

PARISH OF SAINT MUNGO.

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ANDREW JAMESON, M. W. S. MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name and Boundaries.—THE ancient name of this parish was Abermilk; the British designation *Aber*, signifying the confluence of waters, agrees with the situation of the parish, which is a kind of peninsula formed by the junction of the rivers Milk and Annan. The inquisitio of Earl David found, in the year 1116, that the lands of Abermilk belonged of old to the episcopate of Glasgow. The Bruces having built a castle on the Water of Milk in the twelfth century, the name of the parish was changed to that of Castlemilk. The parish under this new name is mentioned in the year 1170 by Pope Alexander; and in 1290, William de Gosford, the parson of Castlemilk, swore fealty at Berwick to King Edward I. The church of the parish was dedicated to God under the invocation of St Mungo, the canonized founder of the see of Glasgow; and most probably the people gave the name of their favourite patron to the parish, as being more in unison with their religious feelings than a designation which brought to their remembrance only the haughty baron or his feudal requisitions. Since the alteration of the religion of Scotland, the name of St Mungo has always designated the parish, except, perhaps, during that period of intolerance when the appellations *Saint* and *Devil* were esteemed synonymous terms.

The parish, situated in the upper ward of the ancient stewartry of Annandale, extends from north to south about 4 miles, and from east to west about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, containing $7\frac{1}{4}$ square miles; is bounded on the south by the parish of Dalton; on the east by Hoddam; on the north by Tundergarth; and by Dryfesdale on the west.

Topographical Appearances.—The surface of this parish is uneven, being elevated into two hill ridges, and depressed by their accompanying vales. On the south of the parish, the high wooded grounds of

Kirkwood in Dalton, and Nutholmhill in this parish, form a beautiful vale a mile long, through which the river Annan flows in a serpentine course. In the centre of this enchanting vale, and on the bank of the river Annan, the manse and church, embowered in wood, are situated. The manse stands 90 feet above the high watermark at Annan by the barometer. Nutholmhill, elevated 200 feet above the sea, sinks gradually into a plain eastward at the junction of the Annan and Milk, and westward near the village of Lockerby. Directly east, and nearly parallel with the ridge of Nutholmhill, rise the eminences named Barrhill and Breckenhill. Barrhill sinks into the level of the holms of Hoddam on the east; whilst Breckenhill, stretching westerly, sinks into the bed of the Milk on the confines of the parish of Tundergarth. This ridge extends about two miles, and is in its highest parts elevated 250 feet above the sea. Through the highly cultivated and richly wooded valley formed by these hills, the Water of Milk takes a serpentine course of three miles, on the bank of which is built the modern mansion of Castlemilk. In the north of the high land of Breckenhill, after a slight depression, the ground suddenly rising up again, forms the classical table-shaped hill of Burnswark in the parish of Hoddam.

Meteorology.—The climate is rather moist, from the parish being only six miles from the Solway Firth, and the quantity of high ground contained in and surrounding the parish. The most prevalent winds are from the south-west. Although the climate is mild from the sudden alternations of temperature to which the parish is exposed, inflammatory complaints are not uncommon; the very flimsy manufacture, which has supplanted the coarse fabric of our forefathers, gives rise to many glandular diseases, consumptions, and complaints of the liver and stomach. The great improvement which has taken place within these thirty years in the construction of houses, their comparative cleanliness and capability of ventilation, have greatly tended to diminish disease among the aged; whilst vaccination (now very generally adopted) has no less diminished death in early life. A somewhat singular atmospherical phenomenon passed over this parish some years since. A very smart shower of rain from the south-west, originating in the maritime parish of Caerlaverock, crossed this parish in the same direction, and spent itself on the confines of the parish of Tundergarth. The rain was salt water; and from the heat of a clear sun immediately after the shower, in a short time evaporation left slight incrustations of salt on grass and tree. A whirlwind over the Solway, then at high

water, had doubtless elevated the water which thus fell so far inland. An account of the phenomena was published in one of the earlier volumes of Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine.

Hydrography.—The River Annan takes its course through this parish in a south-eastern direction, separating it from the parishes of Dalton and Cummertrees for three miles. Many fine springs of water are found here, flowing generally from under secondary trap rock or sandstone, on which the trap rocks rest. The Saint's Well, close by the church, is a powerful spring flowing from the amygdaloid of Nutholmhill at a great depth; for its temperature (48°) is nearly the same in summer as in winter. The Water of Milk divides the parish nearly in the middle, running in a south-eastern direction for nearly three miles.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The geognostic appearance of this parish being of the most interesting nature, will apologize for the length of the following remarks. The valley of Annan or Annandale commences above the village of Möffat, in the tremendous hollow of Errickstane, and terminates near the manse of this parish,—a distance of fully twenty-three miles. Several lateral vales terminate in this vale. The lateral vale of the Milk terminates without it, a little way above the confluence of the Milk and the Annan on the north-east part of this parish. The sides of these vales are generally smooth and covered with vegetation. The bottom, though sometimes rocky, is generally covered with alluvial soil, forming the best land in the county. The valley of the Annan was probably at some former period a hollow in the transition rocks, in which a great river (vastly greater than that which now exists) flowed; but by the formation of the floetz or secondary trap rocks across its communication with the ocean, it appears to have been converted into a lake. The water of the lake, after the retiring of the ocean, appears to have worn a passage through the opposing rocks, and at length has passed from the state of a lake to that of a river. This river has gradually deepened its channel, and left its original outlet by the house of Dormont, and flows out by the deeper and more circuitous channel, through which it now reaches the sea. The great height of the original banks of the Annan, and the great distance at which they are situated, prove the former magnitude of the stream; whilst the banks and masses of water-borne gravel, forming the lands of Edge and Hardgrave in Dalton, and Newfield in Ruthwell parishes, declares the magnitude of the body of water from which they derived their origin.

In this as in Canoby parish, we have distinctly laid open the great connecting links of the various formations which compose the mineral history of this county. The transition rocks which compose the mountains of Moffat, and stretch southwards, inclose the vale of Annan; and, after being hid by the soil, are discovered again in the bed of the Annan at Williamwath ford, and near the Kettleholm bridge in the bed of the Milk. The transition rocks can be traced from Williamwath ford to the Almagil hills in Dalton parish; whilst the same rocks on the Milk, after being covered for some miles by soil and the secondary rocks, are again discovered forming the base of Burnswark in the parish of Hoddam. The transition rocks in this parish are greywacke, which occurs massive in the Annan; whilst in the bed of the Milk the greywacke alternates with greywacke-slate. This rock in its slaty form has not yet been found so thin and solid as to be applied to economical purposes.

The independent coal formation makes its appearance in the bed of the Annan, at the head of the St Mungo glebe. Slate-clay and sandstone are traced lying over the transition rocks. This junction is beautifully laid open by a small quarry on the glebe. At Dalton Hook, a quarter of a mile up the river Annan from this ford, there occurs a large mass of conglomerate limestone, which evidently belongs to this series of rocks. This limestone is composed of fragments of compact grayish-coloured limestone, quartz, and greywacke, cemented by a clayey basis. The sandstone of this formation is here white; and the same coloured sandstone occurs at Cone, in the parish of Kirkpatrick, and at Cowdens, in this parish, though in the latter situation its colour is rather grayish-white. This formation again appears at Rotchell to the south-east of the manse, continues from that point to the shores of the Solway Firth, and extends through the lower part of Annandale and Eskdale. At Whitehill, on the north border of this parish, the independent coal formation may be traced in beds of clay ironstone, slate-clay containing impressions of shells, and ash gray-coloured limestone, containing petrifications, principally mytulites.

Secondary trap formation.—In this parish, and, indeed, through the whole county, only individual rocks which compose this formation are found; but no where is the series complete. Nutholm hill is composed of porphyritic amygdaloid. This rock can be traced on both sides of the river Annan, to the little hill of Whinyrigg, where it terminates, and is succeeded by the coal formation.

To the west and south of Nutholm hill, the amygdaloid is traced to the bed of the Annan, at the head of the glebe, where it can be distinctly seen, lying on the white-coloured sandstone already mentioned, and the slate-clay of the coal formation; from this point it can be traced to the manse of Dalton, where the greywacke again appears forming the mountain-arm which stretches along the bottom of the vale of the Annan. On descending Nutholm hill towards the Milk, the amygdaloid can again be traced, extending to the bed of the Milk, lying over a very coarse sandstone, and clay ironstone, which are deposited immediately above the greywacke, a gunshot above the Kettleholm bridge. The amygdaloid here disappears, and is not met with again, till we reach Barhill, on the opposite bank of the Milk; there it lies over a sandstone similar to that observed on the banks of the Annan on the glebe, which sandstone rests on greywacke. From Barhill, the amygdaloid continues to stretch along the high ground to Burnswark, resting in many places on very coarse-grained conglomerate sandstone, which again rests on much inclined strata of small-grained greywacke.

The amygdaloid of Nutholm hill has its cavities filled with green earth, whereas much of the same rock forming Barhill has its cavities filled with calcedony.

In the year 1825, the plough turned up some pieces of rich galena, on a farm belonging to the estate of William Carruthers of Nutholm, Esq. and the tenant on making a search collected about $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of beautiful ore. The ground where this valuable discovery was made, lies on the north bank of the Annan, and about fifty feet above the bed of the river; the soil in which it was deposited is loose gravel, over a till (ferruginous clay) subsoil, and this is laid over the sandstone which has been mentioned as lying immediately under the amygdaloid and resting on the transition rocks. From the probability that a vein of lead ore might be found, a professional examination of this spot was made by J. Wyatt, Esq. of Foolow, Derbyshire, and specimens of the ore submitted to the examination of Professor Jameson of Edinburgh. The result of this investigation was a resolution to form a joint-stock company, in small shares, in order to undertake a thorough examination of the land where the ore was found. Mr Wyatt procured a mining-tack for the projected company. The greater number of shares were subscribed for; and nothing was wanting but the acquiescence of the contiguous proprietors, to justify the company commencing their mining operations. The ground being surrounded by the property of no

less than six different landholders,—until all these gentlemen agreed to their terms, (in the event of a vein being found, and that vein stretching under any of their lands,) the company did not conceive it prudent to break ground. The greater number of these proprietors, however, refused to accede to the terms proposed; in consequence of which the whole mining scheme was abandoned. Had this project (in which the heritors were not required to advance one penny, unless they had chosen to become members of the mining concern,) been carried into execution, the result, if successful, would have been the improvement of the country, the enhancing of the value of their estates, and the opening up of a new source of industry to their nearly idle cottagers. Specimens of the ore were sent to the Royal Museum in the University of Edinburgh, and some retained by the incumbent in his possession. Whether this galena has been brought here by the primeval waters of the globe, or knocked from off the mouth of some vein in the immediate vicinity, no farther attempts have been made to discover. No search for many years has been made for coal; the shaft formerly sunk having been injudiciously executed, the proprietors were unwilling again to risk their money even on so valuable a field of investigation.* Limestone was quarried for some time at Whitehill, on the north-east side of the parish, but has been abandoned for some years,—the rock sinking too deep under cover. But, just beyond the parish march on the west, conglomerate limestone is quarried and burnt for the private use of the tenants on the property of Daltonhook.

The only simple minerals found in this parish are common jasper. Of this, some fine compact specimens, fit for the lapidary, are found in the bed of the Milk; calcedony imbedded occurs in the amygdaloid of Barhill. Flint is found in the glebe, evidently brought there and manufactured into arrow-heads, or, as the country people call them, elf-shots. Hundreds of such flints were found on ploughing up the holm of the glebe. Syenite in rolled masses is found in the parish. It is a singular fact, that the nearest mountain composed of this mineral is that of Criffel, in Galloway; yet the rolled pieces of that primitive rock found in this parish and in the parishes nearer the base of Criffel, are small, but as you recede from that mountain the masses increase in size and quantity, and the bed of

* One of the proprietors of this parish actually granted a lease to some miners of a lead mine on his estate, in a contiguous parish. The contractors spent some money, and then the miners, lead, and lease vanished altogether. They were drawn into this wild-goose chase by having mistaken some bog iron-ore for lead.

Wauchope Water, thirty miles distant from Criffel, is liberally strewed with rolled masses of syenite of very large dimensions.

The marl-pits in the parish are almost exhausted, as is nearly the case with the peat-mosses. The sandstone, for a circuit of twelve miles round this parish, is the new red. A patch of the grayish sandstone, already-mentioned, of some extent, in which this colouring matter is wanting, occurs at Cowdens, in the parish. It has been used, but is soft and easily acted upon by the atmosphere.

Alluvial soil, forming the vales of Annan and Milk, measures about 286 acres. The holm land of the Annan, lying on sandstone, is light and sandy: that forming the holms of Milk, lying on transition rocks, is a deep rich loam, constituting the most valuable land in the parish. The alluvial soils formed by both rivers measure about one and a-half foot deep, and are free from stones of all kinds. Towards the junction of the Annan and Milk, the bed of the Milk is much raised by the quantity of debris carried down by the winter floods: hence the alluvial soil deposited there is nearly a bed of gravel, of comparatively little value.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The principal proprietor in this parish is Thomas Hart, Esq. of Castlemilk, a most active, liberal, and indefatigable improver.

Parochial Registers.—The session-register consists of four volumes. The date of the session minute-book is 1699. The money accounts are regularly kept from 1699 to 1784. No regular accounts were kept from that time till 1803, and from that period up to the present term a regular register of marriages, births, baptisms, and burials has been kept. The session minutes (except in as far as may tend to usefulness) are not engrossed in the sederunt-book.

Antiquities.—From a much defaced inscription on the foundation coins, (now in the incumbent's possession) the parish church appears to have been built under one of our Alexanders; but this cannot be clearly made out. A considerable part of the church seems to have been rebuilt from the remains of the original structure, as the present walls contain the remains of broken pillars, and door and window ribs. The church was in the form of a passion cross, having very narrow lancet-shaped windows. In 1754, the south wall (not the whole church, as stated in the former report,) was rebuilt, as appears from an inscription over the

old chancel-door; * and, in 1805, to give room for celebrating the holy sacrament of the Lord's supper, the north transept was removed, and a new one built, and the whole structure repaired and modernized. The church, after these various mutilations, now presents a beautiful specimen of the Scots order of the *ecclesiastical barn architecture*. The ancient baptismal font is still preserved, and, on a late repair of the church, two grave-stones of great antiquity were discovered; these are preserved carefully. The church was covered with heather till 1754.

The funeral inscription of a family that rented the same farm for 300 years, is the only church-yard antiquity. The oldest headstone is dated 1616. A tumulus measuring twenty-four feet diameter, and three feet deep, principally made up of animal charcoal and earth, was lately removed from off the lands of Sorrysikemuir. In the middle of the mound, was a cell three feet by two, containing a handful of ashes; an urn some years ago was found outside this cell, also containing ashes. A coin of Mary Stuart was found in a British camp near this Roman chancel-house, and in another part of the parish a lad discovered an earthen pot containing about forty silver coins; the oldest was of Mary and Darnley. They were sold for old silver.—On the farm of Cowdens, in the north of the parish, and near the present Glasgow road, is shown the spot where stood the tent from which Ralph Erskine sounded the trumpet of defiance against the Established church. The descendants of this original seceding congregation finally settled in the village of Lockerby, where they are distinguished for the piety of their sentiments, and the purity of their lives.

* It was during this repair of the church that the celebrated *gorgets* were removed from their fastenings at the chancel-door of the church. This word *gorget*, gentle reader, signifies an iron collar which opened with a hinge. It was placed round the neck of the penitent, and padlocked by the sexton. The miserable sinner, clothed in sackcloth, chained up by the neck to the chancel-door, stood in "durance vile" during the long hours of worship. The reader may shudder, or the profligate may laugh; but it was the severe discipline of the church, not more severe than a barbarous age required, coming in aid of our wholesome education of the young, and faithful teaching of the old, which, under Providence, has exalted Scotland so high as a moral and religious nation.

In the session records is an original bond, executed by a person, wherein he engages that there shall be no fighting or rioting at his daughter's wedding, which he can prevent, under the penalty of L. 2 Scots. The bond was demanded by the session, and is dated so late as 1707. There are many entries of fines, reprimanding, &c. for even allowing a shirt to remain drying on a hedge during the Sabbath. It was from such severity that the Scottish Sabbath solemnity, which is the admiration of the religious world, arose. It was the holy discipline of our church which counteracted the tendency of the book of sports to heathenize that sacred day in Scotland.

Modern Buildings.—Castlemilk is the only house worth noticing. It was built in the year 1796, is surrounded by natural and planted wood, and the ground and gardens are laid out with taste. The internal finishing of the house is excellent. *

III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the population was	481
1763, - - -	600
1784, - - -	560
1792, - - -	640
1801, - - -	644
1811, - - -	724
1821, - - -	727
1831, - - -	791

The changes affecting the population in this parish are the union of small farms, † the pulling down of cottages by the lairds, the exhausted state of the peat-mosses, the high price of coals, and the general use of agricultural machinery.

1. Number of families in the parish,	147
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	77
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	30
2. The average number of births yearly, for the last 7 years,	24
of deaths,	24
of marriages,	6

There is only one heritor in the parish, who has a rental of L. 600 per annum. Eleven proprietors possess each a rental of L. 50 and upwards.

Character and Habits of the People.—The people are industrious, frugal, and generally temperate. The virtue of cleanliness in their persons and houses is daily gaining ground. They enjoy a fair share of the comforts of life, and, not meddling with politics, they are quite contented with their condition. Their ordinary food is oatmeal, potatoes, and the produce of a small garden,

* Castlemilk, originally built by the Bruces, came into the family of Stewart by the marriage of Walter High Steward of Scotland with one of King Robert's daughters. It fell by marriage into the family of Maxwells of Nithsdale, and was sold by that family. Whilst a fortified place, it was besieged by the Duke of Somerset, protector during the minority of Edward the Sixth. The Usurper during the commonwealth besieged this place; against his arms it stood out a considerable time. Having passed through so many proprietors since the original family took up their residence on their property near Glasgow, now named after this ancient place, the very *ghost* which used to disturb the slumbers of the Stewarts and Maxwells now slumbers in the burial aisle of the church.

† One tenant at present rents a single farm, which not many years since gave employment to six tenants and their families.

with bacon, and occasionally a piece of beef salted for the winter. There are frequent instances of unlawful intercourse among the sexes, which, I regret to say, they too often attempt to justify on principle. Poaching, save by one or two worthless characters, is nearly unknown in the parish; but poaching salmon in the river Annan is practised very generally, and by people of the most respectable character, fish not being considered by the people as property.

IV. INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—

Acres in cultivation,	-	-	4300
capable of cultivation,	-	-	200
incapable of cultivation,	-	-	200
under wood,	-	-	300

The rotation generally followed by the tenant is green crop or plain fallow, barley with grass seed, two years pasturage, and oats. In some instances, grass is only depastured one year, and two successive crops of oats taken; but this is now considered bad farming, except where the grass is depastured for at least two years. Leases are of fifteen years' duration. Some proprietors require caution for the first three years of their leases, and others one year's rent per advance, to lie in the proprietor's hand at 5 per cent. until the last year of the lease. This last system is now viewed as oppressive and injudicious. The farm-buildings are in general good. Draining is carried on to a considerable extent; and with it subdividing of farms and rearing of fences.

Rate of Wages.—

Mason work, per rood, of 36 square yards,	-	-	L. 1 7 0
Slating, per yard,	-	-	0 0 4
Roofing, per square, of 100 square feet,	-	-	0 4 0
Plastering, per yard,	-	-	0 0 2½
Sawing wood, per 100 feet,	-	-	0 3 0
Flagging, including dressing the flags, per yard,	-	-	0 1 6
Diking, per rood of 19 feet,	-	-	0 1 3
Planting, per Scots statute acre,	-	-	1 12 0
Draining, per rood of 19 feet,	-	-	0 0 4
Road making, per rood of 22 feet,	-	-	0 9 0
Mowing hay, per Scots statute acre,	-	-	0 2 0
Mowing corn, ditto, according to the strength, weight, and situation of the crop, from 7s. to	-	-	0 9 0
Threshing corn, per Winchester bushel,	-	-	0 0 2½
Average price of country artisans' labour per day,	-	-	0 2 3
Average yearly wages of female servants living in the house, for last five years,	-	-	5 10 0
Ditto male servants,	-	-	10 0 0

Women's wages labouring in the field, per day, during summer,	L. 0 0 8
Men's ditto, ditto, - - -	0 1 2
Women's field labour during winter, - - -	0 0 7
Men's ditto, ditto, - - -	0 1 0

The quantity of thorns planted in diking, per rood 60 plants, and at 10s. per thousand. The undertaker is bound to uphold and to make up any deficiency in the ground planted during the three first years.

The number of farms in this parish under L. 50 per an. of rent, -	7
At L. 50, but under L. 100, per annum, -	16
At L. 100, but under L. 150, per annum, -	10
At L. 150, but under L. 200, per annum, -	2
At L. 200, but under L. 300, per annum, -	1
At L. 300, but under L. 400, per annum, -	1
	—37

Number of farms at date of last report, - - -	59
Lost since that period by unions, - - -	22

The great subdivision of land, and consequent want of capital, with deficiency of fuel, are the chief obstacles to the improvement of the parish. Should the search for coals in Hoddam parish prove successful, and as much of the land of this parish change hands, as has been the case within these few years, improvements will go on rapidly. It is by the rapid change of property, and the consequent introduction of capital, that the cultivation of the parish has gone on so progressively.

The average gross amount of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

Oats, 660 imperial acres, each at 30 Winchester bushels, at 2s. 6d. -	L. 2475
straw, at L. 2 per acre, -	1320
Wheat, 100 imperial acres, 24 Winchester bushels, at 6s. per bushel, -	720
straw, at L. 1, 10s. per acre, -	150
Barley, 140 imperial acres, each 24 Winchester bushels, at 3s. 6d. per bushel, -	588
straw, at L. 1, 10s. per acre, -	210
Potatoes, 140 Scots acres, at 10d. per cwt. and 18 cart loads to the acre, -	1134
Turnips, 70 Scots acres, at L. 3, 10s. per acre, -	245
Sown grass and hay, 260, at L. 2, 5s. per acre, -	585
Meadow hay, 80 acres, at L. 2 per acre, -	160
Flax, 6 acres, at L. 5 per acre, -	30
Rape and plain fallow, -	-
Pasture, 200 cows, at L. 3, 10s. per cow, -	700
Young cattle of different ages, at L. 2 each, -	800
Sheep, 200, at 8s. yearly, per sheep, -	80
	L 9197

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Means of Communication.—The Glasgow and Manchester road passes three miles through the parish, and the old branch of that

road, measuring three and a-half miles, divides it nearly into two equal parts. On these lines of road, there are two bridges, in good repair, over the Water of Milk. The Glasgow and London mail, and occasionally a heavy coach, run daily along this road.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, at the utmost extremity of the parish, is situated most inconveniently for the people; it is sufficiently large, and in tolerable repair.* The sittings are 300. The manse and offices were built in the year 1785, for the sum of L. 374. These have been repaired four times at the expense of L. 457. Half of this sum laid out at once would have built a better manse, and saved the heritors a great deal of money. The last repair of the manse, executed only three years since, has made it as comfortable a house as could be wished. The glebe, measuring thirty-five acres Scotch, is valued at L. 40 rent. The whole teind is surrendered, amounting to L. 174, 16s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The church is tolerably well attended. Its great distance from two-thirds of the people affords an indifferent plea for non-attendance to the nominal Christian, and a good one to the old and infirm. The average number of communicants is 140. There is no dissenting place of worship. The individuals dissenting are, of Roman Catholics 4; Episcopalians 4; Seceders 30.

Education.—One parish school established in the year 1704, and an occasional private one during the winter months, are the only public seminaries of education. The school-house is situated in the very centre of the parish, as conveniently as the church is the very reverse. The branches of education taught, besides the ordinary, are Latin, Greek, and French languages. The salary is the maximum. The present master is burdened with a retired

* It may be proper to state, that tradition has preserved the reason why the church of this parish is so inconveniently situated. The people having resolved many centuries since to build a church under the invocation of the far-famed St Kentigernus, commenced their labours on the acclivity of Nutholm hill. This spot, it seems, did not please the saint; for what the people built of the church during the day, the saint pulled down during the night. After much consideration, it was resolved to untie the horse of a widow, celebrated for her sanctity and devotion to our celestial patron, and wherever this animal should finally settle, the spot was to be considered as fixed by the saint, on which his fane should be erected. The animal settled on the rich pastures of the Annan; the people were satisfied that their heavenly friend having now fixed his sanctuary on this place, their work suffered no further interruption. During the measuring off of the church-yard, the spirit of the river (kelpie) perceiving too penurious a disposition prevailing, ordered the boundaries to be enlarged, for in one day it would be filled by the bodies of the slain. He also was obeyed, and the last incumbent having got one rood inclosed for the burial ground, very snugly added an acre and a-half of the best land in the parish to his glebe.

salary to the former teacher of L. 20 yearly. The master has the legal accommodations. His system of teaching is an approach to the national school system. The probable yearly amount of fees due to the teacher is about L. 40. Not one native but can read his Bible. Prior to the establishment of the parish school the case was different; now boys and girls at twelve years of age can both read and write. There may, however, be an individual of great age who cannot write, because in his day there was no school near him. Every year the people are becoming more sensible of the blessing of a parish school, and there is the most decided evidence of improvement arising from the liberal education now so generally imparted to the poorest child in the parish. The school is opened and closed with prayer. The whole Bible is in daily use; the shorter catechism of this church is regularly taught. Mrs Hart of Castlemilk, has this year established a school library. It contains upwards of 200 volumes, which appear to be judiciously selected.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—Occasional aid was by the session given to twelve persons annually; but, except in one or two cases of extreme age or hopeless disease, no individual has ever had adjudged to him a regular aliment, and when such is given, the pauper is allowed from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week. The fund for support of the poor has arisen wholly from church collections, church dues, and interest of money saved from these sources by the session; during the incumbency of the present minister, the yearly amount of church collections and church dues is L. 22; this includes the extra collections made at the celebration of the holy sacrament, which is administered twice a-year. The session have been in the habit of making up yearly a list of such individuals or families as require aid, especially during the winter season: the minister then intimates their situation publicly in the church, and informs the people, that certain individuals, at the expense of the session, will pass through the parish to receive contributions in money, meal, potatoes, &c. for these their distressed brethren. The means of support collected under the direction of the session are applied to the support of the distressed. The session have also been in the habit of at times giving work to poor women in place of money, paying a house rent on condition their relatives shall in all other respects provide for them; or maintaining a poor person's family at school, to prevent their becoming a burden on the parish. But, unless driven to it by necessity, direct payment of money from

the sessional funds, except to the diseased and aged, has always been avoided. The trustees on the parish roads, by an agreement with the session, have engaged to repair the parish roads only during the winter and early spring months; and to employ only such individuals to labour on the roads as, but for this work, would require aid from the session; also, to apply the conversion money in the payment of horse and cart labour on the roads. The heritors and farmers also agree to furnish horse and cart labour for the public use under certain regulations, and free of all expense, to the trustees. The labourers employed on these roads are paid 2d. per day below the ordinary rate of wages, to make the scanty fund last longer, and to prevent all who can get work elsewhere and better wages, from burdening the fund. Poor women are also by the trustees employed in gathering stones and filling carts on the roads, at a fixed rate. In order to give efficacy to this parochial machinery, the minister was empowered by the whole of the heritors many years since, to object to any individual or family acquiring a residence in the parish whom he might judge likely to become a burden upon it; and, in case any heritor should refuse to remove the individual or families, against whose residence in the parish the minister objected, the heritor so refusing was bound by a solemn deed, jointly executed by the whole heritors, to free the session and other heritors of all expense, in the event of such a person ever at any future time requiring to be supported. Acting under these few and simple regulations, this session during the incumbency of the present minister has not only comfortably supported the poor without any aid from the heritors, but laid up a sum, which, under judicious management, will render any assessment for the poor unnecessary. The poor, it is to be regretted, are not now so shy in asking sessional aid as they used to be.

Alehouses.—There is but one public-house in the parish; and though kept with as great regularity as possible, still it is a source of much evil.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The annual rent of this parish by a valuation made under the authority of the late Lord Minto in the year 1746, was L. 373, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; in the year 1794, when the last report was drawn up, it amounted to L. 1800; and now it is estimated at L. 4000. The population at last report was 640, and then there were 8 paupers and 22 dissenters; now the population is 791, and there are 12

paupers and 38 dissenters. The last report stated, that rents were from L. 20 to L. 80 per annum, now they are from L. 50 to L. 390. At the time of last report the want of a bridge over the Milk to open a communication with the Solway Firth was complained of; the parish roads were also said to be bad; and coal was 20 miles distant. Now there is a bridge over the Milk, the parish roads are excellent, and English coal at Annan (only 8 miles distant) are abundant. At the time of the last report, there were only nine houses slated; the greater number were built of mud and stones: only three houses had a parlour and carpet: and hardly an eight-day clock or silver spoon was seen in the parish. Now there are only a few old cottages unslated: all the houses built of stone and lime: ten houses have carpets on the sitting-room: hardly even a cottage wants an eight-day clock: and every tenant and many cottagers have silver tea-spoons. At last report, the church was a ruin, without bell, pews, Bibles, or utensils for administering the sacraments, and the minister officiated occasionally in a shepherd's plaid; there was no school-house, master, or provision for one; now everything necessary is provided for the church; there is an endowed school, and well-educated schoolmaster; and the minister is attired in that popish *rag*, a gown. Formerly the Seceders would not be present when any Established minister was celebrating any divine ordinance, and the Episcopal clergy, in terror of the people, performed the rites of burial in private; the present incumbent has been sent for, to attend on the sick and dying Seceders, and the funeral rites of the Episcopal church are performed openly in our churches and burial grounds.

February 1834.