

N U M B E R XXXIII.

P A R I S H O F C A P U T H,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING,
PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM INNERARITY.

Name, Situation and Extent.

THE ancient name of the parish was *Capoch*; its modern name is *Caputh*, and is probably derived from the Gaelic word *Keapoch*, 'a decayed wood;' but from what circumstance this name took its rise does not appear. It is situated in that district of Perthshire which is called the Stormont, and comprehends the greater part of the plain of the Stormont, (a portion of the extensive vale of Strathmore). In the Lives of the Bishops of Dunkeld, by Alexander Mylne *, Canon of Dunkeld, it is related, that
Bishop

* He lived in the times of George Brown, Bishop of Dunkeld, from 1484 to 1514, and of his successor, the celebrated Gavin Douglas, to whom his work is dedicated. The original M. S. is in the possession of the Duke of Athole.

Bishop Brown, in the year 1500, divided the parish of Little Dunkeld into the old parish of Little Dunkeld and the parish of Caputh; and, "at Caputh he built, on his own charges, a quire, with painted ceiling and glazed windows. He gave for the support of the vicar, a vicarage, which had been formerly united to his own see, four acres of glebe-land, and the rising ground called the Mate Hill*, to build a church upon." The parish is singular in its extent; for besides what lies contiguous, there are several distinct unconnected portions belonging to it, some in the county of Perth, and some in the county of Forfar, 8 or 10, and even 20 or 25 miles from the church †. It is difficult to give a satisfactory reason for such peculiarities. May it not be supposed, that those distant places belonged anciently to some considerable proprietors in this parish, whose desire of having all their estates in one parish ‡, occasioned these
 extraordinary

* Hence it appears, that the mount on which the church is built, (now called the Kirkhill), was the place where, in ancient times, public justice was administered. It stands 260 yards from the bank of the Tay, on a gentle declivity, in a beautiful and romantic situation.

† These it seems not improper to enumerate: Balholmie, locally situated in the parish of Cargill; West and Middle Gormack, in Kinloch, East and West Logie, Cairns, Chappelton, Meadows and Crofty, in Clunie; and Craigtown of Dalruilian, in Kirkmichael, all in Perthshire. And south Bandirran, in Collace; Balbeuchly, in Aughterhouse, Broughtay castle and fishings, and a small piece of ground at Mylnefield, near Dundee; and Fofarty in Kinnettles; all in Forfarshire. In Forfarshire there is a field of about 4 acres called, from time immemorial, "The Minister of Caputh's Glebe," and is believed to belong to him, though not hitherto occupied.

‡ The following words of Dr Johnston may seem to favour this conjecture: "When Christianity was established in this island, a regular mode of public worship was prescribed. Public worship requires a public place; and the proprietors of lands, as they were converted, built churches for their families and vassals. For the maintenance of ministers, they settled a certain portion of their lands; and a district, through which each

extraordinary annexations? Besides these remote portions, (which are considered as belonging, *quoad sacra*, to the parishes in which they are respectively situated), the parish is of considerable extent, stretching from N. W. to S. E. nearly 13 miles, and varying in its breadth from 1 to 6½ miles.

Soil and Land, Floods. — The soil is various. On the high grounds it is mostly a cold wet clay. On the banks of the Tay and Isla, it is in general a light loam. The ground is so flat, that when these rivers are flooded, they overflow many hundred acres. Four remarkable floods have happened in the Tay, in the course of 30 years, in 1761, 1780, 1789 and 1791. In the spring of the year 1790, in consequence of gradual breaches made by the river on the green Inch, below Inchtuthel, two oak trees were uncovered. The trunk of the largest, from the root to the lowest branch, was 40 feet 6 inches long, and contained 132 feet 9 inches of solid measure. As similar oaks have been often discovered near the place, by means of similar encroachments on the bank, in the spring and autumnal floods, it appears in the highest degree probable, that they had grown on the spot. Hence we are led to believe, agreeably to traditionary accounts, that the country was well wooded in former times. The Tay has undoubtedly taken various directions, at different periods, through the plain. Delvin, though now and for many ages situated on the north, is said to have been on the south side of the river*. It seems, however, more likely that it was always occasionally

each minister was required to extend his care, was, by that circumscription, constituted a parish. This is a position so generally received in England, that the extent of a manor, and of a parish, are regularly received for each other." Boswell's Life of Johnson, vol. I. p. 410.

* See Pennant's Tour, quoted below.

sionally insulated by the Tay; and this supposition is favoured by its situation, and by its ancient name, *Inch-tutbel*, that is, an "island in a flooded stream."

Hills and Woods.—The north and west parts of the parish are hilly, and contain quarries of excellent blue slates, which are sold on the spot at L. 1 the thousand, and are carried to a considerable distance. The higher hills are covered with heath, mixed with dwarf juniper, the lower with furze and broom. They are generally of a rocky appearance. Some of the latter are clothed with natural woods of oak, ash, birch and hazel; others have been planted with firs, larches, and other forest-trees, of which large plantations have likewise been formed in the low part of the parish, within the last 20 or 30 years; but there is still need of more woods, not only for shelter and for ornament, but also to supply the inhabitants with fuel and timber.

Climate, Distempers, &c.—The air is dry and healthy, but sensibly different in the N. and S. parts of the parish, being temperate on the banks of the Tay and the Isla, and cold and keen on the hills*. About 50 years ago, the ague was very prevalent in the plain; but since the marshy grounds were drained, it has disappeared. The disorders mostly to be met with, are hysterical and nervous affections, consumptions, and worms. The violent nervous symptoms
with

* Having been favoured with a state of Fahrenheit's thermometer for the last 10 years, taken at Delvin, at 11 o'clock at night, I subjoin an abstract of the greatest and least heights. To this I am enabled to add a similar abstract of the greatest and least heights taken at the same hour in Queen-Street, Edinburgh, for the same years. From these abstracts an idea may be formed of the general temperature of this climate compared with that of the capital. Delvin is in 56° 33' North Latitude.

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT of the STATE of the THERMOMETER at DELVIN for 10 Years.

	1781.		1784.		1785.		1786.		1787.		1788.		1789.		1790.		1791.		1792.	
	Great height.	Least height.	Great height.	Least height.	Great height.	Least height.	Great height.	Least height.	Great height.	Least height.	Great height.	Least height.	Great height.	Least height.	Great height.	Least height.	Great height.	Least height.	Great height.	Least height.
January	46	25	41	32	48	18	50	17	50	28	50	25	44	35	46	20	48	19	43	22
February	49	23	40	33	47	18	45	21	48	25	43	20	42	31	49	33	46	20	48	18
March	47	22			44	27	45	19	48	29	47	21	37	24	49	32	48	28	46	21
April	53	37			55	28	52	30	48	30	51	34	48	31	46	35	48	34	51	30
May	54	36	56	41	54	34	55	37	58	43	60	35	52	37	56	40	53	38	51	38
June	56	47	56	41	67	44	61	46	57	35	55	47	56	43	57	42	60	37	56	43
July	64	58	57	47	64	50	59	44	67	47	60	46	66	48	60	48	58	50	62	48
August	66	48	60	43	59	41	64	46	64	49	64	44	60	45	61	46	60	41	60	40
September	58	42	60	40	64	38	53	41	64	40	68	44	68	40	55	46	68	36	67	36
October	57	34	49	30	56	28	55	32	57	33	55	35	58	31	54	31	56	31	53	32
November	49	31	47	24	49	27	45	27	48	21	50	31	46	29	46	23	48	30	56	30
December	47	10	52	19	43	22	45	24	51	18	44	8	48	32	48	23	39	17	52	26

of Caput.

Abstract of the State of the Thermometer in Queen-Street, Edinburgh, for 10 Years.

January	48	24	48	17	47	24	52	17	51	31	48	26	52	23	49	34	47	31	47	20
February	52	25	47	21	39	27	47	25	48	32	45	28	49	34	51	36	46	26	50	33
March	49	16	48	26	42	21	44	23	48	33	49	22	45	28	52	37	48	30	49	17
April	55	37	43	39	56	27	57	32	49	34	59	34	51	32	48	35	50	37	57	35
May	55	37	56	42	50	36			57	47	57	42	59	39	52	44	55	37	52	39
June	67	39	58	46	71	43			58	36	61	49	57	46	62	44	62	36	58	47
July	67	51	59	48	64	52	61	48	60	48	62	51	59	49	50	46	63	49	61	48
August	64	49	61	40	65	48	61	42	61	48	64	52	64	52	62	48	63	50	64	40
September	58	44	59	41	62	37	56	37	58	43			59	44	55	43	56	38	56	39
October	59	33	48	30	58	29	57	34	55	41	54	47	57	36	59	40	55	38	53	37
November	53	31	49	25	51	29	46	31	49	28	55	32	48	34	49	31	52	33	56	31
December	48	11	54	21	45	18	51	20	54	20	43	26	51	30	48	28	48	19	51	29

with which the country people are sometimes seized, are supposed to be owing to their extreme inattention to their drink and clothing, when they are over heated by their summer work. Spinning, which is the employment of the young women during the winter months, is justly reckoned the occasion of consumptions among them, by the waste of *saliva* requisite in that laborious exercise. Some medical practitioners think, that worms in children are the effects of their living so much on potatoes, which they prefer to oat-meal. The people in general have weak eyes, from the smoke of their houses, and fine teeth even to old age.

Lakes and Fishings.—Through the middle of the Stormont, runs a chain of small lakes, The lochs of Craiglush, of Lows, of Butterstown, of Cluny, and of Drumelie. They are connected by the rivulet or burn of Lunan; which taking its rise in the first, passes through all the rest, and at its mouth, where it falls into the Isla, forms the eastern boundary of this parish. The three first mentioned lochs are wholly in the parish, and it touches the other two on their south sides. Excellent pikes, perches, trouts, and eels, are found in them. The salmon-fishing in the Tay is now inconsiderable; and the price is so much enhanced by the great demand for the London market, that little is left for the use of the country. The salmon caught in the Isla is inferior both in size and quality to that in the Tay.

Migratory Birds.—Of these, the cuckoo, swallow, lap-wing, sandy-lark, plover, rail or corn-craik, seagull, sea-magpie, plover or kittywake, curlew or whaup, and clocharret, are summer birds. The fieldfare, woodcock, and wild-geese, are winter birds. The swallow appears about the 14th of April; the earliest time of the cuckoo's being heard, is the 25th of April, but usually not before the 2d
or

or 3d of May. It is heard till the 10th of June, and last year, as late as the 3d of July.

Population.—It is a subject of regret, that the session records of country parishes have been generally kept in a manner so slovenly and negligent, that it is now almost impossible to form a just estimate of their population a century ago, or even less. There is also a peculiar difficulty in making such an estimate with regard to this parish. Previous to the year 1728, its population was greater than it could be expected to be at any subsequent period; because those distant parts (already noticed) which are locally situated in Cluny and Kinloch, and those which are immediately adjacent to the town of Dunkeld on the N. and W. were then joined respectively to these parishes *quoad sacra*, in consequence of a formal recommendation of the Presbytery; and from that time ceased to be under the inspection of the minister of Caputh. With respect to the following lists taken from the parish-register, it is to be remarked, .1. That many children in distant parts of the parish, not being baptized by the minister, are neglected to be registered by the parents. 2. That many of the inhabitants bury in other parishes, and never pay the tax imposed by act of Parliament in 1783, which, being unpopular, is not collected in some places. No accurate conclusion, therefore, can be drawn from these lists of

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1785,	47	16	14
1786,	41	18	21
1787,	39	30	21
1788,	41	16	18
1789,	39	21	14
1790,	39	21	18
1791,	38	20	13

According

According to Dr Webster's report, the population at that time was 2048. The first enumeration of the inhabitants made by the present incumbent, was from June 1784 to April 1785, when the number of souls was 2023. In the list made from November 1791 to October 1792, the numbers were 2045.

Males above 10, -	583	Females above 10, -	703
----- under 10, -	217	----- under 10, -	228
Men servants, -	183	Maid servants, -	129
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	985		1060

Of the Established Church 1974, Episcopalians 27, Antiburgher Seceders 39, Roman Catholics 2, of the Relief Congregation 3. There are,

Presbyterian clergyman, 1	Boatmen, - - -	8
Episcopal ditto, - 1	Shoemakers, - - -	12
Farmers of L. 50 rent	Tailors, - - -	19
and upwards, - 16	Blacksmiths, - - -	10
----- from L. 50 to	Coopers, - - -	3
L. 10 rent, and a	Millers, - - -	7
great number of	Day-labourers, - - -	47
smaller tenants, - 90	Alehouse-keepers, - - -	4
Stampmaster, - 1	Distillers, - - -	2
Weavers, - - - 135	Shopkeepers, or petty re-	
Masons, - - - 24	tailors, - - -	4
Wrights, - - - 30	Flax-dressers, - - -	10
Boatwright, - - 1	Gardeners, - - -	7
Wheelwrights, - - 2		

There are 456 inhabited houses, that is, separate dwellings; of which 411 are inhabited by married, widowers, and widows, and 45 by unmarried of either sex. Hence the

the average number of persons to each house, is somewhat more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ *.

Cattle, Grain, &c.—In the parish are horses, black cattle, swine, sheep, foxes, hares, rabbits, badgers, &c. The horses and black cattle of the *braes*, or hilly part, are small sized. In the low country, both cattle and horses (especially the latter,) have of late years been much improved in size and goodness. Sheep, which formerly abounded throughout the parish, were banished from the low grounds when the planting of forest-trees became an object of importance to the proprietors. They are of the small Scots breed, (except a few in the neighbourhood of gentlemens seats,) and confined to the hilly part of the parish. There are 570 horses, 2061 black cattle, 1800 sheep, 178 ploughs, 402 carts. The Scots plough is much used; but the English plough is daily gaining ground. There is a map of the parish in Stobie's map of the counties of Perth and Clackmannan, published in 1783, but it is not accurate. The number of acres has not been ascertained. But from a calculation made with great exactness, it appears, that besides supplying itself with grain, the parish sells annually, at an average, 4000 bolls of barley, which are mostly carried
out

* Few remarkable instances of longevity have lately occurred in the parish. One man died, during the incumbency of the present minister, who was above 90; a gentlewoman 88 years of age; and a considerable number between 80 and 90. An instance worthy of notice, is a man now in his 85th year; who in his youth being crossed in love, became crazed, and has continued through life, indolent, harmless, contented, temperate, and even indifferent about food. For many years, he resided either in an open shed or a hayloft, lying among straw, having only an old blanket around him; apparently without sleep, yet in perfect health. He has a fine face and figure. His incoherencies are chiefly on the subject of war, and the French. He still possesses a retentive memory, and is famed in the country for his penetration and acuteness, his repartees and moral sayings.

out of it; there being no brewery, and only two small distilleries: Whereas about 30 years ago, hardly 1500 bolls were sold out of the parish*.

* *Ancient State of the Parish* — To give a general notion of the former, compared with the present state of the parish, the following facts relative to the mode of cultivation, &c. 50 or 60 years ago, are subjoined; which are derived from the information of some intelligent farmers, who speak from their own knowledge. There were for the most part 8 tenants in one farm or township, and the whole farm was run rig; that is, one ridge belonged to one, the next to another, the third to a third person, &c. The ground was divided into infield and outfield. The infield was constantly cropped, either with oats or bear; one ridge being oats, the other bear, alternately. There was no other crop, except a ridge of flax, where the ground was thought proper for it. The outfield was ploughed three years for oats, and then pastured 5 or 6 years with horses, black cattle, and sheep. In order to dung it, they made folds of sod for the cattle; and what were called flakes or rails of wood, removable at pleasure, for folding the sheep. On the field thus teathed, they had their best crops for two years. A farmer who rented 60, 80, or 100 acres, was sometimes under the necessity of buying meal for his family in the summer season: Nor will this appear wonderful, when it is considered, that 15 bolls of bear have of late years been produced, upon the same field, where 50 thrave (1200 sheaves) formerly grew, which the owner said "he would give for 50 bear bannocks," (barley cakes.) This little anecdote is characteristic of the times, though allowance be made for the exaggeration of disappointment. The rent of land was about a fifth of the present rent. The ploughs and carts were usually made by the farmer himself; with little iron about the plough, except the coulter and share; none upon the cart or harrows; no shoes upon the horses; no hempen ropes. In short, every instrument of farming was procured at small expense, wood being at a very low price. Salt was a shilling the bushel: Little soap was used: they had no candles, instead of which they split the roots of fir trees, which, though brought 50 or 60 miles from the Highlands, were purchased for a trifle. Their clothes were of their own manufacturing. The average price of weaving ten yards of such cloth was a shilling, which was paid partly in meal and partly in money. The tailor worked for a quantity of meal, suppose 3 pecks or a firlof a-year, according to the number of the farmer's family. They ploughed with horses and oxen together; 2 horses before four or six oxen; and sometimes only with oxen. The time of sowing and reaping was much the same as it is now. After harvest, they pastured in common. No marl or lime had at that time

Size of Farms, Crops, Rent, &c.—Farms are in general small; many under 40 acres, and from 40 to 60 or 80; seldom above 100. There are two tenants, who, renting two or three farms, have in their possession 150 or 160 acres. A threshing mill was erected in 1792 by a spirited farmer, on a farm of 120 acres. The principal crops in the parish are, oats, barley or bear, pease and flax. Wheat has been sometimes tried by way of experiment; but a crop of barley is more profitable. The culture of potatoes is universal. Turnips are cultivated only in the south and east parts of the parish, where the soil is light and warm. Early oats are sown in the N. W. part of the parish, where the soil is cold. A great quantity of clover and rye-grass is sown usually among barley. Oats are sown from the

time been found in the parish. The country was uninclosed, except what was in the immediate neighbourhood of the houses of great proprietors. In the year 1735, the best ploughman was to be had for L. 8 Scots (13s. 4d.) a-year, and what was termed a bounty, which consisted of some articles of clothing, and might be estimated at 11s. 6d.; in all L. 1, 4s. 10d. Sterling. Four years after, his wages rose to L. 24 Scots, (L. 2) and the bounty. Female servants received L. 2 Scots, (3s. 4d.) and a bounty of a similar kind; the whole not exceeding 6s. or 7s. Some years after their wages rose to 15s. Men received for harvest-work L. 6 Scots, (10s.); Women, L. 5 Scots, (8s. 4d.). Poultry was sold at 40 pennies Scots, (3½ d.) Oat-meal, bear and oats, at L. 4 or L. 5 Scots the boll. A horse that then cost 100 merks Scots, (L. 5: 11: 1½) would now cost L. 25. An ox that cost L. 20 Scots (L. 1: 13: 4) would now be worth L. 8 or L. 9. Beef and mutton were sold, not by weight, but by the piece; about 3s. 4d. for a leg of beef of 3½ stones; and so in proportion. No tea nor sugar was used: Little whisky was drunk, and less of other spirits: but they had plenty of good ale; there being usually one malt-barn (perhaps two) on each farm. They caught abundance of salmon in the Tay; 150 have been taken in one night, with very imperfect nets, in a space not exceeding 200 yards in length. For many years past, they have not caught as many in one season, and in the whole parish. Neither was salmon sold by weight: One could have been purchased for 18 pence which would now cost 18 shillings, at the same season of the year.

the middle of March to the middle of April; barley from the middle of April to the end of May; potatoes and pease from the middle to the end of April; flax from the 23d of April to the 10th of May; turnips from the 1st of June to the middle of July, all in drills, except what are late sown, and intended to shoot out in the following spring. Yams for horses have been lately introduced, and planted somewhat sooner than potatoes. Some English rye is sown in October. Hay harvest commences the second week of July; barley and rye harvest, the first week of September; pease and oats the second week of that month; and in some seasons, they are all more early. But these dates, both of sowing and reaping, refer chiefly to the low country; in the hilly parts of the parish, they are in general 10 days later*. The parish owes much of its improvement to the late John Mackenzie, Esq; of Delvin. By directing the attention of the trustees for manufactures, &c. to this part of the country, by bestowing well-judged rewards and giving encouragement in various ways, he excited a spirit of industry and improvement, which has operated with energy and success. The valued rent of the parish is L. 9369 : 3 : 4 Scots. The real rent, (including the rent of houses and fishings, and reckoning the victual-rent at

15 s.

* The names of places are mostly derived from the Gaelic: As, Inch-tuthel, or Innis-tuile, 'The Island in a flooded Stream.' Dungarthill, or Dungart, 'The round Hill in the Corn-field,' ('Hill' is a modern addition). Kincairney, or Keancairnrie, 'The Top or Head of the King's Cairn.' Cairnmure, or Cairnmore, 'The great Cairn or Heap.' Aird, 'A Height.' Drummathay, or Drummartie, 'The gravelly ridge.' Drumbeltie, 'The Ridge of Beltin,' or, 'The Fire of Bel on May-day.' Fongorth, 'The hungry Soil;' or Fonnart, 'The Land of Stones.' Dalbeathy, 'The Birch Haugh,' &c.—Some are Saxon: As, Denhead; Stetton; that is, Stone-town or Stone-town; Haughend, Birkenburn, Meiklour, Littleour, are apparently compounded from the Saxon and British: Meiklour, (situated on the Tay,) 'The great Water;' Littleour, (situated on the burn of Lunan), 'The little Water.'

15 s. the boll), amounts to L. 4826 Sterling; and if the rent of the distant portions above mentioned were taken into the account, it would amount to L. 5651. The best arable land is let from L. 1 to L. 1:11:6 the acre; the inferior kinds from 5 s. to 18 s. the acre*.

Stipend, Heritors, School, Poor, &c.—The living amounts to L. 59, (including L. 5:11:1½ for communion elements), 22 bolls of oat-meal, and 10 bolls of barley, Linlithgow measure. A process for augmentation of the stipend is at present depending. The King is patron. The date of the church has been already ascertained. It is not only inconvenient in the highest degree, but too small for the parish. The manse was built in 1754, in a very insufficient manner; the offices in 1782, and are in good order. The glebe consists of about 8 Scotch acres. Taking the parish in the large extent already mentioned, there are 44 heritors or landholders in it, (of whom many are small proprietors or *portioners*;) but 5 of them are not included in the valuation of the parish. Only 4 of the greater, and 7 of the smaller proprietors, are constantly or occasionally resident: several others live in neighbouring parishes.—There is one parish school. Two at least would be necessary to accommodate the inhabitants; one in the south, and one in the north quarter. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 11:2:2½. His fees are, for teaching reading, 1 s. the quarter, for reading and writing, 1 s. 6 d. for arithmetic and Latin, 2 s. 6 d. He is also clerk to the kirk-session, with a salary of L. 2, besides perquisites. The parish-school was formerly well frequented, and of great repute

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* *Price of Land.*—An estate of L. 87 a-year was sold in 1792 for L. 4410, being more than 50 years purchase. The lands of two portioners were lately sold; one of L. 10 a-year. for L. 412, 10 s.; the other of L. 6 a-year, for L. 300. Property, however, is not often changed.

in the Stormont. The present number of scholars is about 30.—The number of poor is much diminished, in consequence of the progress of improvement and of industry. In the year 1775, the Justices of Peace for this county enacted certain regulations for suppressing vagrants and begging; and appointed lists of the poor in every parish to be made up half yearly, and their maintenance to be provided for by assessment, if it should be found requisite. The heritors and kirk session of this parish met accordingly, and agreed to adopt the plan pointed out by the Justices of Peace: but it was not carried into effect. The list of the poor at that time contained 30; of whom 19 received assistance from the parish-funds, and 11 were allowed badges. The average amount of these funds was L. 13, 7s. 8d. At present, there are 12 on the poors list; and the average amount of the parish-funds, for the last 5 years, is L. 27 : 13 : 6. They receive from 2s. to 4s. the month; in all L. 1, 12s.; which makes L. 19 4s. a-year. They also receive about L. 3, 3s. *extra* at Martinmas for clothes and shoes: total, L. 22, 7s. But it must be remarked; that many of them contribute towards their own support; and they have in general a laudable pride, in not requiring aid from the parish funds, as long as they can subsist without it. The kirk-session gives occasional supply to such as are less necessitous. Their clerk and beadle are likewise paid out of these funds *.

Prices

* About Christmas 1719 began the severest frost that had been known since the year 1715. For six weeks, from the 1st of January 1740, the river Tay was frozen over; and loaded carts passed and repassed on the ice. The crop of that year, not being fully ripened, was very deficient; and oat-meal rose, in 1741, to the enormous price of L. 12 Scots (L. 1 Sterling) the boll. At that time, the most indigent poor of the parish received 6s. Scots, (6d. Sterling) a-week; and those who were able to beg, 2s. Scots, (2d. Sterling.) The next season was as mild as the former

Prices and Wages.—The price of all kinds of provisions has risen considerably within these few years; that of poultry, in particular, is almost double what it was in 1783. The average price of beef, mutton, veal, lamb, and pork, through the year, is 3½ d. the Dutch pound. Poultry, 10 d. or 1 s.; a chicken, 3 d.; a dozen of eggs, 3 d.; butter, 6 d. the English pound; cheese from 4 s. to 6 s. the stone, of 16 pounds, the pound containing 22 ounces; potatoes, 6 d. the peck, of 2 stones Dutch or meal weight. The prices of grain are for the most part lower than in the Haddington market. As the farmers usually sell on credit, and deliver in December, January, &c. what is not to be paid till midsummer following, they get a higher price than they would otherwise receive. Barley, of crop 1791, was from 15 s. to 18 s. the boll; oats from 12 s. to 15 s.; seed oats from 16 s. to 17 s.; pease from 13 s. to 15 s.; oat-meal from 15 s. 4 d. to 16 s. The prices are in general higher for crop 1792.—Servants, both male and female, are commonly hired for the whole year. The best man servant for husbandry receives L. 10 or L. 12; an ordinary one from L. 6 to L. 8. They either have their victuals in the farmer's house, or in lieu of victuals, 6 bolls and a half of oat-meal, and milk from his dairy. Female servants receive from L. 3 to L. 4. A man, for harvest work, gets from L. 1 to L. 1, 18 s.; a woman from 16 s. to L. 1;

mer had been severe. The crop was uncommonly fertile, and generally got in about the middle of September N. S. Before Martinmas 1741, the price of meal fell to L. 6 Scots the boll. In consequence of the very late and unproductive crop of 1782, the price of oat-meal again rose, in the summer of 1783, to L. 1 the boll. In August that year the heritors and kirk-session directed L. 12 to be taken from the parish-funds, and distributed in the course of four weeks; and soon after, 10 bolls 1 firiot and 1 peck of the meal, which was sent to Scotland by order of Government, were received and distributed in like manner. By these means, a temporary relief was afforded to many of the industrious poor,

a day-labourer, in summer, 1 s. a-day, or 1 s. and his victuals, in winter, 10 d. ; a wright from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 6 d. ; a mason, 1 s. 10 d. ; a tailor, 8 d. and his victuals. Weavers earn from 1 s. 4 d. to 2 s. a-day : when trade is brisk, an active workman will gain much more ; for as he usually buys the yarn which he manufactures, his profits from the sale of his cloth are, in this case, very great. It is to be observed, however, that they are seldom more than 9 months engaged in weaving ; that is, from Martinmas to the end of August, or beginning of September, when the lint-harvest commences. The scarcity, and the consequent high wages of men servants, are chiefly owing to the numbers now employed in weaving, tempted by the profits made in this branch of manufacture *.

Fuel.—

* STATE of Earnings and Expenses of Three Families of Industrious Poor.

No. I.

A day-labourer, his wife, and 4 small children, the eldest under 7 years of age, the youngest an infant.

Earnings a-week.

The man earns at a medium,	—	—	L. 0 5 9
The woman (assisted by the eldest child occasionally keeping the infant) earns by spinning,	—	—	0 2 0
		Total,	0 7 9
	Amount in the year,		L. 20 3 0

Expenses a-week.

Four pecks of oat-meal, and two of barley-meal,	—	—	L. 0 4 6
Milk, salt, onions, and potatoes,	—	—	0 1 1
Soap, starch, blue, and oil,	—	—	0 0 3
Butter, cheese, bacon, or other meat,	—	—	0 0 6
Thread and worsted,	—	—	0 0 1
		Total,	0 6 5
	Amount in the year,		L. 16 13 8
	Excess of earnings,		L. 3 9 4
			Annual

Fuel.—Peat and turf, (chiefly brought from a distance), broom and furze, were formerly the only fuel used in this district. To these, coal is now added, which they fetch from Perth, 10 or 11 English miles from the southmost part of the parish. Although the boll of coal, of 40 stones Dutch weight, seldom costs less than 3 s. at Perth, and has lately been greatly dearer, partly in consequence of the increased demand for it, they justly reckon it cheaper, as it is

Annual Expenses.

The man's wear of a suit, 4 s.; of a working jacket and breeches, 4 s.; of a bonnet and handkerchief, 1 s. 1 d.	L. 0 9 1
Of two shirts, 8 s.; of a pair of shoes, and two pair of stockings, 9 s.	0 17 0
The woman's wear of gown and petticoats, 4 s.; of a shift, 3 s. 3 d.	0 7 3
Of a pair of shoes, 4 s. and a pair of stockings, 1 s. 6 d.	0 5 6
Of an apron, 1 s. 6 d.; of handkerchiefs, caps, &c. 3 s.	0 4 6
The childrens wear,	0 15 0
Lying in, loss of time by sickness and bad weather, and burials, one year with another,	0 11 0
	<hr/>
Total,	L. 3 9 4

Rent of a house and garden, L. 1. The garden, which the man dresses in the mornings and evenings, affords the family cabbages, greens, and potatoes, to the amount of the rent. Fuel costs 10 s.; but after dunging the garden, there is a remainder of ashes, which dungs as much ground (given by the farmer) as produces potatoes worth 10 s.

No. II.

A day-labourer, his wife, and 5 children, the eldest 9 years of age, the youngest an infant.

They have an acre of land, grafs for a cow, and a house and garden; rent, at an average, L. 2, 10 s. The eldest boy or girl earns for itself, by keeping cattle. The acre of land, &c. enables this family to gain L. 1 more a-year than No. I. They have, therefore, L. 4 : 9 : 4 for defraying annual expenses.

No. III.

is more easily procured, than any other kind of fuel. In summer, the farmers sometimes go 30 or 40 miles to the coal

No. III.

A weaver, his wife, and 3 small children, the eldest under 5 years of age, the youngest an infant.

Earnings a-week.

The earnings of the man and woman cannot be separated, as they are both employed in manufacturing the same piece of cloth.

Their earnings at a medium,	—	—	L. 0 9 0
Amount in the year,			23 8 0

Expenses a-week.

Three pecks of oat-meal, and two of barley-meal,	—	—	L. 0 3 8
Milk, salt, onions, and potatoes,	—	—	0 1 0
Butter, cheese, bacon, or other meat,	—	—	0 0 8
Soap, starch, blue, and oil,	—	—	0 0 6
Thread, thrum, and worsted,	—	—	0 0 1
			<hr/>
			L. 0 5 11
Amount in the year,			15 7 8
			<hr/>
Excess of earnings,			L. 8 0 4

Annual Expenses.

The man's wear of a suit, 4s. 6d.; of a working jacket and breeches, 4s.; of a hat and handkerchief, 2s.	—	—	L. 0 10 6
Of 2 shirts, 8s.; of a pair of shoes and a pair of stockings, 9s.			0 17 0
The woman's wear of gown and petticoats, 5s.; of 2 shifts, 6s. 6d.; of a pair of shoes, 4s.; of 2 aprons 3s.			0 18 6
Of a pair of stockings, 1s. 6d.; of handkerchiefs, caps, &c. 7s.	—	—	0 8 6
The childrens wear,	—	—	1 2 0
Fuel,	—	—	0 12 0
Lying in, sickness and loss of time thereby, and burials, one year with another,	—	—	1 5 0
			<hr/>
Total,			L. 5 13 6
			<hr/>
Balance,			L. 2 6 10

Rent of a house and garden, L. 1. The garden, dressed by the man in the mornings and evenings, affords them cabbages, greens, and potatoes, to the amount of the rent.

coal pits in Fife, where it is purchased at a comparatively low price.

Villages.—There are five townships or villages, containing from 20 to 38 families; and 6, containing from 7 to 17 families. Meiklonr, the largest of them, has 3 fairs for cattle in the year. At Spittalfield a stamp-office was established in 1775.

Linen Manufacture.—The following quantities of linen have been annually stamped here.

From Nov. 1. 1775 to Nov. 1. 1776,	<i>Yards.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
_____ 1777,	79,264	L. 3265 15 7 $\frac{3}{4}$
_____ 1778,	88,139	3655 9 4
_____ 1779,	84,821	3039 7 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
_____ 1780,	97,975	3571 14 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
_____ 1781,	103,650	4077 10 0
_____ 1782,	84,312	3773 19 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
_____ 1783,	99,461	4335 7 6
_____ 1784,	114,161	4635 17 10 $\frac{3}{4}$
_____ 1785,	107,326	4442 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
_____ 1786,	107,653	4831 0 1 $\frac{3}{4}$
_____ 1787,	103,183	4310 10 10 $\frac{3}{4}$
_____ 1788,	105,129	4475 10 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
_____ 1789,	98,914	4079 17 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
_____ 1790,	96,794	3819 7 8
_____ 1791,	102,974	4214 2 16 $\frac{1}{2}$
_____ 1792,	102,731	4418 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
_____ 1792,	104,451	4610 1 8
Total in 17 years,	1,680,938	L. 69,555 13 2$\frac{3}{4}$

The greatest part of this cloth is stamped unbleached. It consists of white and brown linen; the latter known by the

the name of *Scrimms* and *Silefias*. Formerly, not above one third of what was stamped was manufactured in the parish; but during the two last years, the parish manufactured about one half of the quantity stamped. Besides the above quantities, and without reckoning 12,000 yards and upwards, annually made for household use, there are about 20,000 yards manufactured in the parish, which are stamped at Blairgowrie or Dunkeld.

Antiquities.—About a mile and a half north-west from the church, in a very elevated situation, there is a small Druidical circle. Beside it are two large stones, deeply sunk in the ground; the top of the lowest is artificially formed into an inclined plane, facing the south, and contains a number of small cavities; which may have been used by the Druids in the performance of religious rites. Near the church, there are the remains of a *cairn*, where probably a cross had been erected during the prevalence of Popish superstition; the place still retaining the name of *Cross-cairn*. Cairnmure is the largest cairn in this country, being 456 feet in circumference, and 18 feet high. It has been lately surrounded with a row of trees and a stone wall. Above half a mile south-west from this, stands another, 357 feet in circumference, and 14 feet high. In a line with these two, and at the same distance, there is a third, of a smaller size. The top of the craig at Stenton, a mile west from the church, bears evident marks of having been a fortified spot. It is called *Kemp's Hold*, or the *Soldier's Fastness*. Some fragments of weapons were dug up about 16 years ago, when it was planted with trees. It has a very picturesque appearance. The antiquities of Inchtuthel have been described by the ingenious Mr Pennant*. It is a flat
of

* *Tour in Scotland 1772, Part II. p. 67.—71* where there is an engraving of this tabulated eminence, sufficiently exact, except in the view
given

of 160 Scotch acres, regularly steep on every side, and in every part of equal height, that is, about 60 feet above the great plain of the Stormont, on which it stands. Here the Picts had a town, which must have been a place of great strength, and of which the vestiges may be discerned at the south-west corner of this singular elevation. Boetius calls it *Tuline* or *Tulina*, and says, that it was populous and well fortified; but deserted and burnt by the Picts, on the approach of the Romans under Agricola: he adds, (as translated by Holinshed,) "the Scottishmen in our time call the place Inchtuthill *." The Romans also availed themselves of this situation. Their camp stood on the north-east border, and commanded an extensive view of the plain. It is 500 yards square; the walls, to a considerable height, were strongly built, nine feet and a half thick, with stones brought from a quarry 2 miles distant; the stones have been gradually removed, and the walls are now almost levelled by the plough. In the course of ploughing, fragments of weapons, and some entire utensils, were formerly found. Here, Mr Pennant fixes the *Ærrea* of the Romans; with much greater probability than Dr Stukeley †, who supposes it to have been Perth; though in his map, he places it north-east of the Tay, and on the very spot where the present Delvin stands. There are two *tumuli* or *barrows*, and a redoubt, on the south-east side of the camp. A few years ago, the largest of these barrows was opened, and consisted of a rich black mold, possibly composed of

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the

given of its sides, which are represented too steep. The east and west sides are covered with thriving forest-trees, planted by the late Mr Mackenzie.

* Boet. Hist. Scotiæ, lib. iv. p. 61. Holinshed's *Historie of Scotlande*, p. 52, 53

† In his account of Richard of Cirencester, quoted by Pennant.

the ashes of the funeral pyres that had been consumed there. It is now distinguished by a clump of trees. Inchtuthel is likewise believed to have been part of the land granted by Kenneth III. (who began his reign in 977,) to Hay for his bravery in the battle of Luncarty; and his descendents* possessed it till the beginning of the 17th century. There appears to have been a Roman station 3 miles to the east of this, in the moor of Meiklour, towards the extremity of the parish. The line of the Roman military road leading thither, can be still traced through the parishes of Scone, St Martin's, and Cargill: and this road seems unquestionably to be the continuation of that which passed through Strathern, and crossed the Tay at Rome, a little to the westward of Scone, where probably there was a bridge of wood over the river †. Where the Roman road touches on the Isla, a bridge is also supposed to have stood, of which the necessity is evident, for the purpose of opening a communication from the south with the station near Meiklour, and by consequence with the champaign country, both east and west, as far as the Grampian Mountains. Here the Romans raised a wall of earth, about 24 feet thick, (for it is difficult to ascertain the exact measurement,) defended by a ditch on each side, 60 feet distant from the wall. This wall, which is now named the *Cleaving Dike*, stretched above two miles and a half, from the ancient course of the Tay to the Isla; which, by their commodious junction two miles below, completely secured the station. The space inclosed is in the form of a *delta*. In this area, there are several exploratory mounds; one, apparently artificial, (now called the *Blackbill*,

* William 5th Earl of Errol (who succeeded in 1506) was in his father's lifetime, designed William of Caputh, and Master of Errol-Douglas's peccage.

† Appendix to Pennant's Tour, No. 15. p. 451.

Blackbill, and planted with firs,) stands near the head of the supposed bridge, and from the remains of a fortification on the top, seems to have been designed to cover the landing-place.—The font or vessel used in administering baptism in the church, is of a singular construction. It is made of brass, $16\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter. On the interior surface are impressed two circular lines of words; the outer circle contains, in Roman characters, DI. DAL. WVNDI, five times repeated; the inner circle consists of unknown characters, four times repeated, which cannot be represented without an engraving. An exact transcript of the whole was made by me several years ago, and presented to the Antiquarian Society of Scotland.

General Character and Condition of the People—The people here have an indifference, and even dislike, both to a seafaring and a military life. They prefer the occupations in husbandry or manufacture, to which they are inured from their infancy. They are rather fond of large weddings and funerals, and often incur unnecessary expense on such occasions. Of late, they have become much more studious of dress than they were, and have changed for the better their mode of living in many articles of domestic economy. They are now more attentive to cleanliness than formerly; their cottages are more substantially and commodiously built; and their condition is daily improving. On the whole, they are sober, peaceable and industrious. They are in general humane to one another, and show great kindness and sympathy to their distressed neighbours. During the last 30 years, one instance of suicide has happened; and one person has been banished. I have not heard of any person belonging to the parish having suffered capital punishment.

Advantages

* I suppose the letter immediately before D to be N. If so, it is this letter inverted,

Advantages and Disadvantages.—A judicious observer has remarked, that the light grounds in the Stormont possess this advantage over richer and stronger soils, that though the crops are never uncommonly weighty, yet they are moderately good, in a greater variety of seasons, than in any place where his observation has reached. A new road now making to Perth by Stanley, will be of considerable utility to the parish. And consequences still more beneficial must arise from the accomplishment of a plan now in agitation, for building a bridge over the Isla, where it empties itself into the Tay, and for making a turnpike road from that bridge to Perth*. The road between Dunkeld and Cupar in Angus passes through the middle of the parish; but, though it is a great thoroughfare, it has never been made in a sufficient manner. The statute-labour, being formerly exacted in kind, was ill adapted either to the construction or preservation of good roads. As it is now commuted, it may be reasonably expected to produce an advantageous change in the state of the roads in the county. A marl-pit has been lately drained. There is also some lime in the parish, but the want of coal renders it useless. Indeed the principal disadvantage under which the inhabitants labour, is their distance from coal, and from lime, for the purposes of agriculture. It is to be regretted, that some well directed attempts have not been made, to discover whether there is coal in this district. A matter of such importance merits a trial. Much of the parish is still unclosed. The farmers are fully sensible, that inclosures would
be

* It is at once amusing and instructive to reflect, that near the spot where the intrepid Agricola constructed a wooden bridge for transporting the troops who were to subdue the valour and ravage the fields of the brave Caledonians the enlightened descendants of those uncivilized but generous barbarians, are about to erect a more solid structure, for the nobler purpose of advancing the cultivation and improvement of their country.

be of essential benefit to them; and from the increasing activity and spirit of the proprietors, there is every reason to believe, that in the course of not many years, the most valuable part of it will be properly divided and inclosed. Thirlage still continues in the parish, and is felt by the farmers as a grievance and a bar to improvement. For the sake of an industrious body of men, it is much to be wished, that this odious remainder of feudal tyranny were entirely abolished.

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