

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF KETTINS.

(COUNTY OF FORFAR—SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.
—PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE.)

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Extent, Situation, and Roads.

THE length of the parish of KETTINS, from E. to W. is 4 miles; the breadth, from S. to N. is 3. The village of Kettins is distant from Perth about 12 miles E. by N. and about 14 N. W. from Dundee. The church is 1 mile S. E. of Coupar. The turnpike road, from the latter to Dundee, passes through the parish. It is not yet finished. A road extends to Perth along the foot of the Sidla hills, but is not frequented.

Gentlemen's Seats, Surface, &c.—*Lintrose*, the seat of MUNGO MURRAY, Esq; was formerly called *Todderance*, and belonged to ——— HALIBURTON, Esq; whose grand-father, Lord TODDERANCE, was a Senator of the College of Justice, and a nephew of the house of Pitcur. *Lintrose* is a mile westward of the church, and is environed by fertile fields and thriving plantations. *Haliburton House*, a modern mansion, upwards of half a mile S. E. of Kettins, formerly the ordinary residence of the family of that name, is now the property

property of Lord Aboyne *. It stands in a plain, and is furrounded by stately plantations. A detached part of the parish, called *Bandirran*, lies about 6 miles S. W. and contains a gentleman's seat. The greatest part of the parish is level, and inclosed with hedges of thorn, or fenced with stone dykes. The south part gradually rises to the summit of the Sidla hills, and is partly covered with heath and pasture.

Villages, Rivulets, and Mills.—Kettins has 7 villages belonging to it, and is itself the largest. The village of that name, where the church stands, is pleasantly situated on a rivulet, which descends from the Sidla hills, and passing through Coupar, loses itself in the Isla, near 5 miles W. of the latter town, after having turned 5 mills in its course. The number of rivulets within the parish is 2, and they serve 10 mills.

Soil.—The soil is various. A great part of the low parish, the higher grounds chiefly, and the hill ground, have a light thin soil, and are partly covered with heath and pasture. In many places a strong red clay or mortar prevails, and in some it is wet and spongy. The greater part of the parish, however, is tolerably fertile. Much of this district is let to small tenants, who, besides farming, follow some trades, chiefly that of weaving coarse linen.

Agriculture, Produce, Cattle, &c.—The same manner of cropping

* The family of HALIBURTON were very active in bringing about the Reformation of the Church of Scotland, and in the last century had an extensive property in this country. The Castle of PIRCUA, a mile south of the church, and now in ruins, gave title to the ancient and honourable family of HALIBURTON, the chief of that name.

cropping and improvements, that is followed in Coupar and the neighbouring parishes, is practised here, and the produce is much in the same proportion. Here, too, the same disadvantages, scarcity of firing, and the distance from lime and coal, operate as a check on the industry and improvement of the farmer.—There are a few dealers in cattle in the parish, who keep grass parks, and drive their fed cattle to Falkirk, or to England.—There are now no sheep in the parish. A few were kept to pasture on the hill of Peatie till lately.

Rent and Proprietors.—The valued rent of the parish is 5129l. 16s. 8d. Scotch. The present rent is unknown. The land, at a medium, lets at 17s. Sterling per acre.—The number of heritors is 8, whereof 7 are resident. Lord ABOYNE is chief heritor.

Ecclesiastical State.—The Crown is patron. The stipend was formerly 8 chalders 9 bolls 7 pecks of victual, but has been lately augmented. The church was built in 1768*, and repaired in 1791. The manse was built from the foundation in 1792. The name of the present incumbent is JOHN HALIBURTON.

Poor and School.—The poors money, collected at the church doors, together with a rent arising from a mortification on land, amounts to 50 l. yearly. The number of poor at present on the roll is 14. The school house was repaired in 1782. The salary was augmented in 1790, by a decret of the

* The church of KETTINS anciently had six chapels depending on it, viz. one at a village called *Peatie*, another at *South Coston*, a third at *Pitcur*, a fourth at *Muiryfaulds*, a fifth at *Denhead*, and a sixth on the south side of the village of Kettins. Most of these were within small inclosures used as burying places.

the Commissioners of Supply. It was formerly 100 l. Scotch. The present schoolmaster has taught with reputation a good number of years, and has, with his small emoluments, brought up a numerous family.

Population.—The population of Kettins has varied at different periods, as will appear from the following table :

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF KETTINS.

In 1726, the number of examinable persons above 12 years of age, was * - - - -	1100
To which may be added, for those under that age, at least - - - - -	300
	<hr/> 1400
In 1755, the return to Dr Webster was - -	1475
	<hr/> 75
In 1793, the total number of inhabitants was only	1100
	<hr/> 375
Total number of baptisms, from 1722 to 1726, inclusive - - - - -	450
Annual average of ditto during that period -	90
Ditto of ditto, from 1751 to 1755, inclusive -	45
Ditto of burials, during that period - - -	40
Ditto of ditto, from 1787 to 1791, inclusive †.	33
	Families

* The register of births and marriages has not been regularly kept for some years past. There are no session records prior to the 9th of August 1650.—A record of that date mentions two kirk-session registers before that period.

† There is nothing remarkable in the proportion of males and females, nor in the prices of labour, or of the necessaries of life, in this district, different from those of Coupar.

Families in the parish	218	Teachers	-	-	3
Families in Kettins	46	Brewers	-	-	2
Roman Catholic ditto	1	Smiths	-	-	6
Widowers	-	-	5	-	-
Widows	-	-	8	-	-
Bachelors	-	-	5	-	-
Unmarried women	4	Masons	-	-	2
Weavers	-	-	62	-	-
Looms	-	-	100	-	-
Farmers	-	-	41	-	-
Drovers	-	-	3	-	-
Shoemakers	-	-	7	-	-
		Wrights	-	-	13
		Sieve-makers	-	-	3
		Day-labourers	-	-	27
		Cooper	-	-	1
		Flax-dressers	-	-	3
		Gardeners	-	-	2
		Bleachers	-	-	3
		Public houses	-	-	5

Bleachfields, Longevity, &c.—There are 3 bleachfields in the parish, *Borland, Baldinnie,* and *Kirk-steps*. The two first whiten annually 100,000 yards, the last about 30,000 yards.—Few very remarkable instances of longevity have occurred within the recollection of the inhabitants, though to hear of people dying at the advanced age of 90 and upwards is not uncommon. There was a man alive last autumn (1793) at the age of 106. There are no epidemic diseases peculiar to this parish. Inoculation for the small-pox is by no means general, especially among the lower classes.

Antiquities.—There are no Roman ways, nor Druidical circles in the parish*. At *Camp-muir*, a village belonging to

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* Some tumuli have lately been found in this parish, when digging materials for the turnpike road: One at *Pitcur* contained at least 1000 load of stones. In the center of this cairn, a few flat unwrought stones, and without date or characters, contained some human bones. A cairn of a very small size was found a mile farther south on the new line of road, and scarce distinguishable from the pasture around. In the center, an urn was found full of bones.

Kettins, and upwards of a mile N. W. of the church, there are still visible the outlines of a camp, supposed to be Roman, as noticed in the account of Coupar. At Baldowrie there is an erect Danish monument, 6 feet high. It contains some figures, but they are almost entirely defaced.—The Castle of *Dores* stood on the summit of the hill *, south from Pitcur. Tradition reports it to have been some time the residence of MACBETH. The following names are doubtless of Celtic derivation: *Baldowrie*, *Baldinnie*, *Balunie*, *Balgove*, and *Airdlair*.

* On this hill, great quantities of ashes are said to have been discovered. From this circumstance, it is concluded to have been one of those hills, where fires used to be kindled in antient times, to alarm the country on the approach of an enemy. On the east quarter of this hill, and closely by the side of the new road, the workmen quarrying stones came upon an excavation in the solid rock, in which they found some half consumed bones of a soft consistence. The hole was about 3 feet wide either way, and seemed to direct its course towards the south. There was no entrance from above observed, for at least half a mile in any direction from this place.

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