view to protect the game; but if they were chiefly enforced, they would be advantageous to sheep, though the ground cannot always be burned in proper season.

lands, those only which are manured in this way, do by no means stand in need of a claying every three years. All our farmers are most miserably defective in that grand requisite in good farming, the raising of manure; for the whole dung made on a farm in one year, even with the addition of muck-fail or clay, is barely sufficient for manuring one seventh, or, at most, one sixth of the land which produced the straw. All attempts to discover marle have hitherto proved unsuccessful; and the only factitious manure which has been tried in this country is lime; and as trials of it have been made to a very considerable extent, there is no doubt of the practicability, and value of the improvement. The late Mr Innes of Breda, by liming and inclosing, accompanied by proper husbandry, improved a property in this parish in twenty years, which was lately sold at triple the price he paid for it; nor are there wanting instances of proprietors, and even of tenants, though above the ordinary level, who have, with equal advantage, carried on similar improvements. The expence, however, though the returns with good management, in the long run, do much more than repay it, is very great. The cheapest method of procuring lime, is to bring it from Aberdeen, at the distance of from 25 to 30 miles: At that port the price is very high; for all the lime-shells imported there, are either from the Sunderland lime-works, in the North of England, or those at Charlestown, in the Frith of Forth, which belongs to Lord Elgin. Lime-shells, from the first, give 3 returns; and of the last, from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ of flaked lime. The Aberdeen boll of lime-shells is four corn firlots, or 128 standard Scotch pints \parallel , for which the merchants receive from 3s. 1d. to 3s. 3d. for Sunderland, and from 2s. 7d. to 2s. 9d. for Charlestown shells. The carriage from Aberdeen to this

VOL. XV. 3 O country,

\parallel Seven cubic feet, and 150 cubic inches.

country, of so bulky and heavy an article, is the chief obstacle to improvements by means of lime. When Aberdeen carters are employed to transport lime-shells to this country, they are paid at the rate of 11s. or 12s. for every three bolls, according to the distance; three bolls weigh about 1300 cwt., and require two horses, as neither the roads nor the horses are good. Some reckon this the cheapest way, but others hire the carters to deliver the shells 15 miles from Aberdeen, where they take them up with their own cattle; and they pay at the rate of 20d. per boll; but it is not uncommon to send horses and servants to Aberdeen with grain, and even without a load, and to bring home lime-shells in return. As the Sunderland shells contain a greater quantity of calcareous matter in the same bulk, and in less weight, than those of Charlestown, they are generally used here, and at the rate of from 16 to 20 bolls per Scotch acre, which, when properly applied, have constantly worked great effects. The great expence of liming, especially in the carriage, which, with their weak ill fed cattle, the country people cannot avoid, has hitherto deterred them from using it as a manure to any extent; and, indeed, without a total alteration of their mode of cropping, it would be dangerous and hurtful to their farms. Heavy as the expence of procuring lime, in this country, is, the advantages of it in meliorating the soil, are so great, that it may be looked upon as an article highly essential; and necessary for attempting or carrying on improvements. The only means to diminish this expence, are either to discover tolerable workable limestone in the country, or to lower the expence of carriage. The attempts to discover workable limestone, have not hitherto been either general, or well conducted, and though there are many indications of it in the country, no regular quarry has been hitherto found. It is probable, that the gentlemen will soon turn their thoughts
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with some effect, to that important object, and if they are successful, we shall have lime-shells as cheap, at least, as they can be purchased at Aberdeen, after defraying all expences, the heaviest of which will be the price and carriage of coals from Aberdeen to burn the limestone. If this great source of improvement fail, our only other alternative; is, to cheapen the carriage, by altering and mending the roads, which have lately begun to receive very great attention in this country.

There are few fields properly inclosed, but those which surround gentlemen's seats; and the only fences which may be called good, are stone dykes though there is little doubt that, upon a proper plan, with proper preparation and attention, thorns would thrive well, make good fences, and, consequently, a most valuable and lasting improvement in this country; but they have in very few places had a fair trial. The country people are not averse to inclosures, though they will neither build nor pay a per centage for building stone dykes, which cost from 2½d. to 4d. per Scotch ell §, according to the materials and height of the dyke; besides carriage of the stones; and they cannot bear the trouble of protecting or raising a thorn hedge. They seldom make a proper use of inclosures where they have them; for it is not uncommon to see an inclosed field in patches of corn and grass; the only real use of inclosures to them, therefore, is to serve as a barrier to the farm in winter, when, if the weather is open, the cattle of the great and of the small farmer, range promiscuously over the whole country, without regard to any farm or any boundaries. This practice has been prohibited || by the Legislature long

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ago,

§ A Scotch ell is little more than 37 English inches.

|| Winter feeding was strictly enjoined, and the practice of turning out cattle, to go at random, prohibited, under severe penalties, in 1606. The utility of the law is obvious.—Pity that it is not more rigorously executed.

ago, and it deserves very severe reprobation, as it is a most effectual bar to improvements of every kind; and especially to the culture of grafs and corn crops.

The wages of farm servants have been very greatly raised within these few years in this country, owing to the great demand and high price of labour in Angus, the Mearns, and Southern parts of Scotland, together with that occasioned by the number of extensive manufactories, recently erected in Aberdeen. Forty years ago, a man's yearly wages were from 1*l.* Scotch, or 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* Sterling, to 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* and a woman's 16 merks, or 17*s.* 9½*d.* and they are now from 5*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.* for a man, and 2*l.* 10*s.* for a woman. Though these wages do not appear high, when compared with those given in other parts of Scotland, they are very severely felt by the farmers of this country; and indeed, when it is considered that servants in this quarter do not work as in other places; that the extent of ground ploughed, harrowed, reaped, &c. is very great, when compared to the produce; that for these reasons many servants are required; and that the maintenance of them is a much higher article than their wages, especially where there are many mouths; and when, in addition to these pecuniary disadvantages, the difficulty in procuring servants, their waste, indolence, carelessness, and insolence, are taken into account, it is not to be wondered at, that the expence of farm servants, in this country, cuts very deep upon the produce of the farm, or (as the tenants generally say) that it is a greater burden on them than their rent. Besides the ordinary servants of his farm, a farmer has to provide a number of extra hands for his harvest work. This work is never done by the piece or day, but an agreed-upon-sum, together with the reapers victuals, (frequently accompanied by

very

very ridiculous stipulations *) are given as a harvest fee, during the whole time of cutting down and carrying home the corns. These harvest fees have been rising for some years, and are now 1l. 15s. or 2l. for a man, and 1l. for a woman, besides victuals; and the risk of bad weather, to protract the harvest, and lay hands idle, whom the farmer must maintain, and every thing else being taken into view, it will be found, that the expence of harvest work runs very greatly out of proportion to that of every other species of labour. This disproportion is the cause of many of the grievances we feel, with regard to ordinary servants; for these high harvest fees being nearly equivalent to a half years wages, not only deter the people, especially women ‡, from engaging to work to a master, but induces servants to desert their service upon the slightest pretences; and it is much to be regretted, that the dislike of getting what they call a bad word, among servants, generally ties up the farmer from applying for that redress which the law affords. The same silly idea leads them to give way to the grossest abuses in their domestic concerns. A farmer must often rise from bed at 3 or 4 o'clock, in a winter's morning, to admit his servants, who have been junketing all night in the neighbourhood; and he must perform all the morning work of a farm, in tending cattle, &c. long before they get up, to assist him; nor is it uncommon for a farmer to go with his cart and horses to Aberdeen himself, because he will not only take better care of his cattle, but perform the journey at less expence than his servant. In short,

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* Such as, for example, that the reaper shall have such and such persons on the same ridge with him.

‡ Women, when they are not engaged as servants, spin, and make their own clothes, or work stockings, till the harvest approach; and thus are gainers by not entering into farmers service.

the common meaning of language here is totally reversed; and servants do not so much serve, as rule and tyrannize over their masters. The subtenants and cottars do not work much to the principal tenants; but they pay them higher rents than the principal pays to his landlord, and they ease him of a good many services; and though this class of possessors of land add to the population of a country, they are not, here at least, always to be reckoned the most useful and industrious members of society. There are many of them, who, if their small piece of ground will barely find them subsistence, will not endeavour to better their condition by labour or industry, though there is always work enough for labourers; and they lead an easy, indolent life, except in harvest, which is a season of general exertion. The wages of artificers here are as high as in any part of Scotland, and those of day labourers are 8d. in summer and 6d. in winter; high enough, considering their work; yet the high price of meal commonly proves a stronger inducement to make them work than these wages. Working by the piece, except at mason-work and dyking, is not general in this country; nor will the country people undertake it even for common works, such as trenching, ditching, &c. unless they have an enormous profit.

The fuel of this country is peat, wood, turf, heath broom, &c. With the first, there are only two estates in the parish supplied; and though the tenants of those properties are on a better footing than the others, still the labour of procuring peats is so great, that it admits of a doubt, whether coal, under the disadvantages of a high price, and a long carriage, would not be cheaper. Except the roots and crops of trees, wood is little used for fuel, as it is very expensive; and broom and heath require much labour.

Roads.

Roads.—The roads in this county have been originally formed, either by the statute labour, or by the military, under the order of Government. Of this last description, there are two roads which cross each other, in this parish; the great Northern road, which leads from Fettercairn, over the Cairn of Month to Huntly, and the road which goes from Aberdeen to Corgarff, a military station on the sources of Don. Both these roads, since their formation by the soldiery, have been kept in repair by the statute labour of the several parishes through which they pass, as far as it would go, to maintain them jointly with other roads in the parishes. The statute labour has not been hitherto converted into money in this country; and, of consequence, as in every other country where the statute labour is performed in work by the country people, it is found inadequate to the support of the roads, both public and parochial. The last mentioned military road, forms the communication between a very extensive country and the city of Aberdeen, and has, of late, as well as on several former occasions, become almost impassable. In aid of the statute labour, the gentlemen whose estates lie in this country, have twice made very liberal subscriptions for its repair; but in 1792, when it was again in a very bad state, after mature consideration, its direction, for a considerable way, was found to be highly improper; and it was agreed, that a new road, for nearly 9 miles in length, with a view to obviate the disadvantages of the old track, should be undertaken. L. 600. has been subscribed for this purpose, and the work is considerably advanced. When it is finished, there is good reason to expect, that the improvement of this country will go on with additional briskness, as it will give us an excellent communication with our chief market place, and enable the farmer to bring home lime, coal, and the other necessary articles of country consumption, much more easily,

easily, and therefore more cheaply, than he has been wont to do.

Manufactures.—The only manufacture in this county worth mentioning, is that of knitting stockings, which has been long established in Aberdeenshire*. The country part of the manufacture, is carried on entirely by women, to whom the wool is delivered out by the Aberdeen stocking merchants, who have fixed stations over the country, for giving out wool, receiving stockings, and reckoning with those whom they employ. The wool is almost all imported from England, and none of the growth of the country is manufactured; for which reason, our wool is very inferior, and the fleeces of a flock not worth more than 6d. each, on an average. It is spun and worked into stockings, at a price proportioned to their fineness or coarseness; and the average gain of a good worker, will be 2s. per week. This manufacture has contributed to keep hands in the country; but it admits of some doubt, whether these hands might not be more profitably employed, and whether the manufacture has promoted the interests of agriculture; but it certainly contributes little to health, and conduces less to morality.

Antiquities.—In this parish, the Marquis of Montrose, upon the 2d day of July 1645, won the battle of Alford, by defeating Baillie, one of the Generals of the Covenanters; but his cause sustained an irreparable loss, in the death of the Lord Gordon, the eldest son of the Marquis of Huntly, who
fell

* According to the accounts of the Aberdeen merchants, (who export all the stockings, either to Holland and the northern parts of Germany, from whence they are often sent to America) the sum circulated through the country in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, merely for spinning the wool and knitting the stockings, is from 70,000 l. to 90,000 l. per annum. These accounts are, however, in all probability, much beyond the truth.

fell by a random shot, in the pursuit, near a large stone on the field of battle, which is still pointed out by the country people. About 50 years ago, some men, in casting peats, dug up the body of a man on horseback and in complete armour, who had been drowned either in the pursuit, or flight from this engagement; and formerly, the country people were in use, when casting peats, to find ball, and pieces of money*, which had, probably, dropped from the flying, and escaped the search of the victors. Upon the top of a little hill, there is an immense cairn, from which a small property in this parish takes the name of Carneveran, though the import of that word is not known. This cairn is 120 yards in circumference, and of a proportionable height. Of this great monument, there is no very distinct tradition, though some think that it marks the burial place of a brother of one of the Kings of Scotland. No more certain accounts can be given of a pretty large cairn, which lately stood at a place called Cairnballoch; but, when it was removed some years ago, there was found near the bottom, a sort of chest, composed of thin flat stones, containing an earthen vessel filled with ashes, which mouldered away upon being exposed to the air. In the parish, there is an eminence called the Gallow Hill, which had been anciently a place of execution; and nails, and other pieces of rusty iron, are turned over by the plough, near the summit, where the gallows had been erected. Many

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* Some of the coins are in the custody of Mr Farquharson of Haughton; and as it may gratify a curious reader to know the coins which appear to have been then current, two of them shall be described. They are silver; and the first is a two florin piece of Maximilian, Count Palatine, &c having, on one side, his arms, surrounded by the *Poison d'or*, and, on the reverse, the *Patroness of Bavaria*, with the same legend which is still used. The other is a dollar of Phil. 4, of Spain, having on one side the arms of Spain and Austria, and the collar of the *Golden Fleece*, and on the reverse, a *cross fleuri*.

of the parishioners report, though without much credibility, that Gregory the Great was buried in the parish; and there are several predictions current among the country people, attributed by them to Thomas the Rhymer, which it would be unnecessary to recite. There are two old houses in the parish; one of them, Afstoune, was built between two and three hundred years ago, and seems to have been a place of some strength. It was a square building, with a round tower at each of two opposite angles, of which there is one still remaining, though the greater part of the house was pulled down 40 years ago. The first storey was all vaulted, and there was a well in one of the vaults; but the towers were a continuation of one vault above another to the roof.

About two thirds of the parish belongs to one proprietor, who is an occasional resident, and the remainder is divided among five others, two of whom reside constantly. The valued rent is 3126l. 12s. 8d. and the neat rent may be about 1500l. 19s. Sterling.

Animals.—The Don abounds with trout, and, after high floods, with salmon, which, when the river is low, cannot get up on account of the crieve dykes, near its mouth. There are no pikes, and few eels in this part of its course. A bridge over the Don in the line of the great northern road, would be highly serviceable to this country. Besides the Don, there are several inferior streams, which pass through the parish, well stocked with trout, &c. Upon one of them, the Lochel, a bridge was built by Mr Melvine, then clergyman of this parish, in the end of the last century, and it is still kept in good repair, by a mortification of 100 merks, which he left in the charge of the minister and kirk session, for that purpose.

In the parish there are a few Red and Roe Deer, lately attracted to the country by the extensive plantations; and we have foxes, polecats, weasels, the Scotch ermine, and the Muscovy

covy rat, who has travelled up the banks of the river from Aberdeen. We have likewise a few muir-fowl, and plenty of hares, partridges, snipes, plovers, and wild ducks; and, at particular seasons, curlews, woodcocks, dottrels, and scail drakes. Of other birds, the country is infested with hawks of almost all sorts; the falcon, sparrow-hawk, martin, and a rare species, commonly called blue sleeves, and with kites of different sizes and descriptions. The hooded crows are not so numerous, but rooks and daws are in prodigious numbers. Sometimes the great woodpecker has been found in our woods, and the king's-fisher on the river, though they are exceeding rare. In general, our woods have increased the number of the birds and beasts of prey, and consequently diminished the quantity of game in the country.

Church, School and Poor.—The church is old, and bears date 1603. The manse was built in 1718, and has been repaired, and is convenient. The stipend is 60l. 13s. 4d. including communion elements, and grass money; 2 chalders of meal, and 1 of bear, besides a glebe of 4 acres, and a garden. The last Episcopal clergyman in this parish was Mr Jeffrey, who was removed about the year 1715, and Mr Gordon, the first Presbyterian Minister (and a considerable leader in the Church of Scotland), was settled in 1717, and removed to Alloa in 1735. The present incumbent is his third successor:

The school-salary is 13 bolls of meal, and 2l. arising from a mortification, and 40 merks, or 2l. 4s. 5½d. as the fee of a session clerk. The emoluments of the school will not much exceed 3l. The whole amount is too slender an allowance for any person properly qualified to discharge the important duties which this class of men owe to the public.

The funds for the maintenance of the poor, are the interest of 200l. of mortified money, and the weekly collections at church, together with the fines of delinquents. These funds
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are applied to the support from 12 to 17 paupers, none of whom are permitted to go about begging, though the country is overrun with people of that description. In the bad seasons of 1782 and 1783, the kirk-session were obliged to extend their charity more generally, and, with the consent of the heritors, laid out a part of their capital in purchasing grain to supply the poorer inhabitants of the parish, who were in those years reduced to great want.

Population.—The population in 1755 was 990.

The number of souls under 10 years of age

in the parish, are, - - - 133

From 10 to 20 - 132

20 to 40 - 210

40 to 60 - 105

60 to 70 - 74

70 to 80 - 5

80 to 90 - 4

Total, 663

Of these there are 310 males and 353 females.

The number of marriages and baptisms for 14 years from 1780, are as follows

	1780	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	Tot
Marriages	7	2	9	2	5	5	4	4	4	1	4	6	3	6	62
Baptisms,	12	19	6	12	10	14	12	7	11	13	6	9	13	6	150

The register of marriages is very exact, and there are none irregular; so that the average may be stated at $4\frac{1}{7}$ per annum. The register of baptisms is very inaccurate, and probably not one half of them entered, so that no conclusion can be drawn from it. There is no record whatever of deaths. Of artificers there are in the parish, 2 masons, 9 joiners, wrights, coopers, and turners, two of whom make a variety of musical instruments without any education for that purpose; 6 weavers, 3 black-smiths, 10 taylors, 6 country merchants, 4 millers,

millers, and 2 dyers; but they all have small possession of land to support them as well as their trade.

The parish-register goes no farther back than 1717, and is so very irregular, that it is impossible from it to procure any data for ascertaining the ancient population of the parish, not even at the time of the return to Dr Webster. But that the number of inhabitants in the parish has decreased very greatly, within a few years, is not to be doubted; and the principal cause seems to be the great encouragement given at Aberdeen by the manufactures to labouring people. This parish was, however, in all probability, much more populous 100 years ago, than at the time of Dr Webster's report; and the reason of the decrease seems to be, that by the wearing out of the moſſes, fuel has become scarcer than it was at that time; a reason which will still tend to diminish the number of inhabitants, till a more improved state of the country enable the people to support the expence of coal.

There are no prevalent diseases in this parish, excepting the hooping cough, measles, and small pox, none of which are fatal; the danger of the last is much abated by inoculation, which is becoming very general. There are several mineral springs in the parish, and though their waters are not strong; some of them have been attended with advantages.

Character.—In their general character, the people are well entitled to commendation, for an obliging hospitable disposition, for their religious conduct, and regular attendance of divine worship, and for having laid aside that quarrelsome temper which once prevailed, without adopting in its stead the spirit of litigiousness that has succeeded it in many places; but candour must acknowledge, though they possess in general a laudable œconomy, they have not yet fully acquired those

those habits of labour and industry, that have bettered the condition of the lower classes of people, in other parts of Scotland; an acquisition which must always and every where be gradual in its beginnings, and which it is hoped, a few years will hasten on in this country.

That predilection and prejudice in favour of ancient modes of husbandry, which has still some strong roots in this corner, is not so blameable, as it has been so very general, and exerted itself so vigorously in every country, in the commencement of improvements; but when fair means are taken to open the eyes of the people, by examples and indisputable experiments, persevering in them is not so excuseable; and some degree of this censure must be applied to our farmers, in persisting in their old practices, when they see 10 or 12 bolls of grain raised by good husbandry, where they could only raise 3 or 4, and excellent crops of turnips and artificial grasses, where they denied the possibility of producing them. This censure, however, is much less merited than it was, some years ago; and the operations of a few years more may change it into applause.

This account cannot be concluded better, than by a paper, found in the charter chest of Mr Farquharson of Haughton, of a court of the barony of Alford, during the Usurpation of the Convention Parliament of Scotland.—The transaction which it records, shews, that the means which they or their adherents (for the then proprietor of the barony was a most zealous covenanter) employed, to supply their treasury, maintain their forces, and support their power, were not very dissimilar to those that have been so recently and tyrannically put in practice in a neighbouring Kingdom; for when the low state of agriculture, the general poverty of the country, and the slender means of the commonalty, at that time, are contrasted, with the heaviness of the taxation imposed, and the severity of the regulations for enforcing payment, it is well entitled to be compared to a forced loan.

It furnishes a strong proof, that in this, as in every other country, arbitrary exactions have followed hard, after the fall of equitable government; and it is a striking example of the burdens and oppressions, which, when lawful authority is overturned, must be born, not only by the rich and the great,
but

but by the humble and the poor, by the friends, as well as the enemies of those who subvert the order, the peace, and the justice of society.

This paper demands attention, also, as affording some proof of the ancient population of this district. All the persons taxed held possessions from the laird, and were heads of families, with cottars, grassmen, sub-tenants, and servants under them, from whom they were to receive some relief of the burden of the tax

The number taxed by name is	61
And for the Kirkton of Alford there may be allowed	3
	—
Total of families renting land	64
The number of those who hold of the proprietor at present is	40
	—
Decrease	24

This decrease is a diminution of the number of families; and, if we suppose the numbers of servants &c. and sub-tenants, was in proportion at that time to the number of tenants, the total decrease of the number of souls must be very great.

It is proper to observe, that this estate was formerly much better provided with moss than any other in the parish, or the country in general, which may have occasioned a more than ordinary number of inhabitants.

The Court of the landis and barronie of Petfluge, Meikle Endovic, Bandley, Badivin, and others pertinentts, with Aidgethen, Walhouse, Midmill, Kirktoone of Alford, and thir pertinentts, be the right honourable Jon Forbes of Lesly, heritor thereof, halden at Petfluge, the tent day of Agust, laivi and fourtie and aught years. *Thomas Davidfone* portioner, of Aidgethen, bailzie; *Williame Reid*, clarke of court; *George Touch* in Dykeheid, officiar; *Dempster* the suttis, calllet members prent, the court senit in forme and maneir as effeirs.

The said day compeirit George Touch, in Dykeheid, and hes given his aith to be honest and trew in ye office officiaric, in ye ground and baronie of Petfluge, ay and tyll he be dischargit.

The said day compeirit Alexander Wat, being persewit for to schein in harvest to Willame Paterfone, in Bandley; and being accusit, hes given his aith to be free of the said persute; and theirfoir, the said Alexander Wat most pay his teynd of beir and aitts: sine the said Alexander, his wyf is obleigt to schein in harvest to Willame Paterfone in Bandley.

The said day, James Ingrahame in Mikill Endovic, is decerenit and ordenit be ye bailze, to go hame to Jon Couper, and mike his actuell residence

dence in his meilling and ground, and to pey for the same as he hes promeiffchet, and sic lyke to pay to James Winter, fike deweties and ferm as he hes promiffit to him for this yeir, according as they ar agreeit ; or elfs to pey the failze as the bailze decerns.

The faid day it is decernit to pey be Jon Smyth in Cleymyr, 3 dollars for levie and transport moneyis to ye forces, betwixt this and the day aught dayes.

Mr William Zong, in Cleymyr,	-	twa dollers and ane half.
Mr Patrike Innes, in Petflug,	- -	ane doller.
Mr Alexander Smyth, in Shathheid,	.	4 dollers.
Mr George Touch, in Dykheid,	. .	1 doller and ane half.
Mr Andrew Smyth, in Bentts,	. .	fourtie fhilling.
Jon Baine, in Bentts,	. .	2 dollers.
Jon Mitchell, yr,	. . .	1 doller.
James Chalmer, in Mikill Endovie,	.	ten mks.
Duncan Mitchell, in Bandley,	. .	3 dollers.
Alexander Ritchie, in Bandley,	. . .	ten mks.
Tomas Mufchant, cordiner,	. . .	1 doller.
William Jamefone, webfter,	. . .	1 doller.
James Ingrahame, tailzeor,	. . .	1 doller.
Jon Mikie, smyth in Mekill Endovie,	.	1 mk, peyit
James Edie, milliart,	. . . .	1 doller, peyit.
Robert Gib, in Petflug.	. . . .	1 doller.
Mr Alexander Calder, in Fantowne.	.	1 doller.
Mr James Mar, yr,	.	40 fa.
Mr James Marnoch, in Elriche,	.	1 doller.
Mr Jon Walker, yr,	. . . .	1 doller.
Walter Robertfone, in Cleymyr,	.	1 doller.
Tomas Galloway, Mikill Endovie,	.	1 doller.
William Forbes, in Mikill Endovie,	.	fyvve mks.
Elfpit Wilfon, yr,	. . . .	half doller.
Adam Burnet, yr,	. . . .	half doller.
Elfpit Coupland, in Bandley,	. . .	1 mk.
Alexander Wat, in Bandley,	. . .	fourtie fhillings, peyit.
Jon Mitchell, in Badivin,	. . .	1 doller.
James Banie, in Badivin,	. . .	1 doller.
William Wyr, in Smiddichill	. . .	1 doller.
Alexander Mitchell, yr,	. . .	1 merk.
Jon Mikie, in Greystane,	. . .	40 fhilling, peyit.
James Edwart, in Aidgethen,	. . .	2 dollers.
William Edwart, yr,	. . .	1 doller.
Alexander Yuill,	. . . .	half doller.

George

Georg Marnoch, in Mikill Endovie, . . .	40 schillings.
William Gillespie, in Elrike.	20 schillings.
William Ritchie, in Bandley,	40 schillings.
Jon Anderfone, yeir,	1 merk.
Andrew Barrie, Badivin,	20 schilling.
Alexander Cristifone, yr,	1 mk.
James Martin, in Aidgethen,	4 liba.
James Mortimer, yr,	1 mk.
James Couper, ye zounger,	1 mk.
Jon Paulzeor, in Alfuird,	1 mk.
William Perrie, in Walhous,	20 schilling.

Jane Scot, Mikill Endovie, and his nurish 20 schilling; Isobell Mill, in Elrike, 10 schillings; Kirstane Coutris in Bandley, 10 schillings; Margret Gleny yr, 10 schillings; Isobell Leang in Badivin, 10 schillings; Margret Edwart, in Aidgethen, 10 schillings; Kirstane Couper in Aidgethen, 10 schillings.

The said day it is statut and ordenit, be ye bailze, to pey and delyver peyit to James Wince in Mikill Endovie, 5 mks, 40 pence.
Item Elspet Storach in Bandley, 5 mks, and 40 pence.
Item, the Leard himself for the manifs, 5 mks, and 40 pence.
Item, Patrick Mortimer in Greytane, 5 mks, and 40 pence.
 James Couper in Aidgethen, 5 mks and 40 pence.
Item William Forbes in Middiehill, 5 mks, and 40 pence.
Item. John Coupland in Bandley, 5 mks, 40 pence, peyit.

The said day it is ordainit and decernit, be ye bailze, that all the forsaid persons that peyis nocht the forsaid moneys above written, betwix this and the day aught days, sal be poyndit for the dowbill.

Item. the Kirktoone of Alfuird, the hail of it, 5 merks, 40 pence, peyit.

The said day it is statut and ordainit, be ye laird and bailze, that the maisteris of the cotters, girsmen, and others, servents that dwells with them, sal be oblight for yeir servents; and gif the pey nocht their maisteris, they sal be pyndit for the dowbill, betwix this and ye daye aught dayes, of ye levie and transport moneys, and the poyndis to be delyverit to ye maisteris, and never to be relievyit agane.

The said it is statut and ordainit, that the forsaid act sal be extendit to ye Over and Nether Hach, to ye tennents, sub-tenents and occupiers thereof, and the execution to pass aganis yame for therr publick dewis, and levie money, and transport moneys, monthly maintenenc, putting out of fit and horse, conform to ye compt of debursments to be equalie devydid amang yame, as ye rest of ye ground hes done.

Continuis this court to severntie four hours warning.

Guilelmus Reid, notarius publicus ac testis in promissis, rogatus et requisitus.

DAVIDSONE, *Belate.*