

## PARISH OF LINLITHGOW.\*

FRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN & TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. ANDREW BELL, D. D., MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE earliest form in which the name of the parish appears, is in the charter of David I. to Holyrood, where it is spelt *Linlitcu*. From the time of that prince, the orthography is very various, changing with the fashions of different times, and the taste of different writers; thus it appears as *Linliscu*, *Lynlithkon*, *Linliscoth*, &c. till it assumes its present form, *Linlithgow*, popularly contracted *Lithgow*. The etymology of the name is variously given; some ascribe to it a British origin, its component parts being traced to words in that language, which signify the lake of the expansive hollow; others derive the word from the Gaelic, and render it, *the lake of the grey dog*, supporting this opinion by a reference to the armorial bearings on the common seal of the burgh, which represent a dog tied to a tree,—referring, as is said, to the old legend of such an animal being discovered bound to a tree on the island which adorns the east end of the lake. Another, and perhaps the most probable etymology, is that which derives the word from the Saxon, in which language, *Linlithgow* signifies *the lake of the sheltered valley*, an appellation descriptive of the situation of that beautiful sheet of water, which, being the most remarkable object in the scenery, would naturally determine the name of the town and district.

*Extent, &c.*—The mean extent of the parish is, from east to west, about 5 miles, and about 3 from north to south. Its boundaries are, on the north, *Borrowstownness*, *Carriden*, and *Abercorn*; on the east, *Abercorn* and *Ecclesmachan*; on the south, *Uphall*, *Ecclesmachan*, and *Bathgate*; and on the west, *Torphichen* and the river *Avon*, which divides it from *Muiravonside* in *Stirlingshire*. The surface of the parish is very unequal; towards the east and north-east it is level, but it rises toward the south, where it is crossed

\* Obligingly furnished by the Rev. W. S. Smart, Linlithgow.

in its whole extent by that range of hills which runs obliquely through a considerable part of the county. Several of the eminences in this range within the parish attain a considerable elevation: the most remarkable are the heights named Cocklerue and Binny-Craig, the former of which rises more than 600, and the other 600 feet above the level of the sea. Nearer the centre of the range there is a lower set of heights, named from the now nearly extinct village of Riccarton, and connected with the former series by lateral rising grounds, which slope down towards the town of Linlithgow. On the north side of the lake, there is another hill, which, though not so elevated as those already named, from its neighbourhood to the Frith of Forth, commands a very extensive and beautiful prospect. All of these heights are either cultivated or in pasture; some of them are wooded, and the acclivity is gentle.

*Meteorology.*—No regular register has been kept in the parish. It may be stated, however, that the prevailing winds are from the west and south-west; that the climate is good, and exceedingly favourable to health. Only a few years back, an individual died in the town, considerably above 100 years of age. Several persons now living in the parish are above 90; while 80 and upwards is no uncommon period of life. There are no diseases peculiar to the parish: It has often escaped the ravages of those severe epidemics which have, from time to time, desolated other parts of the country. In 1646, the Scottish Parliament held its meetings in Linlithgow, when the plague was prevalent in the metropolis.

*Hydrography.*—The parish abounds with springs, furnishing a copious supply of the purest water. A well at Carubber was formerly resorted to, as possessing similar properties to the Moffat Spa; it is now totally neglected. Even the site of it is known to few.

There is only one loch in the parish—that, on the north bank of which the town and palace of Linlithgow are situated. This fine lake is about one mile in length, about a-quarter of a mile at its greatest breadth, and covers 154 English acres; in some places the depth is considerable. Several springs well up from the bottom, which, with a rivulet toward the east end, and the surplus water from the town, are its feeders. It discharges itself by a rivulet, named the Loch-burn, which, after a short course, empties itself into the Avon. Embosomed amid rising grounds, some of which are finely wooded, with the gardens to the north of the town stretching along its shore, and overlooked by the noble

ruins of the ancient palace,—the scenery of this lake is very lovely, and from several points where the town is not seen, it has much the appearance of a sheet of water in some sequestered Highland vale. There is no river properly belonging to the parish. The Avon bounds it for several miles on the west, and, during that part of its course, presents some very pleasing scenery, the effect of which is now much heightened by the aqueduct which carries the Union Canal across the valley, and the viaduct which, at a lower point, conducts, over the same valley, the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

With the exception of the account in the last Statistical Account, no history of the parish has been published. Copious notices of it are, however, to be found in the histories of the county, published by Sibbald and Penny. A MS. history of the town, by Crawford, author of the history of Renfrewshire, is said to exist. It may also be stated, that a very beautifully illustrated account of the Palace has lately been published by Mr Collie, architect, Glasgow.

*Historical Notices.*—From its locality, and the residence of the Scottish monarchs in the palace of Linlithgow, the parish has been the scene of several memorable incidents. The most remarkable of these are mentioned in the last Statistical Account; and the present notices embrace the same incidents, with some additional details. It was on the lands now belonging to the town, and lying to the east of it, that Edward I. encamped on the night previous to the battle of Falkirk, so disastrous to the Scottish patriots under Wallace. The warlike monarch slept in the open fields, with his horse beside him. During the night the animal struck the King on the side. The accident caused great confusion in the camp; and, to allay the tumult, Edward, regardless of pain, mounted his charger, and, by riding through the army, convinced the soldiers that he was in safety. The same monarch is said to have built a castle or peel at Linlithgow in the year 1300, where he spent the following Christmas. This castle was left by him garrisoned with English troops. Its capture by the Scottish patriots was one of the many daring exploits which distinguished the war of independence under Bruce. The following account of the surprisal is given in Tytler's History of Scotland: "Binny, who was known to the garrison, and had been employed in leading hay into the fort, communicated his design to a party of Scottish sol-

diers, whom he stationed in ambush near the gate. In his large wain he contrived to conceal eight armed men, covered with a load of hay. A servant drove the oxen, and Binny himself walked carelessly at his side. When the portcullis was raised, and the wain stood in the middle of the gateway, interposing a complete barrier to its descent, the driver cut the ropes which harnessed the oxen; upon which signal, the armed men suddenly leapt from the cart, the soldiers in ambush rushed in, and so complete was the surprise, that, with little resistance, the garrison were put to the sword, and the place taken." Bruce, who, it is said, was privy to the design, rewarded the brave peasant with a grant of lands; and his descendants long survived, bearing in their coat-of-arms a hay-wain, with the motto, "virtute doloque."

Linlithgow is memorable as the place where the remarkable apparition warned James IV. against his expedition into England, which terminated in the fatal field of Flodden. An aisle in the church, where the King was, as Pitscottie says, "verrie sad and dollorous, makand his prayers to God to send him guid success in his voyage," is shown as the place where the scene occurred. The probability is, that it was a device of the Queen, then in the neighbouring palace, abetted by some of the nobles, in order to dissuade James from an undertaking to which she and many of the nobility were averse. The unfortunate issue of the war corresponding with the warning given, would, in that superstitious age, lead men to regard the agent in this device as a messenger from heaven.

In the year 1526, the battle of Linlithgow Bridge was fought between the faction of the Earl of Angus, who had the possession of the person of James V., then a minor, and the party which sought to deliver the Prince from the influence of the Douglasses. The conflict began on the haugh of Manuel, but the main conflict was close by the village of Linlithgow Bridge, which has given its name to the engagement. The Earl of Lenuox, the chief of the party opposed to Angus, was, after being promised quarter, slain by Sir James Hamilton. The place of his interment was long known as Lennox's Cairn.

The Regent Murray was shot in the street of Linlithgow by Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh. The house from which the assassin took aim is still shown, though, from the removal of the old front, which projected considerably further out on the street than the present, it must now present a very different appearance. Situated in the most narrow part of the town, where the street is not

many feet wide, it presented a most favourable position for the execution of the murder, as the Regent, on horseback, was compelled to advance slowly, owing to the multitude by which he was surrounded. Hamilton, it is said, had the walls of the room hung with black cloth, to prevent his shadow being seen; and the tradition of the town is, that the neighbouring lane leading to the back of the town, where his horse was stationed, was choked with bushes and other substances, to retard pursuit.

At the rejoicings, in 1662, in celebration of the restoration of Charles II., Linlithgow obtained an unenviable notoriety in Scottish history, by the burning of the Solemn League and Covenant. This act was not, however, authorized by the inhabitants, but appears to have been the deed of the chief actors in it, Mr Ramsay the minister, and Mr R. Mylne, then dean of guild; both of whom had signed the document which, with every circumstance of ignominy, they then consigned to the flames. In the records of the council there is no minute bearing upon the incident. There is a minute of a previous date enjoining the celebration of the restoration in 1660, which, though not bearing upon this incident, may be quoted as a specimen of the manner in which our fathers were wont to keep their holidays.

“18th July 1660.—In respect that the morrow is appointed ane soleme day of thanksgivin to the Lord ffor the King’s Majestie his saife returne, without debait or bluid, to sitt upon his father’s throne in England, in a peaceable and laudable way, upon the unanimous call of his guid subjects thair, By the imediate hand of God, contrair to all men’s expectatioun, to the terrour and astonishment of his enemies, and for the solemnizatioun thair of, thair is a sermon to be in the morning, and after sermon the marches, in a ordourlie and congratulatory way arr to be ryddin, and having closed the marches ryde, the council and others arr to meitt together at denner; and they appoint and ordein bonfeires to be got, one by the haill inhabitants, at ffour clock efternuin, at the ringing of the belles and intimation of the drume, and efter denner the haill counsell and honest men are to go throu the toune to see the bonfeires, and who refuseth to get one, and to sing a song of praise to the Lord at the cross.”

Various meetings of the Scottish Parliament were held in Linlithgow. The last of them was in 1646, when Edinburgh was infected with the plague. A curious minute of the town-council, relating to the sitting of this Parliament, may be given as illustrative of the

state of society at the time. "The counsall, upon the coming of the Comitie of Estattes to sitt within this borough, fering that sundrie of the inhabitants takend advantage of the thrang that will be by thaim, will extort the leadges resorting heirto for thair chambers and bedes; thairfor they have sett doune thir pryse following, ordeining the samen to be observit by the haill inhabitants, and no contraveint, viz. the pryse of the noblemen's chamber, cole, and candle, with twa bedes for 24 pound 20 shillings; and of the gentlemen and commissioners of burrowes, the pryse 13s. 4; and the pryse of the rest of the leadges resorting to the said burrow for cole, candle, and the bede, 24 pounds 6 shillings 8; and the groomes and footmen are to pay for their bede 3 shillings." In the last Statistical Account, mention is made of a singular instance of revenge which occurred in the early part of last century.

*Eminent Characters.*—Linlithgow is famed as the birth-place of the beautiful, but unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots.

Several of the rectors of the burgh school have been men of eminence. Among these may be mentioned Ninian Winzet, the rector at the time of the Reformation, and who is distinguished as the defender of the falling Church of Rome, in several encounters with John Knox. Kirkwood is a better known individual, as the author of the Latin Grammar, which was used in Scotland till superseded by that of Ruddiman. He also made himself famous in his day by his long controversy with the council, and his satire upon that body entitled "The Twenty-seven Gods of Linlithgow." The celebrated John Earl of Stair is said to have been educated by Kirkwood, and to have boarded in his house. In later times, the residence of the Lord President Blair was in the parish, who built the House of Avonton, near to Linlithgow.

*Land-owners.*—The principal proprietors of land are Mr Stewart of Physgill; the Earls of Rosebery, Hopetoun, and Selkirk; Mr Seton of Preston; and the Duke of Hamilton.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest date of parochial registers is February 1613, and the volumes are regularly kept.

*Antiquities.*—Of the Roman period, few remains exist in the parish. A Roman road runs along the summit of the height on the north side of the lake, terminating, at its western extremity, in the parish of Bo'ness, at an old military station on the line of the great wall. The road appears to have formed part of the communications connected with that remarkable rampart. Near to the road, an urn containing ashes, was dug up a few years back.

In the last Statistical Account, it is said, that, at the bottom of the Hill of Cocklerue, vestiges of a military station may be traced; and "that, on an eminence in the south-east of the parish, above Ochiltree Mill, traces still more distinct of a camp are to be seen." Some years before that Account was written, above 800 Roman coins were found in the Boroughmuir.\*

"The Carmelites, or White Friars, had a convent at Linlithgow, which stood on the south side of the town. The eminence bears still the name of the Friars Brae, and the adjoining well bears a similar designation. The application of their revenues cannot now be traced. This establishment, in point of antiquity, was the third of the kind in Scotland. It was founded in 1290 by the inhabitants of Linlithgow, and consecrated to the Virgin Mary.

"There is said also to have been a monastery of Dominicans or Black Friars, here. Some remains of a religious house, probably this, may still be discerned in the east part of the town. There was also a chapel, sacred to St Ninian, at the West Port, though no traces of it now remain. There was another erection of a similar kind at East Binny, in the extremity of the parish; but no satisfactory account of it can now be had.

"St Magdalene's, on the east of the town, was an *hospitium*, or place of entertainment for strangers. It had originally belonged to a set of Lazarites; but, on their extinction or secularization, it was applied to this purpose, according to the beneficial institution of James I. The eminence, at the bottom of which this hospital stood was designed Pilgrim-hill." The Union Canal now passes over it.

There are two eminences on the west of the town, on one of which, Courts of justice are said to have been held in ancient times. The plain below had, probably from this circumstance, the name of Doomsdale given, which it still retains.

To the west of the town, near the bridge, is a field which was

\* They had been deposited in an earthen urn, which the plough broke, and were picked up in lumps, by some persons who followed it to gather stones. The town, as superior, claimed the treasure. The pieces were not above the size of a sixpence, all silver, and having different dates and impressions. They were probably the collection of some virtuoso, and, being involved in rust, would furnish a sweet morsel to antiquaries. Some coins were also found lately in an old house of the town, when the workmen were digging for sand, about 500 in number,— of which 20 were gold, the rest silver. Many of them had impressions of the different James's, and some of Henry IV. of England. Some of the gold coins were about the size of a guinea, others the half. These had their lustre unimpaired, but the silver pieces were overgrown with rust.

anciently used for military exercises and amusements. It has still the name of Joisting-haugh.

A stone tablet, of elegant sculpture, was, a good many years ago, found in digging a grave within the church. One compartment exhibits our Saviour praying, while the three select disciples are fast asleep. The other represents him saluted by Judas, and seized by the guard. He is at the same time healing the ear of Malchus, while Peter is putting his sword in the sheath. Though the stone be broken, the figures are not essentially injured.

The Palace is the most interesting relic of former days, in the parish. It is supposed that the site now occupied by the magnificent ruins of this abode of ancient royalty, was the site of a Roman station. Some have imagined that Linlithgow is the Roman Lindum. Be this as it may: it was very early selected by the Scottish princes, as one of their residences. It is supposed that there was a royal mansion at Linlithgow, as early as the reign of David I.,—who occasionally resorted here to enjoy the pleasure of the chase, and to consume the local royal revenues “payable in oxen, sheep, grain, and other descriptions of produce.” The present structure is of much more recent date. In 1424, the Palace was consumed by fire, and the oldest portion of the existing edifice is referred, by competent authorities, to the time of the first James. It received considerable additions during the reigns of James IV. and his successor; and the most modern part of it was built by James VI. on his visit to Scotland in 1617. It was the frequent residence of many of these princes, and was repeatedly, with its lake and park, assigned as a jointure house for the Queens of Scotland;—particularly, we may mention, Mary of Guise, who, when she saw it, declared that she never saw a more princely palace. The sincerity of the compliment was shown by her frequent residence. Nor need we wonder at the partiality of our monarchs for Linlithgow,—as a more delightful situation cannot be imagined. Situated upon an eminence projecting into the middle of the lake, which it divides into two nearly equal parts, the Palace commands several views of very pleasing scenery; and when the park was decorated with wood, of which some fine old trees still survive, the royal domain must fully have justified the eulogy of Sir Walter Scott. To enter into minute details of a building so well known, would be superfluous. It may suffice to state, that, as it now stands, the Palace is of a quadrangular form, having an open court within, on the north side, five stories in height, with a tower in each corner.

It measures 175 feet from north to south, and 165 feet from east to west. The appearance of the inner court is particularly imposing. Much attention has been paid to the architectural decoration of its various fronts, which exhibit some very pleasing effects. The centre is occupied by the remains of what has been a magnificent fountain, built of white freestone, of superior workmanship, the carvings being well cut, and highly relieved. The main entrance was formerly from the east, which is highly decorated. That, however, was closed, and the present one opened by James V. The same monarch built the fortified gateway, which leads into the outer court. This gateway is said to have been the model of the one at Abbotsford. The stranger, after contemplating the tame and ungainly aspect of the exterior of the Palace, is much impressed with the interior, which, with its remains of ancient grandeur, its ruined fountain, and grass-grown court, produces feelings of pleasing solemnity in the mind. The principal portions of the building which are shown to visitors, are the room where Mary was born, one of ample dimensions; the dining-room, long and narrow; the chapel; and the Parliament Hall, a noble apartment, measuring 98½ feet in length, 30 feet in width, and to the summit of the walls, which still stand, 35 feet. The building abounds with places of concealment, and out-of-the-way corners. One of these is still shown as the place where James III. hid himself, during a rebellion of his nobles. This noble structure might have been entire to the present day, had it not been burned, it is not easy to say whether by accident or intention, in the year 1746, by the English dragoons under Hawley, who were quartered in the dining-room. There is a well-known story of the lady Mrs Glen Gordon, who acted as deputy-keeper of the Palace, remonstrating with Hawley upon the danger likely to result from the large fires his men were kindling; the General replied that he did not care though the Palace were burnt to the ground, upon which the indignant lady said, "Weel, weel, General, an' that be the case, I can rin awa frae fire as fast as you," alluding to the General's route at Falkirk. Much is now done by the Barons of Exchequer to preserve the venerable pile from further decay. The present keeper is Sir Thomas Livingstone of Westquarter.

### III.—POPULATION.

There is an increase in the last census, to some extent more apparent than real: as, at the time it was taken, there was a considerable surplus population, owing to the operations on the Glas-

gow and Edinburgh Railway, and since the opening of the railway many workmen have removed to other districts.

There are no nobility, and but few individuals of independent fortune, residing in the parish. The people are in no respect remarkable for personal qualities. The language in common use is the ordinary dialect of the Lowlands.

The only custom which may be mentioned as peculiar to the parish is the annual procession of the magistrates, council, members of the various corporations, and others, termed the "Riding their Marches." They visit the village of Linlithgow Bridge and Blackness, of which the town is the superior; and at the place last named, a court is held by the provost. On the return of the procession to the town, the evening is passed in festivity. Though the custom might at one time have been necessary, it is now one which would "be more honoured in the breach, than in the observance."

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

For the following account of the agriculture of the parish, I am under obligations to an intelligent agriculturist.

*Agriculture.*—The parish of Linlithgow contains in whole 11,960 imperial acres, all enclosed and judiciously subdivided. The whole may be said to be cultivated, as the planted ground, and a few acres upon hill tops inaccessible to the plough, form the alone exceptions. The system of culture is of the most approved description. On the free lands, the five-shift rotation is generally adopted; upon the clay lands, the six and seven-shifts are followed, but all conducted in the same style in which the counties of Berwickshire and East Lothian are farmed. The soil of the parish may be about equally divided between light and heavy. The low district is gravelly and loamy, the high division is stiff, thin, wet soil, lying upon a retentive subsoil.

*Draining.*—Thorough draining has done much towards the amelioration of the high grounds; but still there is much to do. The expense of this drainage falls almost wholly upon the tenants; with the exception of those of the Earl of Rosebery, Captain Stewart of Binny, and Mr Seton of Preston, no other proprietor takes any part in the expense.

Farms vary in size from 100 to 400 acres Scots; the average may be computed at 180 acres. Rents are payable partly in money, and partly in grain, for the most part, from one-half to one-fourth in cash, the remainder in grain or oatmeal, convertible

at the fair prices of the county. The average rent of the parish may be somewhere about L.2 or L.2, 2s. per Scots acre.

Farm-buildings are commodious, and suited to either rearing or feeding. Dwelling-houses are comfortable, and in general large enough to accommodate a large family. Several steadings are excellent, and one is now in the course of erection upon Champfleurie estate, which will be very superior.

*Leases.*—Leases are, in general, granted for nineteen years, and the conditions are of the usual style, viz. restrictive during the last four years of the endurance. One farm in the highest part of the parish let last year is under extreme restrictive conditions, by which the tenant is bound to improve. Time will show the result; but never yet was an improvement in agriculture discovered or effected by the specialties of an agreement.

*Plantations.*—The parish is well-wooded. Near the residence of the proprietors of the soil, some fine trees are to be seen, but large plantations have been lately made, which are now ornamental, and ultimately will be beneficial. The management of plantations is now much better understood than formerly, as to thinning, training, and drainage of the ground, as also the description of plants suited to the various soils.

*Cattle.*—There is no distinct breed of cattle peculiar to the district; the mongrel race of nondescripts are all but extinct, and in lieu of these, some fine beasts are now reared. In consequence of many large dairies being in the vicinity, the Ayrshire cow is the prevailing sort. There are also a good many short-horns. The cross between these may be said to constitute the breed reared in the parish; but the numbers reared form but a small proportion of the stock kept. From the nearness to the great markets held at Falkirk, the greater portion of animals fattened are bought at these trysts. Of sheep there are but few raised; but a great many more are fed than used to be, a few years since. There are a few flocks of Leicesters, but these are exceptions. Draught horses are almost entirely of the Clydesdale breed; and there are few counties in Scotland better horsed than Linlithgowshire.

*Quarries and Mines.*—Lime abounds in the parish. Silvermine, Hillhouse, and Carrubber works are now in full operation. Coal is also found in thin seams in the southern part of the parish, but none wrought just now. A vein of silver is understood to lie in the southern district of the parish, upon Lord Hopetoun's lands.

It was once wrought and lost sight of, and, after several attempts to hit upon it were unsuccessful, it has long been given up. Freestone and whinstone are more abundant. Two freestone quarries are now wrought,—Kingscavil, from which the palace of Linlithgow was built,—and East Binny, well known in modern public buildings in Edinburgh and elsewhere. This quarry is remarkable for the bitumen which is found in it, and which is sometimes melted and made into candles, which burn with a bright flame.

*Manufactures.*—This is not a manufacturing district; but there are several species of manufacture in the town and neighbourhood. The leather trade, in its various branches, may be called the staple of the town. It is said to have been introduced into the town by the soldiers of Cromwell. There are 24 master boot and shoe-makers, employing 276 journeymen, and 43 apprentices. The wages of the former are 10s. per week, and of the latter 3s. Thirty women are also employed as women's boot-binders, whose weekly wages average 4s. 6d. There are five master tanners, employing 28 men in this trade, the rate of wages is determined by the skill of the workmen. A tanner, bred to the employment, receives 13s. per week, while the average wages of what are called labouring tanners, that is, men not brought up to the work, are only 9s. The master curriers amount to nine, employing about 50 men, whose average rate of wages is 14s. per week. In the shoe trade, the hours are long—from six to six, and often later. In the currying branch of the trade, the men work only ten hours a-day. The tanning and currying departments are in a prosperous condition, and the shoe-makers are well employed. There was a temporary depression in the last-named trade some time back, but it has again revived.

There is a very extensive distillery in the town, which gives employment to a number of men. There is also a brewery.

In the vicinity, upon the river Avon, there is a paper-mill, and a large calico-printing establishment, both in full employment; the former produces a considerable quantity of paper, made by machinery, and the latter has been, even during the late melancholy depression of trade in other parts of the country, prosperous. The village of Linlithgow Bridge is almost entirely dependent upon the print field. Two glue-works are also in activity, and supply work to a portion of the population. A number of women, principally unmarried, are engaged in sewing for Glasgow manufacturing houses. This employment can scarcely be termed re-

munerative, for the utmost that a female can earn, working with the most untiring diligence from morning to night, is about 6d. per day—a most miserable pittance, when we consider the toil of the over-tasked female, who, however, but for this, scanty as it is, would be often entirely destitute. The employments of the operatives are generally healthful, and noway injurious to correct moral habits. A portion of the workmen are, as in every town, dissipated; but this arises from other causes than the nature of their occupation: others, again, are highly intelligent and religious, most favourable specimens of Scottish intellect and piety.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Town, &c.*—Linlithgow, which is the county town, is the only one in the parish. It is a place of great antiquity. Its earliest existing charter, as a royal burgh, is dated in the reign of Robert II.; but, previous to that period, it undoubtedly enjoyed that rank, since, in the parliament of David II., held at Perth in 1348, it was statute and ordained, “that, so long as the burghs of Berwic and Roxburgh are detained and holden by English men, the burghs of Lanark and Lithcow shall be received and admitted in their place,” as constituent members of the court of the four burghs. In early times, when the residence of the Scottish monarchs, it was a place of considerable importance, trade, and opulence, and, though shorn of its former splendour, it has by no means sunk so low as many other towns once of consequence, but now lost sight of, in the increase of younger and more active communities. It extends about a mile along the high road between Edinburgh and Stirling, along the south bank of the lake already mentioned. The principal portion of the population is confined to this single street, which is of various width, expanding at the cross into a large open square, narrowing in other places to but a few feet, and widening at either end. The place has an antique air, many of the houses having that aspect of decayed grandeur, which testify to the power and opulence of their ancient owners. It is, however, gradually changing in its look of “venerable eld,” as modern buildings are usurping the place of these worn-out edifices. Several houses are still called Templar Tenements, having been the property of the preceptory of the Knights of St John at Torphichen. The superiority of these tenements has now, with one exception, been acquired by the town-council. Mention has been made of the trade of the town and its principal antiquities, under

previous heads. It is governed by a council, consisting of twenty-seven members, including provost, four bailies, dean-of-guild, and treasurer. There is no local police, the public peace being sufficiently preserved, in ordinary circumstances, by the town-officers. Formerly the council appear to have exercised an authority which would now be deemed despotic. In their minutes, various acts, for example, occur in relation to the observance of the Sabbath. One of these is as late as the year 1711, which enforces church attendance, shutting of the shops of brewsters and tapsters under a penalty, and forbids walking on that day in the yards and yard-heads under penalty of a fine,—holding parents answerable for their children, and masters for their servants and apprentices; and in the following year, the council, for the preservation of the peace of the town, order a guard of fifteen burgesses to keep watch and ward nightly, from ten o'clock till five o'clock in the morning. If any should be absent when regularly called in his turn, his house to be poinded next day for payment of a fine of L.12 Scots. At an earlier period, a similar act, calling upon the burgesses to march, on some public occasion, is enforced under pain of death. The town is amply supplied with the finest waters, brought from springs in the high grounds to the south of the town, and distributed throughout the various public wells. One of these in particular deserves notice,—the cross well, rebuilt in 1816 by a one-handed mason, in exact imitation of a previous structure which had gone to decay. It is of a hexagonal figure, adorned with a variety of sculptural and grotesque figures, said to have been originally designed in ridicule of the *irregular* habits of the *regular* Romish clergy. It has thirteen very beautiful *jets d'eau*, and the whole is crowned by a lion rampant, supporting the royal arms of Scotland. The town is also lighted with gas. The revenue of the town amounts to about L.700, arising chiefly from property, the borough mills, and the town and bridge-customs. Alexander II. had bestowed the mills of Linlithgow, with all their pertinents, on the priory of Manuel, of which the remains are still to be seen on the opposite side of the river. These, in 1586, were granted to the town by Lady Jane Livingston, prioress of that convent, on condition of their paying annually 20 merks Scotch. That grant was renewed after the Reformation by James VI., and other privileges conferred, by a charter of novodamus in 1592. The bridge-custom was exacted in terms of ancient charters, giving the town right of custom from Avon Bridge to the sea. A claim has been made on

the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway for payment of the ordinary dues on goods carried by the Company across the Avon and through the burgh; and though the claim has been resisted, the council are prosecuting it with a reasonable prospect of success. Should it be successful, it will add immensely to the revenue, placing very ample funds at the disposal of the council for burgh purposes. At one time, the town had an exclusive right of trade from the water of Cramond to the mouth of the Avon; and when North Queensferry was created a royal burgh, the design was resisted by Linlithgow, on the ground of its infringing the privileges of the latter. The matter, however, was compromised by the Ferry, among other articles, paying ten merks Scotch annually, which sum is still exacted. Linlithgow ranks as the sixth in order of the Scottish burghs. By act of Parliament, it had the charge of the standard firloft measure; but since the introduction of the imperial measures, the Linlithgow firloft is only a matter of antiquarian curiosity. The town house was built in 1668, and contains the jail, Sheriff-Court-house, and town-hall. The county buildings in the rear of the town-house are plain in their exterior. The hall is a fine apartment, adorned with fine portraits of John Earl of Hopetoun by Raeburn, and of Sir Alexander Hope by Watson Gordon. The town enjoys the benefit of a branch of the Commercial Bank.

*Means of Communication.*—There is one post-office in the parish, that of Linlithgow. The district enjoys the advantage of excellent roads. There are, in the parish, about seven miles of turnpike road, under the management of two separate trusts. These roads are in good order, and the funds of the trusts are in a better state than most, having but a small amount of debt. The parish roads extend to about thirty miles, and are in a good state of repair. They have been sixteen years under the management of one individual. The Union Canal and the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway both pass through the parish. There is a railway station at Linlithgow, where all the regular trains call, and from which omnibuses run to Bathgate and Bo'ness.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church, which, being situated in the town, is near the mass of the population, is a very fine building, of great antiquity, and one of the most perfect existing specimens of the early ecclesiastical architecture of Scotland. It is supposed to have been founded by David I., that "sair saunt for the crown."

By recent measurement, its length is 187 feet, and its breadth, including the aisles, 105 feet. From the centre of the west front there rises a square tower, which was formerly surmounted by an imperial crown. This, however, was removed a number of years ago, from an apprehension that it was too weighty for the tower. At the time of its removal, it was proposed to replace it by a similar crown made of iron. This, however, has never been effected. Some of the windows are very beautiful, and, previous to the Reformation, the exterior was decorated with statues, of which only one now remains, that of St Michael, the old patron saint of the burgh. The church, with its pertinents, was assigned by David I. to the prior and canons of St Andrews. It was afterwards served by perpetual vicars, several of whom attained high rank in the church. Formerly, the west end was used as the place of worship. In 1812, the east end was fitted up as a church at a cost of nearly L. 4000, and now forms a very elegant church, seated for 1100 persons. The charge was once collegiate, but has been long single. In some accounts, mention is made of an abrogated parish, that of Binny, having been, at the Reformation, united to the parish of Linlithgow. Some, however, doubt whether Binny was ever a distinct parish, and conceive that the chapel there was subsidiary to the church of Linlithgow. There is now an excellent manse built, since the last Statistical Account was written. The glebe is valued at about L. 11 per annum, and the stipend averages somewhere about L. 300. There are two congregations connected with the United Secession Church in the parish, one place of worship containing about 600 sittings and the other nearly 500. The former was rebuilt, not many years ago, at an expense of L. 1150. There is also a congregational chapel lately rebuilt, at an expense of L. 700, and containing about 350 sittings. More recently, a congregation has been formed in connection with the Free Protestant Church. They have it in contemplation to erect a place of worship; their number cannot be correctly stated, but it is believed that it is on the increase. When the Church Commission was here, it was computed by the Established minister, that there were 1300 Dissenters in the parish, and by one of the Secession ministers, that there were 1526,—all the rest being churchmen. Since then, their relative numbers have not changed, with the exception of the recent secession from the Establishment, the extent of which, as already mentioned, cannot be distinctly stated.

The members of all the religious bodies contribute to the support of the religious and benevolent objects of the respective denominations; in some cases liberally. There were various religious Institutions in the town, but for some time past they have been in abeyance. It is hoped, that they will soon revive into more than former activity.

*Education.*—There are nine schools in the parish. Of these one is the burgh school, under the patronage of the town-council, and the rector of which receives a salary of L.30 per annum; another is a charity school for girls, founded by Mrs Douglas, sister of the late Dr Dobie, minister of the parish; the rest are private unendowed schools. The burgh school had formerly two teachers; but since the election of the present rector, there has been no assistant. In former times, it would appear from some old minutes of council that there had been a music school, under the patronage of the council, though no information can now be given regarding it. In 1834, there were 547 children attending all the schools in the parish, and since then the number has not decreased.

*Literature.*—Dr Henry the historian left his valuable library to the parish. For a series of years, it continued to prosper, but for a considerable period, it has been completely neglected, the books being left to decay on the shelves, without one single reader. It is difficult to say what is the reason of this singular fate of a bequest which, in most circumstances, would have fared very differently. The cause commonly assigned is the terms of the bequest. The presbytery and town-council were to enjoy the benefit of the library upon paying 5s. per annum, the members of the former body having the first reading of all new works. Other readers were to pay 10s. annually, and to wait for the new productions often till they had become old. Such a constitution could scarcely be expected to insure prosperity. Various efforts have been made to revive the library; but, until some alteration is effected in the terms of admission, it is to be feared they will be all hopeless.

There is a subscription library at Linlithgow Bridge, and one in connection with the First United Secession Church, which, upon payment of a small annual sum, is open to all who choose to read.

There is a news-room in the town, and a society for the purchase

and perusal of periodicals. A small monthly sheet, entitled *Dick's Advertiser*, is published in Linlithgow, and circulated throughout the county, and the eastern district of Stirlingshire.

*Charitable Institutions.*—There are nine Friendly Societies in Linlithgow, the Masons', Dyers', Gardeners', Crispins', Tanners', Trades' Friendly, Odd Fellows, and Rechabites. The main object of these Societies is, for the purpose of alimending sick and decayed members. Their funds are raised by monthly and quarterly subscriptions of the members. The rate of aliment differs. One of them, the Dyers, in addition to the aliment they give, allows a small sum annually for educating the children of deceased members between six and twelve years of age. They also give a sum in the shape of funeral expenses at the death of a member or a member's wife. The Rechabite Society is founded upon the principle of total abstinence, a member forfeiting all claim to its benefits, should he violate the pledge. Several of these Societies have accumulated money and property to a considerable extent, and all of them are prosperous. Their term of existence is various. Some are of long standing, others are very recent. Several of them have existed as Societies, long prior to their becoming Friendly,—as, for example, the Society of Gardeners has existed for several centuries, the person who founded it having been Gardener to the palace in its days of splendour, and the individual by whom the fine old trees which still beautify its eastern front, were planted. As Friendly Societies, the oldest is that of the Dyers, which has existed for eighty years; then the Gardeners, which has existed for sixty years; the Tanners, also sixty; the Crispins, nineteen; the Masons, thirty-two; the Rechabites, two years; and the Odd Fellows, a branch of the Manchester Union, only a few months.

The Incorporated Trades who have funds, give a small annual allowance to decayed members. These allowances are more charitable, than granted as a matter of right.

*Poor.*—There are at present about 140 persons on the poor's roll; the number having very considerably increased within the last two years. The monthly distribution is about L. 24. The rate per month varies according to the circumstances of the person, from 2s. to 15s. The rent of land belonging to the session, together with the collections at the church doors, and other dues, has, till within these last two years, been sufficient for all expenses.

*Prison.*—The state of the prison here has been materially im-

proved within these last few years, under the inspection of the Prison Board. The number of prisoners confined during last year, was 125. This, however, includes the county, and affords no criterion by which to judge of the amount of crime in the parish. The prison is well secured, and every attention paid to the health and even comforts of the prisoners; each cell is heated with a stove and lighted with gas, regularly cleaned, and as well ventilated as the situation of the prison will admit. Each prisoner, when brought in, is washed and clothed in a prison dress. The diet is excellent, consisting of six ounce of oatmeal made into porridge, for breakfast, with three-fourths of a pint of buttermilk. Dinner, ox-head broth, four ounce barley, four ounce bread, and a proportion of vegetables, each alternate day, pease-brose, fish, and potatoes. Supper the same as breakfast. Provision is also made for the religious instruction of the prisoners; in addition to the services of a chaplain, each cell is provided with a Testament. Mr Alison the governor instructs the male-prisoners, who cannot read or write; and his wife, the female prisoners. Many of them appear to value the instruction they receive, and some of them make considerable progress. A new jail is to be immediately erected, in which greater facilities will exist for the exercise of the improved prison discipline.

*Fairs.*—There is a weekly market, and six annual fairs in Linlithgow.

*Inns.*—There are two inns in the town, one adjoining the Railway station, of a superior class. There are a number of public-houses. It would be well for the town, were they much reduced in number; for many of them only serve to administer to the cravings of intemperance.

*Fuel.*—The only fuel used is coal, which is procured from the Duke of Hamilton's and other coal pits to the west, and from Borrowstownness.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the last Statistical Account was written, considerable changes have taken place in the parish. Several branches of trade then prosecuted in the town are now extinct, such as the trade in wool, then a staple commodity, carpet-weaving, and tambouring in factories. But though various branches of trade have become extinct, there is no reason to imagine that any great decline has taken place in the prosperity of the town; population has increased, and

the general comforts of the inhabitants augmented. In agriculture, the change has been great. But though agriculture be as far advanced as in any district, and little remains to be desired in the matter of improved communication,—much may yet be done to promote the happiness and comforts of the people.

*July 1843.*

## COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.

---

THIS County is bounded on the north by the Firth of Forth ; on the east and south-east, by the county of Mid-Lothian ; on the south-west, by that of Lanark ; and on the west, by that of Stirling. It is situate between 55.49 and 56.1 north latitude ; and 3.18 and 3.51 west longitude. It is computed to contain about 112 square miles, or 71,680 acres ; whereof 50,000 are cultivated, 10,000 uncultivated, and 11,680 unprofitable.

The valued rent in 1649 was L. 75,027, 12s. 2d. Scots. The annual value of real property, as assessed in 1815, was L. 97,597. Population in 1841, 26,848 ; number of inhabited houses, 5309. The Parliamentary constituency in 1842 was 650.

TABLE I.

Showing the total number of persons in the county of Linlithgow committed for trial or bailed in the year 1841 :—

Offences against the person,	40
property, with violence,	2
without violence,	41
Forgery and offences against the currency,	4
Other offences,	14
	101

TABLE II.—Showing Ecclesiastical State, &amp;c. of Parishes in the County of Linlithgow.

Parishes.	Population in 1841.	Ecclesiastical State.					Schools in Par.	Parochial Schoolmasters' Emoluments.			Annual Amount of Contributions to the Poor.			
		Fams. belong- ing to Estab- Church.	Individuals Do.	Fams. Dis- senters, Seco- nders, or Episc. Individuals Do.	Amount of Parochial Mi- nister's stipend.	Salary.		Fees.	Total.	From as- sessment or voluntary contrib. by Heritors.	From Church col- lections.	From Alms, Legacies, &c.	Total.	
Queensferry,	721	111	448	40	214	L.150	2	L.34 4 4	...	...	...	L.35 0 0	Interest of L.5000, &c.	...
Abercorn,	2147	192	948	19	48	240	2	34 4 4	L.30 0 0	L.64 4 4	...	62 10 6	L.17 18 6	L.90 9 0
Torphichen,	1417	...	...	...	...	150	2	34 4 4	...	...	L.35 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0	85 0 0
Camden,	1197	259	1104	38	...	128 boils, &c.	4	34 4 4	...	...	36 0 0	...	...	...
Whitburn,	2596	...	...	...	...	See text.	5	34 4 4	20 0 0	54 4 4	...	...	...	...
Uphall,	1467	...	...	...	...	16 Chalders.	2	34 4 4	36 0 0	70 4 4	30 0 0	16 0 0	L.40 0 0	...
Dalmeny,	1393	...	...	...	...	17 Do.	1	34 4 4	...	...	20 0 0	25 0 0	Interest of L.5000, &c.	...
Ecclesmachan,	303	...	...	...	...	L.146, &c.	...	34 4 4	...	...	...	11 0 0	L.2 12 0	...
Livingstone,	1004	...	636	...	399	188, &c.	2	34 4 4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Borrowstoness,	2347	...	...	...	...	...	10	34 4 4	40 0 0	74 4 4	108 0 0	62 0 0	...	254 0 0
Bathgate,	3927	...	2183	...	1134	...	5	34 4 4	28 0 0	60 4 4	217 7 8	39 19 6	61 1 0	318 8 3
Linlithgow,	5925	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...