

NUMBER LIII.

UNITED PARISHES OF AITHSTING
AND SANSTING.

(*Sheriffdom of Orkney and Zetland.—Presbytery of Zetland.*)

By the Reverend Mr PATRICK BARCLAY.

Situation and Extent.

THE parish is situated in the middle of the main land of Zetland. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Delting, from which it is separated by a large inlet of the sea, called *Swarback's Minn*, and which forms many fine bays and harbours in Delting and Aithsting. On the south, it is washed by the ocean. It is, in most places, 9 miles long, and 6 miles broad. A very inconsiderable part of it is under cultivation, and no exact measurement has ever been taken of it. There are 801 merks land in the parish; but the extent of a merk land is very indefinite. Some farms, which are rented for 6 merks, are of more extent, and worth more rent, than others that are rented for 10 or 12 merks. These merks are valued by sixpenny, ninepenny, and twelvepenny land. Sixpenny land pays to the proprietor 8 merks butter, and 12s. Scotch, *per* merk. Ninepenny land pays 12 merks butter, and 1 l. Scotch; and twelvepenny land pays 16 merks butter, and 1 l. 4 s. Scotch. [*N. B.* The lands are reckoned by merks, and the butter is weighed by merks and lispunds.]

[lispunds.] The merk is equal to $1\frac{1}{2}$ Amsterdam pound. 24 merks equal to a lispund, or 30 merks Amsterdam. The butter rent has never been raised above this rule in any part of this parish; but the price has been raised from 5 s. to 10 s. per lispund; and the money rent has, in some places, been quadrupled. There are also many *ontjeth*, i. e. small parcels of ground lately inclosed from the common, and set to a tenant for money rent only.

Appearance and Climate.—The appearance of the parish is rather hilly, but none of the hills are of any remarkable height when compared with those in the neighbouring parishes. The cultivated ground is generally at the foot of the hills, and on the sea-shore, and there is not a house in the parish half a mile distant from the sea. On the west side of the parish the hills are generally green on a mossy soil, and affording little pasture for sheep or horses in winter. On the north the hills are dry and rocky, with small long heather, and fine sweet grass. In the middle of the parish the hills are deep moss, and afford plenty of coarse grass called Lubba, and short bushy heather. The parish is every where intersected by long narrow bays called here Voes, or Friths. The pasture on the side of the Voe and in the Nefs, or peninsula formed by two Voes, is generally good, and great plenty of sea-weed or tang to be found on the shores. There can be no river in the parish—some small burns or rivulets, which afford excellent trout, and the sea-trout come into the burns to spawn, and are often caught in nets in August and September. There are upwards of 40 fresh water lakes in the parish; many of them might be drained at a small expence, and would greatly improve the pasture, or might be inclosed for meadows, as the bottom is mostly green or muddy. There are two inhabited islands, containing one family each,

each, who take care of the proprietor's sheep flocks, and 7 small islands or holms, in which the proprietor feeds sheep and cattle. The small part of the parish which is bounded by the ocean, is a very high and rocky shore, and some curious caves formed by the western ocean, much frequented by seals, wild pigeons, sea-fowls, &c.—There is no wood in the parish but in a gentleman's garden, although there is pretty good evidence, and an imperfect tradition, that the parish was once overrun with wood.—The air is moist and foggy, but not unhealthy—The heat or cold never disagreeable.—The most prevalent distempers here seem to be complaints on the liver; and are said to be occasioned by the violent exertions the men are often forced to make at sea, and the sudden transitions from heat to cold, to which they are frequently exposed. Cramps and rheumatisms also very common. The epilepsy, to which the women in the northern parishes are very liable, has not been seen here these many years. The people are not so healthy now as formerly, owing to the great alteration in the mode of living. The general use of tea, though but lately introduced, has made a very rapid progress. The poorest family in the parish will not now dispense with it, and will sell their clothes, yea their meal, to purchase it. They use a very coarse kind of black tea, drink it very strong, and often without milk or sugar: The latter hardly ever used. The immoderate use of spirituous liquors also materially hurts the constitution, as well as ruins the circumstances of many. Several of the last generation lived to a great age. One man died, within these 12 years, aged 107; and one woman, this year, of 95; but there is now only one man above 80 in the whole parish.

Rent.—There are 17 heritors in the parish. Seven of the smallest reside in it. There has never been any valuation of the
the

the lands. The rent paid to the landlords is 326 lispund, 19 merk butter, and 1713 l. 16 s. Scotch. Converting the butter at 3 l. Scotch *per* lispund, it is in all 2693 l. 16 s. Scotch, or 224 l. 9 s. 8 d. Sterling; but the butter rent is now charged by the heritors at 8 s. and sometimes at 10 s. *per* lispund. After all, this is but a nominal rent; for each tenant receives his possession from the landlord, on condition of putting out the fixth share of a boat to the long fishing, and delivering the wet fish to him or his tackfman at 3 s. 6 d. Sterling *per* quintal or cwt. and his oil at 10 d. or 1 s. *per* cann; so that the real rent of the parish depends on the profits the landlords make of the fish and oil, and is only known to themselves *. Great part of the parish was lately set to a tackfman, who paid above double rent for it; and, as the fishings proved remarkably good during his tack, he made considerable profits. The poultry (one for each merk land) is included in the rent, as stated above. They pay also three days work from each family, when required; and, when not paid in kendars, converted at 6 d. *per* day. They are always maintained by the landlord; and their meat very often exceeds the value of their work. The parish also pays to Sir Thomas Dundas, the superior, for scatt, wattle, and oxpenny, 110½ canns oil, and 30 lispund, 6 merk butter, and 140 l. 3 s. Scotch money; in all, 297 l. 6 s. Scotch, or 24 l. 15 s. 6 d. Sterling. This was evidently the land-tax paid to the King of Norway or Denmark before these islands were annexed to the crown of Scotland, and has been, perhaps very unjustly, continued on the tenants in Zetland, who, as they pay cefs or land-tax to Britain besides, amounting generally to 5 d. or 6 d. *per* merk, may be said to pay double cefs every year. They pay also corn teind, 8 d. or 10 d. *per* merk land; one half of which to the superior, as bishop's rent,

and

* Vide parish of Dunrossness.

and one half to the minister. They pay also vicarage teinds for cows, sheep, and boats. The total payments from the parish in a year, exclusive of cefts and day's works, is 3742 l. 7 $\frac{4}{7}$ d. Scotch, or 311 l. 16 d. 9 d. Sterling, converting the butter as above.

It is very probable that all the lands in Shetland were allodial or udal: The proprietor had no right to show but uninterrupted fucceffion. But, as these udallers divided their lands among all their children, (the fon got two merks, and the daughter one; hence *the fifter part*, a common proverb in Shetland to this day), the poffeffions foon became trifling, and were fwallowed up by great men, generally ftrangers, many of whom acquired eftates in a very fhort time. None of thefe udallers remain in this parish, and great part of the lands are now feued from the fuperior. The fuperiors formerly had many ways of procuring property in Shetland. Patrick Earl of Orkney, in a difpofition of the lands of Sand to Jerom Umphray, narrates, that he had evicted 7 merks of that land from Powl Nicholfon in Cullfwick, for *ftcaling a fwine*, and that he had evicted 6 merks from ——— in Cullfwick, for ftcaling bolts from his Lordfhip's trood, probably fome piece of wreck which had been drawn into Cullfwick. In that fame difpofition, the Earl grants receipt for the money from Jerom Umphray, at the rate of 17 l. 16 s. Scotch *per* merk land, "being full land's price at the "time." In 1789, three merk land in Fogragarth fold for 100 l. Sterling, and 40 fheep; and one of the merks is only feued.

Agriculture.—Very little can be faid for the method of cultivation: It is, at beft, flovenly, and often prepofterous. The foil is in a few places fandy; in fome, it is clay; but, in general, it is deep black mofs. Every farm is inclofed or
divided

divided from the common pasture by a turf or stone dyke; but, in what is called a *farm* or *town*, there are perhaps 12 or 14 tenants, whose lands lie *pro indiviso*, and often runrig, which effectually prevents smaller inclosures, and is, in many other ways, inconvenient for the tenant. In some farms of 30 or 40 merk land, there are often 4 heritors. As the possessions are by far too small, the land is too frequently laboured.

There are 14 ploughs in the parish, 4 oxen in each, who go a-breast. A large yoke is laid on the neck of the two outermost, and a small yoke on the innermost oxen. These yokes are joined by a double rope, to the middle of which is fixed the draught or chain, which is from 24 to 18 feet long, from the neck of the oxen to the nose of the plough. The plough is of a very singular construction. A crooked piece of wood, bent (naturally) almost to a right angle, forms the beam; to which is fixed a piece of oak stave, about 7 feet long, which must be very pliable, and yield to the pressure of the driver's hand, when he would deepen his fur. The coulter stands almost even up and down, and is always too short. A square hole is cut through the lower end of the beam, and the *mercal*, a piece of oak about 22 inches long, introduced, which, at the other end, holds the sock and sky. The furrow is made deep or shallow, by driving a wedge below or above the *mercal*, on the outside of the beam. There is a stilt on the top of the plough; and the man who holds it, walks on the white land at the side of it. This slender machine is liable to many accidents. A stone in the land, or even a stiff furrow, often breaks it in pieces, and the labour is much retarded: It turns the furrow almost quite round about; and people are employed to cut and smooth it with spades, before the seed is sown. The outfields generally lie ley one year, and are sown next April with

black oats. After the seed is sown, the dung is laid about it, and both are very slightly harrowed. By this means, a tolerable crop is generally procured, but the soil is never meliorated. Prejudice and obstinacy prevent their adopting other methods, which have, on experience, been found to answer better, such as allowing the lands to lie two or three years ley, then take two crops, always turning down the dung, by which means dry outfield may soon be meliorated, and converted into infield. Some outfields or outbreaks cannot admit of this, being 5 or 6 feet deep, and only give a crop while the surface is rotting.

Infield is generally laboured to bear or potatoes. The bear land is always dunged, and the dung ploughed, or turned down. Sometimes a crop of infield oats is taken, but very seldom in this parish. There are some infield grounds which are well known to have produced bear for these 40 years, without ever lying ley, or being sown with oats. These lands get a great deal of dung every year; and, in rainy seasons, the crop is always laid to the ground. The manure for infield is cow-dung, kept in the byre until seed-time, and frequently mixed with ashes and light mossy earth, which is gathered in summer, and kept in storehouses for that purpose. The dung is carried out in winter on the outfields, and made up in small dunghills, mixed with earth and seaweare. As the farms are generally too small for keeping ploughs, by far the greatest part of the parish is digged with a curious light spade, made for that purpose. The dung is carried on people's backs, though sometimes horses are employed to carry it in creels. There are only two carts in the parish. One of them has put out as much in a day as nine people would have carried on their backs. No man in this parish will sow oats before the 17th April, by which means the best season is often lost. Harvest generally begins in
September,

September.—No estimation can be made of the quantity or value of each species of crop, as every man has his own water-mill or hand-quearn, and grinds his own crop; but, in good seasons, the crop in this parish would always maintain the inhabitants, with the help of milk and fish, and potatoes and cabbage. The two latter grow in great abundance.

Wages.—Men-servants get from 15 l. to 8 l. Scotch, for three-fourths of the year. In summer, they are all employed in the ling fishing, and the boys on beaches. The men get from 12 l. to 24 l. Scotch; boys from 6 l. to 10 l. Women-servants get from 12 l. to 8 l. sometimes cheaper, when they get their "*hands to themselves*;" that is, liberty to spin and knit stockings, for their own behoof and emolument, at leisure hours. The yarn is generally spun at night, when they would be otherwise idle; and, when carrying dung, or travelling on the road, they are always knitting. Their service to the master is often very inconsiderable; and they would not get meat for their work in any other place. Artificers are seldom paid by the day, and are always maintained by the employer. A mason has from 10 d. to 14 d. a day; his servants 6 d.; wright, 10 d.; taylor, shoemaker, and boat-builder, paid by the piece, and generally earn 8 d. or 10 d.

Provisions.—A fat ox, weighing from 3 to 4 cwt. sells at 3 l. Sterling; a cow, 2 l.; sheep, 3 s.; lamb, from 10 d. to 15 d.; calf, 1 s. 2 d.; swine, 2 s. or 3 s.; pigs, 6 d.; goose, 8 d.; hens, 4 d.; chicken, 2 d.; butter, from 5 s. to 8 s. or 9 s. *per* lispund; potatoes, 6 d.; cabbage, never sold; ditto plants, from 3 d. to 12 d. *per* hundred. When meal is sold in the parish, it is from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. for oats, and 1 s. 8 d. or 2 s. for bear-meal, *per* lispund; seed oats, 1 s. 3 d.; bear, 1 s. 8 d.

Manufactures.

Manufactures and Fishing.—The parish produces a great quantity of wool, which sells from 10 c. to 15 d. *per* hispund. Very little good use is made of it in the parish. A few coarse cloths are manufactured for common use; and all the stockings, nightcaps, mitts, &c. used in the parish. The remainder is commonly destroyed in coarse stockings, which can hardly bring the original value of the wool. They are generally bartered in Lerwick for tea, snuff, tobacco, linen, lawns, cottons, &c. and seldom bring above 2½ d. real value, though they are nominally allowed 5 d.; for neither meal nor ready money can be obtained for stockings. It must, however, be acknowledged, that the manufacturers are much to blame for the low price of stockings, as they are generally of an extreme bad quality. A considerable quantity of kelp is made in this parish, perhaps from 40 to 50 tons in a year. The shores are generally let to a farmer, who makes the kelp at his own expence, and receives from the landlord 40 s. *per* ton. He employs women or boys at 7 s. 6 d. *per* month, or 2 d. a tide. This manufacture is but lately introduced, and is of very essential service, as many people earn something at it, who never had or could have earned a penny in any other way.

The people, in general, have a turn for handicrafts; but, as they have no opportunity to learn, and but very little steadiness in themselves, they seldom come to perfection in any trade. Every man almost tans his own leather, (often with the tormentile root), makes his own shoes, coarse cloths, &c. There is no convenient fishing station in this parish, nor any beaches fit for drying the fish. The small part of it which has immediate access to the ocean, is a bold rocky shore. The ling and cod fishing is, however, carried on with great vigour by the inhabitants, who are not inferior in skill and activity to any of their neighbours. In the month of
 June,

June, almost every man in the parish leaves his home, and goes to the proper fishing stations in the neighbouring parishes of Walls and Northmavine. The expence of this fishing, and the mode of carrying it on, will be described by the ministers of these parishes. There are about 36 six-oared boats, for this fishing, belonging to the parish; and many young men are hired by fishers in Northmavine. A few ling and cod are caught at the south end of the parish, and sell, ling 6d. cod 2d. Plenty of haddocks and whittings sell 1d. *per* dozen. Pollocks, or young feath, caught in summer, and sell for 1d. *per* score. Sillocks set in, in great quantities, to the bays or voes in winter; but, as every man is now at home, and can fish for himself, these are seldom sold. Herrings, caught in the bays in autumn, sell for 1d. *per* score, or 3s. *per* mett, nearly a barrel of fresh ungutted herrings. No tide-ways in this parish. The only exports sent directly by sea are kelp, herrings, butter, and a very small quantity of oil. Black cattle, horses, and stockings, are generally sold to the Lerwick merchants. No town or village. No inns; perhaps 30 or 40 gin and tea shops, to the great ruin of the morals, health, and circumstances of the inhabitants. The landlords could easily prevent this trade; and it would be much for their advantage to do so, as several of the tenants spend more in these shops than they give to the landlord in a year; and some spend all they are worth, so the landlord gets nothing; yet this trade is carried on by his own tenants, (who have no tacks, and might therefore be soon removed.)

No road in the parish; and, in many places, it is not possible to make them, the hills are so rugged, and the moss so deep. Great plenty of fine bays and harbours, which are of little consequence here, as a ship has hardly been seen in some of them within the memory of man. On the north, the bay of Aith, and voe of Burra Frith, afford very fine anchorage

anchorage for many miles. The entrance is from St Magnus Bay, through Swarback Minn Clousta Voe, where vessels would be safe in all weathers, and could lie alongside of the rock, in 20 feet water. Voe of Unrurfrith, great quantities of kelp made and shipped in the two last;—Snarranefs, where herrings are often caught and loaded. Gruten Voe, and Ollas Voe, on the west, very fine large bays, sheltered from all sea and winds. The entrance is through the south end of Vaila Sound, a much frequented harbour in the parish of Walls. On the south, are Skeldavoe, Selivoe, and Trestavoe, all of them fine harbours, but very little frequented. The entrance is from the ocean. As the parish is every where intersected by long voes, the traveller has often occasion to cross ferries. There are, however, no stated ferry-boats; but the people are very ready to assist and forward their neighbours, often for nothing, and at best for a very small hire. There is no ship or vessel belonging to the parish.

Church and Poor.—The church was built in 1780, and got a new roof in 1789. The manse was built in 1770, and was repaired in 1788. The stipend is let to a tacksmen for 60 l. Sterling, exclusive of an augmentation of 11 l. 19 s. lately obtained. Hugh Sutherland was minister here in the beginning of last century; was succeeded by James Strachan, who was drowned in 1691, crossing a small ferry in the parish. His successor, Cornelius Barron, was very unjustly, as is said, deposed by a committee of the General Assembly, sent here in the beginning of this century, to inquire into the state of the church, and see if the ministers had conformed to Presbyterianism. Mr Barron had conformed; but they fought after, and pretended to find other causes for setting him aside. It will perhaps hardly be believed now a-days, that
bodily

bodily infirmity, and affliction from the hand of providence, were his greatest crimes.

The number of poor on the roll are 10, 8 women and 2 men, all of them aged and infirm. Each of them has a particular district in the parish to which they are confined, and every householder keeps them one night for every merk land he labours. They get clothes and shoes from the session annually, and the expence of their funerals is paid from the poor's funds. There are therefore no travelling beggars of this parish. Many poor families also require assistance to buy seed corn, or purchase meal, cattle, &c. The frequent misfortunes at the fishing, greatly increase the number of widows and orphans, who must receive occasional supply. The only fund for the support of the poor is the Sunday collections, which amount to about 7 l. *per annum*, and a few fines imposed by the session for misdemeanours. In 1784 and 1785, the whole money in the session hands was exhausted, excepting 10 l. Sterling, which had been lent, and could not be recovered at that time. It has been since repaid; and the funds now amount to 17 l. Sterling. So great was the poverty and distress of the people in general at that time, that many would have perished for want, but for the charitable contributions of well disposed persons in England and Scotland, and a large supply sent from government.

Population.—In 1733 there were 987 souls. In Dr Webster's list, in 1755, 911; in 1775, 1223; and January 1792, 1285.

Amount

Amount of Population in Sandsting and Aithsting, Jan. 1. 1792,
1285, of which 630 are Men, and 655 Women.

Men above	80	1	Women above	90	4
— —	70	11	— —	80	7
— —	60	46	— —	70	15
— —	40	92	— —	60	54
— —	30	64	— —	40	109
— —	20	100	— —	30	76
— —	10	131	— —	20	143
— below	10	175	— —	10	103
		<hr/>	— below	10	144
		630			<hr/>
					655

Men,

630

In all, 1285

Average of births for 10 years, from 1734, is, Boys. Girls.

$11\frac{2}{3}$ $9\frac{1}{6}$

Ditto for last 10 years, - - - $14\frac{1}{2}$ $11\frac{1}{2}$

Average of marriages for 10 years, from 1734, is $5\frac{5}{6}$

Ditto for the last 10 years, is - - - 13

N. B. From December 1739, to December 1740, there was no marriage in the parish.

There are 46 widows, 14 widowers, and 12 bachelors who have house and land; but most of these are young men staying with their mothers on their father's tacks. There is no exact register of deaths, as there are four burial places in the parish, and no stated grave-digger; but as far as can be made out, the average of 10 years preceding 1791, is 9; but last year there died 47, 30 of which in the small-pox. There have been 16 twins born in the parish within these 10 years, 8 of which by two sisters.

The

The increase of the people is owing to the number of outsets, and splitting of tacks, by which means the number and poverty of the people are much increased. There is one farm now possessed by 7 tenants, and 3 outsets, which, in 1742, had only 2 tenants;—many others, where the number of families is tripled. Formerly, the landlords in this parish were little concerned in the ling fishing. Many persons now alive remember when there was not one six-oared boat in the ministry; and the first master of a boat to the Ha-af, or ling fishing, from Sansting, is still alive. Many of the tenants had large flocks of sheep and cattle, and found their profit in staying home to look after them, and others went to North-mavine fishing for fees; and, if they paid their rent to the landlord, nothing more was asked. The landlords now find it necessary to prosecute the fishing on their own account; and to increase the number of seamen, is their great and constant endeavour. With this view, outsets were increased, greatly to the detriment of the pasture and sheep flocks. The rented lands were subdivided, and set on this express provision, that they should fit out a sixth share of a boat to the ling fishing; and every encouragement was given to young men to marry, and settle in the country. The revenues of the parish are certainly increased; but the number of women and children, who can do nothing for themselves or the landlord, in much greater proportion. The stock of cattle and sheep is perhaps nearly the same; but, being divided among a much greater number of people, any material loss, such as happened in 1784, is much more severely felt; and the production or profit of that stock cannot go so far in supplying the necessities of an increased number of people. The fishing is not nearly so plentiful now as before; but the quantity of land under cultivation, has perhaps increased in equal proportion with the people, (*i. e.* a much greater quan-

tity of land is under cultivation now than was 60 or 70 years ago). It must, however, be stated here, that the number of poor on the roll, about 60 years ago, was more than double of what it is now. Whether this was owing to improper admission, or if their necessities were really greater, cannot now be discovered. One probable conjecture is, that the number of servants must have been greater then than now; and, as they could hardly be supposed to save any thing from their trifling fees, they had little other dependance, when old, but on the poor's funds. One other observation is, that the Sunday collections were much greater then than they are now.

There are 205 families in the parish, (the average in a family $6\frac{1}{2}$); but, in many of these families, there are two sets of children; the father and his family, and the eldest son married, and has a family. They are divided, and classed by their ages, as per the table. No other division can be made. All the people in the parish are natives of Shetland, except one man from Argyle, and one woman from Aberdeenshire. There are no sectaries of any denomination;—no town or village;—no distinct division can be made by their occupations or situations in life. There are 3 blacksmiths, 4 masons, many taylor, weavers, wrights, boat-builders, shoemakers, &c.; but none earn their bread by that occupation alone: Every man almost is fisher, farmer, and artificer; so that hardly any man in the parish, except the minister, makes his bread by one trade.

Cattle.—The number of horses cannot be ascertained; (they exceed 300); they are very small, but generally handsome, and of high mettle;—are employed in the parish in carrying peats and turf, and in riding to church. A great number are sold annually to the farmers in Dunroffness, to Orkneymen,

Orkneymen, and to the merchants in Lerwick, who send them to Leith, London, Hull, Holland, &c. They fetch from 12l. to 36l. Scotch, *i. e.* from 1l. to 3l. Sterling.

The number of sheep cannot be properly ascertained, as they go at freedom on the hills; and some of them are so wild, as only to be caught by dogs; and the owners are very careful to conceal their number, to cheat the teind-master. Perhaps 9000 may be near the truth.

There are 850 milching cows, besides oxen and young cattle, and a great number of swine, who go loose in the pasture in summer; and not being ringed, do a great deal of mischief; and, in winter, they turn up and destroy the corn land and meadows. No mines or mineral springs of any consequence.

Disadvantages.—The want of manufactures is a great loss, as the people, especially women and children, are idle for at least half of the year.—The woollen manufacture most naturally presents itself, in the first place. The tenants have no tacks, but sit from year to year, at the will of their landlord. By this means they are discouraged from improving their farm; because, when they grow old, or unable to go to sea, they may be turned out, and are very often overbid by young stout men. The immoderate consumpt of tea and spirituous liquours is a great ruin to their health and circumstances. It would be impossible to carry on the fishing without gin; but the small retail shops in the parish are a great nuisance and ruin.

The people, in general, have too great a turn for fine clothes. A great deal of money is laid out in a year for Scotch and English cloths, stuffs, cottons, lawns, &c. while their own wool is neglected or destroyed. Perhaps a premium offered to the man who had the best suit of clothes spun

spun in his house, and manufactured in the country, if not in the parish; and to the woman who had the best plaid, gown, and petticoat, of her own spinning, might prevent this, and give the people, in general, a turn for manufacturing their own wool.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The language spoke is a mixture of Norwegian, Dutch, and English; but all the inhabitants now understand pure English, though they could speak among themselves so as an Englishman could not understand them. The names of places are of Norwegian extraction, and are generally expressive of the situation, or some property of the place. Examples are needless. Many people now living observe the great change in manners and dress of the inhabitants: They remember when tea was not known;—when there was not a coat in the parish but what had been spun and woven in it;—and only two or three hats in the parish: They observe also, that there is not a sixth part of the small fish to be caught along the shores now as when they were boys. Boats were then seldom used but for ling and cod; they got plenty of fillocks and pillocks from the rocks.—The small-pox have not been general in this parish within the memory of man until 1791. Whole families of people, from 60 years and downwards, were seized with this disease. The people were at first much afraid of them, and used every mean to avoid the infection. It soon, however, spread through the parish; and, of about 30 who caught it in the natural way, full two thirds died. They were at last persuaded to submit to inoculation. 327 were inoculated by a physician, of which 5 died; one of them a woman past 60; another a very sickly boy. About 100 were inoculated by common men, who pretended to no skill, and gave no medicines. Five of these died; and the greatest part

part of the rest, had the good fortune to fall under the physicians care, and all of them learned his cool regimen. (A young gentlemen in the neighbourhood inoculated above 200 there, and did not lose one). There are still about 250 in this parish who would not submit to inoculation, and had the good luck to escape the infection. The small-pox spread over about half the parish in 1740; and it appears, from a register of deaths at that time, that there died 78. About 40 years ago, they were in a small corner of the parish, especially about Cullswick; there are at least a third more inhabitants there now, than were then, and there died 17 in that place, 11 of which were buried in one week. In 1791 there were 58 inoculated in Cullswick, and not *one* died.

A number of young men from this parish go to sea. Sometimes they engage with the Greenland ships for the season, and are landed again in the autumn. Their wages are high; but they learn many bad habits, and seldom put their money to good use. Many of them bind apprentices to Greenland, and other ships, and make fine hardy seamen. During the American war four men enlisted for soldiers, which is very uncommon here. The country, in general, agreed with government for a certain number of men during the war, for which they got protections to fishers from being impressed. Of these 20 went from this parish, and only eight returned, or are alive.

N U M.