

PARISH OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. JOHN M·MILLAN, MINISTER.*

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—It seems nearly certain that the name of this parish, which, at different times, has been variously spelled, was derived from the famous Saint Cuthbert. The ancient parish church stood in a burying-ground about a quarter of a-mile to the east of the town, and was dedicated to the Northumbrian Saint, as were several other places of worship, both in England and Scotland. The burying-ground still retains the name of Saint Cuthbert's church-yard. The name of the parish is but a slight change from Kirk-Cuthbert, the Church of Saint Cuthbert.

Extent, Boundaries, &c.—The parish consists of three ancient parishes, namely, Kirkcudbright, Galtway, and Dunrod; Kirkcudbright lies on the north, Galtway in the centre, and Dunrod on the south. The two latter parishes were annexed to Kirkcudbright about the year 1683, but their church-yards, which are still used, retain the ancient appellations of Galtway and Dunrod church-yards.

The modern parish of Kirkcudbright approaches the form of an oblong square, the west side protruding at the burgh and St Mary's Isle. It is bounded on the north by the parishes of Keltoun and Rerwick; on the east, by Rerwick; on the south, by the Solway Frith; and on the west, by Borgue, Twynholm, and Tongland, the centre of the river Dee forming this boundary line till it passes St Mary's Isle, south of which it expands into an estuary. The extreme length of the parish, from the march of Kirkbride on the north to Balmae head on the south, is upwards of 8 miles, and its extreme breadth, from the east side of the estate of Gribdae to a bend in the Dee at the town of Kirkcudbright, is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Its superficial area contains about 23 square miles or upwards of 15,000 imperial acres.

* Drawn up by the Rev. William Mackenzie, Minister of Skirling, and author of the History of Galloway.

Topographical Appearances, Soil, &c.—That part of the parish which consists of the tract of land skirting the Dee, from the lower bridge of Tongland to a little below Torrs' Lake, is for the most part level, and until it reaches a point south of the town of Kirkcudbright, opposite St Mary's Isle, is generally of a good clay, loamy, or mossy soil; but a long ridge of gravel and sand accumulated upon a clay bottom is found upon that part of this tract called the Stirling Acres, which is situated within the territories of the burgh of Kirkcudbright, close to the bank of the river. Beyond that point, the soil is of a dry gravelly nature, and the whole is capable of producing excellent crops of grain; but the Earl of Selkirk's park and the fields belonging to the burgh on the river side, are in permanent grass. In the ancient parish of Dunrod, there is a tract of land of surpassing fertility, measuring about 180 acres, called "the Milton Parks of Dunrod." These the plough has not disturbed for nearly a century, during which time they have been kept constantly in pasture for black cattle. From these parks, 120 head of three and four years' old cattle are annually sent to St Faith's market. As a proof of the nutritive qualities of the grass of these lands, it may not be out of place to state that, for a period of five years previous to Martinmas 1840, during which time they were in the hands of the proprietor, who stocked them with cattle of the pure Galloway breed, the public annual sales attracted dealers from remote parts of the country, who were glad to purchase the cattle at almost any price, in order, as the phrase is, to top their droves in the English markets. The rest, and by far the most extensive portion of the parish, is, with the exception of a considerable breadth of arable land and some meadow ground, of an undulating or broken surface, in some places hilly. This part of the parish rises gradually northward to an elevation apparently of 400 feet above the level of the sea. In what may be called the hilly part there are some moors of small extent covered partially by heather and a species of furze called catwhins. These moors are not arable, but they afford tolerable pasture for cattle and sheep. The undulating or broken surface, which is chiefly near the centre of the parish, consists partly of a succession of hillocks termed knolls, of no great height, sometimes sloping gently, sometimes rather precipitously, and forming obtuse angles with the narrow spaces of level ground which intervene. These knolls are of a dry kindly soil resting upon rotten rock, and afford excellent pasture. They are curiously belted from base to

summit by paths at distances of less than a yard, formed by cattle or sheep feeding around their sides. They yield abundant shelter as well as food, and might be subjected to the operations of the plough, were it not that their inconvenient forms would greatly increase the labour of tillage. There are other eminences of greater magnitude than these productive hillocks. They are called Drums in the language of the country, but their soil is of inferior quality. It consists of a poor shallow surface resting upon a bed of tilly clay. This forms what agriculturists call a retentive bottom; and is cold, wet, and uncongenial, and difficult of improvement. Among these varieties of surface, there exist large tracts of excellent arable land, consisting of a light friable mould upon a sharp gravelly subsoil. These are regularly ploughed and make good returns to the farmer. There are also some, although not extensive, meadows yielding annually abundant natural crops of what is called "bog hay," which is carefully stored for winter fodder. Upon the whole, though by far the larger portion of the parish may be considered arable, and in reality is subjected to a rotation of crops, yet it seems to be acknowledged that the nature of the soil is more suitable for grazing, and that the chief cause of the present large extent of tillage is the necessity for providing winter provender to the cattle, the meadow grounds being inadequate to supply a sufficiency of food for their sustenance.

Climate, &c.—The climate of this parish is mild. The prevailing winds are from the south and south-west. There are often heavy, and sometimes long-continued falls of rain, and, except during some rare summers, frequent showers. Indeed, the soil in general cannot bear a continuance of drought without exhibiting its injurious effects upon vegetation. Although the atmosphere, especially in the winter and spring months, is not unfrequently charged with moisture, and the town which stands but a very little above the level of the sea, on the brink of the river, is subject to fogs, yet the parish is generally healthy. Colds, rheumatism, and consumption are probably the most prevalent disorders, but typhus occasionally breaks out, though seldom with much violence.

Rivers, Streams, &c.—The only river connected with the parish of Kirkcudbright is the river Dee,—Deva of the Romans. This river consists of three united streams, namely, the Deugh, the Ken, and the Dee, with their several tributaries; and it is curious to remark, that the two former have been deprived of their

names in their progress to the sea, and assumed that of their confluent the Dee.*

The Deugh, which rises in the mountains of Carsphairn, upon the borders of Ayrshire, after a long course receives into its channel, at the lowest point of the parish, the lesser stream of the Ken, which rises in the mountains, on the confines of the three counties of Dumfries, Ayr, and Kirkcudbright. But, in return for this kindly reception, the Deugh is ungratefully robbed of its name, and the united streams take the appellation of the Water of Ken, the smaller of the two. This name is preserved until the river passes Kenmure Castle in the parish of Kells, after which, expanding into a beautiful and romantic lake, it is called the Loch of Ken, till at the point of Airds, in that parish, it receives the Dee, which, issuing from Loch Dee, in the parish of Minnigaff, near the march of Kells, debouches at that parish, and nearly at right angles into the Loch of Ken. Here the Ken pays for its previous usurpation, for in its turn its title becomes extinct, and the Dee, a much smaller river, carries its name into the confluent streams, which are thenceforward denominated the Water of Dee, until lost in the waves of the Solway.

The Dee runs along the western boundary of the parish of Kirkcudbright from its north end at March-cleuch, about a mile above the old bridge of Tongland. Its course, down to the new bridge, is beautifully romantic. It rushes over a rocky bed of considerable width, and its banks are rocky, rugged, and precipitous, but on both sides mantled with natural wood. In summer, its margins are sweetly bedecked with wild flowers. To saunter here and listen to the mournful sound of the passing stream, is to visit nature in her loveliest and most interesting form. But it is in its swollen state that the Dee appears to the greatest advantage. Few objects can surpass in terrific grandeur this majestic river, when its torrent flood rushes along with appalling fury, like rolling masses of snow, forming a series of foaming cataracts, above which the sunbeams are reflected and refracted into mimic rainbows in the hovering spray. †

* The Dee signifies the dark-coloured stream.

† Here it is thought that Montgomery, who lived at Cumpston castle, at a mile's distance, laid the scene of his poem the "Cherry and the Slae," in which the following lines are admirably descriptive of the flooded river.

" But as I looked me alane
I saw a river rin
Out o'er a steepie rock of stane,
Sine lichted in a lin,

From the lower bridge of Tongland, taking the course of the river, its run is about eight miles to the Solway. The highest spring tides reach to the Lin mentioned in the preceding lines. When the tide is full, the river becomes a picturesque object from the top of Tongland hill, also from the higher grounds of Culdoch, the Borelands, and other places in the parish of Kirkcudbright. Its links and windings, from its confluence with the Tarff, at Cumpston, gave it the appearance of a fine chain of lakes sweeping round the town of Kirkcudbright and St Mary's Isle. The Dee is navigable for ships of any size as far as the town of Kirkcudbright, and for vessels of 200 tons burden to the lower bridge of Tongland. A brook, the sources of which are marshy ground, runs betwixt this parish and Rerwick from Bombie, until it falls into the Solway at the west side of Mullock-bay, where sometimes vessels of small burden lie in fine weather. This brook crosses the road to Dundrennan at Ringligget, and is there called Ringburn, probably from its occupying the line of march: it falls into the sea under the name of Mullockburn.

Another brook, dividing the parish into two not very unequal parts, rises in the north end of it, at or near the march of Kelton. It is first called Hartburn, passing southward through a farm of that name, then, after receiving a rivulet of the same size, called Gribdae-burn, it obtains the name of Bucklandburn, and is augmented on one side by a rill called Clownstanegill, and on the other by one issuing from a ravine named Glenlay Fleugh. Proceeding onwards in its course, the brook at last gets the name of Grangeburn, under which it falls into the Dee to the south of St Mary's Isle.

These brooks abound with yellow trout, and in the end of autumn numbers of sea trout and herling ascend the streams in order to deposit their spawn. In the upper end of the farm of Jordieland, where it joins the contiguous farms of Culdoch and Blackstockarton, there is a loch of considerable size, stocked with a species of yellow trout equal to that of Loch Leven. They

With tumbling and rumbling
Amang the rockis round,
Devalling and falling
Into a pit profound."

The Dee at different times assumes very dissimilar appearances; at one time it swells into a fearful size, and at another dwindles into a scarcely perceptible rill. In 1822, it rose to a height of nearly twenty feet of solid water, and could hardly find a passage through the arches of the old bridge of Tongland, which appeared to vibrate, and in 1826 it sunk so low that its whole waters were confined within a channel of six inches in depth, and ten inches in breadth.

weigh from 1 to 3 pounds, their fish is red and of delicious flavour. They, however, try the skill and patience of the professor of the gentle art, as they are very shy and difficult to take. The parish is plentifully watered, there being many other rills and an abundant supply of springs of pure water within its bounds. In the burgh roods, chalybeate springs have been discovered, which, however, are little valued, and have not been minutely analyzed, although their taste would indicate metallic impregnation fully as strong as is possessed by some distant and celebrated fountains. The line of coast from Mullock bay on the east to Torrs' point, opposite the island of Little Ross on the west, extends about 3 miles. It is bold and rocky, except for a short space immediately below the farm house of Howell, and at a point east of that called "the Haen," *i. e.* Haven, in Balmae. Raeberry, near the east end of the line, rears a lofty head facing the sea, forming a frightful precipice, the haunt of ravens, goshawks, and other birds of prey; it is also frequented by the red-legged jackdaw.

In a precipice on the Balmae shore, to the west, and not far from the mouth of the Dee, is a remarkable natural cavern called Torrs' Cove, which extends 60 feet into the rock. The entrance is narrow, being little more than sufficient to admit a man on his hands and knees to pass into the cave, then gradually widening, it rises to a height of more than 12 feet, after which it again contracts to the farthest end. The roof is pendant with icicles of stalactite, the constant dropping from which forms on the floor stalagmite crustations. The door is said to have been originally built with stone and to have had a lintel at the top which is now buried in the ruins. The cave is thought to have been sometimes used as a hiding-place in former times.

Upon the rocks towards the sea, is found abundance of samphire.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The geological formation of the parish is greywacke, with occasional masses and dikes of porphyry. The latter substance is of a red colour and very compact, and exists in masses above Culdoch and upon Jordieland moor; and upon the south side of Jordieland loch there is a small rounded eminence, where its junction with the greywacke may be seen. The two rocks in this place are much co-mingled, and the appearance of both greatly changed, the greywacke being indurated and blackened, and the crystals of the porphyry much larger than usual. Red porphyry protrudes in the Barhill also, and on the farms of Boreland, Little Kirkland, and Sypland. The most of the heights in the north of the parish are capped

with it, and several dikes of it cross the Dee above Tongland bridge. Along the shore of Kirkcudbright and the Solway Frith, there are at least sixteen trap dikes. Of these, two are amygdaloid; several are compact felspar; and the remainder claystone porphyry, and felspar porphyry. These dikes are all more or less tortuous, and in two cases they send veins into the greywacke. In front of a recess in the precipitous part of the shore, a little to the north of Torrs' point, a dike of felspar porphyry shoots up into a column of about 20 feet in height, with changed greywacke clinging to its sides. Another dike of felspar porphyry contains kernel-looking masses, some of them an inch in diameter, filled with a soft white mineral resembling gypsum, surrounded by a shell of a harder mineral. In one of the dikes of amygdaloid, the kernels are uniformly largest in the centre, and gradually diminish towards the sides, till the dike becomes a greenstone, showing the effect of the more rapid cooling of the parts nearest the greywacke in lessening the size of the gas bubbles in the volcanic matter, at the time of its protruding. There are likewise seen on the shore several wide fissures, filled with angular pieces of greywacke, imbedded in a cement of felspar, or calcareous spar, forming a breccia; and adjoining a dike of felspar porphyry on the shore west of Raeberryhill, is a tortuous dike of quartz from two to five feet thick. Of these dikes the claystone porphyry are highest above the greywacke, then the felspar porphyry; and the compact felspar, is on a level with the greywacke or sinks below it. There are numerous veins of calcareous spar visible along the shore, and a few of barytes and quartz; and sometimes these are coloured red with oxide of iron.

Several trap dikes exist in the interior of the parish; one is seen in Gribdae, one crosses the road near the Brockloch, very much desintegrated, and another is visible north of Lochfergus House. On the shore of Little Balmae the grains composing the greywacke increase in size, consisting principally of angular fragments of quartz; and here, but for its argillaceous cement, it would be a gritstone. Here are also large nodules of fine grained compact greywacke imbedded in slaty strata of the same rock. The coarse greywacke is seen also protruding in front of Howell House. On Howell shore, several fossils have been found belonging to the genus *Orthoceras*. In various places along the shore, the ripple mark may be distinctly seen on the face of the strata. The whole of the greywacke on the shore is very much broken and

contorted, and varies much in dip and direction, though the former generally approaches to vertical. On Balmae shore the greywacke forms a good building stone; and numbers of the large boulders of granite and greenstone, scattered plentifully along the shores of the Manxman's lake, have been broken up and removed for this purpose. There are several caverns on the shore hollowed out by the waves of the Solway, but the 'Torrs' Cove, often called Dirk Hatterick cove, is considerably above high-water mark.*

Zoology.—No very rare animals exist in the parish. The fox and the otter are occasionally met with, though the damage now done by them is by no means considerable. The badger, for some years past, has not been observed, but there are still a few of them in the district. The number of both polecats and weasles has been of late years much diminished; whilst hares and rabbits have amazingly increased. The bittern is perhaps the rarest bird to be found in the parish. Only one has been seen in it during the last thirteen years. It is solitary in its habits, and frequents marshy grounds, living upon the small animals which exist in such situations. The chough, or red-legged crow, is also seldom seen, except sometimes upon the shore. Berries and insects are its food. The only hawks that breed here are the sparrow-hawk, merlin, and kestrel. The goshawk is sometimes a visitor, and he has been known to build on the Large Ross. The buzzard annually appears, chiefly in autumn, and so does the harrier. Only one peregrine falcon has been lately seen, which was killed and stuffed. There is abundance of pheasants and partridges, with a little black game and grouse. Woodcocks are much scarcer now than formerly, owing, it is thought, to the destruction of their nests, the eggs of this bird being held in high estimation. Lapwings are still numerous, and breed in the district. The snipe is also an inhabitant of the parish, as well as the heron, but neither is common. The starling exists here, with all the variety of birds, both indigenous and migratory, that are common in the country. There are various kinds of ducks and other water-fowl, such as the gannet, cormorant, puffin, sea-magpie, and four or five species of gulls. In severe winters, wild geese sometimes alight, and feed on Howell meadow, or the neighbouring shores. The Dee is celebrated for its salmon. It likewise contains grilse, sea and

* The writer is indebted to Mr E. B. Fleming, of the Kirkcudbright Academy, for the preceding geological information.

river trout, herlings, cod, flounder, plaice, dab eels, lythe, sole, mullet, skate, lamprey, whiting, par, spirling. Pike and perch have been occasionally caught in the fresh water portion of the river, and in the lower part are sometimes taken small herrings, haddocks, ling, mackerel, turbot, and shrimps, &c. Lesser spotted sharks (called here dog-fish), angel-sharks, and porpoises have at intervals appeared, and been killed. Salmon and grilse proceed up the Dee for the purpose of spawning, at all seasons of the year, but perhaps the principal run is during the month of July. They leave the fresh water again in the greatest numbers from the middle of February to the middle or end of March. The river exhibits the largest quantity of salmon-fry about the 12th of May. The shell-fish of the parish are, lobsters, crabs, rock-oysters, cockles, muscles, wilks, buckies, limpets, pipes. Mussels are much sought after by the poor, and may be collected on some rocks in pretty large quantities. On the 'Torrs' shore are seen, during spring tides, considerable numbers of oysters. Buckies are here extensively used as baits for white fish; they are therefore of much value. Limpets and a kind of sand-worms are likewise used.

There are few reptiles in the parish, and insects are not particularly destructive.

The following animals formerly existed, but have now disappeared, viz. the urus,—an animal resembling a bull,—the wolf, the deer, the wild cat, and the eagle.

Botany.—The following list of the rarer plants belonging to the parish was kindly furnished to the writer by Major-General Irving, Balmae House.

<i>Alisma ranunculoides</i>	<i>Doronicum plantagineum</i>	<i>Hypericum humifusum</i>
<i>Allium arenarium</i>	<i>Drosera anglica</i>	<i>Inula Helenium</i>
—— vineale	—— longifolia	<i>Isoetes lacustris</i>
<i>Althea officinalis</i>	<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	—— maritimum
<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	—— pauciflora	—— obtusiflorus
<i>Anchusa sempervirens</i>	<i>Epilobium alpinum</i>	<i>Lamium maculatum</i>
<i>Angelica Archangelica</i>	—— alsinifolium	<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>
<i>Anthemis nobilis</i>	<i>Eryum tetraspermum</i>	—— sylvestris
<i>Asplenium marinum</i>	<i>Erythraea Reneal, pulchella</i>	<i>Linum perenne</i>
<i>Aster Tripolium</i>	Hook.	<i>Lobelia Dortmanna</i>
<i>Astragalus glycyphyllus</i>	<i>Euonymus Europæus</i>	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	<i>Galium boreale</i>	<i>Malva moschata</i>
<i>Camelina sativa</i>	—— pusillum	<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>
<i>Carduus Marianus</i>	—— Mollugo	<i>Myrica Gale</i>
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	—— uliginosum	<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>
<i>Carum verticillatum</i>	<i>Geranium phæum</i>	<i>Narcissus pseudo-narcissus</i>
<i>Cheiranthus Cheiri</i>	<i>Glaucium luteum</i>	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>
<i>Cnicus heterophyllus</i>	<i>Gnaphalium margaritaceum</i>	<i>Nymphæa alba</i>
<i>Convolvulus sepium</i>	<i>Goodyera repens</i>	<i>Cenanthe fistulosa</i>
<i>Crambe maritima</i>	<i>Helleborus viridis</i>	—— pimpinelloides
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	—— repens	<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>
<i>Dianthus Armeria</i>	<i>Hippophæ rhamnoides</i>	<i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i>

<i>Petroselinum</i> , <i>Hoffm.</i>	<i>Sambucus</i> <i>Ebulus</i>	<i>Utricularia</i> <i>minor</i>
————— <i>segetum</i>	<i>Samolus</i> <i>Valerandi</i>	————— <i>vulgaris</i>
<i>Phleum</i> <i>arenarium</i>	<i>Scelopendrium</i> <i>vulgare</i>	<i>Vaccinium</i> <i>Oxycoccus</i>
<i>Potentilla</i> <i>Fragariastrum</i>	<i>Scutellaria</i> <i>galeriulata</i>	<i>Valeriana</i> <i>pyrenaica</i>
<i>Pulicaria</i> <i>dysenterica</i>	————— <i>minor</i>	————— <i>rubra</i>
<i>Ranunculus</i> <i>arvensis</i>	<i>Solanum</i> <i>Dulcamara</i>	<i>Verbascum</i> <i>Thapsus</i>
————— <i>Lingua</i>	<i>Sparganium</i> <i>simplex</i>	<i>Vinca</i> <i>major</i>
<i>Raphanus</i> <i>maritimus</i>	<i>Stachys</i> <i>ambigua</i>	————— <i>minor</i>
<i>Ruppia</i> <i>maritima</i>	————— <i>Germanica</i>	<i>Zostera</i> <i>marina</i> .
<i>Ruscus</i> <i>aculeatus</i>	<i>Typha</i> <i>latifolia</i>	

Forests or Plantations.—The plantations are composed principally of oak, ash, elm, beech, plane, Spanish-chestnut, larch, Scotch-fir, spruce, and silver fir; and partially of alder, birch, hornbeam, horse-chestnut, walnut, gean, maple, lime, laburnum, Huntingdon willow, poplar, balm of Gilead fir, and pinaster.

There is little wood indigenous to the soil, with the exception of a few ash and mountain-ash trees in the glens of Glenlay and Bombie; and along the bank of the Dee, a little below and above the old bridge of Tongland. There are some oaks, in addition to the ash and rowan; and farther up the river, within Culdoch, in the march of Netherthird, there are a few birch.

The other plants and shrubs natural to such localities are, the hazel, hawthorn, sloe, wild dog-wood, crab, black-saugh, whin, broom, buckie and bramble briars, rasp, honeysuckle, and ivy.

There are a considerable number of beech-trees and some elms in St Mary's Isle, the circumference of the trunks of which reach 8 and 9 feet, and several of them 11 feet. One oak is 10 feet, and a Spanish-chestnut 14 feet in circumference.

On the farm of Kirkland, in the south Cotland field, is a plane tree, the circumference of which is 11 feet, and the spread of the top covers a circuit of 60 yards.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Events.—The parish of Kirkcudbright is rich in historical events. The town is thought to have existed before the invasion of the Romans, and to have been known to them by the name of Benutium. Agricola, with his victorious army, penetrated into the parish A. D. 82. He entered it on the north-east boundary, and having taken a British strength belonging to the Selgovae on the farm of Little Sypland, he encamped near Whinnyligget, about a mile from the captured fort. After reducing another strength on the farm of Meikle Sypland, the Roman army proceeded to Bombie, where they formed an encampment. After wresting from their defenders several intervening fortlets, they again encamped near the site of the old church of Dunrod. Another short march placed them before the important fort-

ress of Caerbantorigum, which they also seized. This fortress, which may be considered the principal border garrison of the Selgovae, stood on an eminence of about 250 feet high at Drummore. The Romans retained possession of it during the reigns of the Antonines, or, as some think, for nearly 300 years. The inhabitants of the locality must have derived many advantages from the presence of these more civilized and industrious foreigners; for Agricola was particularly zealous in promoting improvement among the conquered tribes of Scotland.

Whilst Malcolm IV., son of David I., was a minor, Fergus, the Lord of Galloway, whose palace stood on an island in Lochfergus, near the town of Kirkcudbright, abjured his connection with the Scottish crown, and asserted his independence as a sovereign prince. The King took up arms to chastise him, and twice invaded his rugged territories, but without success. Malcolm marched against the Galwegian chief a third time, with additional forces and redoubled ardour, and completely prevailed. In 1160, Fergus resigned the Lordship of Galloway, and retiring into the abbey of Holyrood, next year died of grief. He bestowed upon this institution the church and village of Dunrod, with the lands and church of Galtway. Fergus was a prince of great piety and some notoriety. He married Elizabeth, illegitimate daughter of Henry I., King of England, and was much at David's Court. He was ancestor of Bruce and Baliol, and from him the royal families of both France and England are descended.

Fergus was succeeded by his two sons, Uchtred and Gilbert, between whom, according to the Celtic law, his dominions were divided. The brothers became mutually jealous of each other, and on the 22d of September 1174, whilst Uchtred resided in his castle at Lochfergus, he was attacked by his elder brother, deprived of his tongue and eyes, and murdered in a most barbarous manner. Uchtred, like his father, was distinguished for his piety: he bestowed the church of Kirkcudbright upon the monks of Holyrood, who enjoyed the tithes and revenues, whilst the cure was served by a vicar.

The last in the male line of the ancient princes of Galloway was Allan, who died, in all probability, in the castle of Lochfergus, or Kirkcudbright Castle, and was buried in Dundrennan Abbey, founded by Fergus, his great-grandfather.

During the competition for the crown of Scotland, Edward I., who was appointed umpire, committed the keeping of the castle

of Kirkcudbright, erected by one of the Lords of Galloway, to Walter De Courry, and afterwards to Richard Seward, who, on the mandate of the English King, delivered it up to John Baliol, to whom the kingdom of Scotland was nominally awarded.

After his defeat at Falkirk, the patriot Wallace took shipping at Kirkcudbright, and sailed to France with Maclellan of Bombie, ancestor of the noble family of Kirkcudbright, and about fifty faithful adherents. Edward I., in his career of conquest, reached the town of Kirkcudbright, and took up his abode in the castle, where he remained with his queen and court for ten days, and made his usual oblations in the priory church. From the port of Kirkcudbright he sent into both England and Ireland large quantities of wheat, to be made into flour for the use of his army. The Archbishop of Canterbury, attended by his learned dignitaries, clerks, and servants, followed Edward to Kirkcudbright with a Papal bull; but before his arrival the king had departed from the town. Bakers from Carlisle, and experienced fishermen with suitable nets, attended the royal army.

Edward Bruce having subdued Galloway, received from his royal brother, as a reward of his important services, the Lordship of Galloway, with the castle of Kirkcudbright, and all Baliol's forfeited estates. This ruler granted to the priory of Whithorn the half of the salmon fishery of the Dee, near Kirkcudbright.

In the reign of James II. Sir John Herries of Terregles applied to Douglas of Threave Castle for compensation for some robberies committed by the dependents of that powerful chief. The application was unsuccessful; and he, aided by Maclellan of Bombie, made an inroad into the territories of the Earl, but his party was routed, and he himself taken prisoner, and executed in defiance of the king's command. The encounter is thought to have taken place about a mile and a-half from the town of Kirkcudbright, on the old road to Dumfries, at a place still called "Herries'-slaughter."

The tutor of Bombie soon shared the same fate. Admittance having been obtained, either by force or treachery, into his castle of Raeberry, the principal residence of the family, he was seized, carried to Threave Castle, and beheaded, although Sir Patrick Gray, the King's messenger, had arrived to demand the custody of the prisoner. Douglas was stabbed by the king's own hand in the castle of Stirling on the 20th day of February 1452.

In about three years after this event, James visited the town of

Kirkcudbright to make arrangements for laying siege to the strong castle of Threave, the last place that held out for the Douglasses. The citizens afforded him assistance, having supplied, it is believed, the iron from which Mons Meg was manufactured. Before the fall of the Douglasses, the capital of Galloway remained a burgh of regality under their oppressive sway, but it was now created a royal burgh by a charter dated at Perth the 26th of October 1455, the chief magistrate being styled alderman. The Maclellans of Bombie often held this office. After the battle of Toton, in 1461, Kirkcudbright afforded shelter to the unfortunate Henry VI. of England and his high-minded queen. The King resided here until his indomitable consort visited Edinburgh to concert measures with the Scottish Government for regaining to her husband the English crown. On the 16th of April 1462, Margaret, with a convoy of four Scottish ships, sailed from Kirkcudbright to Bretagne, in France, and in 1463, the feeble Henry returned to England in disguise. It appears he had only four attendants with him in Scotland.

In the spring of 1501, the town of Kirkcudbright had again the honour of a royal visit. James IV., in one of his numerous pilgrimages to the shrine of St Ninian at Whithorn, diverged thither, and, with his usual liberality to the clergy, bestowed L. 1 upon the priests, and L. 5, 5s. upon the friars, to buy a Eucharist.

Thomas, Earl of Derby, a young, fiery, and warlike chief, having succeeded to the sovereignty of Mar, to extend his fame and gratify the hostile feelings of his subjects to the Scots, made a descent upon the shores of Galloway in 1507, at the head of a formidable body of furious Manxmen, and nearly destroyed the town of Kirkcudbright. For some years afterwards many of the houses remained in ruins.

James IV. again visited the burgh in 1508, and was hospitably entertained by the inhabitants. On this occasion, he granted them the castle of Kirkcudbright and its lands, which had reverted to the crown on the forfeiture of the Douglasses, on whom it had been bestowed in 1369 by David II. This grant was confirmed by a charter in the following year, dated the 26th of February; and it is said to have been made on account of certain aids afforded to his grandfather, James II., when engaged in the reduction of Threave Castle, and for services to James himself.

On the 9th of September 1513, Sir William Maclellan of Bombie, the principal proprietor of the parish, was slain with a num-

ber of his dependents in the disastrous battle of Flodden. His son fell in a feud by the hand of Gordon of Lochinvar, at the door of St Giles' Church, in Edinburgh.

The Duke of Albany, regent of Scotland, and next heir to the crown, in 1523, embarked at Brest in a fleet of eighty-seven vessels, and having escaped the English squadron, landed at Kirkcudbright on the 7th of October, where he was joyfully received.

During the minority of Mary Queen of Scots, the English having gained possession of Dumfries, summoned the town of Kirkcudbright to submit to the authority of Edward VI. This demand being refused, a detachment of the invaders on horseback proceeded to the town, under the command of Sir Thomas Carleton, to compel obedience or burn it. They reached their place of destination, a little before sunrise; but the inhabitants had got notice of their approach, and, according to Sir Thomas's account, "barred their gates and kept their dikes; for the town," he adds, "is diked on both sides, with a gate to the waterward, and a gate at the overend to the fellward." The English alighted from their horses, and vigorously assailed the place; but they could make no impression upon it. One man was killed within the walls by an arrow, and immediately some of the women began to be alarmed for the safety of their husbands. The tutor of Bombie, at the head of a party of his friends, now made his appearance, and fiercely attacked the besiegers; but, after three of his men were killed and a number of them wounded or made prisoners, he thought it advisable to retire. Though only one of the English fell in the conflict, they did not venture to attack the town a second time, but retired to Dumfries.

After the destruction of the ill-fated Mary's army at Langside, she fled into Galloway, accompanied by Lord Herries and his followers. Having travelled along the west side of the Ken, she crossed the Dee by a wooden bridge, thought to have been erected by the Romans, near Tongland church, and entered the parish of Kirkcudbright. Whilst her attendants were engaged in breaking down the bridge to prevent pursuit, she remained in a neighbouring cottage. The ruins which long existed in the farm of Culdoch were called "Dun's Wa's." The fugitive Queen remained three days in the district before proceeding to England.

To avenge the death of Mary and his own wrongs, Philip, King of Spain, &c. fitted out a stupendous fleet and collected a vast army for the invasion of Britain. The place fixed for the landing of

the Spanish troops was the harbour of Kirkcudbright. Lord Maxwell hurried home from Spain to arm his followers, and landed at the same place. The fate of the Spanish Armada is well known : it was defeated by the English fleet before it reached the destined port, and the elements completed its destruction.

James VI. appears to have been in Kirkcudbright when in pursuit of Lord Maxwell ; for the burgh is in possession of a small silver gun, which, according to tradition, was presented to the incorporated trades during his visit, that they might occasionally shoot for it, and by this means improve in the use of fire-arms,—then rapidly superseding the bow and arrow as implements of war. The year 1587 and the letters T. M. C., supposed to be the initials of Thomas Maclellan of Bombie, are engraven on the barrel of this miniature fusee. The trinket, seven inches in length, has been shot for, only three times in the memory of the oldest person now living, *1st*, in 1781 ; *2d*, on the 22d of April 1830 ; and, *3d*, on the 28th of June 1838, the day of the Queen's coronation. The capacious wassail bowl belonging to the burgh was filled and refilled on the joyful occasion.

When Charles I. visited Scotland to conciliate the favour of his northern subjects, he bestowed upon Sir Robert Maclellan of Bombie the title of Lord Kirkcudbright, and granted a new charter to the burgh dated the 20th of July 1633, which created the present corporation, consisting of a provost, two bailies, a treasurer, and thirteen councillors. In the Battle of Philiphaugh, John, third Lord Kirkcudbright commanded a regiment which he had raised at his own expense, chiefly among his tenants. It behaved with great bravery, and was awarded 15,000 merks out of Lord Herries's forfeited estates.

In 1663, a serious riot took place in the parish at the introduction of a curate. Commissioners were appointed to repair to the burgh, and make the most searching inquiry into the particulars of this contempt of authority. After examining a number of witnesses, they ordered Lord Kirkcudbright, John Carson, late provost, John Ewart, who had been chosen provost, but had refused to accept of the office, and several women, to be carried prisoners to Edinburgh. Some of the rioters were imprisoned and afterwards fined ; and several of them were exposed at the market-cross of Kirkcudbright, with papers upon their faces stating the nature of their crime.

After the defeat of the insurgent Covenanters at Rullion Green

in the Pentland Hills, Major M'Culloch of Barholm, John Gordon of Knockbrenn, and Robert Gordon, his brother, were sentenced to be executed at Edinburgh, and their heads sent to Kirkcudbright, to be exposed on the principal gate of the town. This sentence was put into execution. In 1684, two Covenanters, William Hunter and Robert Smith, who had been apprehended at Auchencloy, on the Dee, were brought to the town, where a jury being called, and the empty forms of a trial gone through, they were sentenced to be first hanged and then beheaded: this sentence was literally carried into effect. They were buried in Kirkcudbright churchyard, and a stone still points out the place of interment. John Hallam, another Covenanter, was also tried and executed in Kirkcudbright: his remains rest in the same churchyard.

In 1685, Sir Robert Grierson of Lag surprised John Bell of Whiteside and some others on the hill of Kirkconnel, in the parish of Tongland, and barbarously ordered them to be instantly put to death: he would not allow their bodies to be buried. Mr Bell was the only son of the heiress of Whiteside, who, after the death of his father, had married Viscount Kenmure. This nobleman met Lag in company with Graham of Claverhouse on the street of Kirkcudbright. Kenmure accused Lag of cruelty, when he retorted in highly offensive language, which so provoked the Viscount, that he drew his sword and would have run it through the body of the persecutor, had not Claverhouse interfered and saved his life. The encounter happened near the door of an inn at the north end of the town.

William's fleet, on its passage to Ireland, continued for some time wind-bound in the Bay of Kirkcudbright. He erected a battery on the eastern shore, some traces of which still remain.

In 1698, a woman named Elspeth M'Ewen was brought to trial for witchcraft, condemned and burned to death near the town.

On the 12th November 1706, the magistrates, councillors, and other inhabitants of the burgh petitioned Parliament against the Union. A riot afterwards took place.

Previous to the Rebellion of 1715, Kirkcudbright seems to have been fixed upon as the place where the Pretender was to land. So enthusiastic did the inhabitants become in the royal cause, that they sent a company of foot under the command of their late provost, to assist in the defence of Dumfries against the rebels, who intended vigorously to attack it.

On the 1st of June 1750, Thomas Miller of Glenlee, Esq.,

advocate, first Steward-Depute of the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, passed sentence of death upon Henry Greig, accused of theft, house-breaking, and robbery. The execution took place in the vicinity of the ancient Gallow-hill, on an eminence at the side of the public road. This was the last melancholy exhibition of a capital punishment that the burgh of Kirkcudbright has been called upon to witness.

In the spring of 1778, the celebrated Paul Jones paid a visit to St Mary's Isle for the purpose of carrying off its noble owner, the Earl of Selkirk. Soon after he had effected a landing, he was informed by some labourers that his Lordship was in England. He then ordered his men to return to their boat; but, observing on their countenances symptoms of dissatisfaction, he allowed the party, commanded by two lieutenants, to proceed to the mansion-house, and demand the Earl's silver-plate. The various articles were delivered to them by the Countess of Selkirk, and the party setting off without delay, reached their ship. The plate was bought at a considerable price by Paul Jones himself in France, and returned to her Ladyship in perfect safety.

Maps, &c.—The land-owners have maps, plans, or surveys of their properties, which tend to illustrate the antiquities of the parish.

Eminent Characters.—Exclusive of the eminent characters already taken notice of, we may mention a few men who have done honour to Kirkcudbright by their talents and labours.

In the reign of David II., John Carpenter, a Franciscan or Grey-friar belonging to the convent established at Kirkcudbright, was employed to fortify Dumbarton Castle. For this service he received from the King an annual pension of L.20 Sterling. He is said to have been an excellent engineer, and “dextrous at contriving all instruments of war.”

John Barton, brother of the well known Andrew Barton, and son of the renowned sea captain of that name, who was slain by the Portuguese in the reign of James III., died and was buried in Kirkcudbright church-yard.

John Welsh, son-in-law of John Knox, was minister of the parish. He was banished from Britain for his opposition to Episcopal encroachment. By powerful intercession, the King at length allowed him to reside in London, where he died in 1622.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

B

John Maclellan, who wrote, in 1665, a description of Galloway in Latin for Blaeu's Atlas, which gained him some celebrity, was minister of Kirkcudbright.

Dr Thomas Blacklock, who had been blind almost from infancy, was ordained to the pastoral charge of the parish of Kirkcudbright in 1762. He was both an elegant writer and an amiable man. His settlement being strenuously opposed, he at length felt himself compelled to resign his living and retire to Edinburgh.

Basil William Lord Daer was the eldest surviving son of Dunbar, Earl of Selkirk. About the year 1786, his father's advanced age prevented him from engaging personally in the improvement of his estates; and, by a generous and merited act of confidence, he devolved the management of his property on his talented son. Lord Daer turned his attention to the study of rural economy in its various branches, and displayed much ability in the formation, and diligence in the execution, of his admirable plans. His exertions, however, were not confined to the improvement of his father's estates; they extended to the promotion of every measure of public utility. By his liberality, judgment, influence, and example, he induced the proprietors of the district to form proper roads, to erect suitable bridges, to lay out ornamental plantations, to build better farm-houses, and construct convenient offices. This celebrated nobleman died on the 5th of November 1794, at the early age of thirty-two years. Of Lord Daer, the History of Galloway thus speaks:—"We cannot name this amiable and youthful nobleman without remarking, that his genuine distinction did not arise from the accidents of rank, influence, and fortune. He belonged to the aristocracy of nature—to the peerage of intellect; for, if his useful and valuable life had been spared, the magnitude and buoyancy of his talents would have raised him to eminence, and the south of Scotland to unexampled prosperity. We do not remember this truly great and good man, who, during his short and philanthropic career, gained the esteem, commanded the admiration, and riveted to himself the hearts of all by whom he was surrounded; but well we remember, that in our boyhood, his name was never mentioned in the town of Kirkcudbright, without emotions of the liveliest enthusiasm and veneration. He set an example that has been widely followed, and the district in which he resided will long reap the fruits of his disinterested labours."

Thomas, Earl of Selkirk, was distinguished as a scholar, an author, and a politician. In the management of his estates, he followed the judicious plans devised by his brother. He died at Pau, in France, on the 8th of April 1820, having scarcely completed the forty-ninth year of his age.

James Wedderburn, Esq., Solicitor-General of Scotland, died in 1822, at St Mary's Isle, and was interred in Galtway churchyard.

Ministers of Kirkcudbright since the Revolution, with the years when their names first appeared in the synod book:—“ John Spalding, 1689. Andrew Cameron, 1695. George Gartshore,* 1723. Thomas Blacklock, 1762. William Crombie, 1765. Robert Muter, 1770. George Hamilton, 1820. John M'Millan, 1837.

Chief Land-owners.—The Earl of Selkirk is the principal landholder in the parish.

Parochial Registers.—A parochial register is regularly kept by the kirk-session. The oldest record commences in 1692.

Antiquities, British Forts, &c.—In the parish of Kirkcudbright, there are many vestiges of British forts; indeed, the whole eastern banks of the Dee, the line of demarcation between two hostile tribes, the Selgovae and Novantes, seem to have been studded with ancient fortifications.—The most important in size and strength was Caerbantorigum, on the farm of Drummore. The hill on the top of which it stood commands a most extensive view both of land and water. The fort was surrounded by two ramparts, composed of earth and stone, and a double fosse, which remain almost entire, the ramparts being still covered with heather. In the middle of the enclosure is a pit partially filled with stones. To what uses it may have been devoted, it is now impossible to conjecture. It has the appearance of a well. In a piece of marshy ground at some little distance below the fort, is a large well, the sides built of stone, which some think supplied the garrison with water. At short distances from the eminence are still observable traces of the hostile Roman camps. About a mile and a half from Drummore hill, there are the remains of another British fort, likewise of a circular form, on the farm of Milton. There are two hill fortlets near the old church of Galtway; and a hill on the farm of Meikle Syp-

* The distinguished physician, Dr Maxwell Gartshore of London, was his son.

land exhibits the site of a pretty entire fort, of about forty paces in diameter. This eminence overlooks a vast extent of country, and no enemy could have approached the fortress without being seen at a considerable distance. Between this and Galtway, traces of a Roman camp are still visible on Bombie Mains; and the remains of two British posts appear at no great distance. The farm of Little Sypland contains a large British fort: between the strongholds on the two Syplands, is the site of a Roman camp near Whinnyligget.

In the farm of Carse was a British fort, of about fifty paces in diameter, placed there, in all probability, to protect a ford nearly opposite in the Dee, and to overlook a portion of the river.

Castles.—On an island in Lochfergus, now drained, stood the strong mansion of the ancient Lords of Galloway. There were two fortified islands in the lake, the larger, about 90 paces in diameter, was called Palace Isle, and the smaller, Stable Isle.

The Lords of Galloway, as formerly noticed, had another castle in the immediate vicinity of the burgh, named Kirkcudbright-Castle. In old deeds, the lands are called Castle-Mains; but now the place bears the name of Castledykes. The castle was surrounded by a deep ditch, or fosse, into which the tide at high water probably flowed. Traces of the building are still apparent, though it has been long since demolished.

The Maclellans had a castle at Bombie, from which they took their title; but it is now a heap of ruins. They had another and a stronger castle at Raeberry, also in the parish of Kirkcudbright. It stood upon a rock which overhung a terrific precipice above the Solway Frith, and was disjoined from the main land by a deep fosse, with a strong wall. Across it, was a huge drawbridge, said to have been made of hard freestone. The wall and drawbridge are supposed to have been destroyed about ninety years ago, and the interior buildings about two hundred years prior to that time. At present, nothing remains but the site and fosse.

Antiquities—Burgh.—The town of Kirkcudbright was anciently encompassed by a wall and fosse. None of the wall is now visible, though the fosse, or ditch, is still open in several places. The space within the wall was almost a square, each side being about 350 yards long. The town had one gate at the river, and another on the side next the Barhill, called the Meikle Yett.*

* The three globular stones which stood above it are placed on the gate of the churchyard.

The tide seems to have flowed into the fosse, and consequently at high water to have completely surrounded the town. Houses stood with their gables to the street, and closes radiated from each side of it. At the cross are the old jail and steeple: the steeple contains the bells which are used on ordinary occasions, and a clock of no modern workmanship.

Churches.—Within the modern parish of Kirkcudbright, were at one time eight places of worship, with their respective churchyards. The town contained two churches, namely, that belonging to the convent of the Greyfriars, near the site of the present castle, and St Andrew's Church, which stood on the ground occupied by the new jail. The General Assembly which sat in Edinburgh during the summer of 1564, petitioned Queen Mary to grant the Friars' Church of Kirkcudbright to the magistrates, to be used as a parish church. The Queen was pleased to comply with this request, and the building then contained for the first time a Protestant congregation. The convent itself, having suffered from the fury of the populace, was bestowed upon Sir Thomas Maclellan of Bombie, to afford him a site for a new residence. This castle was erected in 1582: it is now in ruins, but the walls remain almost entire. The building retained its roof until 1752. In the year 1570, Sir Thomas Maclellan sold the Friar's Church and the church of St Andrews, with their churchyards, to the magistrates, council, and community of Kirkcudbright, for the sum "of twa hundredth merks, usual money, and ane hundredth bolls of lym." The late church of Kirkcudbright, built in 1730, stood upon the spot previously occupied by the Friars' Church. Below the portion of it called the Old Aisle, still remaining, is the tomb in which the mortal remains of the Maclellans were deposited.

The landward portion of the parish contained five churches. St. Cuthbert's parish church stood about a quarter of a mile to the east of the town, surrounded by a church-yard, which is still used as a burying-ground by nearly all the inhabitants of the parish. It is well suited for the purpose, being a place of great beauty and solemnity. It was lately enlarged by a contract entered into between the magistrates and presbytery. A portion of the glebe, containing 1724 square yards, was given in exchange for 3247 square yards of the town's land: the addition to become the property of the burgh. This church appears to have been about 60 feet long and 30 broad. Its site is still visible, though the walls have been long ago removed. It probably ceased to be used as a

place of worship after the magistrates of Kirkcudbright had obtained possession of the Friars' church.

Galtway* church stood on high ground, about two miles from the burgh. Traces of the walls are apparent. The church seems to have been but small, about 30 feet in length by 15 in breadth. The church-yard is still used by a few families. It is completely surrounded by a thriving plantation, and has a very sequestered appearance: the ancient wall, much dilapidated, exhibits its former boundaries. The enclosure is but small, namely, 67 paces long and 45 broad. The oldest monument is Thomas Ledderdale's of St Mary's Isle, who died on the 10th of February 1687. In the neighbourhood are some traces of a village which the plough has not entirely effaced.

The church and lands of Galtway were appropriated to the prior and canons of St Mary's Isle, a dependent cell of Holyrood, and continued to belong to that establishment until the Reformation. The priory stood in the parish of Galtway.

Dunrodf Church was situated at the distance of nearly three and a-half miles from the town of Kirkcudbright. The church seems to have been about 30 feet long and 15 broad. It also belonged to Holyrood.† The church-yard is of a circular form and continues to be used.

The population here was once considerable, though now few houses remain in the neighbourhood. In the end of the seventeenth century, the heritors of Dunrod and Galtway opposed the minister's application for an augmentation of stipend, because the parishes were a mere waste.

At what time the three parishes were united, is not exactly known; but it is thought that both Galtway and Dunrod were annexed to Kirkcudbright in 1663.

The priory of St Mary's Isle with its church, stood upon a piece of ground which must have been completely insulated at every influx of the tide. It is now a beautiful peninsula, and contains the seat of the Earl of Selkirk. This change has been affected partly by the retreat of the sea along the whole coast, but particularly at St Mary's Isle, and by embankments formed on each side of the isthmus between the island and the mainland.

* From the British *galt*, a steep ascent.

† This word is said to be derived from *Dun*, a hill, and *rudd*, red.

‡ The Abbot of Holyrood granted to the collegiate church of Biggar the right of patronage of the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Dunrod, in the stewardry of Kirkcudbright, on the 5th May 1555.—(New Statistical Account of Biggar.)

The ancient name of the island was Trahil or Trayll,* but after the foundation of the priory dedicated to St Mary, it received the popular appellation of St Mary's Isle. There are now no vestiges of the priory to be seen. All the buildings were removed above a century and a-half ago, and the whole site of the priory is occupied by his Lordship's mansion and pleasure grounds. The edifice was surrounded by high walls, and the outer gate, called the Great-Cross, stood at the distance of half a-mile from the priory, and about as far from the town. The inner gate led immediately to the cells inhabited by the monks, and was distinguished by the name of the Little-Cross. The gates were long ago demolished, but crosses must have been conspicuous at both entrances. The prior of St Mary's Isle, like other priors, had a right to a seat in Parliament. Robert Strivelin was the last prior, and after his death, Robert Richardson, who also held the offices of Lord Treasurer and Master of the Moat, was presented to the priory on the 30th March 1538; he sat as commendator in the Parliament of 1560. In 1572, Mr Robert Richardson, usufructuary, and William Rutherford, commendator, granted to James Ledderdale, and Thomas, his son, the lands which belonged to the priory of St Mary's Isle. This grant was confirmed by a charter from the king, dated the 4th November 1573.†

Druid Temple.—Dr Muter, minister of Kirkcudbright, mentions in the Old Statistical Account, that there was formerly a Druid temple in the parish, near the Roman camp in Bombie. It was destroyed, he says, a short time before he wrote by an "ignorant Goth," who carried off and split the stones for building a small bridge over the Buckland-burn.

Moats.—Moats or motes were fortified eminences, used for courts of justice. There seem to have been two places of this kind in the parish, namely, one in the town, still bearing the name of the Moatbrae, and another in the country, called the Moothill. Some of the ancient hill forts seem to have been subsequently used as places for dispensing justice.

Relics.—A few years ago, some flint hatchets, lying several feet

* It was designated prioratus Sanctae Mariae de Trayll.

† The property granted consisted of St Mary's Isle, Grange, Torrs and Little Galtway, reserving eight acres of land contiguous to the church of Galtway, for the use of the minister. Ledderdale also obtained a lease of nineteen years' duration of the spiritual property of the priory. In 1570, the following individuals officiated in three of the churches, Kirkcudbright, James Dodds, minister; allowance, L.24; Dunrod, William Maclellan, reader, 20 merks; St Mary's Isle, Thomas Anderson, exhorter, L.20.

below the surface of the ground were found in the farm of Milton; the skeleton of a man lay near them.

A kind of stone coffin was lately discovered near Galtway old church: it contained some black mould, and small fragments of bones, which at one time must have formed a portion of the body of one of the primitive inhabitants.

Not long since, a cup of Roman metal was found in the trench at Castledykes, near the town - it is in the possession of Mr Train, Castledouglas.

About the beginning of last century, as some men were engaged in making ditches, they turned up a plate of pure gold near Drummore Castle, for which they obtained L.20.

Quantities of silver coin have been found, within the last twenty years, on the farm of Lochfergus. The pieces were of the reign of Edward I. Small coins called "Charles' placks" have been often found in and near the town of Kirkcudbright.

Modern Buildings.—There are two churches in the parish, namely, the parish church and the United Secession church. The first, a large and elegant building, capable of containing a congregation of upwards of 1500, was completed in 1838, at an expense of about L.7000. The burgh possesses one portion of it, the landward heritors another, and the incorporated trades a third. The funds of the burgh were saved to a considerable amount by private donations; and the trades received the sum of L.150, which was left them by Miss Gordon of Threaveinains, to enable them to erect a gallery in the new church, for the accommodation of themselves and their families. To the burgh belong 608 sittings, 200 of which are let at 2s. 6d. each, L.25; 278 at 2s. each, L.27, 16s.; 130 at 1s. 6d. each, L.9, 15s.; total rent, L.62, 11s. There are 24 free sittings belonging to the burgh. No rent is exacted for seats belonging to the landward heritors. The church has a spire of considerable height attached to it, containing an excellent clock, and a very fine bell, both presents from the late James Lennox, Esq. of Dalskairth: the site of the building was given by Lord Selkirk.

The chapel belonging to the United Secession church is a neat and comfortable edifice. It was completed in 1822, and cost about L.950.

The foundation stones of the jail and academy were laid with masonic honours on the 8th day of May 1815. The Jail, which is of a castellated form, rises in some parts of the structure to the

neight of 75 feet; several of the apartments are large, but not well suited to the present system of prison discipline. Some alterations are contemplated in the interior arrangement of the cells. The prison was erected at the joint expense of the county and burgh, and cost between L.4000 and L.5000. The court-room, a spacious and elegant hall, is contiguous to the prison. The buildings, from a distance, have an imposing appearance.

The Academy consists of three large class rooms and a library. Its site, with about an acre of ground adjoining, was presented to the magistrates by the late Lord Selkirk. It has a kind of piazza, or portico, in front for the use of the scholars in bad weather. The academy originally cost L.1129, but the expense of its erection was partly defrayed by subscriptions from the friends of the institution.

Mansion-Houses. — The mansion-houses in the parish are St Mary's Isle, Balmae, Janefield, St Cuthbert's Cottage, and Fludha.

III.—POPULATION.

Ancient State.—The ancient state of the inhabitants of the parish was by no means favourable to their health and happiness. About the beginning of the last century, their houses in general were miserable hovels, built of stone and turf, or stone and clay, and covered with turf and indifferent straw. Holes in the walls or roof served to admit light, and allow the smoke to escape. Domestic animals, such as cows and horses, were often kept in the dwelling houses of the inhabitants. In a report made by the magistrates of Kirkcudbright to the commissioners of the convention of royal burghs in 1692, they say, "that the most part of their houses are inhabited by their respective heritors, and all the rest are either waist or ruinous, and that more than the half."

Their furniture was of the rudest and poorest kind, and their food consisted of the meanest and coarsest materials. In the same report, it is stated that the town had no foreign trade, and that their inland trade was very inconsiderable; that all the articles they required, they brought from other towns on horseback; that all the vessels they had, was one small boat of eight tons, newly bought for carrying their coal.

The dress of this period was uncouth and homely, and in general neither men nor women wore shoes in summer; shirts they scarcely knew.

Their agricultural operations continued extremely awkward and inefficient, and the instruments then in use were clumsy, ponder-

ous, and imperfectly constructed. Almost all the ordinary drudgery of life was performed by females. Little employment could be obtained, and the price of labour remained miserably low. Education at this period was in a deplorable state. Few of the common people could read even the Bible, and superstition prevailed to a lamentable degree.

Amount of the population of the parish at each census.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In 1786,	871	847	1918
1792,	1119	1176	2295
1801,	1048	1338	2381
1811,	1258	1508	2766
1821,	1509	1868	3377
1831,	1542	1969	3511
1841,	1518	2008	3526

Population of the burgh:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In 1821,	1189	1456	2695
1831,	1167	1523	2690
1841,	1117	1580	2697

Population of the country in 1841, 829.

The country portion of the parish is thought to have been at one time much more populous than at present.

During the last year, there were 60 births, 50 deaths, and 10 marriages in the town and country. There are some individuals above ninety years of age. One noble family, and several persons of independent fortune reside in the parish.

There are five proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards. The burgh also has a rental from land, of about L. 600.

795 families reside in the parish, namely, 635 in the burgh, and 160 in the country.

The parish contains 5 insane and 2 fatuous persons. There are in it one blind person and one deaf and dumb.

Character.—The people of Kirkcudbright are as intellectual, moral, and religious as those of any other parish; but their intelligence is free from pedantry, their morality from cant, and their religion from fanaticism. They have been long distinguished for their attachment to their pastors, and respect towards their superiors in station. The higher ranks are attentive and hospitable to strangers, and the lower ranks are peaceable, modest, obliging, and industrious. Formerly, they were said to be addicted to the use of spirituous liquors; but such a charge cannot now be brought against them, at least with any foundation in truth. There are few crimes committed in the parish, and these by no means of an

aggravated nature. Poaching in game still prevails, though to a trifling extent, considering the temptation the great abundance of game presents, the facility of turning into money, and the poverty of some of the inhabitants. Smuggling is now almost unknown, and no regular pawnbroking has ever been carried on in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—There are about 3000 acres in tillage, and 500 which remain constantly in waste or pasture. About 500 acres have been planted. The management of the plantations is good.

Rent.—The average rent of arable land is about L.1 per acre. A cow or ox can be grazed for L.4 for the year, and a sheep for 5s.

Wages.—The rate of wages for farm labourers and country artisans may be stated at 1s. 4d. per day. Men servants, on an average, receive about L.4, and women servants L.2 half-yearly, with victuals. Masons' wages average 2s. 6d. per day, and house carpenters, 2s.

Cattle are of the Galloway breed, and sheep of the Leicester.

The general duration of leases extend to fifteen years; but leases are not numerous.

The state of farm buildings and enclosures is good.

Draining is now much attended to.

Fisheries.—The river Dee contains three valuable salmon-fisheries. The rent of the Tongland fishing, which belongs to Alexander Murray, Esq. of Broughton, was once as high as L.705. Its present amount is not correctly known. It is extremely productive. Three hundred fish have been taken out of a pool called the Sandbed, on the Kirkcudbright side of the river, at one draught; and even during last season, one draught yielded no fewer than 100 salmon and grilises with three trouts. Out of another pool called the Sheep-Dubb, on the same side of the river, were taken at one time last summer, 589 fish, some of them of a large size. The burgh has a fishery, which lets at present at L.80 per annum; and Lord Selkirk possesses a third, the rent of which is generally supposed to be about L.150. This is also a productive fishery, and the quality of the salmon cannot be surpassed; they are principally taken in yairs. A considerable quantity of excellent cod is caught off the mouth of the river by hooks fastened to lines.

Produce.—The average amount of raw produce raised in the parish cannot be exactly ascertained. The following may approach the truth.

Produce of grain,	L.5000	0	0
Potatoes, turnips, &c.,	2000	0	0
Land in pasture,	10,000	0	0
Hay,	1890	0	0
Gardens,	500	0	0
Fisheries,	1000	0	0
Miscellaneous produce,	1500	0	0
	<hr/>		
Total value,	L.24,990	0	0

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is conveniently situated for the greater part of the population: no houses are above three and a-half miles distant from it. It is in a state of complete repair.

Benefactions.—In 1639, Robert Johnston, Esq. physician, London, left to the poor of Kirkcudbright the sum of L.500 Sterling. In 1730, David Currie, Esq. of Newlaw, left L.16, interest to be applied in purchasing Bibles for the poor at New Year's day; and in 1803 James R. Smyth, Esq. of New York, left L.31 for the same purpose. Mr Currie of Newlaw left L.20, the interest to be paid to the poor in sixpences at New Year's Day. In 1791, William Lawrie, Esq. of Barnsoul, bequeathed to the poor L.10, interest to be applied in purchasing meal and coals. William Johnston, Esq. of Madeira, left in 1795, L.100 interest to be applied for the same purpose. In 1779, David Sproat, Esq. of Portmary, mortified L.200 for clothing and educating poor boys, the sons of respectable burgesses. William Johnston, Esq. of Marwhirn, in 1802, invested in the hands of the magistrates L.100, interest to be divided among "five householders who had seen better days." In 1831, Alexander Gordon, Esq. of London, left L.270, the interest to be paid annually to the poor by the minister and kirk-session; and in the same year Miss Jean Gordon of Threavemains invested L.80 for the same purpose. In 1833, John Commelin, Esq. Dumfries, left L.400, one-half of the interest to be applied in aid of the poor, and one-half for purchasing prizes for the grammar school. Thomas Macmillan, Esq. of the grammar school, bequeathed, at his death in 1827, L.200 for educational and charitable purposes, and L.6 yearly from the lands of Bellerigg, one-half for a prize to the best scholar in the grammar school, and the other half for purchasing entertaining books, to be divided among the poor of the town of Kirkcudbright.

Stipend.—The minister has no manse, but he receives L.50 per annum as manse rent. He has one glebe, for which he draws an yearly rent of L.18. His stipend last year amounted to L.240, but the average amount may be about L.280.

Established Church.—Three thousand one hundred persons profess to belong to the Established Church, which is generally well attended. There are 850 communicants.

Secession Church.—This place of worship is attended by 40 families, some of whom are from the neighbouring parishes. About 150 individuals belong to the United Secession Church in the parish of Kirkcudbright. The number of communicants is at present from 90 to 100. Though in general Divine service is not numerously attended, yet the chapel is sometimes respectably filled. The stipend of the minister, which is somewhat variable, is raised by the voluntary contributions of the people, assisted occasionally by donations from the Synod fund. Collections are sometimes made for missionary and charitable purposes.

Catholics.—The Catholics have an apartment which they occupy as a chapel. The Right Rev. Andrew Carruthers, who resides generally in Edinburgh, is the Bishop.

The families that attend this chapel are 51 in number: and the number of persons who belong to the Catholic congregation of Kirkcudbright, according to a census just taken, is 314. Divine worship is said to be well attended; but the clergyman can only officiate on the first Sunday of every month. About 200 individuals of this persuasion permanently reside in the parish.

Society.—One Society has been established in aid of the India Mission. It annually contributes about L.20 to the general fund.

Collections.—The poor are supported principally by collections made in the church, the funds of the town and country poor being kept separate. The church collections for the poor amount annually to about L.140, to which may be added L.30 collected for educational purposes.

Manufactures.—Formerly, Kirkcudbright was celebrated for its manufacture of gloves, and more recently, of boots and shoes. One firm in the town, a few years ago, generally employed no fewer than 24 men, and shoes were sent to a great distance. There were, at one time, though on a small scale, manufactories of soap, candles, and leather; and kelp was also frequently made upon the shores. On the ground occupied by the academy, once stood a brewery; and a house yet remains that was built for a snuff-mill.

Navigation.—Twenty-six vessels belong to the port—tonnage, 922. In 1692, Kirkcudbright had only one boat of 8 tons burden. In 1840, the Custom House port of Kirkcudbright, with its

creeks, possessed 54 vessels—tonnage, 2069. No foreign vessels trade to the port. A little above the harbour is a ferry, where passengers are carried across the river in a flat-bottomed boat of an oblong form, with both comfort and expedition. To each end of the boat is attached by hinges, and suspended by chains, a broad platform or pathway, by which all kinds of vehicles can enter, and depart without loss of time, and almost with as much ease as if travelling along a common road. The boat is commodious, and can hold at once four carts with their horses attached, or two carriages and one gig. It is moved along a chain by a crank wench. The rent of the boat and boat-house is L.128.

Incorporated Trades.—There are no public or private associations in the parish for the encouragement or improvement of any branch of industry; but there are six incorporated trades, namely, the Squarmen, 36 members; Tailors, 13; Weavers, 22; Hammermen; 13; Clothiers, 20; Shoemakers, 17; total number of members, 121.

Market-Town.—The only town in the parish is Kirkcudbright; and there are no collections of houses in it to which the term villages could be applied. In Kirkcudbright, a weekly market is held every Friday, but it is not well attended. At one time, more foreign trade was carried on by the burgh than at present. Seldom more than one cargo of wood, containing about 15,000 feet, has been annually imported. Much coal and lime is received from Cumberland; and a great many articles of general traffic, such as flour, herrings, groceries, haberdasheries, hardware, iron, lead, slates, freestone, &c. are conveyed from Liverpool and other places, both by land and sea. Bone-dust and guano are also frequently imported. From the parish of Kirkcudbright are regularly exported, corn, potatoes, meal, wool, turnips, beans, black-cattle, sheep, salmon, grass-seed, timber, staves. From the 5th of April 1842 to the 5th of April 1843, there were sent from the port of Kirkcudbright 50 quarters of wheat, 338 quarters of barley, 5268 quarters of oats, 6 quarters of beans, 8 tons of meal, 688 tons of potatoes, 7840 stones of wool, 60 tons of turnips, and 80 cwt. of rye-grass-seed. 721 black-cattle, and 12,005 sheep, were also exported from Whitsunday 1842 to Whitsunday 1843.

Means of Communication.—The means of communication which the parish enjoys are excellent. Two commodious steam-boats sail regularly from Kirkcudbright to Liverpool, once in the week in summer, and once in the fortnight in winter. Two coaches

visit Kirkcudbright daily from Dumfries; and, exclusive of the carriers from the adjoining parishes, there are carriers weekly from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dumfries, Stranraer, Newton Stewart, New Galloway, and Gatehouse of Fleet. The London mail arrives at the post-office twice in the day.

The roads in the parish are kept in good repair. The turnpike road, about a mile and three-quarters in length, is perfectly smooth and level.

There are only two bridges in the locality worthy of notice, and both are over the Dee between the parishes of Kirkcudbright and Tongland. The old bridge, which is still in good repair, was built upwards of 110 years ago, and cost only between L.400 and L.500: it has two arches. The new bridge, completed in 1808, cost L.7350. It consists of one large arch of 110 feet span, and three small arches on each side.

Harbours.—The parish of Kirkcudbright contains two good harbours. In the harbour at the town, vessels often disload at the beach and load in the dock. One side of the dock is of wood, and the other two sides are of stone.

The river opposite the harbour is 30 feet deep at spring-tides, and 500 feet in breadth. At neap-tides, its depth is from 20 to 25 feet, and its breadth about 400 feet. Below the harbour is a ford, by which the river may be sometimes crossed, the depth of water upon it on some singular occasions being not more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.*

There is another harbour about two miles and a-half from the mouth of the river, called *Torr's Lake*, or *Manxman's Lake*. Here almost any number of vessels might lie in safety on a clay bottom. At four hours of flood, there is generally a depth of from 14 to 16 feet of water. Before reaching it, a bar, which cannot be crossed by ordinary vessels at low water, extends across the channel, but at half-flood there are from 10 to 12 feet of water upon it. Two towers and a lighthouse lately erected on the island of *Little Ross*, kept in one line bearing south-west, lead over the bar in the deepest water. For this harbour vessels frequently run in bad weather, but before they can gain admittance to it, they have often to anchor at the *Ross-road* in from two to three fathoms water. Many fatal accidents have occurred from

* In the severe winter of 1813-14, the river opposite the town became completely frozen over, and passengers regularly crossed it upon the ice; even some individuals went across on horseback. Such an event had never before been heard of.

mariners mistaking other inlets for the entrance to the Dee. The lighthouse on Little Ross will now be seen from a great distance, and serve as a beacon to direct shipping, but particularly stranger vessels, to a haven of safety. The lantern is about 50 feet above the level of the sea at high-water. The light is a revolving one, producing a bright flash every five seconds.

Police.—The Rural Police of the stewartry consists of a superintendent and eleven officers. The superintendent and one of the officers reside in the town. This officer's district comprehends the parishes of Kirkcudbright, Rerwick, Tongland, and Trognholm. The burgh has one police officer in its constant employment, and two additional officers receive salaries for assisting to keep the peace of the town and other public services. There are besides a harbour-master and some steward-officers in the parish.

Steward Court.—A Steward Court is held within the town for ordinary cases every Friday during session, and a Commissary Court when business requires, the Steward-substitute being generally the presiding judge. A Small Debt Court for the disposal of cases where the claim is under L.8, 6s. 8d., is held once in the fortnight. From the legal knowledge, acuteness, and patience of the Judge-Ordinary, this Court has become very popular. The number of cases disposed of in it during the last year was 272, exclusive of those decided in the Small Debt Circuit Court. In the Steward Court, during the last year, were tried, with or without a jury, no fewer than 59 criminal actions. Both the magistrates of the burgh and the justices of the peace also sometimes hold courts for disposing of civil and criminal business.

Banks.—There are two branches of banks in the town of Kirkcudbright, namely, one of the Bank of Scotland and another of the Western Bank.

Water.—The town is excellently supplied with water, brought in leaden pipes from springs at the distance of nearly half a mile from the main cistern. This useful work was completed in 1763, and cost L. 440 Sterling. The burgh defrayed about one-half of the expense, and the inhabitants the other. Even in the dry summers of 1826 and 1842, there was no great scarcity of water.

Markets.—The markets in general are supplied with abundance of provisions, and prices are moderate.

Assessments.—The inhabitants of the town enjoy a complete ex-

emption from all local assessments, such being paid from the burgh revenue.*

Education.—Kirkcudbright is well provided with the means of education. There are no fewer than eleven schools, six of them endowed, and five unendowed. Three of the endowed, namely, the Grammar, the Commercial, and the English schools, are united, and form the Academy of Kirkcudbright. This institution is under the patronage of the magistrates and town-council, and the salaries of the masters are paid by the burgh. There are nearly 200 pupils constantly attending the academy, and the fees for one branch of education vary from 2s. to 7s. 6d. per quarter. In the classical departments are taught Latin, Greek, and French, with ancient geography, &c. Attached to the grammar school is a library consisting of between 300 and 400 volumes of useful literature. It was instituted by the present master in 1837. The teacher of the grammar school is allowed a yearly salary of L.50; and he realizes by fees about L.60. In the commercial department are taught mathematics, navigation, geography, book-keeping, arithmetic, writing, &c. The teacher receives a salary of L.50; and his annual fees amount to about L.90. The master of the English school has a yearly salary of L.40; and his fees on an average amount to L.60. In this class are taught history, geography, composition, and the principles of the English language. The Academy of Kirkcudbright has long maintained a high reputation. It can boast among its teachers of Dr Crie, afterwards one of the masters of the High School of Edinburgh; Mr Thomas M^r Mil-lan of Bellerigg, long a zealous, efficient, and celebrated instructor; and Mr Robert Mitchell, subsequently one of the masters of the New Academy, Edinburgh.

There is one other endowed school in the town, namely, a females' school, where needle-work and some other branches are taught. The mistress of the Ladies' school receives from the funds of the burgh a salary of L.20. The master of another school is allowed an annual gratuity of L.10, one-half of which is paid by the burgh, and the other by the Countess of Selkirk. Seventy scholars attend this school, and the fees, which vary from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per quarter, amount annually to L.30: no school-room is provided. There are three other unendowed schools in the town, namely, one containing 109, another 50, and the third 40

* Revenue of the burgh during the last year L.1131; the debts amounted to L.5587, namely, L.1803 mortgaged money, and L.3784 borrowed money.

pupils; fees varying from 1s. 8d. to 3s. per quarter. About 100 children are educated gratuitously from a collection made yearly in the parish church, and the interest of money mortgaged for the purpose. In the town, classes almost constantly exist for the ornamental branches of education. There are two endowed schools in the country, each of the teachers of which has a house and garden, and L.25, 13s. 3d. of salary. These schools are generally attended by nearly 100 scholars. None of the fees exceed 3s. per quarter. There is likewise an unendowed school, attended by about 40 scholars; the fees in it are very moderate.

For about thirty years, a Sabbath school has been open in the town, and has been attended generally by 300 scholars. It is under the superintendence of the minister, assisted by the gratuitous labours of a few benevolent individuals.

From the opportunities of obtaining education which prevail, and of which the people seem disposed to take advantage, there are few or none above the age of seven years who cannot read.

Literature.—A few years ago, the town contained two circulating libraries. At present, neither of them is in active operation, cheap periodical publications having tended to supersede them. In 1777, the principal inhabitants of the district established a subscription library, for which they selected books of interest and merit. Of late years, the number of subscribers has rapidly decreased, and few new works have been obtained. Last winter, however, a new library was formed on the basis of the old, and the total number of subscribers now amounts to about 50. It is still impossible to predict what success may attend this institution.

The town contains one reading-room, supported by subscription. It receives no periodical works, but several Scotch and English newspapers. There are two printers' presses in Kirkcudbright, but no periodical works issue from them.

Charitable and other Institutions.—No alms-houses, poor-houses, or hospitals exist within the parish. A soup-kitchen, however, confers an incalculable benefit upon the poor during the dreary months of winter, by dispensing clean and wholesome nourishment at least three times a-week, either gratuitously or at a very small price.

Savings' Bank.—At Whitsunday 1842, a branch of the National Security Savings' Bank was established in Kirkcudbright. From its commencement until the 10th of May 1843, the deposits amounted to L. 423, 9s. 10d., and the sums withdrawn were very

trifling. The depositors are principally servants, both male and female, mechanics, and children of the middle class.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—During the last year the roll contained the names of 130 permanent paupers, with 30 who received occasional assistance. The poor are relieved principally by church collections, interest of money mortified for their use, and alms distributed in private. The church collections amounted last year to L.140, 8s. 6d.; contributions from heritors and burgh, L.80; mortifications, &c. L.38, 17s.; total, L.259, 5s. 6d.* It is impossible to estimate the sum bestowed in private charity. The allowance of each pauper from the sessional fund varies from 12s. to L.6 annually. There are several charities, foundations, and mortifications, where the magistrates and members of the town-council are sole trustees.

The poor in general evince little delicacy in applying for parochial relief: they do not consider it degrading to solicit charity.

Prison.—The number of persons committed to the prison of Kirkcudbright from 1st April 1842 to 1st April 1843, was 85 criminals and 15 debtors. The offences or crimes for which the criminals were committed are the following:

For child murder,	1	Breach of the peace,	9
Theft,	29	Uttering base coin,	2
Assault,	12	Exposing children,	2
Masterful begging,	5	Contempt of court,	1
Malicious mischief,	4		
Breach of Game acts,	13		
Fishing,	6		
Procuring money on false pretences,	1		
		Criminals, 85	
		Debtors, 15	
		<hr/>	
		Total committed, 100	

The number of prisoners in confinement on 1st April 1842 was, criminals, 14; debtors, 3.

Offences or crimes for which the criminals were committed.

For theft,	6	Procuring money on false pretences,	2
House breaking,	3		
Uttering base coin,	2		
Forgery and fraud,	1		
		Criminals, 14	
		Debtors, 3	
		<hr/>	
		17	
		Committed, 100	

Total number in one year, 117

The prison is pretty well secured, though it is only partially surrounded by a wall.

Proper means are used for preserving the health of the prisoners. Each is comfortably clothed, and receives three meals a-day of plain, but wholesome food. Their hands and faces are washed

* The poor receive the rent of a house of about L.200 value, bestowed upon them by the late Robert Lennek, Esq. of New York.

night and morning, and their feet once in the week. They are bathed once in the month, and the male prisoners are shaved twice in the week. Clean linens, clean stockings, and clean handkerchiefs are furnished to them every week, clean sheets every fortnight, and clean blankets every month. They are allowed to take daily exercise in the open air, and are supplied with various kinds of employment in their apartments.

The jail is under the particular superintendence of the County Prison Board, consisting of nine members, the steward, or his substitute *ex officio* being one.

The new system of prison discipline is in operation. The keeper, matron, and male warden reside within the precincts of the prison, and the prisoners are regularly visited by the chaplain and surgeon. The keeper acts as schoolmaster. Thirteen individuals were committed during the last year who could not read.

Fairs.—Hiring fairs for farm and domestic servants are held annually on the last Friday of March, and the last Friday of September. A day for hiring hay and harvest workers is likewise held yearly on the Friday, immediately preceding Keltonhill fair at midsummer, but not much business is transacted on any of the days. The ancient fairs of the burgh have fallen into desuetude.

Inns.—The parish contains twenty-seven inns, or houses licensed to sell spirituous liquors. It is probable, however, that the number will soon be materially diminished.

Fuel.—Coal is the principal article of fuel used both in the town and country. The average price is about 11s. per ton of 20 cwt. Wood and peat, which are procured in the neighbourhood, are also used, though in small quantities. The coal is generally brought from Cumberland.

Constituency.—The town contains 102, and the country 26 electors. Kirkcudbright, with Dumfries, Annan, Lochmaben, and Sanquhar sends a member to Parliament.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The size of the town of Kirkcudbright has considerably increased since the last Statistical Account was written. One building Society was formed in 1808, and another in 1810. These Societies erected in whole 112 houses, which have not only enlarged the town, but, from lowering the rents of houses, tended to augment the population of the parish. In 1838, a Gas Light Company was formed, and a great improvement has taken place in the lighting of the streets.

The people are now better-fed, better clothed, and better

lodged than they were at the date of the last Statistical Account. Their food is of a superior quality. Formerly nearly all the butchers' meat they consumed was in a salted state; now, the market is well supplied during the whole year. At one time, nothing but oaten bread was used, except by the wealthiest class; now, the great body of the people occasionally partake of wheaten bread. The use of tea and coffee, those wholesome and enlivening beverages, is more common, and the consumption of spirituous liquors is considerably on the decline. The temperance Societies of the district have powerfully contributed to produce this beneficial effect.

Cloth of all kinds, but particularly the cloth worn by females, is much cheaper than it was fifty years ago, and the people, in general, are more comfortably clad.

They are, at the same time, more comfortably lodged, for from the great addition of houses, so many families are not at present crowded into one house, as was customary at one time; and the houses, themselves, which are generally of two storeys in height, are cleaner and better aired, and consequently less apt to engender or diffuse infectious and malignant distempers. The pernicious effect of the window duty is here often experienced by the lower ranks of society, for proprietors not unfrequently build up windows, which practice both disfigures their houses, and prevents the apartments of their tenants from being properly ventilated.

May 1843.