

NUMBER LXVII.

PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK-JUXTA,

(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. Mr GABRIEL SCOT.

Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

KIRKPATRICK has been evidently named after St Patrick, and is more properly spelt Kil Patrick. It is situated in the Synod of Dumfries, in the presbytery of Lochmaben. Its form is triangular, about 8 miles on each side. It lies on the S. W. side of the Annan, opposite to the parish of Moffat, by which it is bounded on the E. and N. On the S. E. it is bounded by Wamphrey; on the S. by Johnston; on the S. W. by Kirkmichael and Closeburn; on the N. W. by Crawford. The general appearance is rather bleak, interspersed with moss and moor, and almost without inclosures. For a mile S. W. of the Annan, it is flat and pretty populous. To the westward it is heathy and hilly. At the western extremity stands the mountain of Queensberry, whose top is about 3000 feet above the sea. The soil is shallow, but dry and moderately fertile. By means of turnpike roads lately made, and the encouragement given by the Earl of Hopetoun, it is now improving

ving by lime brought above 20 miles. The air is rather moist, from frequent rains from S. and S. W. but healthy, and free from agues. In 1789, there were 204 days wet or showery.

Population.—By Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 794. The population of the parish is rather decreased within the last 50 years. The number of farmers is one half diminished. 'Tis Lord Hopetoun's design to increase them. The present population is 617; 298 males; 319 females. Average of births 16; deaths 14; marriages 7; under 10, 156; between 10 and 20, 148; 20 and 30, 65; 30 and 40, 74; 40 and 50, 75; 50 and 60, 50; 60 and 70, 28; 70 and 80, 18; 80 and 90, 1; 90 and 100, 2. Families of farmers 52; other families 71; tradesmen 15; servants male and female, all (at least occasionally) labourers 62; Seceders 17; bachelors above the age of 21, 42; married men and widowers 95. Average of children alive of each family, including those of widowers and widows $3\frac{1}{2}$. Inhabited houses 132; number of persons to each, (exclusive of 9 solitary female cottagers,) fully 5.

Productions, Agriculture, &c.—Natural productions are oak, ash, birch, alder, hazel, &c. Much oak of a large growth is dug up in the moles. There are several late plantations of fir. Broom and furze abound. We have also alder, juniper, bird-cherry, crab, mountain ash. Wild strawberries, cranberries, nut-berries and others, peculiar to moors and mountains. That species of grass which grows on marshy ground, commonly called *spratt*, is much used for fodder. 'Tis somewhat remarkable, that the land where it grows, though not subject to be overflowed with water, bears annual cropping, without being manured or pastured.

tured except in the latter end of the year. Moss accumulates very quickly upon stones when exposed to the weather, and likewise upon trees. There are in tillage 48 acres; for potatoes 35 acres; barley and big 20; almost all the rest for oats. There are of black cattle 625; sheep 448 scores, horses 95. The black cattle in this country are small, and mostly without horns; for the want of which, they are commonly preferred. The sheep are all of the short kind, large, but coarse woolled. They are tarred very thick, about a Scots pint of tar being allowed to 5 sheep. The English sheep are coming into repute in the neighbourhood. Lord Hope-toun keeps a few Spanish, which thrive pretty well. In general, the parish must be presumed to export provisions. But a very few acres are sown with rye-grass and clover. The whole of the parish, except about 600 acres, is in pasture. They sow from the beginning of March to the middle of April, and begin to reap in the first week of September. The land-rent of the parish is about L. 1827. There are about 40 ploughs, almost all of the Scotch kind, and as many carts. Almost every farm in the parish having a considerable variety of soil, it can only be computed that the arable land, if let separately, would rent from 6s. to 14s.; good bog meadow, as it requires little trouble or expence, might yield 12s. or 14s. There is no land capable of tillage, let exclusively for pasture. The highest rent in the parish is that of a sheep farm, *viz.* L. 220. Other sheep farms are rented at L. 100, and upwards. These have all more or less of arable land, from 8 to 30 acres. The average rent of those farms, on which there are no sheep, is L. 25. The number of these is increasing.—In 1782 and 1783, much corn was exported from this county both by land and sea. The oatmeal sold then at 2s. 6d. the stone. The poor certainly depend

depend more on potatoes in this county, than in any other in the South of Scotland.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The stipend is L. 72, 4s. including L. 5 for communion-elements. The glebe is worth about L. 4, 10s. a-year. The Earl of Hopetoun is patron, as curator for the Marquis of Annandale. The church seems to have been built in 1676, thatched with heath till 1736, then raised in the walls and slated. The manse was built in 1788. The number of heritors is 9. None reside but one inconsiderable proprietor.—There was no *legal* school in this parish till about 20 years ago. The salary is only L. 11, and the wages *a-quarter*, for reading, are no more than 1s. The number of scholars in summer is very small, in winter 40 or 50. Had not the present teacher been disabled for working as a common mason, he must have spurned at such a livelihood as this.—About 12 poor regularly receive alms; about L. 7 is collected at the church doors.

Prices, Wages, &c.—The price of oats within the last 40 years has increased about one third. Beef and mutton fell at present about 4d. the pound, which is more than one third above their price 40 years ago. A man's wages for labour in husbandry, are in summer about 8d. and 10d. with victuals; a carpenter's 10d.; a mason's 1s.; a tailor's 8d.; all with victuals. The common fuel is peat, dug on almost every farm: when sold at Moffat the average price of a small cart-load is 2s. As the earnings of common labourers are small, their subsistence and accommodation must be scanty and mean. Small as their expenditure is, I find it very difficult to balance it with their earnings. From all the information I can obtain, I apprehend the following calculation

calculation to be pretty near the truth. The labourer has a wife and 4 children, the eldest 13 years, the youngest 5.

Earnings.

The man earns, with victuals, 8d. a-day for 265					
days	-	-	-	-	L.8 16 8
Childrens wages	-	-	-	-	1 0 0
Charity or presents	-	-	-	-	0 10 0
					<hr/>
					L.10 6 8

Expenses.

Oat-meal, 40 stone, at 1s. 8d. the stone	-				L.3 6 8
Butcher-meat	-	-	-	-	1 0 0
Wool, 2 stone, spun for clothes	-	-	-	-	0 12 0
Milk and butter	-	-	-	-	1 5 0
Salt	-	-	-	-	0 4 0
House rent	-	-	-	-	0 16 0
Barley, 4 stone	-	-	-	-	0 6 8
Shoes	-	-	-	-	0 15 0
Potatoes for feed, and bought	-	-	-	-	0 10 0
Linen, aprons, &c.	-	-	-	-	0 10 0
Lying in and burials, &c.	-	-	-	-	0 10 0
Peat	-	-	-	-	0 7 0
Tools, repairs of house and furniture	-	-	-	-	0 4 4
					<hr/>
					L.10 6 8

I have omitted several articles of dress and finery, watch, pocket money at weddings, fairs, &c. education of children at school, &c. How these can be defrayed by the earnings of the wife from harvest work or spinning beyond what is necessary for the family, 'tis difficult to conceive. Many however, who seem to live according to the above calcula-

tion, receive no public charity. The wages of a man servant are from L. 6 to L. 8 a-year; of a woman from L. 2, 10s. to L. 4.

Antiquities.—There is a Roman road yet to be traced running through the parish from S. to N. It comes up the E. bank of Annan, from the ruins of a large camp at Burnfwork, in the parish of Middlebie, and passes here a place called *Tutius-holm*, where there are some remains of a square encampment of small extent. Upon digging, I could only find some earthen ware in fragments, very strong and coarse. I have procured from the people who have tilled the adjoining fields, a few bits of green and party-coloured glass, and small pieces of a substance resembling marble, about half an inch broad, round, smooth, and flat on one side. Some have been found which were perforated in the middle.—Near the Roman road where it enters the parish of Moffat, there was found in a moss about three years ago, a piece of gold of a semicircular form, evidently a fragment, in length 3 or 4 inches. On the outer edge it was ornamented with a border, in which were the following letters formed by cutting through the interstices, IOV. AVG. VOT. XX.—There are a great number of *cairns* or *burians*; also many circular inclosures on hills and eminences, formed by a great quantity of stones, which have now no appearance of having been built. They measure in diameter from 100 to 200 feet. They are commonly supposed to have been used for securing the cattle from enemies and thieves, in a country much infested with both. There are several ruins, called by the common people *towers*, which have been surrounded by ditches and walls. By far the most remarkable of these is the *park* of *Achancafs*. The walls, which are about 150 feet square, and

and some parts of which are still standing to the height of 20 feet, are no less than 15 feet in thickness. The fort had been supplied with water by a leaden pipe, part of which was lately dug up. The place is strong by nature, from the precipices and morasses by which it is surrounded.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The people in general are quiet, sober and contented. No murder, suicide nor robbery, is known to have happened in the parish.—Almost every family spins coarse cloth for its own use; but unfortunately there is no considerable woollen manufacture in all Annandale. Great part of the wool is exported to England.—The condition of the people might, in my humble opinion, be much ameliorated, if the proprietors of land would grant them longer leases and better houses, and either inclose their grounds, where arable, or encourage their tenants to do it. By such means, many acres not worth more at present than 1 s. a-year, might be improved so as to yield in a few years 12 s. or 15 s. So eager are the tenants here for tacks, that for a 19 year tack of a very small farm, moderately rented, 6 or 8 times the amount of the rent is sometimes paid as entries. There are particular reasons for the Marquis of Annandale's lands not being let in long leases; but the people have such a well founded confidence in the honour and generosity of the Earl of Hopetoun, that they do not seem to suffer much from the want of them.—Fifty years ago, silk and cotton were very rarely to be seen; now a servant maid cannot be in dress without both. There were then no watches but the minister's; now there is scarcely a man servant who is without one. Clocks, mostly of wood, are also very common. Seventy years ago, there was not a pane of glass, except in

two

two houses; now every house has at least one glass window. In other respects, however, the houses of the common people have improved little or nothing. Seventy years ago, the hire of a man servant was about L. 1, 4s. of a woman scarcely 10s. a-year.—The common people were certainly more ignorant 50 years ago than at present. Several at that time had not learned either to write or read; now they can all read pretty well, and all the men at least can write. Several of the farmers read history, magazines and newspapers. The vulgar read almost nothing but books on religious subjects. Many of them are too fond of controversial divinity; a taste which the Dissenters are very diligent in promoting, and which the few books they are acquainted with, are rather calculated to confirm. To discourage this unhappy propensity, so common through a great part of Scotland, and to recommend books of a more rational and instructive nature, seems an object worthy of a clergyman.—Inoculation of the small-pox is far from being general in this country. The common people are strongly prejudiced against it. To this circumstance a large proportion of the deaths which happen in this parish is to be ascribed.—Rheumatism is universally allowed to be much more common now than it was 40 years ago. I have heard no satisfactory reasons assigned for its increase. Thinner clothing, and the more general use of linen next the skin, may perhaps account for it in part.

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