

PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK-JUXTA.

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. DR SINGER, MINISTER.

L—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THE ancient name of this parish was Kilpatrick; now it is Kirkpatrick-Juxta, as being nearer to the capital of Scotland than Kirkpatrick-Fleming, Kirpatrick-Durham, and Kirpatrick-Irongray, all of which appear to have derived their names from the famous missionary. He was a native of Scotland, who at the call of Celestine, Bishop of Rome, went to Ireland in 432, laboured there with eminent success during forty years, and left a name highly regarded both in Ireland and in the south and west of Scotland.

The *form* of this parish is irregular, being bounded on the east and north by Wamphray and Moffat; on the N. W. and west by Crawford and Closeburn, and on the south by Johnstone parish. It contains very nearly 33 square miles, or about 21,000 English acres. In the county map, the lands of Whiteholm, being in the county of Lanark, were not included.

The *mountain range* of Queensberry on the west runs irregularly northward; another range of lower hills on the east extends in a parallel direction, between 2 and 3 miles distant; and between these ranges, is the pastoral valley of Kinnel Water. Betwixt the latter hilly range and the river Annan, the tract of ground is nearly 2 miles broad and 8 miles long; and this consists of hill and vale, and constitutes most of the richer and more valuable portion of the parish. It is mostly arable, though about one-tenth of the whole is either rocky, or consists of lands formerly moor, but now improved, or of peat-moss either cut for fuel or converted into meadow land.

Meteorology.—The temperature has improved sensibly by the draining of mossy sheep-walks and cultivation of waste lands. The most frequent rains are from the S. W., and the most violent wind

from the west. The climate at Moffat is so nearly the same as in this parish, that one set of observations may suit both. Snow lies long at times, (the distance from the sea being above 20 miles,) though the bottom of the vale is not much elevated,—only about 350 feet. Peat-bogs never produce ague, as clay bogs do; and being mostly drained, they do not send out so great masses of vapour as formerly.

Diseases.—Vaccination is generally practised, and yet vagrants carry about their children when ill of small-pox, or just recovered. Rheumatism is not unfrequent, There was no instance of *spasmodic cholera* last year in this parish, though many premonitory symptoms occurred, and one case of British cholera proved fatal.

Many of the people attain the *age* of 80 years, and some have exceeded 90,—one or two arriving at 96 in the course of the last 30 years. The *climate* is considered very healthy, like that of the neighbouring parish of Moffat.

Hydrography—The *springs*, issuing commonly from gravelly soils, are very pure; but near the bases of the high mountains, where there is a soil impregnated with iron, and also in some other places, the springs are *chalybeate*. Near Garpel Water there is a very strong chalybeate, not issuing from the earth as a spring, but formed in pools by solution in warm weather, when the rain water imbibes and dissolves iron and alum from the clay. The village of Moffat was lately accommodated with *pipes* conveying to it abundance of water of the purest quality from the farm of Chapel in this parish, and carried below the bed of Annan. The *rivers* are not considerable; the *Kinnell* passes from north to south. The *Evan* runs between two low hill ranges, both of which may be cultivated or planted. The *Annan* enters the parish from that of Moffat, forming a boundary. The *Garpel* forms a cascade near the old castle of *Achincass*, and falls into the *Evan*. The *Annan*, *Evan*, and *Moffat Waters*, unite their streams, and form one river about 90 feet broad, below the village of Moffat, and running on a gravelly bottom, with a current of moderate velocity. The river *Annan*, after leaving the confines of this parish, increases considerably, receiving other streams on both sides, and falling into the *Solway Firth*, near the royal burgh of *Annan*, after a course of about 30 miles.

Geology and Mineralogy.—A survey was published of the mineralogical structure of Dumfries-shire by Professor Jameson; and observations were made thereon, in the *Edinburgh Review*, a con-

siderable number of years ago. The late General Dirom of Mount Annan enriched Mr Crawfurd's map of the county with a description of the minerals, both in the higher and lower districts, referring to a letter addressed to him by Dr Walker, and to "Miscellanea Scotica," published in 1710, and to some notices in Pennant's tour; also to a practical survey by Messrs Bushby, which, not having been published by the gentlemen of the county, was added by the author of this article to his agricultural survey of Dumfries-shire in 1811. Some further observations occur on the mineralogy of the county, in the article Dumfries-shire in the Edinburgh Encyclopædia. In this parish no *freestone* quarries have been worked; but there are quantities of trap-rock, and of greywacke, or blue stone, which are used for the purpose of common building. Masses of loose rocks appear on various lands, and especially on the lands of Craiks Craigs; but on the bottom of Evan, or others of these rivers, the *floetz trap* rocks appear stratified, and their dip is commonly to the south and west, and nearly vertical, occasionally discovering calcareous spar intermixed. There is no solid *granite* rock in the parish or the county; nor have any *ores* or fossil remains worth notice been discovered.*

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is a county map which was executed by Mr Crawfurd about thirty years ago, at the expense of the landholders. The names of the heritors, taken in the order corresponding with the extent and value of their estates, are as under, viz. Mr Hope Johnstone of Annandale, M. P.; his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; Miss Munro Johnstone of Corehead; Lieutenant-General Sharpe of Hoddam, M. P.; Mr Younger of Craigielands; the heirs of Mr Paterson of Langbedholm; and Mr Tweedie of Oliver.

Parochial Registers.—The parish register has been long continued, but with one considerable space of time blank when it was neglected. The first volume begins in 1692, when Mr Thomas Goldie was ordained, and extends to 1697. The second volume begins in 1736, when Mr William Scott was ordained, and extends to 1755, and thence the record extends to 1769 and 1787. The late Mr Scott carried it to 1799, from which time it has been continued to this year. It contains a record of births and mar-

* *Zoology and Botany.*—For the Zoology and Botany of this parish, reference is made to those Articles in the Account of Moffat.

riages, but not of deaths,—with a general view of the funds allotted for the poor. A smaller book is also kept for inserting the collections and distributions.

Antiquities.—The ruins of the old castle of *Achincass* are very ancient, and of considerable extent still, though much dilapidated. It belonged to Randolph Earl of Murray, Regent of Scotland in the minority of David Bruce, and was at another time the property of the *Douglases* of Morton. The tower of *Lochhouse* belonged to the *Johnstones* of Corehead. There was lately one vaulted ruin at *Kinnelhead*, and there is still another at *Boreland*. Several *moats* exist in this parish, as to which tradition is silent. The vestiges of a camp, in the line of the old Roman way, passing up *Annandale* towards *Crawford*, may still be traced in some places.

Modern Buildings.—These are constructed of stone and lime, and most of them are covered with roof-slate,—very few being now thatched with straw, or covered as formerly with freestone flags. Mr *Younger* of *Craigielands* has built a comfortable house, and cased the walls of it with *Moffat blue whinstone*. The *Duke of Buccleuch* has lately erected superior farm-buildings on his lands in this parish, at an expense of from three to four years of the respective rentals, and on a liberal and well-arranged plan.

III.—POPULATION.

In the year 1755, according to Dr Webster, the population was	794
but this number is thought incorrect.	
1790,	617
1811,	596
1821,	821
1831,	981
In the villages the residents amount to about	80
And in the country to about	901
	Total,
	981
Number of blind,	2
of deaf and dumb,	5
The average number of births for 7 years is,	23
of marriages,	8
The number of deaths has not been ascertained.	
The number of families in the parish is,	160
Whereof are chiefly employed in agriculture,	73
In trade, manufactures, and handicraft,	40
And not included in any of these classes,	56
The average number of children in each family is	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

Resident Landed Proprietors.—Only one heritor, the late Mr

Paterson, resides constantly in the parish. At present Mr Younger only resides for about half the year.

Land-Rents.—The lowest rental of a proprietor is L. 150; one rental is above L. 600; another above L. 1000; and the highest above L. 2000. The whole are about L. 5000.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—

The number of acres at any time in tillage is about	7000
Never in tillage,	14,000
	<hr/> 21,000
Of which there there might still be tilled or planted, at least	2000
In undivided common there are	0
In woods or plantations of Scotch fir, larch, and spruce, oak, and ash, also a few beeches and elms, &c, about	230

Rent, Wages, Prices, &c.—The average of *arable land* per acre may be worth L. 1 of rent; good hill pasture, 5s.; inferior, 2s. per acre. The *grazing* of an ox or cow for summer costs L. 3, exclusive of winter fodder, which costs L. 4 more. The year's grazing of a full-grown sheep is 5s. on the mountain pastures: and may cost 10s. when fed and fattened in the low districts. A man's days *wages* in summer are 1s. 6d.; in winter, 1s. to 1s. 2d. A tradesman expects about one-third more than a labourer. *Coal* carried and put down here costs per cwt. from 10d. to 1s.: *Peats*, per cart load, made, carried, and delivered, 2s. 6d. or 3s. *Larch timber*, per cubic foot in the wood, costs 1s. 2d.: *Oak and ash*, per foot in the wood, from 1s. 10d. to 2s. 3d.: *Butter* per lb. of 24 oz. in summer, 1s.: *Cheese* per lb. of 24 oz. avoirdupois, 4d. to 6d.: *Beef or mutton* per lb. of 16 oz. about 5d.: *Wool* per stone, of 24 lb. coarse, 7s. to 9s.; fine, 16s. to 20s.: A *male farm-servant's wages* for the year are from L. 10 to L. 12: A *female farm-servant's wages* for the year, from L. 6 to L. 7.

Breeds of Cattle and Sheep, &c.—The breed of *Galloway cattle* has been greatly improved of late. The breeds of Cheviot and black-faced *sheep* have also been improved.

The improvement of the *lands in tillage*, by draining, fencing, manuring, and green crops, has of course tended materially to improve the live stock; and the same effect has been promoted in a different manner by such farmers as had it in their power to raise hay by *irrigation*.

Leases, &c.—The general duration of *leases* for arable farms is

from 15 to 21 years; and for sheep farms, 13 years.—The farm-buildings and fences are in a constant state of progressive improvement.

Obstacles to Improvement.—The *obstacles* to improvement have chiefly arisen out of the fall in all the prices of land produce, which has been about one-third; while rents, paid in money at old rates, continued the same, and abatements were not always given fully to compensate for this deficiency in the returns. There seems also to be an increasing deficiency in the circulating medium to answer the purposes of an augmented commerce and population. The most threatening obstacle to agriculture in Britain is the dangerous and erroneous idea, that poor soils ought not to be cultivated. Now, about three-fourths of the corn lands of Britain were poor soils at one time; and some of these have become rich by manures and culture; and to what subject is it possible to apply capital and industry to more advantage than in the improvement of barren moor and moss, turning the former into cultivated fields, and the latter into meadow? The most useful employment is here conjoined with the means of obtaining subsistence for the labourers, as well as for the community; and the permanent returns from and value of the land are steadily advanced.

The last corn law, by admitting grain at all times, and letting it out when the prices are high, has prevented all cause of alarm, and has also preserved the prices at a moderate and rather equal rate, allowing them even to fall too low. The rash project of abolishing this law, trusting to foreign supplies, and throwing the poor lands out of cultivation, is fraught with ruin to the capital, the industry, and the resources of the kingdom.

Let the currency be made safe, but allowed to circulate in sufficient abundance; let the land produce as well as manufacturing produce be duly protected; and let the corn laws encourage a liberal and extended cultivation; and in the nature of things all classes will find the benefit. Then give a preference to home produce in the granaries and markets of the kingdom, and it will become plentiful and cheap also; but let foreign produce pay duty when imported, and the merchants will purchase home-grown as well as foreign corn. The dread of constant and speculative interference with that industry which it requires long time to establish,—indeed the very proposal of interference made by men in public office or station, and not discouraged, has a most pernicious effect

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on the public mind. It paralyses industry, deranges improvement, withdraws capital, and renders experience and skill of little use.

Modern Improvements.—The use of bone manure for turnip land, and the feeding off of turnips with sheep, are two capital improvements on dry land; and the culture of peat-mosses to be laid down to meadows, and irrigated if possible, is another. Industry is necessary to keep up the fertility even of rich lands, along with capital and skill. All these, and the most productive modes of industry, together with the subsistence and independence of the nation, would be endangered by relaxing the agriculture of these kingdoms.

Produce.—The gross produce of the whole parish from sheep and cattle, as well as corn lands, has been computed at about L. 13,000, and the rent being L. 5000, is above the usual proportion, but abatements of rent have been allowed.—The returns of course vary according to seasons and prices, and they have altered much in the present year, grain having fallen much in value, and the produce from sheep and wool having risen. The following table can only be considered as approximating to the average returns, viz. :

From sheep and wool at 7s. 6d. each, of 9000,	-	L. 3350
From fat and young cattle yearly sales, about	-	4250
From swine, dairy produce, and poultry, about	-	2650
From corn and hay sold off the lands,	-	2800
		<hr/>
		L. 12550
From timber, potatoes, &c. say	-	450
		<hr/>
The total returns coming to about		L. 13000

There have been so many abatements of land rent allowed, as to show the necessity of lowering those lands not recently taken. These abatements have run at an average to about 20 per cent.; and on this computation the net rental extends only to L. 4000 a-year. Most of the land rents of this parish being carried out of it and spent elsewhere, it stands greatly in need of such fostering attentions and improvements as landholders can give to its growing agriculture, by roads, fences, manures, buildings, and encouraging leases.

Multures.—Relief may be had for servient lands under the statute; but landholders commonly relieve tenants of multures to their own mills, leaving them at liberty to go to any mill. Still, the tacksmen of the mills have some understanding with one another as to the charges of grinding as well as kiln-drying; of which

last duty the millers ought to be relieved; and then a fortieth of the oatmeal would compensate for grinding oats, and a fixed price might be given for wheat and barley. But in all cases the dust and offals should belong to the farmer, who should also see his grain dried first and next ground, so as to know the precise outcome, and of course the true value.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets, &c.—Moffat, at the distance of three miles from the centre of this parish, possesses a post-office and weekly market; and also March and October fairs, with a cattle and sheep show and sale in September. The only regular *village* is Craighielands, built by Mr Younger some years ago, to accommodate the people on his lands, consisting of neat small buildings, on a regular plan, for 12 families,—the rent being only interest on the outlay.

Means of Communication.—There is one turnpike road from Glasgow to Carlisle, and another intersecting it at Beattock Inn, from Dumfries to Edinburgh, with mail-coaches daily on both lines. The parish roads are mostly in a decent state of repair. An excellent inn was erected near Beattock, on the lands of the Duke of Buccleuch, which was paid for as public accommodation by the Treasury, and is kept in a superior and most satisfactory manner by a respectable family, who came to it from England. The length of the turnpike lines in this parish is about 20 miles; but no railways or steam-carriages have yet been introduced, nor any canal, though all these have been spoken of. The bridges are kept in a safe and decent condition. The fences are good, so far as they consist of regular walls, built of good stone, and to the due height of at least five feet; but where the soil is light and gravelly, it does not bear them so well as beech hedges, in either of which it has been found that gaps may be filled by cuttings of elder or bower-tree.

Ecclesiastical State.—The *parish church* is conveniently situated, was built in 1799, and thoroughly repaired in 1824, accommodating from 500 to 600 persons; and the communion table not being appropriated, affords at least 50 free sittings. The manse is about 40 years old, was never very sufficient, but has been at different times repaired. The teinds were surrendered in lieu of stipend in 1805, and, including meal, lambs, and wool, payable in kind, they come generally to about L. 220 of stipend, exclusive of L. 8, 6s. 8d. contributed for element-money by voluntary agreement. The

glebe contains about four acres arable, and five acres meadow, moss, and garden, with policy; and the whole is worth L. 10 a-year. The legal right to grass, in addition, has never been prosecuted for, nor made good to the minister, nor an equivalent asked.

There is no chapel of ease, nor dissenting meeting-house; nor are there above four or five families of dissenters or seceders within this parish, which contains not one Catholic residenter, nor one of the Episcopal persuasion. The number of communicants is about 380, out of 981 people,—not including strangers who join in that ordinance.

Religious Societies.—There is a Bible Society, which is renewed every three years, whose little funds go to various religious purposes. A weekly prayer meeting has been long in existence, and is attended by a few of the heads of families.

Education is regularly conducted in two parochial and two contribution schools; and there are also three other inferior schools in the parish,—the whole of them affording instruction to above 200 children. The salary of the first parish schoolmaster is L. 34, 4s. 4d. being the value of the maximum of two chalders, and that of the second school, where the teacher labours during pleasure, not being regularly settled, is equal to one chalder, L. 17, 2s. 2d. The school fees are very moderate, and cannot exceed from L. 15 to L. 20 a-year in each of the three principal schools, exclusive of Candlemas presents, being about L. 3 in each of them.

Friendly Societies, &c.—A friendly society, constituted on principles too flattering to be implemented, and a bank for savings, were both lately dissolved, the interest being small, and the Dumfries banks remote, with some risk and expense in remittances.

Poor.—The regular number on the poors' list varies from 8 to 10 or 12; and there are several, indeed many others, who need incidental aid in various ways for themselves and their children. The average yearly amount of church collections for the poor is about L. 30. The average allowance for those on the regular list is rather above L. 4 a-year to each. The collections do not suffice without voluntary contributions, in which none of the heritors are deficient, the principal heritor setting an example; and, in years of emergency, such as 1800, subscriptions and contributions being made by the heritors and parishioners voluntarily; so that no regular assessments are necessary for the support of the poor.

Above L. 52 in whole are distributed annually; the heritors contributing about ten shillings for every L. 100 land rent, which, with the collections, answer in ordinary years. A general contribution takes place in emergent seasons.

Inns.—The parish contains one good inn, and two other licensed alehouses.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Improvements.—The improvements made since 1800 have been very remarkable, chiefly in the church, the schools, the farm-buildings, the roads, fences, and lands. It is not less remarkable on the dress of the people; and has also been considerable in their mode of living. The people are still regular in administering to persons in want among themselves, though far more to unknown beggars and vagrants. Some regulations against common begging have been lately adopted, but, owing to the want of co-operation, have been given up again.

Lime and Coal.—Lime and coal are still very distant; the nearest lime above 20, and the nearest coal 30, miles; and sandstone is not worked nearer than 12 miles. The trials for coal have never been made to a satisfactory depth in any part of this county, except where it has been found and worked, at Sanquhar and Canobie.

The following notices may be added, 1st, In 1637, James Johnstone of Corehead resided at Lochhouse, and having married Miss Whiteford, only child of the Bishop of Brechin, also parson of Moffat, he led a valuation of the teinds of his own lands and of those of the bishop in this parish, and in that of Moffat, only four years after the act 1633, allowing such valuations to be made once for all; an act to which the improvement of lands in Scotland is greatly owing.—2d, The body of Mr John Taylor, formerly minister of Wamphray, was conveyed to and buried in, this parish; a party of Highlanders, on their way to England, under the officers of Charles Edward, met the procession, uncovered in passing, but sent back a detachment after the funeral was decently concluded, and seized on some horses.—3d, *Dumgree* was at one time a parish, but was annexed partly to Johnstone and chiefly to Kirkpatrick-Juxta, within which the unenclosed churchyard of *Dumgree* now lies.—4th, The old church was covered with heath in the time of Mr George Buchanan, who was minister in 1626. It had been from end to end a burying-place before the Reformation; but

the dust and bones which it became necessary to remove at the last reparation were carefully and decently deposited in another place on the outside of the church.—5th, In 1803, when a volunteer force was of such eminent service for the peace and defence of the kingdom, this parish met for prayer and conference, and offered one man for every eight persons of the whole population to serve as volunteers in arms, above eighty men holding up their hand to give this pledge, and with hardly any distinction between church-going people and dissenters. The parish of Moffat soon after met and offered 120 men. Then followed the parish of Wamphray, offering 60; and Johnstone thereafter met and agreed to a similar offer. After the volunteer force of the nation had risen in arms, there appeared no longer any signs of internal disaffection. The minister for Scotland, the late Lord Melville, had foreseen this happy result; and the venerated monarch happily authorized that important and salutary measure, which prevented invasion as well as disturbance.—6th, When the *London Missionary Society* was first set on foot, the late minister of this parish remitted to it a collection of L. 30. This parish has contributed also to most of the religious and charitable purposes recommended by a promise of usefulness, and in particular to such as were supported by the countenance of the General Assembly of this church, as the *Highland schools*, to which L. 15 were first remitted; the Indian mission, to which L. 8 were first sent, with annual sums thereafter; the *colonial churches* also in America, to which, and to other charities, various remittances went from this parish.—7th, The poor had great need of support in 1800, when oat-meal sold for 7s. per stone,—and also in 1812 and 1817. But the parishioners gave support: and a generous donation of L. 300 to the poor by Mr William Marchbank, at Upper Murthat, (after deducting L. 30 for duty,) afforded L. 76 in 1817 alone, and liberal aid for other seven years following, when employment was scarce; until, as he ordered, it was all applied, and the special accounts preserved and exhibited.—8th, The late Mrs Milligan Johnstone of Corehead settled L. 35 as a *fund of charity*, which the minister accumulated to L. 90, and which is now lent on bond to a distinguished family, who allow interest at the rate of five per cent. for it. This is the only fund of the poor at interest here.—9th, The greatest *desiderata* in this parish are proper *clumps of trees* in the sheep-walks, to shelter the stock, ornament the country, and furnish weedings and thinnings for use. Some parts appear

eminently suited to this mode of improvement, stones abounding for the fences;—and ferns or brakens, indicating a dry and deep soil, adapted exceedingly for forest trees. It would be highly useful and pleasing also to see fruit-trees in most of the gardens of the farmers and cottagers, and it is hoped this will soon take place, and that landholders will encourage it. The want of osiers and willows for baskets may be soon and easily supplied, as cuttings may be had gratis for this purpose from the minister's lands. To open up the best quarries for building stones, especially such as Lochhouse Craig, would be of use, and chiefly if good freestone were thus worked in a near and convenient place. The road across the hills to the lime-works at Closeburn, if made, would be of great advantage not only to this parish, but to the country generally; and especially if, as part of this line, a road were made from *Dumcrieff bridge in an equal slope to Bodisbeck height*, which would make Hawick ten or twelve miles nearer. In the course of time this road will probably be accomplished, whatever temporary difficulties may obstruct it; and it will open an intercourse from the east to the west of Scotland; and there is no question that, by dividing equally the summit elevation at Bodisbeck, along the whole slope of five miles to Dumcrieff bridge, an easy road could be formed there, which would be far better, and even more speedy than any steeper intermediate line in leading to Moffat; with the advantage of going direct across to the westward by the three river meetings on the Closeburn line, or of turning southward in the shortest and safest direction. The turnpike road for Lochmaben is incomplete, but it has been made a branch of the public lines, and ought to be completed and supported out of the general funds of the district.

The great evil of the poor system in Scotland arises out of *endless and uninterrupted public begging*; and there is no remedy but one, viz. to *enforce residence* in the parishes where the poor are known, and where they must work, and will be looked after. If residence were enforced *every where*, and settlements not acquired so easily, the poor laws of Scotland would be almost perfect; and neglect of the poor would cease where it now exists. The acts recently passed for clearing England of vagrants from Scotland and Ireland, require mutual protection to be given to Scotland, into which for some years, vagrants from England have begun to find their way, besides the hordes that infest it from Ireland.

Farmers are liable for half of what may be assessed for the poor, if landholders do not pay for them; and every liberal farmer is

prudent also when he gives in to the collections in an exemplary manner. It is very injudicious and inconsistent in those, who spend shillings weekly on vagrants, to give in only a penny each, or a halfpenny to the collection on the Lord's day. The farmers of this parish are too well informed and too liberal to act in this manner. On the high and holy duties of domestic charity, it is more blessed surely to give than to receive; and as one per cent. on the land rents almost suffices for aid to the poor, not one of whom goes out to beg, and who are all sober, and, as far as possible, industrious, and generally also contented and grateful, every advantage is reaped from the union of charity with gratitude, industry with economy; the helping hand is here welcome and effective; and if other parishes were to look to their own poor, those of this and the neighbouring parishes, would be more abundantly assisted, while protection would be afforded to the public against endless imposition, accompanied with idleness, vice, and often crime.

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