

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF ST. NINIANS.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

*By the Rev. Mr SHERIFF.**Name.*

THE ancient name of this parish was Eggles. The appellation is derived from the eminence of the place of worship, *ecclesia*, by which the parish was distinguished. The modern name, both of the parish and of its principal village, St. Ninians, is derived from St. Ninian, whose history is not certainly known. The following conjecture is, however, sufficiently probable to give some gratification to the curious. According to Buchanan*, Dongardus succeeded to the kingdom of Scotland in the year 452. About this period, the Scottish ecclesiastics were infected with the Pelagian heresy. Palladius was employed by Celestine to oppose the Pelagians: and Ninianus is mentioned among his disciples, as highly distinguished, both by the extent of his learning and the sanctity of his life. The character of

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* Book 5th.

those times gives sufficient reason to believe, that Ninian was afterwards canonized : and as no other faint of that name occurs in our history, it is not unreasonable to conclude, that St. Ninian's Row in Edinburgh, St. Ninian's Well in this place, as well as this parish and village, received their appellations in honour of this pious reformer.

It is not necessary to suppose that the parish adopted the name of the faint immediately after his death, or even immediately after his canonization. In our own times, new buildings have assumed the names of ancient faints ; whilst a charter, belonging to the abbacy of Cambuskenneth, furnishes a reason for limiting the present name of the parish to the latter years of the papal supremacy in Scotland.

The names of the other villages are generally of English extraction. To this class, belong Newmarket, Miltown, Charterhall, Clayhills, Newhouse, and Bannockburn. Powmilne and Polmaise appear to be derived from *pow*, a provincial word, signifying a watery place. From the Gaelic we must learn the meaning of such names as these : Touch, Touch-adam, Touch-gorm, Auchenbowie, and Auchenlilly, Linspout.

Situation.—The parish belongs to the synod of Perth and Stirling, and to the presbytery of Stirling. It is bounded on the east by the parish of Airth ; on the south, by Larbart, Dunipace, and Kilsyth ; on the west, by Fintry and Gargunnoch ; the river Forth, if the small space occupied by the parish of Stirling be excepted, separates it on the north from Kincardine, Lecropt, Logie, and Alloa.

Extent.—The road between Powbridge, the eastern extremity of the parish, and Randyford, the western extremity, measures between 15 and 16 miles : but as the figure of the parish

parish is irregular, its extent may be computed, at a medium, about 10 miles from east to west, and about 6 miles from north to south.

The appearance of the Parish ancient and modern.—The parish is naturally divided into three regions. The most northerly division is called the Carfes. The carfes are flat lands lying along the banks of the Forth, from the east to the west end of the parish: these lands, in a plain but a little raised above the level of the Forth, extend southward from one to two or three miles.

The dryfield lands form the middle division. These rise suddenly and considerably above the level of the carfes, and occupy by much the most extensive part of the parish. The muirlands form the highest region and the most southerly division. They rise considerably above the level of the dryfield grounds, and occupy, it is supposed, somewhat more than a fourth part of the whole extent of the parish.

It is highly probable, that not only a great part of the dryfield lands, but that a great part of the muirlands also was originally covered with wood. The royal forest of Dundaff must have covered the high lands, which are still called by the name of the lands of Dundaff. The royal forest of Stirling must have covered the rising grounds to the south of that town. An extensive moss renders it probable, that even the low lands of the parish, especially to the north east, were once covered with trees. There can be no doubt, that at an early period, the Torwood occupied much of the lands of the parish to the east and to the south east.

The limits of the carse and dryfield lands, still assume the general appearance of the banks of a river, and give plausibility to an opinion, that the carse lands were originally covered

by the water of the Forth. But be this as it may, the history of the battle of Bannockburn, gives sufficient evidence that the carses, in the Reign of King Robert Bruce, formed an almost impassible morafs.

It is by no means probable, that the exertions of art were much employed in improving the original appearance of the parish. We have few monuments of antiquity, except the Roman caufeway which enters the parish at the Torwood, and passes through it in a north-westerly direction.

The ruins found in the Muirland, near the source of the Carron, should, with some others in the parish, have been passed over in silence, were they not generally supposed to be the remains of a castle, the residence of Sir John the Graham, who fell in the battle of Falkirk, defending the liberty of his country, against the ambition of Edward.

Present Appearance.—The present appearance of the parish is very different from its former state; the face of the country is naturally beautiful, and the natural beauty of the hills and vallies is increased by the windings of the Forth, by innumerable inclosures, by many young thriving plantations, by a variety of villages, and by several genteel houses, appearing in different parts of the parish.

The carses are now esteemed as valuable as any land in North-Britain. They have already attained the highest degree of modern cultivation; and generally produce luxuriant crops of wheat, barley, oats, peas, beans, flax, and artificial grasses.

The dryfields are in general arable, and have likewise reached a considerable degree of cultivation. They produce the same crops with the carses; though the produce of the latter be generally superior to the produce of the former, both in quantity and quality.

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The muirlands are in general most profitably employed in rearing black cattle and sheep; though in many places they are arable, and might on every farm supply the quantity of corn consumed by the feuars and tenants.

Agriculture in the Carses.—Rotation of Crops.—A farm is divided into six parts. The first part is laid down in fallow, the second part in wheat, the third in beans, the fourth in barley, the fifth in grass, the sixth in oats. The rotation on each of these six parts is the same, viz. fallow, wheat, beans, barley, grass, oats. The only difference consists in the crop with which the rotation begins. The first part begins with fallow, &c. according to the present condition of the land.

Tillage.—The fallow whilst preparing for a crop of wheat, is ploughed six times, if the weather be favourable; the fields for beans or oats once, for barley thrice or four times; grasses are usually sown with the barley.

Manure.—Eight chalders of lime are allowed to an acre. The lime is thrown on the fallow after the fifth plowing, and immediately before the sixth plowing, when the wheat is sown. Dung is laid on the ground that is preparing for barley; seventy carts are allowed to an acre. No other manure, for the most part, is employed during one rotation of six years.

Seed and Produce.—Two firlots of wheat sown on an acre, return from eight to ten bolls. Three firlots of barley sown on an acre, return seven bolls. One boll or five firlots of oats sown on an acre, return six or seven bolls. Five or six firlots of beans sown on an acre, return seven or eight bolls. Two firlots of rye grass, with six or eight pounds of clover
sown

sown on an acre, usually return about 200 stones of hay. The carse farmers usually confine themselves to one crop of grafs.

Seed-time, &c.—Beans are sown about the beginning of March; oats about the latter end of March; barley about the latter end of April; wheat some time before or about the first of November.

Harvest usually begins about the middle of August, and ends about the last of September.

The cultivation of the dryfield lands is somewhat different from the cultivation of the carses. The succession of crops in the dryfield is commonly in the following order: Oats two years, barley one year, grafs one year, pasture two years. Where the ground is very good, peas and beans instead of oats are sometimes sown in the second year of the rotation.

Land preparing for oats, peas or beans, is ploughed once. Ground for barley twice. Grasses are usually sown with the barley.

Lime is laid on the dryfield lands in the month of August, immediately after the grafs crop is cut. It is not ploughed down. Seven chalders are allowed to an acre. Dung is laid on the ground, preparing for barley; sixty carts drawn by one horse, are allowed to an acre. When beans and peas are sown, the dung is laid upon the ground preparing for them. Neither more nor other manure is almost ever used during one rotation of six years. There is marle in the parish, but the use of it has of late been almost entirely discontinued.

Five firlots of oats sown on an acre, return seven bolls. Three firlots of barley sown on an acre, return seven bolls. Five firlots of peas and beans sown on an acre, return six or seven bolls. Half a boll of rye-grafs seed, and eight pounds
of

of red, and four pounds of white clover seed sown on an acre, return 200 stones of hay.

Oats are sown about the middle of March. Barley about the beginning of May. Beans about the first of March.

Oats and beans are reaped about the middle of September. Barley about the latter end of August.

When wheat is sown on the dryfield lands, which is not generally done, the preparation, excepting two plowings, is the same as in the carses.

The carse land is too wet during winter, for the profitable cultivation of turnips; they are sometimes sown on the dryfields.

A few potatoes are planted by almost every farmer, whether in the carses or in the dryfields. Three bolls planted on an acre return about sixty bolls. A little flax also is generally sown after potatoes. Twelve pecks of lintseed sown on an acre, return thirty six stones of lint from the mill. Different kinds of ploughs are used. The price also varies from 12s. to L. 2 : 12s : 6d. Two horses are usually put to a plough; and are sufficient to cultivate a farm of thirty acres.

It need hardly be added, that these statements have been made at an average, and must frequently and considerably vary according to the circumstances of particular seasons, and of different farmers.

Roads.—Seven miles of the great turnpike road from Edinburgh to Stirling, five or six miles of the turnpike road from Stirling to Glasgow, about twelve miles of the road from Dunbarton to the ferry near Alloa, lie in this parish. All our roads and bridges are kept in excellent repair by the attention of the country gentlemen. The expences are defrayed by the produce of the tolls, or of the statute labour.

About

About twelve years ago, an act of parliament was obtained for the better regulation of the statute work in the county of Stirling. By that act, instead of statute labour, leave is given to assess the land in 18s ster. for every L. 100 Scots of the valued rent.

Rivers.—The water of Endrick, famous for its trouts, rises in our muirlands; and after running westward through the parishes of Fintry, Balfron, Killearn, Drymen, and Buchanan, empties itself into Loch Lomond.

Bannockburn (so called, (*Majoris Historia*) because on it was made the meal of the bannocks, or panis cineritius of the Romans; cakes toasted under the ashes were called bannocks), receives its water partly from Loch Coulter, and partly from the high lands in the north west part of the parish. It takes its course towards the north east, and falls into the Forth within the bounds of the parish. This small river might be employed to great advantage by the manufacturer or artisan.

The Carron runs along the southern boundary of the parish for five miles and an half. The Poems of Ossian have marked the banks of this river as the scene of battle between the Romans and the independent clans of the north.

It has been thought, though it cannot be certainly determined, that the Earl's burn, the Earl's hill, a hill and a rivulet in the muirland part of the parish, derived their names from the residence of some feudal baron or earl in the neighbourhood of the Carron. It is natural to suppose, that Gillies hill, another hill in the muirland part of the parish, derives its name from the name Gill or Gillies. The names both of Gillies and Morison occur in the muirlands. It is certain, that the fair lady, mother of Gill Morice, "lived on the Carron side." This union of facts and probabilities suggests to the imagination, though it cannot persuade the judgement

that this parish was the scene of the tragical song, known by the name of Gill Morice. The Carron was once distinguished by a cascade called Auchintillilin's spout. It is now distinguished by a very extensive iron manufactory in the parish of Larbert.

The Forth is the only great river with which we are concerned. It forms the boundary of the parish on the north. The length of the river from Gargunnoch where it meets, to Kersey where it leaves this parish, is more than sixteen miles, though the distance betwixt these places does not in a straight line exceed half that extent. The windings of the Forth have been remarked and admired by every traveller of taste; but whilst they beautify the country, they render the navigation of the river peculiarly tedious. A minute description of the Forth seems altogether unnecessary, as the Forth or ancient Bodotria is sufficiently known to every student of British history.

Loch Coulter, the only considerable loch in the parish, extends about two miles in circumference. It abounds with perches and eels, and lies in the muirland part of the parish. It is currently reported, on the evidence of witnesses still alive, that about twenty-four years ago, by some convulsion of nature, a stone weighing nearly a ton was thrown from its bed in the loch to the distance of some yards to the northward.

The Carron frequently overflows a considerable tract of meadow and some arable land on its banks. Some of the low lying lands on the banks of the Forth are subjected to the overflowings of the river. A considerable farm called Bollfor-nought, probably from its being gained from the Forth, is particularly subject to this inconvenience. The wall with which it is surrounded has sometimes been broken down by the weight of the water, and the greater part of the land overflowed.

It may be proper in this place to observe, that several years ago, a remarkable *water spout* emptied itself, partly on the lands of Touch, and partly on the lands of Touch-adam. The water which fell on the lands of Touch, carried off some cattle, several houses with their furniture. A few of the inhabitants were drowned. The water which fell on the lands of Touch-adam, directed its course towards the village of St. Ninians, and carried off a bridge and two houses, together with a great quantity of earth from the minister's glebe and some other places.

No other remarkable phenomena of this kind are talked off, excepting two shocks of an earthquake, which in one night, about thirty years ago, were very generally felt in the parish and neighbourhood.

There are several mineral springs in the parish; but they are not at present much frequented.

We have several merchants who retail the articles of ordinary consumption.

We have no great manufactories. Four tanneries employ about 20 hands. Four masters employ about 113 hands in making nails. One hand works from 1000 to 1200 nails per day.

The most considerable manufacture is carried on at Bannockburn. Of late cotton-cloth, and for a long time, all the tartan used by the army, has been manufactured at this village.

There are three coal-works in the parish; one at Auchinbowie, one at Pleanmuir, one at Bannockburn. These works taken together, raise about 600 tons of coal per week. They supply the adjacent country, especially to the west and north, to a very considerable extent.

The parish abounds with lime-stone. At present, however, it is not wrought to any considerable extent, except at Craig-
end

end and Murray's-hall. At Murray's-hall, from 12 to 13 chalders of lime are wrought by about 17 hands. The burning season begins about April, and ends about Martinmas. The lime is wrought under ground, in the same manner as coal. The seam of lime is from 5 feet 6, to five feet 8 or 10 inches thick. At Craig-end, 16 men and 2 horses are employed in working yearly about 2000 chalders of lime. The seam at this work, is about 5 feet 8 inches. By a chalders is meant 6 bolls pease measure. A chalders of shells is equal to 18 or 19 bolls of flacked lime. The lime at both these works is of the first quality. An experiment was made at Craig-end; and in 96 bolls of lime, there was found only one boll of sand.

From 50 to 100 hands are usually employed in malting, and in distilling aquavivæ. There are at least 6 distilleries in the parish. Some of them at present, (November 1794,) are not employed.

Price of Provisions.—Wheat, 21s per boll, Stirling measure; barley, 19s; oats, 14s; pease, 17s; beans, 18s; potatoes, 4d per peck; hay, 4d per stone; beef, 4d $\frac{1}{2}$ per lib. mutton, 4d do.; veal, 4d; pork, 3d; a hen, 1s 3d; a duck, 10d; butter, 9d per lib. cheese, 3d $\frac{1}{2}$; milk, per pint Scotch, 2d; eggs, per dozen, 4d; whisky, 1s 6d per pint; strong beer, 5d; small beer, per gallon English, 4d; coal per ton Dutch, 5s 4d; candle per lib. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$; cows grafs for six months, 30s; stone of smeared wool, 4s 3d; stone of white washed wool, 7s; salmon from 4d to 1s per lib.

Price of Labour.—A weaver 14d per day; shoemaker 14d do; stocking-maker 1s; taylor 10d with victuals; carpenter 9s per week; cart and plough-wright 8s per week; mason 20d per day; black-smith 9s per week; tanner 15d per day;

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maltster 12 guineas with victuals, *per annum*; man-servant *per annum*, with victuals, L. 9 or 10; nailer 15d per day; wool-comber 15d; maid-servant with victuals, L. 4; day-labourer 14d; gardener 14d; slater 2s 3d per day; cooper per week, with board, 4s; baker, *per annum*, with board, L. 11; sieve-wright per week, with board, 3s 6d; clock-maker per week, with board, 10s; wheel-wright do, 4s; miner per week, 10s; tanners from 9s to 7s per week.

Rent.—The valued rent of the parish certified to the Exchequer in the year 1661, amounted to L. 20,861 Scots. But according to the subdivision stated by the Commissioners of Supply, it does not exceed L. 20,710 of the same money.

In the year 1775, the minister applying for an augmentation of stipend, stated the real rental of the parish at L. 12,663 sterling. But as it is certain, that the rent of land, of coal, and of lime, has risen considerably since that time, the real rental at present cannot be computed at less than L. 15,000 sterling.

The landholders amount at present to the number of 132; 51 have held their property for 14 years; 36 have succeeded as heirs; 45 have purchased their estates: 25 possess L. 100 valued rent and upwards; 47 possess from L. 20 to L. 100 valued rent; 60 possess from L. 1 to L. 20 valued rent.

Meetings of Landholders.—These proprietors have in the school house a commodious room, where they usually meet for transacting business. Ten days, sabbaths not included, previous to a meeting of Landholders, intimation of the time and cause of the meeting must be made by letter, to such of their number as do not reside in the parish; to such as reside,
similar

similar intimation is given from the precentor's desk, after divine service is concluded.

These meetings provide for, and superintend the building and repairing of the church, manse, school-house, manse-office-houses, and the walls of the glebe and church-yard. They have a right to inspect the expenditure of the funds committed to the management of the Kirk Session. They have a right to inspect the expenditure of vacant stipend. They have at present the principal management of the provision made for the poor. They almost alone nominate to the office of schoolmaster; and as landholders in the parish, they have a limited right to vote in the election of ministers, serving in the church established by law. Every cause is determined by a majority of votes. Records of their transactions are kept by their clerk, and appeals may be made to the Court of Session, from any decision supposed to be illegal or irregular.

The considerable estates, are Touch, Touch-adam, and Polmaise, Sauchie, Bannockburn, Craigforth, Auchinbowie, Stuart-hall, Throsk, Carnock, Grunyards, Plean, and lands belonging to the town and hospitals of Stirling. Few of the proprietors of these estates reside in the parish.

Population.—Though the inhabitants of the parish have been frequently numbered, we are not able by authentic records, to ascertain its ancient population.

In the year 1755, the population returned to Dr Webster, amounted to 6491. In 1792, it amounted to 7079. It is beyond a doubt, that the population of the parish is increasing. The decrease of population by the uniting of farms in the country, is more than compensated by the increase of the inhabitants in the villages.

Farmers.—

Farmers.—Some of our farmers have been favoured with a liberal education. A few of them have been instructed in the rudiments of the Latin language. Almost all of them have been taught writing and arithmetic, as well as to read the English language with understanding and ease. Most of them from their earliest years are inured to manual labour. Nor are the operations of carting, plowing, &c. confined to their earlier years; many of them always, and most of them occasionally, lend their personal labour to the cultivation of their grounds.

As our farmers in general do not enjoy the luxuries of affluence, so few of them are subjected to the miseries of extreme poverty. Their diet is usually frugal; but occasions are not wanting when they enjoy with temperance the comforts of the table. Their mental qualifications are not inferior to their external advantages. This valuable order of society, is in this place distinguished by no inconsiderable degree of manly intelligence and general information.

A careful and candid observer will not deny, that our farmers are in general frugal, industrious, and moderately happy; at the same time he must acknowledge, that their circumstances might, in many respects, be considerably improved. It is not altogether without reason, that they complain of the small extent and of the high rents of their farms. Their dwelling houses, with a few exceptions, are confessedly incommodious. Though the vestiges of their original slavery be gradually wearing away, they are not as yet completely effaced. In some baronies, the farmers work the hay, and in others, they cart the coals of the landholders. Thirlage is an obvious grievance. Thirlage is a low kind of monopoly by which the tenant is obliged to make all, or some part of his meal, at one specified mill. The consequences of thirlage are similar to the consequences

of all other monopolies: Fraud, extortion, insolence, and inferior workmanship. If these crimes be seldom committed, the cause must be sought in the miller, not in the nature of the monopoly.

Manufacturers and others.—The education and manners of our manufacturers so nearly resemble the education and manners of our farmers, that a description of the latter in a great measure supersedes the necessity of describing the former. Though distinguished by some peculiarities inseparable from their professions, our manufacturers possess a degree of enlargement of mind, which reflects considerable honour on the order.

This happy effect must chiefly be ascribed to the general causes which are every where diffusing an ennobling light through the mass of mankind. In this place, however, some other causes contribute a subordinate influence to enlighten the minds of our people. The absence of great manufactories, by obliging the individual to transact business for himself, prevents the degradation of mind which invariably follows a minute subdivision of labour. Many of our manufacturers, as well as of our farmers, are admitted to the office of an elder in the different congregations connected with the parish. The duties and privileges of the office, tend not only to enlarge the minds of the elders, but enable them also in their intercourse with others, to extend the sphere of general information. Add to this, that the public business, in most of our congregations, is conducted on a very liberal plan. The great body of the congregation is frequently assembled and consulted, and the habit of thinking acquires additional strength from the opinions which, on these occasions, are openly proposed and discussed.

But

But be the causes what they will, the fact is undeniable, that a considerable degree of intelligence is possessed by the great body of the people.

Poor.—The poor are well supported. The number of villages, the vicinity of the coal and lime-works, the ease with which feuars build houses, and the low rent at which they can afford to let them, have induced many indigent people to take up their residence in this parish. After many attempts to ameliorate the condition of the poor had been made and abandoned by the Heritors and Kirk Session, the present scheme was in the year 1774, adopted by the county of Stirling. The poor live in their own houses, and receive a monthly pension, according to their circumstances. A committee of residing heritors, the minister, some elders, and other parishioners, meet on the first Thursday of every month, and superintend the payments made to the poor, according to a roll made up by the committee at a private meeting.

The funds are raised from,

1. An assessment on the land at a certain rate, per cent. the one half payable by the proprietors, the other by the tenants, according to their respective valued rents. This rate is fixed at a general meeting, held annually for the purpose. The rate has never been below 12s per L. 100 valued rent, nor above 16s, except in 1783, when it rose to 18s.
2. A voluntary contribution from the inhabitants of the villages.
3. The balance of the Session funds, after paying the usual accounts.
4. The produce of the deceased pensioners effects, sold by public auction.
5. The

5. The weekly collection at the parish church.

6. Dues from the mortcloths.

The number of pensioners varies every month. The following Table contains the number of pensioners, and the sums expended for 15 years.

A. D.			£.	s.	d.
1776	-	99 pensioners,	165	11	4
—77	-	104 - -	201	12	1½
—78	-	105 - -	201	18	6½
—79	-	99 - -	197	16	3
—80	-	109 - -	202	6	8½
—81	-	117 - -	197	18	10
—82	-	111 - -	214	6	6
—83	-	119 - -	237	13	3
—84	-	127 - -	256	8	9
—85	-	106 - -	206	19	5
—86	-	111 - -	210	10	7½
—87	-	110 - -	218	8	3½
—88	-	110 - -	217	13	4½
—89	-	112 - -	222	4	11
—90	-	101 - -	210	10	11

About two years ago, the Session received about L. 1000 sterling, by a will: On a day fixed by the will of the Donor, the interest of this sum is divided amongst the poorest inhabitants of the village of St. Ninians.

Ecclesiastical Estate.—It appears from the registers, that from the year 1655, to the year 1732, the office of minister of the Gospel in this parish, was successively held by Messrs George Bennet, William Fogo, James Fullerton, James Forfyth, William Couper, John Logan, Archibald Gibson.

Mr James Mackie, was admitted March 1734. This settlement was promoted by the Heritors, in opposition to a great proportion of the inhabitants of the parish. During this incumbency, about one half, it is reported, of the inhabitants of the parish, left the Established Church, and joined the Secession.

Mr John Gibson with consent of all parties, was admitted May 1754, and till his translation to Edinburgh, 1765, the parish continued almost in the same state in which he found it.

The next settlement was opposed by almost the whole parish. In June, however, 1773, the eighth year of a process before the General Assembly, the patron prevailed, and Mr David Thomson was admitted minister. The Establishment was then abandoned by the great body of its adherents. These, with a few others from neighbouring parishes, joined themselves to the Communion of the Presbytery of Relief. A large house was erected; a minister called and ordained; and a stipend was fixed at L. 100 *per annum*. This stipend is principally raised from the produce of the seat-rents.

Previous to Mr Thomson's death in 1787, his hearers were indulged with the choice of the assistant preacher. From this period, the adherents of the Establishment were gradually augmented. In the year 1788, they resolved from voluntary contributions, to purchase the right of Patronage; though the price amounted to a sum, between L. 600 and L. 700 ster. the resolution was soon carried into effect, and a young man, who was appointed to preach in the church during the vacancy occasioned by Mr Thomson's death, was admitted minister in October 1788.

The right of presentation is now lodged with a committee of 9. The committee consists of 3 elders, 3 heritors, and 3 heads of families. The members of this committee, are
 chosen

chosen by the people, and hold their places for life, if they continue in full communion with the Establishment. The committee is obliged to present in due time and according to the rules of the church whatever candidate is recommended to them by a majority of votes: Every head of a family in full communion with the Establishment, has a right to vote in the election of a minister.

In 1746, The church, which the Highland army had converted into a magazine, was blown up; but whether by design or accident, is not known; several lives were lost by the explosion. It is remarkable enough, that the steeple remained entire. It stands at a considerable distance from the present church, and never fails to excite the traveller's surprise at such an unusual disjunction.

The New Church was built soon after the destruction of the other. It is 75 by 53 feet within the walls, and at present in complete repair.

About 5 miles south west of the church, there is another place of worship. The heritors of the muirland part of the parish erected this chapel, and the minister or his assistant, usually preaches there on the first sabbath of every month.

The stipend was settled as follows, by a decret of modification and locality, of date February 1785. "The Lords of
" Council and Session, modified, discerned, and ordained,
" and hereby modify, discern, and ordain the constant sti-
" pend and provision of the kirk and parish of St. Ninian's,
" to have been for the crop and year of God 1776, and
" yearly since syne, and in all time coming, 4' chalders meal,
" 2 chalders bear, and L. 1000 Scots money for stipend,
" with L. 90 money forsaid for furnishing the Communion
" Elements; but have discerned, and hereby declare, 600
" merks of the said stipend shall be paid by the pursuer, to
" an assistant preacher or helper in the said parish, ay and
3 E 2 " until

“ until a new erection shall take place. And on such events
 “ happening, the said 600 merks shall go to the minister of
 “ the said new erection, as a part of his stipend; which
 “ modified stipend, and modification, for the Communion
 “ Elements, the said Lords discern, and ordain, to be paid
 “ yearly, locally, to the said pursuer and his successors in
 “ office, ministers serving the cure of the said parish, con-
 “ form to the division, and locality following.” The meal
 and bear according to the decret, must be given in before
 Candlemas, and the money must be paid, one half at Whit-
 funday, and the other half at Martinmas.

The school-master teaches Latin, Greek, English, book-keeping, &c. his salary paid by the heritors, is L. 14 : 12. his other perquisites amount to about L. 20, besides an excellent dwelling-house, school-house, garden, and the ordinary school fees.

There are many small schools in different parts of the parish; together with a Sabbath-evening school, in which the principles of religion are taught gratis, by one of the elders of the church.

Antiquities.—In early times, that tract of country now called Stirling-shire, was situated upon the confines of no less than 4 kingdoms. It had the North Umbrean and Cumbrean dominions on the south, and those of the Scots and Picts upon the north. Probably it belonged sometimes to one, and sometimes to another; for these powers were perpetually making encroachments on each other. Such a situation, puts it beyond a doubt, that St. Ninians must have been the field of contention, not only between parties and tribes, but likewise between nations. An attempt however, to perpetuate the memory of these contentions, were equally vain and fruitless. The wisdom of history has consigned them to de-
 served

ferred oblivion; and to recover them by means of tradition, were only to augment the already too numerous monuments of the weakness and folly and crimes of mankind. Their magnitude and consequences, have perpetuated the memory of 3 battles, which the statistical reader will expect in the parish of St. Ninians.

The battle of Stirling, was fought on the 13th September 1297. The Scots were commanded by Wallace; the English by Hugh Cressingham, and John Earl of Surry and Suffex. The defeat of the English, effected near Corn-town, on the northern banks of the Forth, was completed at the Torwood. The boundaries of the Torwood are much contracted, and that part of it which lay in this parish, is almost entirely removed.

The battle of Bannockburn, was fought in this parish, on Monday, the 24th June, 1314. The English Reader may find an account of this battle, in any British Historian. The Antiquarian will not be displeas'd with the following authentic description of Baston.

Baston, a Carmelite friar, and prior of a monastery in Scarborough, was reckoned one of the best poets of his age. Edward brought him with the English army to Scotland, that he might witness and celebrate the victory, which that monarch expected to obtain. The poet was taken prisoner, but obtained his liberty, on condition of composing a poem in honour of the victorious Scots. Independently of the transaction which it records, the poem itself is not the least of our curiosities*.

There

* *Bastoni metra de illustri Bello de Bannockburn.*

De planctu cudo mictum, cum carmine nudo.
 Rifum retudo, dum tali themate ludo.
 Rector cœlestis, adhibens solamina mœstis,
 Verax est testis; que prospera ferre potest his.

Quos

There are several vestiges of this battle in the parish. In a garden at New-house, two large stones still standing, were erected

Quos vincit restis, pro sindoni sordida vestis,
 Ploro sub his gestis, perimit quos torrida pestis.
 Bella parata fleo, lamentans sub canapeo,
 Subque rege reo, nescio, teste Deo.
 Est regnum duplex, et utrumque cupit dominari,
 Sed neutrum supplex vult a reliquo superari.
 Dum se sic jactant, cum Bacco nocte jocando
 Scotia, te mactant, verbis vanis reprobando;
 Dormitant, stertunt, quos irrita somnia mutant,
 Fortes te putant, patriæ confinia vertunt.
 Explicat exercitus splendentia signa per arva,
 Jam sunt dispersi, nimis est virtus sua parva.
 Fulminat ad bella præco, clamans dira novella,
 Felice sicut mella, tanta durante procella.
 Nunc armatorum disponunt gesta virorum,
 Ne gens Anglorum vires enervet eorum.
 Tu fer vexillum, quo Scoti terrificentur,
 Agmina post illum, belli pro more sequentur;
 Arcetenens arcus tendas, nec sis modo parcus,
 Illic transmittas hostes perimendo sagittas;
 Istac tu tela vibris quasi fulgor, anhela,
 Non te pro tela, mortem feriendo revila.
 Obviet hic illis cum fundis atque lapillis,
 Pandens visana, faciendo concava plana.
 Et loca tu siste, tendantur ut arte balistæ,
 Examen tristic populus denunciât iste.
 Hastæ tolluntur, patriæ satrapes rapiuntur,
 Sic disponuntur, quod multi multa loquuntur.
 Format et informat Rex Scotus prælia dira,
 Dunt equites pedites; O quam congressio mira!
 Clamat; Rex animat Scotorum nobiliores,
 Citat, et invitat ad bella viros potiores:
 Cernit discernit acies pro morte paratas,
 Tales mortales gentis cœset superatas.

Fatur,

erected in memory of the battle fought on the evening before
the battle of Bannockburn, between Randolph and Clifford.

The

Fatur, solatur turbas populi venientes.
 Risit, derisit Anglorum fœdera gentis.
 Fortis dux mortis digitos ad bella docebat,
 Cervis protervis, nulla differre jubebat.
 Lætus sit coitus, scitis rumoribus istis,
 Stabit, pugnabit, sic fiet Anglia tristis.
 Rex fortes tenet, et cunctis dat sua jura,
 Quos armis munit, prædicens bella futura.
 Imbre sagittali minuatur ab inguine sanguis,
 Turbine lethali stimulet jaculator, ut anguis
 Hasta teres fodiat proceris spargendo cruorem,
 Missilibus cum pericibus renovando dolorem.
 Timba securi pectora cruri scindere curet,
 Tela vibrabit, sic superabit, si bene duret.
 Mucro latet, nil posse patet, pro Marte valere,
 Sors præterit quibus omen erat supplenda, replere
 Machina plena malis pedibus formatur equinis,
 Concavas cum palis, ne pergant absque ruinis.
 Plebs foveas fodit, ut per eas labantur equestres,
 Et pereant si quos videant transire pedestres.
 Advena turba vocatur, Scotica gens muniatur,
 Prima phalanx sociatur, regia vis comitatur.
 Scandere nullus eorum terga valebit equorum,
 Fient sic aliorum plures domini dominorum,
 Exploratores mittunt hinc inde petentes,
 Multos rumores sunt inter se referentes.
 Dira dies solis pandit primordia molis
 Angligenæ prolis, hinc exit, ab ore suo lis.
 Arida terra gerit Strivelini prælia prima,
 Splendida turba ferit, sed tandem tendit ad ima.
 Est dolor immensus, augente dolore dolorem;
 Est furor accensus, stimulante furore furorem;
 Est clamor crescens, feriente priore priorem;
 Est valor arescens, frustrante valore valorem;

Est

The place has lately received the name of Randolph-field.
On Brocks-brac, the Bore-stone, from a hole in its center,

is

Est calor ardescens, urente calore calorem ;
 Est gens demescens, reprobante minore minorem.
 Est stupor auditus, geminante stupore stuporem ;
 Est populus tritus, perdente timore timorem.
 Surgit rugitus, fundente cruore cruorem ;
 Nunc timor est scitus metuente timore timorem.
 Atra dies lunæ pestem renovat nocituram,
 Quam vi fortunæ facit Anglis Scotia duram.
 Anglicolæ, qui cœlicolæ, splendore nitescunt
 Magnanimi, tanquam minimi, sub nocte quiescunt.
 Expectat, spectat, gens Anglica quos necesse plestat,
 Admotos Scotos, ab iis non longe remotos.
 Plebs plangit, clangit ; sed quam congressio tangit
 Nec plangit, frangit vires quas ictibus angit.
 Magnifici medici Scotorum sunt inimici ;
 Munifici medici potuit victoria dici ;
 Insultus stultus prætenditur ordine cultus ;
 Singultus multus eiumpit ab aggere vultus,
 Descendens, frendens pedibus, gens Scotica tendens,
 Descendens, vendens sua prodit dira rependens.
 Hic rapit, hic capit, hic terit, hic ferit ; ecce dolores †
 Vox tonat, æs sonat, hic iuit ; hic luit arcta modo res.
 Hic fecat, hic necat, hic docet, hic nocet, iste fugatur ;
 Hic latet, hic patet, hic premit, hic gemit, hic superatur ;
 Hic frendit, hic tremat, hic pavit, hic cavit, iste ligatur ;
 Hic legit, hic tegit, hic metit, hic petit, hic spoliatur ;
 Crescit inedia, hora, prædia diripiuntur ;
 Heu mulieres, miles et hæres inficiuntur.
 Clare comes, venerande sones Glovernicæ †to,
 Heu moris, sub strage peris, sic fit Deus ultor.
 Trux Cliffordensis mucrone retunderis ensis
 Ictibus immensis ruis hostibus undique densis.
 Miles Marcellus Willelmus, in agmine fortis
 Scotorum callus tibi pandit vulnera mortis.

Audax

is said to have supported Bruce's standard. Some catthorps, or sharp pointed irons, have been found in Milton-bog. The Park-mill seems to have received its name from the park of wood, mentioned by Barbour in his description of the battle. About a mile from the field of battle, a party of English endeavoured to oppose the victorious army, and left the name of the Bloody Fold to the place where they fell; perhaps Sir Ingram Umfraville gave his name to Ingram's crook.

On the 11th of June, 1488, the field of Stirling, or the battle of Sauchie-burn, was fought on a tract of ground called

Audax Edmunde Maley, probitate virilis,
 Tegens hostiles superat feritates abunde.
 Belliger insignis Tibitoyt, quasi fervidus ignis,
 Ensis et lignis cadis, instat mors tua signis,
 Nobilis argent. pugul, inclite dulcis ægidi,
 Vix scieram mentem cum te succumbere vidi.
 Quid fruar ambage, de tanta quid cano strage,
 Vix poterat tragedia pandere schismata plagæ.
 Nomina bellantum mea mens nescit numerari,
 Quot, quæ, vel quantum mors novit ibi violari.
 Multi maectantur, multi jaculis terebrantur.
 Multi merguntur, multi vivi capiuntur.
 Brois stringuntur, et munera multa petuntur.
 Jam sunt ditati per eos et magnificati,
 Qui primi strati fuerunt, velut apporiat, i,
 Per gyrum finis loca sunt vallata rapinis;
 Verba repleta minis replicantur, et aucta ruinis,
 Necis quid dicam, quam non sevi meto spicam;
 Linquo doli tricam, pacem cælo is amicam,
 Qui curat plura, scribendi sit sua cura;
 Est mea mens dura, rudis et vox, ima litura.
 Sum Carmelita, Baston cognomine dictus,
 Qui doleo vita, in tali strage relictus,
 Si quid deliqui, si quæ recitanda reliqui,
 Hæc addant hi qui non sunt sermones iniqui.—*FORDUN.*

led Little Caglour, on the east side of a small brook called Sauchie-burn, about two miles south from Stirling, and about one mile from the field of Bannockburn.

Beaton's Mill, the house where James III. was put to death, is still standing, and may be ranked amongst the numerous monuments of that ambition, which often endangered, and in the end, ruined the Royal Family of Stuart.

NUMBER