

PARISH OF PORTPATRICK.

PRESBYTERY OF STRANRAER, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

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I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name of the Parish.—THE lands which at present constitute the parish of Portpatrick were formerly called the Black Quarter of the Inch, and till 1628, formed a part of the parish of Inch, having pertained to the ancient Abbacy of Saulset or Soulseat. For some time before and after this date, the harbour and adjoining village were very commonly called Portmontgomery, in honour of the Montgomeries, Lords of Ardes in Ireland, who were the proprietors for a considerable period. But when the parish was erected, it received the ancient name of the harbour, which it has ever since retained, and which has completely superseded the name of Portmontgomery. A marvellous story used to be told here of the famous Irish Saint Patrick having crossed the channel at a single stride, and the mark of his foot was shown on a rock, that has been removed in the operations connected with the construction of the present harbour. Whether this superstition is of Scotch or Irish origin does not appear; but it is probably connected with some historical fact, and with the origin of the name Portpatrick. Another story, undoubtedly Irish, bears that St Patrick, having been beheaded somewhere north of Glenap, took his head under his arm, and walked to Portpatrick, where, being unable to find a boat, he took his head in his teeth and swam across to Ireland.

Boundaries.—The parish occupies about four miles of the coast of the Irish Channel, rather nearer the northern than the southern extremity of the peninsula, which, extending from north north-west to south south-east, about 28 miles in length, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ in its greatest breadth, and containing the parishes of Kirkcolm, Leswalt, Portpatrick, Stonykirk, and Kirkmaiden, is joined to the mainland;

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a little northward of its middle, by an isthmus 6 miles in breadth, formed by Loch-Ryan on the north, and the Bay of Luce on the south. Towards this isthmus, the parish of Portpatrick stretches about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from its western shore. It contains about 18 square miles, and exhibits an outline of four sides, of which that towards the east is nearly parallel to the opposite side, bounded by the sea on the west. The only natural boundary between this and the adjoining parishes is a small stream called the Piltanton burn, separating it on the east from the parishes of Leswalt and Inch. It is separated from Leswalt on the north-west, and from Stonykirk on the south-east, by stone dikes, ditches, and other enclosures of the boundary farms.

Topographical Appearances, &c.—The surface of the whole parish is elevated. From the coast to the distance of about three miles, where it reaches its greatest elevation, it is irregularly undulated, exhibiting almost no entirely level ground, except in a few places where there is peat moss, the subsoil of which has probably the same slopes as the adjacent hills. The slopes are generally gradual, and in few places are so steep as to hinder the use of the plough: but on many of them, especially the more elevated, the rock frequently shows itself uncovered. The hills are mostly flat. Some of them have assumed a form approaching to conical. The higher and more remarkable ones are called the Fells of the farms to which they respectively belong, with the exception of one towards the south-east of the parish, which is called Cairnpat, and sometimes Cairnpiot. This hill is the highest in the whole peninsula. Here the eastern part of the parish may be seen, sloping down rapidly to the Piltanton burn, with a surface generally irregular, and towards the north exceedingly rough and broken with the projecting rock. From the summit of the hill, in clear weather, we may command an extensive prospect on all sides. Northward our view extends to the hills and mountains of Argyleshire and of Arran. The majestic blue rocks of Ailsa appear surrounded by the sea between them and the nearer view of the beautiful Loch-Ryan, which opens towards them between the bold hills of its eastern shore and the more gently sloping fields of Kirkcolm, and Leswalt, and sends back its quiet waves to the level shores of Stranraer. Turning eastward, our eye is caught by the distant blue mountains of Kirkcudbright, seen over the wild but less elevated country beyond Glenluce, and then descends on the almost level plain, about five

miles in breadth, and stretching six miles in length between Loch-Ryan and the wide open Bay of Luce. This tract of country is beautified by stripes and masses of plantation, chiefly belonging to the Earl of Stair. It is enlivened by the near view of Stranraer, immediately under our left, at the nearest angle of Loch-Ryan,—by a peep of Castle Kennedy and its lakes, about a mile inland from the more remote angle,—by the small village of Lochans, immediately below,—and by the parish church of Stonykirk, near to the bay of Luce, and seen over the plantations of Garthland to our right. Whether the English coast of Cumberland can be seen under a clear sky in the horizon beyond the Bay of Luce is doubtful; but several curious black rocks rise distinctly from the sea in the distance. To the right, the southern limit of the peninsula stretches out from below us, in a long narrow but hilly stripe to the Mull of Galloway, over which, and extending to the east and west of it, the high mountains of the Isle of Man appear. As we continue our survey towards the right and look westward, the very beautiful panorama is completed by the Irish Channel, with the Irish coast seen extending for seventy miles on the farther side, and varied by the Mourne mountains to the south, by the lower lying lands of Downshire, and the town of Donaghadee right opposite to us, and by the bold continuous mass of the Antrim hills, stretching to the north. The fore-ground of this view is the wildest part of Portpatrick parish. The high ground, which dips abruptly close to the shore, conceals the harbour and the town. Any one, who desires to obtain a correct idea of the geography of the parish, and of the Rhins of Galloway, and, at the same time, to enjoy a pleasant prospect, ought not to omit, when the weather is clear, to visit the top of Cairnpat, which is not half a mile from the turnpike road leading from Portpatrick to Stranraer.

The Coast, &c.—Along the whole line of sea coast included in this parish, rugged rocks and cliffs (commonly called *heughs*,) rise abruptly from deep water, and are, in some places, perpendicular to the height of 130 feet. Down the less precipitous of these, very young children often scramble to perilous fishing *seats*, which they select according to the time of the tide, and which have been long known by names, such as Slogan a glassin, Greggory, Eilena garroch, Catevennan, Catelig, Ringwee, Eilafitz, Slogan a baa, &c. In front of the cliffs, and opening in deep water, are several caves or vaulted fissures, but of no great extent, in which wild

pigeons, jackdaws, &c. build their nests. There is no beach except in four or five small bays, which are accessible from the land, the hills sloping back from them. In one of these, which is very rocky, and dangerous for shipwrecks, and is named Morroch Bay, the southern boundary of the parish meets the sea : and the northern boundary terminates in another, called Killantringan Bay, which is sandy, and enclosed by beautiful and bold green hills. The bay in which is the harbour of Portpatrick is nearly equally distant from both of these. High cliffs approach close to it on both sides, and, receding from the shore, are lost in steep hills of earth. These, gradually approaching towards each other, enclose the space on which the town is built, and at length form the banks of a small stream, along which the turnpike road leads by a moderate ascent towards Stranraer. Along the line of this road the newest street extends for about 350 yards down to the harbour, opening nearly on the centre of the basin, and passing on its right the church, manse, and church-yard. Another street, nearly equally divided by the former, and built with a slight curve, looks on the harbour. A few other small streets fill up the angles formed by these. The whole appearance of the place, when it is viewed from the heights on the south side, or from the sea, suggests the idea of a town built in a large quarry; a considerable space of ground on the north side being occupied as a hewing field for the harbour works, and at present covered with enormous blocks of stone. About a quarter of a mile to the south of the harbour, and seen from the projecting pier head, are the ruins of the old Castle of Dunskey, situated on the summit of the rocky steep, about 90 or 100 feet above the level of the sea. A deep chasm renders the castle nearly inaccessible on the side nearest the harbour. On the opposite side the rock is quite perpendicular, and overlooks a small bay, called the Castle Bay. At the base of the rock on this side, and directly under the castle, is a cave, accessible at half-tide, the dark rugged entrance of which adds to the wildness of the imposing cliff crested by the ruins. About the same distance to the north of the harbour, are two small bays separated by a small promontory of table-land, and remarkable for the difference of their strand : for though they are so close that it might be supposed the tide would alternately wash the contents of the one into the other, the one, nearest Portpatrick, called Portmurray, contains only pure yellow sand, whence it is called also the Sandy Bay, or

the Sand-eel-Bay, whilst the other, called Port Kale, contains only coarse gravel, the debris of the neighbouring rocks, which are blue whinstone. In the rocky side of the sandy bay, beyond the reach of the tide, is a cave obscurely reported to have been the residence of a hermit or monk. Adjoining to it is a smaller cave, over the entrance of which a small rill constantly pours itself. If the indulgence of bathing had been permitted to the hermit, he might here have enjoyed the benefit of a shower-bath with a dressing room, besides the excellent plunge bath in the bay. The banks of a small stream which enters the other bay form a small glen, the most picturesque in Galloway, through which walks, very tastefully cut, lead past a very pretty wild waterfall, and connect the two bays with the present mansion-house of Dunskey, situated about a mile distant on the height.

Meteorology.—The range of the thermometer is less by several degrees in the town than in the higher grounds; and the temperature of the parish, generally, is reckoned to be neither so hot in summer, nor so cold in winter, as that of the inland parishes; but no accurate register is kept either of the barometer or thermometer.

Occasionally dense fogs cover the channel of the coast, especially in the months of May and September or October. They usually come from the sea with the south-west wind, and seldom last above a few hours at most; frequently not more than a quarter of an hour.

The prevailing winds vary from south to west. Those which raise the heaviest seas are from the south-west. It is considered a favourable sign of the weather, when the light breezes of summer change during the day, followed by the sun.

The climate is generally moist; and hence cold is often felt in a greater degree than is indicated by the thermometer. Upon the whole, it is a healthful climate; if we may judge from the robustness of the population, notwithstanding poor living and much exposure to the weather. But rheumatism, dyspepsia, consumption, fevers, and cancers are not unfrequent. Vegetation is slow in the early spring, but rapid in summer, so that the harvests are usually completed about the middle of October. But in November, the young shoots of trees are often found unprepared for the storms which bedew them with spray from the sea, and cause them to die from the top to a considerable length down.

Hydrography.—The sea, receiving but a scanty tribute of fresh water from the narrow peninsula, is very salt all along the shore. The depth close to the rocks is from five to six fathoms. Opposite Old Dunskey Castle, a bank of clay and gravel runs out for about three miles into the channel. On this bank, near the extremity, the depth of water is from 25 to 30 fathoms, whilst a mile north and south of this it is 50 fathoms. The deepest part of the channel opposite to Portpatrick is between 6 and 7 miles from the Scotch coast. From the greatest depth, (about 90 fathoms,) the water shoals gradually towards the coast of Ireland. According to the tide-table in the New Edinburgh Almanack, the tides at Portpatrick are 3 hours and 20 minutes later than at Leith. They are reckoned about an hour earlier than at Stranraer. But near the shore they are from an hour to an hour and a half earlier than a mile off, and they are generally reckoned an hour later than at the opposite port of Donaghadee. Spring-tides rise from 14 to 17 feet, and neap-tides from 8 to 11 feet. The currents near the shore often run more than 3 miles an hour. South-east of the Copland Island, near the Irish coast, there are strong and ever-varying currents, on which the most experienced fishermen cannot calculate with certainty, and which they cannot explain. It is to this place that the Statistical Account of 1791, thus refers: "Within three or four miles of the Irish shore, when the flood returns, there is a regular current, which sets off strongly for the Mull of Galloway. It runs at the rate of seven knots an hour, and is so forcible, that when the wind opposes it, it exhibits for a great way the appearance of breakers. It is called the *Race of Strangers*, and is a very curious spectacle."

On the south side of the town, there is a spring of strong chalybeate water, which flows at all seasons in a small but regular stream from the rock. It is much esteemed by the people for its medicinal virtue. There is no natural lake in the parish: but one of four acres in extent has been recently formed north of the Fell, which rises behind the mansion-house of Dunskey. This artificial lake has been stocked with trout, chiefly from a small stream in the parish called Craigoch-burn. It is of an irregular form. The banks are quite bare, but are being tastefully planted by the proprietor, by whom a carriage drive has also been lately formed along the margin and leading from the house with a wide sweep round the hill. This carriage drive, as it passes round the west side of the hill, crosses the walks leading from the mansion house

to the glen formerly mentioned, with its waterfall. This waterfall is formed by a small stream called Auchtreinatane burn. When this stream is swollen with rains, it pours a copious torrent over rugged rocks into a narrow ravine, about 50 or 60 feet deep, whence it flows with a peaceful current for a quarter of a mile along the bottom of the glen, which opens on Port Kale Bay. The scenery about this cascade and from it to the sea is exceedingly fine. The rugged rocks near the waterfall are enriched with furze and heath, or overrun with ivy and honeysuckle; and the boldly sloping sides of the glen are well covered with thriving wood.

The streams in this parish are all very small and rapid. They are generally named from the principal farms through which they pass. Their whole length lies within the parish, with the exception of the Piltanton-burn, forming the eastern boundary of the parish, and running thence for about six miles into the Bay of Luce.

Geology and Mineralogy.—It is impossible to say what is the general direction and dip of the strata of rock on the coast. In the cliffs north of the harbour, it may be said to be most commonly north-west, and to the south of the harbour south-east. In general the strata are very much inclined to the plane of the horizon, and in some cases almost perpendicular. All the rocks in this parish are understood to belong to the transition class. They become more slaty towards the southern boundary, but not so much so as on adjoining coast of Stonykirk parish, from which slates have been cut for the roofing of houses. On the strand of a small bay, near the northern boundary, a stratum almost perpendicular shows itself, composed of a transition rock, No. 1, * with frequently intersecting small veins of No. 1, *a*, calcspar. The substance of the ordinary strata along the coast is represented by No. 2, a variety of greywacke, strata of which, varying from one to five or six feet, frequently alternate with others of nearly the same substance, but thin and of a more slaty appearance.

In the Morroch Bay, at the southern boundary of the parish, the following strata, of from 20 to 30 feet in thickness, and nearly perpendicular, but dipping towards the south-east, succeed one another from north to south, in the order of the numbers, and separated by strata of greywacke, No. 2, about the same thickness; No. 3, greywacke slate; No. 4, greywacke; No. 5, transition

* The numbers refer to the collection of specimens in our possession.

-clay slate; No. 6, coarse alum slate; No. 7, coarse alum slate; No. 8, decomposed greywacke; No. 9, Lydian stone; No. 10, coarse alum slate; No. 11, clay slate of various tints, as greenish-grey, purple, and reddish-brown. Beside No. 6, on the shore, is a fixed mass of No. 6 *a*, which appears to be decayed greywacke, in Nos. 7, and 10, masses of No. 7 *a*, which is common iron pyrites, about the size of a man's hand, are frequently found. Alongside of No. 11, and at the height of 100 feet up in the face of the cliff, there is a stratum of No. 11 *a*, of a decomposed rock. Nodules of coarse jasper and agate, quartz in nodules and layers, and thin veins of carbonate of lime, are found not unfrequently in the rocks. *No organic remains* have hitherto been found.

The soil in the parish is in some places pure brown earth, generally with a considerable proportion of sand; in other places it is black, being chiefly reduced moss, with a small proportion of the clay of the subsoil. Where it does not rest on the rock, it lies generally either on layers of gravel apparently laid by water, or on a light brown clay, or on reddish till.

There are no rolled stones in the parish, except *a few* of the same substance with the variety of greywacke, No. 2.

There is a layer of clay-slate near the Piltanton burn, on the eastern boundary, such as soft slate pencils are made of.

Zoology.—It is believed that there is little remarkable in the zoology of this parish.

The seal (*Phoca vitulina*) has sometimes been seen on the rocks of the shore, and the otter (*Lutra vulgaris*) frequently. The brown rat (*Mus decumanus*,) which infests almost every house and stack-yard in the parish, abounds in the rocks along the shore, and is believed to feed there on shell-fish and the carrion cast up by the sea. The black rat (*Mus rattus*) is not found in the parish. Among the loose rocks, about the roots of furze, and in stone dikes everywhere, but especially near the coast, may be found abundantly the hedge-hog, (*Erinaceus Europæus*,) the weasel (*Mustela vulgaris*,) the ermine (*Mustela erminea*,) and the four-mart (*Mustela putorius*,) The gamekeeper at Dunskey thinks there are two distinct species called weasel here, the one much smaller than the other, and seldom attacking animals larger than mice or small birds; the other attacks rabbits. Foxes have been killed in the parish, but none have been known to breed in it for at least three years past. Hares are not so abundant as in many other districts. A young one was found last year nearly quite

white. Rabbits abound within a mile of the coast. The grey rabbit is the most common, but the black are numerous. Some have been killed partly grey and partly white, and one was recently killed partly black and partly white.

The progress of cultivation has greatly diminished the numbers of the red grouse (*Lagopus Scoticus.*) Of the black-cock (*Tetrao tetrix*) a few are killed every year by the regular sportsmen, and many more, it is to be feared, by the poacher. The common partridge (*Perdix cinerea*) is rather thinly distributed. The game-keeper at Dunskey has remarked that, during the absence of the mother from the nest, the damp seems to affect the eggs, so as frequently to cause induration of the membrane which lines the interior surface of the shell, so that the young birds cannot escape and die. The quail (*Coturnix vulgaris*) is an occasional visitant from Ireland. The pheasant (*Phasianus Colchicus*) has been introduced, and thrives tolerably well in the more sheltered plantations around Dunskey. They have been found both young and old, nearly pure white. The heron (*Ardea cinerea*) frequents the coast, but does not breed here. The smaller birds that engage the interest of the sportsman are the woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola,*) the common snipe (*Scolopax gallinago*), and the jack-snipe (*Scolopax gallinula.*) The starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) appears in considerable numbers once a year, and sometimes twice, and has been known to breed. Whilst the ring-dove (*Columba Palumbus*) is frequently met with in the woods, the rock-dove (*C. cænas*) abounds among the cliffs and in the caves of the shore, along with the hooded-crow (*Corvus cornix,*) and the jack-daw (*C. mone-dula.*) A bird frequent among the jackdaws, which the game-keeper has not seen elsewhere, is described by him as rather larger, with very fine jet-black plumage, bill and legs red, building its nest in dry holes in rocks and caves. The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) breeds in the neighbourhood, and may be seen in the parish during the whole year. The wind-hover or stannel (*F. tinnunculus*) breeds, and is seen plentifully the whole year. The merlin (*F. Æsalon*) breeds, and is also plentiful at all seasons. The kite (*Milvus vulgaris*) may be seen sometimes in the winter, but is not common. The hen-harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) appears at the end of the harvest but rarely. The sparrow-hawk (*Accipiter fringillarius*) breeds and is very common everywhere. The short horn owl (*Otus brachyotos*) breeds, and may be found at all seasons, but not plentifully. The barn-owl (*Aluco-*

flammeus) is not rare, and remains all year. The European goat-sucker (*Caprimulgus Europæus*) breeds, but is rare, and does not remain during the year. The raven, carrion-crow, blackbird, common thrush, and magpie, are found much as in other districts, at all seasons, the missel-thrush in harvest, and the rook not so common. The common lapwing and the green plover (*Charadrius pluvialis*) are not rare. In the woods the common creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) will frequently attract notice. Of other small birds the variety is considerable, but the numbers are not great.

Ichthyology.—The common trout, of rather small size, but very superior flavour, and the common eel, are the only fish that inhabit the small streams. Of the sea-fish, those commonly brought ashore by the fishermen are the common cod, ling, conger-eel, pollack, (here called lythe,) coal-fish (here called blockin,) grey and red gurnard, the three-bearded gade, flounder, thorn-back, skate, turbot occasionally, and the common dog-fish, abundantly used as bait for the baskets in which the buckies (*Buccinum undatum*) are caught for baiting the cod lines. Whitings are rarely taken, and the haddock which, in the remembrance of the present fishermen, was most abundant, seems to have abandoned the coast entirely. The cook (*Lubrus coquus*) and the saury (*Scomberesox saurus*) have been caught. The following are given as inhabitants of this shore on the authority of W. Thompson, Esq. of Belfast, who has specimens in his possession: *Liparis Montagui*, *Leptocephalus Morrisii*, and the doubly-spotted goby, (*Gobius bipunctatus*, of Yarrell.)

Reptiles.—The lizard (*Lacerta agilis*,) and the blind-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) are not uncommon in this parish. The common viper or adder (*Vipera communis*) abounds in some of the uncultivated parts of the parish. There is no scarcity of the different sorts of the eft (*Triton*.) The common frog and the toad are here much in the same abundance as in other districts not remarkably swampy.

The glow-worm is found plentifully in the glen north of the town. Of eight species of *Helix* found in this parish, the *H. trochilus* may be remarked as rare, and the *H. nemoralis* and *H. aspersa* as unusually abundant near the coast. The latter used to be gathered in large baskets as bait for cod-fish before recourse was had to the shell-fish so abundantly supplied by the channel. Along the coast the *Pupa muscorum*, *Balea perversa*, and *Clausilia perversa*, are also very abundant.

The *Cingula pulla* may be easily found among the abundant *Cingula parva* at the roots of the small Algæ north of the harbour. The *Pholas candida* and *Pholas crispata* may be dug up from the clay in the harbour, and the *Tellina fabula* from the sand. Beams of wood used in the harbour works recently exhibited remarkable ravages of the *Teredo navalis*. The baskets used by the fishermen for capturing the *Buccinum undatum* frequently contain the *Fusus antiquus*, *Fusus corneus*, *Triton erinaeus*, *Nasa reticulata*, *Nasa incrassata*, and sometimes *Rostellaria pes-pelecani*, *Trochus magus*, *Fusus nebula*, *Turritella terebra*, *Scalaria clathratulus*, *Cypræa Europæa*, *Natica glaucina*, and *Terebra reticulata*. Entangled with the baskets adhering to other shells may also be found *Modiola vulgaris*, *Capulus Hungaricus*, *Emarginula fissura*, *Chiton ruber* and *Chiton fascicularis*. In the roots of the larger Algæ on the coast the *Arca lactea* has been found, and the *Hiatella arctica* frequently. On the shore of Killantringan Bay, cast up by the sea, the *Pectunculus pilosus*, *Pectunculus decussatus*, *Nucula nuclea*, *Venus cassina*, and *Venus fuscata* have been gathered, as also the *Lima fragilis*. In the same bay, on the rocks and stones, the *Chiton lævigatus* may be found often of a very large size. One lately found measured 13 lines in length, and 7 in breadth. Oysters have been dredged off Old Dunskey Castle, and among them the *Cyprina Islandica*.

Much attention is paid in this parish to the rearing of the black hornless breed of cattle peculiar to Galloway.

Botany.—No very careful survey is known to have been made of the vegetable productions of this parish. There seems to be a rich field for the study of the Cryptogamic genera. The ferns, *Ophioglossum vulgatum* and *Botrychium lunaria*, are found on the high ground north of the town. Of the phænogamous plants that abound along the coast, the following may be mentioned; *Statice armeria*, *Scilla verna*, *Cistus helianthemum*, *Pyrethum maritimum*, *Anthyllis vulneraria*, *Geranium sanguineum*, *Gentiana officinalis*, *Erithræa littoralis*, *Daucus carota*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, and *Hypericum humifusum*. The *Crithmum maritimum*, *Inula crithmoides*, and *Carlina vulgaris*, are found on the rocks of the shore, near the southern boundary of the parish. The *Coronopus Ruellii* grows abundantly near the town. The *Adoxa moschatellina* and the *Echium vulgare* are found in the parish, as also occasionally a pure white variety of the *Hyacinthus non-scriptus*. The *Vaccinium oxycoccos* abounds in the boggy moor to the north-west.

Of forest-trees, the elm, sycamore, and ash, are the favourites of the climate. The pinaster, spruce, and silver firs, and the oak, thrive tolerably well. The attempt to cultivate Scotch fir and larch has proved a decided failure.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There seems to be very little in the civil history of Portpatrick which, in a brief account like the present, is worthy of notice apart from the general History of Galloway, of which a brief review may be found in Chalmers' *Caledonia*, Vol. iii., with frequent reference to authorities and to sources of more ample information. Some manuscripts connected with the history of the family of Montgomery were published at Belfast in 1830, in one volume 12mo. There is a large plan of the property of the principal heritor in his house at Dunskey, exhibiting the agricultural divisions of about two-thirds of the surface of the whole parish, with the measurement of each field in acres.

Portpatrick was long celebrated as the *Gretna Green* for Ireland. Parties who could not obtain ecclesiastical sanction of their marriage on the other side of the channel, with all the expedition or secrecy which the opposition of relatives or other circumstances rendered desirable, found their way to this place, and on satisfying the minister that there was no legal objection to their union, were admitted to the benefit of proclamation in the parish church immediately on their arrival, and were married without delay. These marriages are registered in the records of the kirk-session, and attested by the minister and the witnesses. The fees exacted on these occasions varied according to the rank and ability of the parties. The lowest sum that was accepted at one time was L. 5, but it was latterly raised to L. 10, payable to the minister, and L. 1 to the session-clerk. This practice was abandoned in 1826, in consequence of the interference of the church courts; but during the preceding period of about fifty years, the records of these marriages exhibits the names of 198 gentlemen, 15 officers of the army or navy, and 13 noblemen.

Eminent Characters.—The late Sir James Hunter Blair, Bart. was sometime Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and its representative in Parliament. He was distinguished for the activity and intelligence with which he engaged in the general affairs of Scotland as a Member of Parliament, and for the influence which he had in promoting the improvement of the city over which he presided as a magistrate. At the same time he was not forgetful of the inte-

rests of Portpatrick, of which he was the principal heritor, but contributed much to its improvement and prosperity. His son, Colonel James Hunter Blair, for a considerable time Member of Parliament for Wigtonshire, was a man of many personal accomplishments, highly esteemed and influential in the affairs of the county, and devoted to his parliamentary duties, to which it is believed that he sacrificed his health and his life. His brother and successor in the estate of Dunskey, the late Forbes Hunter Blair, Esq. was induced, by the solicitation of a great number of the most respectable citizens of Edinburgh, to become a candidate, on the Conservative interest, for the parliamentary representation of that city, in the first election after the passing of the Reform Bill. The personal fatigue which he underwent in this election hastened his death, which happened soon after, to the deep regret of men of all parties in politics to whom he was known. Active and intelligent, disinterested, sternly conscientious and high-minded, yet most generous, and devoted to the promotion of the welfare of the poorest, his residence in the parish of Portpatrick was productive of much good to it in many ways, and his name merits a prominent place in a statistical account of it. To write the character of his excellent successor, while living, would not be consistent with delicacy. The late minister, the Rev. John Mackenzie, D. D., one of his Majesty's Chaplains for Scotland, who died in 1836, in the ninety-third year of his age, and sixty-third of his ministry, and was understood to be the oldest minister then in the Church of Scotland, was long admitted to a prominent place in the debates of the General Assembly. He was an early, and to the last the intimate friend and correspondent of Dr Gillies, the historian, and he has left an octavo volume of sermons, and a smaller volume of poetry, entitled "Ocean, Stella, and other Poems," which reached a second edition in 1830.

Parochial Registers.—The only parochial registers are those kept by the session-clerk, in which, however, there are several minutes of the meetings of heritors and kirk-session. Besides the volume now in use, the records of the kirk-session consist of four volumes; the first extending from 7th May 1727 to 23d November 1766, has been regularly kept: 341 small quarto pages are devoted to the minutes of kirk-session, and 88 to the registry of marriages and births. On the last page is an oath of purgation from the sin of fornication, entitled "A copy of the Long Oath," the language of which is almost too horrible to be uttered. It appears from these minutes that much attention was paid by the

kirk-session during the period to which they refer, to the restraining and correction of Sabbath-breakers. The second volume (a folio) consists of 270 pages, of which 56 are occupied with minutes of kirk-session, extending from 31st October 1773 to 20th November 1791. The remainder of the volume is occupied with the registrations of marriages, births, and a few burials. The third volume (a folio) has 52 pages near the middle devoted to minutes of kirk-session from 29th October 1797 to 10th May 1818. The remainder of it is occupied with registry of marriages, births, and the sale of burying-ground in the church-yard. The fourth volume (a folio) has 29 pages onward in the volume devoted to minutes of kirk-session, and of heritors and kirk-session from 8th November 1818 to 28th April 1833. The remaining pages are devoted to the registry of marriages and births, and are at present in use only for this purpose.

Antiquities.—Around the summit of the hill Cairnpat, at the distance of about seventy and eighty yards, the ruins of two circular stone walls may be seen, which in late years have been greatly reduced, for the sake of the stones, to be used in erecting fences in the neighbouring farms. These walls beyond a doubt must have been erected for the purposes of fortification. An urn, well-formed of baked clay, was dug out of a cairn on the farm of Craigoch, about twenty-five years ago, and it is now in the mansion house of Dunskey. Circular pieces, from two to three inches diameter, cut out of a black slate not found in the parish, are frequently dug up in the church-yard, along with rings, out of which these pieces seem to have been cut. Both of these are supposed by the people here to have been used at one time as money. An old kiln, such as those formerly used in Galloway for drying grain, may be seen near the farmhouse of Low Aucherue. No trace now remains of the mansion-house of the Adairs of Kilhilt, but its site is well known to have been where the line of Colfin Glen would meet the present turnpike road. A chapel, dedicated to St Patrick, formerly stood either on the site of the present church or near to it, and was called Chapel Patrick. Two views of Old Dunskey Castle, exhibiting very nearly its present state, are given in the second volume of Grose's *Antiquities*, accompanied with a brief description. That antiquarian was probably mistaken when he concluded from the style of the building that it was not older than the middle of the sixteenth century. The suspicion which he intimates as to the accuracy of Simpson's account, that it belonged to the Lords of

Airds in Ireland, is certainly unfounded. The same Viscount of Airds, by whom the church of Portpatrick was erected in the years 1628 and 1629, is said, in the Montgomery manuscripts, p. 93, to have bought this castle, as well as Portpatrick town, from Sir Robert Adair of Kinbilt, and to have put many convenient and handsome additions to it.

Modern Buildings.—The greater number of the houses in the town of Portpatrick are of very recent date. They are all built of the stone quarried from the neighbouring rocks, and are generally built substantially. The present mansion-house of Dunskey shows a stone in the wall with the inscription "Perfected 1706." It received a large addition about eight years ago, in the time of the late proprietor, and has been greatly altered and improved by the present proprietor.

III.—POPULATION.

Within the remembrance of persons still living, and who are upwards of ninety years of age, there were not more than ten or twelve houses where the town of Portpatrick now stands. The inhabitants of these houses probably did not exceed 100, whilst it appears that about the same time the population of the whole parish amounted to 551.

The following is an extract from the Statistical Account given to Sir John Sinclair in 1791; "The return to the inquiries made by Dr Webster regarding the population of the parish of Portpatrick about forty years ago was 551 souls. It has since considerably increased. It appears from an enumeration recently made, that there are in the country part of the parish 484, and in the town, 512 souls, so that the whole population amounts to 996, being an addition, in that space of time, of 445 souls."

By the census taken in 1831, under direction of Parliament, the whole population amounted to 2239. The following note has been kept by the schoolmaster who made the return:

	Houses.	Fami- lies.	Males.		Females.		Servants.		Total.	
			above 20 yrs.	under 20 yrs.	above 20 yrs.	under 20 yrs.	Mal.	Fem.	Mal.	Fem.
Country,	170	172	233	292	251	258	38	36	525	509
Town,	122	250	272	266	360	267	4	83	558	647
Whole Pa.	293	422	505	578	611	525	42	69	1083	1156

Since 1831, the population has decreased in consequence of the number of men having been reduced who were then employed in constructing the new harbour. At present it amounts to 1991, of whom there are in the town, 1010; in the country, 981.

There are in the	Town.	Country.	Whole Parish.
Natives of Ireland,	199	222	421
of England,	12	7	19
of Isle of Man,	1	1	2
of France,	0	1	1
of America,	1	1	2
of Wales,	1	0	1
of Scotland, but not of Portpatrick.	213	241	454
of Portpatrick,	583	508	1091
Families in which only one of the parents is a native of the parish,	62	29	91
Families in which both parents are natives of the parish,	24	12	36
The number of families chiefly employed in agriculture in 1831 was			58
other families,			90
			274

As nearly as can be ascertained, the average number of births for the last seven years is 54; of marriages, 10. The number of deaths cannot be ascertained.

There have been about 4 illegitimate births in each of the last three years.*

Table shewing the numbers of the population at different ages :

Age.	In Town.		In Country.		In whole Parish.		No. of persons in whole population under	
	Mal.	Fem.	Mal.	Fem.	Mal.	Fem.		
Under 6,	80	86	83	86	163	172	6 years,	335
Betw. 6 & 12,	83	66	82	74	165	140	12,	640
12 15,	37	43	49	36	86	79	15,	805
15 20,	40	52	45	62	85	114	20,	1004
20 30,	46	79	51	52	97	131	30,	1232
30 40,	52	63	49	63	101	126	40,	1459
40 50,	50	53	55	44	105	97	50,	1661
50 60,	42	54	29	32	71	86	60,	1818
60 70,	23	30	26	27	49	57	70,	1924
70 80,	9	14	13	12	22	26	80,	1972
80 90,	3	3	6	2	9	5	90,	1986
90 95,	1	1	1	2	2	3	95,	1991
	466	544	489	492	955	1036		

The principal heritor is the only man of independent fortune resident in the parish. There are six other families deriving from L. 200 to L. 400 each, from their official duties and other sources.

Of proprietors of land in the parish of the yearly value of upwards of L. 50 there are three, among whom all the land in the parish is divided in the proportion of 1026 $\frac{2}{3}$, 346 $\frac{2}{3}$, and 190, according to their valuation.

There are 25 unmarried men upwards of fifty years of age, of whom 6 have not been married, and 19 are widowers. There are 82 unmarried women upwards of 45 years of age, of whom 20 have

* It is remarkable that, about twenty years ago, the birth of an illegitimate child in the parish was considered a very rare occurrence.

not been married, and 62 are widows. Of 317 men who have been married, 30 have been twice married, and 287 only once married; of 363 women, 21 have been twice married, and 342 only once married. Of married persons, male and female, who have had no children, there are 23 in the town, 8 in the country, 31 in the whole parish. Number of families in the town, 238; in the country, 182; in the whole parish, 420. The average number of individuals for each family is very nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ in the town, $5\frac{3}{8}$ in the country, and $4\frac{2}{3}$ in the whole parish. For the families in which all or some of the children reside with their parents, the average number of children of all ages thus residing is rather less than $2\frac{1}{8}$ in the town, rather more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ in the country, and rather less than $2\frac{0}{8}$ in the whole parish.

There are 120 inhabited houses in the town, 177 in the country, and 297 in the whole parish; 4 uninhabited houses in the town, 2 in the country, and 6 in the whole parish. There are no houses being built at present. None have been built in the country for a year past, and none in the town for ten years past. The people are generally hardy and naturally robust. But, upon the whole, they do not seem to perform so much labour as the inhabitants of many other districts. This difference may be chiefly owing to irregular employment and poor living.

There are in the whole parish 4 persons insane, 9 fatuous, 4 blind, 4 deaf and dumb; and besides these, there are 2 persons, a man and his sister, he aged sixty-six, and she aged seventy-three, both of whom are at once blind, deaf and dumb. Both could once see, but have been blind for between 20 and 30 years. They can be made to understand by means of touch, what their friends find it necessary to communicate to them for their bodily comfort and personal safety. He can attend to the fire to supply it with fuel when it is required. She is remarkably particular as to her dress. Both can be made to understand when any one is present with whom they have formerly been acquainted; and when they are informed that the minister is present, they compose themselves, and assume a grave and serious aspect. This is especially the case with the woman.

Language.—English is spoken in this parish, with less of provincial accent and less mixture of Scotch than in the more central and populous districts of Scotland.

There are few games or regulated amusements followed, and none peculiar to the parish. Curling in the hard frosts of winter

is the favourite game. Quoits and hand-ball are occasionally resorted to at other seasons, but rarely by grown persons. Hand-ball and marbles are the only games in favour with the boys. The girls seem to have no games at all peculiar to themselves.

Character and Habits of the People.—The poorer class, constituting the majority of the population, are very far from being cleanly or tidy in their habits; but it is quite the reverse with those in better circumstances, especially in the town. The diet of the ordinary labourer is often very poor. The smallness of his wages, and still more his improvident habits, allow him but a rare supply and scanty proportion of animal food. Many, especially of the labourers resident in the town or in the country, and of the small cottars in the country, are miserably clothed, miserably fed, miserably lodged, and miserably provided with furniture in their dwellings. But these evils have undoubtedly, in most instances, a moral cause. For others, with precisely the same advantages, contrive to make themselves tolerably comfortable. The agricultural population are generally much poorer, and do not live so well as in the better cultivated and more populous districts of Scotland. Farmers, in circumstances of moderate comfort, do not use animal food above once in a day, and that not always.

The ordinary comforts and advantages of society may generally be enjoyed by the prudent and industrious. In the queries, to which this Statistical Account is an answer, it is asked whether “the people, on the whole, are contented with their situation and circumstances?” Here it is necessary to distinguish between two kinds of what is commonly called contentment. There is in the majority by far too much of that sort of contentment which consists in preferring the present condition to the exertion and prudent management by which it might be improved. But, as inseparable from this species of contentment, there is a lamentable deficiency of that just and thankful recognition of comforts and advantages enjoyed or attainable, which, mingling with a sense of the salutary discipline of unavoidable evils, constitutes true contentment. Although there is not so much of the restless and mischievous spirit of discontent openly displayed, as would be hailed by the unprincipled demagogue, enough may be observed to suggest and enforce the lesson, that, unless the hearts of men be imbued with the spirit of the Gospel, we shall look everywhere in vain for such contentment as is truly conducive to the well-being of society, or to its permanent security.

The people are generally characterized by intellect naturally vigorous, but uncultivated. They are capable of being excited to very great violence of feeling: and vindictive feelings usually find with them a free and instant expression. But withal, they display more external courtesy towards one another, and more respectful manners in addressing their superiors, than may be observed in the more populous districts. In common with the other inhabitants of Galloway they are distinguished by a ready and ungrudging hospitality. Among the crimes ordinarily falling under the cognizance of the civil magistrate, assaults, rioting and fighting on the public streets, are much to be complained of, but are not so frequent as at one time, when it used to be said at Donaghadee, "I'll not meddle with you just now; but stop till I get you at Portpatrick, where there is no law." Petty thefts are prevalent. They are often attributed to the bands of tinkers who encamp on the common on their way to and from Ireland; but these undoubtedly deserve but a small share of the blame. The facilities afforded by the wild coast for plundering the goods cast ashore in shipwrecks, have always presented a strong temptation. The desperate cupidity exhibited in recent cases by many, even with the grim spectacles of death before them, and the impossibility of detecting the numerous depredators, sufficiently prove that the tone of public morality on the question of "mine or thine" is not very high. Profane swearing is lamentably frequent; but probably not more so than in other parts of the country. If it be true, as has been said, that drunkenness prevails to a more than ordinary degree in Portpatrick, the assertion, which is probably incorrect, must, at all events, be confined to the town. And here the most favourable conclusion that observation will warrant is, that the habits of the people in this respect are, upon the whole, better than we find in other sea-ports, and that a great improvement has taken place of late years. The Sabbath is usually observed with outward quietness. Idleness and wandering are the principal forms of its desecration, if we overlook the national profanity of the sailing of the mail-packets, and the running of the mail-coaches, by which many well disposed men are laid under the necessity of labouring, and of absenting themselves frequently both from public and domestic religious duties. An observer of the peculiar character of the people would probably remark a natural susceptibility of solemn impressions, which, however, through ignorance and spiritual blindness, often degenerates into superstition,

consistent with various immoralities. If the experience of a few years of ministerial duty might justify the author of these pages in hazarding the opinion, he would say that those who know and love the Bible in this parish seem to draw from it a deeper tone of religious feeling than is generally to be remarked in the same class of men in several other districts with which he has been acquainted. The number of these, alas! bears but a small proportion to the whole population. Perhaps the following well ascertained statement respecting family worship, taken together with other facts to be stated under the heads of "*Ecclesiastical State*" and "*Education*," may illustrate the religious character of the population more satisfactorily than any mere general statement of opinion: Of the Protestant families in the whole parish, there are sixty in which there is family worship usually every day, and sixty-one in which it is usual to have family worship only on Sabbaths.

Poaching in game prevails to a considerable extent, and is not confined, as in most other parts of the country, to a few worthless and desperate characters. Small quantities of soap are frequently brought from Ireland and sold among the families in the parish by poor people. This seems to be the only remaining vestige of *smuggling*.

There is no regular *pawnbroker* nearer than Stranraer, and probably not very many persons from this parish have recourse to him. Those who would, have little to pawn.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The statements under this head are given with confidence on the authority of John Murdoch, Esq. J. P. factor to the principal heritor.

No. of acres, standard imperial measure which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage is	6800
No. of acres which have never been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste, or in pasture,	2088
which might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, whether that land were afterwards to be kept in occasional tillage, or in permanent pasture,	500
in a state of undivided common	12
under wood, all planted,	800

The kinds of trees which have been generally planted, are, oak, ash, sycamore, beech, elm, chestnut, larch, spruce and silver fir, and pinaster. The almost only wood in the parish is around Dunskey, the residence of the principal proprietor. It has been planted chiefly within the last thirty years. The annual thinning and pruning is conducted by experienced foresters under the di-

rection of the proprietor and his factor, according to the most approved method of the present day.

Rent.—The average rent of arable land in the parish is 10s. per imperial acre. The average rent of grazing is at the rate of L. 1, 10s. per ox or cow grazed, and at the rate of L. 5 per ewe or full-grown sheep pastured for the year.

Wages.—The rate of labour, winter and summer, for different kinds of farm-labourers, varies from 10d. to 1s. 6d. per day, and for country artisans, it is 2s. 6d. per day.

The price of the several kinds of raw produce, grain, &c. is that of the Glasgow and Liverpool markets, deducting the expense of carriage. The rates of mason, carpenter, and other mechanical work are also regulated by the more populous parts of Scotland.

Live-Stock.—The sheep, of which comparatively few are kept, are chiefly of the black-faced breed. The cattle are principally of the Galloway breed, to the improvement of which greater attention has been lately devoted by crossing with bulls of the same breed, selected from improved stocks of the neighbouring districts. The peculiar excellence of this breed consisting in the smallness of the bone, and the greater proportion of lean when the animals are thoroughly fattened, is well known in the London Smithfield market, where the Galloway *spayed* heifer sells at 1½d. per lb. higher than any other beef.

Husbandry.—The general character of the husbandry pursued, although not the best, is tolerably good, being alternate pasture and oats, with the intervention of a hoed green crop, chiefly potatoes in the drier soils. The general tendency, however, is to over-cropping. Draining and an undeviating rotation of crops are improvements of which the present husbandry of the parish is very susceptible.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years. In this respect they are favourable at once to the improvement of the soil and to the occupier, giving him a sufficient time for a return of outlay.

The farm-houses and buildings are, for the most part, pretty good; as are also the fences, which are chiefly of stone, or of sod with furze sown on the top. The latter makes a tolerably good fence when the furze is properly dressed.

Within the last twenty years, considerable improvements have been made by the occupiers generally, in reclaiming mossy and formerly waste lands, by paring and burning, and by a better system of cultivation, although in this last respect much remains

yet to be done. Within the same period, the principal proprietor has effected very striking improvements by extensive plantations, tastefully arranged for landscape effect, and by draining and laying down for permanent pasturage about 400 acres around his residence. The great extent of private gravel walks and well-dressed thorn hedges, although, strictly speaking, they do not come under the head of agriculture, may be mentioned here as remarkable improvements.

The chief obstacles to improvement are what may be supposed to have arisen from the want of improving leases as to farm-buildings, &c. and from the laws of entail, under which there is about one-third of the landward part of the parish.

There are no mines in the parish. Coal has been lately sought for, but in vain.

Fisheries.—Till the year 1813, there was no regular fishery at Portpatrick, except for the supply of the inhabitants. The fish caught were generally of small size, such as are still caught for the same purpose during the summer months near the shore, either with rods or hand-lines baited with limpets or crabs. From 1813 to 1821, about 20 boats and 100 men were employed in fishing herrings. Each boat used from 1200 to 1600 yards of net, and the average profit of each was about L. 80; the price of herrings varying from 30s. to 40s. per barrel. The average number of barrels of herrings caught by the Portpatrick boats during each of the above years must have been about 900. From six to eight of these boats fished with the Government bounty of L. 3 per ton, and averaged about twenty tons. The other boats employed were from five to eight tons. After the Government bounty was withdrawn, the fishery was abandoned as unprofitable: for, although the greater number of the boats employed had not enjoyed the bounty they did not put to sea till the bounty boats had discovered the shoals of herrings, and so were saved much expense. The greater number of herrings were caught between Portpatrick and Portnessock to the south, and at the distance of from two to three miles from the shore. The usual fishing season for the Portpatrick boats was from the beginning of June till the beginning of August. The herrings came from the north, and proceeded south to the Isle of Man, where the fishery began about the 10th of August. Besides the Portpatrick boats, many from other places fished on the coast, and 120 have been seen in the harbour at once. The want of

the bounty is the only reason assigned by the fishermen for no attempt being now made to resume this fishery.

Immediately after the herring fishery was abandoned, it was found that a profitable fishery of cod might be carried on during the five months, from the beginning of November to the beginning of April. This has continued ever since to be the only fishery carried on at Portpatrick. During last season, the fish were very abundant. Ten boats with three men, or two men and a boy in each, were employed; and each boat realized at an average about L. 20 of clear profit. The fish above 12 pounds were sold at an average of 9d. each during the season. The average weight of such fish as taken from the water was about 16 pounds. The largest were from 36 pounds to 40 pounds. The cod come from the north and proceed southward. It is the opinion of the fishermen, that they go round the south coast of Ireland, and return northward along the west coast. In the beginning of the fishing-season, they are caught in water about 30 fathoms deep, and towards the end of the season in water about 60 fathoms. They are supposed to seek the deeper water, in order to avoid the strong current, as they become weaker from the approach of the time of spawning, which is in April and May. The distance of the cod fishing ground from the shore is from two to three miles. The lines used in fishing are from 800 to 1000 fathoms, having hooks along the whole length, at the distance of two fathoms, and are stretched along the bottom by large stones let down at each end, and fastened by a cord to a buoy on the surface of the water. The bait used is the shell-fish, *Buccinum undatum*, called here buckie, which is caught for the purpose in baskets containing pieces of fish, which are let down in about 10 fathoms water about a quarter of a mile off from the harbour or the old castle, and are drawn up daily to be emptied of the shell-fish which have crept into them to feed on the dead fish. Each shell-fish serves to bait two hooks; so that reckoning the number of hooks used by all the boats at 4500, about 2250 of these large shell-fish must be destroyed every time the lines are shot, and probably not fewer than 70,000 every year. Yet the supply chiefly obtained from a space of no great extent seems to be even more abundant than ever.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as that can be ascertained, has been calculated as follows, by the gentleman to whose authority the facts stated under the head of *Agriculture* have been referred.

Produce of grain of all kinds cultivated for the food of man and of the domestic animals,	L. 6900
potatoes, turnips, and other plants cultivated in the fields for food,	950
hay, meadow and cultivated,	350
flax,	50
land in pasture, rating it at 30s. per cow, or full-grown ox grazed, or that may be grazed for the season; at 5s. per ewe, or full-grown sheep, pastured, or that may be pastured for the year,	1850
gardens and orchard,	25
the annual thinning of plantations,	25
the eod fishery,	200

Total yearly value of raw produce, L. 9250

Manufactures.—There are no manufactures for the general market in this parish, except the embroidering of muslin with the needle by women. Twelve weavers, called customer weavers, are employed in working up the produce of the domestic spinning-wheels for the use of the families by whom they are employed.

Navigation.—There are, at present, only four sail-vessels belonging to this port. Of these one is of 80 tons burthen, two of 40 tons, and one of 20 tons. All of these are frequently employed in bringing coals for the use of the steam-packets, or of the inhabitants. The largest sometimes also brings stone for the harbour-works, and the others sometimes import lime for the purposes of agriculture. About fifty years ago, six vessels of the average of 60 tons belonged to the people and the harbour of Portpatrick, and were employed in the coasting-trade, chiefly in the importation of cattle from Ireland. It appears from the Statistical Account of 1791, that, sometime previous to that date, a company of shipwrights had been formed under the auspices of Sir James Hunter Blair. But only four vessels of any considerable size seem to have been built here. The last of these was built in 1790.

Besides the sail-vessels belonging to this harbour, two steamers are stationed here by the Admiralty as mail-packets.

Agricultural Association.—There is no public or private Association in this parish for the encouragement or improvement of any branch of industry: but several of the farmers are members of the Stranraer and Rhins of Galloway Agriculture Society, which is of recent origin, but is believed to have excited considerable interest in the improvement of the breeds of cattle and of the art of ploughing.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The nearest market-town is Stranraer, where there is a general weekly market on Fridays, besides other stated markets during the year.

Town.—The town of Portpatrick was “erected into a burgh of barony in the end of the reign of James VI., or beginning of the reign of Charles I. before 1628.” (Chalmers’ Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 408) : but the charter seems to have remained a dead letter, so far as respects the establishment of a burgh magistracy or police. There is only one justice of the peace in the parish. There has recently been stationed in the town, in connection with the police of the county, a sub-constable, whose district comprehends the parishes of Portpatrick, Leswalt, and Kirkcolm, and who acts under a superintendent residing at Stranraer. There is no trade worth mentioning. Lime from Ireland and coals from Ayrshire are imported for the use of the parish, and occasionally the agricultural produce of the district is exported ; but rarely, as the greater part is sold at Stranraer, either for consumpt there or for exportation. The number of cattle and horses imported here from Ireland is now very inconsiderable. It appears from the Statistical Account of 1791, that the number of cattle and horses imported in the preceding year was 17,275 ; in 1812, it reached 20,000 : but last year (1837) it amounted to no more than 1080. Both cattle and horses from Ireland are now conveyed so easily and safely by steamers to Liverpool or Glasgow, that the short sea passage at Portpatrick is not so desirable for them as when steam navigation was unknown or in its infancy.

There was a large custom-house establishment not very many years ago at Portpatrick, with a collector, comptroller, &c. connected with the custom-house at Stranraer. There is now only a single tide-surveyor.

The eastern boundary of the parish takes in a few houses of the small village of Lochans. Through this village the turnpike-road passes from Portpatrick to Stranraer. About five miles of this road lie within the parish, and are kept in admirable repair.

Post-Office.—There is a post-office in the town, at which letters from Ireland are sorted for the Scotch and English mails, and through which the number of letters and newspapers that pass to and from Ireland is supposed to amount to between 8000 and 10,000 daily. A mail-coach between Portpatrick and Glasgow, and another between Portpatrick and Dumfries, arrive and depart every day, each drawn by two horses, and calculated to carry, besides the guard and driver, four passengers inside, and four outside. The fares to Glasgow inside are L. 1, 8s., and outside, 18s. ; to Dumfries inside, L. 1, 10s., and outside, L. 1, 1s. ; to Stranraer inside, 3s., and outside, 2s.

Packets.—Of the two steam-packets supplied by the Admiralty for the service of the post-office, one sails to Ireland, and the other returns daily. These packets carry cabin-passengers for a fare of 5s., and deck-passengers for 2s. The following table, supplied by the packet-agent, shows the number of cabin and deck-passengers who have crossed the channel in these packets from 4th May 1825 to 1st August 1838.

During the year.	To Ireland.		From Ireland.		During the year.	To Ireland.		From Ireland.	
	Cabin.	Deck.	Cabin.	Deck.		Cabin.	Deck.	Cabin.	Deck.
1825 from 4th May	509	659	595	3481	1832	554	5399	430	3849
1826	556	6430	557	5985	1833	427	4348	435	3847
1827	457	6962	450	5178	1834	470	5171	483	4593
1828	536	6202	539	4857	1835	429	4525	397	4249
1829	459	6543	483	4868	1836	543	3566	519	4059
1830	529	7057	516	6013	1837	531	3443	455	4103
1831	572	5706	513	6136	1838 to 1st August.	222	1670	213	2683
Total number of passengers during all these years,						6,854	67,705	6,585	63,301

“Portpatrick,” says Chalmers, (*Caledonia*, Vol. iii. p. 409,) “owes its increase to its having become the port of communication with Ireland. It was only in 1662 that a regular post was established between Scotland and Ireland through Portpatrick; and then only once a week. Formerly the harbour at Portpatrick, in its natural state, was a mere inlet between two ridges of rocks that advanced into the sea; and as there is a prodigious swell from the west, upon the mouth of this creek, without any elbow to protect a vessel, it was then only practicable for small flat-bottomed vessels to navigate here; and it was necessary for every one that arrived to take the ground; and all the people of the place collected and drew the vessel on the beach, out of the influence of the waves. In order to remedy this inconvenience, a very fine pier was built; but this having also been found insufficient, a project is now in operation, under the authority of Parliament, (1820,) for very greatly improving the harbour of Portpatrick; so as to afford perfect security and convenience at this frequented passage. There is a reflecting light-house at Portpatrick, and another a Donaghadee on the Irish side, both which were built before 1790. Portpatrick forms one of the creeks of the port of Stranraer.”

The “project” referred to in the above extract began to be executed in March 1821, under the superintendence of a board of commissioners appointed by act of Parliament, and consisting chiefly of gentlemen belonging to the neighbouring district. A harbour greatly more extensive than the former, and comprehend-

ing it in its arms, was planned by the justly celebrated engineer, the late Mr Rennie, and the work was carried on for some time by a resident engineer under his direction. Subsequently to his death, the direction was transferred to his son, the present Sir John Rennie. The whole plan was originally designed for sail-vessels, and was admirably adapted for their *warping* out into the current of the channel in any weather, when it was possible for them to go to sea. After the substitution of steam-vessels as mail-packets, it was found necessary to excavate to a greater extent than was contemplated in Mr Rennie's plan, in consequence of which the original estimate (about L. 120,000,) became deficient, and an additional grant was made by Parliament, which it is believed will complete the work. The form of the new harbour very much resembles a horse shoe. From the south side of it, the old quay, a pier showing the date 1774, points inward, nearer the land than the centre of the basin, whilst the other side embraces a large rock, by which it is partly sheltered from the sea that enters the mouth of the harbour. Both sides run out into piers, inclining slightly towards each other, and furnished with jetties near their extremities, by which the entrance is contracted to 180 feet. The north pier is not yet finished; but the south one was completed about three years ago, and is a very handsome building. The parapet is wrought in massive grey limestone from Wales, and terminates in a semi-circular curve, half embracing and protecting a handsome lighthouse 46 feet in height, and built of the same material. The back of this pier is protected by a glacis of rubble-work. From the extent of a quarry to the south, some idea may be formed of the enormous quantity of stone that has been poured into the deep in the construction of this harbour. But no one who did not see the work at its commencement, or in the early stages of its progress, can estimate the labour expended in excavating rock under water in the basin, partly by means of puddle dikes, and partly with the diving-bell. An animated description of these operations has been given by Mr M'Diarmid in his "Sketches of Nature." Although much opposition has been raised of late to this harbour as the station for the mail-packets between Scotland and Ireland, there seems to be very little reason to doubt of its possessing many very great advantages, in which no other station that has yet been suggested can compete with it. It is the *nearest point to Ireland*, being only 21 miles distant, which during nine-tenths of the whole year, gives it an undeniable superiority. Steamers can go out here

in any weather, and effect a safe passage, and there is a *peculiarity in the currents of the channel, which, in connexion with the prevailing winds*, contributes to the facility of the passage.

Notwithstanding all the disadvantages resulting from the unfinished state of the harbour, and the limited power of the vessels employed, the regularity and expedition with which the mails have been conveyed to and from Ireland at this station is remarkable. It appears from the report of Mr Napier of Glasgow, that steamers of 80 horse power could be built capable of entering the harbour of Portpatrick in its present state, whereas those at present used, have only 50 horse power.

Notwithstanding much that has been said through ignorance, it is not to be believed that any enlightened and patriotic man, who shall rightly estimate not only the commercial but all of the many other advantages of *by far the shortest sea passage* between Scotland and Ireland, will blame the expense that has already been incurred, or even grudge more if necessary, to render this passage as secure and easy in all sailing weather as a good harbour on both sides of the channel, with steamers of the highest available power, could make it.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church being in the town, which contains more than half of the population of the whole parish, could not be more conveniently situated, although it is nearly five miles from the extremities of the parish. It was built in 1628 and 1629. It is at present in indifferent repair; but it has been resolved by the heritors to erect a new one, of sufficient size to accommodate the parish. The present building, which is in the form of a cross, with a round tower as a belfry, contains 300 sittings, none of which are free except those on a form placed in the middle passage. The manse was built probably more than sixty years ago. It received an addition of two rooms in 1824, and was thoroughly and comfortably repaired in the beginning of this year (1838) for the reception of the present incumbent. At the same time the garden was enclosed with an excellent six feet wall. The glebe consists of 12 acres of arable land close to the town on the south, and worth about L. 30 per annum. The stipend of the minister in 1755 was L. 55, 5s. 10d., and in 1798, L. 130, 12s. 3d. Some years ago a part of the stipend previously paid to the minister of Portpatrick was sued for by the minister of Inch as belonging to him, and recovered by him. The amount at present paid by the heritors to the minister of Portpatrick is L. 88, 10s. 5d., of which

Colonel Hunter Blair pays L. 67, 11s. 2d., Colonel Vans Agnew, L. 15, 19s. 9d., and the Earl of Stair, L. 4, 19s. 6d. After deducting from this sum the allowance for communion elements, the difference between the remainder and L. 150 is paid by the Exchequer under the act for augmenting small stipends.

There are no places of stated public worship in the parish besides the Established Church. As this church contains only 300, the members of church-going families attached to the Establishment are under the necessity of attending by turns, and few children are to be seen in church. In these circumstances, it is impossible to say how many individuals are in the habit of attending; but the number who attend either regularly or occasionally, as they can be assured of finding seats, may probably amount to about 600. Divine service in the parish church is usually well attended.

The following table shows the number of the population belonging, or professing to belong, to each of the several religious denominations known in the parish, with the number of communicants in each, and the number of sittings paid for by members of each denomination in the Catholic or in Dissenting congregations in Stranraer.

	Denomination.	No. of Members of all ages.	No. of Communicants.	No. of sittings in Con- gregations in Stranraer.
Presbyterian Pro- testant Dissenters 262.	Establishment,	1591	437	
	Episcopalians attending the Established Church,	24	3	
	Catholics,	114	32	15
	Reformed Presbyterians,	46	23	22
	United Secession,	161	52	53
	Relief,	55	18	12

There are five elders in the kirk-session besides the minister; and three others have been lately elected. A parochial association in aid of the General Assembly's four schemes, viz. Church Extension, School Extension, Foreign Missions, and Colonial Churches, was formed in August last; the committee of management consisting of a president and vice-president, the members of kirk-session, thirteen collectors, a secretary, and a treasurer. Previously to the formation of this association, the average amount of church collections yearly for religious and charitable objects, besides the regular and ordinary weekly collections for the poor, may be stated at L. 7.

Education.—The number of schools in the parish, and the number of scholars in each, varies so much not only from year to year, but during every year, that the purpose of this Statistical Account will be best served by the following report made to the

presbytery in 1835, and exhibiting nearly the average of the last seven years. There is one parochial and seven private schools, the teachers of which, with one exception, belong to the Established Church. The branches taught are, English reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, mensuration and navigation; and the school fees vary from 2s. to 3s. per quarter. The parochial schoolmaster has a salary of L. 30, besides the school fees. The yearly average number of scholars attending these schools is 225.

At present, there are four schools in the town, and three in the country. Of those in the town, one with six scholars has, for a year past, been under a teacher employed by the gentlemen of the parish, at the rate of L. 12, 12s. per annum for each scholar; and another, with about 70 scholars, at the ordinary rate, has, for the same time, been under a teacher, appointed by a committee of the inhabitants, who secure to him either 60 scholars, or the wages for that number. Both of these schools are well taught.

The present parochial teacher was the first who enjoyed a regular salary from the heritors. He was appointed in 1804. For about eight or ten years he taught in a room of the old barracks, above a lodging-house, whence all sorts of noise, and language of the worst description, might often be heard in the school. For about a year after this time he taught in his own dwelling-house, which had been erected for him about three years after his appointment. He was then accommodated with the present school-house. The school-house and schoolmaster's house afford the legal accommodations; but they are in indifferent repair. The number of the young between six and fifteen who cannot read, is 103, who cannot write, 210. The number of persons upwards of fifteen who cannot read is 33, who cannot write, 383.

The Bible and the Assembly's Shorter Catechism have always been used as ordinary class-books in the schools of this parish; but it does not appear that the daily exercises have commenced with prayer. The superintendence of the presbytery has never amounted to more than simple inspection annually by a committee of two or three ministers.

The standard of education is very low in the parish generally; but there seems to be an increasing desire of improvement in this respect. There is no part of the parish so distant from a school as to prevent attendance. The great evil here is the desire to have schools in every quarter, rather than to secure the services of two or at the most three good teachers, which would be a sufficient

number for the necessities of the whole parish. In one district a teacher was recently employed by a committee of the inhabitants, who could hardly write, and who could not spell the most common English words. He lived in the school-house with his wife and two children; and they begged in the neighbourhood whilst he was teaching. This was certainly an extreme case; but it occurred only three years ago. It may be safely affirmed that, during the last six years, three-fourths of the teachers in the parish have not earned the wages of a good ordinary labourer. A considerable sum has been subscribed, chiefly by the principal heritor and his sister, Miss Jemima Hunter Blair, for the erection of a comfortable school-house and schoolmaster's house in a central position of the country part of the parish. It is hoped that this school will supply the greater part of the deficiency, which is altogether a deficiency in the quality, and not in the number of the schools. There has been a visible improvement in the general conduct and morals of the people since the facilities of education were increased. But a considerable share of the credit, so far as education is concerned in it, is due to Sabbath schools, originally established by a committee composed of Dissenters and members of the Established Church, patronized by the late minister, and assiduously cherished by his daughters, who taught in one of them. These Sabbath schools have been recently united in one, under the superintendence of the kirk-session, and having on its lists 210 scholars, of whom about 180 may be reckoned to attend every Sabbath. Only religious instruction is given in this school, and it forms also a congregation of the young, in which prayer and praise are united with frequent addresses from the minister. Twenty-one teachers, male and female, give their services gratuitously.

Literature.—There is a small library connected with the Sabbath school, and consisting of 250 small volumes, which are lent out to those scholars who pay 2d. during three months for the use of them. There is a parish library consisting of 352 volumes, which are lent out to subscribers in the parish at the rate of 2s. per annum. This library was founded about nine years ago, by a donation of 108 volumes from Miss Hunter Blair, of whom mention has already been made, and who, though residing in Edinburgh, has ever shown the liveliest interest in the spiritual welfare of the parish.

A Friendly Society, instituted in 1817, for the support of members in sickness, has done some good. It would have been of more

general benefit, but that the surplus funds, having increased to a large amount under a too cautious management, and the entry-money bearing a fixed proportion to the amount of the funds having risen to a large sum, for a long time operated to the entire exclusion of new members. This evil has been lately remedied, and the number of members is increasing every month.

A Savings Bank was commenced about nine years ago, by the then assistant minister, Rev. Mr Campbell, with the countenance and assistance of the late Forbes Hunter Blair, Esq. of Dunskey. But the attempt to promote the design of this most desirable institution proved entirely abortive, chiefly in consequence, as it now appears, of an ungenerous and most absurd suspicion among the labouring classes, that their wages would be reduced if it were discovered that they could save money from their earnings to deposit in a bank.

Poor's Funds.—The average number of names on the list of regular paupers during the last seven years is 32. The allowances are paid on the first lawful day of each month, and have varied from 1s. 6d. to 17s. 2d. The average allowance may be stated at 4s. 6d. per month. But, besides the regular paupers, many receive occasional relief, and the sums thus given may amount to L. 20 in the year. The collections at the church door on Sabbaths have amounted to about L. 40 per annum at an average. A legacy of L. 180, left to the poor of the parish by the late Earl of Stair, yields L. 7, 4s. of interest per annum. The remainder of the sum necessary for the support of the poor and for other parochial charges ordinarily made on the poor's funds, has hitherto been contributed voluntarily by the heritors, in the proportion of their respective valuations. There is no aversion among the poor generally to accept of parochial relief, but quite the contrary.

Prisons.—There is a lock-up-house in the town, where prisoners may be confined securely enough, though not very comfortably, for a night or two; but it is very rarely used.

Fairs have never been held in this parish.

Inns, Ale-houses, &c.—There is a large and commodious Inn in the town, where nobility and travellers of rank frequently lodge in passing to and from Ireland. There are 8 other smaller inns and ale-houses, and a spirit store where liquors are retailed. The number of houses licensed for retailing spirits is beyond all doubt injurious to the morals of the people here as elsewhere. Three well regulated inns in Portpatrick would be amply sufficient for all

the purposes of orderly refreshment and comfortable accommodation.

Fuel.—About 300 tons of coal, chiefly from Troon and Ayr, are consumed yearly by the inhabitants, at the rate of about 14s. or 15s. per ton. The fuel chiefly used is peat, procured from mosses in the parish, and usually sold in the town at from 1s. 8d. to 2s. per cart load.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The more striking variations betwixt the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account, have been already adverted to. The want of coal must prevent the introduction of manufactures to any considerable extent: but the condition of the working-classes would undoubtedly be improved if it were found profitable to introduce hand-loom weaving. The purity of the sea water here would render Portpatrick a desirable watering-place in the summer months, if baths were erected, and pains were taken to improve the bathing-ground, which could be easily done by quarrying a little of the rock in various places where nature has already almost formed plunge-baths on the shore. There is a very pure and mild summer atmosphere; the purest fresh water; one chalybeate spring; an admirable promenade on the piers, which are paved and dry in all weather; abundance of fish; easy communication with the markets of Stranraer, Donaghadee, or Belfast; excellent houses for lodging; a daily post; and, in good weather, facilities for travelling to all parts of the three kingdoms.

December 1838.