

PARISH OF BATHGATE.

PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN & TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. SAMUEL MARTIN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY,

Name.—IN a grant by Malcolm IV. to the monks of Holyrood, this parish is named Barket. In other charters and deeds of the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries, the name is written Bathket, Barket, Bathcat, and Bathkat. The etymology the writer is unable to explain. The modern name is a manifest corruption of the original appellation.

Extent, Boundaries, and Figure.—The greatest length of this parish, which is in a line running nearly from west-south-west to east-north-east, is $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles; its greatest breadth at right angles to its length, is 4 miles. It contains 17.53 square miles: 8921.72 Scotch, or 11214.6 imperial acres.*

* Any one who takes the trouble to compute them, will find that these statements are not exactly, though very nearly, equivalent. They are taken from Forrest's large map of Linlithgowshire, and the writer believes them all to be beyond the truth.

The figure of this parish is nearly that of a parallelogram, of $5\frac{2}{3}$ miles by rather less than $3\frac{1}{2}$, with a projecting branch running a mile more to the west, a similar one, extending about two-thirds of a mile to the east, and a larger protuberance on the north. It is bounded on the north, by Torphichen, and a small portion of Linlithgow; on the east, by Ecclesmachan and Livingston; on the south, by Livingston and Whitburn; and on the west, by Shotts and Torphichen.

Hills and general aspect of the Parish.—The centre of Linlithgowshire is composed of a somewhat elevated plateau, surrounded on all sides by hills of considerable height. The south-west corner of this bounding range, which has no general name, forms the north-eastern portion of the parish of Bathgate, covering nearly one-seventh of its whole extent. Close upon the boundary between Bathgate and Torphichen, the range attains its highest elevation in the hill of Cairnapple, or Cairnpapple, which is said, in various maps, to be 1498 feet above the level of the sea. This, it is apprehended, is considerably beyond the truth. There are two eminences within the boundary of Bathgate, one named the Knock, and the other Reiving Craig, which are not more than from 20 to 30 feet lower than Cairnapple. The western, and to some extent, the southern slope of the hilly mass is rather steep, but contains in it the best land in the parish. The tract at its foot is the lowest ground in the parish, is naturally marshy, and appears once to have been, to a considerable extent, covered with water. The surface water is now removed, and the wetness of the soil somewhat corrected by draining. Beyond this, the rest of the parish, both south and west, is very level, though having on the whole a gentle and continuous rise towards the boundary line in these directions. On the southern half of the west boundary, however, the ground again sinks into a deep moss, which extends between this parish and that of Shotts.

Our climate is rather moist, and vegetation is about a fortnight later here than it is nine or ten miles to the east.

Lakes, &c.—The only lake is a small one of about eleven acres in extent in the park of Balbardie. It is partly artificial, and has an average depth of five feet, though in one place upwards of twelve. It forms a very pretty object in that beautiful and well-wooded park. There is no stream of importance connected in any way with this parish, except the Amond, which forms the boundary for little more than a mile between Bathgate and Whit-

burn. Springs abound in this parish. The water from them is in many places tinged with iron. One, on the estate of Couston, seems to resemble very much in quality the celebrated Dollar water.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The dip of the strata is universally to the west and north-west. The inclination is exceedingly various, ranging from 5° to as much as 45° . The latter is found, however, only where some violent disruption of the strata has taken place. Almost the whole of this parish forms part of the great central coal field of Scotland. In regard to every part of it except the east and south-east, it has been ascertained from working sand from recent borings, that coal is to be found, and generally in workable seams. Whinstone dikes are of frequent occurrence, deranging the seams and oft spoiling the coal. There are also frequent dislocations of the strata, elevating or depressing the beds, sometimes as much as several fathoms, without any intervening dike at all. Above the coal, and so far as has been ascertained, beneath it too, beds of freestone occur. The crowning points of the hilly part of the parish are all formed of secondary trap rocks, such as basalt and whin or greenstone. These give place on the western ridge and slope to coal, as already mentioned, and to thick beds of sandstone, and mountain limestone. These beds are occasionally intersected by a bed of trap, taking sometimes the form of basalt, and amygdaloid, and are all rich in organic remains. In the coarse sandstone, and among the intervening beds of shale lepidodendra have been found, and grasses in the finer grained sandstone. The limestone is supposed by some geologists to be of two distinct formations, the one a marine, the other a lacustrine deposit. The workings in these supposed different deposits are not half a mile asunder; and if the strata are continuous, which has been ascertained only partially, they must lie within a hundred yards of each other. In the one, various species of corallines, ammonites, and other marine shells of every kind, the *pecten*, *nautilus*, *mytilus*, *anomia*, *orthoceras*, &c. abound. They often form, in fact, to a great extent, the mass of the stone. The principal stratum of this formation is about forty feet thick, including seams of flint of varying thickness. Many fissures occur in it, and the lower portion of it may be called cavernous, as it occasionally presents openings into which a man may enter to unknown depths. Various spars occur in the fissures, and stalactites in these openings. This “limestone is associated with hornstone; this mineral form-

ing in it numerous contemporaneous imbedded masses, containing in some places silicified madrepores." (Cunningham's Geology of the Lothians, 7th Vol. Mem. Wern. Soc.) The other, the supposed lacustrine formation, has been described by Dr Hibbert in the Appendix to his valuable memoir on the Burdiehouse Limestone. He states that its mineralogical character indicates that it was elaborated under a very powerful chemical action: and he specifies the separation of the miscellaneous earthy matters which compose it into thin laminæ, some of them of remarkable tenuity, and their assumption of a striped (*rubané*, as it is termed,) disposition,—the blistered appearances, as if from heat, exhibited by the mixed ferruginous and carbonaceous layers which are found in the limestone—the singular wavings which the strata show, not only on the large scale, but even in hand specimens—and the botryoidal and mammillary structure, which other portions present, as all "tending to the hypothesis, that the calcareous beds of Kirkton were elaborated under the action of great heat, or, in other words, that they had their origin in deep fissures, intimately connected with a volcanic focus." He remarks, indeed, that this is no more hypothetical matter. For, "an interposed mass of volcanic tufa of a green colour, which occasionally assumes the compactness of greenstone, is developed among the higher beds of the deposit." This limestone, with its accompaniments, Dr Hibbert pronounces "one of the most unique formations of which Great Britain can boast, indicative of thermal waters belonging to the carboniferous epoch." This limestone, says Mr Cunningham, "contains the usual plants of the coal series, and also fossilized wood." Specimens also have been discovered of a crustaceous animal of very large dimensions. Dr Hibbert has identified them with the *Eurypterus* of North America, described first by Dr Harlan, and referred by him to the class Crustacea, and order Branchiopoda. The Kirkton specimens, however, are of a different species from those found in North America, and are distinguished by their extraordinary size.*

In the limestone beds, lead is found in small, and often interrupt-

* In a note to his paper on the Geology of the Lothians, already quoted, Mr Cunningham says, "to those who are inclined to consider the limestone of Kirkton as of fresh-water origin from the statements of Dr Hibbert in the 12th Vol. Trans. Roy. Soc. Ed. that a decidedly fresh-water limestone is there exposed, which is characterized by the absence of all marine shells, coral, &c. we may mention, that the fact of its being so characterized is incorrect, in as much as we have found in it specimens of the productus."

ed veins, exhibiting also traces of silver. One lime-work retains the name of Silver mine from silver ore having for some time been wrought in it. After yielding a considerable quantity of silver, the veins became so small, that the produce would not repay the expense, and the lime alone is wrought now. Traces of zinc (brown blend) are said to have been observed. Iron pyrites is frequently found, disseminated in its crystalline forms. Iron bands are observed in the Kirkton formation. In connection with the coal strata, iron ore is sometimes found. Formerly this ore was wrought on the estate of Couston, by the Carron Company. It was found in masses like rolled boulders, imbedded among clay, and was a very rich ore. Thin beds of mineral pitch are found in the limestone. Calcspar is, of course, plentiful; heavy-spar, pearl-spar, and Lydian stone, are occasionally found, and, but more rarely, chalcidony. In the hilly part of the parish, whinstone, greenstone, and basalt are the prevalent rocks; in the level parts sandstone. The rocks, except on the hills where they frequently crop out, are covered with earth to the depth of 30 or 40 feet. The general subsoil is a wet tenacious clay. Beds and knolls of sand and gravel are, however, of frequent occurrence; and the general substratum of the south-east part of the parish is deep gravel. On this, peat-moss is in some places superimposed. Peat abounds in the parish, and is sometimes of great depth. Fire-clay is also abundant. In all the mosses, trees—generally oaks,—are found imbedded in considerable numbers. Mr Weir, Junior, of Boghead, is in possession of a fine specimen of the head and horns of the red-deer, which were found in a meadow on his property in 1836. The antlers measure respectively 3 feet 2 inches, and 3 feet 3 inches.

There are four limeworks in this parish; and a fifth (Kirkton) recently suspended, besides older workings. One of these works, on the East Mains of Ballincreeff, is wrought in the great stratum already mentioned, to the depth of about 25 feet, including a silicious bed about 5 feet thick, which is not worth burning. The *tirring* is here from 12 to 40 feet. The covering consists first of earth, then indurated slaty clay, or shale, freestone, and flint. The freestone is often wanting. Another work is carried on a little farther south, on the same property. It is in the same stratum, but more advantageously situated for working, being partly on the crop of the bed. The part of the stratum wrought is here somewhat thicker, and contains between 3 and 4 feet of matter not

fit for burning. Close by this work, on the property of Balbar-
die, a third one is situated in the same stratum. Between them is
interposed a whinstone dike, the effect of which is very great.
It changes the dip from 10° to 45° . The thickness of the work-
able bed is here about 40 feet, with the same proportion (3 to 4
feet) of waste. The tiring here is only about 15 feet, and be-
tween the surface earth and the lime, nothing but a little loose sand-
stone is interposed. Dikes of very various thicknesses, it should be
added, occur very frequently in this lime, often within every hun-
dred yards. The Silver mine work, opened originally in the pa-
rish of Torphichen, has, in the course of time, extended into that
of Bathgate. It has been wrought as a lime-work about 100
years. It lies higher in the hills, and is wrought in a different
stratum, or, at least, cut off from the other by a wide mass of whin.
The bed of lime, which dips to the north-west at the rate of 1 in 3,
is about 55 feet thick. Of this 40 feet are wrought, the other 15
feet being generally so much coarser as to be neglected. The
tiring is from 60 to 70 feet, consisting chiefly of *blaes*, with 8 feet
of very hard freestone. Toads have been found in this lime.

The lime produced at all these works is good.

Coal has been wrought long and extensively in this parish. On
the western slope of the hills, and round the town are many old
workings, which have been abandoned for a considerable time.
Of works at present open there is, 1. Barbauchlaw. The earth
is here about 24 feet deep, succeeded by common freestone, a black
blaes, (bituminous shale,) *faihes*, (thin beds of friable sandstone,
intermingled with shale and clay), twenty inches of red sandstone,
grey *blaes*, (common shale), very coarse ironstone, 18 inches of
coal, fire-clay, grey *blaes*, 6 to 8 feet of freestone, fire-clay of va-
riable thickness, averaging 3 feet, but sometimes wanting altoge-
ther, and then at the depth of $16\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms the main coal, 4 feet
thick. 2. In the Hardhill coal-work, the first workable seam is
found at the depth of 16 fathoms. There is nothing between it
and the surface earth but *faihes*. The coal seam presents first 3
feet 2 inches of coal, then 3 inches of clay, and then 10 inches
more of coal. The next seam of coal presents 2 feet 10 inches
of coal, 4 inches of *blaes*, and 9 inches of coal. It lies 4 fathoms
deeper than the first seam, and between them lies some excellent
and very white sandstone. From 4 to 6 fathoms deeper lies a par-
rot coal, which is not yet wrought. The coal here dips to the north-
west, at the rate of about 1 in 14. 3. In the Colinshiel coal-work,

after 6 fathoms of earth, freestone appears, succeeded by a seam of coal 2 feet thick; freestone very hard and white, lies between this and the coal now wrought, which is 3 feet 10 inches thick, and situated 12 fathoms from the surface. 11 fathoms deeper it has been ascertained that another seam occurs, 2 feet 4 inches thick. Four works have been recently given up.

Zoology.—On the banks of Bathgate water, a small stream, which draining the lands east and south of the town, flows past it, and runs towards the north-west, till it joins the Barbauchlaw water, the otter was a few years ago rather abundant. Though its numbers have been very much thinned, it is still occasionally seen and killed there. In the Barbauchlaw water, which is an affluent of the Avon, trout are plentiful. Salmon come up it to spawn in the end of autumn, and return in spring. The following birds are found in the parish: * Grasshopper warbler (*Salicaria locustella*). Mr Weir found a nest of this rare bird in a thick furze bush on the top of Bathgate hills. "This," he states, "is, I believe, the only nest of this bird which has as yet been discovered in Scotland." Siskin or aberdevine (*Carduelis spinus*). In 1834, a nest of the siskin was discovered in this parish. As the representations of naturalists respecting its habits differ, it may be important to state that the nest was on a spruce fir in the middle of a strong hawthorn hedge, and about 5½ feet from the ground. The birds fed on the ripe seeds of the dandelion. In winter small flocks of them are occasionally seen on Bathgate hills, feeding on the seeds of the knapweed, *Centaurea nigra*. The kingfisher (*Alcedo ispida*) is a regular winter visitant of Bathgate water. In severe seasons, it often seeks its food almost under the wheel of a mill on the stream, although people are constantly passing and repassing. The nightjar or fern-owl (*Caprimulgus Europæus*),—several of these curious birds breed here every year. White's minute and interesting account of their habits agrees exactly with the observations made on them here. The crossbill (*Loxia Europæa*, Macgillivray,) has lately been seen in considerable numbers. Their food has been chiefly the seeds of the larch, which they obtain by separating the scales of the cones with their powerful bills. The European dipper (*Cinclus aquaticus*), and the sandpiper (*Totanus hypoleucos*) build

* This account of the birds is abridged from a communication furnished to the writer by his friend, Mr Durham Weir, who has paid much attention to this department of natural history, and who has procured within the parish specimens of nearly all the birds mentioned.

† Montagu states that this bird is extremely early in its singing. It is so also in its breeding. On April 25, 1834, its first brood was found by Mr Weir to be ripe.

on the brink of the Barbauchlaw water. A few pairs of the ring-ouzel (*Merula torquata*) breed every year about the rocky ground on the top of Bathgate hills. The black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), the coot (*Fulica atra*), the gallinule or water-hen (*Gallinula chloropus*), and wild-duck (*Anas boschas*) breed about the banks of Balbardie loch, and Bathgate water. The same situations are visited during autumn and winter by the redshank sandpiper (*Totanus calidris*), the heron (*Ardea cinerea*), the teal (*Querquedula crecca*), the wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), the crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), the little grebe (*Podiceps minor*), and the bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*). The great cinereous shrike (*Lanius excubitor*, Linn.) the ruff (*Machetes pugnax*, Cuvier,) and the kite (*Milvus regalis*) have been occasionally observed. Golden orioles (*Oriolus galbula*) were once observed, and the turtle-dove (*Columba turtur*) once killed in the parish. Most birds that are reckoned game are found in this parish. Black and red grouse, pheasant, and partridge* all breed in it. The golden plover (*Charadrius pluvialis*) appears in large flocks during winter, and a few breed with us. Small flocks of the dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*) annually visit our hills in April and May. The quail has also been seen. The common snipe, curlew, and lapwing breed with us. Woodcocks, jack-snipes, fieldfares, and redwings visit us in winter. So do also flocks of snow-buntings, mountain finches, and starlings. In summer we have the spotted fly-catcher, the redstart, the wheat-ear, the whinchat, the sedge warbler, the black-cap warbler, (rare,) the greater and lesser pettychaps, the white-throat, &c.† There are two rookeries in the parish; one, which is extensive, in the wood close by Balbardie House; the other, which is but the scanty remains of a large one, is on the estate of Boghead.

* A few years ago partridges were very abundant. The inclemency of the last two or three seasons has thinned their numbers to such an extent that there seems a danger of their becoming altogether extinct. In the very cold and wet summer of 1836, several pairs were found dead in the fields with their broods under their wings—a striking proof of the strength of their parental affection. There are at present two to be seen on the estate of Barbauchlaw with beautiful white wings.

† It is impossible to notice the more common birds. From Mr Weir's notes however, the following facts may be added: Goldfinches have repeatedly built their nests in trees in the town of Bathgate. On one occasion, a pair selected for this purpose a poplar growing on the side of one of the most frequented streets. They became so tame, as to alight in the gutters with the sparrows in quest of food. A female goldfinch was known, twice at least, to pair with a male linnet in the wild state. The produce from this union were not admired as songsters. It is well-known that bullfinches commit great devastation among the buds of fruit trees and bushes. Mr Weir caught a male and a female on their nest in the act of feeding their young ones. He found their mouths full of small maggots. It is not improbable, therefore, that in destroying the buds, the birds are in fact destroying a far worse plague to the gardener than they themselves are imagined to be.

Among rarer insects, the humming-bird moth (*Macroglossa stellatarum*), and the death's head moth (*Acherontia Atropos*) may be mentioned as having been met with.

Botany.—Of the rarer species of plants found in this parish, the following may be mentioned :

Paris quadrifolia	Orchis bifolia	Iris pseudacorus
Adoxa moschatellina	Polygonum bistorta	Asperula odorata
Cistus helianthemum	Anthoxanthum odoratum	Glycoma hederacea
Erysimum alliaris	Pinguicula vulgaris	Saxifraga granulata
Solanum Dulcamara	Senecio saracenicus	Ranunculus ficaria
Malva moschata	Hippuris vulgaris	Linum catharticum.

The *Geranium phæum* and *Saponaria officinalis* have been found growing wild: but it is not certain that they are indigenous.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is little of historical interest connected with this parish. The barony of Bathgate formed part of the dower of Marjory Bruce, "the lass who brought the sceptre into the Stewarts' house." A castle on it, situate in the low grounds south of the town, which must then have been a morass,* was from this date occasionally inhabited by the royal family. Here Walter Stewart himself died in 1328. Hardly a vestige even of the foundations of the castle is now to be discovered. Kitchen utensils of brass, have, however, sometimes been found about it; and coffins, formed of flat stones, have been torn up by the plough in the neighbouring grounds. Some of the inhabitants of this parish suffered hardship and loss in the time of the Covenanters. One man, by name James Davie, was shot by one of a party of dragoons, who dispersed a congregation assembled in a hollow on the farm of Blackdub, in the western part of the parish. The worshippers had escaped across a strip of deep moss, which interposed an effectual obstacle to the progress of their mounted pursuers. But while they stood on the other side gazing at their enemies, and thinking themselves quite safe, the troopers fired their carbines at them across the moss. The only shot that took effect killed Davie. His body lies in the old churchyard of Bathgate,† with this in-

* Some remains of the causeways, by which access was obtained to the castle through this morass, still exist.

† There are two grave-yards in this parish. The old is a full mile to the south-east of the town. It surrounds the crumbling walls of what was once the parish church. When this church was built, and when abandoned, is utterly unknown. There was at least one other church between this ancient one and the present church. No feasible conjecture occurs to account for the adoption of a site for the church so far from the town, and so inconvenient for almost the whole inhabitants of the parish, except this, that it might have been originally the chapel connected with the Stewarts' castle. The new churchyard is in the centre of the town, surrounding the present church.

scription, "Here lies the body of James Davie, who was shot at Blackdub, April 1673, by Heron, for his adhering to the word of God and Scotland's covenanted work of Reformation, in opposition to Popery, Prelacy, perjury, and tyranny."

Eminent Men.—Dr Fleming, the celebrated naturalist, and now Professor of Natural Philosophy in King's College, Aberdeen, is a native of this parish.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are the Earl of Hope-toun; Colonel Swindel Norval of Boghall; Mr Marjoribanks of Marjoribanks; Mr Hart of Kirkton; Captain Sandilands of Cous-ton, &c.

Parochial Registers.—The registers of this parish are somewhat voluminous. They had been well kept, except about the commencement of the present century. Portions, however, have been lost. The register of births begins in 1672, and, with a blank between 1684 and 1687, and another between 1694 and 1721, continues to the present time. The register of proclamations also begins in 1672, and is perfect with the omission of but two years to 1767; from that date to 1789, a record is possessed only for six years; from 1789, the register is complete. The register of deaths begins 1698, and continues to 1710. From 1710 to 1769, a record is preserved only for eighteen scattered years. From 1769, the register is complete. Of the Records of the Kirk-session's Actings, Vol. I. embraces the period from 1633 to 1645, and from 1647 to 1650; Vol. ii. from 1672 to 1689. In other three volumes, the record is complete from 1694 to 1792. From that year to 1820, only some loose scrolls of minutes are in existence; but from 1820 to this day they are complete.

Antiquities.—“Near Bathgate,” says Penney,* “are memorial remains of Druid worship.” The writer of this notice gives the statement as he finds it, but does not know to what it refers. In the stone coffins already referred to, some copper coins were found. There have also been turned up, in different parts of the parish, coins of Edward I., Queen Elizabeth, and Charles II.

Modern Buildings.—Building goes on steadily in the town of Bathgate. The principal recent buildings are the Academy, a distillery, brewery, and gas-work. Freestone, either from the

* Account of Linlithgowshire, by John Penney.

quarries of the parish, or from those in the neighbourhood, is always employed.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish has been steadily increasing, as the following table will show :

In 1755, the population was	1594
1791,	2325
1801,	2513
1821,	3283
1831,	3610
1841,	3927

The increase in the last ten years being 317, or less than ten per cent. on the whole, seems to be nothing more than might be expected in the natural progress of population. Of the above number, 2809 resided in the town of Bathgate, 103 in a small village, and 1015 in the country part of the parish.

The yearly average of births it is impossible to state accurately. Many parents will not be at the trouble or expense of registration. Estimating from the number baptized in the parish church, the number of births will be about 97 or 98 per annum. The average of deaths for the last seven years previous to 1838 has been 73, of which 19, or 26 per cent. were above seventy years of age, and 9, or 12.33 per cent. above eighty. Taking the population during these seven years as averaging 3700, the annual mortality was 1.973 per cent. This very low rate proves the general healthiness of our climate and situation. It may be also partly attributed to the copious supply of excellent water brought into the town from the high grounds above. The yearly average of marriages for the same period was 28.

This parish has few resident heritors. Only five or six families of independent fortune reside in it. There are connected with it nineteen proprietors of land of the yearly value of £. 50 and upwards.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The number of imperial acres, either constantly cultivated or occasionally in tillage, is 8712; those which have never been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste or in pasture, amount to 803; under wood, 506, of which only 2 or 3 are natural. The rest of the area of the parish is occupied by the site of the town with its gardens, by fences, and roads. Probably one-half of the waste land might be reclaimed at a profitable rate. The only thing like common occurs in the case of two pieces

of ground; one of four or five acres, over which a number of people have the right of *feal and divot* (taking turf for putting on the ridges of houses thatched with straw;) the other of four acres, on which the burgh has the right of holding the annual fairs. The trees that are chiefly planted are larch, silver, spruce, and Scotch firs, oak, elm, ash, and plane. The management of the plantations is in general good.

Rent—Wages.—The rent of land varies exceedingly, according to situation and quality. Inclosures round the town are sometimes let as high as L. 3, 3s. per imperial acre. On the other hand, there is land let at very little more than 7s. The average per imperial acre may be 16s. 6d.

Husbandry.—Sheep are hardly kept in this parish at all. The only pure breed of cattle found here is the Ayrshire. Mixed breeds are very numerous. The husbandry is fully more pastoral than arable, the vicinity of the metropolis, and the nature of the soil, making the dairy a very profitable part of the farmer's arrangements. Most of the late improvements in husbandry are finding their way into this parish, in so far as climate and soil will admit of them. The improvements most required are draining and planting. In regard to the latter, some proprietors have of late done a good deal. Mr Weir, Senior, of Boghead, has been the most extensive improver in this way, having, in the course of twenty years, planted 86 acres. But many properties continue almost destitute of wood, though its shelter is in this district very valuable. In the way of draining and reclaiming waste land, a great deal has of late been done by the resident proprietors, who farm their own land, and by tenants. Some tenants have put drains in every field of their farms. The ordinary duration of leases is nineteen years. Rents generally are fixed in money. The terms of leases are commonly fair to both landlord and tenant. If the stipulations of a lease are strict, yet deviations from them are never challenged, if the proprietor sees that the tenant is doing justice to the land. Farm-houses and buildings have latterly been considerably improved. In very many cases, however, they are much inferior to what they should be. This, with want of capital, and, in some cases, want of encouragement by the proprietors, are the greatest obstacles to improvement in the agricultural state of this parish.

Quarries, &c.—Besides the lime and coal-works already noticed, there are several freestone and whinstone quarries. Of the for-

mer, only one is constantly wrought. It is in the park of Balbardie, and affords a very excellent and beautiful building stone. The whinstone quarries are chiefly wrought for materials for the roads.

Produce.—

The produce of grain crops averages in value, as nearly as can be ascertained,	L.7541	5	3
Potatoes, turnips, &c.	5448	5	0
Hay,	1892	0	0
Land employed in pasture,	13160	0	0
Mines and quarries,	6000	0	0
Other produce, gardens, woods, &c. at least	500	0	0
Total,	L.34541	10	3

Manufactures.—The mass of the town population is manufacturing. There are about 500 handloom weavers, all supplied with work from Glasgow, except a few employed by an Edinburgh shawl-manufacturer, and a few engaged with *customer-work*. 122 women and girls are employed in tambouring, and 38 in sewing webs. The wages of weaving, though occasionally good, have, on the average, afforded but a scanty remuneration to the workman for years past. Tambouring and sewing webs have, for a considerable period, been very inadequately paid. Two brick and tile-works afford occupation to several hands. A distillery has been in active operation for a number of years. A considerable brewery was established somewhat later.

Associations.—There is an Agricultural Society here, which has an annual show, at which premiums are distributed. Its influence has been decidedly beneficial. A Horticultural Society has been in existence for six years.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Town.—The town of Bathgate had in 1841 a population of 2809. It was originally a burgh of barony, a baron baillie being appointed by the proprietor of the estate of Bathgate. In 1824, with the consent of the late Mr Marjoribanks of Balbardie, who was then superior of the town, an Act of Parliament was obtained, by which it was erected into an independent burgh of barony, and all provision made for the government, police, &c. of the town. It is now governed by a provost, three baillies, treasurer, and twelve councillors, the provost, two baillies, treasurer, and four councillors being elected yearly by the burghesses. The burgh funds consist of road money, customs, common good, and an assessment limited by the act to 1s. a-pound on the valued rent of the houses in the burgh; from these funds the "paving, lighting, and improving the burgh, and establishing a police therein," are defray-

ed. Much has been done in the last four years to improve the pavements and causeways; and, a gas-work having been established, the principal streets are now tolerably lighted. The chief employment of the inhabitants is, as already mentioned, manufacturing. There is a weekly corn-market, held on Wednesday, at which considerable quantities of grain are sold. It is by much the most important market within the county. The National Bank of Scotland and the Glasgow Union have each a branch here. At the last revision of the roll of electors for the county, the number of electors deriving qualifications from property in the town was 72. In the landward part of the parish, the number was 61; total, 133.

There is only one place deserving the name of a village, viz. Armadale, two miles west from the town of Bathgate.

Means of Communication.—The post-office here receives letters twice a-day from the east, and once from the west. But the dispatch of letters is not so convenient, the letter-bags being all made up at night. The communications by roads are on all hands very commodious, and the roads in general well kept. The turnpike-road from Borrowstownness towards Lanark runs for about four miles and a-half through the parish, and the middle Edinburgh and Glasgow road for a trifle more than seven. On the latter there travelled for some years from twelve to eighteen stage-coaches daily. All have been given up since the railway was opened. Good bridges are found wherever bridges are needed. The fences consist chiefly of thorns, with here and there a considerable mixture of beech. Much attention has been paid to them; and generally they are in pretty good order. An act has been obtained for a railway from Bathgate to the Slamanan Railway; but there is little likelihood of its being soon acted upon.

Four mills in the parish, two provided with steam-engines, afford all facility for making flour, meal, and pot-barley.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is situated in the town of Bathgate, and stands very near the centre of the parish, being very little more than four miles from the western, and about three miles and a-half from the eastern end of the parish. Only two families are above four miles from it. Though built in 1739, it is in very good repair. But, built when the population was not much more, if more at all, than one-third of its present amount, it has become totally inadequate to the number of inhabitants. It is seated (at the rate of 18 inches a-sitting) for 719 persons. Ac-

ording to the ordinary method of procedure, the sittings, with the exception of the communion seats, which are free to every one, and the minister's seat, were divided among the heritors in proportion to the valued rent of their lands, and by them allotted to their tenants. From this arrangement it results, that the whole inhabitants of the town can have right to sittings only in the seats pertaining to the Bathgate property, on which the town is built, and even these must be shared with the rural population on that property, so that the provision for 2664 persons is just 100 sittings. Though this is much the worst case, it is not a solitary instance of inadequate supply. In 1836, when these calculations were made, the estate of Barbauchlaw had dwelling on it 217 persons, while its proportion of sittings is only 33; that of Couston 145 persons, and 36 sittings; that of Boghead, 86 persons and 27 sittings. One or two other estates, it should at the same time be stated, have more than a needful amount of sittings. The utter inadequacy of the accommodation has occasioned a number of disputes about seats, and has compelled some persons to join Dissenting congregations, who otherwise would not have left the Established Church.

The manse was built in 1828. The glebe is about 11 acres in extent, and worth, on an average, about L.19. The stipend consists of L.76, 18s. 2½d., 45 bolls, 1 firloft, 1 peck, 2 lippies of meal, and 19 bolls, 1 peck of barley.

There are three Dissenting chapels in the parish. Two belong to the Relief and the Associate Synod, and the third is at present in connection with no religious body. The ministers of all are paid by their congregations.

With the Established Church are connected 2185 persons;* with the Relief, 674; with the Associate Synod, 193; and with the other congregation, 267. With congregations out of the parish are connected 78 persons, (of whom 14 belong to the Established Church, 5 are Episcopalians, and 7 Roman Catholics,) leaving 353 not belonging to any congregation, or whose religious profession was not ascertained at the time of making the census.† In none of the places of worship is the attendance on divine ordinances what it should be. In the Established Church it varies from

* All the statements here made refer to August 1836, when they were given in evidence before the Religious Instruction Commissioners.

† This number is much larger than that returned by the writer, many having represented themselves to him as Dissenters, whom the Dissenting ministers did not acknowledge as belonging to their congregations.

about 500 in summer to 300 in winter. In the three Dissenting chapels, which contain 1569 sittings, the average attendance was stated by the ministers to be 780, and the number of sittings let 630; but as these congregations embrace 392 persons beyond the bounds of the parish, the proportion, allowing both classes to be equally exemplary, would give an attendance from the parishioners of 603, and 487 sittings rented by them. The number of persons who have been admitted to the communion of the Established Church, and have not been cut off from that privilege, nor have joined themselves to any other congregation, is about 660; but as this includes old people who cannot attend, some careless people who will not attend, and some whose necessities keep them back from the house of God, it is greatly above the number who join at any given communion. In winter, about 320, and in summer about 350 communicate.

There is no religious society in the parish. The collections in the Established Church for religious and charitable objects, independent of the ordinary collections for the poor, have averaged annually L.20, 5s. 6d.

Education.—Besides two schools exclusively for sewing, there are three schools in this parish, viz. one parochial, one endowed, and one unendowed. In the unendowed school, only English, writing, and arithmetic, with a little geography, are taught. The parochial schoolmaster, though qualified to teach classical literature, French, and mathematics, is seldom required to teach anything more than the teacher of the unendowed school. The endowed school is an institution known by the name of the Bathgate Academy, established under the will of Mr John Newlands. Mr Newlands was a native of the parish, who, after being bred a carpenter, left Bathgate at an early age and proceeded to Jamaica, where by degrees he amassed a considerable fortune, and ultimately became a wealthy planter. He died in that island in 1799, leaving by his will the bulk of his property to certain trustees,* “to erect a free school in the parish of Bathgate.” The will, however, was challenged by friends of the testator in Scotland, and the claim of the trustees opposed by the executors in Jamaica. The trustees took alarm at the prospect of being involved in heavy law expenses, and would probably have abandoned the trust, had not one of them,

* When the will came to be acted on, a number of the nominations to the office of trustee fell, from misnomers, &c. The only nominations which held, were those of Mr Marjoribanks of Balbardie, Lord Polkemmet, Colonel Gillon of Wallhouse, and the minister of the parish. The eldest sons of the three first, and the successor of the last, are the present trustees.

the late Mr Marjoribanks, given his own personal security to his co-trustees, that they should not be put to expense in the matter. After a litigation which lasted till 1814, the will was almost entirely set aside. Only L.14,500 were received by the trustees, instead of L.60,000 or L.70,000, as the testator intended.* As the remittances reached this country, the trustees began to salary the teachers in the parish, and to employ others, till they had five schools with six teachers in different parts of the parish, to all of which the children of the inhabitants had gratuitous admission. In 1831, the funds having considerably increased, the trustees commenced the erection of a building to the south-east of the town, which was opened as the Bathgate Academy in the autumn of 1833. It is a handsome structure, consisting of a centre and two wings connected by two colonnades. In each wing are two classrooms 36 feet by 24. Behind one of the colonnades is the room for writing and arithmetic, 36 by 29. The centre, and the part of the building behind the other colonnade, are occupied by the library-room and a very good house for the rector. There is a full acre of play-ground in front. There are, at present, four masters in the Academy: a rector, who takes charge of all the pupils who learn Greek, Latin, or French, and who also has classes for drawing, music, and composition; a master for writing, arithmetic, and mathematics; and two for English. The rector and two English masters also teach their own pupils geography. A sewing mistress was added to the establishment a year ago.

At these three schools, above 600 scholars are in steady attendance; and from 60 to 80 more may be entered in the course of a twelvemonth. At the last examination of the Academy, which was in August, there were 537 attending, of whom 6 studied Greek; 47 Latin; 71 French; 178 geography; 71 drew geographical sketches; 75 practised English composition, and were trained in drawing, and the elements of musical composition; 368 learned writing; as many arithmetic; and 8 mathematics.

The parochial schoolmaster has the legal accommodation and the maximum salary, and receives about L.26 in fees. The rector of the academy has a free house, garden, and a salary of L.140 per annum; the other three masters each L.105. The unendowed teacher receives about L.26 from fees. The rate of fees in the parochial school is, for English, 2s. 6d. a-quarter; English with

* The testator's meaning could be proved; but the language of the will was declared not to express what he meant it to express.

writing, 3s.; and with arithmetic, 3s. 6d.; Latin or French, 5s.; practical mathematics, 5s.

There is hardly a house in the parish so situated as to make it a matter of much hardship for a child of six or seven years of age to attend some school. The numbers in actual attendance, compared with the population, show that the people in general are alive to the benefits of education. The Academy being free to the children of all parishioners, no additional school is needed in this parish, though an additional teacher in the Academy would be of great advantage. But the funds do not at present admit of the addition.

Literature.—Connected with the Academy, there is a library for the use of the pupils, containing above 700 volumes, chiefly suited to youth. There is also a subscription library in the town, recently begun, and now containing above 280 volumes.

Friendly Societies.—There are seven such societies in the parish; one, still the largest, instituted some years previous to 1734; the others respectively in 1759, 1792, 1799, 1806, 1809, and 1810. They are all supported by annual payments from the members, who amount to 969. They are all intended for the support of the members in sickness and old age. Some of them also pay a certain sum for the funeral charges of the members. These societies are of vast benefit to the members; and though it may well be doubted whether they promote industry, they help to cherish among them a spirit of independence.

Savings Bank.—There has been a savings bank here since 1827. A view of its operations for the last six years shows these results:

	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.
Deposited, .	L.160	L.74	L.210	L.218	L.288	L.272
Drawn out, .	180	211	252	388	245	318

At the last balancing of the books, there was in the bank L.629, 10s. The investments are chiefly made by servants, weavers, mechanics, &c.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The poor are not more numerous than might be expected in such a population as that of Bathgate, though it must be acknowledged that unwillingness to apply for parochial relief is on the decline, and that relatives in many instances seem to feel little annoyance at those near to them becoming the objects of public charity.

	On the poor's roll.	With their families they amounted to	Occasional poor.	Total expense, including ma- nagement.
There were in 1835,	47	86	32	L.225 7 5½
1836,	45	77	19	185 17 10
1837,	39	65	29	226 18 0½
1842,	70		45	308 15 10½

There was besides an expense for two lunatics, in 1835, of L.3, 19s. 2d.; in 1836, L.39, 9s. 10½d.; in 1837, L.16, 0s. 6d.

The lowest allowance to an individual pauper was 2s. a-month; the highest, 3s. 6d. a-week, being an allowance to a widow and family. To meet this expenditure there was received

	In 1835.	1836.	1837.	1842.
From church collections,	L.48 17 0½	L.47 7 0½	L.42 1 7½	L.39 19 6½
contrib. from herit.,	101 19 1	89 10 2½	183 0 10	217 7 8½
int. of lent money,	44 0 0	44 0 0	44 0 0	53 10 0
other funds,	26 15 7	7 3 0	10 1 6	7 11 0

Total, L.211 11 8½ L.188 0 2½ L.279 3 11½ L.318 8 3

The proprietors of three-fourths of the land being non-resident, the ordinary funds could not be expected to be adequate to the support of the poor. The heritors made a voluntary contribution for that end; and to make their contributions equal, they are just according to the valued rent of their lands. The great increase in 1842 is chiefly to be ascribed to the depression of trade. The interest is the produce of L.1100, which was left to the poor of Bathgate by Henry Calder, Esq. of Edisto Island, Carolina, a native of the parish, in 1820, but was only recovered by the present minister in 1828. The other funds arise from dues on proclamations, mortcloths, &c.

Prison.—Bathgate is a sheriffdom by itself, a distinction which it probably owes to its ancient connection with the royal family of Scotland. Practically, however, the Sheriff of the county is now always appointed Sheriff of Bathgate too. Sheriff-courts are held at Bathgate four times a-year. There is a small prison, comprising three strong cells for criminals, and a debtors' room, the whole government of which is in the magistrates of the burgh. It is much too confined to be a very healthy place of confinement. During last year (1838) there has been no person confined in it either for debt or police offences, but upwards of twenty deserters or persons charged with military offences, mostly for a single night, on their route either to Glasgow or Edinburgh.

Fairs, &c.—There are seven fairs for the sale of cattle and horses held annually in Bathgate, the principal of which take place on the Wednesdays after Whitsunday and Martinmas, O. S. There are seven inns in the parish; and, altogether, 31 persons licensed to retail intoxicating liquors. This excessive multiplication

of licenses, and the facility with which they are granted, have proved very injurious to the economical and moral habits of many of the population.

Fuel.—The fuel used in this parish is almost entirely coal. The use of peat has, almost universally, given place to that of coal. The price of the latter varies from 8d. to 10d. a-load. Many of the parishioners, however, get coal, not from any of the pits in the parish, but from Sir William Baillie's coal-work at Benhar, parish of Whitburn, which yields the best coal in this part of the country.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Very great changes have taken place in this parish since the former Account was published. The middle road between Edinburgh and Glasgow, which is by much the most frequented line between these two cities, and which passes through the town of Bathgate, was not at that time even contemplated. No direct road to the east and west existed, except parish roads, the lines, levels, and keeping of which, were all extremely bad. Increased facility of communication has been of material service in helping forward the other improvements, to which the gradual progress of the country has been leading. Considerably more than double the number of acres is now regularly under the plough; and, from draining, better modes of culture, &c. the produce is even more than proportionally augmented. Dairy-farming is now followed to a much greater extent than formerly, and has in considerable measure taken the place of the feeding of cattle. A very large quantity of milk and butter is sent to Edinburgh and Airdrie every week.

The greatest change, however, has been effected by the introduction of the cotton manufacture into the town. The increase of the population previous to the publication of the former Statistical Account, was ascribed mainly to the increase of the coal-works. The coal-works then were situated close by the town, and the colliers were chiefly resident in it. The working of coal is probably as extensive now as it was then. But the old works having been abandoned, the collier population is now more numerous in the country than in the town. Yet the whole increase of population in the rural part is but 100, while the town population has very nearly doubled. One-half of the whole inhabitants of the parish are now, in one way or other, dependent on manufactures. We share, of course, in both the good and the evil of such occupations.

April 1843.