

## PARISH OF GIRTHON.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. GEORGE MURRAY, MINISTER.\*

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE word Girthon (anciently written Girton) is of Celtic origin, being an abbreviation of *Girth-avon*, the enclosure or sanctuary (for the term *Gir* or *Girth* may bear either of these two significations) on the river. It is supposed that a village, with a sanctuary attached to it, existed in early times at the passage of the Fleet. The correctness of this derivation is rendered the more probable from the circumstance, that the neighbouring parish of Anwoth, which is divided from Girthon by the Fleet, was originally *Avonwaith*, the course or channel of the river. (*Chalmers's Caledonia*, Vol. iii. p. 339.) The term Avon, the original name of the river, was afterwards changed by the Anglo-Saxons (who had possession of Galloway for nearly 400 years previous to 820) to Fleot or Fleet,—a word of synonymous import.

*Boundaries, &c.*—Girthon is bounded on the east by Borgue, Twynholm, and Balmagbie; on the north, by Kells and Minnigaff; on the west, by Kirkmabreck and Anwoth; and on the south, by the Irish Sea. Its length is 16 miles: its breadth varies from 2 miles on the south, to 5 miles towards the north. The number of imperial acres in the parish is 15,480.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The physical appearance of the parish is varied. About three-fourths of it is mountainous, bleak, and heathy, with but few spots devoted to tillage, or capable of producing corn. The remainder, chiefly on the south, though undulating, is rich, fertile, and susceptible of raising the best crops; but is chiefly occupied in grazing cattle.

*Hydrography.*—There are several fresh water lochs in the parish, namely, Loch Greanoch, nearly three miles long, by an ave-

\* Drawn up by Thomas Murray, LL.D. Author of "*The Literary History of Galloway.*"

rage of about half a mile in breadth; Loch Skero, about half a mile square; the two Lochs Fleet. These lakes are all situated on the high mountain range on the north of the parish. Loch Whinnyan is on the east, on the borders of Twynholm. From each of the Lochs Fleet a streamlet flows; and these uniting form what is called the Little Water of Fleet. After a course of a few miles, this stream is joined by a similar small river, termed the Great Water of Fleet. From these the Fleet is formed, which, dividing Girthon from Anwoth, discharges itself, after many windings, into the Fleet Bay, an estuary of the Irish Sea. This river is navigable for vessels of 160 tons burden, to the town of Gatehouse of Fleet, a distance of about three miles. In order to facilitate the navigation to Gatehouse, and to reclaim a considerable portion of land, which, at high water, was covered by the sea, Mr Murray of Broughton has constructed a canal, which, besides gaining the two objects in question, has greatly shortened the distance between the Fleet Bay and the town. Of this canal, which was begun on the 17th of June 1824, and opened on the 3d of October following, the length is 1400 yards. The cost was calculated by an eminent engineer at about L.5000, and the time required for constructing it, to be two summers. But Alexander Craig, Esq., then Mr Murray's factor, and whose ingenuity is well known, setting his local knowledge in opposition to the science of the engineer, cut a narrow trough along the centre of the projected line of the canal, and of nearly the depth to which it was to be excavated, into which he forced the water of the Fleet. The result corresponded with Mr Craig's anticipations; for, in the course of only two days, the river formed a channel for itself of the exact width and depth required; and the total expense, instead of being L.5000, was greatly under the half of that sum,—being only L.2204, 3s. 5d.! Nor is this all: no repairs have since been necessary to maintain or secure the banks of the canal so rapidly and singularly formed. There is another remarkable circumstance in connexion with the construction of this work. A rock on each side of its banks, directly opposite to each other, and nearly level with the bottom, jutted out; and on these rocks the pins of a swing bridge have been erected, which affords great convenience to the neighbourhood, and has enabled Mr Murray to remove the parish road from his domain. Thirty-six acres intervened between the line of the canal and the bed of the river, of which 15 belonged to Anwoth; and the quantity of land reclaimed

is no less than 170 acres, now forming one of the most fertile and productive farms in Girthon. At the mouth of Fleet Bay are two small islands, uninhabited, but pastured by sheep, commonly called Murray's Isles (in honour of the proprietor), but more properly the Isles of Fleet. The shores of Fleet Bay and Irish Sea are generally sandy or alluvial, though, in some places, they are rocky; but there are, properly speaking, no headlands.

*Climate.*—The air and climate vary with the soil and surface. In the high lands, they are cold and severe; in the low lands, mild and agreeable. Rain is frequent. But, on the whole, the climate is regarded as salubrious; and instances of longevity are common. There are no diseases peculiar to the locality. Cholera made its appearance in 1832; but there were only three deaths.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—Girthon resembles, in these particulars, the adjoining districts,—the upper part of the parish being composed of granite,—the lower part of slaty schistous rock, easily decomposed, having many granite boulders lying on the surface, or slightly imbedded in the soil. The junction of the granite and schistous rocks runs across the parish. A slate quarry was opened about twenty-seven years ago on the farm of Culroch by the proprietor, and the parish church, built in 1817, is covered with slate from that quarry; but it has not been worked, because slate from Westmoreland, Lancashire, and Wales can be had as cheap, if not cheaper, than from this source. About twenty-five years ago, a vein of copper ore was accidentally opened on the lands of Enrig, of a rich quality. A lease of it was taken by a company from Wales, who expended a considerable sum of money on works there. No vein of any magnitude has yet been hit upon, but numerous crests of rich ore discovered, several cargoes of which have been sent to Swansea, where it is used as a flux in smelting purer copper ores.

*Zoology.*—Char, a very rare species of fish, abounds in Loch Greanoch. It is not caught either with bait or fly, but with the net. Loch Skero is remarkable for pike. Salmon is caught in the Fleet, but only to a trifling extent. Flounders abound in the river, and at its mouth. The isles of Fleet are productive of excellent oysters. The cows are of the well-known Galloway breed. The sheep are, with few exceptions, of the small moor kind. Various sorts of game and wild animals abound;—grouse, blackcocks, partridges, hares, rabbits, woodcocks, badgers, foxes,

and polecats. Pheasants have been introduced at Cally, the seat of Mr Murray of Broughton, and seem to thrive well. There is a deer park, extending to nearly 500 acres. The water eagle, or osprey, or bald buzzard (the *Falco Haliaetus* of Linnæus), frequents Lochs Skero and Greanoch, and builds on the islets which these lochs contain. The crested heron, a species of piscivorous water-fowl, haunts the different lochs in the northern district of the parish.

*Botany.*—Under this head, there is nothing peculiar to Girthon, the botany of the hilly district to which this parish belongs being similar throughout. The quantity of wood in the parish extends to nearly 1000 acres; and of this, about a third (namely, that on the south side of Barhill, on Disdow hill, and at Kindown,) has been planted since the beginning of the present century. There is also a considerable quantity of natural wood in Boreland, Sylloch, Carstammon, and a few other places.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Notices.*—In 1300, Edward I. resided for several days at the town of Fleet, probably on or near the site of the present Gatehouse. At this place the inhabitants endeavoured to stop his progress; but, being repulsed by a superior force, and by greater military skill, they fled to the woods and mountains. (*Walsingham, Hist. Reg. Angliæ*, p. 78.) From Henry, the miller, who rented the mill of Gerthon (Girthon), the king exacted 13s. 4d. for some "malversations" that had been detected in his mill. He exacted also, from the town of Flete (Fleet), 40s. for their bad measures and other transgressions. This mill of Girthon is thought to be the same with the ancient "mill of the lake," within the farm of Rainton, about three miles south of Gatehouse. But, as if in compensation for these severities, Edward offered, on the 9th August, an oblation of 7s. at the altar of Girthon, and repeated the offering next day. (*Murray's Literary History of Galloway*, 1st ed. 1822, p. 348.)

The inhabitants of Girthon seemed to have been exposed to severe exactions and persecution during the reigns of Charles II. and his successor, James VII. On the Restoration, not only were the people deprived by the Government of their minister, Mr William Erskine, (of whom we shall soon speak more at length); but they were exposed to severe pecuniary exactions and other sufferings on account of their attachment to Presbytery. In 1666, for example, "nine poor families" were fined in L. 525, 10s. 4d.

Scots. (*Wodrow's Church Hist.* Vol. ii. p. 10.) At another time, John Logan of Enrig, and John Cannan, in Guffockland, were each fined L.240. (*Ib.* i. 278). Graham of Claverhouse, in 1684, surprised six persons who were concealing themselves at Auchencloy, near Loch Skero, and instantly shot four of them. One of them (from Nithsdale) was buried on the spot where he fell; and a humble tombstone, lying flat on the ground, was subsequently erected to his memory,\* bearing the following inscription:—

“ MEMENTO MORI.

“ Here lies Robert Fergusson, who was surprized and instantly shot to death on this place, by Graham of Claverhouse, for his adherence to Scotland's Reformation, Covenants, National and Solemn League. 1684.”

In the churchyard of Girthon, in the tomb, formerly of the Lennoxes of Cally, and now of the family of Broughton, was buried Robert Lennox of Drumruck, † who also suffered for conscience sake, as the following inscription, on a small upright stone at the mouth of the vault, testifies:—

“ Within this tomb lyes the corps of Robert Lenox, some time in Irelandtown, who was shot to death by Grieer of Lagg, in the paroch of Tounland, for his adherence to Scotland's Reformation Covenants, National Covenants, National and Solemn League. 1685.”

*Eminent Characters.*—Mr William Erskine was minister of Girthon at the period of the Restoration. Having refused to conform to Prelacy, he was ejected from the parish in 1668, in which year nearly 400 Presbyterian clergymen, whose names are recorded in *Wodrow* (i. p. 324), were ousted from their several charges, from the same cause. He was sentenced to confine himself within the parish of Carsphairn. Having ventured to leave his place of confinement, and taken refuge in Teviotdale, he was declared a fugitive, in 1671; and in the following year, letters of intercomun- ing having been issued against him, he was apprehended, and

\* On the 16th August 1835, the late incumbent of the parish preached a sermon (since published,) in the immediate vicinity of this tombstone, on which occasion a collection was made for erecting a more suitable monument to the memory of the martyr; an object which has since been accomplished by means of the collection in question, and public subscriptions.

† This Robert Lennox, in the year previous to his martyrdom, granted a disposition of Drumruck, which he had inherited from his father, in favour of David Lennox, merchant in Kirkcudbright, and retired to Irelandton, in the neighbouring parish of Twynholm. Robert Lennox was great grandson of John Lennox, the fourth of Cally, who died in 1647. (*Case of Margaret Lennox of Woodhead.* Edin. 1813. 4to. P. 30-3.)

lodged in Stirling Castle, from which, at the end of four years, he was transported to Dumbarton Castle. In 1679, he was liberated. He was again apprehended, and confined a close prisoner in Blackness Castle; from which place he sent a petition to the Privy-Council, stating, among other things, "that he was now turned valetudinary; therefore craving the Council's compassion." The only redress he obtained was the liberty of "walking about the castle, and taking the air with a keeper." He was alive at the Revolution; but whether he afterwards was inducted into a parish charge, is not known. It is certain, at least, that he did not return to Girthon. (*Ib.* 286, iii. 406, iv. 38.)

Captain James Dennistoun of Creetown, author of "Legends of Galloway," and of a poem entitled "Battle of Craignilder," and Mr John Faed, an eminent miniature painter, are natives of this parish,—the former having been born at Cruifock, the latter at Barlay.

*Land-owners.—Family of Broughton.*—Alexander Murray of Broughton, M. P. for the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, is proprietor of the entire parish. Cally, about a mile south of Gatehouse, is the residence of the family. The earliest proprietor of Cally that can be correctly ascertained was named Stewart: he descended, in the thirteenth century, from the illustrious family of the High Steward of Scotland. The title, which this Gallovidian branch of the Stewarts bore, was that of Stewart of Kalecht-Girton, or sometimes of Kalecht, (now Cally,) and Girton. This family, after a lapse of nearly two centuries, terminated in a female, Elizabeth, only daughter and heiress of Sir John Stewart of Cally, and this lady having married Donald de Levenax, or Lennox, son to the Earl of Levenax,\* the property passed into a new family, and the name of Lennox, which was eminent for upwards of 300 years afterwards, was then first introduced into the province.† Donald Lennox, who died in 1454, is termed *Dominus de Girthon et nobilis vir*. John, the seventh of Cally, had

\* The houses of Lennox and of Stewart were previously connected by marriage, as the wife of Sir John Stewart of Girthon, mentioned in the text, and who fell at the siege of Orleans in 1429, was a daughter of the former family.—(*Douglas's Peerage*, i. 614.)

† In addition to the family of Cally, there were Lennoxes of Plunton, Drumwall, Drumruck, Tanniefad, Diodow, and all of them descended of the Cally branch; but there has not been, with a single exception, since the year 1706, (when William Lennox of Drumwall sold that property to Alexander Murray of Broughton,) a landed proprietor of the name of Lennox in Galloway. The son of William Lennox of Drumwall became tenant of that farm, and died in 1713, aged forty-eight.—(*Case of Margaret Lennox, ut supra*, 30-3.)

a family of one son and daughter, the latter, (Anna,) being married to Richard Murray of Broughton. John Lennox\* renounced all right and title to his various estates, and conveyed them to his son-in-law, the laird of Broughton, and his son Robert afterwards concurred in the destination. The residence of Richard Murray, which had previously been at Broughton, in Wigtonshire, was transferred to Cally, which has ever since continued the seat of the Murray family.

The founder of the family of Murray of Broughton came from Morayshire and settled at Broughton, Wigtonshire, in the twelfth century, since which time they have ranked among the magnates of Galloway. The first lands which they acquired in the stewardry of Kirkcudbright, were obtained by a marriage with a daughter of Murray of Cockpool, (Dumfries-shire). The lands thus obtained, and which still belong to the family, were Kirkarsel and others in the parish of Rerrick; and one of the monks of Dundrennan having been suspected of improper intimacy with "Lady Broughton," her husband slew him at a place called Allan's Cross till this day. Murray was obliged to pay a fine, as a compensation for the murder, to the abbey, which fine (L.10,) has continued to be, and is still paid to the Crown since the demolition of the monastery. George Murray of Broughton was one of the Lords of the Bed-chamber to James VI., and, for his further services, had various grants of land given him in Ireland, (which still belong to the family,) as also several superiorities in Scotland, (Nisbet's Heraldry, i. 256.) Richard Murray, who married the heiress of Cally, died in 1690; and Alexander Murray, M. P., the present representative of the family, is his great grandson. There are no collateral descendants of the Lennoxes of Cally or Murrays of Broughton known to exist.

*Cally.*—This mansion, one of the most splendid seats in Scotland belonging to a private gentleman, is built (1763) wholly of granite, being the first attempt of working that kind of stone in the south of Scotland. It was constructed after a design by Milne the architect, but has been modernised and signally improved by its present proprietor. It contains a good collection of pictures, and in its unrivalled marble vestibule, are some fine pieces of sculpture, including a noble head of Bonaparte by Thor-

\* This John Lennox, previously to his succeeding to the Cally estates, was designed of Plunton, or more commonly Lennox-Plunton, in the parish of Borgue. He was the lineal representative of Thomas Lennox of Plunton, second son of John, the fourth of Cally.—(*Case of Margaret Lennox, ut supra, 30-3.*)

waldsen. The ruins of the ancient mansion are still pretty entire, about half a mile distant to the north from the present building. The garden occupies about three acres within the walls. The pleasure grounds extend to twenty acres; but the family have a private road extending for several miles within the adjoining parks, which are retained either in the hands of the proprietor, or are let as grass parks. The orchard grounds, particularly at the old mansion-house, are extensive. There is a deer park, nearly a mile square, within less than a mile of Cally, on the south. In addition to herds of deer, it contains a few of the ancient Caledonian breed of cattle, procured from the stock of the Duke of Hamilton.

*Antiquities.*—There are no antique buildings extant in the parish, with the exception of the old mansion-house of Cally, already mentioned. At Enrig, there was a house dependent on the abbacy of Tongland, and which, it is supposed, formed the occasional residence of its abbots; and, after the Reformation, of the Bishop of Galloway. Its site is still known yet as the "Palace Yard." Some old plane trees are growing, having a foliage different from those now propagated. The palace had apparently been surrounded by a ditch and wall, one of the arched gates having been standing, within the memory of a person intimately known to the present writer. There are several small moats in the parish, locally called "doons;" one in Bush Park, another in Enrig, and a third in Castrammon.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of Girthon has greatly increased within the last eighty-five years. In 1755, it was 367; in 1841, it was 1872, having been more than quintupled in the interval between these two periods. No village or town existed in the parish at the former date; and the then proprietor of Cally, Alexander Murray, Esq., had not long previously ejected a great number of small tenants occupying a great part of the lower end of the parish, and converted their farms into grazing ground, in which state they still continue. The existing rural population, as is stated in the following table, is 495, so that the increase under this head is only 128.

Number of the population residing in Gatehouse,	-	1877
the country,	-	495
		<hr/>
Total population of the parish,	-	1872

The number of families in the parish is 419, so that the ave-

rage proportion of individuals to a family is  $4\frac{1}{2}$ . The number of inhabited houses is 263; in other words, the average of individuals to a house is  $7\frac{3}{8}$ . This great proportion is owing to the circumstance that several of the houses in Gatehouse having common stairs, or at least a common entrance, are tenanted by more than one family; in some few instances by three or four. The following table shows the relative proportion of births, marriages, and deaths, for the three years ending in 1839:

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1837,	58	9	50
1838,	56	7	44
1839,	44	17	25

By taking the average of these three years, we find that the births are about 1 to every 36 of the population; the marriages, 1 to every 170; and the deaths, 1 to every 48; the proportion of births being greater than the average of England and Wales; of marriages, less; and of deaths, less; a good proof of the salubrity of the climate, and the prudence of the people in their formation of marriage connections, as also of the physical comforts which they enjoy. (Second Annual Report of the Registrar-General. London, 1840.) But no perfectly sound conclusion, we confess, can be drawn from so limited a population as that of Girthon, particularly when embracing so short a space as three years.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 20 years of age,	449	450	899
Above Do.	412	570	982
Totals,	861	1011	1872

The excess of females as compared to males, is 150. The number of tradesmen in the parish is 105, exclusive of apprentices; of labourers in Gatehouse, 56; while the whole rural population, with the exception of the farmers, may be considered as labourers. The number of illegitimate births within the last three years is 15, or, on an average, 5 annually; but some of the cases, though registered in the session book, do not actually belong to the parish.

*Character of the People.*—There are no customs, games, or amusements peculiar to this parish. The belief in witches, fairies, brownies, dreams, and other superstitions, once universal in Galloway, has not been entirely laid aside; particularly on the part of the older and more remote inhabitants. The houses of the people, particularly those of the farmers, are, in general, good and substantial. All classes enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the

comforts and advantages of civilized life, and are contented with their situation and circumstances. The duties of morality and religion are, on the whole, scrupulously practised; and instances of crime or gross immorality are very rare. The people are, in general, intelligent, given to reading, and exert themselves to give the best education to their children. A very considerable number of young men, (many of them of humble origin,) have, during the last fifty years, after having received a good education, left the parish in order to push their fortunes in England, or abroad, and have, by their excellent conduct and success in life, done honour to the early advantages which they enjoyed. Perhaps no teacher, in a comparatively remote parish, has educated a greater number of such enterprising and respectable persons than Mr John Armstrong, who, a few years before his death, which took place in 1841, retired from his situation as parochial schoolmaster, which he had filled with honour to himself and advantage to the community upwards of forty years, and whom his old scholars have ever regarded with gratitude and affection, both for his eminent talents and the blandness of his manners. But while so many Girthonians have distinguished themselves in the way to which we have referred, the parish has not, till comparatively recent times, produced any who have prosecuted any of the learned professions. The writer of this account knows of only one instance in the last century, of a native of Girthon having attended a Scotch university; but within the last thirty years, no fewer than eight persons, natives of the parish, (all educated by Mr Armstrong, except one,) have studied at the University of Edinburgh. Of these, two are dead, one is in the United States of America, and another is still undergoing his studies: the remaining four are settled in life in Scotland.

Poaching is very strictly prohibited by the proprietor of the parish; but when game so much abounds, it is hardly possible to eradicate so demoralizing a practice. Smuggling of tea, ardent spirits, wine, and other articles, from the Ise of Man, systematically prevailed here, (as it did along the whole Galloway coast,) to a very great extent, about fifty years ago; but such a character as a smuggler does not now exist; though many traditions as to exploits in this way are still current. Pawnbroking has never obtained in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The total number of imperial acres in the parish is 15,480; of

which the quantity cultivated may be about 4000; leaving the remainder, or 9480 acres, either as waste or in permanent sheep pasture. There neither is, nor ever has been, any land in the parish in a state of undivided common. The total rental of Girthon, putting a reasonable value on the house and garden of Cally, may be estimated at L.5000, making an average of about 6s. 6d. per imperial acre. The total old valuation of the parish in the cess book is L.3281, 3s. 6d. Scots, or L.273, 8s. 7½d. Sterling. The average rate of grazing is, for a cow, L.3; for a ewe or full-grown sheep, 3s.

The following table must be regarded as only an approximation to the truth, as the amounts are necessarily variable, to a greater or less extent, almost every year.

Farms,	Sheep, in scores.	No. of horses.	No. of cattle.
Roundfell,	22	none.	3
Orchars,	66	2	20
Barniewater,	25	1	25
Grobdale,	25	2	30
Laghead,	40	4	40
Cuireoch,	60	5	60
Murrayton,	85	5	60
Carstammon,	none.	2	5
Lagg,	2	2	20
Laigh Creoch,	3	4	40
High Creoch,	10	3	30
Little Barlay,	8	3	30
Barlay,	2	3	50
Flerog,	none.	1	10
Disdow,	3	4	50
Cairn,	8	4	25
Drumwall,	2	3	30
Upper Drumwall,	1	2	12
Townhead,	2	3	60
Enrig,	2	4	70
Clauchan,	1	3	50
Girthon Kirk,	1	2	40
Rainton,	3	5	90
Boreland,	2	4	70
Syllodoch,	none.	2	30
Cally Maina,	3	6	100
Cally,	12	5	80
Totals,	388 scores.	84	1130

The duration of leases extends to nineteen years; and the old tenants on Mr Murray's estates generally are seldom removed, the progenitors of several of the existing farmers having held lands on the estate for successive generations. The farm-buildings and inclosures in the parish are generally in a respectable and efficient state; and the most liberal encouragement is afforded by the proprietor to his tenants.

*Fisheries.*—The Fleet produces salmon and grilse; but the fishery is seldom let; and, when let, only for a nominal sum.

*Manufactures.*—The late James Murray, Esq. of Broughton, who, as shall soon be more particularly stated, exerted himself to make Gatehouse a flourishing town, was the means of introducing the cotton manufacture into this place in 1790; in which year, he held out encouragement to Messrs Birtwhistle and Sons, from Yorkshire, who erected two cotton mills, which, with an interval of nearly twenty years subsequently to 1810, have ever since been in active operation. They have, for upwards of twelve years, been held in lease from the representatives of the original firm by Messrs James Davidson and Co., who are prosecuting the business with great spirit and enterprise. The mills are driven by water drawn from Loch Whinnyan, which ran into the Dee; but a tunnel from the lake having been cut through a hill at an expense of L.1400, the waters of the lake were thereby conveyed in an opposite direction to Gatehouse. The number of wheels is two; the total power is equivalent to fifty-five horse-power. The number of hands employed is above 200, of whom about a half are eighteen years of age and upwards. The rate of wages averages 9s. a-week to each individual. The quantity of cotton cloth manufactured per annum is about 60,000 pieces, or, as each piece consists of 24 yards, 1,440,000 yards. We regard these statements as honourable to the Messrs Davidson and Co., particularly when we reflect on the comparative difficulties under which, from their isolated and remote situation, they labour, both as to the purchase and carriage of the raw material, and to the disposal and sale of the manufactured article. But, by dint of energy and ingenuity, they seem to be in a condition to cope in the market with competitors who enjoy facilities unknown to them.

The upper mill was destroyed by fire on the morning of the 14th October 1840. The fire originated in the scutching-room, in the lowest flat, in consequence of the fanner of one of the spreading machines giving way, which, coming against its iron encasement, struck fire and ignited the loose cotton around; and, notwithstanding every effort that could be made to arrest the progress of the flames, the whole factory, with its valuable machines, including seventy-four power-looms, was, in the short space of an hour and a-half, a heap of ruins. The damage done to the building is estimated at from L.900 to L.1000, which was only partly covered by insurance. The destruction of machinery, which was fully covered by insurance, is calculated at from L.6000 to L.7000. The mill has now been rebuilt, with various improvements. The

new machinery, with which it is now fitted, is of the most modern and improved description; and, altogether, the factory, which is again in operation, is in a more efficient state than it was before the conflagration took place.

There is a brick manufactory about a quarter of a mile to the north of Gatehouse, belonging to Mrs Hornsby. The quantity of brick made averages about 60,000 per annum. The wages paid to the men, who vary in number at different seasons of the year, are 9s. per week. There is also a brewery carried on by Mr Andrew Kirk, in which 927 bushels of barley are manufactured into ale and beer annually. The number of men employed is three. Their wages are 10s. per week. There is also an extensive nursery belonging to Mr Credie, which has existed for nearly half a century. A tannery exists in a flourishing state on the west of the Fleet; but as this is in the parish of Anwoth, it does not fall within our sphere. Green hides are manufactured in Gatehouse by Mr Samuel Blyth, to the extent of about L.400 annually.

*Navigation.*—Boat-Green, the port of Gatehouse, is on the Anwoth side of the Fleet; but as it is not 300 yards from the bridge which here unites the two parishes, and as by far the principal portion of the trade is connected with this town and parish, we have thought it proper to give here the following table, containing an abstract of the shipping, both inward and outward, at the harbour:—

Year.	Inward.			Outward.		
	No. of vessels.	Tons.	Men.	No. of vessels.	Tons.	Men.
1837,	75	2163	192	31	1186	99
1888,	83	1876	197	31	991	92
1889,	67	1594	160	28	913	79
First 6 months of 1840,	42	931	102	16	395	38

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—The only village and market-town in the parish is Gatehouse of Fleet, which contains, as previously mentioned, a population of 1377. The town of Fleet, formerly alluded to, and which is supposed to have stood on the site which Gatehouse now occupies, has long disappeared, nor do any traditions respecting it exist in the parish. The only traces of its existence consists in the eight weekly markets held in successive Fridays, beginning on the first Friday of November, annually. Symson, who wrote in the time of Charles II., and before a stone of the present town was laid, says, "At a place called Gatehouse of Fleet, there is a market for good fat kine kept on the Friday after the first

Thursday, which is after the first Monday of November, and so every Friday thereafter till Christmas." (Large Description of Galloway, p. 26.) It is well known that, at that date, not a house existed in Gatehouse except an inn; and it may, therefore, not improperly be inferred, that the privilege which the place enjoyed of holding markets had been conferred on the town of Fleet, and that it survived though the town ceased to exist. (Caledonia, iii. §29.) An inn, it is likely, always obtained at this spot, as it lay on the great line of road between Dumfries and Portpatrick. The first house in the modern village of Gatehouse, in addition to the inn, was erected in 1760, under the auspices of the late James Murray of Broughton; and, in order to insure the stability and prosperity of the town, the same gentleman held out the most liberal encouragement for the introduction of manufactures and other branches of industry. It was in this way that Messrs Birtwhistle were induced to settle in the place as manufacturers. Messrs Thomas Scott and Co. also erected two cotton mills, on the north-east extremity of the town, which did not long exist, and, unlike the establishment of Messrs Birtwhistle, have not been revived. Mr Murray established a wine company, a brewery, and a tannery, being all joint-stock concerns, of which he held a number of shares himself,\* along with many gentlemen of the county, and some from England, particularly Messrs Atkinson of Temple Sowerby, and Messrs Freeland, merchants in Liverpool. These companies were all placed under the management of persons from England; but they did not turn out lucrative speculations,—none of the partners taking an active interest in them,—and they were eventually dissolved.† Hence it was that numerous families from England were encouraged to settle in Gatehouse in connection with these various works. A branch of the Union Bank of Paisley was introduced, and for several years carried on an extensive business, but was afterwards withdrawn. About a dozen years ago, a branch of the Commercial Bank of Scotland was established at Gatehouse; and, on its discontinuance two years ago, a branch of the Western Bank of Scotland was introduced. In 1795, Mr Murray erected the town into a burgh of barony, to be governed by a provost, two bailies, and four councillors, with the privilege

\* Mr Murray, however, held no shares in either of the cotton manufactories.

† The tannery was the most successful of these speculations; Mr Davitta, the original manager, and afterwards the sole proprietor, having realized a handsome fortune by the business.

of holding a weekly market on Saturdays, and an annual fair on the first Monday of June.

Mr Murray, who thus induced many English families to take up their residence at Gatehouse, by a deed executed in 1797, and registered in Kirkcudbright in 1799, founded an Episcopal church in the vicinity of the burgh, in order that these persons might enjoy religious worship and ordinances according to the ritual of that Church to which they belonged. With this chapel he connected an academy for the education of their children; the erection of which buildings cost about L.3000. These two institutions, however, were not meant for the exclusive advantage of the English settlers, but were open to all who might choose to take advantage of them. Nor is this all. In executing an entail of his whole estate, Mr Murray bound his son, the present proprietor, and all the successors in the entail, to maintain these establishments for all time coming. He appointed the Rev. Matthew Vicars both minister of the chapel and rector of the academy, and provided that the person holding the living should be a member of the Church of England, and should act both as a clergyman and as teacher of the school connected with the chapel. He allocated twenty-five and a-half acres of land, specially mentioned in the deed of entail, to Mr Vicars and his successors, as a glebe, and fixed a permanent stipend of L. 40 yearly. The clergyman had also a spacious dwelling-house built for his use, possessing ample accommodation for boarders; and the school, which was attended by many young men from a distance, soon attained to eminence. But Mr Vicars, who is now rector of All-Hallows, in the city of Exeter, left Gatehouse twenty-four years ago; since which time the establishment has remained in abeyance, and the dwelling-house and chapel have been taken down, the latter being nominally attached to the mansion-house of Cally. No assistant has meanwhile been appointed; but upon the death of Mr Vicars, and if no successor be appointed within six months thereafter, then the Lord President of the Court of Session, the Lord Chief-Baron of Exchequer, and the Lord Justice-Clerk, for the time being, shall have power to appoint a person, duly qualified, to be joint clergyman and rector, with all the privileges and emoluments belonging to the office.

The town of Gatehouse consists mainly of three streets running nearly at right angles with the river, and parallel to each other. The bridge over the Fleet is on a line with the main or front

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

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street. This bridge, or rather a bridge on the same site, seems to have existed at a remote period; perhaps at the time when the place was visited, in 1300, by Edward I. In 1661, Richard Murray of Broughton obtained an Act of the Scottish Parliament for "rebuilding the bridge over the Fleet at Gatehouse of Fleet, and authorizing him to levy certain tolls on all horses, cattle, and sheep passing this bridge, to reimburse him for the expense of building and upholding the same." (Act. Parl. vii. 241.) The present bridge, which consists of two ample arches, has been twice widened considerably; the last time was about twenty-five years ago. A portion (about a fifth part) of the town of Gatehouse lies on the west side of the river, in the parish of Anwoth, principally on the line of the turnpike road; but this, as it is situated in another parish, has not been taken into account in this article, and the population thereof not included in this report.

*Means of Communication.*—There is a post-office in Gatehouse. The only turnpike road in Girthon (that which connects Dumfries and Portpatrick) runs through the parish from Gatehouse to Barharrow, a distance of only two miles. In order to remove this road a little farther from the mansion-house of Cally, a line was cut, in 1820, through the Gallow-Hill, at the private expense of Mr Murray, which cost upwards of L. 3000. Two mail coaches pass through the town daily, one going to Portpatrick, the other returning from it. There are various parish roads, all of them in pretty good order; the principal of which is the road leading from Gatehouse northward to the mineral well of Lochenbreck and Laurieston, both in the parish of Balmaghie.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church was situated, from the remotest date, about two miles south of Gatehouse, till 1818, when a new and substantial church, capable of containing about 800 sitters, was built at Gatehouse, on a suitable and convenient site. The former edifice was unroofed, and now exists as a ruin. It stands in the centre of the only burial-ground in the parish. The family of Broughton bury in a vault underneath the church.

The manse was formerly situated in the immediate vicinity of the old church, but a new one was erected about fifty years ago, within less than half a-mile of Gatehouse. It has undergone various successive alterations and repairs, and is, on the whole, a comfortable building. The glebe extends to 22 acres; its annual value may be between L. 25 and L. 30. The stipend, which is paid from Crown tithes, was L. 66, 15s. 5d. in 1755; it is now L. 141, 13s. 2d.;

and a sum is paid by the Exchequer to bring it up to the legal minimum of L.150.

The patronage of the church and parish belonged, of old, to the Bishop of Galloway, who is supposed to have had a residence at Enrig in the parish; and some venerable trees there are still called the "Palace trees." Soon after the Reformation, namely, in 1587, the patronage was transferred to the King, but was, next year, bestowed on William Melville, commendator of Tongland, afterwards a Lord of Session, under the title of Lord Tongland, and who died in 1613.\* (*Murray's Lit. Hist. of Galloway*, 2d edit., 1832, p. 23.) On the re-establishment of Episcopacy in 1606, the patronage of Girthon was anew vested in the Bishop of Galloway, but this was not to take effect till Melville's death; and at the Revolution it was restored to the Crown, to which it has ever since belonged. (*Caledonia*, iii. 330.)

At the Reformation, the revenues of the parsonage and vicarage of Girthon were let to John Gordon of Kenmure, for L.113, 6s. 8d. Scots; but owing "to the non-payment of the pasch fines, cors present, and umest [uppermost] claithes," the lease was reduced. (*Ib.*)

There is at present a small "Free Church" congregation in Gatehouse, who assemble in the Mason Lodge, having no separate place of worship of their own. The Independents had, for thirty years, an ordained minister here; but at his death, a few years ago, no successor was appointed. Of the fate of the Episcopal chapel we have already spoken.

The following table shows the relative proportions of the different sects of Christians in the parish, previously to the late disruption.

Sects.	Families.	Individuals.
Established Church,	373	1631
Reformed Presbyterian Church,	3	6
Associate Synod,	7	34
Independents,	12	31
Episcopalians,	1	4
Roman Catholics,	23	134
Not ascertained to belong to any Christian sect,		32
Total,		1872

Public worship in the parish church is well attended. The number of communicants is upwards of 500. The Roman Ca-

\* Whether Melville had a residence at Enrig does not appear. The Logans (to whom we have already referred) were afterwards proprietors of Enrig, from whose hands it passed, by purchase, into those of the Broughton family.

tholics are visited periodically by the priest who is settled at Dalbeattie, in the parish of Urr, above twenty miles distant. The stewartry of Kirkcudbright belongs to the diocese of the Bishop, whose residence is in Edinburgh.

The following is a list of the ministers of the parish of Girthon from the Reformation to the present time, so far as their names can now be ascertained: John Bonar, 1595-1596; Alexander Frizel; John M'Lellan, 1638-1655; Simeon Knox;\* William Erskine, 1659-1662; Robert Moir, 1690-1693; William Gammell, 1693-1697; Patrick Johnston,† 1699-1736; Robert Thomson, 1737-1758; Robert Cooper, 1759-1776; John M'Naught, (deposed,) 1778-1793; William Thorburn, (translated to Troqueer,) 1792-1801; Robert Gordon, 1801-1817; Robert Jeffrey, (resigned,) 1818-1843; George Murray, 1843.

*Education.*—The means of education are ample. The parish school was improved subsequently to the retirement of Mr Armstrong, and is a large and commodious building. The schoolmaster's house, which is not worthy of the parish, is immediately attached to it, with a valuable garden immediately behind. The salary is considerably higher than the maximum, owing to the liberality of Mr Murray. There are four schools in addition to the parochial one, of which three are unendowed; the fourth is a charity school, supported by Lady Anne Murray of Broughton, and in which not only education but clothes are given gratuitously. According to an official return made to Government, (Educational Enquiry, Scotland, Parl. Paper, 1837, Vol. xlvii.) the number of pupils at the parish school was 120; in the non-parochial schools, 144; total, 264, or about the seventh of the entire population,—a proportion very unusual, and highly honourable to the character of the parish. The proportions at the different seminaries have since considerably changed, and the aggregate number of scholars has rather increased than diminished. There is no need of additional schools. The inhabitants of the northern district of the parish, indeed, labour under great disadvantages as to education, owing to their distance from any school. Nor is it likely that they will ever enjoy greater facilities in this respect, owing to the extreme thinness of population. It is not an unusual thing, how-

\* Son of William Knox, minister of Cockpen, and nephew of John Knox the Reformer.

† Great-grandfather of the present Right Honourable Sir Alexander Johnston of Dumfriesshire.

ever, for children resident in that quarter to travel three or four miles to school.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid averages rather under 50; average sum allotted to each weekly, 1s. 4d. The fund from which the disbursement is made arises from church collections, which, in 1836, was L.55, 11s.; in 1837, L.55, 17s.; in 1838, L.56, 4s. 3d.; in 1839, L.53, 9s.; in 1840, L.46, 10s.; in 1841, L.46, 16s.; and from a voluntary assessment of L.168, in 1841, paid by Mr Murray of Broughton; but these assessments necessarily vary from year to year. Poor's rates, in the direct sense of the term, are unknown here.

*Savings Bank.*—There is a savings bank in the parish, under the auspices of Mr Kirkpatrick. The amount invested is about stationary at L.1200. There are various friendly societies.

*Prison.*—There has, for some years, been a lock-up-house at Gatehouse, meant to be used in cases of petty crimes or offences; but it is seldom necessary to have recourse to it.

*Fuel.*—At one time, peat was the chief fuel used; but, except in the middle and higher portions of the parish, coals, got from Whitehaven and Workington, have been all but universally preferred within the last thirty or forty years. The price of coals may be about 15s. per ton of 20 cwt.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The state of the parish has varied, and, in most instances, has been signally improved, since the former Statistical Account was written in 1792. There have been a new church and manse built,—the former at Gatehouse, the latter in the vicinity, both in the best situations, in the very centre of the great bulk of the population of the parish. The income of the minister, including stipend, manse, and glebe, was then estimated at L.120; it is now about L.200. The weekly church collections were then L.25 per annum; they are now upwards of twice that amount. There was then only one school in the parish; there are now five. The population has increased 509, or from 1363 to 1872. The only turnpike road in the parish was rude and almost impracticable, running nearly in a straight line over successive hills, some of them fully 300 feet above the level of the sea. A new turnpike road was constructed about forty years ago, which is one of the best in the kingdom, approaching nearly to a level. A similar improvement has been effected along the whole line of road from Dum-

fries to Portpatrick. The parish roads have also been greatly improved. The people are more intelligent, refined, and cleanly in their habits; their dress and food are of a higher description; and their superstitious belief and observances have been greatly weakened, if not entirely eradicated, particularly in the case of the younger portion of the population. Almost every farm-house has been rebuilt; and instead of rude hovels of one storey, the new tenements are of two stories, and distinguished as much for comfort and convenience, if not elegance, as the old ones were for meanness, and want of the most obvious accommodations. Houses of all kinds were, with few exceptions, thatched with straw; now they are almost all covered with slate. The most modern and improved systems of husbandry, both as respects rotation of crops and agricultural implements, have been introduced; and the rent of land has risen at least a third; while the farmers are of a higher grade, and far more comfortable in their circumstances. The farmer, instead of sitting in the same apartment with his servants, and eating at the same table, has now a snug parlour or dining-room appropriated to himself and family; takes his meals off a covered table; and the horn or pewter spoon has, in most cases, given way to silver. The hodden-gray and other home-made clothes have disappeared, even in the case of servants, both male and female, and their place has been supplied by broad cloths, cotton, and silks, such as would do credit to the metropolitan county of Scotland. The only drawback to be placed in opposition to this representation is the failure and disappearance of the wine company, tannery, and brewery, forced businesses which could not succeed, and to which we have referred under a former head. The June annual fair, and the various markets at Gatehouse, have also greatly fallen off. The Irish horses and cattle, which formed the staple articles at these marts, instead of being sent through Galloway, are almost all transported direct in steam-boats from Belfast and the other Irish towns to the leading markets in England. In 1812, for example, 20,000 horses and black-cattle were imported at Portpatrick from Ireland. The number in 1837 was only 1080. It is owing to this cause alone that the markets of Gatehouse, as also those of other towns in Galloway, have declined.

*April 1844.*