

PARISH OF SORBIE.

PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. ELLIOT W. DAVIDSON, }
THE REV. A. FORRESTER, } MINISTERS.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—SORBIE, the modern name of this parish, was in ancient times written Sourby,—a term of Saxon origin, and indicating Sour-habitation, which has been explained as applying to the old Castle of Sorbie, and to the nature of the cold marshy soil on its western side. *

The present parish includes the three old parishes of Sorbie, Kirkmadrine and Cruggleton, each of which had its own separate church till the middle of the seventeenth century, when they were united into one, under the name of the parish of Sorbie.

Extent, Boundaries.—The greatest length of the parish is 6 miles; its mean length about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles; its greatest breadth is 6 miles, and its mean breadth about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It contains about 16 square miles. It is bounded on the north, by the parish of Kirkinner; on the south, by Whithorn; on the west, by Whithorn and Glasserton; and on the east, by Wigton Bay.

Topographical Appearances.—The figure of the parish is rendered very irregular by a conical section of Whithorn, which penetrates its southern side, at one point, reducing its length to three miles, and its breadth at another point to one mile. Sorbie contains neither mountains nor high hills, but it is beautifully diversified by unequal surface, its little hills and valleys, with their woods and the sea adjoining, forming in many places a richly varied landscape. There is nothing peculiar in the form or connexions of the valleys, with the exception of one which follows a pretty regular direction from west to east, commencing at Dowalton Lake, and terminating at Garlieston Bay. None of the hills are much

* Chalmers' Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 427.

raised above the level of the sea, but several of them are sufficiently elevated to present a beautiful panorama of the surrounding country, including Wigton Bay, the Solway Frith, with the Cumberland hills receding behind it, and also the Isle of Man. On the farm of Palmallet, on the south-eastern shore, where the coast is rocky and abrupt, there are two caves, almost contiguous, which are walled and arched by solid rock, and floored with beautifully variegated stones. The one has the appearance of an oblique fissure, and is about 120 feet long, 100 feet high, and 36 feet wide. The other is somewhat funnel-shaped, being widest at its entrance, and may be about 120 feet long, 40 feet high, and 15 feet wide.

The extent of coast, including all its windings, is upwards of two miles. The shore is sandy and flat on the north-east, and in Garlieston and Rigg Bays. At Eggerness point, it is rocky, but not very high. From the south-eastern extremity of Rigg Bay, however, to the point where it joins Whithorn, it is bold and precipitous, rising in some places nearly 200 feet above the level of the sea. The principal bays are Garlieston Bay, Rigg Bay, Innerwell Port, Orchardton Bay, Port Allan, and Port Whapple. The principal sands are those of Orchardton, Culscaddan, and Innerwell; and the chief headlands are Innerwell Point, Eggerness Point, and Cruggleton Point.

Meteorology.—The monthly or annual temperature of the atmosphere has not been accurately recorded in this parish, but we may state, what is common elsewhere, that in winter the cold is more moderate, especially along the sea coast, than in the more inland parishes. The thermometer in the shade has, during the present summer of 1831, ranged from 64° to 74°, and in the sun it has been upwards of 100°. The pressure of the atmosphere, as indicated by the barometer, ranges from 29 to 30½ inches. Our prevailing winds are from the west, south-west, and south; but in spring and the latter end or autumn, we have often a long period of east wind, which is generally accompanied by dry weather. The state of the weather is sometimes prognosticated by a cloud resting on Cairnsmoor, a high hill in Kirkcudbrightshire; which, after a long period of dry weather, affords a pretty sure sign of a change to rain. A dark haze stretching from the south to the west, and studded with small white clouds, is remarked as often preceding rain; and an appearance in the atmosphere, here called the “wea-

the gaw," which resembles the rainbow in colour, but is much shorter, and hangs in a vertical line, is sometimes pointed out as indicating a change. A strange tumbling motion of the crows in the air, by which they imitate something like the sound of wind, has been said to precede stormy weather, and rain has also been prognosticated by the more shrill cry of the sea-birds which alight on the lands along the south-eastern shore. Our climate is characterized by considerable variety of heat and cold, drought, and humidity, but it is upon the whole good. Perhaps we may say that it has rather a tendency to humidity, which, however, is well suited to the nature of the soil, and rarely too abundant in summer. There are no diseases which can be traced to any peculiarity in the climate of this district.

Hydrography.—The parish, as we have already stated, is bounded on the east by Wigton Bay, which extends upwards of ten miles along the coast. The narrowest part of the Bay, as connected with this parish, is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide. This is from Orchardton to Carsluth Point. From Eggerness Point to Borness Head, it is 8 miles wide; and its greatest width, from Garlieston Bay, or Cruggleton, to the point of Ross, is 10 miles. The colour of the water is bright green, where it is not rendered muddy by flowing over sand. Its transparency is very considerable, especially on the south-eastern shore, where, we are told, the fish have been seen at the bait at the depth of 18 feet. Its depth is various. Between Eggerness Point and the Ross, it is from 30 to 50 feet. In Garlieston and Rigg Bays, it runs from 20 to 30 feet. The saltness of the water is considerable at Cruggleton, but decreases as we advance up the bay, in consequence of the fresh water from the rivers. The tide is derived from the Western Ocean, by way of the North Channel, and may be styled a northern arm of the great tide of the Solway. It flows about six hours, and ebbs during the other six.

There are numerous perennial springs diffused over the parish, which afford a copious supply of excellent water. On the north-western border of the parish, there is a very fine fresh-water lake, called Dowalton Loch, * from M'Dowall, the name of a family, who were proprietors of it, and who lived near it. It is about 3 miles in circumference, and from 6 to 20 feet deep. From

* Old Statistical Account.

this lake there issues a small stream, which runs from west to east, through a rich valley, and falls into Garlieston Bay.

Geology and Mineralogy.—In many parts of the parish, particularly on the north and north-west, there occur numerous beds of transition rocks, varying in extent and thickness. These are disposed in horizontal and variously inclined positions, and follow a direction from north-east to south-west. There is no granite, with the exception of a few detached blocks, from two to three feet long, which present themselves here and there on the surface. We are not aware that any fossil organic remains have been found, belonging either to the animal or vegetable kingdom. Neither ores nor any important minerals have been discovered in the parish. The soil consists, for the most part, of a dry, brownish earth, mixed more or less with till or gravel. In some of the valleys, a heavy loam occurs, but its extent is inconsiderable. The subsoil consists of till, gravel, and whinstone. In several districts marl was once found under beds of moss, from one to three acres in extent, but the greater part of it was exhausted about fifty or sixty years ago, when it was dug up for the purpose of manure. There are no mines of any kind in the parish.

Zoology.—Sorbie contains none of the rarer species of animals. Foxes once existed among the rocky cliffs on the sea coast, but they are now believed to be wholly extinct. A great many years ago, very large bullock and deer's horns were found in a bed of marl at Palmallet. This parish, in common with the other parishes of the Mahers, is distinguished for breeding that peculiar species of black-cattle, denominated Galloways, which are well known throughout the country. The horses are mostly of the draught kind, but their breed is rather mixed. There is nothing very remarkable in the quality or value of our sheep or hogs. Pike, perch, and eels abound in Dowalton Loch, and trouts are found in some of the larger streams. The fishes found in the sea are chiefly salmon, herrings, cod, and mackerel, all of which are of importance in an economical point of view. There are no insects which are not common to other parts of the country. Those which are most destructive to vegetation, in general, are the wire-worm and grub. Those which are most injurious to fruit-trees are the caterpillar and the wasp; the former attacking the flower, and the latter the fruit. A considerable variety of shell-fish is found on the coast, such as the oyster, lobster, crab, &c. but none of these are sought after for economical purposes.

Botany.—Sorbie was, in 1795, first visited for the purpose of botanical research, by Mr Mackay, then curator of the Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. Three years ago, it was again examined by Mr Goldie, who found a number of the rarer species of British plants, and reckoned it an excellent station, though it had not been previously much noticed. The plantations display a beautiful variety of trees, such as the oak, ash, beech, birch, alder, plane, larch, &c. to all of which the soil seems quite congenial. In Lord Galloway's pleasure grounds, there are some beautiful specimens of laurel, evergreen oak, horse-chestnut, and Turkey oak. Some of the laurels rise to the height of 31 feet, and are considered among the finest in Scotland. There is one Turkey oak, planted not more than fifty years ago, which deserves to be particularly noticed for its beauty, and for the rapidity of its growth. The circumference of its branches is about 156 feet, and the girth of its stem measures 9 feet 5 inches. The soil here is also peculiarly adapted to the growth of evergreen shrubs. In his Lordship's garden, peaches and figs are successfully cultivated on the open wall, even upon south-west aspects. Here, also, there is a vine which merits notice for its size, and the quantity and quality of its fruit. Its stem measures 13 inches in circumference, and the spread of its branches is 40 feet. It produces about 346 bunches, each averaging $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. and some of the individual berries are $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in circumference.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The only ancient or modern historical accounts of Sorbie which we have seen, are contained in Symson's Description of Galloway, the Old Statistical Account, and Chalmers' Caledonia. From none of these does it appear that there are any historical events of great importance connected with this district. We have not seen any maps, plans, or surveys of Sorbie; nor are we aware that any resident individuals possess letters, papers, pictures, or any other documents of interest, tending to illustrate the biography, history, or antiquities of the parish.

Eminent Men.—The only literary character connected with Sorbie by birth is Patrick Hannay, the poet, who lived in the seventeenth century. We copy the following account of him from Murray's Literary History of Galloway.* “Patrick Hannay was a younger son of Donald Hannay of Sorbie. It may be inferred that he had received an academical education: for in

* Literary History, &c. page 269.

the title-page of his *Elegies*, he styles himself *A. M.*" Mr Ellis, in his *Specimens of the early English Poets*, has remarked, that he appears to have served in a military capacity, under Sir Andrew Gray, a Colonel of foot, and General of Artillery to the King of Bohemia. One of his publications bears the following title, "Two *Elegies on the Death of our late Sovereign Queene Anna, with Epitaphes, written by Patrick Hannay, Master of Arts.*" Another is entitled "A Happy Husband; or Directions for a Maid to chuse her Mate, together with a Wive's Behaviour after Marriage. By Patrick Hannay, Gent." Lond. 1619. 8vo. This composition is appended, with a separate title-page, to Brathwyte's *Description of a Good Wife*. It was afterwards inserted in a collection of Hannay's *Poems*, published in the year 1622, and containing "Philomela, the Nightingale, Theretine, and Mariana, *Elegies, Songs, and Sonnets.*" We have been informed that, within these three years, a copy of his poetical works was sold in London for L. 42, 10s. 6d., and that there was prefixed to it, a portrait of the author, which was regarded as a valuable illustration of the state of the arts at the period when it was taken.

Land-owners.—The chief proprietors of Sorbie are, the Earl of Galloway (to whom the greater part of the parish belongs); Sir Andrew Agnew of Lochnaw, Bart.; the Earl of Stair; and Mr Hathorn of Castlewigg.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers are not voluminous. The date of their earliest entry is 1700. They were properly attended to for some time at first, but afterwards not so carefully conducted. Of late, however, they have been regularly kept.

Ancient Ecclesiastical State.—We have already stated that the present parish of Sorbie includes the three old parishes of Sorbie, Kirkmadrine, and Cruggleton; but we are told by Chalmers,* that in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, Sorbie itself formed two divisions; Great Sourby and Little Sourby, each of which had its own church. The union of these two churches was afterwards authorized by Gilbert, the Bishop of Candida Casa, and took place betwixt the years 1235 and 1252. The cure of Sorbie, thus united, was served by a vicar, and belonged to the monks of Dryburgh, till the Reformation, at which period it was let for L. 20 a year.† Of the ancient churches of Great and Little Sourby no vestige is now remaining, but the sites of two churches are still

* Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 427.

† Ibid. p. 428.

pointed out, the one at Culneag, on the north-west, and the other at Gilfillan, near the middle of the parish, and on these we think they must have been built.

The ancient parish of Kirkmadrine forms the eastern district of the present parish of Sorbie. The church of this parish belonged to the prior and canons of St Mary's Isle, and the cure was served by a vicar. About the year 1562, the vicarage was reported to be worth only L. 10 yearly.* The church appears to have been rather small, exceedingly plain, and without windows. Its ruins are still to be seen on the farm of Penkiln, surrounded by a clump of trees, which also incloses the church-yard. Here some families in the parish still bury; and it may be noticed that some of the bones, occasionally dug up at the opening of a grave, are remarkably large.

The ancient parish of Cruggleton forms the south-eastern district of the present parish. Its church belonged to the priory of Whitehorn, and the cure was served by a vicar. In 1562, the vicarage of Cruggleton was said to be worth L. 16. After the Reformation, the Bishops of Galloway received the patronage of this and the other two parishes; and after Kirkmadrine and Cruggleton were joined to Sorbie, they held the patronage of the united parish, till the abolition of Episcopacy in 1689, when it was vested in the crown.† The church of Cruggleton appears to have been larger, and better built than that of Kirkmadrine. The greater part of the walls is still extant; and the interior of it is occasionally used as burying ground.

Antiquities.—The Castle of Cruggleton, which gave name to the parish in which it stood, was built on the verge of a precipitous part of the sea coast. Nothing now remains of it, save part of an arch, and the foundations of some of the walls; but there is enough to shew that, in ancient times, it must have been a place of great size and strength. The spot on which it stood is a kind of promontory, formed by a small bay on each side, and is elevated about 200 feet perpendicular above the level of the sea. The fosse encloses upwards of an acre of ground, and is still quite distinct. It is 183 yards long, and about 12 yards wide. We have not been able to ascertain the precise period at which the castle was built, but we are told by Chalmers that it certainly existed in the thirteenth century, and that it was the property and domicile of John

* Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 420.

† Ibid. p. 428-9.

Comyn, the Earl of Buchan, as one of the heirs parcessors of the Lords of Galloway. The same author farther informs us,* that in 1292, John Comyn, the Earl of Buchan, obtained from Edward I. a license to dig in the ruins of the Calf of Man, for lead, to cover eight towers of his castle of Cruggleton, in Galloway; that John Comyn was afterwards totally defeated by King Robert Bruce, who seized his estates and castles; and that the castle of Cruggleton was involved in the ruin of his family. It existed as a ruin before the year 1684. The castle is now on the estate of Sir Andrew Agnew of Lochnaw, Bart.

The old Castle of Eggerness stood upon a bold part of the coast, on a head-land of the same name, and must have been a place of considerable strength. Scarcely any vestige of it now remains, except a part of the fosse, and its history is involved in entire obscurity.

The old place or tower of Sorbie is a beautiful ruin, surrounded by wood, and situated about three quarters of a mile from the parish church. It appears to have been a place of strength. There are the remains of a fosse on the eastern side, where the land is rising; but from the nature of the ground on every other side, we think its chief defence must have been formed by a sheet of water. The Hannays possessed this estate and Castle of Sorbie, together with other lands in Wigtonshire, in the reign of James IV., and continued here during the seventeenth century.† The estate of Sorbie now belongs to the Earl of Galloway.

Modern Edifices.—The only modern edifice in Sorbie worthy of particular notice is Galloway House, the seat of the Earl of Galloway, which was built about seventy or eighty years ago. We quote the following account of it from the Old Statistical Account. "Galloway House forms part of a landscape truly beautiful and grand. Garlieston Bay is on the north, and Rigg Bay is on the south of it. From its windows are seen the richest fields; an indented coast, adorned with growing improvements; a cluster of isles, and the lofty mountains of Cumberland and Man, appearing at a proper distance. The principal rooms are spacious, and the library is stored with many thousand valuable volumes."

The houses of the villages are in general well built. There are three mills in the parish. The materials generally employed in building are whinstone (of which Sorbie furnishes an abundant supply), and American pine, which is annually imported.

* Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 372.

† Ibid. p. 389.

III.—POPULATION.

From the records of the synod of Galloway it appeared that, in 1697, the population of Sorbie was 480. In 1755, it was 986.

The amount of population as shown by the census of 1791, was 1071
 1801, 1091
 1811, 1265
 1821, 1819
 1831, 1412

The number of males being 656, females, 756

The gradual increase of the population is to be attributed mainly to improvements in agriculture and shipping, but it must be observed that, within the last forty or fifty years, a considerable number of Irish families have settled in the parish, and have contributed to augment the labouring classes beyond what these causes could have otherwise effected. Their existence in the parish is therefore to be attributed more to their capacity of subsisting on an inferior scale of comforts, than to the healthy stimulus of an increase in the means of subsistence.

The number of the population at present residing in villages, is	757
in the country is	655
The yearly average of births for the last 7 years may be reckoned about	87
deaths,	24
marriages,	8
The average number of persons under 15 years of age is about	497
betwixt 15 and 30	316
30 and 50	317
50 and 70	175
upwards of 70	43

The Earl of Galloway is the only nobleman who has a place of residence in Sorbie; and there are no families or individuals of independent fortune living in the parish.

The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, is 4
 unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50, is 22
 unmarried women upwards of 45, - - - - - 22

Number of families, - - - - - 299
 chiefly employed in agriculture, - - - - - 140
 in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, 90

Average number of children in each family, - - - - - 4
 Number of inhabited houses, - - - - - 239
 houses uninhabited or now building, - - - - - 2

Number of illegitimate births during the last three years, 7.

The people, on the whole, enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society, and are contented with their situation and circumstances. Their intellectual, moral, and religious character is good.

There is no poaching in game, or in the salmon-fisheries, and no smuggling carried on in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

Number of acres standard imperial measure in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, - - - - -

7772

Number of acres which have never been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste, or in pasture,	744
Number of acres that 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,	39
Number of acres in a state of undivided common, under wood,	0 490

We have already mentioned the variety of trees planted, and it may here be noticed that the yearly thinning and periodical felling of these is judiciously conducted.

Rent.—The average rent of arable land per imperial acre is L. 1. The average rent of grazing may be rated at L. 3 per ox or cow grazed, and at 15s. per ewe or full-grown sheep pastured for the year.

Wages.—The rate of wages for a farm-labourer per day is 1s. 6d.; do. per year without victuals, L. 25; do. per year with victuals, L. 11. Rate of wages for a mason, house-carpenter, or mechanic, per day, 2s. 6d.; do. for a ship-carpenter, 3s.

Prices.—The average price of wheat per imperial bushel is 6s. 9d.; of barley, do. 4s.; of oats, do. 2s. 4d.; of potatoes, do. 7d.; of turnips per cart, 3s.; of hay per stone of 26 lbs. 7d. The price of a good cart, L. 10; of an iron plough, L. 4, 10s.; of a couple of harrows, L. 1, 15s.; of a drill-harrow, L. 1, 10s.; shoeing of a horse, 2s. 6d.

Live-Stock.—Our common breed of sheep is rather large, but considerably mixed. The cattle, as we have already stated, are of the Galloway breed, and much attention has been paid to their improvement. Their colour is mostly black, and they are without horns. They are generally sold when two or three years old, and taken to the Dumfries market, where they are again sold for the English markets.

Husbandry.—The state of husbandry, in this parish, is highly improved. Oats and barley are the grains usually cultivated. Wheat is raised only in small quantity. Within the last ten or twelve years, turnips have been extensively and profitably cultivated for feeding sheep. The sheep, for this purpose, are purchased at the Falkirk trysts, and, when fat, are generally sent to the Liverpool market, with which the parish enjoys the advantage of a regular steam communication. Bone-dust was introduced as a manure, about two years ago, and the green crops raised on it, as well as the following crop of grain, have been of superior quality. It costs 2s. 6d. per bushel, and from twenty-five to thirty-five of them are laid on the acre.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years, which term is generally believed to be favourable to the occupier. The state of farm-buildings and enclosures, in the parish, is exceedingly good; and we cannot say that any serious obstacles to improvement arise either from the want of capital, or the want of encouragement from proprietors.

Fisheries.—There is a salmon-fishery at Innerwell Port, the rent of which is about L. 200 per annum. At this place, herrings, mackerel, cod, and other kinds of fish are also frequently caught. About three years ago, herrings were caught, in considerable quantity, off Garlieston and Cruggleton. Some of the boats made nearly L. 30 each by their fishings, during the season, which induced the people of Garlieston to build about twenty little boats for the purpose of following the fishing; but the want of success experienced during the two last seasons, renders it doubtful whether this branch of industry will continue to be prosecuted for economical purposes.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce annually raised in the parish, may be rated as follows :

Produce of grain of all kinds,	-	-	-	L. 5175	0	0
of potatoes, turnips, and other plants,	-	-	-	1778	0	0
of hay, meadow and cultivated,	-	-	-	1094	0	0
of land in pasture,	-	-	-	4052	0	0
of the annual thinning and periodical felling of woods,	-	-	-	187	0	0
of fisheries,	-	-	-	350	0	0
Total yearly value of raw produce,				L. 12,636	0	0

Manufactures.—There are two branches of manufacture established in the parish; the one, a damask manufactory, in the village of Sorbie; and the other, a rope and sail manufactory, at the village of Garlieston. The former employs about 91 hands, including those who spin; the latter employs about 10. At both of these, the men usually work ten or twelve hours per day, and six days per week. The damask manufactory is of nearly fifty years' standing, and is much famed for the superiority of its fabrics and patterns of double damask. The goods are all used by families of the highest rank, as they are wholly made from the best Dutch flax, hand-spun; and the nobility of the county take such an interest in the success of the manufactory, that the quality of the goods is known through the most of Scotland and England. In 1800, a suit of damask was sent (for the first time) to the annual competition in Edinburgh, before the Board of Trustees, and it gained the highest premium. The articles produced at the rope

and sail manufactory are used both for shipping, and for the different purposes of rural economy. Both branches of manufacture afford a fair remuneration and support to those engaged in them, and produce no bad effects on health and morals.

Navigation.—Garlieston is the only shipping-port in the parish which vessels usually frequent. The harbour was very much enlarged and otherwise improved some years ago, and is now capable of affording shelter for thirty vessels. At high tides it contains about eighteen or twenty feet of water. There are fifteen vessels belonging to the port. Four of these carry 100 tons each; and the remaining eleven average 48 tons each. Besides these, two or three foreign vessels occasionally trade to the port. Ship-building has been carried on rather actively at Garlieston during the last fifteen years. We may state, that, in the course of that time, fourteen vessels have been built, some of which carry 100 tons.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—Sorbie contains no market-town; and there are no fairs of any kind held in the parish. The nearest market-town is Whithorn, which is about four and a-half miles distant.

Villages.—There are two villages in the parish; Sorbie, which is about two miles from the sea; and Garlieston, which is beautifully situated on a bay of the same name. The former contains 170, and the latter 587 inhabitants. In these two villages there are thirteen public-houses; and the effects of these on the morals of the people are uniformly injurious.

Means of Communication.—The parish enjoys ample means of communication, both by sea and land. There is a penny-post established at Garlieston. Sorbie village has daily communication with the post-office of Wigton. Good roads traverse the country in every direction; and Garlieston harbour opens up an important avenue to the markets of Liverpool, Whitehaven, and other places on the western coast of England.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is situated at the village of Sorbie, and is about four miles distant from the extremity of the parish. Its situation may be said to be convenient for the greater number of the inhabitants, the populous village of Garlieston being only two and a-half miles distant. It was rebuilt about the year 1750, and thoroughly repaired in 1826. It affords accommodation for nearly 500 persons. Most of the seats in the lower

WIGTON.

C

part of the church are apportioned to the farmers; the remainder below and the galleries are free to the other inhabitants of the parish. The manse was rebuilt in 1778, and enlarged about the year 1813. The glebe contains 9 acres, and its yearly value is about L. 12. The amount of the stipend is L. 242, 4s. 10½d. in money; and 2 firlots, 1 peck, 2½ lippies of meal, and the same of bear. No communion elements are allowed, the teinds being exhausted. There are no chapels of ease attached to the Established Church. There is one Independent chapel in the parish. The minister of this is paid by his hearers, and receives about L. 60 per annum. There are no Episcopalian or Catholic chapels in Sorbie.

The number of families attending the Established Church is 152; number of persons of all ages attending Established Church, 671; number attending the chapels of Dissenters, 214; number attending Catholic chapel at Newton-Stewart (thirteen miles distant), 55. Divine service at the Established Church is generally well attended. The average number of communicants at the Established Church is about 240. There is one Bible Society in the parish, the yearly contributions of which may average about L. 15. The yearly average of church collections for the poor is about L. 30.

Education.—Total number of Schools in the parish, 5; parochial schools, 1; unendowed schools, 4. Among these there are two female schools, one of which is supported by Lady Galloway, and conducted upon the Lancasterian system. The branches of instruction generally taught in the parochial school are, reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, geography, Latin, and Greek. One of the schools of Garlieston has been long famous for navigation, and the practical branches of mathematics. The parochial teacher possesses the legal accommodations. His salary is L. 25, 13s. 3½d.; and the amount of school fees may be rated at L. 64 per annum. The yearly expense of education at the parochial school is as follows:—Reading of English, 12s.; reading and writing, 14s.; arithmetic, 16s.; Latin or Greek, 20s.; book-keeping by single entry, 20s.; book-keeping by double entry, L. 2, 2s.; mensuration, 7s. 6d.; trigonometry, 7s. 6d.; navigation, 21s. The number of the young betwixt six and fifteen, who cannot read or write, may be about six, and these we believe to be mostly of the lower Irish. We know of none in the parish upwards of fifteen who cannot read or

write. The people are in general alive to the benefits of education, and manifest a strong desire to have their children well taught. We do not think that any additional schools are required in Sorbie. The increased facilities of education have certainly effected a corresponding increase in the knowledge and refinement of the people, but the state of morality is much the same as it has been for many years. Among some of the lower classes, indeed, the native virtues of our character have been invaded by the contaminating influence of the lower Irish, whose poverty and degradation, in no instance, contribute to elevate the standard of morality.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is about 30, and the average sum allotted to each per year is about L. 2. The annual amount of contributions for their support is about L. 60. Of this sum L. 30 are collected in the church, and about L. 30 received as donations from the proprietors. There is no other regular mode of procuring funds for the poor, but the inhabitants of the parish are in the habit of giving them additional charity in meal, and other articles of food, two or three times a-year; and the relief afforded in this way is more than equal to that obtained by the annual contributions. There is a disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial aid; but this feeling is by no means so marked as it once was, and its deterioration we ascribe partly to the hurtful example of the lower Irish, and partly to the ready relief afforded to the poor, in times of unusual scarcity and distress.

Fuel.—The fuel used in Sorbie consists of peat and coal. The peat is procured chiefly from the neighbouring parish of Kirkinner, at 2s. 6d. per cart-load; and the coal is obtained from Whitehaven, Workington, or Maryport, at 16s. per ton.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the date of the last Statistical Account, agriculture has undergone a very marked improvement. Green crops are now generally raised, and are found to be advantageous, both for the profits which they yield, and for the improvement which they operate upon the land. Turnips, especially when eaten off by sheep, are followed by superior crops of grain. The general rule of farming is still what it formerly was; that is, to have one-third of the land in tillage, and two-thirds in pasture. The average rent of land per acre is now more than double of what it was forty years ago, and almost all the arable land has been under cultivation. Upon the whole, the system of husbandry pursued in this parish

is fully as much improved as the present state of things will admit of, and our facilities of internal communication are as great as can possibly be desired. The villages have increased in size and population. Garlieston, from its ship-building and the improvement of its harbour, has increased in commercial importance. The knowledge, taste, manners, and dress of the great body of the people, have all been obviously much improved within the last forty years; and the happiness and comfort of the labouring classes might be still farther promoted by an enlightened co-operation of landlord and tenant; to prevent the influx of Irish labourers, and preserve the rate of wages from sinking too low. This would advance even the lowest classes in the parish to a point in the scale of living, which, in seasons of dearth, would admit of their making some retrenchments in order to subsist on the profits of their own industry; whereas, at present, in times of scarcity, they are either reduced to want, or compelled to subsist on the voluntary contributions of their more fortunate neighbours,—a state of things, which, in so far as it prevails, exerts the most debasing influence on the genuine spirit of independence.

Revised December 1838.