

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF LEUCHARS.

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

*By the Rev. Mr KETTLE.**Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

LEUCHARS, if derived from the Celtic language, is said by some, to signify a wet flat; by others, a place abounding with rushes; either, or both interpretations faithfully describe the appearance which the surface made some years ago, a great way to the northeast, and a little to the southwest of this village. The district is of large extent from west to east, and from southwest to northeast, more than 9 statute miles, and more than 5 miles broad, at two different parts of the parish, considerably distant from each other. The measurement by Mr William Innes now lies before me.

The figure of the parish is completely irregular, being bounded on the northeast, east, and southeast, by the German ocean, and the various windings of the river Eden on the south, and southwest; on the other parts by the neighbouring parishes. It is affirmed with truth, that within the bounds of this district, every soil known in this country is to

be found: blue, white, and red clays, strong and weak, sharp lands, loam of various depth and strength; a mixture of loam and clay, light lands, moss, heath and bent in no small quantities. Before Sir David Carnegie sold part of the lordship of Leuchars, he employed a number of workmen to cut a large drain of 3 miles long, passing through the west end of the village of Leuchars, that the surface on each side of it might be turned into more important uses. The Hon. Robert Lindsay bought this part of the lordship before the effect of the drain was fully proved. Mr Lindsay found himself under the necessity, at no small expence, considerably to enlarge the former drain, and thereby rendered it effectual for relieving the flat grounds of the water through which it passed. Many acres formerly covered with coarse grass and rushes, and about 36 acres south and west of Leuchars, covered with water to a considerable depth in the winter season, and not free from water in the summer, are now producing abundant crops of all kinds of grain, clover, turnip, and cabbage. These grounds are let from 14s to L. 1:16 per acre; yielding a profitable return to the generous landlord, and affording the labourers hope, that their expence and industry may not be altogether unrewarded. Of the many remaining acres to the north and northeast, some are highly improved, and others in a state of preparation for similar crops. These circumstances are motives which should prompt to exertion in all similar situations in Scotland; but are by no means, to those who wish well to mankind, the most important motives for draining water from the neighbourhood of villages. Before the above drain (of 20 feet wide, and 14 deep, for a considerable way above the outlet) was cut, the families who lived near the stagnant water, were subject in the spring and end of autumn, to intermitting fevers of very long continuance; from 23 to 33, and sometimes to 39 days. Whole families were to be seen in

such distress at the same time, that no one could assist the others. They depended on the kind ministrations of their neighbours, for the supply of their necessities. Often has the poor's fund been employed, to pay women to wait upon such distressed families; and it is hoped, it will not be looked upon as a prostitution of that sacred fund. Since these stagnant waters were completely drained, those diseases and the sad train of complaints connected with them, have happily been unknown; meanwhile, it is supposeable, that the same happy effects must flow from the same causes in every part of the country, and should prove an irresistible motive to draining, independent of the profit or satisfaction resulting from it. It is not easy to describe the pleasure of viewing luxuriant crops, adorning the place where the eye had been accustomed to see stagnant water and noxious vapour impregnated with diseases and death.

Agriculture.—The culture of this parish is conducted by a sober well informed persevering and wealthy tenantry. No expence or labour is withheld. Every exertion is made to bestow whatever is thought necessary, under the providence of a gracious God, to aid the fertility of the soil. All chilling moisture is led away, and the plough is made to return till the roots of every weed are destroyed. Every meliorating crop has its due rotation. Lime, that genial pulverizer, that gives healthy fermentation, is brought by water from England and Scotland, and from lime-kilns in the neighbourhood by land carriage, and thrown with unsparing liberality upon the fertile bosom of the earth.

A very considerable quantity of wheat is annually raised in this district, although several of the tenants have been unwilling to mention the exact number of bolls they sow; by their own account, there were 649 bolls sown in 1790; and in 1791,

670 bolls were sown. I believe that the sowing of wheat is upon the increase in this parish; and although I do not presume to be a judge, I have an apprehension, that it may be carried too far.

Considerable quantities of wheat, barley, pease, and beans, are annually exported from this district; several hundred bolls of oats, and sometimes of potatoes; but the exported potatoes as far as I know, never turn to great account, which has in some measure cooled the ardour of exporting this valuable part of the produce. Flax is also raised; but not in such quantities as to compete for premiums. It is thought a severe crop, and there is seldom more sown than what is necessary for the use of the families, or in order to induce labourers to engage for the harvest. The tenant gives 10 yards square to sow one lippy of lint-seed. Some tenants allow two lippies to each of their labourers. Formerly, the land here was ploughed by 4 and 6 oxen, and 2, sometimes 4 horses before them all, yoke fellows in a large Scots plough. The ground is now ploughed with 2 horses, in a chain plough made upon Small's construction. The horses are guided, and the plough directed by one man. Here may be one or two of the tenants who use 2 oxen and 2 horses in 1 plough, and one tenant who has 2 oxen without horses, in 1 or 2 of his ploughs. If it was proper for the writer of these facts to give his own opinion, he would be inclined to approve of and recommend the last practice, especially in large farms. Every tenant sows a considerable field of clover, in proportion to the extent of his farm, or the necessities of his stock. On every farm, turnips are raised in smaller or greater fields, as they are intended for the cows and young stock only, or for such as are fed for the knife. There is no great attention given to a peculiar breed of cattle in this district; because the cultivated lands are thought too valuable, and the weaker and

and uncultivated, insufficient for raising cattle of bone. The Fife cattle, however, always bring good prices in the market; and I believe it will not be said that the cattle of this parish are inferior to those of the other parts of the country. Cabbages and greens are also planted in the fields, but in small quantities by the side of the turnip, to be used when frost renders the turnip more difficult to be obtained. Potatoes, that make so great a part of the food of the lower classes of society, are cultivated by every one who rents land, for the use of his family, horses, cows and hogs. They are in general used for the last 3 animals without boiling. The tenants give 10 yards square or 12 for planting a peck of potatoes to the manufacturers and other labouring people, for so many days work in harvest, or any other throng season; wisely thinking that this is preferable to money, as it procures them hands in the time of their need. Much useful information concerning the culture and preservation of this invaluable root has been lately obtained, by means of the benevolent exertions of the Board of Agriculture.

I know not if the following observations have been made. Many causes for the curle-top amongst potatoes have been assigned, that mankind might avoid this devourer of so valuable a part of their food. When that part of the potatoe is cut for a set which the former year adhered to its root, it invariably produces a curle-top. It would be of no small consequence, therefore, before the seed is cut into sets, that a careful hand should be employed to cut off this part of every potatoe, and keep it entirely separate from the seed. When there is too little of the potatoe left at the bottom of the eye, that is separated for a set, it has the same unhappy consequence. This year has led men of observation to conclude, that wet land produces the curle-top. There are two very long ridges in a field near this place, planted with the same culture,

manure

manure, and feed: the one ridge is rather lower and flatter than the other. In this ridge, there is not one plant of an hundred found. In the other ridge, the 4 rows lying nearest the furrow on each side of the ridge, are curle-tops, with very few exceptions; the 4 rows on the highest part of the ridge, are healthy vigorous plants. I know no way of accounting for this, but by saying that the excess of moisture has produced it.

There were in this district in 1792, more than 1559 cattle young and old, male and female. There were 420 horses of the above description, and of sheep, 1940. The tenants breed their own cows, and most of them their working horses. There are in this parish 7 threshing milns, and their number will soon be increased. One of these is set and kept in motion by water, a very considerable saving to the tenant; and the machine, one would think, must move more steadily, and with greater effect, than those worked with horses. Some indeed have made use of oxen and horses; but these animals have so different a movement, that the practice has not become general. It is to be hoped, that oxen will be trained for this useful instrument of husbandry; and there can be little doubt, that in some situations and circumstances, it might be worked by the force of wind. There are 4 meal milns in the district; one lint and barley mill, moved by one water wheel; and one belonging to a dyer for the purposes of his employment.

There are 3 bridges in the parish, all of them over the Multree burn; one of them giving passage to travellers from Cupar to the north, and the other to travellers from the north to St Andrews: one end of the Guard bridge rests on this parish; the other on the parish of St Andrews.

On this end of the bridge is erected the only toll-gate within
the

the bounds of the district. There are 50 tenants in the parish. The extent of their farms is very different; from 10 to 500 acres. Those of the last mentioned extent are in the east part of the parish. The land lets at from 10s to 50s an acre, excepting those extensive farms in the east part of the parish; which are rented at from L. 40 to between L. 60 and L. 70.

Heritors, Improvements, &c.—There are 16 heritors in the district, 14 of whom do not reside; a very material loss to the poor, and no small disadvantage to the inhabitants, as their residence would give real encouragement to the industrious, and a serious check to those few who in every society are inclined to be disorderly in their manners and practice. In the year 1782, we received no assistance from the heritors for the support of the poor, and were more than once obliged to borrow from the members of the Session; being unwilling to diminish any little sum we had been enabled in more plentiful years to lay up for the purpose of increasing the poor's annual income. For some years past indeed the heritors have attended with a spirit of liberality to the necessities of the poor; and we cannot entertain a doubt, that their benevolence will always be in proportion to the circumstances of the parish. On that part of the estate of Leuchars, purchased by the Hon. Robert Lindsay, containing 3736 acres, stands part of an old house, commonly called the castle of Leuchars, built upon a forced bank of earth, on the edge of a swamp, surrounded by a deep and broad moat, inclosing about 3 acres of ground. In the time of our forefathers, this must have been a place of defence, having no access but by a narrow bridge, till the large drain was cut, which has rendered it accessible on all sides up to the moat. There is a draw-well in the middle of the

the court, which, to the astonishment of those who lived there some years ago, became dry when the water was let out of the moat, for the purpose of scouring it. The workmen came at last upon the mouth of a covered drain, which they found on a level with the bottom of the well; and upon going down into the well, they discovered the same drain open there; from which they were naturally led to think, that the inhabitants had been supplied with water from the moat without, when surrounded by an enemy.

On this estate, also are some fine old trees.

Mr Lindsay has planted 138 acres with various kinds of timber; the plantation is in the most thriving state, and gives a most delightful rest to the eye, where once there was nothing to be seen, but a moor producing some coarse grass, heath, and furze. The traveller too, is pleased with the variety of nature's luxuriant productions. Mr Lindsay has also inclosed several fields with ditch, hedge, and dyke; and hedge rows of trees. These will in a short time, shelter and beautify the district. In the meantime, they pleasingly employ the imagination in anticipating what their maturity may produce. On the estate of Leuchars, have been built 5 farm steadings, suitable to, and convenient for the different farms, where the tenants are lodged, if not elegantly, yet with suitable conveniency. The proprietor has also feued ground to the manufacturers and others, for building a house, and a small garden at the back of it, at the rate of £. 4 per acre. So that the village of Leuchars, in place of being literally the village built with turfs, is become a neat country village built with stones and mortar; the houses at least are commodious for manufacturers. There are more than 70 new houses built in this village, within a few years; 8 of them have 2 floors, and 4 of them are covered with blue slates.

On

On the estate of Earl's-hall, belonging to Robert Bruce Henderson, Esq. Advocate, are a few old trees. On this estate is built one of the most extensive farm steadings in the parish. These two estates, once were in what is called runrig, two ridges belonging to Leuchars, one to Earl's-hall. This mode of division, while it may seem to secure to each proprietor his proportion of good and bad land, must be attended with the most unhappy effects, as it drags the wheels of improvement, and exposes the labourers to no inconsiderable temptations.

On the estate of Pitcullo, belonging to Neil Ferguson, Esq. Advocate, are some very fine old timber, and several fine thriving clumps of young trees. Here are more inclosures, both with stones and lime, and a greater number of old hedges with rows of trees within, than on any estate in the district; here indeed were made the first improvements in agriculture and inclosing. On this estate also, are two substantial new farm tofts.

On the estate of Ardit, the property of John Aistruther, Esq. Advocate, are also to be seen some fine old trees, hedges and clumps rising. These two estates on the west side of the parish, as they rise above the flat ground on the east, afford an agreeable and pleasing variety to the traveller, from Cupar to St Andrews, from Cupar to Dundee, or from either of these burghs to Cupar.

On the estate of Drone, belonging to Robert Meldrum Esq. of Clayton, there are more than 20 acres planted; some 20, some 7 years old: and within these 5 or 6 years, about 10 acres were planted with great taste, in different directions, from the house of Clayton, that will greatly beautify the situation of that building. Here also are two excellent farm steads. There are 8 acres planted on the estate of Pitlethie, belonging to Thomas Lawson, Esq.; besides some old

timber. This estate is inclosed with ditch and hedge, and hedge rows of different ages, which both give beauty and warmth to the fields.

In the garden belonging to Pitlethie, once stood one of the hunting seats of James the VI. King of Scotland; which had been taken down to a little below the surface, and thus rendered invisible. In digging this garden, the spade rung against a firm stone, and as stones are valuable here, upon removing the earth, the foundation of this hunting seat was discovered to a great depth and thickness. This was carefully raised, and a great part of Mr Lawson's house and offices was built from this quarry. Here too, were found the Royal Arms of Scotland, cut in a stone, which is still preserved, being placed in the front of one of the houses. In a field, near the house of Pitlethie, grows a venerable spreading thorn, where his Majesty's hawks after their toils, were accustomed to refresh themselves through the night.

Sheughy-dyke, or Tentsmuirs, is a very large flat part of the district on the east; about which many wonderful stories have been told, concerning the original inhabitants, and the peculiarity of their manners. After the most laborious enquiry, I find no reason to conclude, according to general report, that this part of the parish was peopled by the crews of a Danish fleet wrecked on the coast. I presume, that the greatest part of this flat, moory, benty, sandy ground, has been left by the gradual retiring of the sea. The sea has been making a gradual retreat from that part of the parish, for many years past, and has left what seems to me strong proofs of having once flowed and ebbed on those grounds. The name seems to have been founded in that caution and economy with which men take possession of property they are not sure of holding; for when the people took their station where the sea formerly made her furrowed bed, they must have

have entertained a fear, that she would in some future storm, return and occupy those parts she had been accustomed to travel over. They did not at first therefore build houses, but erected tents on those parts that swelled a little above the surrounding flats; and to make the situation of their tents more comfortable and dry, they dug a sheugh or ditch, laying the sod, and casting the earth inwards; hence seems to be derived the name Sheughy-dyke. The tent erected in the middle gave rise to the other name Tents-moors.

When these moors have been opened by digging, there has been found in several places, a greater variety of shells, and fish-bones, than could be reasonably supposed to fall from the tables of those tent-dwelling inhabitants; and seem to lead the mind to conclude, that the aged and storm-struck inhabitants of the ocean being washed to the shore, obtained a grave by the next tide covering them with sand. There are likewise in these moors 4 long beautiful canals. Those who espouse the idea of peopling this part of the district with ship-wrecked Danes, say, that these canals were formed by those foreigners, to defend themselves from the inhabitants of the surrounding country. I shall not say, how improbable this account appears. These canals seem to give no countenance to such an assertion. The most extended of them is not 2 miles long; and there is a great space of flat ground between the north end of them and the river Tay: the south end of them and the river Eden, consequently could form no defence. But, supposing they could have done so, would it not have been easy for the Scots, to sail from the Forth and Tay, disembark on their rear, while their land forces attacked them in front? These canals do not possess depth of water to render them the least defence. They seem to have been formed by the retiring ocean. There are 4 long, broad, beautiful, and almost parallel canals; called Canal-loch, White-myre,

Toremont, and Tents-muir, or Big waters. I observe this year, that the tenants are cutting drains, and letting the water out of these canals, to render the pasture more beneficial to their cattle. Strangers riding into this flat and not very fertile part of the parish, are surprised with finding this watery variety. I have seen their eyes return to it with pleasure. In the summer, especially if it be a dry one, the greatest part of the water is carried away by the wind, and exhaled by the sun. When in this state, the canals furnish a considerable quantity of coarse grass for the horses and cattle. In this part of the district, there are cattle of a small size reared, as may well be supposed, from the nature of their pasture; and a few working horses of a diminutive breed, to labour the fields, of no great extent, kept in tillage. One great disadvantage attending this sandy part of the parish is, that after the fields are sown and harrowed, if the wind blows strong from the west, or southwest, the mould is blown off the seed, and not infrequently, a considerable part of the seed is blown from the sown ground.

This soil is favourable to turnips, barley, and clover; good crops of oats and rye, are obtained here. The barley that grows in this sandy soil, is heavier in proportion to an equal quantity of the same grain that is produced from good clay; the former being thinner in the husk than the latter. The crops of pease, with a few beans among them, are not so sure or productive.

There is in this part of the district, a salmon fishing of no inconsiderable value, opposite to a small rivulet that runs into the ocean. From the entry of this rivulet, along the shore to the river Eden, the people sometimes amuse themselves by fishing in the summer season, in the following manner: Two of the people take a long net with weights upon the lower edge of it, go into the sea as far as they may with safety, extend

tend their net, and drag it gently to the shote: In this way, they are sometimes more, sometimes less successful in taking sea trout, flounders, and other kinds of fish. They use the same mode of fishing also, in all the convenient pools in the river Eden, when it is low water. This they only do for amusement, or when they long for fish. Is it not supposeable, that if these fishings were properly attended to, they might supply all the district with this wholesome and agreeable article of food? There were two no way inconsiderable salmon fishings in the river, one immediately below the Guard-bridge, the other opposite to the Coble-house; so called, from a small boat being kept there, by which travellers from the south to the north, and from the north to the south, shortened their way by 2 miles, in place of going round by the Guard-bridge. But since the distillery was erected upon the south side of the river at Kincaple, upon a bank sloping towards the Eden, both these fishings have been much injured by noxious water flowing from the distillery which runs into the river. The one at the Coble-house is entirely given up, and the other greatly decreased. When these were fished, salmon was bought here at $1d\frac{1}{2}$ and a $1d\frac{1}{2}$ per pound Dutch. No salmon can be purchased now below 4d, or frequently 8d per pound. The Tents-moors, and many other farms in the parish, abound with grey rabbits. It is allowed on all hands, that the sale of these animals with their furrs, yields more than £. 200 *per annum*. This part of the parish is now almost the only one where sheep are reared. It has been thought that the true breed of Scots sheep are to be found here: originally it might have been so; but they have passed through so many cross breeds, that they are greatly degenerated; yet there remain some very fine-wooled sheep, which, if properly attended to, might again rival their neighbours for the fineness of their fleeces. There has been a flock of 180 sheep lately added to

the

the former stock, making in all 2120. It is only in this part of the district, the numbers are kept up. They have been decreasing in the west part of the parish, for many years, and now are reduced to one flock. In this flock, are a great proportion of long tailed sheep without horns; their pasture is higher, and of course, more dry and nourishing; the sheep of a larger size, and finer wool. But in the east part of the parish, the grass is of a coarser nature, and the soil more subject to retain water from its flatness; the sheep of a smaller size, the 4 quarters weighing from 20 to 26 pounds. The time was, when every farm in the district, had a flock belonging to it; till the culture of clover and rye-grass became general, and every spot of grass land was made to feel the pulverising effects of the plough and harrow, when it was thought more profitable to part with these meek, harmless, and useful creatures.

In the Tents-moors, smuggling was carried on to a great extent, by those men in the neighbourhood, who were determined to risk their fortune and character on the events of a day; for the inhabitants of this corner, were only assisting in concealing and transporting their unlawful imports. By the wise and vigorous interposition of the directors of our justly admired government, smuggling, that illicit traffic big with many evils to mankind, is now happily unknown over all our coasts. The inhabitants of this remote corner have been blamed for cruelty to ship-wrecked sailors. If the charge be just, it does not belong to them alone; they are but a handful; the place is thinly peopled. In the days of old, it might have been so; but I have seen much attention and kindness shewn to such unhappy sailors as were cast upon our shore. I trust, and believe, that every future period shall be marked with an increase of brotherly love to the unfortunate.

Church,

Church, Stipend, School and Poor.—The church of Leuchars is placed nearly in the middle of the parish. It is an ancient lofty building, part of it very ancient, situated on a rising ground. The building is more than sufficient to hold the parishioners. There is no record by which the time of its erection can be fixed, and there is even no tradition on the subject. The church was once the only one in Scotland whose steeple ascended on the east end of the building. The time was, when our forefathers worshipped here according to the forms of the Romish church. The door through which the organist entered to perform that part of the service allotted to him, is still seen in the east gable of the church; and the place where the holy water was kept to purify the worshippers on their entry into this temple is also visible. The iron hook on which was suspended the lever for weighing meal on the Lord's day, is battened into the key stone of an arch in the steeple; and in the place below, other merchant wares were sold on that holy day.

A very little west of the present church, once stood a chapel called St Bernard's chapel; no remains of this monument of antiquity are now visible, the stones of it having been used for common purposes. Round where it stood are to be seen many graves, constructed of 4, and some of 6 stones. Some of these graves have lately been looked into without affording any thing worthy of being recorded.

There is a most excellent well flowing with an abundant stream of soft water, near the west end of the village, (for the village is now extending westward,) called by the name of the Saint, to whom the chapel was no doubt consecrated. A little north of the east end of the village, to the convenience and comfort of the inhabitants, there is another well of equal excellence, called the Lady well, no doubt consecrated to the Blessed Virgin. Tradition says, there once stood

stood a house of worship on the east side of the road, opposite to the house of Ardit; a small field belonging to that estate retains the name of the glebe. There was also once a chapel and burying ground at east Drone in this parish: The glebe is the name of a field there too, but the real history of these has not been transmitted to us. There is a tradition, according to the account by the Rev. Robert Dalgleish of Scots-craig, D. D. that the village of Ferry-Porton-craigs, before the 1606, belonged to this parish.

The stipend of this parish till the year 1791, was 64 bolls bear; 8 bolls wheat; 8 bolls oats; L. 330:10:9 Scots, and L. 36:16:8 Scots, vicarage, in which is included 40 merks for Communion elements. By an Interlocutor of the Court of Session in 1791, their Lordships were pleased to give the following augmentation. Out of a part of the free tythes of the parish, 24 bolls bear; 24 bolls meal; and L. 42:15:11 Scots, in which is included, L. 42 Scots for Communion elements. The Sacrament of our Lord's Supper is annually dispensed in this congregation, in the beginning of March, and end of July, to between 700 and 800 communicants. The Kirk Session received from the bishop of St Andrew's, from funds belonging to himself, L. 28 Scots for Communion elements; the receipt of which, is entered for the last time in the Session records, in the year 1728.

The legal salary of the parish schoolmaster, is L. 6:13:4 sterling. He has besides, by a mortification, a house, garden, and croft; and 2 acres of light land, about half a mile northwest of the village of Leuchars; and L. 4:10:6 ster. left to those who hold the office of schoolmaster, by a late eminent and worthy clergyman of this parish, the Rev. Alexander Henderson.

Leuchars is a pleasant healthy country village, where boarders may be kept to advantage. The present incumbent,

got

got a few soon after he was elected, and has room for a greater number. The number of scholars in the winter is from 80 to 100. The school fees are as low as any in Scotland. Every man who is sensible of the importance of educating the youth, and understands the true interests of his country, must regret, that a body of men so respectable, and so extensively useful as the parish-schoolmasters are, should have appointments so very unequal to their labour and to the situation of their families.

The poor in this parish are supported in their own houses. The Kirk Session are enabled to provide for them by the weekly collections at the church, and the money arising from the mort-cloths, which were originally purchased from the poor's funds; by the rent of 5 acres in the priory of St Andrews, purchased in the same way; and by the produce of a few seats in the church, yielding about L. 1 sterling *per annum*. I believe there is no fund managed with such care, or rendered so extensively useful, as the little funds in the hands of the Kirk Sessions of Scotland. We do not allow any of our poor to beg, though beggars pour in upon us from the north and south, in greater numbers than the situations of men in moderate circumstances can enable them to supply. There are laws to prevent this; but of what use are laws, if they are not put in execution? We have invariably found that those who are most unwilling to accept of aid from the parish, are least easily satisfied, when they have begun to receive it; whereas, those who modestly intimate their wants and receive assistance, as soon as their circumstances become less necessitous, with hearts overflowing with gratitude to Almighty God, inform us that they are able to support themselves, and thank the Session for the kindness shewn them while it was necessary. Pensioners of this description, we supply with the greatest satisfaction.

Population, &c.—By the return to Dr Webster in 1755, the numbers were 1691. By the last accurate survey of the parish, the numbers were 1620. The decrease, which is 71, is to be accounted for in the following manner. There are 6 different farms in the parish, occupied by one tenant; formerly possessed by 3. There is indeed one farm divided into 3, but there are 3 other farms possessed by one tenant, which were formerly occupied by 2. Every plough in the parish some years ago, had a man to hold, and a youth to drive it; the labour of the farms was chiefly carried on by married servants whose families resided on them. It is more the custom now to perform the labour by unmarried servants who have a house near the tenants, in which they sleep, and prepare their food. After they retire from work, they are free from the respect due to the eye of their master, and if inclined to wander, are at full liberty. I believe that these circumstances are not favourable to morals, and that the union of small into large farms, is unfriendly to population.

Abstract of Baptisms and Marriages from 1750, to 1759 inclusive, (there being no record of burials kept at that period;) and from 1780, to 1789 inclusive, to which the list of funerals within that period is added. No calculation can however be made of the number of deaths from the funerals; as many from neighbouring parishes are buried here, and many of the people of this parish in the neighbouring churchyards.

Baptisms.

	Baptisms.	Marriages.
1750	47	24
1751	55	20
1752	46	23
1753	51	10
1754	49	14
1755	58	19
1756	34	13
1757	45	14
1758	42	10
1759	51	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	478	165

	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1780	39	19	35
1781	41	12	30
1782	46	14	24
1783	36	14	25
1784	43	6	21
1785	57	6	41
1786	46	11	14
1787	18	4	42
1788	42	10	26
1789	43	13	25
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	411	109	283

There are of souls in the parish, below 10 years, 322; from 10 to 30, 1288; and from 30 to 90, 19.

There are in the parish, 22 Antiburgher, and 13 Burgher Seceders; 1 Berean, and 1 member of the Episcopal church; 37 Dissenters in all. There are 13 wrights; 9 masons; 9 smiths; 8 shoemakers; 6 taylors; 3 wheel-wrights, 2 of these are coopers; 1 surgeon; 1 brewer; 1 baker, and 1 bee-hive and basket maker. In the village of Leuchars, are 7 ale-houses, and there are 2 others in the district. Two ale-houses in the village of Leuchars, are certainly sufficient to supply all the inhabitants; and a greater number tends very much to destroy the morals, and impair the health of the inhabitants. There are 90 looms in the parish, 34 of these in the village of Leuchars. The weavers are employed in what is called household work of various kinds; but chiefly in brown linens, single and double sail cloth, which they weave for the Dundee merchants. Several of them buy yarn, weave it, and sell the webs to merchants in Dundee and Cupar. This kind of manufacture is increasing, and it is thought will increase. There is one of the weavers famous for working all kinds of damask, and other table linens. It is thought the population will soon rise above the return made to Dr Webster: there are 10 new houses built in the village of Leuchars this summer, to be inhabited at Martinmas next. A great spirit for building has discovered itself for several years past, especially in the village: though building is carried on at a great expence, free stones have not been found in the district, except on the southwest, by the side of the river Eden, below a most valuable surface: The proprietors are unwilling to break more of it than what is absolutely necessary for their own use, and the use of their farms. The cart load of free stones costs 2s, the driving and toll, 3d. On the west side of the parish which is hilly, there are inexhaustible fields of fine hard blue whin stones; these cost 1s for driving the cart load, and 4d for quarrying. From the top of Lucklaw-hill, part of which

is

is in this district, there is a most extensive and delightful prospect.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—It is no small advantage to this district, that the river Eden is navigable nearly to what is called the Inner-bridge; a little below which with the concurrence and assistance of some of the heritors, the tenants have built upon the north bank of the Mulltree-burn, commonly called Mothry water, a wall perpendicular on the side of the water, and have filled up the ground behind the wall in such a manner, as to make it easy for carts to approach the wall where they may load and unload small vessels: This gives opportunity of importing what the inhabitants stand in need of, and exporting whatever they can spare. Carriers from St Andrews to Dundee pass and repass twice every week through the village of Leuehars. Carriers from all the towns of the south coast, from Crail to the Ely, pass once in 14 days; perhaps oftener in summer. Carriers from Dundee and St Andrews to Edinburgh, going through Cupar the county town, pass within a mile of the village. Thus, an easy and regular intercourse is maintained between all those distant places, and what we wish to send, or desire to have from them, is conveyed at the ordinary expence of carriage, according to the weight.

The inhabitants of this district derive no small advantage from the shell-fish in the river Eden. They gather cockles and muscles in their different seasons, sometimes eat them by themselves, sometimes prepare them with potatoes, or onions; and the high flavoured juice that is obtained from the fishes in the boiling with a little seasoning, makes a truly wholesome and delicious meal.

There was established by mutual consent, in the year 1792, a society calling themselves the Brotherly Society of support,

in and about Leuchars, and members from the neighbouring parishes are admitted. The laws of the society are pious, benevolent, and well meant. Every member on his admission pays 2s 6d ster. and 8d quarterly, or 2s 6d annually. The intention of the fund is to relieve the members when under sickness or the infirmities of old age, or the widows and children of deceased members; who, it is proposed, are to receive 3s 6d weekly, or if a nurse should be necessary, 4s 6d. If any of the members die whose surviving relations are unable to defray their funeral expences, they are to receive L. 1 : 5 for that purpose. (It is submitted, whether societies of this nature in different parts of the country, may not be useful.) Their funds also enable them to buy quantities of meal, coals, or any other necessary article to divide amongst them. There are 2 fairs held in Leuchars, the one on the second Wednesday of April old style, for the sale of cattle, sheep, lint-feed, shoes, and all other kinds of merchant goods, the other on the third Friday of October, old style. The pit coal is at a great distance, and from the throng in the summer season, the fetching one cart containing 5 load, costs 5s 2d $\frac{1}{2}$, and is the work of a long day for one man and 2 horses. The proprietors of coal, are threatening to raise the price.

Diseases.—Epidemical diseases are not known in this district, since the great drain was cut. I have known 3 persons within these 20 years, affected with St Vitus's dance to a very high degree. It was desired that a fiddle should be played on in the presence of the affected person. It was not regular music that gave relief, but the striking of certain strings, which the person under agitation, desired should be struck again. The effect was astonishing; the person affected, became quiet, sat down, and in a little, asked to be put to

to bed, but still called for the person to play, till the feelings that produced the agitation were abated.

Some years ago, the people in this parish professed a religious scruple against innoculating their children. They are now come to look upon it as a religious duty to adopt the practice ; and not a few of them, when a lancet loaded with matter was procured for them, innoculated their own children. If the scruple could be got over throughout all parts of the country, how many lives would it save, how many fore-hearts to parents would it be the means under God of preventing ?

Character of the People.—They are in general sober and industrious ; regular attendants upon Divine worship on the Lord's day ; and grateful to a kind providence for the blessings they enjoy. They are remarkably steady in their attachments, in their loyalty to Our Gracious Sovereign and happy Constitution : 14 from this district entered to serve His Majesty when a late call for sailors was made through the counties.—With what pleasure do I relate these facts, after having read with horror in the Advertiser, for Tuesday the 3d November 1795, the wicked and treasonable attack made upon the sacred person of George the III. Thanks and praise with my whole heart do I offer to the providence of God, for preserving the life of the best of Kings, who has ever been the father of his people ; and pray most fervently, that the crown may long, very long flourish on his sacred head, until it please the unerring Disposer of all events, to crown Our Gracious King with a crown that shall for ever flourish in glory, and transfer his earthly crown to the head of His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales.

NUMBER