

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF ANSTRUTHER EASTER,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF
ST ANDREW'S).

By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.

Situation, &c.

THIS parish is situated on the sea-coast, between Kilrennie and Anstruther Wester, (from which it is divided by a small river), in the Presbytery of St Andrew's.

The observations that occur in the Statistical Account of these two parishes, as to the soil, climate, fishing, price of provisions, equally apply to Anstruther Easter, and need not be repeated here.

Church, Stipend, &c.—Till the year 1636, the town of Anstruther, and the barony, was in the parish of Kilrennie; but though the church was at Kilrennie, the minister resided at Anstruther, and was styled the minister of that town. In the above mentioned year, the town of Easter
Anstruther

Anstruther was erected into a separate charge, and a church built. The stipend arises from the tithes of the fish, a grant from his Majesty of part of the bishops rents, and some money mortified for that purpose, and may be reckoned between L. 70 and L. 80. Sir John Anstruther is the patron.

Population.—In 1744, the number was 1000; in 1764, it was 900; at present, it is supposed rather above 1000. The average of births 36; deaths 24.

Port, Shipping, &c.—In 1710, Anstruther, which formerly was a creek of the customhouse of Kirkcaldy, was made a port, and a customhouse established.

In 1753, a new key was built; and to defray the expence an act of Parliament was procured, laying a tax of two pennies Scots upon every pint of ale brewed or sold in the burgh. For some years of late the produce has not been more than a third of what it was at the beginning.

In 1768, the tonnage belonging to Anstruther Easter was 80 ton; it is now 1400.

Ship-building has been carried on for some years to a considerable extent.—There is a thread-manufacture.

Poor.—The poor are supported by the weekly collections; besides which the shipmasters have a large fund, from which they are able to make a decent provision for the widows and orphans of their Society. The trades have a fund for their poor.

Longevity.—In 1761, Robert Arnot, blacksmith, died, aged 99 years and some months; Mr James Nairne, late minister, 92; his son, the present incumbent, is 84.

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