

# PARISH OF SANQUHAR.

PRESBYTERY OF PENPONT, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. THOMAS MONTGOMERY, MINISTER.

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name Sanquhar is compounded of *Caer*, signifying a fort, and *Sean*, old,—both terms having reference to a fort which existed here in the ancient British times. This etymology seems more probable than any other that has been assigned. The original *Sean-caer* or *chaer*, was in the thirteenth century spelt *Sene-char* or *Sancher*, as appears by the charters of Robert I. and David II. Afterwards it was changed to Sanquhar.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—The parish is about 18 miles in length and 5 in breadth. By exact measurement, it contains  $61\frac{1}{4}$  square miles. It is bounded on the east by the parishes of Crawford and Crawfordjohn; on the north by Kirkconnel: on the west by Kirkconnel, New Cumnock and Dalry; on the south by Penpont and Durisdeer.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Its figure is very irregular. At the east corner, is the Lowther or Lodder Hill, 3130 feet above the level of the sea, and connected by a chain of high hills with Hartfell, near Moffat. At the west corner, is Black-larg Hill, 2890 feet above the sea, and united to a range of high land at the junction of the counties of Galloway and Ayr. The parish is generally hilly. It is formed into two divisions, nearly equal, by the river Nith. Each side of this river is bounded by a range of hills, rising generally with a gradual declivity. Some of them are covered with grass and others with heath. The hollow between these two ranges of hills forms a vale of very considerable beauty, extending in length about five miles. The prevailing winds are from the west and south; and with these the greatest quantity of rain falls. The climate is cold but healthy.

*Rivers.*—The Nith is the principal river in the parish. The tributary streams which flow into it in this parish are the Crawick and Menock on the north and east; the Killoe and Seuchan on the west and south.

*Mineralogy—Coal Mines.*—In the valley of the Nith, in the parishes of Sanquhar and Kirkconnel, coal is found in great abundance, extending about seven miles in length and two miles and a-half in breadth. Sandstone of a reddish shade, about six feet thick, generally overlaps the coal; but sandstone and blaes of different shades are found in many places. The coal appears to be a continuation of that which is found in Ayrshire. It cannot be supposed to have any connection with the coal in Canobie or Cumberland; for in proceeding down the Nith the valley contracts, and the transition rocks commence about a mile and a-half below the town of Sanquhar, near Eliock, and where the whole of the secondary strata of the valley of Sanquhar terminate. Three seams of workable coal have been discovered, averaging severally in thickness 3 feet 8 inches, 4 feet, and 4 feet 6 inches, and varying from 4 to 32 fathoms in depth. The greater part of the coal field is the property of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry. In this part the workings are at present carried on in three pits, and about sixty men are employed. The water is carried off by levels. No steam or other engines are found necessary. The range of the coal seams is in the direction of the river Nith, north-west by south-east, and is bounded on each side by transition rocks. It dips to the north-east by north about one foot in twelve. It is frequently found intersected by whinstone dikes, one of which, from 12 to 36 feet thick, and ranging S. E. and N. W., may be traced on the surface about a mile in length. A small dike, a few falls above the old bridge over Crawick stream, may be also mentioned. It runs nearly north and south, and changes the former bearing of the metals separating the strata, which dip nearly east on both sides of it. The breach of the strata which constitutes the dike depresses the metals on the east side so much that they are considerably separated from those on the west side. On the east side it is called a down-dike, and on the west side an up-dike. Such, indeed, is the general effect which all dikes and slips of a similar nature produce on the metals in coal fields, where they frequently occur. The third seam of coal mentioned above has been wrought to the greatest extent by the side of the Crawick stream, in the moor of Sanquhar, which till lately was a com-monty.\* It is remarkable that, in this seam under the bed of the river, and to some distance on each side, there were found thousands of bodies resembling fishes of different kinds, and varying in

\* Professor Jameson, at page 89 of his *Mineralogy of Dumfries-shire*, says that, a little above Crawick Bridge, there are examples of *columnar glance coal*, which in some places is seen passing into graphite or black-lead.

size, having heads, tails, fins and scales, lying in all different ways. When broken they were discovered to be, in substance, sandstone. They lay at the distance of about eleven or twelve fathoms below the bed of the river, which consists of regularly stratified sandstone. Impressions of shells and of several vegetable substances continue to be met with, both in the coal and in the metals lying above it. Coal continues to be wrought near this place, but has been found to be much intersected with whin dikes. It is the public property of the burgh of Sanquhar. A steam-engine has been found necessary to clear the workings of water. About twenty men are employed in them. Coal has been discovered also in several small properties near the town of Sanquhar, but at present is not wrought in any of them. In the whole of the basin of Sanquhar, the coal is generally of a good quality, but improves as it lies farther from the surface. At all the pits now mentioned it is sold at 5s. per ton. It may be stated also that C. G. Stuart Menteath, Esq. of Closeburn, has in the town of Sanquhar a depot for coal, which he brings in considerable quantity from his pits at Mansfield, in the parish of New Cumnock, a distance of about eleven miles. Including this, about 16000 tons may be considered the average of the quantity sold yearly at Sanquhar.

*Lead Mines of Wanlockhead.*—At the east end of the parish, about nine miles from the town of Sanquhar, are situated the lead mines of Wanlockhead, the property of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry. They join the mines of Leadhills, belonging to the Earl of Hopetoun, in the parish of Crawford and county of Lanark. The workings of both include a circle of about two and a-half miles. The surface is bleak and mountainous, and about 1500 feet above the level of the sea. The rocks which generally prevail are greywacke and greywacke slate, often of a yellowish colour at the surface, but black toward the centre. They are sometimes so hard as to strike fire with steel, but easily exfoliate when exposed to the weather. When exposure is continued for a few years they fall to powder.

Wanlockhead has long been famous for its lead mines. They are said to have been discovered by Cornelius Hardskins, a German, in the minority of James VI., when the Germans were employed in searching for gold in that place. Sir Bevis Bulmer, master of the mint under Queen Elizabeth, with concurrence of the Scottish monarch, is said to have employed 300 men in that work in the neighbourhood of Wanlockhead and Leadhills several years

during summer, and to have collected of that metal to the amount of L. 100,000 Sterling. Many heaps of sand and gravel cast up then, are still to be seen on the banks of several streams, near the places now mentioned. The search, it is said, became unprofitable when the wages of a workman exceeded fourpence per day. A mine has been cut a considerable way into one of the mountains, close by the Wanlock stream; which is supposed to have been cut in search of gold. For such as wish to procure a little in a state of purity, or for the purpose of being formed into a ring, &c. it is still collected by the miners, though not in any great quantity. It is generally found at the bottom of the glens, of a granular form, disseminated among rocks, and mixed with sand and gravel. During the last four years, two specimens have been found which weighed respectively ninety and sixty grains.

The lead-mines at Wanlockhead were opened up by Sir James Stampfield, about the year 1680, and were wrought by him with some success, but not to any great extent, till the Revolution. In 1691, he was succeeded by Matthew Wilson, who procured a lease for nineteen years, and wrought the vein called Margaret's in the Dodhill. He carried his workings quite through that hill, from Whitecleuch to Wanlock stream, and was very successful in his discoveries. He was again succeeded in 1710, by a Company for smelting lead ore with pit coal. They had a lease for thirty-one years, and wrought to a considerable extent in the veins of Old Glencrieff and Belton-grain, but were not very successful in their operations. At length, after much discouragement, they had the good fortune to find out the veins of New Glencrieff, where in a very short time they raised a great quantity of lead-ore.

In 1721, a numerous Company was formed, of persons residing in different parts of the kingdom, under the name of the Friendly Mining Society. They entered into partnership with the smelting Company, for working the mines upon a farther lease of fifteen years, in addition to the one already obtained by the latter company of thirty-one years. The two companies thus united, carried on their operations in all the four principal veins then known, and to considerable extent, till 1727. They then separated from each other, and prosecuted their works in different grounds. The smelting company entered on the east side of the Wanlock stream, and vigorously continued their operations till 1734, when, having suffered great loss, though they had raised much lead, they resigned their lease. An individual partner in the company, however, Mr

Wightman, retained liberty to work in the southern part of their boundary. He confined his operations to the south end of Margaret's vein. But they were very unprofitable, and terminated with his death in 1747. The mining liberty which had been possessed by him was unoccupied till 1755, when it was entered on by the firm which still continues, Messrs Ronald Crawford, Meason and Company, by whom it was wrought extensively, and with much success. They continued their operations in Margaret's vein forty-three years. For carrying off the water they erected three steam-engines. The first was in 1778, and supposed to be the second erected by Mr Watt in Scotland. The Friendly Mining Society, having resigned their lease in 1734, were succeeded in the boundary which they had possessed, by Alexander and William Telfer, who obtained a lease of the northern part of their grounds for twenty-one years. They succeeded in raising great quantities of ore, which sold at a high price. At the expiration of their lease in 1755, Messrs Ronald Crawford, Meason and Company, were also their successors, who now possessed the whole of the mining liberties at Wanlockhead. This enterprising and eminently successful company continued the works which had been left by Messrs Telfer till 1775. About this period they discovered good ore in Belton-grain vein above water level, and continued working there till 1800. Then finding the ore above water level to be mostly wrought out, they were under the necessity of erecting one steam-engine, a second in 1812, and a third in 1817. The expense of erecting these engines, and supplying them with coal, which was brought from the parish of Kirkconnel or the west end of the parish of Sanquhar, a distance of about ten or twelve miles, must evidently have been very great. But still, the works were profitable till about five years ago, when the free trade system was introduced by legislative enactment, and foreign lead was allowed to be imported to Britain, without being subject to the payment of duty. From that period, the price of lead being much lower than formerly, the company must have suffered great loss. The veins have also presented great poverty. Cove vein, which is the present scene of labour, has never been rich. During the period which elapsed from 1823 to 1827, the company sunk forty fathoms under level, and erected two steam-engines under ground, but the quantity of ore found did not answer their expectations, and was not commensurate with the expense incurred in raising it. The five engines last mentioned possessed collectively 268 horses power. Previous to the erection

of these and of those on Margaret's vein, the water was raised from the mines by hand-pumps and water-wheels. The steam-engines have now all been removed, and a water pressure engine has been erected, which is succeeding remarkably well. It carries away all the water which was formerly removed by the two steam-engines under ground,—it works with little attention, requiring merely that the water be kept regularly upon it, and thus greatly lessens the expense which was formerly incurred. The Company at their commencement in 1755 had a lease only of nineteen years; but an Act of Parliament was obtained afterwards, authorizing the extension of it till 1812, which was subsequently extended thirty years farther. Accordingly, about seven years only of the present lease have now to run. The present lessees are, the Marquis of Bute, who has three shares, and Mr M'Leod, who has one share,—in all four shares. The great advantage of these works to the surrounding country must be evident, when it is mentioned, that the company during the last fifty years have expended at Wanlockhead, exclusive of their expenditure for materials in other places, the sum of L. 500,000. By the terms of their lease, they delivered a sixth part of the lead raised to the proprietor as rent or lordship. But by a new agreement, on account of the unfavourable circumstances which have been mentioned above, they deliver a much less quantity. During the last fifty years, 47,420 tons of lead have been raised; and to show how various the success of the Company has been, it may be mentioned, that in the year 1809 there were raised nearly 1037 tons of lead, which sold at L. 32 per ton. In 1811 its price was L. 24 per ton. In 1829 and 1830 respectively, there were raised 596 and 461 tons, when its price was only L. 13 per ton. The number of persons employed in the works at present is as follows: 4 overseers and clerks, 154 miners, 12 washers, 8 smelters, 10 smiths, carpenters, and engineers, 20 boys who assist in washing; amounting in all to 208. The work is let by bargains, generally for three months; that is, the workmen receive a certain stipulated sum for the quantity of ore per ton, which they raise, or for the fathom of dead work which they perform in that time. They relieve each other by courses every six hours, and in twenty-four hours the same course does not go to work more than once. Each miner, on an average, may be supposed to earn at present about L. 20 during the year. Agreeably to the contract of lease, some spare pickmen are always at work, for making new discoveries of lead.

The veins or mineral depositories hitherto wrought, as has been mentioned, are five in number, viz. Old Glencrieff, New Glencrieff, Belton-grain, Margaret's and Cove. They lie parallel, and distant from each other about 120 fathoms. Belton-grain, which lies nearest the east, is about 300 fathoms from Cove. They have been wrought to the depth of 60, 75, 93, and 136 fathoms from the surface. The tops of the veins lie generally to the west, and they slope or *hade* eastward at an angle from thirty to forty-five degrees from the horizon. According to the language of the miners they *hade* one fathom in three or sometimes in two; by which is meant that they make one fathom in horizontal length, to three or two in height. They do not generally run straight forward, but in a winding direction. From this cause, none of the drifts are straight lines, but vary in working southward, from five to fifteen degrees east to south of fifteen degrees west of south. In all the workings the medium point is found to be almost south and north, so that the veins cannot be said to vary much in their course. The rocks which they traverse lie in beds at the same angle with themselves. These are the indurated argillaceous mountain rock, or what miners call the gray and blue whinstone. The veins are from a few inches to 4 feet in width. The bearing and the barren parts are very various in their length. The former are found from one or two to 70 or 80 fathoms, as in Belton-grain. The latter are sometimes more and sometimes less extensive, and when they do occur are called checks by the miners. The length and depth of the bearing parts always maintain a proportion to each other. The length, however, is generally something more considerable than the depth. None of the veins have been found to contain much ore beyond the depth of 100 or 120 fathoms. They generally contract in their extremities, and diminish in their course toward the bottom. Clay beds are found occasionally to interrupt them. The course of Belton-grain vein may be traced on the surface, by the ground being somewhat slackened or hollowed. Nothing similar or peculiar in any way is perceivable on the surface of the ground over any of the other veins.

The structure of the veins is very various. The ore frequently lies in a regular form, but sometimes it is irregular, and mixed with what are called vein stones, as lamellar heavy spar, calcspar, rock-cork, &c. The ores are, lead glance, blende, manganese ochre, copper pyrites, green lead-ore, white lead-ore, lead-vitriol and brown hematite, all in small quantities except the lead-ore. The con-

tents of a bearing vein are often found as follows: On the under or lying side, is lead glance or common galena, then a layer of ochre of manganese several inches thick, above it a layer of quartz interspersed with iron pyrites, then another layer of manganese mixed with quartz, pieces of lead glance and carbonate of lime followed by greywacke, which constitutes the walls of the mine. Besides lead glance or common galena, the following minerals are also found, viz. sulphate, phosphate, carbonate, and arseniate of lead. The vanadate of lead has been found in the refuse of the old workings, where it was for a time taken for arseniate of lead. These different specimens are now and then found occupying the same drusy cavity, and when seen before being injured or removed from their relative position, exhibit a fine lustre and beautiful crystallization. The druses or *laugh* holes, as they are termed by the miners, are also frequently studded with quartz, carbonate of zinc, &c. Sulphuret of zinc or zinc-blende is found in considerable quantity in some of the veins, particularly in Margaret's. Specimens of iron also occur, as ochry red iron-ore, but iron is always reckoned by the miners as unfavourable to their prospects in procuring lead. The lead glance at Wanlockhead was found by analysis to contain a small quantity of arsenic, antimony, and silver. The last mentioned was from eight to ten ounces in the ton of lead-ore.

*Lime, &c.*—Limestone rock has been discovered between the town of Sanquhar and Wanlockhead, on the farm of Castle Gilmour. It is presented in a stratum about 4 feet thick; above it, is one of freestone  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick; and under it, is one of blaes. It has been attempted to be wrought, but not with much advantage, nor to great extent. In that neighbourhood are also found marine marl, a stratum of marine shell about 4 feet thick, containing nodules of limestone, and a seam of coal about 40 inches thick, regularly stratified, but of inferior quality, being combined with a large proportion of pyrites. The extremities of the parish are occupied by mountains of transition rocks. The valley of the Nith contains only secondary strata. The sandstone is generally white, but in some places is strongly tinged with red. It is rather coarse in the grain, but for the most part is well adapted for the purposes of building.

*Soil.*—The soil in the valley of the Nith is of good quality. It is generally dry and gravelly, and in some places is loamy. A great part of the land farther distant from the river mentioned, on

both sides, partakes much of clay and moss, and is in a great proportion wet and boggy. It is generally of a deep soil, and well adapted for grazing.

*Wood.*—A great part of the parish is destitute of plantations and uninclosed. Of the lands belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, 282 acres are covered with natural wood, which are chiefly the banks of the streams. The trees are but small; they are merely shoots from the roots of large trees, cut down about forty years ago, and are chiefly oak, birch and hazel. Of the estate of Eliock, belonging to Henry Veitch, Esq. about 450 acres are planted. A large proportion of the trees are full-grown, and many of them very old oak. This proprietor, by careful and judicious management, has greatly improved his plantations, and made many additions to them. They lie on the west side of the Nith below the town of Sanquhar, and extend to a distance of several miles. The trees of which they consist are very various, as Scotch larch, silver, spruce, and balm of Gilead fir, oak, elm, ash, mountain-ash, birch, beech, Swedish mapple, hazel, &c.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.\*

*Burgh of Sanquhar.*—Sanquhar was a burgh of Barony, according to one account, from time immemorial, and according to others from 1484. In 1596, at the request of Robert Crichton, Lord of Sanquhar, it was erected into a royal burgh, and is governed by a provost, three bailies, a dean of guild, a treasurer and eleven councillors. In its political capacity it is joined to Dumfries, Annan, Lochmaben, and Kirkcudbright.

*Castle.*—The old castle of Sanquhar claims particular notice. It is situated on a steep bank, in the immediate vicinity of the town of Sanquhar; toward the south it is a very picturesque ruin, and appears to have been a strong square building with towers at the corners. Close to it, was a large deer park; on the north, was a deep fosse and drawbridge; on the west, were the gardens, in which is still visible the fish pond with an island in the middle. At a short distance south from the castle, is the moat or ancient court-hall where the barons met to distribute justice. Tradition bears, that the castle was for some time in the possession of the English in the reign of Edward I., and was recaptured by Sir William Douglas of Douglasdale by stratagem, who put the garrison to the sword.

\* An account of all the parishes in the Presbytery of Penpont was written about the beginning of the last century, by the Rev. Mr Ræe, author of the History of the Rebellion in Scotland in 1715. His account of this parish, however, is now unfortunately lost.

*Historical notices.*—The first Lords of Sanquhar were of the Ross or Roose family, cadets of the Earls of Ross, Lords of the Isles of Scotland. Robert de Ross was the last of the line at Sanquhar who bore that name; William, second son of Thomas Lord of Creighton, who flourished in the reign of Robert Brus, married his daughter, Isobel, by whom he had a son. The father having come to the possession of the title of Lord of Creighton died in 1360, and his son by this lady became Lord of Sanquhar. Sir Robert Creighton, great grandson of Isobel de Ross, was appointed by James III. in 1464, heritable sheriff of Dumfries-shire. In 1630, the barony of Sanquhar was purchased by Sir William Douglas of Drumlanrig, on which he had a mortgage. The Queensberry family for some time resided in the castle of Sanquhar before that of Drumlanrig was built.\*

*Eminent Men.*—Mr Robert Crichton of Eliock, connected with this parish, was an eminent lawyer and advocate to Queen Mary and King James VI., and a Lord of Session. His eldest son, James, went abroad when young, and was intimately and extensively acquainted with literature and science, and so eminently accomplished in all kinds of bodily exercises, that he was the wonder of the age, and generally known by the appellation of the Admirable Crichton. The apartment in Eliock House in which he was born has been carefully preserved in its original state by the successive proprietors.†

*Parochial Registers.*—A register of births in the parish has been kept from 1757, but it is very defective, particularly near the period of its commencement. Many are not recorded.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish was in	1755,	-	1998
	1786,	-	2500
	1800,	-	2350
	1811,	-	2709
	1821,	-	3026
	1831,	-	3268

Of the population in 1831, 1536 were males, and 1732 were females. Among the chief causes of the increase of population may be mentioned, the greater numbers which have been employed

\* Near Sanquhar Castle there was found about fifty years ago a stone with the following striking inscriptions: "Here lies the good Sir John Ross of Ryehill; Here lies the good good Sir John Ross; Here lies the good good good Sir John Ross."

† Mr Robert Crichton, immediately after the birth of this his illustrious son, having sold Eliock to the family of Dalziel, afterwards Earls of Carnwath, removed to Cluny, an estate which he had acquired in Perthshire. From this circumstance it has been erroneously supposed by some that the Admirable Crichton was born at Cluny.

in the lead and coal mines, in the more extended cultivation of the land, and in the operations of a carpet-manufactory,—the success attending the inoculation of children with the cow-pox,—and the improvements in cleanliness and the manner of living, among the people.

In 1831 the number of the population residing in the burgh part of the parish was 1527, in the landward part, 1741. Of this last mentioned number, 675 resided in the village of Wanlockhead.

The number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers upwards of 50 years of age,	88
of unmarried women upwards of 45,	177
of persons employed in agriculture as occupiers or labourers,	166
manufactures, retail trade and handicraft,	246
of professional and other educated men,	24
of labourers not agricultural,	230
of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50,	5
The yearly average of births for the last seven years,	100
of deaths for the same period,	60
of marriages, also for the same period,	23

No nobility reside in the parish, and very few individuals or families of independent fortune.

The number of inhabited houses is 575. One only is building. There are two persons insane or fatuous; three blind.

During the last three years there have been nine illegitimate births in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture.*—

	Imp. acres.
There are in the parish, either cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	5583
never cultivated, and constantly waste or in pasture,	31530
capable of being cultivated with a profitable application of capital,	1500
in a state of undivided common,	181
under wood, either natural or planted,	735

The general kinds of trees planted are Scotch and larch fir. Of those which are indigenous, oak, birch, and hazel are the most common.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land per acre in the parish may be estimated at 13s. The average rent of grazing may be considered at the rate of L. 3 per ox or cow grazed, and at the rate of 4s. per ewe or full-grown sheep pastured for the year. The rate of labour, winter and summer, for different kinds of farm labourers is about 7s. 6d. per week.

*Stock.*—The number of horses in the parish is computed to be 190, and of cattle 960, including in both all ages. There are 21,000 sheep. Of these 100 are of the Leicester; 2000 are of

the Cheviot; and the remainder are of the black-faced, short woolled breed, which are commonly kept in this part of the country. They are all generally in good condition and well managed. Of late, several of the farmers, instead of smearing them with tar mixed with butter or palm oil, have poured on them the juice of broom and tobacco. By this new process, the wool is found to be greatly improved, nor has the health of the sheep suffered in so far as trial has yet been made.

*Draining, &c.*—The extensive draining of the high and low lands which has now been effected has been found most beneficial for improving the grass and other crops in quantity and quality. The sheep and cattle are found also to thrive much better in consequence of this method.

*Leases—Mode of Husbandry.*—The leases in general extend to nineteen years, and include in their articles the most approved methods of husbandry. They require, among other things, a regular rotation of different kinds of crop, wherever the soil admits of them.

*Farm-Buildings and Fences.*—Many of the farm-buildings are not in the most desirable state, in respect of extent and convenience. In three years, however, about five-sevenths of the leases expire, when there is the prospect of the houses being rebuilt on the most approved plans, and put into the best condition. The enclosures and fences are generally in good order. One great obstacle to the cultivation of the land is the long distance which lime has to be carried,—a distance of eight, nine, or sixteen miles. Notwithstanding of this, however, a considerable quantity of lime is brought, and great improvements have been made in the cultivation of the land, both in the manner of conducting it and the extent to which it has been carried. The management of stock also is now much better understood than formerly.

*Quarries.*—Freestone quarries are opened up in many parts of the parish, but none to any great extent. The coal pits present nothing peculiar, in respect to the manner in which they are wrought. It may be mentioned that in smelting the lead-ore at Wanlockhead, a small quantity of lime in powder is mixed with it. Peat, coal, and charcoal are used as fuel. The operation of smelting, on account of the great heat of the furnace, is not found to be very favourable to the health of the persons immediately employed in it. The smoke which arises from the furnace is most destructive of animal life, and is carried off by a long flue.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is estimated as follows :

Produce of oats and barley, whether cultivated for food of man or the domestic animals,	L. 4231
Of potatoes and turnips,	1200
Of hay, whether cultivated or meadow,	1962
Of land in pasture, rating it at L. 3 per cow or full-grown ox, and at 4s. per ewe, or full-grown sheep pastured for the year,	6600
Produce of the annual thinning and periodical felling of woods,	400
Produce of mines, including coals, quarries, and lead,	11,015
Total yearly value of raw produce,	L. 25,408

*Carpet Manufactory.*—A very extensive manufactory of carpets is carried on at the village of Crawick-mill. There are at work 30 looms of the newest and most approved construction, with all the other machinery required for preparing the yarn, as dyeing, carding, spinning, warping, &c. The number of persons employed in the work is as follows,—62 men, 39 women, 12 boys, and 10 girls, in all 123. They work generally about ten hours per day, earn on an average 12s. per week, and appear to be in a comfortable condition. They manufacture annually about 4000 stoness Tron weight of wool, and 10,000 pounds of English worsted yarns. Upwards of L. 2000 are paid to them yearly as wages. About 60,000 yards of carpeting are wrought by them during the same period,—which, sold at 2s. 3d. or 2s. 10d. per yard, according to quality, bring, at the medium between the two prices, L. 7625. Also, about 20,000 yards of tartan cloth are wrought annually in the town of Sanquhar by the Crawick-mill Carpet Company, which, sold, at an average, at 1s. 4d. per yard, bring L. 1333. A few of the carpets are sold in the neighbourhood; some are sent for sale to London; but the greater part to North and South America, to Hamburgh and St Petersburg. The Company who carry on this work are entitled to the gratitude of the community in general, but especially of the neighbourhood, for their enterprise and industry, the regularity with which all their business is managed, and the correctness of conduct which they require and encourage in their workmen.

*Cotton Weavers.*—In the town of Sanquhar, there are about 100 cotton-weavers. The yarn is forwarded to them by manufacturers in Glasgow. The sewing and embroidering of muslin with cotton, by females, is carried on in the parish to a considerable extent. About 300 are engaged in the employment. Their webs are sent also from Glasgow.

The knitting of stockings and mittens was formerly a branch of manufacture of considerable extent in the parish, but is now al-

most entirely discontinued. The stockings were wrought in a peculiar manner on wires,—were mostly party-coloured, and of great variety in the pattern.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Town, Villages, &c.*—The population of the town of Sanquhar amounts to 1400. The trade carried on in it is chiefly the weaving and sewing of muslin; other articles made and sold are mostly for the use of the inhabitants there and in the neighbourhood, and consequently the trade in them is very limited. The public revenue of the burgh amounts at present to about L. 40 yearly, and arises from imposts paid on different articles of merchandize and live stock brought within its boundaries, and from an uncultivated common of 181 acres. The coal mines in this common, and in the part which has been allotted to proprietors, though let and wrought, have yielded little or no revenue to the burgh for several years. The village of Crawick-mill is situated in the burgh part of the parish, about half a mile north-west from the town of Sanquhar, on the banks of the Crawick stream. It contains 124 inhabitants, and is in a thriving and prosperous state. The only other village in the parish is Wanlockhead, and is in the landward part. The number of the population there is 675. These are all either engaged in the lead mines, or in some way dependent upon them. It can scarcely be supposed that any would voluntarily choose to reside there at so high an elevation.

*Means of Communication, &c.*—In the town of Sanquhar, are kept two post-chaises and one car for hire. There is also established in that place a post-office. Letters are dispatched and arrive to and from Thornhill on the south, and to and from old Cumnock on the west daily. The revenue annually is about L. 160. There are two turnpikes in the parish, and the length of the roads on which they are placed is 12 miles. About 9 miles of parish roads are also in a state of good repair. On the turnpike road, there pass daily one coach from Glasgow to Carlisle, and another from Carlisle to Glasgow. There are eight bridges in the parish, or over streams at its boundaries, which are of considerable extent and in good repair. With the exception of two which are old, they have all been built within the last twelve years. One of them, which is over the Nith, is made of wood, and of a very ingenious construction,—on which horses with loaded carts pass with ease and safety. There are in the parish two carding, two corn and barley-mills. The sort of fence most common is the

Galloway stone dike, which is built wholly of dry stones, and generally from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. There are a few thorn hedges, but they are found not to suit well where sheep are grazed. Paling and wooden bars are also often used as fences. The bars are generally 6 feet long, 4 feet in height, when fastened in the ground, and being moveable are found highly useful where only a temporary fence is required. The parish is particularly favoured with the means of building stone dikes, as either sand or whinstone of good quality is found in every part of it in great abundance. The fences are generally in good repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situated at the west end of the town of Sanquhar. It is not very centrally placed for the greater part of the population. It is of elegant architecture, and was built about eight years ago, on an elevated situation, which overlooks the valley between Sanquhar and Kirkconnel. The interior is highly convenient, and affords accommodation for 1000 sitters. The free sittings are about 60. The manse and offices were built nearly at the same time with the church, are very commodious, and in good repair. The glebe extends to 19 acres, which may be valued at L. 2 per acre. The stipend is 18 chalders, one-half meal, and the other half barley. At Wanlockhead there is a chapel which accommodates 250 sitters. An ordained clergyman, in connection with the Established Church preaches and dispenses the ordinances of religion there. It has no constitution as a chapel of ease,—but is properly a preaching station for the accommodation of the miners. The stipend of the clergyman amounts on an average to L. 65 a year. Of this sum about one-third is paid by the proprietor of the mines,—and the remainder by the men who are employed in them. Every one engaged in the mines, who earns at least 1s. per day, is bound to pay 4s. yearly, to the minister stationed there. He is also provided with a dwelling-house, and a small piece of land. In the town of Sanquhar, there are two chapels in connection with the United Associate Secession church; and also one in which a few Anabaptists meet for divine worship. These three places of worship are supposed to contain about 900 sittings. A great proportion of those who sit there, probably the one-half, reside in this parish, and the other half in the surrounding parishes. The average number of communicants at the Established Church, including those who reside at Wanlockhead, is nearly 750, and of those who attend there, 1700. Divine service is generally well attended at the parish church, and in all the chapels.

The number of families in the parish attending the Established Church is 551; attending the Secession chapels and the chapel of the Anabaptists, 164.

*Societies.*—A society is established in Sanquhar for Bible, Missionary, and other religious purposes. Its annual income is about L. 30,—one-half of which is collected at church on a day previously intimated, and the other half is contributed by the members of the society.

*Education.*—The total number of schools in the parish is eight: of these, one is parochial, one is endowed, and the other six are unendowed. They are attended by about 320 scholars. Grammar, geography, book-keeping, Latin, Greek, and French are taught in several of them. The wages per quarter for each scholar vary from 2s. to 4s., according to the number of branches which are taught. The parochial teacher, by the liberality of the heritors, has much more than the legal accommodation, in regard to house-room,—having six apartments with cellars. He has also two spacious school-rooms, airy and well-lighted. His salary is the maximum, being fully L. 34; and the fees actually paid to him may amount to L. 15 per annum. He has, besides, the interest of L. 100, mortified by the late Rev David Martin, who was a native of this parish, and a clergyman in the church of England. The number of persons above fifteen who cannot read is 2. The number under fifteen who cannot write is 396, and above fifteen 350. In some parts of the parish, the children are so distant from any of the public schools, that they are prevented from attending. In these circumstances, a teacher is generally engaged by one or a few families residing near each other, and not unfrequently one or other of the parents assumes this office, when unable to make any better provision for their children.

*Libraries.*—In the town of Sanquhar, there is a subscription library, consisting of books, for the most part, of useful knowledge. It was commenced in 1800, and contains 1460 volumes. The number of members is 178. The annual payment of each is 4s. and the sum paid on admission 10s. 6d. So many have given intimation of having demitted to read for the present, probably on account of the pressure of the times—that not more than L. 26 may be considered as the amount of the whole sum paid during the year. At Wanlockhead there is also a subscription library. It was commenced in 1756. The number of members is 105, who can now number 1300 volumes, which in general are well chosen.

It was begun, and is supported almost entirely by, the miners and other inhabitants in that village, and has contributed much to promote the intelligence for which they have long been distinguished. Each member pays on admission, 5s. and annually 2s. The annual amount of the sums received is L.10, 13s. In both of these libraries, some of the most esteemed periodical publications are regularly received. The opportunities for reading thus so abundantly afforded in both divisions of the parish, have been of great service for the religious, moral, and intellectual improvement of the inhabitants.

*Savings Bank.*—A savings bank was established in the town of Sanquhar in 1819. The amount invested yearly on an average of the last three years is L.1175, 10s. 6d. The average amount yearly withdrawn for the same time is L.1158, 9s. The total amount now lodged is nearly L. 5000. Investments are generally made by servants, labourers and tradesmen.

*Poor.*—The number of persons receiving parochial aid is about 50, and the average sum allotted to each is about L. 1, except when under sickness. The annual amount of contributions for their relief, under the management of the kirk-session, is L. 70, of which sum about one-half arises from church collections, and the other half from voluntary contributions, interest of money, and dues collected by the kirk-session. The heritors have not yet been called upon to make any legal provision for the poor. Few solicit parochial relief, except from necessity. The more wealthy parishioners generally manifest a charitable disposition, which produces a reciprocal good feeling in the poor, and excites them to make exertions for supporting themselves by their own industry.

*Jail, &c.*—The jail in Sanquhar has three apartments for prisoners, and is far from being in a secure state. Debtors are sometimes confined in it for a few weeks, but such as are lodged for criminal offences are sent off as soon as convenient to the jail at Dumfries.

Four fairs are held annually at the town of Sanquhar, at regular intervals. These have been continued for a long period, but they are now merely nominal; for few persons attend, and little business is done. There are also yearly a shew of sheep, and three cattle markets, which are tolerably well attended. They have been but recently established, and promise to be of considerable utility.

*Inns, &c.*—There are in the parish twenty-one houses in which spirituous or malt liquors are sold by license, the effects of which on the morals of the people are far from being salutary. Coal

is almost the only sort of fuel which is used in the parish, except in the remote parts, where peat is easily procured, and the carriage of coal is long and difficult.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the period when the last Statistical Account was written, very considerable and important changes have taken place. Stock of all kinds, but especially sheep and cattle, have been improved. A much greater extent of land is in cultivation, and that too cultivated in a more judicious manner. Such a quantity of grain and other kinds of produce is now raised in this district of country, as to be sufficient for the supply of the inhabitants. The great distance from lime, it must however be acknowledged, is a great bar to the farther breaking up of waste land, or the successful cultivation of what has already been broken up. Manufactures have also been considerably increased during the last forty years; but are far from being yet carried to the extent to which they might be carried with advantage. The banks of the streams afford many eligible situations for impelling machinery by water. Coal and stone for building are cheap and abundant. It must be allowed, however, that the possession of the land by few proprietors is not favourable to the calling forth of a spirit of enterprise, however great may be the natural advantages. The distance from water carriage, and the thinly peopled state of the country, are also obstacles to the extensive establishment of manufactures in this parish, which do not exist in many other districts of the country.

*October 1835.*