

NUMBER XXXI.

PARISH OF DUNBOG,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

*By Dr GREENLAW, Minister of Criech.**Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

THIS parish lies low, between 2 hills, and has a pretty large bog or morass, one mile long, and about half a mile broad, at the W. end of it, from which the name *Dunbog* has probably arisen. It is bounded by Monimail on the S. and E.; by Abdie on the W.; by Flisk on the N.; by Criech on the E.; and is situated in the presbytery of Cupar, and Synod of Fife. Its length is about 3 miles, breadth 2. The greatest part of the lands is arable, but much of them wettish. They produce good barley; great part is capable of bearing wheat; and the tenants are improving in their mode of culture. There is only 1 flock of sheep, of about 13 score, of a pretty large size, brought hither from the southern parts of Scotland.

VOL. IV.

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Population.

<i>Population.</i> —Souls,	-	-	-	235
Males,	-	-	-	115
Females,	-	-	-	120
Aged below 10,	-	-	-	48
Between 10 and 20,	-	-	-	56
20 and 50,	-	-	-	100
50 and 70,	-	-	-	26
70 and 100,	-	-	-	5

Wages, Cottagers, &c.—A ploughman's usual wages are from L. 4, 10 s. to L. 8, according to his character for care and skill; those of women servants, L. 2, 10 s. or L. 3; a good wright or mason's wages, in summer, are 1 s. 6 d. in winter, 1 s. 2 d.; a tailor's, 6 d. or 8 d. with victuals. The people are industrious, and there is only 1 ale-house. Cottagers generally hold the farmers ploughs, get livery meal, have an acre of land, a house, and small garden, and furnish 2 reapers in harvest. There are several threshing machines here; but they seem, as yet, to save only a *lot-man*, as he is called, who threshes for so much the boll. These machines are useful, when a merchant offers for barley or wheat, and who would not wait the slow progress of a *lot-man*; for the machines can thresh 40 bolls in a day.

Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The church and manse are in pretty good order. The stipend is between L. 70 and L. 80, with 4 acres of a good glebe. The Crown is patron. There are 3 heritors, none of whom reside. The schoolmaster's salary is only about 100 merks. The poor are supplied by the weekly collections, and interest of poor's money.

Remarks on the State of the Clergy and Schoolmasters.—Unless a general augmentation of stipends becomes an object to persons

persons of influence, the clergy of Scotland must degenerate. If they become objects of compassion, their weight must be lessened, and no respectability of character will counterbalance that evil. Should the teachers of religion become meanly thought of, on account of their poverty, religion will suffer; and if good morals decline, industry, which requires regularity and sobriety of conduct, must decline also. The very small encouragement also given to schoolmasters, is one of the greatest evils; for it is not only an unspeakable loss to the poor men who teach, but to the rising generation. There are not a few parishes in this neighbourhood, where the salary is only 100 merks. Some have L. 100 Scots. But what man fit to teach can live upon this? What knowledge can he communicate? A common tradesman can live more at his ease. Were the encouragement increased, though but a little, it would do more good than can be expressed. Imperfect teaching of youth is like bad plowing in spring, which must of necessity produce a bad crop in harvest. The poorer sort of people are left without a remedy, and must send their children to the parish schoolmasters, such as they are.

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