

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF CADDER.

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

By Mr. WILLIAM BARCLAY, Schoolmaster.

Name, Extent, and Situation.

CADDER, the name of this parish, is derived from a Gaelic word, and said to signify *the Back of the Oak Wood*, which corresponds exactly to the situation of *Cadder House*. It is often spelt *Calder*. The parish is 13 miles in length from E. to W., and between 3 and 4 miles in breadth*. It lies in the northern extremity of the county of Lanark. The 3 counties, Lanark, Dumbarton, and Stirling, all meet at the north point of this parish. The nearest point of it is 3 miles from the city of Glasgow, within half a mile of the town of Kirkintilloch, and 3 miles from Kilfyth and Cumbernauld. Gartinqueen Hill, in this parish, is said to be at an equal distance from Hamilton, Falkirk, and Stirling.

River

* There was a map of Cadder drawn in the year 1743, from a survey made by David Dowie, land-surveyor in Edinburgh, but it is in few hands.

River and Canal.—The river Kelvin, which rises east of Kilsyth, runs 6 miles along the northern boundary of the parish; but its course may be 10 or 12 miles, through fine fertile haugh grounds. It falls into the river Clyde two miles below Glasgow. The Kelvin used to overflow its banks in time of rain, and do considerable damage, especially in seed time and harvest; but the proprietors on the north side, to whom it did most damage, have of late confined it, by a great earthen mound, for the most part along its course.—It might, however, have been a much more effectual remedy, had they straightened, widened, and secured the bed of the river; which would be a great saving of ground.—The Forth and Clyde Navigation, commonly called *the Great Canal*, runs through the parish for 5 miles, and has 4 draw bridges on it.

Lakes and Roads.—About 80 years ago, a lake, nearly in the middle of the parish, was drained by a mine, driven a full mile in length under a hill. The mine is in many places 90 feet below the surface, whereby 120 acres of fine arable ground is gained, which annually produces rich crops, without any kind of manure.—There is another lake, called *the Bishop's Loch*, a mile in length, and one fourth of a mile in breadth, which is at present occupied as a reservoir, by the Great Canal Company.—The post road, from Edinburgh to Glasgow, passes 4 miles through this parish, and crosses the Great Canal about a mile east of Cadder kirk. There is also a new turnpike road made for 4 miles, in the east end of this parish, from Glasgow by Cumbernauld towards Falkirk, said to be considerably shorter than the road by Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch, and without a pull.—In 1772, when the heritors met to assess the parish for repairing the bye roads, they found it to contain 123 ploughgates of land. They assessed each of these ploughgates in 10s. Sterling, and 1s. 6d. for every cottager,

3 0 2

yearly.

yearly. In 1791, finding the above assessment insufficient for making the extent of road necessary, they raised it to 18s. Sterling per annum, and 2s. to every cottager, agreeable to an act of parliament for repairing roads in the county of Lanark.

Minerals.—There are a number of freestone quarries in the parish. The stones are very fit for building, and take a fine polish. There are also vast quantities of whin rocks, very proper materials for roads. We have an inexhaustible rock of limestone, which has of late been wrought to a considerable extent, both at Grankirk and Robroystone.—No coal, fit for working, has yet been discovered, though it is the opinion of miners, and people of skill, that the seams of coal, which have been wrought to so great advantage, in New Monkland on the E. and New Kirkpatrick on the W. extend through this parish. It is to be hoped, that some public spirited gentleman will search for, and find this hidden treasure.

Rent, Soil, Cultivation, Produce, &c.—The valuation of the whole parish, is 6270l. Scotch; and the present yearly rent, may be about 6000l. Sterling.—There is no mountain in this parish. The whole face of the district is generally level. Yet we have several different soils; such as, light sandy till, deep earth, and plenty of moss for fuel.—Improvement of land has greatly increased of late, and is still going on very rapidly, both by the plough and by manure. Excellent crops of oats, barley, clover, and rye grass, potatoes and flax, are produced. Oats have fold, before reaping, at 8l. 2s 6d. per acre, and yielded 16 bolls each acre. Potatoes are much cultivated here, and served up at every table. They are a substitute for bread, among the lower class of people, for at least 10 months in the year; and, with very little attention, they make the old crop last, till it is succeeded by the new: 100 bolls have been raised

raised from 1 acre.—But flax is the most advantageous crop here: 200 acres are sown annually; and this year (1792), one farmer has sown 30 acres with flax seed: 32 stones of good scutched flax have been raised from 1 acre, and sold at a guinea the stone; a price perhaps equal to the value of the land on which it grew. Riga flax seed, and the finest kinds of Dutch seed are mostly sown here; though some good crops of flax have been raised from Boston flax seed. On rich moist soil, the finest flax is raised from American seed. Fine Dutch, and large plump America flax seed are reckoned to agree best with this climate. The quantities, commonly sown on 1 acre, are, 9½ pecks Dutch, 8½ Riga, and 8 America flax seed; this last being much smaller than the others.—The improvements in agriculture, in this neighbourhood, are much owing to the Great Canal*. Before it was erected, neither spade nor barrow was used to any purpose. Now, the wheel-barrow, plank, and spade, are found at every farmer's door; and, by the proper use of these utensils, much work is expeditiously performed.

Ecclesiastical State.—The whole of this parish, excepting the barony of Cadder, and the Midtown of Bedlay, formerly belonged to the subdeanry of Glasgow. The Bishop's Land was called the *Baldermonoch Ward* (or *Monk's Town*), and comprehends ten townships; each of which contains 8 ploughgates of land. The mill of Bedlay is still the joint property of these 10 townships. From this ecclesiastical tenure, are derived the names of several places in the parish; such as, the *Bishop's Bridge*, the *Bishop's Moss*, and the *Bishop's Loch*.—After
the

* The only objection to the Great Canal, is, that it has been fatal to so many. No fewer than seven, within the bounds of this parish, have been drowned in it since it was opened.

the Reformation, the temporalities of the subdeanry of Glasgow, which consisted of the parishes of Cadder and Monkland, (the last of which was afterwards split into two parishes, called *Old* and *New Monkland*), together with the patronage of the churches, came into the possession of the noble families of Hamilton and Kilmarnock, and were by them transferred to the College of Glasgow, for a considerable sum of money, about the year 1656.—The parish of Cadder, as well as that of Monkland, availing itself of the act of Parliament 1690, by paying 600 merks Scotch, as directed in the act, to the College of Glasgow, obtained a renunciation of the right of patronage by that learned body; in consequence of which, the heritors and elders of the parish became the electors of the minister. It is a pity, however, that the act 1690 has not defined precisely *what constitutes an heritor*; for this defect has been attended with great inconveniences to the parish of Cadder. When the church of Cadder was formerly vacant, about the year 1745, there were keen disputes as to the title of several persons claiming a right to vote under the character of heritors; in consequence of which, the kirk was vacant for near two years. And though the late worthy clergyman, who succeeded on the occasion, died in June 1790, the church still continues vacant, owing to a warm *dispute*, with respect to the title of a number, who voted at a late election of a minister, and which is at present under litigation before the Court of Session. It ought however to be mentioned, that the College of Glasgow, who are still titulars of the tiends, upon application being made to them, generously consented, much to their honour, as well as to the benefit of this parish, to allow part of the vacant stipend to be laid out, in paying the expence of a preacher, to officiate at Cadder church during the vacancy, under the direction of the presbytery of Glasgow.—The living is 8 chal-ders, paid in money by the College of Glasgow, according to the

the fiars of the commissariat of Hamilton and Campsie, half a chaldar for communion elements, with a manse, and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres for a glebe, beside grafs for a horse and 2 cows on the common.—The manse was built in 1656, and enlarged and slated in 1714, at the joint expence of the College of Glasgow, and the former and then present minister. It is now in a ruinous condition. The church was rebuilt in 1750, but not finished compleatly till 1784, and is now in good condition.

Poor.—The number on the poor's roll is about 15 annually; mostly aged and infirm women, who have from 6d. to 1s. Sterling weekly. Occasional assistance is given likewise to poor families, of from 5s. to 10s. Sterling at a time. No public charity is given to any that go about begging, except now and then a pair of shoes.—The poor's funds arise from the collections at the church doors, 2s. 6d. for every marriage, and the interest of about 300l. Sterling, mortified to the kirk session. These funds have continued, without much increase or diminution, for near 50 years past.

Schools.—There are 4 public schools in this parish, 3 of which have small salaries annexed to them. (1.) The parish schoolmaster has a salary of 100 merks Scotch, paid by the heritors, and 1l. 3s. 4d. Sterling, as session-clerk and precentor; with 1s. 8d. for each marriage, and 9d. for each baptism; besides the ordinary school wages, of 1s. 6d. per quarter. (2.) In 1744, Mr. Patrick Baird, merchant, left a memorial worthy of record, bequeathing 325l. Sterling for erecting a school at Auchenloch, the place of his nativity. He devoted 15l. Sterling of the interest to be paid annually to the schoolmaster; and 1l. 5s. to a young man, for preaching a sermon at Auchenloch on Christmas (which was the donor's birth day), and to buy books and *bans* (rolls) for the scholars. To this donation,

tion, John Baird, late of Auchenloch, added a piece of ground for a house and garden. All the heritors, possessed of a plough of land in the parish, are patrons of this school. (3.) In 1745, Mr. James Warden, late minister of this parish, bequeathed 1000 merks Scotch to the session; the interest of which is allotted to the support of a school at Auchenairn, the place of his nativity. In 1760, the worthy and humane Dr. William Leechman, late principal of the University of Glasgow, disposed to the session of Cadder, about half an acre of ground, for a house and garden for the benefit of this school, of which the minister and elders are patrons. (4.) The fourth school-house is at Chrystone, in the east end of the parish, where a chapel of ease was built by subscription 11 years ago; but there is no salary annexed to it, nor any perquisite for the master, excepting the school wages, 1s. 6d. per quarter.

At each of these 4 schools, there may be, at an average, 30 scholars during the winter half year, and 20 through the summer quarter. When there is any vacancy in the harvest, the *schoolmaster's year* is only reckoned *three quarters!!!*— Thus 100 scholars, for three quarters, at 1s. 6d. per quarter, pay only 22l. 10s. Sterling per annum, to all the 4 schoolmasters in the parish, for education, which is but 5l. 12s. 6d. Sterling to each of them for 9 months attendance. This is surely too little to support, with any decency, a class of men confessedly useful, in this expensive and wealthy age*. To better the condition of the people of this country, more
encou-

3

* About 50 years ago, it was the custom here, to allow the parish schoolmaster to go about with the scholars, and lodge free with their parents, as he had no house of his own to teach or lodge in, but a barn in summer, and a cottage in winter. Of late, however, the gentlemen in this parish have built a school-house, in a corner of the church yard, where the present schoolmaster lives, who has served in that office for 39 years. One of his predecessors (William Stirling), officiated here 41 years. Both are natives of Cadder parish.

encouragement should be given to teachers, to enable them to pay proper attention, to improve the morals of youth under their care. The want of this, must more or less affect the education of the rising generation. When an attempt was made, some time ago, to have the condition of the schoolmasters of this country somewhat bettered, the argument, by which some lords and gentlemen opposed it, was, that “they wished parish schools were suppressed altogether, because their servants were corrupted, by being taught to read and write : That they would be more obedient and dutiful, were they more ignorant, and had no education †.”—This, however, is not the opinion of any gentleman in this parish. They well know, that some of the first and most respectable characters, in the nation, have been trained up at country schools.

Antiquities.—The Roman Wall, or *Graham's Dike*, is almost the only antiquity we have in this parish. It runs 4 miles in it, and may still be traced through Cadder Wood. One of the watch towers, on the south side of the wall, about a gun-shot from Cadder kirk, is still very visible.—At Rob-roystone, in this parish, on the 11th September 1303, Sir WILLIAM WALLACE was betrayed and apprehended, by Sir John Monteath, a favourite of King Edward I. of England, by whom he was most unjustly and ignominiously put to

VOL. VIII.

3 P

death

† This illiberal idea is refuted by fact. That *ignorance* cannot be the mother of *morality*, more than of *devotion*, is proved by experience. The good behaviour of the lower ranks in Scotland, in general, contrasted with the immoralities, crimes, and annual executions, of many of the same class, in the sister kingdom, can be ascribed to nothing so much as to the superior advantages, the former enjoy, of early education, and proper instruction, in the first principles of moral and religious duty. Deprive them of these, and they will soon become as great savages, as the most ignorant rabble of *London, Paris, or Birmingham*.

death at London. After he was overpowered, and before his hands were bound, it is said, he threw his sword into Robroystone loch. An oaken *couple*, or joist, which made part of the barn, in which the Scotch hero was taken, is still to be seen in this neighbourhood, and may yet last for ages.

The following STATISTICAL TABLE, which was taken very accurately from house to house, by the Parish Schoolmaster (who travelled 300 miles through the parish, collecting these materials, in May 1792), shews

The POPULATION, &c. of the Parish of CADDER.

Number of inhabited houses, 390	Population as returned to Dr.
———— empty do. - - 12	Webster in 1755, - - 2396
———— females, - - 925	Number of souls, in 1792, - 1767
———— males, - - 842	Decrease, - 629
Majority of females, - 83	

Persons born in the parish, - 842	Wages of inferior do. L. 12 0 0*
———— under 6 years of age, 222	———— best maid fer-
———— above 70 years, - 50	vants, - 6 0 0*
Average of each family, - 4½	———— inferior do. 4 0 0*
Annual average of births for	———— manufacturers
20 years past, - - 43	per day, 0 2 3†
Ditto of marriages for that	———— day labourers,
time, - - - 15	per day, - 0 1 6
Average produce of each, - 3	Number of horses, - 377
Wages of the best plowman by	———— cows, - 1285
the year, L. 16 0 0*	———— sheep, - 139

Number

**** N. B. These are their wages besides their victuals.

† When on piece-work, they make more; some from 30s. to 50s. Sterling.

handsome young fellows have joined the Train. One of them is 6 feet 3 inches high.—The inhabitants here shewed great aversion to answer any question, tending to discover the real state of their stock, cattle, or population. An apprehension of *new taxes, new wars*, and of raising *new armies*, seemed to be the chief cause of their unwillingness to communicate information on these subjects.

NUMBER