

NUMBER XV.

O L D K I L P A T R I C K,

(COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN DAVIDSON,
Minister of the Parish.*

Origin of the Name.

KIRK or KIL-PATRICK takes its name from St Patrick, the tutelar saint of Ireland, who, tradition says, was a native of the parish. There are many circumstances favouring this tradition; though Mr O'Halloran, an Irish writer, supposes that he was rather a native of Wales. In a burying place in the church yard, there is a stone of great antiquity, with a figure said to be that of St Patrick upon it; and some go so far as to assert, that he was buried under it. In the river Clyde, opposite to the church, there is a large stone or rock, visible at low water, called St Patrick's stone; and Pennant says, "Ireland will scarce forgive me if I am silent about the birth-place of its tutelar saint. He first drew breath at Kirkpatrick, and derived his name from his father, a noble Roman, (a Patrician), who fled hither in the time of persecution."

Situation,

* Pennant's Tour, Vol II. p. 160. 5th edit.

Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.—The parish is beautifully situated upon the river Clyde, in the Presbytery of Dumbarton, and Synod of Glasgow and Ayr. The church stands near the turnpike road, 10 miles below Glasgow. Before the disjunction of New Kilpatrick, the parish was of great extent. It is still, however, larger than the ordinary size of parishes in this part of the country, being about 8 miles long, and, in some places, from 3 to 4 miles broad. The soil of the arable part of the parish is generally thin, sandy, or gravellish; but it is in some places clay, and in others clay with a till bottom. The surface of the low part of the district, towards Clyde, is rather plain and level; the north part is hilly and mountainous, and in many places covered with heath and wood.

Rivers, Hills and Prospects.—The principal river is the Clyde, and it is the boundary of the parish upon the south. It abounds with salmon, smelts and trouts, which are caught in great plenty; and herrings have been taken, as high up the river as Lord Sempill's house, about a mile above the church. There are several smaller rivulets, which, as will be afterwards shown, have added very much, by the number of works erected upon them, both to the wealth and population of the parish. From the hills above the church, which are continuations of the Grampians, and from one in particular, called Dumbucks, there are excellent distant views, terminated on the one hand by the lofty mountains of Arran, with their heads sometimes above the clouds, and on the other, by the soaring top of Benlomond. From the Chapel hill, the property of the family of Blantyre, and from Dalnotter hill, the property of the Lord President, both situated upon the turnpike road from Glasgow to Dumbarton, within half a mile of the church, the observer is delighted with the variety of the scenery, and richness of the prospect,

spect. The banks of so fine a river as the Clyde, the striking figure of Dumbarton castle, the wonderful division in the ridge of mountains above Bouling Bay, and the numerous woods,—all unite in rendering this prospect perhaps one of the best in Scotland. Mr Farrington, Royal Academician of London, some years ago was employed to take different views upon the rivers Forth and Clyde. He is a man of eminence in his profession, and the view from Dalnotter hill is supposed by many to be the best of the collection.

Climate and Diseases.—The climate is mild and temperate, though, as is the case upon all the west coast of Scotland, very rainy at some seasons of the year. No epidemical disease, however, prevails among the inhabitants. They are generally healthy, and though instances of extreme longevity cannot be produced, yet a man of the name of Daniel Montgomery, belonging to the parish, died within these 2 years at the well authenticated age of 93; and during the incumbency of the present minister, he has known many persons of both sexes live to the age of 85.

Proprietors and Rents.—There are about 33 heritors, great and small, in the parish, the principal of whom are Lord Blantyre, the Lord President, Sir Archibald Edmonstone, Mr Hamilton of Barns, Mr Buchanan of Auchintorly, Mr Stirling of Law, Miss Buchanan of Auchintoshan, and Mr Dreghorn of Ruchill. The valued rent of the parish is L. 4441 : 13 : 8 Scotch. The real rent is about L. 5000 Sterling. Almost all the arable lands in the parish are inclosed and subdivided. The average rent of arable land, in the low part of the parish, is from 20 s. to 30 s. *per acre.*

Cultivation.

Cultivation.—When the present incumbent became minister of the parish in the 1745, the state of agriculture was most wretched. The rent of arable land, even in the low part of the parish, at an average, did not exceed from 2s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. an acre. The distinction of outfield and infield, or croft land, universally prevailed. There were few or no inclosures, and the tenants were miserably accommodated with houses. The croft land, though every year ploughed, produced little crop. There were no carts in the parish. The difference is now wonderful. In few parts of the country are the farmers in a more prosperous situation, the rents better paid, or the best mode of cultivating the soil better understood. In general, the tenants observe strictly the following method: They never have above a third of their farm in tillage at a time. They take but two crops of grain and one of hay from that third, and it is never broke up again till it remains in pasture grafs 3 or 4 years. To this is to be ascribed the flourishing state of the tenants*. Their grounds being thus treated, and well dunged

* This change took place about 20 years ago. The example was set by some of the principal heritors, who were at great pains and expence to introduce it, and it is now becoming general over the parish. The method pursued with so much effect by the heritors, was either to summer-fallow and improve their estates themselves, and then let them out in lease; or, where they were so large as not to admit of this, to let out the parts which they had not summer-fallowed, allowing the tenant a deduction of a year's rent for each inclosure he should summer-fallow, till the whole farm was once gone over, at the average rent of the farm *per* acre, provided he gave the inclosure 4 ploughings, and as many harrowings, laid on a certain quantity of manure, and made and formed new streight ridges of a proper breadth. By these means, the tenants were induced to alter their former system of cultivation, and they continue in the new course, the beneficial consequences of which are abundantly felt. They bring dung from Port-Glasgow and Greenock by water carriage, and they cart their lime from a lime-work near the east boundary of the parish. They generally use two horse ploughs, though, in some places, where the soil is

dunged and limed, produce excellent crops, and their pasture grafs is remarkably rich and nourishing. The distinction of outfield and infield is totally suppressed. Carts are univerfally used. Convenient and central farm houfes are built upon almost every farm, many of them slated.

Produce and Cattle.—The crops raifed are corn, bear, barley, wheat, peafe and potatoes; and there are ready markets for all thefe, either at the different villages and works in the parish, or at Glasgow. The horfes and black cattle in this diftrict are of the beft kinds. Several of the tenants rear them. On the grounds of the upper part of the parish, great numbers of cattle and fheep are pastured. The hills of Cockney always produce remarkably fat cattle and fheep. Better feldom appear in the Glasgow or Paisley markets.

Manufactures.—This parish, from its local advantages, (having a great many falls of water, iffuing from the high grounds,) from its good roads, and its vicinity to Glasgow, is full of different manufactories, all of which are in a thriving fituation, and employ at high wages a very great number of people *. To give the reader an idea of the num-

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is clay, 3 and 4 horfes are thought neceffary. As all personal fervices are juftly confidered as destructive, they have been neceffarily abolifhed in a part of the country where agriculture has arrived to fo high a pitch of perfection. Thirlage, however, and mill fervices, ftill remain. But thefe, it is hoped, will foon alfo be suppressed. Even ftatute-labour, known in almost every county in Scotland, is here converted into money.

* The prices of labour and provifions, in this and in all the parifhes adjoining to Glasgow, are regulated in a great meafure by Glasgow. As thefe have been detailed by fome of the clergy in the neighbourhood, it is thought unneceffary to repeat the particulars here. In general, it may only be obferved, that they bear a proportion to one another, and that all ranks and degrees of perfons in the parish are now much more wealthy, and in a much more profperous fituation, in every refpect, than their anceftors.

ber and the kind of manufactories, a list of them is subjoined.

Two printfields of great extent, having 595 persons belonging to the works; but as 280 of these do not reside in the parish, they are not comprehended in the number of inhabitants after mentioned :

Number of persons employed,	-	-	595
One bleachfield, which employs	-	-	50
One paper manufactory employs,	-	-	84
One smith and iron manufactory employs	-	-	273
One woollen manufactory, (and which was the first of the kind in Scotland,) employs	-	-	321
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Total number of persons employed,	-	-	1323
Deduct for non-residenters,	-	-	280
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Total residenters employed,	-	-	1043

One of the printfields pays a weekly duty of near L. 200 Sterling to Government, and is supposed to be the fourth or fifth largest in Scotland. The works and machinery of the wool mill are complete for making and finishing 1000 yards of cloth a-day, which requires 1200 lb. of wool.

Roads and Bridges.—Thirty years ago there were no passable roads for carriages in the parish, owing to the want of bridges, for, in floods, the rivulets were unfordable. Even the great road from Glasgow to Dumbarton, which communicates with the West Highlands, was at times in the like situation. About 20 years ago, the Duke of Argyle, Lord Frederick Campbell, and Sir Archibald Edmonstone, in the most patriotic manner, undertook to make the part of the high road, from the East confines of the parish, to the town of Dumbarton, a stretch of 8 miles, and to take their chance of the tolls for indemnification, which, at the time, was a very

very uncertain security. The road was accordingly soon made in the completest manner; and these gentlemen have now the satisfaction of having conferred a lasting advantage on the country; while, from the increase of the manufactures of Glasgow, and the number of travellers, the turnpike duties have repaid their advance of money. As these duties are now perfectly sufficient to support the road, independent of the statute money, the latter is applied to the other roads in the parish, which, owing to the good management of a residing heritor, who takes charge of the application, are all likewise in good order. The statute money of the parish amounts to L. 63 : 6 : 8 Sterling yearly, and is upon the increase. It is raised by an assessment of 18 s. Sterling upon each L. 100 Scotch of valued rent, and of 2 s. Sterling upon each householder. Good roads should be the first object of improvement in every country. It is to their being so good in this parish, that a great part of its prosperity may be ascribed.

Ferry.—The ferry of Erskine, almost opposite to the church, is the communication for foot passengers, horses, and carriages, across the river in this part of the country. The quays have lately been removed to more proper situations, and it is now a very convenient and useful ferry.

Church.—The church is a very ancient building, and was formerly a branch of the abbacy of Paisley. The stipend is 89 bolls 2 firlots 1 peck 2 lippies of meal, and L. 45, 13 s. 4 d. Sterling of money, including L. 4 : 3 : 4 Sterling for furnishing communion elements. The manse is pleasant and commodious; and, since an exchange with the family of Blantyre, who very liberally made a considerable addition to the glebe, it is now a very good one, consisting
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of 9 acres of excellent arable land. Lord Blantyre is patron.

Population.—From an accurate account taken in summer 1792, the number of souls, including those employed at the public works, but exclusive of the 280 non-resident persons, are,

Males above 8 years of age,	-	-	961
Males below 8 years of age,	-	-	265
Females above 8 years of age,	-	-	933
Females below 8 years of age,	-	-	293

In whole, 2452

In Dr Webster's report in 1755, this parish is said to have contained 1281 souls,

Increase, 1171

This important increase of inhabitants is, in a great measure to be attributed to the number of works carried on in the parish, and the great influx of people which they have occasioned; for the number of inhabitants, independent of the works, has not increased in a great degree, the number now being only 1409 souls, whereas, in 1755, there were 1281; an increase of only 128.

Poor.—The poor in the parish are few, considering the number of inhabitants, and even these consist of old or diseased people who are unable to work; for it has been observed, that none but the truly necessitous ever desire to receive public charity. In this part of the country, the people have a proper pride, and are naturally averse at coming (as they call it) upon the poor's box. There have never, therefore, been any assessments for the poor. They are supplied out of the collections at the church door, and from the

the stock of the poor's fund; but, owing to the few residing heritors in the parish, and a degree of fanaticism among some of the lower sort of people, which takes them to other meetings than the Established Church, the collection at the church door is less now than formerly, and it is to be feared that an assessment may soon be necessary, which, wherever it takes place, is attended with many pernicious consequences*.

Minerals.—In several parts of the parish, there are coal and lime pits which have been wrought, and at present there is one coal work going. Freestone in great quantities is to be found in many places, some of it of an excellent quality for building. The stones used in building the sea-locks at Bowling Bay, and many of the bridges upon the west end of the canal, were taken from the estate of Miss Buchanan of Auchintoshan, and are considered to be of the best kind of freestone.

Antiquities.—The Roman wall, (or, as it is commonly called, *Graham's dike*, from a tradition, that a Scottish warrior of that name first broke over it,) between the Forth and Clyde, which was first marked out by Agricola, and completed by Antoninus Pius, and which terminated

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* Under this article, the minister is happy in having an opportunity of doing justice to the proprietors of the numerous works. While they have added, in a great degree, to the wealth and population of the parish, he can safely say, that in no instance have they increased the number of poor. Their poor are uniformly supported from funds established among themselves. At several of the works, weekly collections are made by the workmen, which are accumulated into a capital, and, by the judicious management of the proprietors, they are thereby enabled, not only to maintain their poor, but also to employ surgeons and schoolmasters for the benefit of the workmen and their families;—a line of conduct highly proper, and meritorious, and well worthy the imitation of every master manufacturer.

at Dunlaps *, is still discernible in many parts of the parish; as are also several Roman camps in the neighbourhood of it, particularly one upon a hill at Duntocher †.—At Sandyford, near the village of Kilpatrick, before the road was repaired, and before a bridge for horses and carriages was built over the burn there, a large stone, supposed to have been an obelisk, intended to commemorate some remarkable event, had been taken from near the Roman wall, where, it is said, it had stood, and was used by the country people as a bridge for foot passengers. It is now in the possession of

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* No. This
has Dunlaps
in Lothian.

* Dunlaps was once a site of the Romans, and, in Oliver Cromwell's time, a castle and a place of some strength, but was blown up by the treachery of an English boy.^x The ruins of some of the buildings are still to be seen. It was formerly the property of the Colquhouns of Lufs, who likewise enjoyed the whole tract of country from that to Dumbarton, and it at present retains their name, being called the Barony of Colquhoun. This castle, however, and the barony have, for many years, been in the possession of Sir Archibald Edmonstone's family, and his vassals. But though the family of Lufs have now no property in the parish, they have still very large estates in the county. The massacre of the Colquhouns by the Macgregors in 1602, is an instance, among many, of the barbarous state of this country at that time, and occasioned acts of Parliament prohibiting any person from using the name of Macgregor. These acts are now very properly repealed.

† In 1775, a country man in digging a trench upon the declivity of this hill, turned up several very uncommon tiles. The tiles are of 7 different sizes, the smallest being 7 inches, and the largest 21 inches square. They are from 2 to 3 inches in thickness, of a reddish colour, and in a condition perfectly sound. The lesser ones composed several rows of pillars, which formed a labyrinth of passages of about 18 inches square, and the larger tiles being laid over the whole, formed a floor; above which, when it was discovered, there lay about two feet deep of earth. The building was surrounded by a wall of hewn stone. Various conjectures have been made with regard to the nature of these remains of antiquity. The most probable is, that it was used as a *sudorium*, or hot bath, for the use of the neighbouring garrison.—Near this, there is a Roman bridge, over the Duntocher burn; which, though it has been often repaired, still retains strong marks of antiquity.

of Mr Donald of Mountblow, and resembles the ancient obelisks near Brechin, called the Danish stones of Aberlemno.

Character.—The people of this parish may be said to answer the general character of the Scotch, for they are sober, honest, and industrious. The demand for workmen and artificers is so great, that there is not an idle person to be seen. At the wool mill and printfields, great numbers of young persons are constantly employed, many of them below 8 years of age, who earn from 4 d. to 8 d. a-day. And, as there are schoolmasters in the vicinity of all these works, the youth, when not engaged at their employments, go to school. In this way their business and education are united, while their morals are not endangered by idleness.—All the young people of the parish dress well. The men wear hats and coats of English cloth. The young women put on silk and calico gowns, and black caps and cloaks. They meet together occasionally, and make merry. Their chief amusement is dancing, and upon these occasions there is a pleasing cheerfulness and innocence among them.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Inoculation is now generally practised in the parish, which is a happy circumstance, both on account of the population, and the difference it occasions in the look of the people. The practice is not, however, of above 30 years standing. The minister was among the first who began it. He tried it with success in his own family about the year 1761-2, since which the custom has gradually crept in, and is now universal. An instance of the proper and rational conduct of a tenant in the parish, towards his family, may be here mentioned. He has had 12 children, and he inoculated every one of them. The extension of the great canal to Bowling Bay, where it joins
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the Clyde, must be attended with very advantageous consequences to the nation. The number of vessels that sail upon it, loaded with all kinds of merchandise, and some of them from sea to sea, is daily increasing.—The history of the Bargarran witches, in the neighbouring parish of Erskine, is well known to the curious. That this parish, in the dark ages, partook of the same frenzy, and that innocent persons were sacrificed at the shrine of cruelty, bigotry, and superstition, cannot be concealed. As late as the end of the last century, a woman was burnt for witchcraft at Sandysford, near the village; and the bones of the unfortunate victim were lately found at the place. While we review with pity and regret, the deplorable situation of human nature at that time, we feel a sensible pleasure in contemplating the change that has already taken place, which is indeed highly increased, by indulging the fond hope, that the period is fast approaching, when all kinds of superstition and bigotry, will for ever be banished, from the face of the earth.

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