

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF MADDERTY,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING,
PRESBYTERY OF AUCHTERARDER.)

By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.

Situation, &c.

THIS parish is situated on the western boundaries of the parishes of Gask and Trinity-Gask, and on the eastern of Crieff. It has Fowils on the north, and part of Trinity-Gask on the south.—The climate is considerably wet and cold. The low and damp lands alongst the banks of the water of Pow are believed to be productive of rheumatisms, a disease of which the inhabitants of that district frequently complain.

Pow.—The only water or rivulet worth notice in the parish is the Pow, which, for a long way, is confined in a canal or cut that was dug to straighten its course near a century ago.

ago. This cut is about 24 feet in width, and 6 in depth. The descent is so very small, that the water appears generally to be stagnant. The lands adjacent are low and flat, which, with other circumstances, expose them to frequent inundations. This would not be altogether unfavourable to their agricultural improvements, could these floodings be kept under controul. This, perhaps, could be easily accomplished by small embankments and sluices, or kinds of locks, erected in proper places, for the management of the water. At present, the damage occasionally sustained on these lands is very considerable. No encouragement is held out to the farmer to institute any kind of improvements upon them. Much good soil is carried away by inundations, or in a great measure ruined by stones and gravel thrown upon it. Lime and dung, that may be applied for their fertilization, are sometimes carried off, or much injured by the water; and the crop, especially in harvest, is always in danger of being wholly lost. A navigable canal through this part of the country, from Perth to Crieff, could be made at a small expence, and would be of great advantage to a large and populous district.

Rent.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 3472 : 1 : 8 Scots; and the real rent may be about L. 1500 Sterling.

Population.—According to Dr Webster's account in 1755, the number of inhabitants of Madderty amounted to 796. At present, (1795), it is no more than 631, which makes a decrease of 165.

Agriculture.—Husbandry here has not been carried to that state of perfection to which it has arrived in some districts of the county. A climate rather cold and wet, and a soil of a considerably stiff clay in most places, have contributed to retard, in this neighbourhood, the advancement
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of agricultural improvements. Something, however, has been done in the melioration of the soil, and in the system of cropping. Lime and marl have been tried with success; and the sowing of grasses has been attended with great profit to the husbandman. Farms, in general, are small, giving from L. 15 to L. 50 Sterling a-year. The largest in the parish pays L. 90 Sterling a-year. Although almost wholly arable, yet very little of the parish is inclosed; a circumstance which is attended with much inconveniency and loss. More grain is produced than is necessary for the use of the inhabitants. The common Scotch plough, with two horses without a driver, is lately got into practice. Ploughs of Mr Small's construction have also been introduced. The land, in some places, contains great numbers of *fit-fast* stones, which prove to be great obstructions to its improvement. The Rev. Mr Ramsay, the present incumbent, who occupies a piece of land full of these stones, constructed a machine for the purpose of raising them. It operates on the principles of the pulley and cylinder, or wheel and axis, and has a power as 1 to 24. It is extremely simple, being a triangle, to two sides of which the cylinder is fixed. It can be easily wrought and carried from place to place by three men. A low four-wheeled machine, of a strong construction, is made to go under the arms of the triangle, to receive the stone when raised up. This machine has been already of great use in clearing several fields of large stones in this place and neighbourhood.

Abbey of Inch-efray.—This religious house was founded in the year 1200 by Gilbert Earl of Strathearn, and his Countess Matilda. It was dedicated to the honour of God, the Virgin Mary, and John the Apostle and Evangelist. The site of this famous Abbey is on a small rising ground, which seems, from its situation and name, to have once been
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been an island surrounded by the water of the Pow. In Latin it is denominated *Insula Missurum*, which is said to be a literal translation of its common name, Inch-effray, for Inch-peffray, the Island of Masses, or the island where mass is said. It was endowed with many privileges and immunities by David and Alexander Kings of Scotland. The edifices of this Abbey, which were once extensive, are now in ruins, and have, on several occasions, supplied abundance of stones for building houses, and making roads in the neighbourhood. The few remains of this ancient Abbey, with 6 or 7 acres of land in the immediate vicinity, belong to the Earl of Kinnoul, who, in consequence of this comparatively small possession, is patron of about twelve parishes that formerly were attached to the Abbey. Mauritius, abbot of this place, was present with Robert the Bruce at the battle of Bannockburn, and is reported to have had brought along with him the arm of St Fillan. This relick might, indeed, have given some encouragement to the superstitious; but one arm of a brave Scotsman, fighting in earnest for the liberty of his country, had more effect in obtaining that memorable victory, than could have been produced by the innate virtue of all the relicks of the dead that could have been collected. “ James Drummond, a younger
 “ son of David Lord Drummond, and his Lady, a daughter
 “ of William Lord Ruthven, was first stiled Lord Inchafry,
 “ being Commendator of that Abbacy, and afterwards
 “ created Lord Madderty by King James VI. in the year
 “ 1607. He married Jean, daughter to Sir James Chif-
 “ holme of Cromlicks, and with her got the lands of Inner-
 “ pefry, which were her mother’s portion, being heirefs of
 “ Sir John Drummond of Innerpefry. He had, by his said
 “ Lady two sons, John Lord Madderty, and Sir James, the
 “ first Laird of Machony.”—*Nisbet’s Heraldry*, vol. 1.

Church.

Church.—The present church is situated about three-fourths of a mile from the ruins of the Abbey. It was built in the year 1689, and is not in the best state of repair. Lord Kinnoul is patron. The stipend amounts to 9 chalders of victual, and L. 29 Sterling, including the expence of communion-elements. The glebe consists of 9 acres of land. Manse and offices are in good repair. Some of the Seceding meetinghouses in the neighbourhood draw from this parish a considerable number of hearers.

School.—The parochial school is under excellent management, and is deservedly in high repute. It is attended by numerous boarders from different parts of Scotland, but chiefly England. Mr David Malcolm, preacher of the Gospel, is at present master, and teaches English, Latin, Greek, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, mathematics, land-measuring, &c.

Poor.—The paupers on the parish-roll are commonly about 4 or 5. They are supported by the collections made on Sabbaths at the church, which amount to about 2 s. 3 d. each Sabbath. There is also a fund of L. 90 Sterling, L. 29 of which were bequeathed by two heritors, lately deceased. None of the poor are permitted to beg.

Tradesmen.—The whole parish may be called agricultural; and the only places that may be denominated villages are Bellycloine and Craigs; but as each of them consists of a few houses only, they hardly deserve the name of villages. Except a very small quantity of coarse linen, for the Perth market, there is no manufacture here. The quantity of linen made must be small indeed, when it is considered that there is only seven or eight weavers in the parish, and these are chiefly employed in customary work. This place
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is also supplied with 4 blacksmiths, 4 wrights, 2 shoemakers, 2 tailors, and 1 miller.

Price of Labour and Provisions.—These here are equally high with any place in the neighbourhood. A day-labourer receives 1 s. 4 d. and sometimes 1 s. 6 d. a-day during summer, and a shilling in winter; a ploughman's wages are from L. 8 to L. 10 Sterling a-year.—The price of provisions the same as in the town of Perth, and frequently considerably higher, as the best prices are often charged for articles of a very inferior quality. No ale nor whisky sold publicly in the parish. Coal is the fuel mostly used by the inhabitants. It is mostly brought from Blairingone, in the parish of Fossaway, at the distance of about 24 miles. They are also had from the shipping at Perth, at the distance of 12 miles, but the price is higher than at Blairingone. Farmers here, and in most of the neighbourhood, set a higher value on a little money than on their own time and labour. This must always be the case where there is no manufacture, and farming and husbandry are not carried on with proper vigour.

Roads.—The parochial roads, for there is no turnpike in the parish, are extremely bad, being hardly passable in wet weather. The communication on both sides the Pow is, however, kept up, by means of three bridges of stone thrown across that rivulet.

Proper Names.—The names of places in this parish are partly Gaelic, and partly English. To the former belong Tillychiandie, Bellycloine, Dallarie, Ardbennie, Balgowan: But Redhill, Woodend, Dubhead, &c. belong to the latter.

Antiquity.

Antiquity.—The only remains of antiquity in the parish worthy of notice, except the ruins of the Abbey already mentioned, is a portion of the Roman road or causeway from the camp at Ardoch to Perth. It runs about a quarter of a mile through the southern extremity of the parish, and is very entire. It is probable that it will not long continue in that state, if it can by any means be converted into a highway, or afford materials for making or repairing one.