

N U M B E R   X X X V I I I .

PARISH OF OLD OR WEST MONKLAND.

*(County of Lanark.—Presbytery of Hamilton.—Synod of  
Glasgow and Ayr.)*

*By the Reverend Mr JOHN BOWER.*

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*Situation and Name.*

**L**YING in the heart of a populous and manufacturing county, and on the great road betwixt the two chief cities of the kingdom, this parish furnishes ample room for statistical observations.

The origin of the name is obvious. The monks, who usually fixed on a pleasant situation, had a residence here; and there exists a tradition, that a certain pilgrim, in order to do penance for some sin, was obliged to carry a particular stone in this direction from Glasgow; and, when he could bear it no farther, to build a church at his own expence. The stone is still to be seen.

*Ecclesiastical State, and Education.*—The tythes of this parish, amounting to 349 bolls, together with grassums at giving leases, belong to the University of Glasgow, being part of the subdeanry which was purchased by the College from the family of Hamilton about the year 1652. Out of this the minister receives only 8 chalders of grain, and 50 merks for communion elements. The church, being rebuilt in 1790,  
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is a large and commodious house. The manse was completely repaired in 1791. The situation has often been remarked for its beauty. The parish is 10 miles long, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth.—Beside the legal schoolmaster, there are 4 public teachers in the parish, two of whom have very good houses built by subscription. Though the abilities of the masters are unquestionable, some of the schools are but thinly attended. The boys and girls get wages for tambouring, sewing muslin, &c. at so early a period, that there is great danger of their education being neglected. It is also worthy of observation, that, though this parish is in the vicinity of Glasgow, very few young men belonging to it attend the University, or prosecute any of the learned professions. So soon as they can write, and understand any thing of arithmetic, they obtain good encouragement in the mercantile line, which they naturally prefer to the more gradual and uncertain emoluments of law, divinity, or physic.—Sunday schools seem not to be unexceptionable institutions; for, how pious soever may be the intention of their promoters, they undoubtedly weaken the authority of parents, and tend to make them negligent in their duty.—The poor are tolerably provided for. None beg; nor is there here any assessment. The weekly collections, which may be about 35 l. *per annum*; the third part of what is obtained at Shettleston Chapel, (which was built partly to accommodate the west end of this parish), and the interest of some stock, enable the session to give decent relief to the distressed. The various societies instituted among the trades people, also afford assistance; and one cannot help remarking, that it is inexcusable in heritors who do not reside, or do not attend the church, not to contribute to this important purpose. By this means an assessment might be avoided, the consequences of which are always to be dreaded.

*Population*

*Population and Manners.*—There are, at present, 4000 souls in the parish. The number in 1755 was only 1813. This rapid increase of population is owing to the establishment of manufactures. With a few exceptions, the whole people adhere to the church, and are regular in attending on religious ordinances. About 800 communicants are usually at the Lord's Supper. In the present manner of dispensing that holy ordinance, there is great need of a reform. Owing to the crowds which assemble, much irregularity takes place. It would be more decent in itself, and productive of higher comfort to serious persons, were every congregation to communicate quietly by themselves. The people are very fond of controversial Divinity. Indeed, knowledge of every kind is universally diffused; and there is scarcely a family that does not regularly read the newspapers. The heritors and elders choose the minister, according to act 1690; and it is not impertinent to notice, that, though popular elections are frequently attended with strife and discord, yet here, and in the New Monkland, which is in the same predicament, the greatest peace and harmony have always prevailed on these occasions. There are 44 heritors, more than the half of whom reside in the parish.

*Face of the Country, Cultivation, &c.*—The old valuation is 6000 l. Scotch. The real rental may be near 5000 l. Sterling. A great part of the parish is inclosed, the advantages of which are universally allowed. Beside a vast quantity of natural wood, there are more than 1000 acres planted. This beautifies the country, and improves the climate. We have many extensive orchards, which some years turn out to great advantage. A stranger is struck with the view of this parish: It has the appearance of an immense garden. The soil is of 3 kinds; along the banks of Clyde and Calder, which with

this parish for 9 or 10 miles, there is a strong clay. Here are produced luxuriant crops of every grain, especially of wheat; sometimes from 12 to 16 bolls are taken off an acre. The middle of the parish is a light sand, affording excellent crops of oats and potatoes. A farmer sells an acre undug at from 13 l. to 17 l. Sterling. Towards the north are considerable tracks of mofs. The rivers above named abound with salmon in the proper season, and trout of every species. There is also plenty of pike and perch in the Monkland Canal, and in the great lochs on the north side of the parish; the taking of which, from small boats made for the purpose, is a pleasant amusement.—The improvements of agriculture are carried on to a vast extent. Several plowing-matches have been instituted: These create a spirit of emulation, and a desire to excel. The farmers are uncommonly intelligent. They have formed themselves into a society, which meets on the first Thursday of every month. Their object is to communicate their knowledge, and purchase the most proper books relating to their business. In the parish are several threshing-mills, which have been found of great use. The plough commonly used is an improvement of the old Scotch one. Small's would not close the stiff lee of this parish. The beam is 6 feet; the stilt 6 feet 3 inches. It turns the steepest ground; and, being very light, 3 horses will perform as much work with it as 4 with the old one.—A considerable disadvantage under which the farmers labour, is the distance from lime; but this will, it is hoped, soon be removed, at least in some degree; as, after the junction of the two canals, lime may be brought from the north by water carriage, and as there is a bridge to be erected over the Clyde, on the south. The ordinary rotation of crops is this: From lee sometimes oats, sometimes peas; then summer fallow and wheat; then pease and beans; and then oats and  
grafs

grafs seed. Proprietors of land have begun to pasture the greatest part of their estates. This method, they find, brings as good a rent, and tends to improve their property. Some of this ground sets at 1 l. 17 s. *per* acre. It is to be observed; that the rise of their rents always makes farmers thrive: It calls forth their industry, and compels them to be active. Though the value of land be vastly increased, the people live and dress much better than formerly. Property here is often transferred from one owner to another, as is the case in the neighbourhood of every great commercial town. Indeed, the reason why this parish is in such a high degree of cultivation, is, that when a merchant has been successful, he purchases a piece of land, builds an elegant villa, and improves his property at the dearest rate. This accounts for the vast number of gentlemen's houses with which the parish is adorned, many of them finished in the greatest taste.—There are kept in the parish 1 coach, 5 chaises, and 5 phaetons. Owing to the numerous inclosures, there are few sheep. The large kind, which feed with the cows, are very prolific. One ewe, for instance, in 9 years, produced 30 lambs.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Wherever manufactures and commerce seat themselves, their influence on landed property is felt in an inconceivable degree; and how much is it the interest of landholders to cherish and protect them! consequently, the rise of the value of land in this parish is astonishing. One farm, which, about the year 1730, cost 300 l. was lately sold for 2100 l.—As the gentlemen pay particular attention to that business, the roads are kept in excellent repair. The statute work is commuted. The great road from Glasgow to Edinburgh, by Whiteburn, runs through this parish, on which there is a toll-bar, worth a vast sum yearly. There is also a toll at Langloan, on the road from Glasgow

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to Airdrie. This road passes near the church, and traverses the parish 7 miles. By an act of Parliament just obtained, it is to be extended to Edinburgh by Bathgate; and, when executed, will be the most eligible way between these cities, not only as being shortest, but most level, and free from pulls.

*Age, Diseases, &c.*—Though there is no instance of remarkable longevity, it may be concluded, that the situation is healthy, since there are alive several persons above 90, and many above 80. Prejudices against inoculation, though not entirely eradicated, are gradually wearing out. Local diseases are unknown. Fevers and consumptions are most frequent. The former prevail after harvest, if the weather has been hot. Two families who reside at Lochend, (betwixt two large lochs), are regularly attacked with this disease at a certain time, when it does not visit any of the neighbours. This must be owing to the exhalations from the water, which stagnates and grows putrid. Several young women of this parish have fallen into consumptions by sitting too long on the damp ground at tent preachings.

*Alehouses.*—There are no less than 30 inns or public-houses in the parish. These, it must be confessed, are attended with the most pernicious effects to the health and morals of the people. It is no uncommon thing for a labouring man to spend all his wages in these houses, and suffer his unhappy wife and children to continue in want and wretchedness. Government could not adopt a wiser measure than to raise the price of licenses. If a reformation of manners is not happily effected, what must be the consequence of such execrable practices, it is not difficult to say. There is a certain gradation in the political, as well as in the human body. Trade produces affluence: Affluence is the parent of luxury  
and

and dissipation, which infallibly undermine and dissolve the fabric. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is the reproach of any people."

*Flax.*—A considerable quantity of flax is raised in this parish, which is generally sown on ground well manured with dung or lime, after one crop is taken from it. Such ground sets at from 4 l. to 7 l. *per* acre. The Riga seed is preferred. The time of sowing flax is the month of April, and it is ready for pulling about the 1st of August. Nine women, at 10 d. will pull an acre in a day. There are two lint mills, at which flax is sketched and dressed, at 2 s. 6 d. *per* stone. The produce is 16 stone *per* acre, and will sell at 12 s. or 13 s. *per* stone. Within these 10 years, the raising of flax is greatly increased; one man has generally 30 acres, which circulates 240 l. yearly. He has got several premiums from the trustees.

*Weavers.*—Of these there are no less than 400 in this parish, who all work to the manufacturers of Glasgow. They generally marry young, to which their high wages are an inducement: We may suppose that they produce a circulation of 14,400 l. annually. This valuable body of men have formed themselves into a society, which is governed by a deacon and 4 masters. Their object is to assist members in distress; and they have now a considerable capital. Institutions of this sort, when properly conducted, are extremely useful. It may be added, under this article, that about 200 girls are employed in dotting, tambouring, &c.; some of them begin at 8 or 9 years of age, and, at that early period, gain 6 d. or 8 d. *per* day. Though this may be profitable to one class, it is attended with material inconvenience to another. Farmers loudly complain of the high wages of servants, and sometimes find  
difficulty

difficulty in procuring them at all. Is there no remedy for this growing evil?

*Pottery.*—Near the bank of the Monkland Canal, was erected, in 1785, a large brick and tyle work, where are manufactured blue, pan, and slate tyles, the first of the kind in Scotland. These tyles are preferable to red ones, in point of durableness; and so similar are they, in shape and colour, to slate itself, that it requires a nice eye to discover the difference, when put on the roof. The motive for settling here was the abundance of coal, and the vast variety of common and fire clay that is found in the lands. At the same place, in 1788, Mr Creelman commenced a pot-work for making salt ware; this manufacture is glazed with salt, which is the reason of its obtaining that name. It is also called brown stone, or grey-beard ware. It is excellent for holding spiritous liquors, and is mostly exported to America and the West Indies. This branch was borrowed from the Dutch by the English, and is the first manufacture of the kind in Scotland. On the same grounds is a free-stone quarry, of a superior quality, and beautiful white colour. The stones are carried to Glasgow by the Canal, where they are used for hearths, stair-cases, and pavement; they are also sent to Ireland, America, and the West Indies. It is so portable, that you may have it from 1 to 6 inches thick, and in boards of a yard square, and so smooth, as to require very little polishing: A high value is set on this stone. About 70 people are employed at these works.

*Monkland Canal.*—In the year 1770, an act of Parliament was obtained for making a navigable cut or canal, from the Monkland collieries to the city of Glasgow and the river Clyde. The design of the undertakers was to open an easy  
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communication with the interior parts of the country, and by reducing the price of coal, to be of advantage to the manufacturers of Glasgow.—The original subscription, however, being found defficient, and the trade of this country brought to a stagnation by the American war, the scheme was interrupted until 1782, when the stock was sold by public auction. Messrs. Stirling, who purchased the largest share, and who ultimately became the sole proprietors, began to finish the plan ; and, with great spirit and perseverance, have extended the navigation to the river Calder, 13 miles east of Glasgow, and formed a junction with the great canal at Port Dundas. The canal is 15 feet wide at the bottom, and 30 at the surface, capable of admitting vessels which draw  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet water, equal to about 60 tons burden.—The height of the canal, above the level of the sea, is

1 <i>st</i> , Height of Forth and Clyde navigation,	156 feet.
2 <i>d</i> , Raised at Blackhill, by 8 locks,	- 96
3 <i>d</i> , Raised at Sheepford, by 2 locks,	- 21
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The whole of these works are completed, except the locks at Blackhill, which are in great forwardness. A waggon road is also finished between the basin and Glasgow, which renders carriage cheap and easy. The total expence will be 30,000 l. The Canal trade is at present as follows :

1 <i>st</i> , Coals navigated by Mr Stirling,	50,000 carts.
2 <i>d</i> , Ditto by Captain Christie,	- 30,000
	80,000

Owing to its not being finished, the advantages arising from this

this navigation have hitherto been greatly circumscribed; but there is reason to believe that they will now be felt more sensibly, on account of the certain increase of the coal trade, and the probability of other commercial operations. The present tonnage is only 6 d. *per* cart of 12 cwt. although the proprietors have a right to levy 2 d. *per* tun each mile. Coals are delivered at Glasgow, by this conveyance, 3 d. lower *per* cart, than at any coal work around the city.

This immense undertaking begins to enhance the value of the adjacent land, as lime and dung can be brought by the vessels which convey the coal. Mr Stirling brings about 3000 carts yearly to his own estate. There are also various other productions, as iron-stone, which may be turned out to advantage, and several favourable situations for cotton machinery. Next summer Mr Stirling means to establish a track-boat, which will be a pleasant mode of conveyance to Glasgow. Besides its own proper advantages, the Monkland Canal affords a convenient aqueduct to the Forth and Clyde navigation, by conveying water from the reservoirs in the higher parts of the country.

The chief supply of water is from the Calder, which is conducted into it by a dam at Woodhall mill; it never fails in the driest season. This plentiful resource, which can be increased to double the quantity, at the very highest part of the country, with many other favourable circumstances, open an inviting track for the extension of the canal to Edinburgh, a plan at present in agitation, and which, when executed, will be productive of innumerable benefits to the country. The track that has been surveyed, south of the Shotts hill, rises 522 feet above the height of the present canal, and betwixt Edinburgh and Glasgow is 10 miles. But a preferable track can be found north of the Shotts hills, which rises not so high by 140 feet, and is 10 miles shorter. A particu-

cular state of the trade, profits, &c. of this projected canal, was published in the Glasgow newspapers, April 1791 \*.

*Bleachfields.*—There are two in this parish, though that at Wellhouse is now partly removed into the Barony parish, the original field is in Old Monkland. Messrs. Gray laid out their ground with great judgment and expence. They were the first in this country who bleached after the Dutch method; and for their diligence and ingenuity obtained a considerable premium from government. Business is still carried on to a large extent.

*Carmylefield*—Was erected in 1741, by Mr McKenzie, an enterprising merchant of Glasgow. Nothing can exceed the beauty of its situation, having a fine southern exposure, washed by the Clyde. About 50 people are employed; men get 7 s. women 5 s *per week*. Many thousand pieces of light muslin are done here annually. This field, which contains upwards of 10 acres, has some peculiar advantages: There is a well 6 feet deep, which fills in 12 hours. The water is carried 510 feet, and runs 3 gallons in a minute. Much praise is due to the proprietors for their attention to the morals of their servants.

*Clyde*

\* ESTIMATE \*

*Of the Revenue arising from a SMALL CANAL from Leith into Edinburgh, and from thence to Glasgow, by joining the Monkland Canal.*

To 100,000 tons of coal from the west country to the city of Edinburgh, Leith, and the intermediate country, at 1 s 6 d. *per ton*. (The total consumption is about 160,000 tons),

L. 7500 0 0

To 8000 tons of pig-iron from Muirkirk, Clyde, Cleland, and Cleugh works, at 3 s. *per ton*,

1200 0 0

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*Clyde Iron-works*—Are situated in the west end of this parish, 3 miles east of Glasgow, on ground feued from James Dunlop

To 6000 tons of grain and meal, at 8 s. <i>per</i> ton, which is half the price now given along the Shotts road for cartage of a ton,	2400	0	0
Lime from West Lothian to the middle ward of Lanarkshire, for agriculture, and for Cleland and Clyde iron-works, at least 20,000 tons <i>per</i> annum, at 1 s. <i>per</i> ton,	1000	0	0
Coal to Glasgow, and for exportation from Clyde, 20,000 ton, at 1 s. <i>per</i> ton. The coal sold at Glasgow is 140,000 tons a-year, and the exportation increasing, as vessels are now detained there wanting to be loaded with coal,	1000	0	0
4000 tons of Lancashire iron-ore yearly, for the Cleland and Cleugh iron-works, at 1 s. <i>per</i> ton from Glasgow,	200	0	0
2000 tons of iron-stone to the iron-works in the west, from the adjacent mines, at 6 d. <i>per</i> ton,	50	0	0
9000 passengers may be supposed to go along the Canal from Edinburgh to Glasgow, and from Glasgow to Edinburgh, and to the intermediate country, as 3000 went last year along the Great Canal; therefore stating their toll to the Canal at 1 s. each, is	450	0	0
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	L. 13,800	0	0

The number of tons of goods, wines, &c. from Leith to Edinburgh, and from Edinburgh to Leith, for want of time cannot yet be ascertained; but is immense, and supposed to be yearly considerably above 50,000 tons, which might be brought up into the city by a Canal for 8 d. *per* ton, which now pays on an average 2 s. 6 d. *per* ton land carriage, and 4 s. for wines.

Stone for building, and lime from Lord Morton's, at 1 s. *per* ton, the quantity cannot be ascertained till the builders make calculations, but would be very considerable.

Iron-stone from Mr Houston of Calderhall's to Carron, at 1 s. *per* ton; but as the iron-stone is of a superior quality, and will be wrought and carried at a cheaper rate than the Carron Company is now supplied, the consumption, in all probability, would turn out very great.

Foreign

Dunlop of Garnkirk, Esq. The Clyde company began to erect these works in 1786. There is abundance of coal within

Foreign wood for building, flax, yarn, bar-iron, pitch, tallow, soap, feeds, Scots manufactures from the east to the west, spirits from the distilleries from the east to the west, wines and other articles to Hamilton, and the intermediate country. The number of tons of the above articles must be very considerable, exclusive of what will pass along the Great Canal; and many of the articles can afford to pay high toll, as the revenue of a Canal ought to be rated according as each article can afford to pay, to draw the greatest toll from it.

Articles of commerce from the Clyde to the Frith of Forth. Naval stores, sugars, rice, and tobacco, from America and the West Indies; linen, gauze, and cotton manufactures, herrings, and other fish, kelp, slate, skins, and lead, from the west country; hay, veal from Strathaven and the west, which the Edinburgh market is supplied with, and various other articles not thought of: Trade increasing, and the country consequently flourishing, and every gentleman's estate made more capable of improvement, by the Canal passing through it; and manufactures would be established from Edinburgh to Glasgow along it to a vast extent, as they ever will go where coal is cheap, and their goods readily brought to market by an easy communication. Dung, by return of coal boats, would also pay very considerable toll, as the quantity carried west would be great.

Should the proposed Canal take place, coals of exceeding good quality can be sold at Edinburgh for 7 s. 9 d. the 24 cwt. the common quantity of two carts, which would be a saving to the inhabitants of 3 s. 3 d. on every two carts, and on 100,000 tons, at 6 s. 6 d. *per* ton, a saving of 13,333 l. *per annum*; and the advantage on other articles of consumption, where the price is at present enhanced by land carriage, would be in proportion reduced.

Exclusive of the consumption of Edinburgh and Leith, which is 160,000 tons a year, the merchants of Leith have offered to export 40,000 tons, provided it is put on board ship in Leith at 8 s. *per* ton; and if the Canal takes place, it will be put on board at Leith much cheaper from the west country.

Mr Whitworth, the engineer, will determine the expence of the Canal; but it is supposed, by calculations already made by an engineer versant in canal-making, that the expence of a  
small

in 200 yards, and plenty of iron-stone in the neighbourhood. About 20,000 tons of coals are consumed yearly, which quantity will no doubt be greatly increased, when forges are completed for converting pig-iron into bar-iron. Two blast furnaces are working, and there is prepared a boring-mill for caunon, cylinders, &c. About 300 manufacturers and labourers are employed: They begin to mould small goods so early as 10 years of age. Men's wages, according to their department, are from 7 s. to 21 s. *per week*. After being smelted in the furnaces, the iron is made into a variety of cast-iron goods, as pots, pans, boilers, &c. From the enterprising spirit and abilities of the proprietors, there is reason to expect, that these works will be soon extended to a very large scale. Contrary to what one would imagine, the people are healthy, and live long. This warm business seems to be friendly to population—most of the workmen have numerous families. The scite of Clyde iron-works appears to have been a burying-ground of ancient date. When digging the foundation of the buildings, a great quantity of human bones were found, deposited betwixt two flag-stones. These stones were so placed, as to form a cavity of considerable extent, and this cavity covered with a stone of the same kind. In the earthen urns were contained ashes, mixed with small bones, on some of which were evident marks of fire. In a  
 pit

small Canal will not exceed 75,000 l. and the revenue of the Canal will amount to considerably above 15,000 l. a-year, when the trade from Leith, and other articles, such as lime, stones for building, &c. are included.

The Derbyshire Canal, 40 miles in length, which goes into the Trent, is tunneled through two mountains, one of which is above half in length through hard rock, and only cost 100 000 l. and the country was also very rocky through which it was conducted; but through the clay grounds in Lanarkshire and in the Lothians, the cutting four feet deep will not be expensive.

pit now sinking are discovered, at the depth of 60 feet, the shells of different sea animals, wholly petrified.

*Coal.*—This parish abounds with coal; and what a benefit is it for Glasgow and its environs, to be so amply provided with this necessary article? There are computed to be a greater number of colliers here, than in any other parish in Scotland.

1. Fullarton coal-work, belonging to Mr Dunlop, is in the western extremity of the parish. The coal is opened to 128 yards depth, in which are 6 seams 23 feet thick, producing all the different kinds of coal that are found in Scotland, and of excellent quality; the splint is reckoned inferior to no coal in Britain for a blast furnace. A large steam engine drains a field of 800 acres. The coals are carried out of the pit by a machine, in place of a horse-gin.—75 colliers are employed, besides an equal number of artificers, labourers, &c. Wages are from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. 6 d. *per* day. The price at the pit is from 3 s. to 4 s. *per* ton. From its nearness to Glasgow and Clyde, this work must greatly increase.

2. About a mile north of Fullarton, and 4 miles east of Glasgow, lie Barrachnie and Sandyhills coal-works. Though these works are connected, it is to be observed, that near one half of the works and men are in the Barony parish. The seams of coals, wages, &c. are the same as at Fullarton.—90 colliers are engaged, besides about 60 bearers, boys, &c. Here, last spring, Mr Hamilton erected a machine for drawing up the coal, to go entirely by steam.—It is on an improved plan, and the first of the kind in Scotland. It is found to be the cheapest, and most expeditious way of doing that business; for could colliers be placed in the pit to keep her constantly employed, she would turn out about 200 ton *per* day. The present out-put is 35,000 tons *per* year.

3. At

3. At Fathine, Mr Stirling has about 80 colliers employed, besides workmen, &c. The greatest part of the coal is conveyed to Glasgow by the canal, as stated already.

4. Captain Christie also carries on considerable trade in coal. He has made a collateral cut from his land to join the canal. He has about 50 men engaged. These coals too are mostly sent by the canal.

Total number of colliers, bearers, and others connected with that business in this parish :

1. At Fullarton,	-	-	150
2. Half of Barrachnie, &c.	-	-	75
3. Mr Stirling's,	-	-	160
4. Captain Christie's,	-	-	50

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It has been observed by coal-masters, that no instance is known in Scotland of a collier being executed for a capital crime, though they are generally esteemed a rough and obstreperous class of men. It is also to be remarked, in honour of the cause of liberty, that since the æra of their emancipation, the colliers are become a more respectable body than before. Instead of being considered as inferior beings, which was formerly the case, they now behave and dress like their fellow citizens.

On a review of the various manufactures of this parish, how much, may we say, does the country stand indebted to the gentlemen connected with it. Let other nations adore their warriors and butchers of mankind, we will pay a just tribute of praise to those nobler minds, who cultivate the happy arts of industry and wealth.

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