

PARISH OF STROMNESS.

PRESBYTERY OF CAIRSTON, SYNOD OF ORKNEY.

THE REV. PETER LEARMONTH, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE most probable derivation of the name is from *Strom*, signifying strong, and *Ness*, a point of land: in fact, the tide runs with considerable strength off the point of land which forms a part of the parish.

Topographical Appearances.—The parish is pleasantly situated on the south-western extremity of the mainland, or Pomona, as it is sometimes called, and probably commands the finest scenery in the group of islands with which it is connected. The view from the manse, or from the hill above it, has been much admired. The Atlantic Ocean, contemplated from either of these places, whether in the stillness of a calm, or in the awful grandeur of a storm, is an object of the most magnificent nature. The hill

of Hoy, with the green island of Graemsay, which lies to the south, imparts a beauty to the scene, which, in clear weather, is often enhanced by the lofty mountains of Sutherland, which appear in the distance.

Extent, &c.—The length of the parish is about 5 miles: its breadth, $3\frac{1}{2}$: and the square miles it contains, $12\frac{1}{2}$. The southmost point is in $58^{\circ} 56' 50''$ north latitude; northmost point, $59^{\circ} 1' 10''$ north latitude. It is of an irregular figure, and is bounded by the Sound of Hoy on the south; by the parish of Sandwick, on the north; by the lake of Stenness and an arm of the sea, on the east; and by the Atlantic, on the west. The hills are situated on the north-west; are naked and barren, being destitute of plantations. Still, they have their beauty. They rise above the level of the sea, to the height of from 100 to 400 or 500 feet,—forming, at some places, a bold and elevated coast, on which the winds beat with tremendous fury, and often dash frail barks to pieces. There are various valleys, well cultivated; and, being interspersed with meadow, they furnish hay for cattle in winter, and often compensate the deficiency of a scanty crop.

There are no caves of any consequence, except one; which has been rendered memorable from being the place where a shipwrecked seaman was wonderfully preserved, during four days in the spring of 1834. This cave lies at the western extremity opposite to Hoy Head, and is often visited by strangers since that event. It is called Johnson's cave, from the name of the seaman who was saved in it. Adjoining to it, and on the same line of coast towards Sandwick, the rock scenery is bold and romantic, affording shelter and a safe brooding place for the numerous sea fowl which abound here. The only headland, called the Black Craig, is directly opposite to Hoy head, and is of great use to seamen in directing them to the sound of Hoy, which lies between them—the only approach to the harbour of Stromness from the west. As this sound is of great importance to vessels, affording them a safe approach from the Atlantic to the harbour, to which, in stress of weather, they are frequently compelled to have recourse for shelter,—it may be proper to give a brief description of it. This cannot be more correctly done, than in the language employed by my predecessor, in his minute and interesting Statistical Account of this parish: “Along the west coast of Stromness, at one league's distance from the shore, there is 40 or 50 fathoms depth of water. There are no shoals in the channel of Hoy sound, on the side next this pa-

rish, but two, which may be avoided by keeping two cable lengths from the shore; one of these shoals is visible at two hours' ebb. As the coast can be seen at a great distance, and there are no shoals but these two, which are not dangerous, there are consequently few vessels wrecked on this coast. The velocity of the spring-tides in Hoy sound, is seven miles in the hour, that of neap-tides, three miles. It is high or slack water in Hoy sound at ten o'clock on the days of new and full moon, and in the harbour of Stromness at nine o'clock. The flood sets from the north-west. An hour before flood is perceived in the channel of Hoy sound, a stream sets from the north, along the west coast, keeping this side of the sound, and continues in this direction; at half-ebb, another stream sets from the south, along the south side of the sound, and continues till high water. These streams, when known and attended to, facilitate the entrance of shipping into the harbour of Stromness."

Since the date of the Old Account, it appears that the increase of wrecks has been considerable. A light-house is greatly needed for the guidance of vessels through the Sound of Hoy: and we are happy to learn that this has attracted the attention of Her Majesty's Commissioners.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

It may be mentioned, that the greater number of vessels which our enlightened nation has sent out to explore the world, and extend the knowledge of geography and the boundaries of science, have, in general, remained some days in the harbour of Stromness. The Discovery ships which were commanded by Captain Cook, on their return from that memorable expedition which proved fatal to that illustrious navigator, lay here two weeks; and the officers presented some of the inhabitants with various curiosities, which they fondly preserve as precious mementos of friendship. Sir John Franklin, distinguished alike for his piety and heroism, both in going out and returning from his northern expedition, remained here for some time. This parish was also the first place where Sir John Ross planted his foot on British earth, on returning from his last northern voyage, when it was thought by the nation at large, that that gallant officer had perished in the expedition.

Land-owners.—The principal land-owners are, Thomas Pollexfen, Esq. of Cairston; William G. Watt, Esq. of Breckness. There are also Crown lands. The number of heritors altogether, is 78.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers extend back to the year 1695; but they are neither voluminous, nor have they been regularly kept,—except under the former incumbent.

Antiquities.—In the burial-place, there is the ruin of an old church, which probably was erected when Popery prevailed, or perhaps at a later period. Near it, there are the remains of a building, which originally occupied a considerable space of ground, and is generally supposed to have been an establishment of monks, hence called Monk's House. About three-quarters of a mile to the west, stands a venerable building, which was erected by Bishop Graham, one of the last Bishops of Orkney under Episcopacy. Above the door, the bishop's initials, G. G., with the Episcopal arms, and the year of its erection, 1633, are inscribed. There are still tumuli to be seen in the parish.

III.—POPULATION.

According to the Old Statistical Account, “in the year 1754, there were 1000 persons in the town of Stromness. In the year 1794, there were 1344 souls, and yet the whole population is about the same as that given in 1754; from which, it appears that the population of the country has decreased, in proportion as that of the town had increased. By an accurate census taken in June 1794, the population is as follows:”

	No. of Houses.	No. of Families.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Stromness parish,	184	184	346	449	795
town,	222	342	493	851	1344
Total,	406	526	839	1300	2139

Persons to a family in the parish of Stromness, nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$. In the town of Stromness, nearly 4 to a family and 6 to a house. Proportion of males to females, parish of Stromness, nearly as 3 males to 4 females. Town, nearly 12 males to 21 females. The great disproportion of males to females in the town of Stromness is occasioned by the young men going abroad to various parts of the world; to the Greenland fishery, Hudson's Bay, the coal trade; and many are to be found in his Majesty's navy.”

In 1831, the Government census gave the following results:—

		Males.	Females.	Inhabited Houses.
Stromness burgh of barony,	2236	940	1296	985
parish,	708	308	400	123

The population is as follows, at present:—

Number of people residing in the town of Stromness,	2242
Landward part of the parish of Stromness,	760
The yearly average of births for the last seven years,	80
deaths for the last seven years,	50
marriages for the last seven years,	18

The average number of persons under 15 years of age,	963
betwixt 15 and 30,	745
30 and 50,	686
50 and 70,	496
upwards of 70,	110
Number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 or upwards,	7
unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	65
Unmarried women upwards of 45,	90
Number of families,	650
Average number of children in each family in which there are children, nearly	4
Number of inhabited houses,	500
houses uninhabited, or now building,	18
insane, 2; fatuous, 10; blind, 4; deaf, 2; dumb, 2.	

Notwithstanding the peculiar temptations to which the people of this parish are exposed, from the great influx of shipping and other circumstances, they are, upon the whole, a moral people. They are most regular in their attendance in the house of God; and, though they come far short of that standard which the word of God prescribes, and many of them are indifferent to their eternal interests, there are still not a few who are alive to the great realities of eternity; appreciate highly their precious privileges, and study to adorn the doctrine of God their Saviour in all things, by maintaining a life and conversation becoming the Gospel.

At a former period, smuggling existed to some extent, with its demoralizing effects; but now it is rare.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Number of males employed in agriculture as farmers,	87
as cottars,	43
Farm servants, male, 22—female, 22,	44
Number of males employed in overseeing straw plait manufacture,	7
Manufacturer of rope,	1
Number of males employed in retail trade or in handicraft,	191
Number of wholesale merchants, capitalists, bankers, professional persons, and other educated men,	40
Number of female servants in town,	66

Agriculture.—

We believe the parish contains of standard imperial acres,	8160
Of this the arable land is, say	1865
Infield pasture capable of improvement,	908
Undivided common,	5387
	8160

The undivided common is capable of very little improvement, being mostly hill and moss; and there is much of it, that has been rendered incapable of cultivation, by the surface being removed from it for fuel and litter,—a practice which still prevails.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land per acre is 10s. Near the town, the inhabitants pay L. 2 for grazing a milk cow.

Wages, &c.—The rate of labour varies, according to the kind of work, from 1s. 4d. to 2s. 6d., without maintenance, for farm-la-

bourers and country artisans. Price of an iron plough, L. 2, 2s.; of a small cart, L. 4, 4s.

Comparatively little attention has been paid to agricultural improvement: the land is constantly cropped alternately with oats and bear, with only as much in potatoes as supplies the family. This must necessarily tend to impoverish the soil, and render it less productive. The leases being, in many cases, only from year to year,—the smallness of the farms, the wretched steadings, and the want of enclosures,—all combine to operate against the occupier as well as the proprietor. Indeed, there are many farmers who do not entirely depend upon the produce of their crops for paying their rent; for they are often obliged to seek in the prolific sea, that subsistence which the earth would yield, were greater care taken of it, and a better system of culture practised.

Quarries.—There is a slate quarry on the west side of the parish, from which, it is observed, in the former Account, that from 30,000 to 40,000 slates were annually sold. “They are strong, thick, last long, and are the best in the county.” Slates are still taken from this quarry; but, though they are better adapted to the climate than Easdale slates, they are in general not so much used, forming rather a weighty roof. There are no proper stone quarries. The stones which are used in the erection of houses are quarried from the shore, and conveyed to the town in large boats. Some years ago, a Company commenced working a granite quarry near the town, with the intention of shipping for a proper market; but, though the granite was thought of a superior kind, the company, from want of capital, did not proceed with the undertaking.

A lead mine was wrought, eighty years ago; but the ore was not in sufficient quantity to defray the expense, and remunerate the worker.

Fisheries.—During the three last years, a few enterprising individuals have endeavoured to establish a herring-fishing station at Stromness; and, though they have not been so successful as could have been wished, they are still resolved to persevere. Should they succeed, their undertaking will tend greatly to promote the prosperity of the town, and be of essential service to the fishermen, as it will enable them to remain at home, instead of going to other stations in the islands,—which must be attended with considerable expense. In the months of May and June 1837, there were about 2000 crans taken.

There are, also, some boats employed every season, in the

months of May and June, in fishing lobsters. At an average, for the last twelve years, there have been 11,622 lobsters shipped annually for the London market, by Gravesend smacks, which call here twice a week during the fishing season.

Some sloops engage in the cod fishing,—though this fishing is not carried on, nearly to the same extent as in some of the other Orkney Islands.

Manufactures.—Before the duty was taken off barilla, there was a considerable quantity of kelp manufactured; but since the price has fallen so greatly, it scarcely remunerates the proprietor; and the consequence is, that very little is now done in the manufacturing of that article. Whether this will ultimately be advantageous or disadvantageous to the country, is a question upon which a diversity of opinion prevails. We only remark, that proprietors evidently placed more reliance than they ought to have done, upon the manufacturing of that precarious article, and thereby neglected the improvement of their lands, which would have afforded them a more permanent benefit.

There are a few straw plait manufacturers, who employ a number of women in the town as well as in the country. This manufacture has been, for some time past, upon the decline; and, being at all times dependent upon the caprice of fashion, has lately afforded a scanty subsistence to the many young females who totally depend on it for their support. They are now allowed to plait in their own homes, which has been found more conducive to their health and morals, than doing so collectively, in the houses of the manufacturers, which was the original custom.—There is a small rope manufactory, where ropes of various kinds are made, both for the shipping and for country use. From the former Account, it appears there was a considerable quantity of linen and woollen cloth manufactured. This business has now wholly ceased here, being superseded by the perfect machinery now in use.

Navigation.—The shipping belonging to Stromness has of late years greatly increased, and is at present in a very prosperous condition. The kind of vessel which is preferred is the schooner, which is found best suited for the trade in which it is employed. The owners seldom or never insure their vessels, and many of them have succeeded well. The number of vessels belonging to the town is 23; 2 of them brigs, 18 schooners; 3 sloops. Their tonnage amounts to 2132 tons.

The following table, which the captain of the Coast-guard in

Stromness has kindly handed to me, shows how much this commodious harbour is resorted to by all kinds of vessels.

Years.	Months.	No. of vessels.	Tonnage per month.	Tonnage yearly.	Remarks.
1835,	October,	- 36	- 6,671	-	To every one hundred tons, allow four men and one boy.
	Nov.	- 24	- 3,304	-	
	Dec.	- 7	- 901	-	
1836,	January,	- 13	- 1,348	-	
	Feb.	- 10	- 1,606	-	
	March,	- 42	- 6,927	-	
	April,	- 83	- 20,123	-	
	May,	- 19	- 2,657	-	
	June,	- 34	- 3,655	-	
	July,	- 34	- 3,666	-	60,207
	August,	- 51	- 6,579	-	
	Sept.	- 28	- 2,670	-	
		-	-	-	
1836,	October,	- 36	- 6,365	-	
	Nov.	- 37	- 5,127	-	
	Dec.	- 15	- 2,474	-	
1837,	January,	- 11	- 1,070	-	
	Feb.	- 13	- 2,029	-	
	March,	- 10	- 3,047	-	
	April,	- 31	- 5,479	-	
	May,	- 24	- 3,092	-	
	June,	- 17	- 2,290	-	46,517
	July,	- 32	- 2,543	-	
	August,	- 71	- 6,819	-	
	Sept.	- 62	- 6,182	-	
		-	-	-	
	October,	- 49	- 7,947	-	
	Nov.	- 43	- 6,684	-	
	Dec.	- 29	- 4,401	-	
1838,	January,	- 23	- 2,419	-	
	Feb.	- 8	- 379	-	
	March,	- 24	- 4,801	-	
	April,	- 49	- 11,117	-	

The Honourable Hudson's Bay Company's ships call here on their outward passage in the month of June, and take with them a number of men to be employed as labourers, artisans, &c. The average number of men who have here been hired yearly to go out to their settlements in North America, for the last four years, is from 35 to 40. Under the sanction of this Company, missionaries are sent out by the Church of England, and Wesleyan Methodists. It would be of great consequence could a missionary or two be sent out by the General Assembly of our church, as there are so many men there who belong to Orkney, by whom the boon would be greatly prized.

For a long period, a number of whalers have called here to obtain their full complement of men for the whale-fishing at Davis' Straits; but lately, the number has considerably decreased. There

ORKNEY.

c

have been engaged; for the last seven years, on an average, 292 men annually. The number at one time was much greater.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The only town in the parish is Stromness. At the beginning of last century, it is observed in the former Statistical Account, "it was an inconsiderable village, consisting only of half a-dozen houses with slated roofs, and a few scattered huts, the first inhabited by two gentlemen of landed property, and two or three small traders, the last by a few fishermen and mechanics." In 1719, it was assessed by the burgh of Kirkwall, and continued tributary thereto till May 1743, when it sought to effect its freedom, and happily succeeded; for, by a decision of the Court of Session confirmed by the House of Lords, it was fully emancipated, and thus became instrumental in obtaining freedom for the other villages in Scotland which had formerly been tributary to royal burghs.

It has since rapidly increased in population and in trade, which is to be traced in a great measure to the safety and commodiousness of the harbour,—on the west of which the town is situated. There are few places which afford a better or more beautiful site for the erection of a town. It is composed chiefly of one street, which extends three-quarters of a mile on the side of the harbour; but the houses have been erected without any regular plan. The only object which the first proprietors appear to have had in view, in the erection of their houses, was to secure access to the harbour. Till very lately, the street was not sufficiently wide to admit of a passage for carts and other vehicles. Some improvements, however, have lately been made upon the town, and especially upon the street. It still admits of many, and never can possess that regular appearance which its fine situation so well deserves.

In the year 1815, Stromness was constituted a Burgh of barony; and two magistrates, with nine councillors, have since held authority in it; but having no funds, and there being no jail nearer than Kirkwall, their power is greatly curtailed.

Means of Communication.—There is regular communication between this parish and Kirkwall three times a-week, by a gig which conveys the mail. Last June, a mail-coach commenced running, daily, in place of the gig. It was an interesting as well as a novel scene, to see a regular mail-coach in *ultima Thule*. It is, however, a matter of regret, that such encouragement was not given as to enable the proprietors to continue running the coach during winter.

The distance betwixt Stromness and Kirkwall, the only towns in the county, is about 15 miles; and of late the road has been considerably improved. There is a post-office in town, and a south mail *via* Kirkwall arrive Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, when not detained at the Pentland Frith, which is often the case, especially in winter.*

Enclosures are comparatively rare; which, to a great extent, retards agricultural improvement. Cattle, horses, and swine, which are numerous, being allowed to go at large after the crop is gathered in, greatly injure the fields in a climate subject to rains during so many months in the year. It also prevents the regular rotation of crops, which is so indispensable to proper farming.

The estate of Cairston is, however, an exception. There is a considerable part of it well inclosed: it is also farmed on the most improved system, by the proprietor, Mr Pollexfen. It possesses many beautiful fields, which yield hay, potatoes, bear, and oats, of a superior quality. In the vicinity of the town, a few proprietors have made some inclosures, which have increased the value of their property.

Harbour.—The harbour is one of the most commodious in the north of Scotland, and forms a safe retreat to all sorts of vessels. It is frequented during the winter and spring months by many vessels in the coasting-trade, as well as foreign vessels, which find in it a safe anchorage, and are well sheltered from the west wind, (which generally is most boisterous,) by a hill above the town. It lies on the east side of the parish, and is approached by the south, is about a mile in length, and somewhat less than half a mile in breadth.

There are two beautiful little holms or small islands which bound the harbour on the east, and render the anchorage still more safe and secure.

Upon the south side of the harbour, on the property of Ness, a patent slip, with the necessary apparatus, has been lately erected, capable of receiving a vessel of 400 or 500 tons. This was greatly needed, from the number of vessels which pass through the Pentland Frith, and are often compelled to take refuge in the harbour, and to obtain the repairs which their disabled state requires. This slip was erected in April 1836: and in the course of the three succeeding years, thirty vessels were received upon it and repaired,—their tonnage, 3368 tons.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is situate in the town,

* There is now a daily mail.

the most convenient site for the mass of the population. The greatest distance from the extremity of the parish, is about five miles. It was erected in the year 1814. It is in a tolerable state of repair; but, being much exposed to violent storms, the roof almost every year requires repair. It has accommodation for 1200. There are forty free sittings, and two long seats, which extend along the greater part of the middle passage. The manse was erected in the year 1780. It underwent repair during the incumbency of my predecessor, and before I entered it in the spring of 1839.

The glebe, including what is occupied by house, garden, and a meadow, is about ten acres in extent; if let, its rent would amount to about L.6 per annum.

The stipend is the minimum, with L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

There is no other church in the parish, except a small Secession church. The minister receives L.120 per annum, and L.12 for communion elements.

Divine worship is well attended both in the Established Church and in the Dissenting Chapel.

There are 1000 persons in communion with the Established Church. Of that number, about 900 communicate each time at the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which is dispensed twice in the year. About 400 are in communion with the Secession.

There is, in connection with the Established Church, a Bible and Missionary Society; average amount of yearly contributions about L.20. There is also a Society of a similar nature in connection with the Dissenters. Of the amount of its contributions I am not aware.

In general, we have three or four collections during the year for benevolent purposes,—in behalf of Sabbath schools and the Assembly's schemes. Average amount about L.14.

Education.—There are five schools taught by males and five by females in the parish. Eight of these schools are in the burgh.

There is a parochial school; but so situate, and so provided with accommodations, that its benefits do not extend to the town, nor to other populous districts of the country. We deeply regret to say, that, in this parish, the grand design of this excellent parochial institution is, in a great measure, defeated, and the young are deprived of that advantage to which they are entitled by the law of the land.

There are two subscription schools in the town. The other

schools depend upon the fees received. The five female schools are in the town, and the fees afford very inadequate support to the teachers. In the parish school the branches taught are, reading, writing, and arithmetic. In the subscription schools, in addition to these branches, Latin, Greek, French, and mathematics are taught. The teacher of the other school in town has a class for Navigation, which is greatly required here. In the female schools, the common branches, viz. English, writing, arithmetic, and sewing are taught; and, in one or two of the most respectable, music and drawing.

The parochial teacher has the minimum salary. The subscription school teachers receive about L.50 per annum.

We believe there are few betwixt the years of six and fifteen who cannot read. In general, the parents, however poor, make every effort to send their children to school for a short time, to be instructed in the elementary branches of education, especially reading. With respect to the fatherless, in most cases which have come under our notice, some benevolent person is found willing to get them instructed in reading.

We feel called upon to say, that there are few places in Scotland, with such a population as Stromness, where there is such need of an efficient endowed school. There being no endowed school in the town, and the fees of the subscription ones being high, the poor are precluded from the benefit of proper instruction; and when it is known that there are numerous widows (whose husbands have perished at sea), left with their large families helpless and dependent, unable to provide for their sustenance, far less to afford them a good education, it must be evident, that, were a proper school with an endowment established, it would confer an invaluable blessing upon an interesting but long-neglected community. It is hoped that something may be done for this place by the General Assembly's Education Committee. The Sabbath school connected with the Established Church was instituted in the spring of 1830; and was attended at first by betwixt 200 and 300. It has since continued to increase and flourish, and for the last seven years has been attended by fully 300 scholars on an average. There are in all twenty-six classes, which are instructed by male and female teachers, selected from the most pious and best informed of the elders and members.

A Sabbath school, numerously attended, is also regularly kept in the Dissenting church.

Library.—A public library was established, nearly twenty years ago. It consists of a number of valuable books, and the leading reviews of the day. For some years past, novels have been excluded, and works of a more solid character substituted in their place. The annual subscription is 7s.

There is a Sabbath school library in connection with the Established Church, and also one in connection with the Dissenting congregation.

Friendly Society.—Till very lately, a Friendly Society existed in the town, but it was some years ago dissolved.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of poor persons upon the roll who receive quarterly allotments, is 85. The highest allowance is 4s. per quarter: but in general 2s. or 2s. 6d. is the sum allotted quarterly. In addition to this, however, some allowance is made during winter for fuel; and in case of sickness or old age, the elder of the district where the pauper resides is empowered to give something additional. Our sole dependence for supporting the poor, is on the amount of collections made at the church doors on Sabbath, and the fees for proclamation of banns, and the use of mortcloth. The ordinary collections for the last eight years amount at an average to about L. 50 annually; and extraordinary, to about L. 20. In general the people are so very poor, that they evince no reluctance to seek parochial relief.

There is no prison in Stromness. This greatly weakens the authority of the magistrates, and is unfavourable to the morals of this populous district. Were an efficient jail erected, it would intimidate the lawless, and be an effectual means of preventing crime, and the lesser delinquencies.

Inns.—In town, there are 4 inns, kept by respectable persons, in which good accommodation will be found, and every attention paid. In town, the number of houses in which spirits and beer are sold is 27, the number in which beer only is sold, 7; in all 34.

Natural History Society.—Some time ago, a Natural History Society was instituted in town, the object of which was to form a museum, and to collect specimens of the islands' productions, birds, fishes, shells, &c. Considerable success has already crowned the laudable undertaking. A number of curiosities, domestic and foreign, have already been placed in the museum. A respectable collection of the birds, &c. of Orkney has been made; and soon, it is hoped, the museum will be an object worthy of being inspected by the tourists who may visit this remote island.

The first annual Report has been published; it contains a list of the curiosities, &c. which have been presented to the Institution.

Fuel.—Peat is the fuel most generally used, and is procured from a moss in the parish. The inhabitants of the town are supplied in a great measure from the islands, where the peats are of a superior quality. The more wealthy and respectable families use coals, which are brought from Newcastle and Sunderland.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the former Statistical Account was published, many improvements have taken place; for instance, the increase of carts from 12 to 140, and of ploughs in the same proportion, demonstrates that there must have been some advancement made in agricultural improvement. Still, much remains to be done; and unless a better system of farming, and a regular rotation of crops, be adopted, more substantial and comfortable farm-steadings erected, and the lands to a certain extent enclosed, agriculture must remain stationary, and the peasantry cannot be raised to that respectability which is so desirable, and so conducive to the interest of the proprietor, and comfort of the tenant. The number of horses in the parish is 204; of ploughs, 91.

The burgh has greatly increased in wealth and prosperity, during the last forty years, from the regular increase of the shipping. If the herring-fishing succeed, and a station be established, it will tend still further to promote the prosperity of the place.

Drawn up 1839.

Revised July 1841.