

NUMBER XXXV.

PARISH OF ST QUIVOX,

(County of Ayr.—Presbytery of Ayr.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Mr M'QUAIE.

Extent and Soil.

THE parish of St Quivox contains about 3500 acres of land, all of which is arable, except some part of the banks of the river of Ayr, which are steep, and covered with natural wood or plantations. The soil is various; nearest to the sea it is sandy—a small part of it is a light gravelly soil, with a dry bottom: Towards the east it is more clayey; and in general has a hard bottom of till or rotten rock, which makes the uneven surface stratum, springy, and wet. There are about 100 acres of meadow land; a part of which is much injured by the overflowing of a small rivulet, that is stopped in its course by a mill-dam. There are likewise about 100 acres of wood and plantations. The whole parish has been inclosed with hedge and ditch within the last 30 or 40 years, and in general the hedges are in a thriving condition.

Population.—In 1755, the population was 499. In the country part of the parish there are at present 96 families, which contain 490 souls of all ages. There are two excel-

lent modern built mansion-houses, pleasantly situated on the banks of the river; the one belonging to Mr Oswald of Auchencruive, and the other to Mr Campbell of Craigie, who reside in them occasionally. Two-thirds of the parish are the property of Mr Oswald, and the other third is divided among 7 different heritors. Three of these farm their own property. Thirty families live by farming; 4 blacksmiths, 4 masons, 5 colliers, 4 house-carpenters, 3 weavers; the remaining 43 are labourers, or poor, or employed in different ways about the collieries.

Married pairs,	-	-	81
Widows,	-	-	8
Bachelors,	-	-	5
Widowers,	-	-	2
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			96

There are 5 married men above 80 years of age, all poor, except one; and their wives above 70, except one.

<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>	
Above 80	5	Above 70	4
— 60	12	— 60	12
— 50	17	— 50	22
— 40	28	— 40	26
— 30	22	— 30	31
— 20	36	— 20	53
— 10	41	— 10	38
Under 10	76	Under 10	67
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	237		253
	253		
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Total,	490		

Rent

Rent and Produce.—The lands are set from 12 s. to 40 s. an acre, and even some so high as 3 l.; but the average of the whole parish is about 20 s. an acre. There are in the pa-

parish about 132 horses,	-	value L-	1475
350 milch cows,	-		2000
200 young cattle, at 2 l.	-		400
200 fat cattle, at 5 l.	-		1000
104 carts, at 4 l.	-	-	416

None of the farmers keep a regular stock of sheep on account of their hedges. A few are bought in occasionally to be fattened for the butcher, and a few of English breed are kept as pets.—These together may be valued at 50 l. The annual produce of a milch cow, besides her calf, is from 3 l. to 4 l. the average 3 l. 10 s.—Butter, 9 d. *per* lib. of 24 ounces; and cheese, from 2½ d. to 6 d. the same weight.

Agriculture.—As to agriculture, the general practice is to plough the land for 3 years, and lay it out into grafs for 6; after which, it is again plowed for 3 years, and so on during the tack. Lands are commonly let for 19 years; and the above course of management is specified in the tacks; however, a better rotation of crops is sometimes followed. 1st, Potatoes with dung, or (though seldom) turnips. 2d, Barley with red clover, 10 or 12 lib. to the acre. 3d, Red clover. 4th, Oats. Then, 5th, Potatoes with dung, and so on as before. This is found to be a good plan on dry land. But the staple articles with the farmers here are oats and bear. Small patches only are sown with wheat, pease, beans, and barley. Lime is universally used as a manure; it is laid upon the grafs a year or two before the field is to be plowed; the quantity about 100 bolls *per* acre; that is, 200 Winchester bushels of unslacked lime, which commonly yield 400 bushels of slacked lime. Sometimes it is laid upon a fallow,

but

but seldom. Lime costs 5 d. *per* boll, and the carriage 4 d. 3 the kilns being 6 or 7 miles distant. Hence, at the rate of 100 bolls *per* acre, it costs the farmers 3 l. 15 s. They sow, for two successive years, 6 or 7 Winchester bushels of oats *per* acre, in the month of April, and reap from 4 to 10 bolls, in the month of September or October. The third year, the whole dung of the farm is applied as far as it will go, for bear, of which they sow 4 bushels *per* acre, and reap from 4 to 7 bolls. Along with the bear, they sow 3 bushels of rye-grass seed, 8 lib. of red clover, and 5 or 6 lib. of white clover. The crop of hay is sometimes 200 stone, 24 lib. to the stone, each acre; but more frequently does not exceed 100 stone. It is usually cut for 2 years; then pastured for 4; after which it is plowed for oats.

Wages.—Men servants receive from 6 l. to 8 l. a year of wages. Women servants from 3 l. to 4 l. a year; but they are commonly hired for half a year only. A labourer receives a shilling a day; for mowing hay, 18 d.; a mason, 20 d.—The farmers plough with 4, or 3 horses with a driver, or with 2 horses without a driver, as they think the nature of their soil requires; but most generally with 3 horses and a driver. The plough most in use is the Scotch plough, with a curved mould-board.—The price of all sorts of provisions is fixed by the markets at Ayr.

Wallacetown.—About 30 years ago, the late Sir Thomas Wallace of Craigie began to feu houses and gardens from the north end of the old bridge at Ayr. At that time, there were not above 8 or 10 straggling houses about the Bridge-end; and now, in 1792, by a gradual increase, there are 250 families living in Wallacetown, so named after its founder.

This

This increase of inhabitants has been owing, 1st, to the extensive collieries which have been wrought on the Blackhouse estate in this parish, and on the lands belonging to the community of Newton adjoining to it. 2d, Many farmers advanced in life, or unwilling to take their farms at a high additional rent, find houses in Wallacetown, to which they carried their capital, and became dealers in grain, meal, malt, &c. 3d, Mechanics of all sorts flocked into it, and feued houses, or rented those that were built by others, with a view to profit. They are here exempted from the laws or regulations of the incorporated trades in the adjoining royal burgh of Ayr. 4th, A considerable number from Ireland and the West Highlands settled here, as weavers, day-labourers, &c. because they could get higher wages than at home. It is a considerable disadvantage to this populous and thriving town, that there are no established magistrates residing in it; an evil which is the less likely to be soon remedied, as the present superior of Wallacetown resides at a distance, and has little more connection with it than to uplift the feu-duties. The attention and activity of the magistrates in Ayr and Newton to preserve good order in their towns, often drives disorderly people, and vagrants of different descriptions, into Wallacetown. By the activity of some of the principal inhabitants, who, from regard to peace and good order, officiate as constables, this evil has been in some degree checked; and the managers of the collieries have much merit in their attention to the morals of the people employed by them. When it is considered, that the inhabitants are a mixture of English, Irish, and Highlanders, with the original feuers, who were natives of the county of Ayr, it will be found that there is as much peace and decency of behaviour among them as can well be expected. They are 3 miles distant from the parish church, in which they have no seats; but have good opportunity

opportunity of attending public worship at the church of Newton, which is built at the west end of one of their streets, or at the Seceding meeting-house, which stands at the east end of it,

Population of Wallacetown.—The town contains 250 families, in all 960 souls, 187 married pairs, 38 widows, 8 widowers, 7 bachelors, 10 unmarried women that keep house,

Above 70 years of age,	7 males.	4 females.
— 60 —————	29	39
— 50 —————	41	49
— 40 —————	58	52
— 30 —————	65	72
— 20 —————	51	74
— 10 —————	99	72
Under 10 —————	129	119
	479 males.	481 females.
	481	
Total,	960	

Religion.—There is one Antiburgher Seceding minister. Four families in the country part of the parish, and 20 families in Wallacetown, belong to this congregation. Three Burghers, 3 Moravians, 3 Methodists, and 10 of the Church of England. All the rest are of the established Church.

Baptisms.—The register of baptisms for the whole parish is regularly kept, and also the register of marriages; but as many, from adjoining parishes, have burial places in the church-yard of St. Quivox, and some are buried at the Seceding meeting-house, no exact information can be given concerning

cerning the number of deaths. For the last 8 years, there have been baptized, in

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Married.
1784	24	19	43	7 pair.
1785	33	23	56	16
1786	16	14	30	9
1787	31	16	47	16
1788	20	13	33	14
1789	26	24	50	10
1790	13	18	31	19
1791	21	16	37	13
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	184	143	327	98

The average is 23 males, and nearly 18 females born annually, and about 12 couple married.

Church, School, and Poor.—The stipend is, 96 bolls of meal, at 13 s. 4 d. - - - L. 64 0 0
 20 bolls of bear, at 18 s. - - - 18 0 0
 In money, - - - - 11 8 0

L. 93 8 0

Augmented in 1787, with the unanimous consent of the heritors, by 25 l. and 2 l. 10 s. for communion elements, - - - 27 10 0

L. 120 18 0

The church was repaired in 1767, uniformly seated, and plaistered by the heritors; and a new aisle built by the patron, Mr Oswald of Auchencruive. There are about 20 on the poor's list, who receive only 2 s. each *per* month; and even this small allowance could not be afforded them from the weekly collections in the church, but the kirk-session has received, in

in donations and legacies, during the last 10 years, above 100 l. which they distributed among the poor.

Day-labourers live comfortably upon 1 s. a day; all of them in the country, and many in town, having small patches of potatoe ground, which is of great use to their families, and almost without exception, their children are taught to read and write. The parish schoolmaster is well qualified to teach these branches and arithmetic. His salary is about 12 l. a year; school wages, 18 d. *per* quarter, and his whole income may be about 24 l. besides a good house and garden. The house and school-house were built within these 6 years.

Total population of the parish :

In the country,	96 families,	490 souls.	
In Wallacetown,	250 families,	960 souls.	
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	346) 1450 (4	
		1384	
		<hr/>	
		66	
Population in 1755,	-	-	499
Increase,	-	-	951
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			1450

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