

PARISH OF ST ANDREWS.*

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKWALL, SYNOD OF ORKNEY.

THE REV. JAMES SMELLIE, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE present designation of this parish is that by which it has, from time immemorial, been known; and no other, nor more satisfactory account of its origin can be obtained, than that it is derived from *Saint Andrew*, the tutelary saint of Scotland.

Extent, &c.—The parish of St Andrews is situated on the east coast of the mainland of Orkney. Its extreme length is about 6 miles, and its medial breadth 2. Its superficial extent has never been ascertained by actual measurement, but may be estimated at 13 square miles. It is bounded on the north, by Shapinshay firth; on the east, by an arm of the sea called Stronsay firth; on the south-east, by Deersound; on the south, by the German ocean; on the south-west, by an undivided common of some miles in extent, which lies between it and the parish of Holm; on the west, by the parish of St Ola; and on the north-west, by Inganess bay. It is separated from the parish of Deerness, with which it was formerly ecclesiastically united, by Deersound, and a narrow isthmus called *Sandaysand*. In consequence of its being variously intersected by the sea, its figure cannot be well described; but the principal part lies south-east and north-west, while an inferior division projects from the northern end, in an easterly direction.

Topographical Appearances.—The face of the parish, though generally flat, is diversified by gentle inequalities in the ground. But the highest point is not more than 350 feet above the level of the sea, with the steepest acclivity only nine degrees; and the least elevated parts are sometimes covered by the rising tide. It is intersected from, east to west, by three ridges or inconsiderable rising grounds; one at the south end, another at the north, and a third in the middle, almost equidistant from each of the others.

The line of sea-coast, extending along the south, east, and north

* Drawn up by the Rev George Smellie, Assistant and Successor in Lady parish, Sanday.

sides, may be eighteen miles in length. At three places, viz. the isthmus connecting this parish with Deerness, a small creek of Deersound near the church, and a part of Inganess bay, it is sandy, and at the southern and eastern boundaries, it is rocky and precipitous. At the former of these, the face of the rock is nearly 180 feet of perpendicular height; and at the latter 95, where it is not so remarkable for its elevation, as for its picturesque appearance; some parts standing in detached columns, and presenting a dauntless front to the fury of the ocean. The rest of the sea coast, though occasionally varied by projecting cliffs, generally consists of a low beach, affording sea-weed for the manufacture of kelp.

One of the chief natural curiosities of this place is a deep cavern, which in the neighbouring district is called the *gloup*.* It is situated a few yards from the precipice on the east coast, is eighty feet deep, and fifty-six by thirty wide; and the water in its bottom communicates with the open sea by a passage through which a boat may enter, at certain states of the tide and weather. Additional interest is given to this place by the circumstance, that Sir James Sinclair, natural son of Robert Sinclair, Earl of Orkney, threw himself into it, and perished. He was prompted to this horrid act, by fear of the vengeance of his sovereign James V., whose displeasure he had incurred, by representing the Islands of Sanday and Eday as insignificant holms, and thus fraudulently attempting to obtain possession of them, as a reward for his good services in discomfitting the Earl of Caithness and Lord Sinclair at Summerdale.

Meteorology.—Though in rare instances, Fahrenheit's thermometer in the shade has been known to fall to 16° and rise to 74°, yet the following may be taken as the average annual and monthly heights calculated from observations made twice every day, for seventeen years—from January 1812 to December 1828. Average annual height, 44°.64

Monthly height, January,	. 36°.4	Monthly height, July,	. 54°.5
February,	. 37°.2	Do. August,	. 54°.3
March,	. 38°.2	Do. September,	. 51°.5
April,	. 41°.3	Do. October,	. 45°. .
May,	. 46°. .	Do. November,	. 40°. .
June,	. 52°.3	Do. December,	. 39°. .

The climate is subject to frequent and rapid alternations of temperature, as might easily be shown by a table of observations for

* The term *gloup* seems to be generic, as it is elsewhere, in these islands, applied to other caverns of a similar description; and may probably be derived from the Icelandic word *gloppa*, which is used with reference to the crater of a volcano.

each day of a whole year. And though slight frosts are common in winter and spring, yet the mercury in the thermometer seldom remains so low as the freezing point, for one continued week. The character of the climate is rather damp than cold. And though instances have occurred, when many successive weeks during summer have passed without a single shower, yet such are rare; and drought less frequently than wet proves injurious to agricultural pursuits. Eight or nine months of the twelve may often, not inaptly, be denominated *rainy*. The following are the average heights of the barometric column, calculated from the same number of observations made during the same period as mentioned in regard to the thermometer. Annual height, 29.675 inches.

Monthly height, January,	29.607 in.	Monthly height, July,	29.778 in.
Do. February,	29.502	Do. August,	29.757
Do. March,	29.576	Do. September,	29.710
Do. April,	29.572	Do. October,	29.617
Do. May,	29.803	Do. November,	29.621
Do. June,	29.850	Do. December,	29.539

In December 1833, the mercurial column was only 27.7 inches in height; and on the 26th May 1834, it was 30.67 inches, so that the range of the barometer is at least 2.97 inches. But atmospherical changes are often very rapid; a clear and serene sky being not unfrequently, in the space of a few hours, entirely hid under dark and stormy clouds.

Rain appears at all seasons of the year, in forms varying from gentle mist to weighty drops; but generally falls more gradually here than in more southern districts of Britain. Torrents of rain are uncommon—the heaviest showers being usually of short duration; and these come from the west when the wind is strong. The south-west, however, in consequence of the greater frequency of rain from that direction than from any other, may be denominated the *rainy quarter*. But though the climate be damp, yet, owing to the gentle precipitation of moisture in general, probably no greater quantity of rain falls annually here than in many places which have the character of a much drier climate. Dr Barry says, “that, from some attempts to obtain a measurement, we have reason to conclude, that the annual quantity of rain that falls in those islands amounts to twenty-six inches at an average.” And this may be assumed as the quantity for this parish.

High winds are frequent. The most furious blasts are from the west and north-west. But the longest continuance of wind in one direction is generally when it blows from the east. The following are the proportions of time during which winds from the four cardinal points, or those approaching nearest to them, prevail

in the course of the year, also calculated from observations made during seventeen years:—North, &c. 75 days; east, &c. 82.14 days; south, &c. 107.14 days; west, &c. 100.72.

Hydrography.—Deersound is the best roadstead contiguous to this place. Notwithstanding several sinuosities in its shores, it may be said to lie nearly north-east and south-west. It is four miles long from the point of Ness, which forms one side of its entrance, to its innermost part, and from one to two miles broad. Being well defended on all sides, its mouth six or seven fathoms deep, and its bottom consisting of clean sandy ground mixed with clay, it forms a safe retreat for vessels of all sizes. Good anchorage may be found in many parts of it; but perhaps the safest place is that behind the point of Kirbister, on the Deerness shore. The most common resort for vessels, however, and at all times a sufficiently safe situation, is in six fathoms water, about three-fourths of a mile from the point of Ness, and towards the St Andrews side of the bay, where the pilot's rule for bringing up a vessel is, to bring her into a straight line with the Mull-head of Deerness and the point of Ness, and then anchor within that line. Wallace, in his History of Orkney, says, that "Deersound is capable of sheltering the greatest navies." It is not now much frequented. Formerly, a few ships bound for Davis's Straits or Greenland, and some engaged in the Iceland fishery, touched here, principally for the sake of hiring men. But, since the burning in 1823 of Mr Scoresby's ship, the *Fame of Hull*, a name occurring in almost all scientific dissertations on the arctic regions, no whale-fishing vessel has been seen here; and, by the Iceland fishermen, it has been almost deserted since last French war.

Inganess Bay, the only other bay falling under our observation at present, is still less frequented, being exposed to the open sea from the north-east. It lies in the same direction as Deersound, but on the north-west side of the parish. It is bounded on the west and south by St Ola. Its length is two miles and a half, its breadth upwards of one, and its depth from two and a half to twelve fathoms. The best anchorage is about a mile from its inner extremity, in six or six one-half fathoms water; and this is quite safe in certain directions of the wind. There is no tideway in either of these bays, except the little occasioned by the ebb and flow of their own waters.

In the north end of the parish is the only sheet of fresh water deserving the name of lake. Its length is one mile; its breadth, three-fourths; and its greatest depth in winter, eleven feet of wa-

ter, with perhaps as many of mud. It falls five feet of perpendicular height, in dry seasons, and is then only seven feet above the level of the sea. In winter, it has been so completely frozen, as to be safely crossed on foot.

From the small extent of territory in this part of the mainland of Orkney, running water never attains a magnitude greater than a paltry rill. And none of the springs, all of which are inconsiderable, possess a temperature above that of the climate, or manifest any remarkable chemical properties.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The direction of the strata of rocks is generally from east-south-east to west-north-west, with the dip to north-north-east. Their inclination varies from 5° to 13° , and, in some situations, even more. Around the lake, they range almost from east to west; and, at one part of the precipitous coast on the east, they seem completely deranged; sometimes, contrary to the general rule, ranging from south-west to north-east, with the dip to the north-west, and, at other times, while ranging in the same direction, dipping to the south-east, and indicating the existence of subterranean action in their neighbourhood, at some remote period. From a remarkable aperture in these rocks, called the Hole of Row, northwards for a quarter of a mile, entire disorder prevails. The strata lie in all directions; the beds are undulated in their form, more inclined than in other places, and some of them placed in an almost vertical position. Along the sea-coast, on the north, some other traces of derangement appear.

The prevailing rocks are argillaceous sandstone and sandstone flag, apparently belonging to the old red sandstone formation. But trap dikes evidently occur at the place where the strata are so much deranged. Traces of calc-spar and iron pyrites are found in the vicinity of the latter, and of bog iron ore in the marshes. We do not know that any fossil organic remains, either animal or vegetable, were ever discovered in this place.

The rocks are, in all cases, covered with red clay, mixed with gravel, over which rest sand, loam, or peat. Peat occurs both on the higher and lower grounds. In almost all instances, it is of a light and spongy consistence, of a chesnut colour, and apparently composed chiefly of moss and heath. But, at the bottom of deep moors, it is blacker, more friable,—and when dried, harder than in other situations; and contains branches of trees in a half-decayed state. Within the last five years, in the course of trenching a bog about a quarter of a mile from the minister's house, hazel-nuts

were found in a state of perfect preservation, at the distance of three feet below the surface of the ground, although no trees of that kind at present exist in the island.

The soil seems generally to be untransported, except in a few sandy spots near the sea shore, where its situation and appearance prove that it has been accumulated by the force of the wind; and in valleys, where a more than ordinary depth betrays its dependent character. But the circumstance of greater depth in particular situations, though perhaps originating in transportation, may not be altogether owing to that cause. For if the accumulation were once begun, the increase of soil itself would give greater vigour to vegetation, and the decay of its productions, then, independently of the former cause, maintain the accumulating process. And this proceeding in a natural course, if only commenced by the operation of some extrinsic circumstance, might account for the phenomenon. Perhaps few places, for their extent, can boast of a greater variety of soil. One kind does not extend far, till it is interrupted by another. It is sometimes, though rarely, sandy, and, at other times, loamy, but generally clayey or mossy. Sand, loam, moss, and clay, are, however, found combined in infinite variety of proportion. But the soil that has been long under cultivation, has assumed the black colour of productiveness, from having been manured chiefly with decomposed organic matter. Large portions of the uncultivated ground are covered with a thin stratum of mossy matter, resting on gravelly clay. And this kind of soil, called *yarpha*, yields few productions except mosses, some of the coarser grasses, and stunted heaths. The soil in general, independently of the sterile clay on which it rests, is seldom more than three or four inches deep, unless in spots where cultivation has been carried on for many years, or where some extrinsic accumulating process has been in operation; in which cases, the depth is often from eight inches to a foot, and in marshes sometimes much more. Its general character is extreme wetness, while rainy weather continues,—and a tendency to become hard and to crack in drought.

Grubs are most common in places that have been recently brought under cultivation, particularly if mossy, and seldom do much injury to fields that are regularly ploughed.

It is stated in the former Statistical Account, that “small bits of lead are sometimes found here,” probably referring to the rocks on the east coast; and such was once the general belief. But it is now

supposed that iron pyrites was mistaken for lead, as none of the latter mineral can at present be discovered. The same has also been ignorantly mistaken for silver.

Zoology.—Hares were found here at an early period, but had afterwards become extinct till within the last few years, when they were again introduced, and they are now very numerous, much to the annoyance of the farmer. Rabbits are seen in different parts, but have a predilection for the sandy ground called *links*. Otters live in the rocks by the sea shore; and seals abound in the bays. Grouse are found here and in the adjacent moors. A great variety of sea fowl occurs. Eleven species at least of the tribe *Anas* occasionally visit Deersound. Swans are seen in spring and autumn, as they migrate to other latitudes, and often rest for days on the lake, where they sometimes fall a prey to the sportsman. They also occasionally appear during winter, when it is supposed that they pass the season in the neighbourhood. Solan geese are sometimes seen; and a species of sea fowl, *Anas bernicla*, Lin. Syst., which has here received the name of Horra-goose, perhaps from its loud hoarse cry, comes to Deersound about the end of December, and remains till the end of February. It is worthy of remark, that this bird is not known to visit any other part of Orkney, excepting Hoy Sound and Westray firth. Several lapwings choose this as a situation for rearing their young. Other migratory birds are seen in winter, as snow-buntings, fieldfares, and blackbirds, &c. And the landrail is a hibernating bird common in this place. But, for a complete list of the great variety of birds which may at different seasons be found here, we refer the reader to Barry's History of the Orkney Islands,* where those enumerated and described will, without many exceptions, illustrate the ornithology of this parish.

Whether deer ever lived here, it is now difficult to ascertain. But part of the antlers and bones of one of these animals were dug out of a tumulus on the glebe during the incumbency of the present minister; and a few other remains of them have been discovered in the island. In corroboration of a prevalent tradition that this neighbourhood was once inhabited by these animals, we are reminded of a supposed derivation of the names *Deersound* and *Deerness*, from deer,—the one signifying the sound and the other the cape of deers. But, whatever may be the fact as to the existence of deer in this place at some former period, it is much

* Book III. Chapter 1.

more probable, according to the opinion of the more intelligent, that these names come from some language now in disuse. And "in Gaelic, which may have been the language of the country under the Pictish kingdom, *Deerness* or *Durness* signifies a peninsulated promontory."* According to Dr Barry several remains of deer have been found. He says, "an entire skeleton was dug up, some years ago, in the heart of an old ruin, in the middle of a loch in a parish contiguous to one that is said to have derived its name from its being the abode of these animals. The parish to which we allude, is Deerness,—a peninsula on the eastern extremity of the mainland, which is believed to have been named the cape of Deers, because it abounded in these quadrupeds, that found shelter in the forest with which it was then covered, and which was afterwards destroyed by a storm and inundation. In some of the ground in that parish, which is of a marshy nature, deers' horns have several times been found." The "parish contiguous" can be no other than St Andrews. But, besides there being no loch "with an old ruin in the middle" of it,—the old ruin evidently referred to, standing on the margin of the lake,—we never heard of the "entire skeleton" of a deer being discovered anywhere in the parish, nor of "deers' horns being several times found." And it does not appear, that the Doctor's account of the former state of Deerness is sufficiently authenticated.

The species of fish most abundant in Deersound and Inganess bay, is the colefish. Small rock-cod of a red colour, the *Gadus mustela*, and some varieties of the tribe *Pleuronectes*, may also be got in considerable numbers. Trout is occasionally met with. And several other kinds of fish, which are unimportant in an economical point of view, occur in these bays. Eels are to be found in abundance in the lake, but are seldom sought after. Quantities of large cod, haddock, skate, dog-fish, herrings, also mackerel, and some others, are, however, brought from the adjoining seas.

With regard to shell-fish, there are numbers of crabs and lobsters; also cockles and razor-fish,—which are taken chiefly in the spring season, and used as articles of food. Oysters of a superior size are not unknown in some parts of Deersound. Limpets occur on all the rocks along the sea shore that are, at the return of every tide, covered by the salt water,—but are used only as bait for other

* Old Statistical Account of Scotland.

fish. The catalogue might be greatly extended by an enumeration of many other less important kinds.

Botany.—We are not aware that any very rare plants occur here. But, as a kind of index of the nature of the soil, we may mention the following—yellow water-flag, marsh marigold, buck-bean, cotton-grass, mint, butterwort, and yellow-rattle; corn-marigold, wild-mustard, docks, sorrel, and thistles; devils-bit, dog's-tail grass, rush, dwarf-willow, foxglove, plantain, common primrose, sundew, heath, parnassia, mushrooms, puff-balls; and a variety of fuci on the sea shore, which are burned for kelp. There is no wood in the parish, yet the peat mosses bear presumptive evidence of its having grown here or not far distant from this place, at some former period. Some years ago, the removal of the sand on the sea shore, in the immediate vicinity of the bog in which were found hazelnuts, discovered several branches of birch trees. This was occasioned by a violent gale of north-east wind; and wherever the sand was removed, the stratum below was peat moss to the depth of several feet. In the eighth appendix to Dr Barry's history, we have an extract from a manuscript by Matthew Mackaile, preserved in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, where it is said that, "at the east end of the main, at head of Deersound, at Campstown, there is a little wood (almost two pair of beets in length, and one broad, and as tall as a man,) of the ordinary *Salix angustifolia* or *viminia*." All remembrance of this has long since vanished.

A spirited attempt was, a few years ago, made by Mr Baikie of Tankerness, to introduce the useful and ornamental article of wood. He planted with plane-tree, fir, ash, willow, &c. several acres of ground along the north side of the lake; but no hope is entertained of the success of the attempt,—indeed, the trees have almost all entirely disappeared. Perhaps the sea breeze, combined with some ungeniality in the rough and uncultivated soil in which they were planted, rather than any peculiar rigour of the climate, has proved adverse to their growth: for various kinds of fruit trees, and even tender shrubs will thrive well in a good soil, and under the protection of a sufficient wall. About four years ago, the same gentleman planted two or three acres of good ground near his house with the same kinds of wood, and the young trees seem healthy, and are progressing in stature.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

This parish was formerly united *quoad sacra* with Deerness,—a circumstance which has led to various inaccuracies in occasional

references to the one as well as the other of them in accounts of the Orkney Islands, and even in the Old Statistical Account. The minister always resided in St Andrews. He officiated every alternate Sabbath in the adjoining parish of Deerness, till May 1830, when, in consequence of the Parliamentary grant of 1823, for building churches and manses in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, the latter was blessed with a resident clergyman of its own, and the former with a regular dispensation of religious ordinances.

Parochial Register.—The only parochial register is the session-record, which extends backwards to the year 1657, and contains an account of births, marriages, and sessional transactions. It was accurately kept till the year 1796 inclusive; but from that period till 1804, it was sadly neglected. And, notwithstanding the exertions of those who have since had the charge of it, to render it more complete for the succeeding period, it still forms a very imperfect record of the parochial events of the present century,—the carelessness or bigotry of Dissenters often preventing them from applying for the registration of their children's names.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are, Lord Dundas; James Baikie, Esq. of Tankerness; and James Stewart, Esq. of Brough.

Antiquities.—In different parts of the parish are to be found ruins, now almost levelled with the ground, which are called chapels. We could particularize at least four, each in a separate division of the parish, called an *urstrand*, and situated near, or in the midst of a considerable extent of good ground. It is thought that they are the remains of Roman Catholic chapels, one of which probably formed an appendage to the dwelling of each considerable proprietor, for whom, in former days, it was customary to reside on his estate. On the point of Ness, there is the vestige of a small rude fort, consisting of a circular embankment of earth and stones, which is said to have been used, in days of piracy, for annoying vessels when entering Deersound. One piece of ordnance still lies on the spot. There are in the parish three tumuli, denominated *howies*. One of these stands on the minister's glebe, by the side of the lake, and projects into the water. It is about 140 yards in circumference at the base, and 12 feet high. At the time at which the last Statistical Account was written, it contained a wall 9 feet thick, in which, says the writer, "there seem to have been no apartments, or if there have, they are now filled with rubbish. Some pieces of wall have been found on the out-

side, but their use or form cannot be ascertained." Besides the deer's horn already alluded to, small bone rings, shells, and bones of various kinds of animals, have been found in it. Part of it has also the appearance of having, at one time, been a burial ground. Another of these tumuli stands near the centre of the parish. It is of a truncated conical form, hollowed at the top, 90 yards around the base, and 16 feet in height. It appears to have been surrounded by a mound, at the distance of twenty yards from the base, but has not been opened within the memory of man. A third tumulus, of larger dimensions than either of the former, being 36 feet high, is situated on the isthmus at the southern extremity of the parish, and is called Dingy's How, or Duncan's Height. No record or tradition remains of the age of these accumulations, nor of the objects which they were intended to serve; but a superstitious belief, now almost exploded, once invested them with a sacred character, and regarded them as the residence, or the haunts of fairies.

Public Buildings.—The only erections of a public nature, are, the plain parish church and school, unless we include two small and simple undershot water-mills for grinding corn. The summer residence of Mr Baikie of Tankerness and the manse are conspicuous among the humbler habitations of the peasantry.

The stone used in building is sandstone flag, which is found here in great abundance, and of very superior quality. It is obtained at little expense, as it occurs almost every where, at a short distance from the surface of the ground. Roofing slate has been lately discovered in one part of the parish, though only of an inferior kind, and to an inconsiderable extent. The farm-houses are, however, generally roofed with straw or heath. And it may be remarked, that the mode of thatching in these islands is different from that adopted in the southern parts of Scotland. The straw or heath is first twisted by the hand into the form of a thick rope, which, when so prepared, is called *simmons*. Parallel folds of this cordage are passed over the joists from eave to eave, till the whole of the building be once covered. A stratum of loose straw is then interposed between this, and another layer of the same cordage; and these are alternated until a covering be formed, which will hold out the wind and rain. The inferiority of this method is, however, manifest, from its requiring repair, almost every year. But this often consists of nothing more than an additional stratum of *simmons*.

III.—POPULATION.

No information can be obtained respecting the ancient state of the population. In 1831, it amounted to 857 persons—382 males, and 475 females. According to the return made to Dr Webster in 1755, and according to the enumeration by Mr Scolly, the incumbent in 1772, it was at these respective periods, nearly the same as at present. But, at the time at which the last Statistical Account was drawn up, there was a considerable decrease, owing, it was alleged, to “the continual drain of men to the navy, to the northern fisheries, and, above all, to Hudson’s Bay. Before the year 1741, the Hudson’s Bay Company’s servants were all taken from England, Ireland, or the Shetland Isles. About 1741 or 1743, they began to get a few from Orkney, and, finding them to be submissive and industrious, they now take most or all of their trades-folk and contracted servants from this country.” Whatever effect these supposed causes may have had upon the population forty years ago, they certainly do not seem at present to exercise any sensible influence over it.

The only person of independent fortune residing in the parish, is Mr Baikie of Tankerness. And the number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, is three, viz. those mentioned as the chief land-owners. The number of families is 156, and of inhabited houses, 146. There is one fatuous, and one blind person.

One peculiarity in the customs of the people that may be mentioned, is, that the majority of the men may be said to have no fixed profession, but are farmers, fishermen, and artisans, at different seasons of the year. Another is, that each tenant claims an exclusive right to the fields which he rents, only during the time that the crop is on the ground. Although a little improvement in this respect has, of late, begun to manifest itself, yet, what was written for the last Statistical Account, will, in general, still apply. “All the cattle, horses, sheep, swine, geese, &c. go at large for about nine months of the year. As soon as any one tenant cuts and brings in his corn, the whole country becomes at once a common, and all his neighbours must follow his example, or leave their crops, ripe or unripe, to be trodden down and destroyed.”

The people are decent in their external appearance. And although their habits, in regard to the preparation of food, and cleansing of kitchen utensils, might, in some cases, give offence to

a delicate or refined taste, yet they are very particular in the observance of such rules as fall within their own notions of decorum. They are, however, very deficient in attention to the order and cleanliness of their habitations. The interior of the apartment commonly occupied by the family is generally coated with dust, ashes, and soot,—owing, in no small degree, to the practice of having the fire-place in the middle of the room, without any other chimney to conduct the smoke outward, than a hole in the roof of the house. In addition to this, poultry, and even pigs and calves, as well as dogs and cats, are often admitted to a corner of the same apartment with the family. The food of the people consists of bread made of the meal of oats or bear, and sowens, which is a preparation from the siftings of oatmeal; also of potatoes, cabbages, milk, butter, cheese, and fish, with a small quantity of animal food,—and that chiefly goose or bacon.

Poaching is unknown; and smuggling is almost at an end,—the only remaining instances of the latter being occasional attempts to make a little malt for private use, without previously lodging information with the excise officer of the district.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The lands never having been surveyed, and the cultivated parts lying in detached shreds of every size and shape, it is impossible to state accurately the number of acres that this parish contains, or that is under cultivation. But from the best local knowledge, we may venture to give 2200 acres, as an estimate, of the quantity ever under tillage, which is probably a near approximation to the truth. Perhaps half of the ground that has never been touched with the plough might, by labour, be made yield the means of human subsistence. But from the wetness and natural poverty of the soil, it is questionable whether in a corner so remote from markets this could, except in a very few cases, be done with a profitable application of capital.

Where the extent of a farm is not known, either by the landlord, his tenant, nor any one else, it is difficult to state the average rent of arable ground. But it may be estimated at from 7s. to 10s. value per acre. Along with the arable land so rented, however, the tenant receives as much or a greater extent of pasture ground, which is considered as going into the bargain. The practice of grazing cattle for rent is so little known, that nothing satisfactory can be said as to its average expense.

Wages — There are but few cases, in which farm-servants are hired,—the farms being generally small, and the members of the family sufficing for the accomplishment of the necessary work : so that an estimate of their wages would be drawn from a small induction of particulars; and as the terms of service are often short, and peculiar to the country, little information of general utility could be obtained even from these particulars. A man's wages, however, for a year, may be from L. 6 to L. 8, exclusive of board; and a woman's, from L. 2 to L. 4, according to their capabilities. The harvest-fee, for a period understood to extend to six weeks, is from L. 1, 1s. to L. 1, 10s. for a man; and for a woman, 15s. or upwards. Hiring persons by the day for farm-work, is not yet so common as to enable us to say any thing decisive as to the rate of expense. But men may be hired for quarrying or breaking stones and other ordinary purposes at little more than 1s. per day. Mowers, master-masons, and regularly bred workmen, receive from 1s. 6d. to 2s. each per day.

Produce, &c.—The kind of grain called bear or big is sold, when raw, by the *wey*, a quantity equal to 16 stones Dutch or 18½ stones imperial; and when dried, then called “melder-corn,” by the “meil,” which is nearly 11¼ stones Dutch or 14¼ imperial. These quantities of raw and dried grain, respectively, are considered of equal value, and may be purchased at a sum varying from 14s. to L. 1 Sterling. Oats, which are generally of very inferior quality, are sold after the same manner; only that the above mentioned denominations, when applied to this sort of grain, signify about a fourth less than when applied to bear. The “meil” of oats sells at the rate of from 8s. to 16s. Both kinds are frequently sold unthrashed, and the prices vary chiefly according to the demand for fodder. Potatoes sell at from 8d. to 1s. per anker, *i. e.* from 2d. to 3d. per peck. Turnip and hay are not raised in sufficient quantities to become general articles of purchase. Cattle sell at from L. 3 to L. 6. But the average price of a cow either for milk or beef, may be stated at L. 3, 10s.; of a sheep of the common kind, 8s. and of the larger breeds, L. 1; of geese, great numbers of which are reared here, 1s. 9d. or 2s. each; of common fowls, 7d. or 8d.; eggs, 2½d. to 4d. per dozen; and butter, 6d. or 7d. per lb. Beef varies in price at different seasons of the year, from 2½d. to 5d. per lb. And most other things are in proportion.

Live-Stock.—The species of horses most esteemed here, for ordinary purposes, is that called the “garron,” supposed to be of

Norwegian origin. Their distinctive characters are thick necks and heads, with short ears. They seldom exceed fourteen hands and a half in height, and are very strong and hardy. The breed of black-cattle, which appears to be the oldest known, if not the indigenous, species of this country, is still common, though much mixed. They are small, thin, and often ill-shaped; but this probably proceeds from bad treatment. On the scanty pastures, which the soil affords them, however, they are more profitable for the dairy than more improved breeds; and their flesh is highly esteemed for its delicacy. The native sheep are distinguished from the southern breeds by inferiority of size and shape, and the excessive shortness of their tails; and from the famous Zetland breed, by the general coarseness of their wool. They are sometimes of a gray, and at other times, of a dark tawny or black colour, as well as white. The head is often ornamented with horns,—that of the male almost always with large twisted ones, sometimes six or seven pounds in weight. And these frequently prove fatal to them in swimming. In order to obtain marine plants for food, it is customary for these animals in winter to repair, at low water, to the sea-side, where they sometimes forget the necessity of retiring from rocks which are insulated at half-tide, before the water entirely surrounds them; and when they are at last swept from their footing, the strongest often perish first in the attempt to reach land; their heads being borne down into the water by the weight of their horns, and their destruction occasioned by what is intended to beautify their appearance when confined to their native element. A kind of hog, of a diminutive size, and having small tapering extremities, was formerly common in this place, but is now nearly extinct. Its most peculiar features are a ridge of strong upright bristles extending from between the ears to the tail, the ears quite erect, and the back arched like that of some species of the hyena tribe.

Husbandry.—The state of husbandry is in general wretched. Established customs are inveterate in spite of their absurdity, and there seems to be no possibility of getting out of the old beaten track. There are indeed one or two creditable exceptions, but the following may be received as the character of the husbandry commonly pursued. There is no regular rotation of crop, no rest for the soil, no means used effectually to clean the ground from an abundant crop of weeds, and no manure afforded except once in every two years. Bear, and a kind of small-bearded grey oats are sown alternately on the same ground, from generation to generation,—the former

receiving manure, either sea-weed, the cleanings of the dwellings of domestic animals, or a cold inactive composition of these with earth, there being no lime in the place, while the latter is sown without any fertilizing substance, and left to wear out the transient effects of what raised the preceding crop. Green crop is almost unknown. Turnip, hay, pease, or beans, are hardly thought of. And potatoes, which, if properly managed, might tend to clean the ground, are either confined to the drier parts, or planted in so small quantities, that before a whole field can be taken in rotation, the good effects are lost upon what was first treated in this manner. The mode of ploughing is in keeping with the system of cropping. The ridges are seldom drawn straight. They are so much raised towards the middle, that there is not soil left in the furrow sufficient to cause almost any vegetation; and their different parts are often of unequal breadths, which occasions a great waste of time and labour in ploughing. Little attention is paid to the reclaiming of waste land. Indeed, no regular plan is ever pursued for thus improving the district. The chief way in which any portion of it is reduced to cultivation is, when a person from inability to stock a farm, or other adverse circumstances, retreats to the common, rears a cottage, and partially subdues the surrounding spot. But in bringing one acre into a profitable state, the surface of several acres is skinned and destroyed; and at best, this practice, instead of substantially improving, only studs the common with half-cultivated patches. Within appropriated bounds again, it seems an established, if not a sacred maxim, that what has once been ploughed shall never be allowed for a year to rest, and what has never been turned up, must be allowed for ever to remain. So far, indeed, is this principle carried, that insignificant spots of ploughed land are not unfrequently seen in the midst of pasture fields, where, independently of the expense of labour, the crop from depredations of cattle and other causes, seems hardly sufficient to supply seed for the succeeding season. And deformed shreds of grass may be observed stretching into, or surrounded by corn-fields, as if it were sacrilege "*curvo aratro laedere.*"

Trenches have sometimes been cut, to draw off water. But to the improvement of covered drains, the example has yet to be set. Irrigation and embanking are both unnecessary and impracticable.

Leases were formerly granted for three years, or for one, two,

and even three nineteens of years. But leases of more than a single year are now seldom obtained.

Farm buildings are constructed of stones and clay, and covered with thatch. They are seldom so high as conveniently to serve the purposes for which they are intended, and not rebuilt till they are actually falling down. The few existing enclosures, excepting those on the minister's glebe, and one other farm, are mostly insufficient turf walls.

Improvement of any kind in agriculture cannot be said to have yet generally commenced. One is animated by the anticipation, rather than by the appearance of its first dawn, and all obstacles combine to retard its progress,—want of lengthened leases, want of capital, of enclosures, of winter herding, and want of the separation of the lands of different farms. It is common for the arable lands belonging to several farmers to be so intermixed, that the breadth of 100 yards can scarcely be found in the possession of one tenant. Lands so distributed are called *run-rig*: and farmers who hold their lands only for a single year, such are styled *tenants at will*. Now, where there are few or no enclosures, and the disproportion between the extent and the productiveness of the ground, is very great—where a farmer has often not half a dozen ridges lying together, without some of those of his neighbours intervening, and winding their serpentine course along them,—and where leases are seldom granted by the landlords to excite a spirit of improvement among their tenantry, the wretchedness of the husbandry cannot be altogether charged against the listlessness of the peasantry. And till these obstacles be removed, it is impossible that improvement can proceed to any extent, or the industrious powers and spirit of the lower ranks be manifested. In the same way, while one tenant cannot improve without the consent and co-operation, not only of all his neighbours, but also of the proprietor himself, or while improvement is altogether impracticable from the manner in which the lands are partitioned; while there is no encouragement, at least on the part of the tenant, to inclose, as he holds his farm only from year to year; and while, consequently, the crops which are sown have not a fair trial,—it is difficult to say what is the productive power of the soil, or what are the improvements that would reward enterprise and industry. But, from a few specimens of superior management, it is evident that the lands are capable of yielding a much greater return than they at present make. Whether, however, they would repay the

labour requisite to give the experiment its full force, is a question not so easily answered.

Fishery.—The only employment of this kind that is here prosecuted on a large scale as a source of economical wealth, is the herring-fishery. The curing of herrings commenced with us only in 1833, and as this is but on the advance as a station, and the fishing has not been attended generally with its usual success, since it began here, nothing can yet be said as to its annual profits. The people of the place, however, were in the habit of prosecuting this employment, and delivering their fish at other stations, for several years before curing commenced in their own parish.

Raw Produce raised in the Parish.—When most of the farmers know neither the quantity of grain that they sow, nor that they reap, but calculate both by guess, or do not calculate at all, and when few of the particulars under the present head of inquiry will apply to this place, as must be evident from some of our previous remarks,—little information can be expected on this part of our subject. But the chief sources of wealth, independently of the grain which is raised on the lands, are selling of cattle, fishing, and the savings of persons employed as seamen out of the country, who come home to spend the winter months, and the decline of life among their friends. Formerly the making of kelp, and with the women the plaiting of straw, formed the two principal means of earning money. The former of these, indeed, at one time, constituted the chief source of revenue to the whole county. And though it now yields little or no direct profit to the proprietor, it is still an object not unworthy of his attention. For, in many cases, the making of a certain quantity of kelp is part of the tenure by which lands are held: and so long as this commodity fetches as much in the market as is allowed in value for making it, it is the means of bring hard cash into the hands of the landlord, and in effect enables the tenant to pay more for his farm, than he could in other circumstances afford.

Manufacture.—The only manufacture is that of kelp. It is not now conducted so eagerly and so extensively as formerly. It might, at one period, have occupied sixty or seventy persons for a month: but now, not nearly so many. The number of hours per day that they work is uncertain, for those who cut the weed from which it is made are almost unremittingly occupied while the tide allows them to reach it, whether that time be day or night. They often rise at one or

two o'clock A. M. to prosecute their toil, and may sometimes be seen at it till eleven P. M. But they refresh themselves with sleep during part of the intervening period, when the return of the waters covers the sea-weed. Both men and women are employed in this work, the former receiving from L.1, 1s. to L.1, 10s., with four stones of meal, and the latter from 15s. to L.1 Sterling, and three stones of meal, for a month's labour. Although persons so occupied have little sleep; are subjected to irregular periods of refreshment; often stand for hours in water, and seldom have their feet dry; yet, as this employment engages them but for a short period, and that at the best season of the year, the month of June, when the sun is upwards of eighteen hours above the horizon, it has not been found prejudicial to the health of those who are not constitutionally delicate. And it does not seem, farther than any other occupation, to deteriorate their morals,—more than ten or twelve persons seldom forming one company, and single families often working by themselves.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is no town or village in the parish. The nearest town is the burgh of Kirkwall, which is seven miles distant from the remotest, and two and a half from the nearest, part of the parish. The road to it is one of the best in the country, though not a turnpike, and has hitherto been kept in repair by means of statute labour.

Ecclesiastical State.—The situation of the parish church is tolerably central, being four miles from one extremity of the parish, and two and a half from the other. It was built in the year 1801, and was enlarged and thoroughly repaired in 1827. It is, at present, commodious and comfortable, affording accommodation for upwards of 400 persons. Formerly, there was a nominal rent charged for some of the seats, but now there is nothing paid for any of them.

The manse was originally built in the year 1756, but left in a very superficial state. In 1793 it was all renewed, except the walls, which were then heightened and much weakened by alterations. It was last repaired in 1830, when an addition was also made to it, and is at present comfortable, but far from a state of permanent sufficiency. The extent of the glebe is 17 acres, and its annual value may be estimated at L.6. The amount of stipend is L.200 per annum, exclusive of L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

There are no chapels in the parish, either in connection with the Established Church or any other body of Christians. There are 70 male heads of families, and individuals from 84 families, who attend the parish church. The number of persons of all ages who attend it, is from 250 to 300, but the number is constantly varying. The average number of communicants is about 200, but, like the former, is variable. Divine service is regularly attended by almost all who profess adherence to the national church. Dissenters attend divine worship beyond the bounds of the parish.

Contributions are made here in behalf of the Orkney Church Bible and Missionary Society, to the amount of L. 5. The annual amount of church collections, for religious and charitable objects, is L. 6, 10s. 10½d. at an average of eight years.

Education.—There is no permanent school except the parochial one. And the branches taught in it, are reading, writing, arithmetic, and grammar. At present, the parochial schoolmaster is so nearly blind as to be incapacitated for discharging the duties of his office, and cannot be compelled to provide a substitute. The school is, however, taught by a qualified person, who, in addition to the school-fees, receives a small gratuity from the heritors. The schoolmaster's salary was, by the late augmentation, raised to L. 27; and the school-fees, under an efficient teacher, may amount to from L. 9 to L. 12 Sterling. He has, besides, a school-house, consisting of two comfortable apartments. The expense of attendance at the school is, for English, 1s. 6d.; for ditto and writing, 2s.; and for these with arithmetic, 2s. 6d. per quarter. It may be affirmed, that no person belonging to the parish, above seven years of age, and of ordinary capacity, is entirely unacquainted with the elements of education; and that there is none, above ten, unable to read with some degree of intelligence. And the people seem to be so far alive to the benefits of education, that, in the present unfortunate circumstances of the parochial school, they make such exertions as prevent their children growing up in total ignorance.

The school is situated in the immediate vicinity of the church and is of course equally central. Winter, however, being the season most convenient for attendance, and the roads being then bad, as well as the days short, it is hardly possible that it can be attended by the children of those who live in the more remote parts of the parish. The population that lies beyond the reach of convenient attendance, is, probably, not more than 150 persons. And for the children of such, care is taken to encourage temporary se-

minaries of instruction. Two schools placed at a moderate distance from the extremities of the parish, instead of one central school, would meet all the exigencies of the case.

The few remaining traces of superstition are fleeing away before the progress of enlightened knowledge. But the novel and fashionable modes of education have not yet been introduced.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of persons receiving parochial aid, is $12\frac{1}{2}$ at an average of eight years; to each of whom is allotted, only, the small pittance of from 1s. 6d. to 10s. per annum, with occasional supplies as necessity requires. The only sources whence funds for their relief are derived, are, church collections, marriage dues, and payment for the use of the mortcloth, which, exclusively of the first, amount annually to L. 1, 18s. 9d. But from the same funds are paid precentor's and church officer's salaries. The old virtuous principle of attempting self-support, so long as it is possible, still so far prevails, that application for assistance is seldom made, till "urged by necessity's supreme command!"

Fairs.—Cattle markets are held at two places in the parish, Knockhall and Occlester, three times a year; at Candlemas, Midsummer, and Martinmas.

Inns, Alehouses, &c.—There is only one licensed alehouse. It is situated at the side of the road leading to a neighbouring parish, and at one of the places where a cattle-market is held. It seems to be established for a useful purpose, is orderly kept, and is not known to produce any bad effect upon the morals of the people.

Fuel.—The general description of fuel, and indeed all that is used here, except a small quantity of coals, brought either from Newcastle or the ports on the Frith of Forth, is peat, which is obtained at the distance of a quarter of a mile, or at most two miles, from each house. But as each family undertakes the labour of cutting, drying, and carting home as much as will suffice for its own consumption,—little can be said satisfactorily of the expense of this sort of fuel. The carting alone occupies three weeks, or a month of constant labour.

Revised August 1841.

QUOAD SACRA PARISH OF DEERNESS.

THE REV. THOMAS WAUGH, MINISTER.

THIS parish lies south-east from St Andrews, from which it is almost separated by Deer Sound: on the other sides, it is bound-

ed by the German Ocean. From Mullhead to the isthmus, it is $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, and its breadth varies from 1 to 3 miles.

Parochial Registers.—There is only one of these: and it relates to marriages and baptisms. It commences in the year 1753, and, except for a few years, has been all along regularly kept.

Land-owners.—These are, the Earl of Zetland; Mr Balfour of Trenaby; and Mr Groat of Newhall.

Population.—The amount of the population at present is 771,—the increase since 1831 being about 100.

Number of illegitimate births during the last three years, 8.

Agriculture.—Considerable improvements in agriculture have taken place of late years, from the introduction of improved implements, and from the better division and enclosure of lands.

Fishery.—The herring-fishery is prosecuted here by means of 50 or 60 boats, each having four men and a boy. The average quantity taken this season, is about 50 barrels.

Ecclesiastical State.—Number of families belonging to the Established Church, 141: of Dissenting families, 12.

The parochial church is one of the 42 endowed by Parliamentary grant. Stipend L. 120. The glebe and garden occupy about three acres. The manse, built in 1828, is in good condition.

Education.—There is one school in the parish. It belongs to the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. Salary L. 12, besides L. 3 from the heritors.

Poor.—About twenty persons receive parochial aid. The amount of church collections for their behoof is betwixt L. 9 and L. 10 a year. One heritor contributes one guinea yearly.

September 1841.