

N U M B E R X I X .

United PARISHES of GLENORCHAY and INISHAIL.

(*Presbytery of Lorn.—Synod and County of Argyll.*)

By the Rev. JOSEPH MACINTYRE, D. D.

Erection and Name.

THE parishes of Glenorchay and Inishail were conjoined into one cure, in the year 1618. By a committee of parliament, met at Inveraray, in the year 1650, these parishes were disjoined, on account of their great extent, and continued separate till the restoration; when, by the memorable *Rescissory Act*, they were again united, and have continued since under the pastoral charge of the same incumbent.

The parish of Glenorchay derives its name, from the vale where the church is built. It was formerly called *Clachan Dysart*, a Celtic word, signifying, "The Temple of the Highest." The place, where the parish church stands, was probably the site of the *Clachan*, or "Circle of stones," of the Druids. *Dysart* properly means *The Highest God*. The founders of a church,
designed

designed for a more enlightened worship, in order to induce the Pagan inhabitants to attend the institutions of revealed religion, were naturally led to make choice of a situation, the more revered by them, as being the place where they had formerly been accustomed to perform their rites of devotion*. *Inishail*, or *Beautiful Isle*, is so named, from that green and picturesque island in Lochow, once the site of a small nunnery of the *Cistercian* order; and where, in a ruinous chapel of that religious house, public worship was alternately performed, till the year 1736. A church, more commodious for the parish, was then built on the south side of the lake, opposite to Inishail.

Extent and Situation.—The length of the united parishes, from E. to W. is above 24 measured miles. The breadth is various and unequal. They are situated on the borders of the county of Perth, near the village of Clifton, and inn of Tayndrom, one of the highest inhabited situations in North Britain. Here, a small rivulet marks the division of the counties of Argyll and Perth; part of which runs eastward into Loch Tay, and falls into the German sea; and part runs westward into Lochow, and discharges itself, at *Bunaw*, into an Arm of the Atlantic ocean. The church of *Glenorchay* is 15 miles N. E. from *Inveraray*, the chief town of the shire, and the seat of the courts of justice; and is nearly at an equal distance S. E. from *Bunaw**.

Surface,

* *Cordiner's Antiquities.*

* At this place there is a considerable salmon fishing and iron foundery; and a quay is built on a secure and well sheltered bay for vessels of small burden, which ply occasionally, to Liverpool, Whitehaven, Ulverston, and other places, loaded with pig-iron, tanner's bark, kelp and salmon; and import in return, iron ore, meal, coals, tanned leather, stone-ware, and other articles of commerce.

Surface and Soil.—Excepting the vale of Glenorchay, which forms a beautiful plain of more than 3 miles in length, and half a mile in breadth, the plains of Auch, of Auchalader, and part of the lands of Hayfield, the country exclusively is mountainous and hilly. The river *Urchay* winds in a gentle current through the vale, dividing it into two equal parts. On each side of the river, the soil is a mixture of light earth and sand; and on the sides of Lochow, as far as the parish extends, it is generally a deeper earth and richer loam, on beds of till or gravel. The glebe, on which the church and manse are built, is a beautiful oblong isle, formed by the river *Urchay*. It is in the centre of the valley and above a mile in circumference, and every where bordered with natural terraces and shelving banks, and fringed with coppice and various kinds of trees, to the very edge of the river.

Produce and Cultivation.—The crops produced, on these lands, are the blansley, the early white, and the small grey oats; Scotch bear, potatoes, a few field turnips, some artificial, and much natural, as well as meadow grasses. The ordinary return from oats is from 3 to 4 feeds; of barley, from 5 to 7, and from the boll of potatoes, from 12 to 20. The annual change of the different feeds is found to be of great advantage, as the same seed, sown successively for years, in the same soil, becomes gradually small and unproductive. It is customary, yearly, to import quantities of feed oats from the high grounds near the Kirk of Shotts, and from several parts of Perthshire. Culinary plants are coming more and more into general use in this country: Some years ago it required the influence of the landlord; and in some places, an express stipulation in the lease, before the common people could be got to plant greens, or fence a garden.

Potatoes.—No where are potatoes cultivated with more care or thrive better. They are mostly planted in drills, and hoed by the plough. The largest are always selected for seed. The kinds chiefly used, are those called here, *the London Lady*, a prolific and sweet potatoe; the *long white*, the *dun*, the *wife*, the *early red*, and the *purple*. From all of them, a starch is commonly manufactured by a simple process, for family use. Some distill a fiery and harsh spirit from potatoes; and at times, *bread jelly*, and a very *bad cheese*, are formed of this valuable root, when combined with other substances of nutrition. For nine months of the year, potatoes make a great part of the food of the middling and lower ranks of people; and it may be said, with truth, that, till the general introduction of potatoes into this country, so little adapted, from soil and climate, to the growth of other grain, the poor and lower classes pined away, nearly the halt of their time, in want and hunger. It is now found, that, by keeping the potatoes in a cool place during the summer months, and checking the vegetation by frequent turning and stirring, they may be preserved sweet and sound, from one end of the year to the other; and thus, become a wholesome and cheap diet to the poor, and even, occasionally, add to the viands of the opulent in every season.

Sheep and Black Cattle—The hills and muirs, which, some years ago, were covered with heath and coarse herbage, are, since the introduction of large flocks of sheep into the country, gradually getting a richer sward and a greener hue, and afford excellent pasture. Every where they abound, with springs and rivulets of pure and salubrious water. Numerous flocks of large and heavy sheep, now pasture almost the whole year, on these mountains and wilds, where, formerly,
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were to be found, and only for the summer months, a few light sheep and goats, small hill horses, as they were called, and some herds of black cattle. Then, it was believed, that no domestic animal could stand the severities of the winter on the high and stormy grounds: even the goats and sheep were regularly housed and fed in pens, during the rigour of the season. The consequence was often fatal. When the provender was consumed before the genial return of spring, cattle of all kinds perished in numbers for want of sustenance*. There may be about 20,000 sheep in the parish. A few of the Cheviot breed have been lately introduced into Glenorchay; and the Earl of Breadalbane, ever anxious to promote the interest of his country, and the good of the people, designs, it is said, to send some more of the same kind, to the parish, for trial. Black cattle have been, for years past, decreasing in number, but improving in kind. Two bulls, reared in the parish, were lately sold, the one at 19 l. the other at 20 l. Sterling. Horses, both for draught and saddle, are brought, occasionally, at high prices, from the south of Scotland, and other places noted for the best kinds of both.

Wood.—The higher parts of the parish abounded once, with forests of the largest and best pines; but these were cut down, about 60 years ago, by a company of adventurers from Ireland, with little benefit to themselves, and less to the noble proprietor of the country. There are still some tracts of natural firs in Glenorchay: a good deal of oak, intermixed with ash, birch, and alder. On the sides of Lochow, especially

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* A worthy gentleman, still alive in this parish, was present at the sale of 510 hides of black cattle, of all ages; which were the property of *one laird*, and lost in one season, by mere want. This was in the year 1744. The hides sold for 50 l. to a Glasgow tanner.

at Hayfield, various kinds of wood; the larch, the beech, the horse chestnut, the mountain ash, the lime and the plane, are planted with taste, and grow with luxuriance and beauty. The climate is not favourable for orchards.

Exports and Imports.—The exports from the country are cattle, wool, woollen yarn, tartans, plaiding and ruffet. The imports are, about 1000 bolls of meal, merchant goods and cash. Exclusive of what is retailed by hawkers, there is sold, yearly, from one stationary shop in the parish, to the value of 60 l. Sterling, of snuff and tobacco. This is an expenditure that merits reprehension. Let the men, however, continue to do in this as they choose, but far be it from the fair and respectable females of this vale, to disfigure their features, and to destroy their powers of song and sweet cadence, by a habit so repugnant to every thing engaging and cleanly in woman. There is one licensed distillery in the parish; the effect of which is the destruction of great quantities of grain, that, in place of being converted into wholesome bread, produces only a deleterious spirit, ruinous to health, to industry, and to morals. If no spirits were distilled in the county, the meal imported would be a trifle. At an average, there is an annual importation of 40 thousand bolls into the shire.

Population and Longevity.—As no exact public registers were kept, the ancient state of the population of the parish cannot be ascertained with precision; but, it is the general belief, that the population is not materially different from what it was about 40 years ago. This conjecture is confirmed by the only investigation of the fact, that can now be made. At present, (1792,) the total number is 1679. The return to Dr Webber in 1755 was 1654, the difference is therefore only 15. Of these there are of males, 783, of females, 886.

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In this account, the inhabitants of Lorn, Furrace and Fanans are not included. Though the people, in general, attain to an advanced age, there are no late instances of extraordinary longevity in the parish. A circumstance happened a few years ago, which, it is believed, occurs but seldom any where. At a baptism in the parish, there were present, the child's *father* and *mother*, *grandfather* and *grandmother*, *great-grandfather* and *great-grandmother*; and the last pair are still so vigorous and healthy, as to make it probable, they may see the fifth generation of their family. They are all in the lower class of peasantry, contented with their lot, and chearful in their temper.

Diseases.—Colds and rheumatic disorders are the most prevalent diseases in the parish. Before inoculation was introduced, the small pox, in its visitations, proved very fatal. Then, the regimen was literally hot. At whatever season the infection appeared, great fires were kept burning in the rooms, or rather stoves, where often 2 or 3 wretched children lay gasping, under a weight of cloaths, in one bed. Every particle of fresh air was excluded with the utmost care; and whisky and saffron, and every thing heating, were administered with an unsparing hand. The consequence was such as might be expected. Numbers were hurried into an untimely grave; and of those that escaped with life, the loss of an eye, sometimes of both, with other ravages of the disorder, often marked a treatment so unnatural and so destructive. Eighteen years ago, a herd boy, a native of this parish, ran away from a farm in another country, where the measles made their appearance. He did not, however, escape the enemy he dreaded. He came to the parish school, and within the fifth day, the runaway, with 51 of the scholars, were laid up with
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the distemper. It spread over the country in a short time; but contagious as it was, it was not mortal.

Mountains, &c *.—There are many hills of different elevations and forms in the parish. Among these, Beindoran, Beinlaoi, and Cruachan, soar pre-eminently high. The last rises in a gentle slope from the sea, and the Lake of Aw; and by the measurement of the late Colonel Watson, with a quadrant, its perpendicular height is said to be 1130 yards above the level of the sea. The circumference of the mountain, at the base, is above 20 measured miles. Cruachan is the weather gauge of the people within view of its lofty summit. Before the storm, “the spirit of the mountain shricks,” and its head and sides are enveloped in clouds. On the summit of this mountain, was that fatal spring, from which, according to the tradition of our fathers, issued forth the beautiful and extensive lake of Aw †.

Beindoran,

* Elevation of various Mountains above the level of the Sea.

	Feet.
Hartfield Hill, near Moffat,	2282
Tintock, in Lanarkshire,	1644
Beinmore, in Breadalbane, from its base,	2064
Bein Lawers, in Breadalbane, above Lochtay,	3588
Ben nevis, in Lochaber,	4273
Benlomond, above the Lake,	3240
Skiddaw, in Cumberland,	4466
Snowdon, in Wales,	3566
Mount Blanc, in the Alps,	15,662
Mount Ætna,	10,954
Chimborazzo, South America,	20,460
Teneriffe,	15,396
Hecla in Iceland.	4,903

N. B. 1760 yards make a mile.

‡ “Bera the aged, dwelt in the cave of the rock. She was the daughter of Griannan the Sage; Long was the line of her fathers, and she was the last
“ of

Beindoran, till lately, was the residence and sanctuary of the roe buck and mountain deer; but now, the hunter roams no longer on the hill of the chace; the sheep browse on the heath of the forest, and the sons of the mountains have deserted the inheritance of their race for ages, to revisit its springs, and glades, and secret haunts no more! Formerly, the wolf had his haunts in our wilds and mountains, and not only proved fatal to the cattle, but, when impelled by hunger, or inflamed with rage, he even, at times, made depredations on the human species. It is said, that, in the year 1680, the last wolf in Britain was killed by Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel.

Lakes, Rivers and Fish.—The parish extends nearly for 8 miles on each side of Lochow. This lake is, in length, about 30 measured miles, and at an average, about 3 quarters of a mile in breadth. It is about 36 yards above the level of the sea. Besides the intermediate rivers and hills, which run in-
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“ of her race. Large and fertile were her possessions: her’s the beautiful vales
“ below, and her’s the cattle which roamed on the hills around. To Bera was
“ committed the charge of that awful spring, which, by the appointment of
“ Fate, was to prove so fatal to the inheritance of her fathers, and to her father’s
“ race,

“ Before the sun should withdraw his beams, she was to cover the spring
“ with a stone, on which sacred and mysterious characters were impressed. One
“ night this was forgot by the unhappy Bera. Overcome with the heat and
“ chace of the day, she was seized with sleep before the usual time of rest. The
“ confined waters of the mountains burst forth into the plain below, and cover-
“ ed that large expanse, now known by the name of *the Lake of Aw*. The third
“ morning Bera awaked from her sleep. She went to remove the stone from the
“ spring; but, behold, no stone was there! she looked to the inheritance of
“ her tribe: She shrieked! The mountain shook from its base! Her spirit re-
“ tired to the ghosts of her fathers, in their light and airy halls.” OSSIANS.

Of this ill fated female, Mr. Stewart of Strachur, has given a very ingenious
account in the statistical history of his parish. See Vol. 4. P. 559.

to Lochow, it receives a considerable body of water at each extremity, and discharges itself laterally, into an arm of the sea at Runaw, after a turbulent series of cataracts for 3 miles. After a winding course of 14 miles, the river Urchay falls into Lochow, at the east end, about a mile below the parish church. The lake and river abound with salmon, char, trout and eels. The last is the abhorrence of almost all the common people in the highlands, who consider them as water serpents, and unfit for the use of man. Four miles below the church, at a place called Catnish, shoals of salmon are taken in the Urchay, by a simple but fatal device. A bold projecting rock crosses the bed of the river, nearly from side to side. Its height is such, that few fish can overleap the torrent; which, after rains, rushes forcibly into the pool below. Many salmon, in attempting to leap fall into a *creel*, or basket, fixed transversely within the stream. But the great slaughter is effected in a more fraudulent manner. On the one side of the river there is an open, of the wideness of a mill-race, betwixt the rock and the bank. Here a wicker gate is fixed, that can be opened and shut at pleasure. Many yards above this entry, the stream is secured by a like barrier. When the water is high and turbid, the fish are let in below, and when the fisherman is satisfied with the numbers that have passed into his toils, he shuts the door of his prison; and, like a merciless executioner, he drags his prey with his spear, one after another on shore. Scores, at times, are thus destroyed in the course of a few hours. There are several other lakes and rivers, of lesser note, in the parish: all of them abounding with fine trout.

Roads and Bridges.—In no county has more been done, during the last 20 years, in constructing bridges, and forming useful lines of road, than in the shire of Argyll within that
period,

period, besides what has been effected by the statute labour, and by a yearly assessment of above 600 l. Sterling on the valued rents, many expensive bridges and various lines of roads, have been completed by large subscriptions. Glenorchay is every where well accommodated with good roads and convenient bridges. The great military road from Stirling to Tayndrom and Inverary, passes through the parish, from one extremity almost to the other: as does also, for many miles, the military road, from Tayndrom to Fort-William. In the original formation of these roads, the obvious and proper line has not always been selected. The traveller often feels, to his cost, that *the road was brought to the gravel, and not the gravel to the road.* A more enlightened and liberal system of road-making is now adopted; and, it is hoped, that the line will be altered from its present incommodious acclivities and descents, wherever a more easy and level road can be formed. From the inn of Dalmaly, to the bridge of Aw, a very judicious alteration in the line of public road has been lately made, at the expence of above 400 l. Sterling. This beautiful line winds, for miles, through woods and dells, presenting such varied and agreeable views of water, of islands, of towering mountains, and sloping hills, as give an uncommon grandeur and sublimity to the landscape. Part of the road lies through a narrow defile, “ amidst such irregularities of nature, such deep chasms, and such impending rocks, as indicate some vast convulsions of the earth, to have happened at some remote period of time*.”

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Castle's

* About a quarter of a mile below the mouth of the river Aw, in view of the road, and close by the water edge, is seen a huge stone, which, to a traveller of a humane and serious cast of mind, will afford matter of pleasing contemplation. A few years ago, in a cottage at the bottom of a steep hill, whose summit is one range of projecting rocks, a near and crashing noise was heard, resembling a clap of thunder. The cottager, from a window, beheld the face of the hill covered with

Castles and Monastery.—At the east end of Lochow, on a rocky point, projecting into the lake, are to be seen the fine ruins of *Castle Kilchurn*. The square tower, still of a castellated form, was built in 1440, by Sir Colin Campbell * Knight of Rhodes, and ancestor of the Breadalbane family. Successive additions were made to *Castle Kilchurn*, and part of it was garrisoned by the king's forces, in the year 1745, to secure the peace and tranquillity of the country. But now, this great mass of building is tumbling to the ground; presenting a monument of the mutability of earthly grandeur, and of the unavoidable decay of the most durable works of human art.

On a small island, not far from *Castle Kilchurn*, called *Fraoch-Elan* †, there are the ruins of a castle. In the year
1267,

with detached masses of rock, bounding with velocity, and flew towards his slender and ill constructed habitation. His wife had just gone out, and he heard her cries. A child stood at his knee, and another was asleep in a bed beside him. He sprung instantaneously to the door, with a child, as he thought, in each hand. Scarce had he crossed the threshold, when an enormous stone passed through his house, in the very place where he and his children were a moment before. He missed a child, and no longer heard the voice of his wife. He looked to the ruins of his hut; found his child alive and unhurt, in a corner where it had been thrust by the fragments of the bed and furniture, displaced by the rock in its course. In a little, the mother came to the scene. Their joy and gratitude were complete.

* Sir Colin was the second son of Argyll. His father gave him *Glenorchay*, with other valuable appendages for his patrimony. He was a man of high renown for his military prowess, and for the virtues of social and domestic life. He was “a stream of many tides against the foes of his people; but, like the gale that moves the heath, to those who fought his aid.” His first lady was a daughter of the Earl of Angus. Her marriage dower was 600 merks, little more than 30 l. Sterling. As her father was dead, two noblemen, relations of the *Angus* family, granted a conjunct bond for the payment of the *tocher*. Sir Colin afterwards married one of the co-heiresses of *Stewart*, Lord Lorn, by which he acquired a great accession to his fortune.

† *Fraoch-Elan* was the *Lesperides* of this country. “The fair *Mego* longed for the delicious fruit of the isle, guarded by a dreadful serpent: *Fraoch*, who had
“ long

1267, this little demefne, with its fortrefs, and fome contiguous lands, were granted by King Alexander III. to Gilbert M'Naughtan, the chief of that clan, on condition that he fhould entertain the king whenever he paffed that way. The fatal attempt of Fraoch is handed down, from age to age, in a beautiful Celtic tale, after the manner of Oflian the fon of Fingal.—A tranflation of it, by the Rev. Dr. Smith of Campbellton, when a boy at college, is much and juftly admired. There is another old ruinous caftle at Auchallader, in the upper part of the parifh,—a hunting feat of the Breadalbane family, in the days of the chace; but, principally intended to reftrain the incursions of fuch *marauders*, as might attempt, in thofe predatory times, to pillage and defpoil the country. Near it, on the flope of a hill, a fatal conflict took place, about two centuries ago, betwixt two hostile clans. Various caufes are affigned for this encounter. Several cairns, ftill vifible on the heath, mark the place where the flain were interred.

In the ifland of Inishail, the remains of a fmall monastery, with its chapel, are ftill to be feen. Concerning this religious houfe, there is little on record, and tradition conveys but fmall information. It was a houfe of Nuns, memorable for the fanctity of their lives, and the purity of their manners. At the reformation, when the innocent were involved equally with the guilty, in the fufferings of the times, this houfe was fuppreffed, and the temporalities granted to Hay, the Abbot of Inchaffrey; who, abjuring his former tenets of religion,

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ligion,

“ long loved the maid, goes to gather the fruit. By the ruffling of the leaves,
 “ the ferpent was awaked from his fleep. It attacked the hero, who perifhed in
 “ the conflict. The monster was alfo deftroyed: Mego did not long furvive
 “ the death of her lover *.”

* *Pennant's Tour.*

ligion, embraced the cause of the reformers. King James VI. erected Inchaffrey, into a temporal lordship, in his favour.

Clan M'Grigor—In Glenorchay, the chieftain of the clan M'Grigor, a numerous and potent tribe, had long his principal residence, and a freehold property. On an eminence, opposite to the parish church, still called *the Gallow Hill*, were executed all criminals, doomed to death in his courts of justice. The process was often summary, and the execution speedy. The sun, in its course of one day, beheld the culprit at large, apprehended, arraigned, adjudged, condemned, and brought to execution. In other criminal courts of those times, such procedure was not uncommon. A single act of M'Grigor's justice, however, is on traditional record. One of his retainers, who had intentionally put out the eye of a stranger, who had but one, was condemned to lose both his own, in retaliation for the malice. For the enormities of some individuals, during the minority of James VI. the whole clan were proscribed by act of parliament, as "*Lawless Limmers.*" The surname was, for ever suppressed; and, at baptism, no clergyman was to give the name of *Grigor*, under the penalty of banishment and deprivation. Happily those manners and times are no more! In our days, the innocent are not indiscriminately involved in the infamy and punishment of the guilty. An act so severe is repealed by a more enlightened legislature; and the clan M'GRIGOR, in possession of their name, and of every franchise of citizens, are as civilized, as peaceable, and as much distinguished for every virtue, as any of their fellow subjects in the kingdom.

Rent.—The rents of the parish have doubled, and, in some properties, have tripled within these 40 years; and yet, the situation of the tacksmen is, in general, much better than at
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that period. This, particularly, is the case, with such as have obtained large pasture tenements on long leases. A lease for 19 or 20 years, is considered as the shortest, on which a tenant can venture, securely, to make any expensive efficient improvements upon his possession. In some places, it has been the impolitic practice of landlords, to let their grounds on short leases: a system, which, as it is discouraging and ruinous to the lessee, must eventually be injurious to the lessor.—Such is not the case in Glenorchay. The noble proprietor, as has uniformly been the laudable practice of the family, gives every reasonable encouragement to the tenant. He imposes no racked rents; he exacts no services; he grants no short leases; and, whilst he himself has adequate returns from his domains, he has the satisfaction to hear and see that his people prosper.—And surely, to every man of feeling, and real virtue, to contribute to the happiness of thousands, who earn and eat their bread under him, as the children of his family, and who, ungrudgingly bestow a great part of the fruit of their labours, in return for his protection and bounty, must, living and dying, afford a pleasure and peace of mind, unknown to the merciless and rapacious oppressor;—to him, whose exactions come stained with the sweat, and tears, and blood of those, who, by nature, are his brethren, and who, from situation, have more than a common claim to his humanity and protection.

The real rent of the united parish, may be from 3,000 l. to 4,000 l. Sterling.

Wages.—In all the operations of husbandry, and in every mechanic and domestic employment, the prices of labour have become, progressively, quadruple what they were 50 years ago. A man servant, fed in the family, earns annually, from 5 l. to 9 l.—A female, from 2 to 3 guineas. Still, the recom-
pense,

penſe, to this laſt claſs of ſervants, is more inadequate to their ſervices than what is exacted by the former. Often, eſpecially during winter, whilſt the men paſs away the long evenings at their eaſe, and without farthering the intereſt of their employers, the buſy and conſcientious houſe-maid is unremittingly engaged, in ſome neceſſary employment in the family. Let not their earnings then, advanced as they are, be grudged; but let all, who reſpect the female character, and female utility, regret, that theſe earnings are often thrown away on the gewgaws of vanity and fashion. Every man of humanity is pleaſed to ſee them clad in decent and ſuitable apparel; but it is painful to obſerve, that, what ſhould be a ſupport to their future families, and a proviſion for ſickneſs and old age, is miſapplied in the purchaſe of ſilks, laces, lawns and tinſel! But the moralift may ſpeculate on this female infirmity as he chuſes; as far as the laſs has caſh or credit, to procure *braws*, ſhe will, ſtep by ſtep, follow hard after what ſhe deems grand and fine in her betters*.

Inn.—There is an excellent inn in the pariſh, at Dalmary. No where in the highlands has more attention been paid to the accommodation of the traveller, than on the property of Lord Breadalbane. In a line of public road, of above 90 miles in length, extending from Inveraray to Perth, good inns, with ſuitable offices, are built, at proper ſtages, and kept in repair, at conſiderable expence, by his lordſhip †. Care alſo is taken to find inn-keepers qualified for their charge, and of civil and obliging deportment to their employers.—And to enable them to provide reaſonably for their gueſts, farms, on eaſy terms, are annexed to the different ſtages.

Minerals,

* The prices of viands, and wages of Artificers here, are the ſame as thoſe already publiſhed in the ſtatistical accounts of the county.

† Viz. at Dalmary, Tayndrom, Killin, Kenmore and Amilree.

Minerals and Indigenous Plants.—On the confines of the parish a lead mine had been wrought for many years, by means of a level. The 6th of the product, in bars of lead, from the smelting mill, was the proportion allowed to the proprietor by the mining company. It has not been wrought for two years back. In several hills of this parish, there are appearances of lead ore. Cobalt, talc, asbestos, and a beautiful jasper, have been found in small masses, among our rocks and mountains. By an act of the Scotch parliament, in the year 1424, the mine was declared royal, and to belong to the king, when 3 halfpennies of silver could be fined from the pound of lead. Limestone of good quality, is quarried in various parts of the parish. Many indigenous herbs, which, combined with whisky, formed of old, a great part of the Highlander's *materia medica*, are now gone much into disuse; Valerian, Tussilag, Althea, All-heal, Liver-wort, Plantain, Eye-bright, and wild carrot are found in abundance.

Well of St. Connan.—There are no mineral springs in the parish. A quarter of a mile eastward from the inn of Dalmaly, and near the parish school, is the well of St. Connan; memorable for the lightness and salubrity of its water. St. Connan was the tutelar saint of the country. He lived, it is said, near the well, and he blessed the spring. On a little eminence hard by, in a humble cot, there dwelt, about 20 years ago, a poor old man, principally supported by the well of St. Connan. The whole day he sat, generally at the door of his cot, ready to give the passengers a drink from his favourite spring, for which he received some small consideration. It is incredible what quantities he himself daily drank, for the space of 44 years, that he lived near the well. He never had a complaint: he arrived at the age of 85 or 86 years, in the exercise of
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all his mental faculties. The evening before he died, he was seen drinking at the well, as usual; but, though his practice had prevented disease, it could not save him from the hand of death. He retired to his cell, and in the morning was found dead in his bed. A few shillings, sufficient to defray the expence of interment, were got, in an old rag beside him. He exacted a promise of the minister of the parish, that no man, after him, should occupy the hut. About this, he discovered an anxiety, not to be accounted for. The day he was buried, the hut was demolished. It would not, indeed, have been easy to have found a new occupant, for the whole inside of this solitary habitation was lined with the fragments of coffins, brought from the church-yard, year after year, as repairs were needed.

Church.—The church of Glenorchay, outwardly, appears a decent building. Within, though far from elegant, it is neither uncomfortable nor incommodious. Its situation is commanding, and central for the people. It is to be regretted, that places appropriated to the public worship of God, should not be rendered suitable to a service so sacred and so important. The magnificent temples of the heathen world indicated a becoming reverence for the objects of their worship. The church of Rome, the church of England, and the several separatists from our own establishment, are careful to have such places, as are consecrated to the service of the Universal Parent, made decent and comfortable: whilst, with us of the church of Scotland, many of our country kirks, are such dark, damp, and dirty hovels, as chill and repress every sentiment of devotion. They, besides, endanger the health of every class of worshippers, and encourage the indifferent and the indolent, in their neglect of institutions, with the stated observance of which, moral obligation itself, and the public and private happiness of man, are so much and so immediately connected.

To the honour, however, of all classes of people in this country, it may be said, with justice, that no where are the ordinances of religion more respected or better attended. Persons of the most cultivated understanding, and of the first rank in society, are not ashamed to join in the public offices of devotion. Here, cold and cruel infidelity has not yet reared her baneful banner. Here, "the rich and the poor meet together" in the house of God. Public worship is alternately performed at the churches of Glenorchay and Inishail, (or Innisdrynich,) 5 measured miles from each other. For the benefit of the people, in the conjoined extremities of the parishes of Glenorchay and Killin, the late Lady GLENORCHAY, in concurrence, and with the aid of the Earl of Breadalbane, established a perpetual mission, with suitable appointments to the incumbent. This was a humane and necessary institution, and will remain a lasting monument of the piety and beneficence of the noble foundress, when the millions squandered in dissipation are gone, without leaving one consoling thought to their former possessor, or entailing honour on his name, as the benefactor and friend of man. By act of parliament, the two farms of Ichrachan and Phanans are annexed, *quoad sacra*, to the parish of Muckairn, as "*maistewart* thereto." And for the same reasons, the three farms of Leatters, Corries and Drilhaig, are disjoined from Ardchattan, and annexed *quoad sacra*, to Glenorchay. In the records of the synod of Agyll, there is an abstract of this act of designation and annexation.

Stipend, Patron and Heritors.—The living is 67 bolls of meal, and 43l. 6s. 8d. Sterling in money, exclusive of a manse, and two glebes, containing from 16 to 20 acres, mostly arable. The minister enjoys the privilege of pasturing 8 cows, the whole year, if he chooses, on 4 contiguous farms. To this may be added, the convenience and advantages which the

minister enjoys, from the possession of a small adjacent farm, which the family of Breadalbane have continued on easy terms, for time immemorial, to the successive incumbents of the parish. Without some such tenement for supplying the necessaries of life, the situation of the minister of an inland highland parish, far from markets, and with a numerous family, would often be very distressing. It is but justice to say, that it has been the general practice of both the noble families of ARGYLL and BREADALBANE, in almost all the parishes connected with them, to do every thing kind and reasonable for the comfortable accommodation of their ministers. This testimony of acknowledgment, the present incumbent of Glenorchay and Inishail owes also to his other heritors, who are 5 in number, viz. Campbell of Lochnell, Campbell of Monzie, M'Dougall of Hayfield, Campbell of Combie, and Lindsay of Boccaird. The Duke of Argyll is patron.—In no part of the kingdom has patronage been exercised with more marked attention to the heritors and people of a parish, than in this country. Violent settlements are not known in our bounds. The rights of patronage and of law are therefore respected by the people †.

Schools.

† The following singular fact is the only instance to the contrary. At the revolution, when presbytery was last re-established in North Britain, a Mr. Dugald Lindsay was the Episcopal minister of Glenorchay. Mr. Lindsay would not conform. Pressed by the synod of Argyll, the noble proprietor of the country reluctantly wrote a letter of invitation to a presbyterian probationer, in the shire of Perth, to be minister of Glenorchay. He accepted; came on the close of a week to the parish, but could find no house to receive him, or person to make him welcome. In his distress, he was drove to the house of the man whom he came to supplant, and was received with a cordiality and kindness, becoming a minister of the gospel. Over the whole parish, there was a strong ferment. People of all ages and conditions assembled, from all quarters, in the church-yard, on Sabbath, long before the usual hour of worship. At the appearance of the stranger, accompanied by their own pastor, there was a general
murmur

Schools.—The school of Glenorchay has long been in great repute, and is well attended. Besides the natives, many children, both from the East and West Indies, have been, from time to time, sent for their elementary education to this seminary; where, freed from that contagion of vice and bad example, which too often corrupts the morals of the youth in towns, they form early habits of virtue, and acquire a hardiness and vigour of constitution, less common at their years, in warmer climates. Many of those, who, in the early period of life, have been brought up at this school, have become distinguished as useful professional men, in the various situations of society. The salary of the master is 15 l. paid by Lord Breadalbane; which, with other fixed and contingent emoluments, makes the total income, at an average, to be better than 40 l. a year. During winter, the scholars amount to 100, and then an assistant is employed: and even in the summer months, when many of the poorer children are obliged to leave school and go to service, the number attending is seldom under 60.

The office of a schoolmaster is an useful and laborious employment. It is a pity, that the encouragement to this class of men, should in general, be so inadequate to their utility,

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murmur of indignation. Twelve armed men, with drawn swords, surrounded the astonished intruder. Two bagpipes sounded *the March of Death*. Unmoved by the tears and remonstrances of Mr. Lindsay, in this hostile and awful form, they proceeded, with their prisoner, to the boundary of the parish, and of the county. There, on his bended knees, he solemnly engaged never more to enter the parish, or trouble any person for the occurrences of that day. He was allowed to depart in peace, and he kept his promise. The Synod of Argyll were much incensed. Time cooled their ardour. The proprietor was indulgent, Mr. Lindsay deserving, and the people loved him. He continued in the undisturbed possession of his charge till his death, more than 30 years after the foregoing event.

and to their labours. In most parishes, though it is by no means the case in this, the winnings of a common servant greatly exceed the income of men, whose employments expose them to much waste of health and spirits; to much hunger and cold, and to much censure; men too, many of them possessed of learning and cultivated minds, and by means of whom, the first principles of morals and of science are communicated to millions. Dr. SAMUEL JOHNSON, Dr. BEATTIE of Aberdeen, and the learned Mr WALTER RUDDIMAN, with many others of the most distinguished characters, in the liberal professions, once earned their poor pittance of support, in such employments*.

There is a school for teaching girls sewing, &c. established also in the country, by the honourable Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, with a competent salary: and there is another small school in the parish of Inishail, very poorly endowed, though the assessment on the valued rent, to form a salary, is more than common in such cases. Although we are a peaceful people, fencing masters come occasionally to the bounds, to instruct us in the art of defence: and masters of manners also do us the favour, from time to time, to teach us “the graces—the graces †.”

Poor.—The poor in this united charge are numerous; amounting at times, to 60: and many of them, the aged, the fatherless, the widow, and the bed-ridden. Besides occasional supplies, there is a stated summer and winter distribution, to the amount of 24l. or 26l. a year. This sum arises from 160l. of mortified money; from the collections at church, and from small fines imposed for immoralities in the parish.

Hitherto

* In 1500, the learned HECTOR BOETHIUS the first principal of King's college Aberdeen, had but 40 merks salary, about 2l. 4s. 5d. Sterling.

† Chelmsfield's Letters.

Hitherto, no assessments, (such as the law authorises in urgent cases,) have been exacted. Such of the poor as can, and choose, are allowed to beg, without restriction. And, indeed, whilst, the indigent are so many, and the funds to support them so disproportionate to their wants, it would be cruel and oppressive to controul them. It is but justice to the humanity of the people of the parish to declare, that they never refuse to extend their charity to the needy mendicant, whether a stranger or a native. About 20 years ago, a stranger, with his family, came to reside in the parish. By accident, his house and his all were destroyed by fire. A collection was made for them at the church doors, which amounted to 21 l. and 3 pence sterling. No heritors were resident at the time. On this occasion, even the cottage widow, cheerfully, "threw her
" two mites, into the treasury of the temple *."

Fuel.—The fuel, principally used in the parish, is peat. The present partial and impolitic duty on coals, together with the
expence

* It is a just remark, that "the proper regulation of the poor, as it is one of
" the most important, so it is also one of the most difficult circumstances of pe-
" lice that a scanty supply, or a rigid execution of the penal statutes against
" mendicants, compels many miserable creatures to suffer all the wretchedness
" of poverty, while a liberal provision, indiscriminately bestowed, encourages
" idleness, and ultimately terminates in profligacy, and vice †." From a perusal
of the Scotch acts of parliament relating to the poor, it appears that no
pauper has a legal claim to be maintained by any parish, unless he was born
there, or had his residence in it for the last 3 years, previous to his application.
In the year 1781, one Waddle, a day-labourer, came to the parish of Hutton,
having in his family, a son, a wards of 20 years of age, who had been paralytic
from his birth. He applied to have this son put on the poor's roll, but was re-
fused. No legal methods being taken to remove Waddle out of the parish, he
continued in it for three years after; then applied to the sheriff, to have his son
inrolled for a weekly supply from the parish funds. This the sheriff ordered,
and the Court of Session affirmed his sentence †.

† *Dr. Macfarlan's enquiries concerning the Poor.* † *Acts of Sederunt.*

expence of land and water carriage, put it out of the power of the many to enjoy the comfort of coal fires, even in the worst of seasons. And the sufferings of the lower classes, with respect to firing, in wet years, during the rigour of winter, can only be conceived by such as have felt them. A few years ago, many poor people in the West Highlands were obliged to burn most of their household furniture, to repel the cold and to prepare their food. Old people and young children, unable to bear the cold, were mostly confined to bed.

Migratory Birds.—Our migratory birds are the cuckow, the lapwing, the swallow, and the woodcock. In severe winters, the swan visits our lakes for a few weeks; and, though a wary and watchful bird, it is not uncommon to see it fall a prey to the arts of the sportsman. The Bohemian chatterer, a bird of a most beautiful plumage and striking conformation, was taken, last season, in this country.

Eagles.—Premiums are given in this, and in many other parishes, for the extirpation of the mountain eagle. Yet still, this bird of prey, so destructive to kids, lambs, and game, is common in our wilds and deserts. The eagle has either lost much of its former audacity and strength, or the many traditions respecting its assaults on the young and defenceless, even of the human kind, are fabulous and unfounded*.—

This

* There is a tradition current in the Isle of Man, that a live infant, found in the *aerie* of an eagle, was brought to the proprietor of the island; who, having no children of his own adopted this fortunate foundling, and bequeathed him his possessions. The same authority asserts, that this child was the ancestor of the Stanley family. In the genealogical history of that noble house, there is no allusion to this legendary pedigree, although the impression of an *eagle and child, on the coin of the Isle of Man*, is probably owing to some such circumstance.

This bird is remarkable for its longevity. Mr. Keyfler relates, that an eagle died at Vienna, after a confinement of 104 years.

Character of the People.—The inhabitants of this parish have, from time immemorial, been marked, for peculiar regularity of conduct, and decency of manners. They are, in general, sober, industrious and humane; courteous, peaceable, and contented.—They are all of the established church, and attend the public institutions of religion, with becoming attention and decorum. Here are no religious controversies to agitate the human mind; to hurt the best feelings of the heart, and to render men fierce, injurious, and uncharitable to one another. Enormous crimes are unknown in this place*. Law suits occur but seldom. The little differences, that arise occasionally among neighbours, are settled either by the
good

* The Lowland people, who have long believed, that every Highlander lived by plunder and rapine, will hardly credit, that there is perhaps less thievery and picking in the Highlands, than in any part of the King's dominions. In feudal times, and before the operation of law in the remote parts of the kingdom, there was a general system of depredation, too prevalent in many Highland countries. But, as this was, often, only a retaliation for similar injuries, and patronised by the heads of clans at variance with one another, it subjected the *spoiler*, neither to punishment nor disgrace. Impelled by hunger, the starving Highlander was indeed tempted, at times, to purloin subsistence from the folds of the wealthy: but, on all occasions, he avoided the cattle of the poor, with a scrupulous and humane attention.

MAC-IAN, *alias* KENNEDY, after the defeat of the unfortunate *Charles Stuart*, at Culloden, watched over him, with inviolable fidelity for weeks, and even robbed, at the risk of his life, for his support, at the very time that he himself and his family were in a state of starvation, and that he knew he could gain 30,000 l. by betraying his guest. This poor man was afterwards executed at Inverness for stealing a cow. A little before his execution, he took off his bonnet, and thanked God, "that he had never betrayed trust, never injured the poor, and never refused a' share of what he had to the stranger and needy." It is said,

good offices of a justice of the peace, who resides in the parish, or by Lord Breadalbane's Chamberlain, or Steward, when he comes to the country : and the small fines that are, at times, imposed for misdemeanours, are generally paid to the kirk-treasurer for behoof of the poor of the parish.

The superior class of tacksmen live in commodious and decent houses, in the enjoyment of the comforts of life, with order, neatness, and hospitality : and even the middling and lower ranks of the peasantry live in a style of plenty and cleanliness, very different from that of their predecessors. Formerly, indeed, much of that time, which is now spent in useful industry, or in acquiring mental improvement, was passed in indolence, in the favourite chace, or in listening to the captivating "tales of other times."

A strict attention to credit, and a marked punctuality in discharging every money engagement, has long characterised, even

said. King George II. was much moved, when he heard of the fate of Mac-Ian; and declared, that if he had known the circumstances in proper time, he would have put him in a situation, in which he would not have been tempted to steal a cow for subsistence. The Chevalier had ordered him a little money, but Mac-Ian never received it ---At Inveraray, there has not been a single criminal executed these 42 years!

At a period not very remote, an awful retribution quickly followed an act of singular intemperance in this parish. A military party marching through the country in a hot summer day, some of the men broke into a *foalling*, and used an unwise freedom with a churn-full of cream they found in the hut. One man, tempted with the richness of the feast, would neither be persuaded to moderation, nor to retire with his fellow depredators. Afraid, however, of being reported to his superior, he ran hard to overtake his party. Humanity throws a veil over the shocking fate of this unfortunate spoiler. He was buried near the road, and his grave inculcates a lesson of honesty, chastened gratification and moderation, on all who behold it, and know the occasion. He was *not* a Highlander.

even the poorest villager of the country. The simple promise of the poor to pay, without any other obligation, will, generally, procure from those who know them, the loan of money in their straits, and family necessaries from the shop-keeper.

Such is the state of this united parish; and such the general character of the people in it. May no future Statistical writer, in his accounts of either, have ever cause to give a worse representation of them !

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