

## PARISH OF KIRKMABRECK.

PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON,\* SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. JOHN MUIR, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE parish of Kirkmabreck is formed of the old parish of this name, and the largest portion of the old parish of Kirkdale. The name of Kirkmabreck was composed, says Chalmers, in his Caledonia, by prefixing the Saxon *Cyrc* to *Mabreck*, the previous name of the place where the kirk was built. *Mabreck*, or *Magh-breck*, is a local name, and signifies, in the Irish speech, *the variegated plain*. In fact, the plain whereon the church stood, abounds with many rocks and stones of granite, which give it a speckled appearance. For the same reason, a large plain in the vicinity of *Tarah*, in Ireland, is supposed to take the name of *Maghbreck*.†

*Symson*, however, assures us that Kirkmabreck was so called from some saint whose name was *Macbreck*, a part of whose statue in wood was, about thirty years before the time he wrote his *History of Galloway*, in an old chapel at the *Ferrytown*. Of this statue, however, there is now no trace, and no tradition; and we search the *Martyrologies* in vain for such a saint as *Macbreck* or *Mabreck*.‡

The late *Mr M'Lean of Mark*, in the old *Statistical Account* of this parish, gives a different etymology from either of the preceding. *Kirkmabreck*, says he, or more properly the church in the brake, is exceedingly descriptive of the place in which the church formerly stood. For, as brake signifies furze, brambles, thorns, heath, ferns, &c., so not only the particular place in which the church stood, but also many other places in the parish, are encumbered with those substances.

\* Kirkmabreck was at one time in Kirkcudbright Presbytery, but was transferred to Wigton in the year 1699.

† Vid. Chal. Cal.

‡ Sym. Hist. Gal.

The name of Kirkdale parish is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Cyrc-dale*—signifying *the church in the vale*.

The names, therefore, of Kirkmabreck and Kirkdale have evidently a reference to the situation or dedication of their respective churches, an account of which may not here be out of place.

The church of Kirkmabreck belonged to the monks of Dundrainan previous to the Reformation, and it was afterwards vested in the King, by an Act of General Annexation, in 1587. This church, with the other property of the monastery of Dundrainan, were granted by the King, in 1606, to John Murray, and the grant was ratified in Parliament in 1609 and 1612.\* In 1621, this church, with all its tithes and revenues, were, by Act of Parliament, disjoined from the Abbey of Dundrainan, and granted to Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar, and his heirs.† The parish of Kirkmabreck, and the adjacent parish of Kirkdale, were afterwards annexed to the parish of Anwoth; but this union was dissolved in 1636, when a new and more convenient arrangement was made, whereby a small part of Kirkdale was annexed to Anwoth, and the greater part was united to Kirkmabreck. These changes were finally ratified by Parliament in 1641, and the boundaries of the parish have continued the same ever since,—though Symson says Skairbourn was the march with Anwoth in 1684. In 1645, however, an Act of Parliament was passed for transplanting the church of Kirkmabreck, and a new church was built for the united parish of Kirkmabreck and Kirkdale, in a more accessible and convenient situation, at what was then called the Ferry Town of Cree, where there had been of old a chapel, and where there is now a prosperous village, called Creetown. The ruins of the old church of Kirkmabreck may still be seen standing in the old churchyard, in a very lonely and sequestered spot, near a farm-house of the same name. The old churchyard is still used, and contains many old and curious grave-stones, some of which are the workmanship of “Old Mortality.”

The patronage of the old parish of Kirkmabreck belonged, in 1684, to the Laird of Rusco. The patronage of the united parish of Kirkmabreck and Kirkdale now belongs to John M'Culloch, Esq. of Barholm, and the Crown.‡

\* Act. Par. IV. 326, 444, 495.

† This grant stipulated, that the grantee and his heirs should pay the minister serving the cure the same yearly stipend which Murray was obliged to pay by the previous grant, and that they should furnish the communion elements, and repair the church.

‡ Symson's Account of Galloway.

*Kirkdale.*—The old church of this parish, which was dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, stood in the valley of a small stream which falls into Wigton Bay. Chalmers in his *Caledonia* says, that even the ruins of the ancient *Cyre* have disappeared. This, however, is a mistake; the time-worn and ivy-clad ruins of this ancient place of worship still stand in the midst of the old cemetery of Kirkdale; and what was once a sanctuary for the living, has now become the sepulchre of the dead. Indeed it has long been the burying-place of the ancient family of the M'Cullochs of Barholm, and, so late as the year 1836, the remains of the most estimable and deeply-lamented lady of the present. Mr M'Culloch of Barholm were buried there. The Kirkdale churchyard is also still preserved as the burying-place of some of the oldest families in the parish. The Hannays of Kirkdale and Mochrum have here their family vault, which is handsomely and substantially built of granite. The churchyard itself is of small dimensions, and has been originally surrounded, but is now completely overshadowed with trees. It is impossible to conceive a more lonely spot. The situation is solitude itself,—remote—romantic—placed in a dreary vale, in the bosom of a wood surrounded by hills—within sight of the troubled ocean, and within hearing of the ceaseless wailings of the stream. Nothing can surpass the solemnity of the scene. In entering the churchyard, the living feel as already in communion with the dead, and behold, in the most striking manner, “How still and peaceful is the grave.”

The church of Kirkdale belonged to the King in the reign of James IV., who transferred it to the priory of Whithorn. It appears that, in July 1505, the King presented Mr Richard Aikenhead to the rectory of Kirkdale, vacant by the decease of Sir Robert Fard.\* In November 1508, Henry, the prior of *Candida Casa*, obtained a charter from James IV. of the church of Kirkdale. This charter was granted at the priory, while the King was on a pilgrimage to the ancient seat of St Ninians.† With this priory this church remained till the Reformation, when it was vested in the King by the General Act of Annexation in 1567. At the Reformation, the tithes of Kirkdale were let by the prior and canons for L.24 Scots yearly.‡ When James VI. re-established Episcopacy, he granted, in 1606, to the Bishop of

\* Priv. Seal Reg. iii. 10.

‡ MS. Rental Book, fo. 75.

† Reg. Mag. Sig. C. xv. 78.

Galloway, the priory of Whithorn with its pertinents, of which this church was one.\* But when Episcopacy was finally abolished in 1689, the patronage of Kirkdale reverted to the Crown, —and the Sovereign, as patron of this church, enjoys a moiety of the patronage of the united parish with M'Culloch of Barholm.†

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The united parish of Kirkmabreck and Kirkdale is of an irregular shape, and is about 9 miles long, and 5½ miles broad. It is bounded on the north by Minnigaff; on the east, by Girthon; on the south, by Anwoth; and on the west, by the Cree and Wigton Bay.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The general aspect of the parish is mountainous, and may be said to be formed of a succession of hills and valleys; and the ridges of mountains, which rise rapidly from the shore and intersect the parish, have a very picturesque effect, particularly from Wigtonshire. The hills are in general covered with heath, and present a variegated appearance; and the sloping banks of Kirkdale and Cassencarrie are covered for miles with beautiful copsewood, which at all times, but especially in autumn, gives a singular richness to the whole landscape.

*Mountains.*—The principal mountains in this parish are the Clints of Drumore, Craig, Pebble, Cairnharrow, Larg. These are all from 800 to 1000 feet above the level of the sea, and are principally composed of granite, greywacke, and clay-slate, and are partially covered with heath. A part of Cairnsmore is also in this parish. It is the largest as well as the highest of all the mountains in this neighbourhood, and was found by the civil-engineers employed by Government many years ago, to be 2222 feet above the level of the sea. It is wholly of granite, and partially covered with heath, and, at a little distance, it has a singularly gray and sparkling appearance. There is a plain of considerable extent upon its summit, with less heath and more soil and herbage than upon its sides. The top of Cairnsmore commands a most extensive view of many of the counties of Scotland, and of the Isle of Man, Ailsa Craig, and a part of England and Ireland.

*Surface and Soil.*—The surface upon the hills is thin and much broken by projecting rocks. The valleys, again, are green, with a better soil, and have been considerably improved by shelling, and now yield good crops of grain and pasture. The land upon

\* Act. Par. v. 72.

† Chalm. Cal. Vol. iii. 333.

the Cree, and along the shore the whole length of the parish, is in general very good. Some table-land very superior. The soil is in some places alluvial, but is in general light; and there are several fields along the shore covered entirely with shells to a considerable depth. The shells, however, are in such a state of decomposition, that the fields have been long under tillage; and in the north end of the parish, there is a considerable field of moss at Carsewalloch and Muirfad.

*Caves, Caverns, and Fissures.*—There are several of these along this coast. Some of them are very curious, especially opposite Ravens Hall. They are frequently visited by strangers, and are well worthy of inspection. They seem to have been formed by the ebbing and flowing of the tide, and are of very considerable extent. In some places the sea has forced a passage through the rocks, and at other places it has cloven them like the granitic rocks of Hillswick Ness. There is one very remarkable cave, but being of difficult access, it is seldom visited. Its mouth is like a pit of two fathoms deep, at the bottom of which the cave diverges almost at right angles, and penetrates the rocks towards the north to a considerable distance. It is said that no person has yet explored it to the end. Tradition has claimed this as the cave of Dirk Hatterick; and the supposition is strengthened by the legends of the parish, and the striking likeness of our coast scenery to the graphic delineations of Guy Mannering. An old tower, not far from this cave, is pointed out as “Ellangowan Castle,”—a curious ravine, as “Meg Merrilees’ Path,”—and a mansion on the Cree, as “Woodburn House.”\*

There is a remarkable fissure in the Knock Down of Carsluth. The hill appears to have been split by violence at some remote period. The opposite sides of the ravine are very like, and appear to fit into each other with remarkable precision.

*Coast.*—The coast is about six miles in extent, and is in general flat, sandy, and shelly. The Kirkdale shore is rocky, bold, high, and precipitous.

*Meteorology.*—Amongst the various prognostics of the weather spoken of in this parish, may be mentioned the peculiar and distant noise of the rising tide, and the flocking of sea-fowl to the

\* The author is aware that this honour has been claimed for other parts of Galloway, but, it is presumed, with less appearance of probability, especially as the Bay of Wigton is referred to in Guy Mannering itself.

shore,—the signs which Virgil so well describes.\* These are regarded by many as indications of a change of weather; and when the foam is floating plentifully upon the rising tide, or when the shadows of the trees and houses on the opposite side of the bay are reflected in the sands, these are regarded by some as never-failing signs of approaching rain; and if, at the same time, the smoke of Wigton is hanging over this town or descending towards the bay, it is affirmed that rain is at hand.

The barometer generally ranges between  $28\frac{1}{2}$  and  $30\frac{1}{2}$  inches. By the thermometer, the mean temperature for the year may be about  $47\frac{1}{2}$ .

The prevailing winds are from the south and south-west, and our severest storms of rain and snow are from the south or south-east.

*Climate.*—The climate may be considered healthy from the number of old people generally to be found in the parish. The air upon the whole is pure and dry, although for a few years the seasons have been cold and wet. The rain, even when it falls in considerable quantities, is carried off rapidly, and the lands and roads are soon left dry. The diseases most prevalent are catarrh, pleuritis, and rheumatism. From the old Statistical Account, it appears that small-pox had prevailed very much at one time in this parish, which was attributed to the prejudice of parents against vaccination. This prejudice has disappeared, although some parents still neglect to get their children vaccinated, which is a most hazardous and culpable omission. In the spring of 1836, small-pox prevailed in Creetown to a considerable extent. Six adults died who had never been vaccinated; but those who had, either escaped the disease altogether, or soon recovered from it.

*Hydrography.*—The Bay of Wigton, which forms the western boundary of the parish, may be, in some places, about six miles wide, and nine miles long. By the ebbing of the tide, it is left nearly dry, and presents a large and smooth surface of sand, intersected by the Cree and Bladenoch. By the flowing of the tide, which occasionally rises 22 feet above the level of the river, the whole bay is one beautiful and unbroken sheet of water; and in calm weather, the hills around, and the Heavens above, and the vessels upon its surface, are reflected as in a mirror.

\* "Cum medio caelares revolant ex æquore mergi,  
Clamoremque ferunt ad littora; cumque marinae  
In sicco ludunt fulicæ, notasque paludes  
Deserit, atque altam supra volat ardea nubem."  
"e pastu decedens," &c.  
"Certatim largos humeris," &c.

The current is considerable, both in the ebbing and flowing of the tide.

*Rivers.*—The Cree is the only river connected with this parish. It is said to rise out of Loch-moan, where the three counties\* meet, and for miles it forms not only the boundaries of Penninghame and Minnigaff, but also of the two counties, Wigton and Kirkcudbright, and finally falls into the Solway, after a course of about twenty-eight miles. From Newton-Stewart to Creetown, its course is singularly eccentric and serpentine,—and, as seen from Larg hill, it gives a charm to the whole landscape. It is navigable for small vessels to Carty. A poem, lately published, under the title of “The Rivers of Galloway,” has made honourable mention of the Cree.

*Springs.*—Chalybeate springs are found in many parts of the parish, especially at Muirfad, Cuil, Falbae, Pibble, Ferryburn, Blackmire, † &c. The one at Pibble is particularly powerful, and is occasionally frequented by invalids with much advantage. These waters have, perhaps, never been carefully analyzed, although the presence of iron, magnesia, and sulphur, may be easily detected.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The lower district of the parish is clay-slate or schist of a recent formation. All the different formations of clay-slate are to be found in the parish. On some of the hills the floets trap and greywacke supersede the clay-slate, and on others the gneiss formation, particularly on the south end of Cairnsmore. Traces of the whin dike are also found in different places; and the strata that form the basis of all our mountains or hills is granite or syenite. Geologists contend that granite is never stratified. Galloway granite, however, is frequently found stratified; and in this parish the stratification is most distinct. When the granite is found in beds, it is perpendicular. In a troubled state, it has considerable dip, and scarcely any appearance of stratification. In the quarry, the strata vary in thickness from six inches to five feet; ‡ and as they appear on the surface, they generally retain the same thickness below. This fact may be of great use in searching for granite of any particular dimensions; because, if the tops are bad, as the quarry-men say, it is of no use to seek for good stuff below. §

\* Ayr, Wigton, and Kirkcudbright.

† Symson says, “Near the old kirk of Kirkmabreck there is a well which, as I am informed, proceeds from *visriol*.”

‡ Some strata have lately been found in the quarry much thicker.

§ Rhind says, in his *Catechism of the Natural History of the Earth*, that granite

The alluvial deposits covering the solid rocks of granite are principally gravel and boulders, which are dispersed over the parish in great numbers.

This quarry is worthy of the inspection of geologists.

Lead has been discovered in different parts of the parish, particularly at Blair-wood, Drumore, Glen, and Mark; and fine specimens of pure galena have been found in Monnipool. A copper mine was opened lately at Craigneuk, but did not succeed. Appearances of copper are also occasionally to be found in the quarry.

*Zoology.*—There are no rare species of animals to be found at present in the parish; but, from organic remains, of a peculiar formation and great size, occasionally found in the Cree, as well as from antlers of very large dimensions, there can be no doubt that animals of different kinds formerly existed in this district, which have long ago disappeared.

In 1684, Symson says, that the farmers of Galloway did not kill any of their calves; and veal was only seen at the tables of a few gentlemen. And as their wealth consisted chiefly in cattle, they thought it very ill husbandry to sell for a *shilling* what in three years would bring them *twenty shillings*. The price of Galloway cattle has risen very much since Symson's time. In 1794, the three-year-olds sold at L.7; and, in 1807, at L.10. In 1814, two-year-olds were as high as L.10, and three-year-olds, L.14. And in 1839, prices were, in some cases, even higher. Of course, in the interval of these dates, many changes have taken place, and prices have been occasionally very low.

This parish cannot, perhaps, claim any pre-eminence in the breeding of cattle, although some of the farmers have excellent stocks of pure "Galloways." There are also some good Ayrshire cows, which have of late been increasing. At Cassencarrie, Muirfad, and Glen, there are now pretty extensive dairies, conducted upon the Ayrshire plan.

There are a few cattle in the parish of a mixed breed, consisting of crosses between the Ayrshire, Galloway, and Irish.

Mr M'Lean estimated that there would be 1600 black cattle in the parish in 1794. This number could not even now be well wintered, but many more might be grazed in summer.

The native sheep of Galloway was a small handsome white-faced "is liable to be acted upon by the atmosphere, and does not withstand the elements so well as the softer and more manageable sandstone." It is the very reverse with Galloway granite,

breed with very fine wool. It was compared by Lithgow the traveller, who walked over this country in 1628, to that of Spain. This breed has long ago disappeared. The hills are now stocked with small black-faced sheep; and Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*,\* states that it has not been ascertained whence this hardy breed came. It is the practice here to keep what is called a running stock, which is sold in regular rotation. Perhaps a well-selected ewe stock would be an improvement, with a little more attention to horns and wool. It was estimated that, in 1794, there were 7500 black-faced and 300 white-faced sheep in the parish. There are now fewer black-faced and more white-faced; of the former there may be about 7000, and of the latter 800.

The horses of Galloway are as celebrated as its sheep. They are undoubtedly the descendants of the native breed, whatever may be said of the Spanish Armada having left upon the Galloway shore some sheep and horses when the Spanish ships were wrecked. Camden, who published his *Britannia* in 1586, describes the Galloway horses by their good qualities, before the Armada was heard of. And Galloway horses were well known in Shakspeare's days, who makes Pistol exclaim when insulted by Doll, "Know we not Galloway naggs." Lithgow, who had visited many countries, says, in 1628, that Galloway abounds with little horses, which for mettle and riding may rather be termed bastard barbs. These useful horses continued to be exported from Galloway in great numbers in 1684. This admirable breed has by neglect been allowed to degenerate, and it is difficult now to find a genuine Galloway pony. It would scarcely be safe to state, that there is one of the pure breed in this parish. There are, however, some excellent draught horses, particularly at Spittal, Cuil, the Quarry, &c.; and Mr M'Culloch of Barholm has long been in the habit of breeding ponies of a small size and very handsome, which, for mettle, may be as good as those of which Lithgow wrote. The young horses bred in the parish are generally bought up by the dealers for the Glasgow market; and the demand for horses of a large size has induced the farmers to pay more attention to bulk than beauty. This is much to be regretted, because the pasture in general is not fit to rear horses of a large size; and besides, a horse of fifteen hands, of good proportions, is much more useful for all the purposes of husbandry in this part of the country. In 1794 it was estimated there were

\* Chalm. Cal. Vol. iii. 289.

200 horses in the parish. There may now be 300, all ages included.

Swine undoubtedly once ran wild in the woodlands of Galloway, and many were reared in this district during the middle ages. Of this there are many intimations in the charters of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Swine were even paid as *can* to the King from Galloway.\* This practice has of course been long ago abolished, but Galloway still maintains its reputation for breeding swine. In this parish there are a great many reared for the Newton-Stewart, Castle-Douglas, and Dumfries markets. Some of the old residents still retain the wild breed, but in general those of a larger size are reared. Those from twelve to eighteen stone are found to take the market best, and will bring at present 5s. per stone of 14 pounds.

In the old Statistical Account it is estimated that there were, in 1794, 500 goats in the parish. There is now not half that number, although there are still a few upon Drumore, Larg, &c.; and in Creetown a few families keep them for the sake of their milk, which is both wholesome and nutritious.

*Ichthyology.*—The prejudices of the Celtic people did not allow them to apply to the waters for their subsistence from fishery, and neither in Ireland nor in Galloway have the inhabitants ever profited as much as they might have done, from the fish which abound upon their shores and in their rivers. Yet Camden speaks at the beginning of the seventeenth century, as if the Galloway men practised the art of catching fish in the sea, as well as in the lakes and rivulets, and he specifies the incredible number of eels which they took in their creels.† Yet, says Chalmers, no professed fishers have ever settled along the shores of the Solway. The fishing of the Stewartry in the sea has been carried on hitherto in a desultory manner. There is now a considerable change for the better in this respect. Deep sea fishing is practised upon our shores, and it is hoped that the success which has attended the experiments which have been recently made at Kirkdale, &c. will stimulate both proprietors and tacksmen to still greater exertion to procure for the use of man a much larger share of the treasures of the deep.

There is a great variety of fish in the Bay of Wigton and in the Cree. The following is a list of those known to and found by the fishermen, viz. salmon, sea trout, herling, cod, herring, spur-

\* Chalmers's Caledonia.

† Brit. Ed. 1607, page 692.

lings, soles, flounders, (plaice and dab,) gray and red gurnard, turbot, mackerel, sturgeon, chad, blockan brain, John Dorey, skate, conger, sea devil, jackalator or ink fish, lamprey eel, silver or horn eel, whiting, mullet, porpoises, hen or lump fish, shrimps, lobsters, crabs, oysters, mussels, cockles, periwinkles, sprats, limpets. There was even a young whale killed opposite Sutor Croft with an axe, about thirty years ago.

The fresh water fish are trout, par, and eel. Some of the fish mentioned in this list are scarce in the bay; fortunately, however, those most useful are in greatest abundance; such as salmon, sea trout, spurling, flounders, &c. These abound in the bay and in the Cree, and are caught in great quantities in their proper seasons; and a great proportion of the salmon and spurling are sent to Carlisle, Liverpool, and Manchester. The spurling is so highly prized in Liverpool and Manchester that the fishermen now receive 1s. per pound for all they can send, instead of 4d., the price formerly obtained in this district. This must now be a considerable source of gain to the fishermen, as spurlings can be obtained almost at any season of the year, although they are in general most abundant in March. The salmon fishing season opens here on the 1st January and closes on the 25th September.

*Conchology.*—There is a great abundance, and a considerable variety of shells upon the coast. Upon the beach from Creetown to Carsluth, there is an immense number of univalves and bivalves. From Carsluth to Ravenshall there is found among the rugged rocks another description of shells, principally of the class univalves, but of different orders and families. What is perhaps of greater practical importance to notice under this head, is the vast quantities of shells that have been found upon the shore and neighbouring fields. The holms of Cassencarrie, the low lands of the glebe, and Kirkbride and Kirkdale, were at one time covered with shells from four to ten feet deep; and as these must have been thrown out and left by the tide, it is evident that the tide must at one time have risen at least fifteen feet higher upon this coast than it has done for many years.

The old Statistical Account takes particular notice of these shell banks for agricultural purposes, in the following terms: The principal manure used for improving land is sea-shells, of which there is an almost inexhaustible quantity, not only within the high water mark on this side of Wigton Bay, but also in the dry land, several hundred yards from the shore, particularly in the holms of

Cassencarrie, where they are in beds from four to ten feet of the finest shells imaginable, without almost any mixture of sand. These shells are generally sold by the agents of Mr M'Kenzie at 5d. per ton, 25 tons of which are sufficient for an acre of land, and prove a cheap and excellent manure to this part of the country, and are considered much preferable to either lime or marl. But the advantages of this valuable treasure of shells is not confined to this part of the country alone, but extends round fifty or sixty miles of a coast as far as the Mull of Galloway, where they are sold as high as 3s. 6d. per ton. Many thousand tons of these shells are carried off annually by a number of vessels from twenty to sixty tons burthen, which are constantly employed, when the weather will permit, in carrying them all round the coast, and sometimes even to the Isle of Man. These shells have been used with great advantage for the improvement of barren heathy land, in so much that many hundreds of acres in this parish originally not worth more than 2s. per acre, have been made worth from 10s. to 15s. per acre.

These shell-banks, deemed at one time inexhaustible, have been greatly reduced. There is still a considerable quantity remaining, which might be profitably employed in reclaiming the waste land of the parish. The farmers do not seem to appreciate this treasure sufficiently, as shells are now but seldom used as a manure.

*Botany.*—In this parish, there is much to interest the botanist. Plants, indigenous to some of the highest mountains in Scotland, to some of the richest glens, and also to the sea coast, are to be found in considerable abundance. The maritime plants are principally found on the south coast, and are such as the following:—*Scilla verna* (two or three var.), *Aster Tripolium*, *Senecio saracenicus*, *Inula erithmoides*, *Iris Pseud-Acorus*, *Botrychium Lunaria* (very rare).

Those found in sheltered glens or well-cultivated districts are, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Galanthus nivalis* (in greatest abundance), *Ornithogalum luteum*, *Convallaria majalis*, *C. multiflora*.

There is a high and steep bank, stretching from the village of Creetown, a considerable way beyond the manse, literally studded with plants of this description. In the month of April, this bank is covered with one dense sheet of white, consisting of *Anemone nemorosa* and *Oxalis Acetosella*, which give way to all the beautiful varieties of *Hyacinthus non-scriptus*. At the bottom of this bank, there is a very considerable number of the family *Orchideæ*,

such as *Orchis maculata*, *O. latifolia*, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, *Habenaria bifolia*, *H. viridis*.

The alpine plants, which are by far the most numerous, embrace several species of the genera *Sedum* and *Saxifraga*, particularly *Saxifraga oppositifolia*; all the native heaths—*Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica Tetralix*, *E. ciliaris*, as well as *Vaccinium Oxyccocos*.

There is a very great variety of the class Cryptogamia, mosses, lichens, and particularly ferns, growing in richest luxuriance on the mountainous districts of this parish, and some even of the rarer kinds. Behind the manse there are beautiful specimens of *Polypodium vulgare*, *P. Phegopteris*, *Scolopendrium vulgare*. And on the old church, and wall round the old church, there are, *Asplenium Ruta-muraria*, *A. Adiantum-nigrum*.

*Forests or Plantations.*—There are considerable forests of natural wood in this parish, especially upon the banks of Kirkdale and Cassencarrie. These forests extend for several miles, and are principally composed of oak and ash, and are cut down at the end of every twenty-five or thirty years. At Cassencarrie there is a row of fine old sycamores; and, at the south end of the house, there is a cedar of Lebanon of a large size. There are a few fine old oak trees at Kirkbride; but these, although of a large size, are small when compared with some that have been found in the Cree. Mr M'Culloch of Barholm raised one from the bed of the river, a few years ago, which measured about 5 feet in diameter, and about 50 feet in length, and which he sold to Mr Younghusband of Whitehaven, for ship-building, at L.25. It is supposed that there are some even larger than this in the river; but, from the difficulty of raising them, they have hitherto been left undisturbed. At what period these immense trees had grown, or when they were swept into the river, cannot now be known. It must have been, however, at some very remote period. And it is difficult to account for their size, seeing there is now nothing approaching their dimensions growing in the neighbourhood.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—There are twelve heritors or proprietors of land in the parish. The principal are, Miss Hannay of Mochrum and Kirkdale; John M'Culloch, Esq. of Barholm; Sir John W. P. Muir M'Kenzie, Bart. of Delvine; Colonel M'Dowal of Logan; David Anderson, Esq. of St Germain's; Thomas Hughan, Esq. of Airds; Henry M'Culloch, Esq. of Glenquicken,

&c.; Sir David Maxwell, Bart. of Cardoness; James M. M'Culloch, Esq. of Ardwell.

*Valuation.*—The ancient valuation of the parish, as it stands in the cess-books of the county, is L.3199, 10s. 8d. Scots. Present valuation of the parish, L.3212, 10s. Sterling.

The following list shows the valuation of each property, and the names of the respective proprietors:—

Property.	Valuation.	Proprietors.
Kirkdale,	L.937 10 0	Miss Hannay.
Barholm,	547 1 1	John M'Culloch, Esq.
Cassencarrie,	411 18 7	Sir J. W. P. M. M'Kenzie, Bart
Glenquicken,	320 0 0	Henry M'Culloch, Esq.
Glens and Mark,	270 0 0	D. Anderson, Esq. St Germain's.
Carsewalloch, Blairs, and Muirfad,	230 0 0	Colonel M'Dowal of Logan.
Falbs, Kilchronchie, and Kirkbride,	203 12 2	Thomas Hughan, Esq. of Airds.
Pibble and Craigneuk,*	100 0 0	Trustees of Mark.
Drumore and Little Cullendoch,	82 0 0	Sir David Maxwell, Bart.
Cairnholy,	75 0 0	Js. M'Culloch, Esq. of Ardwell.
Holm Park,	20 8 2	Miss Kinnon.
Garrochar,	15 0 0	Mrs Major Campbell.
	<hr/> L.3212 10 0	

*Stipend payable by the Heritors of Kirkmabreck.*—1. Barholm pays in money, L.3, 11s. 10½d. yearly; in meal, 25 bolls, 2 stones, and 4⅞ lbs.; in barley, 18 quarters, 3 bushels.

2. Cassencarrie pays in money, L.1, 9s. 11½d. yearly; in meal, 21 bolls, 2 stones, 5⅞ lbs.; in barley, 15 quarters, 3 bushels, 2 pecks, 1 gallon, 3¼ quarts.

3. Glens, in meal, 13 bolls, 2 stones, 12⅞ lbs.; in barley, 9 quarters, 5 bushels, 1 peck, 1 gallon, ¾ quart. Mark pays in money, 16s. 8d.

4. Kirkbride pays in money, L.23, 2s. 11d. yearly. Falbs and Kilchronie, in meal, 9 bolls, 5⅞ lbs.; in barley, 6 quarters, 4 bushels, 2 pecks, 1 gallon, ¼ quart.

5. Pibble pays in money, L.2, 10s. yearly. Craigneuk, in meal, 1 boll, 7 stones, 10⅞ lbs.; in barley, 1 quarter, 2 bushels, 1 peck, 3¼ quarts.

6. Carsewalloch, Blairs, and Muirfad pay in money, L.1, 9s. 4½d. yearly; in meal, 8 bolls, 3⅞ lbs.; in barley, 5 quarters, 6 bushels, 2 pecks, 1 gallon, 3½ quarts.

7. Kirkdale pays in money, L.26, 1s. 7½d. yearly; in meal, 1 boll, 8 stones; in barley, 1 quarter, 2 bushels, 6 pecks, 1 gallon, 3½ quarts.

8. Holm Park pays in meal, 2 bolls, 8 stones, 6⅞ lbs.; in barley, 2 quarters, 2 pecks, 2 quarts.

\* Craigneuk has lately been sold, consequently there will now be 13 heritors.

9. Glenquicken pays in money, L.24, 13s. yearly.
10. Garrochar pays in money, L.14 yearly.
11. Ardwell pays in money, L.2, 4s. 5½d. yearly.
12. Drumore, &c. pays in money, L.4, 7s. 7½d. yearly.

In 1794, the real rental of the parish was estimated at L.2750 Sterling. The present rental may be estimated at about L.5450.

*Parochial Registers.*—There are three volumes of parish registers. The first volume embraces the time that elapsed between 1703 and 1792. From 1703 to 1739, they have been kept with great regularity; from 1740 to 1756, no entry whatever; 1756 to 1792, kept imperfectly. Some of the intermediate years have no entry, others only one; but towards the middle, and onwards to about the end of the above period, they were kept with great regularity. These records are almost solely confined to sessional matters, consisting of dry but succinct details, with little that is interesting to relieve the outline. The following, however, may be cited as a fine instance of the attachment which existed to our national church at the time the circumstance alluded to took place, and which, as the spirit that prompted the gift is now unfortunately somewhat antiquated, we present in its antiquated dress.

“Kirk-session of Kirkmabreck, holden within the church yrof upon the 29th of July 1707, be the minister and eldership then present. The whilk day, William Muir in Peble, hath delivered to Mr Samuel Brown, minister and eldership forsd under-subst., ane silver cup with this inscriptions yron, (Gifted to the parish of Kilmabreck, by William Muir in Peble, and Janet M'Bryd, his spous, 1707.) And yt for the use of sd church during Presbetry, as now by law established, and no longer. And the said William Muir heirby appointing the sd Mr Samuell, gif, in his time or any other, his successors in the sd church, being Presbiterians, with consent of the eldership that may happen to be for the tyme, that in case of any revolutione and alteratione of the present church government, (which God forbid,) to secure the sd cup, and preserve the same till the government return Presbiterian again. And this the sd William Muir desires to be recorded in the session books of the said church, ad futuram rei memoriam; and yt the forsd gift may not be made use of or disposed upon oyrwayes then is above appointed and designed by the gifters. Whilke gift the minister and elders have accepted in the terms gifted, and grants the desire of the gifter. And in testimony of the hail premises, the said William Muir, minister and elders, have all subscribed thir presents.”

The second volume of the parish register commenced with May 1823, and is carried on with great regularity till May 1834,—though in one instance it is rather mutilated.

The third volume begins June 1834, and is carried on to the present date with great regularity.

*Eminent Characters.*—The history of this parish is rendered more interesting by being connected with the names of a few eminent men, both in ancient and modern times. Gilbert Brown, the last abbot of Sweatheart, was descended of the ancient family of Carsluth, in this parish, now extinct.\* He had a seat in that Parliament by which the Confession of Faith was passed.† The celebrity of Gilbert Brown originated in the controversy between him and the famous John Welsh of Ayr, on the subject of Popery. A communication from Welsh, to a person of the Catholic religion, the object of which was to undermine the principles of that faith, having fallen into the hands of Brown, he immediately composed what he regarded as a refutation of it, addressed to Welsh. Welsh was not tardy in making a reply, which, while it is extremely satisfactory and conclusive, forms one of the most learned and elaborate works written in that age. Nor was Brown without his share of talent; and his erudite treatise, (if a few pages can deserve that name,) is as superior to the works of any of his Catholic brethren of that period, as it is inferior in every useful quality to the elaborate production of Welsh. Welsh wished for a verbal and public disputation on the points at issue, but this Brown, for his own good name, had the caution and prudence to decline.

Brown, a rigid and inflexible Catholic, was, says Dr M'Crie, "a busy trafficker for Rome and Spain, and a chief instrument of keeping the south of Scotland under ignorance and superstition."‡ Accordingly the Commissioners of the Assembly, in a list of grievances, which, in 1596, they submitted to the King, stated among other things, "that Jesuits and excommunicated Papists were entertained within the country." Gilbert Brown of New Abbey was specially mentioned, and recommended to be apprehended, and brought before his Majesty for his errors. This recommendation, however, was not attended with immediate success; but, nine years afterwards, he was apprehended by Lord Cranstoun,

\* This ancient family became extinct about 100 years ago. Over the armorial bearings above the door of Carsluth, 1364 appears, probably to mark the antiquity of the family,—and under them 1581 stands, probably to mark the age of the building.

† Keith's Cal. 260.

‡ M'Crie's Life of Melville.

captain of the guard appointed for the Borders,—though not without some difficulty, as the people attempted to rescue him out of his hands.\* He was first confined in Blackness, and thence, in a few days, conveyed to the castle of Edinburgh. More kindness was shown by the King to him than to his amiable and ingenious opponent; for after having been liberally entertained, while in confinement, at the public expense, he was permitted to leave the kingdom; all the apparatus and insignia of Popery belonging to him having been carefully restored before his departure. He died in France in 1612.†

This parish also contained, in the days of persecution, some who were counted worthy and were found willing to suffer for Christ's sake. Of these, the names of Major M'Culloch of Barholm, and the Rev. Patrick Peacock of Kirkmabreck, ought to be held in grateful remembrance. Major M'Culloch, who had been fined L.800 by Middleton's Parliament in 1662, for his non-conformity, suffered martyrdom at Edinburgh on the 7th of December 1666, for being present at the battle of Pentland, where he was taken prisoner; and the Privy Council ordained his head and right hand to be cut off; the former to be stuck up on the market-cross of Kirkcudbright,—the latter, on that of Ayr or Lanark, because it was there the Covenant was renewed with uplifted hands. Major M'Culloch suffered much before the insurrection. Soldiers were quartered on him thirty days at a time, which he had not only to keep, but to pay; and, after his execution, his son was seized and imprisoned for a whole year. The Barholm estate was forfeited, and continued under forfeiture till the Revolution. In the same year, (1666,) "some few families" in Kirkmabreck were fined in the aggregate sum of L.563, 6s. Scots. Mr Peacock, minister of the parish, was ejected, along with nearly a third of the Presbyterian ministers, from his living, in 1662. He was afterwards ordered to be confined within the parish of Ochiltree in Ayrshire. He subsequently took refuge in the north of Ireland, but returned to Kirkmabreck at the Revolution in 1689, and continued minister of the parish till his death in 1691.‡

The famous Samuel Rutherford officiated frequently in this parish during his incumbency at Anwoth. He was settled in Anwoth in 1627. Till this date, Anwoth, Kirkdale, and Kirkmabreck had been as one parish. Indeed, if the authorities I have

\* Calderwood's Hist. App. 320-496.

† Dr Murray's Literary History of Galloway, 30.

‡ Wodrow, i. 327, ii. 10, 39, 48.

consulted, and which I have already quoted, be correct, this union was not dissolved till 1636, and not ratified by Parliament till 1641. In this case, Anwoth could only have been a separate parish *quoad sacra*, during Rutherford's incumbency,—and must still have been a part of Kirkdale and Kirkmabreck *quoad civilia*. The Rev. William Dalgleish was minister of the united parish of Kirkmabreck, Kirkdale, and Anwoth, till the appointment of Rutherford to Anwoth;—afterwards he continued minister of Kirkmabreck and Kirkdale till 1635, when he was deprived of his living by the bishop of the diocese. In 1637, he ventured to return to his flock, as Episcopacy began in that year to totter; and in 1638, he was a member of the famous General Assembly of Glasgow, as minister of Kirkmabreck. In 1639, he was translated to Cramond, near Edinburgh; but was deposed for non-conformity in 1662. He continued, under all circumstances, the friend and correspondent of Rutherford.\* In November 1686, Renwick received in this parish the famous protestation of Machutchison and others. And it is a singular fact, which I state on the authority of the present Mr M'Culloch of Barholm, that John Knox had his hiding-place in the old tower of Barholm for some time previous to his escape to the continent. This circumstance Mr M'Culloch learned from an old man of the name of Andrew Hughan, who was running footman to Mr M'Culloch's great great grandfather, and who said that he recollected John Knox's signature on the wall of the small arched apartment or bed-room at the head of the staircase.

This parish has also the honour of being the birth-place and burial-place of Dr Thomas Brown, Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh. This distinguished individual was born in the old part of the present manse on the 9th January 1778. His father and grandfather were ministers of this parish. His grandfather was proprietor of Barharrow, and was married to a daughter of Murdoch of Cumlodan, a family that had been in possession of that estate from the time of Robert Bruce. His father was married to a daughter of John Smith, Esq. of the Customs, Wigtown; and his grandmother, Mrs Smith, was a daughter of a younger son of M'Dowal of Logan and of Miss Hamilton of Dalziel. †

Dr Brown was the youngest of thirteen children. His father

\* Dr Murray's *Life of Samuel Rutherford*, p. 84.

† Dr Murray's *Literary History of Galloway*.

died about eighteen months after he was born; but his mother survived her husband nearly forty years, and had the happiness of seeing her son attain to honour and favour. She did not leave the manse till about a year after her widowhood, when she removed with her family to Edinburgh, where she continued to reside. Thomas here remained for some years under the charge of his widowed mother, a person of great worth. By her he was taught the elements of learning at a singularly early age, acquiring the whole alphabet, it is said, at one lesson, and every thing else to which his attention was directed with the same amazing facility. When between four and five years of age, he was able to read the Scriptures, and also, it would appear, partly to understand them. One day at that period of his life, he was found sitting on the floor of his mother's parlour, with a large family Bible on his knee, which he was dividing into different parts with his hand. Being asked jocularly if he intended to preach, and was now choosing a text, he said, "No, I am only wishing to see what the Evangelists differ in, for they do not all give the same account of Christ." From the kindly tutelage of his mother he was removed in the seventh year of his age, and placed by his maternal uncle, Captain Smith, in a school at Camberwell, from which, in a short time, he was transferred to one at Cheswick, where he continued for some years. In these and two other academies he spent the years between seven and fourteen, and acquired an elegant classical education. In 1792, he returned to his maternal roof at Edinburgh, and commenced a course of attendance at the university. At this early period of his life he was deeply read in the English classics, and had even collected a considerable library, which unfortunately was lost at sea in its passage from England to Scotland. At the university he was a most distinguished student, especially in ethics. Dr Welsh, the accomplished biographer of Dr Brown, informs us, that the varied and profound acquirements of this extraordinary young man soon attracted to him the attention and friendship of many other personages distinguished by academic rank and literary reputation, especially Professors Robison, Playfair, and Black, and Messrs Horner, Leyden, Reddie, and Erskine. Ere he had completed his twentieth year, he wrote "Observations upon Dr Darwin's Zoonomia," which obtained for him the highest praise. Dr Welsh justly characterizes it as one of the most remarkable exemplifications of premature intellect which has ever been exhibited, and

as containing the germs of all his philosophy. Dr Brown obtained his degree of M. D. in 1803, on which occasion he was honoured with the highest encomiums of Dr Gregory. In the winter of 1808-9, he taught the moral philosophy class for Professor Stewart with wonderful success,—not only the students, but distinguished members of the bench, of the bar, and of the pulpit, were daily present to witness the powers of this rising philosopher. In 1810, he was appointed Professor Stewart's colleague in the chair of moral philosophy, which he filled with the highest honour to himself. In 1814, he published a poem entitled "The Paradise of Coquettes." In 1815, he published another, under the title of the "Wanderer in Norway." In 1816, the "War Fiend." In 1818, he published a poetical tale, entitled "Agnes." In 1819, "Emily." But his reputation in this walk of literature was not equal to his fame as a philosopher. In 1819, his health, which was never very good, became so precarious, and the symptoms of his disease so alarming, that, early in the session of 1819-20, he was obliged to appoint a substitute to deliver his lectures. At the recommendation of his physicians, he took a voyage to London, and established himself at Brompton. Here he gradually grew weaker until the 2d of April 1820, when he gently breathed his last. His remains were put into a leaden coffin, and, according to his own wish, were laid beside those of his father and mother in the churchyard of Kirkmabreck.\*

Dr Brown's Lectures on Moral Philosophy were published after his death in four volumes, 8vo, and have deservedly obtained the highest reputation.† An admirable account of his life and writings has been published in one volume, 8vo, by the Rev. Dr Welsh, Professor of Church History in the University of Edinburgh. The biography of Dr Brown also holds a prominent place in the able and elaborate work of Dr Murray on the Literary History of Galloway. It has also found a place in Chambers's Scottish Biography. Dr Chalmers has also done homage to the transcendent genius of Dr Brown in his Bridgewater Treatise; and Sir James Mackintosh, in his masterly Dissertation on the History of Metaphysical Science, pays honour both to the head and heart of Dr Brown. "His mind," says he, "soared and roamed

\* "One of the most romantic and secluded spots that can possibly be imagined, and, so far as I know, without a parallel in this country."—*Dr Murray.*

† The character of Dr Brown was given in "The Christian Instructor," a few months after his death, in the most complimentary terms.

through every region of philosophy and poetry, but his untravelled heart clung to the hearth of his fathers."

Dr Brown, as I have already stated, was born in the manse and buried in the churchyard of Kirkmabreck, "in the tomb of his fathers." A handsome granite pillar has been erected over his grave, by his only surviving sister. A public monument has long been talked of.\* A number of subscriptions have already been obtained; and it is hoped that the day is at hand when justice shall be done to the memory of one whose fame is as wide as the range of metaphysical science; and having thus erected a *monument to his country*, it is not too much to expect that his country should now erect a *monument to him*.

Samuel Douglas, the founder of "the Douglas Academy" at Newton-Stewart, was born in this parish. Mr Douglas bequeathed about L.17,000, to build and endow this academy, for the benefit of Kirkmabreck and Newton-Stewart, and appointed the minister of Penninghame and his three senior elders, and the minister of Kirkmabreck and his three senior elders, as trustees over the institution in all time to come.

Several individuals who have risen to affluence and honour in the walks of commerce were also born in this parish. Amongst these the names of the late Mr Hughan of Airds, and Mr Kerr of Argrennan, may be mentioned.

*Antiquities.*—There are a number of circles of large standing-stones in this parish, such as those supposed by some to be the remains of Druidic temples, by others, courts of justice, and by not a few, the rude memorials of a battle-field, intended to mark the spot where the slain had fallen and been buried. There is another conjecture concerning some of them, which, although less romantic, and less interesting to the antiquarian, may also be given. In this as well as in many parishes of Galloway, there were, in olden times, almost no fences. Sheep and cattle were on this account more liable to stray from their own pasture. It was common, therefore, to have enclosures or *ponds*, into which strayed cattle were put or *ponded*, till their owners found it convenient to send for them. These enclosures were generally of stone, and contained plenty of water for the use of the cattle when shut up. As fences became more abundant, these ponds became less necessary, and gradually fell into disuse; the ruins of which are still to be found in this as well as in many other parishes of Scotland. These ruins are sometimes so far obliterated, as to render it diffi-

\* To be erected upon the glebe.

cult to trace their outline, or to tell what purpose they had once served.

At Claens Mid-Spittal there are several traces of some ancient building, most probably an hospital,—Spittal being an abridgement of this name. Mr Burnie, a few years ago, in his farming operations near Claens, got the remains of some old windows, with leaden frames, with scarcely two panes of the same size, and a quantity of human bones. It appears also, from the ruins of an old dike, as if a few acres of land had at one time been enclosed here. These things strengthen the supposition, that, at some early period, an hospital had been erected here, and that the dead had been buried within this enclosure.

In Cambret Moor, in the days of Symson, there was a stone of four or five feet in diameter, called "the Penny Stone," under which money was supposed to have been concealed. This stone had upon it the resemblance of that draught which is commonly called the walls of Troy. It is to be feared some avaricious person has destroyed this stone, in the hope of finding the hidden treasure, because it is not now to be found.

In the south-east district of the parish, there was anciently a chapel, dedicated to Saint Briget, and named Kilbride. It stood near the shore of Wigtown Bay, not far from the farm of Carsluth, where a hamlet still bears the name of Kirkbride. Of this chapel, like the statue formerly referred to, there is now no trace, and no tradition.

About the year 1809 Mr M'Lean of Mark, while improving a field in the moor of Glenquicken in Kirkmabreck parish, found it necessary to remove a large cairn, which is said by tradition to have been the tomb of a king of Scotland, who is not in the genuine series, Aldus M'Galdus, M'Gillus, or M'Gill. When the cairn had been removed the workmen came to a stone coffin, of very rude workmanship; and, on removing the lid, they found the skeleton of a man of uncommon size. The bones were in such a state of decomposition, that the ribs and vertebræ crumbled into dust on attempting to lift them. The remaining bones being more compact, were taken out, when it was discovered that one of the arms had been almost separated from the shoulder by the stroke of a stone axe, and that a fragment of the axe still remained in the bone. The axe had been of green stone, a species of stone never found in this part of Scotland. There was also found with this skeleton a ball of flint about three inches in diameter, which was perfectly round, and highly-polished, and the head of an ar-

row, that was also of flint, but not a particle of any metallic substance was found. \*

About the year 1778, in removing a quantity of stones for building dikes from a large tumulus in Glenquicken Moor, there was found a stone coffin, containing a human skeleton, which was greatly above the ordinary size. There was also found in this sepulchral monument an urn containing ashes, and an earthen pitcher. The urn seems to evince the antiquity of this tumulus, when the British practised funeral cremation. This tumulus is called Cairnywanie. † Thus we have an account of two skeletons of very large size, found in Glenquicken Moor at different times. These facts seem to confirm the tradition that a battle had taken place here at some very remote period. History informs us of a battle having been fought on the river Cree, about the year A. D. 310, wherein the Picts joined the Romans under Maximus their general, against the Scots under their King Eugenius, but wherein the Scots were overthrown. ‡ Whether this conflict took place on Glenquicken Moor or not, it seems difficult to determine.

But the most memorable place of antiquity in the parish is called Cairnholy. The tumulus of this name, when opened up many years ago, § was found to contain a large kistvaen of flat stones. The upper stone is so large, that curiosity has not yet removed it, to discover the contents below. On each side of this tomb, at the distance of 100 yards, there are the marks of many graves, and at most of these were placed rude stones of memorial, in the upright manner of the common grave-stones. It is to be regretted that some of these have been removed, and that others are in a state of dilapidation. The history of this holy cairn is involved in much obscurity. King Galdus, who is supposed to have given his own name to Galloway, is said to be here inhumed. This is no doubt the fabulous Corbredus Galdus of Boece and Buchanan, who, according to their fictions, opposed Agricola in arms. Admitting, however, the existence of King Galdus, and that he was slain in battle in Galloway, it is not probable that he was buried at Cairnholy. It is more probable that he was buried in Torhouse Moor, in the parish of Wigtown, where there is a monument of three large whinstones, called King Galdus's Tomb. This opinion has obtained the sanction of the celebrated antiquarian, Sir Robert

\* Captain Denniston's Letter to Mr Train of Newton-Stewart, dated 22d October 1819.

† Cairnywanie, which signifies a green field.

‡ Statistical Account, p. 551, Vol. xv.

§ About 160 years ago;—Symson's Description of Galloway.

Sibbald, and of Timothy Pont.\* Although Buchanan says that King Galdus died a natural death after a glorious reign of thirty-five years.

There is another account given of this cairn which we submit. About the year 1150, three years before the demise of David I., it is said there was a battle fought on Glenquicken Moor, between the English and Scots, wherein the Scots were defeated and their general killed,—when the Bishop of Whithorn assumed the command; but his troops being defeated, immediately fled towards the shore to their boats, and being overtaken by the enemy at Cairnholy, the bishop, and many of his men, were slain and buried. From this circumstance, it was called the Holy Cairn. This supposition is apparently strengthened from the fact, that there is a little rivulet or burn, that runs through the place where the battle is said to have been fought, that still retains the name of the Englishman's burn.† Chalmers, however, in his *Caledonia*, says, that there was no such battle fought between the Scots and English on Glenquicken Moor in 1150. Thus we are compelled to leave the history of Cairnholy in the same state of mystery in which we found it.

*Mansion-Houses.*—The principal mansion-houses in the parish are, Kirkdale House, Barholm House, Hill House, and Cassen-carrie.

Kirkdale House, the seat of Miss Hannay, is a magnificent building of the Grecian order of architecture, from the design of Mr Adam. It is wholly built of beautiful polished granite of exquisite workmanship; and, until the late repairs upon the princely mansion of Mr Murray of Cally, M. P., it was without a rival in Galloway. It is stated in the old Statistical Account that the Bishop of Derry, on seeing the house of the late Sir S. Hannay, was so much charmed with the stone, that he immediately contracted with the superintendent of that work for the building of the spires of two churches in his diocese, which were all to be executed with this stone. The situation is even worthy of the building. The scenery around is of the finest description, combining the charms of the lovely, the picturesque, and the romantic. Altogether the house and views of Kirkdale ought to hold a high place among the beauties of Scotland. The views from Kirkdale House are singularly striking and beautiful in moonlight.

Barholm House, the seat of John M'Culloch, Esq. is a hand-

\* See his *Galloway Topographical*. † *Stat. Account*, Vol. xv. p. 552.

some building. The design is chaste, and the approaches are laid off with much taste.

Hill House, the property of Thomas Hughan, Esq. of Airds, is a very substantial building. The front of the house is of polished granite.

Cassencarrie is an old building, and contains an old tower within its walls.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish has increased slowly but gradually for many years. In Dr Webster's list in 1755 the numbers were rated at 858. In the year 1764 the whole population amounted to only 680; of which the Ferry-Town of Cree, (now Creetown,) contained 104. The landward part of the parish has altered very little in point of population since that period. The principal increase has been in Creetown, and the following table will show the increase at different times:—

	Fami- lies.	Un. 10 yrs.	Ab. 10 yrs.	Tot.	Bir.	Mar.	Deaths.	Creetown & parish.
In 1764 Creetown contained	34	20	84	104	4	0	1	680
1774, Do. Do.	120	73	294	367	11	2	3	913
1784, Do. Do.	145	88	354	442	15	3	6	992
1794, Do. Do.	183	142	409	551	19	6	23*	1088
In 1794 the whole parish contained	289	249	839	1088	38	9	27	1187
1804, Do. Do.								1256
1821, Do. Do.								1519
1831, Do. Do.								1779
1840, Do. Do.								2036

The population of this parish in 1841, according to the Government census, was 1854; number of inhabited houses, 404; number of distinct families, 407; number of widows, 76; number of widowers, 20.

In 1840, number of families in the parish,	397
Do. chiefly employed in agriculture,	78
trade, manufactures, and handicraft,	115
Population in Creetown,	1226
the country,	810
Belonging to the Church,	1694
Dissenters, including Roman Catholics, &c.,	342
Yearly average of marriages for the last seven years,	15½
births,	51

No regular record of burials.

Table, showing the population of the whole parish in 1840 at different ages.

Age.	No.
Under 6.	327
12,	650
15,	789
20,	976
30,	1266
40,	1474

\* Of the 23 children that died in Creetown in 1794, 12 died of small-pox.

Age.	No.
Under 50, .	1680
60, .	1807
70, .	1999
80, .	1996
90, .	2036 Total.

The population has increased considerably since 1831, in consequence of the Liverpool Dock Company having opened a very large granite quarry in this parish, at which they have from 60 to 450 men occasionally employed. From this statement it must appear that the population has been very fluctuating since the commencement of the quarry. In 1834, when the greatest number of workmen was employed, the population was as high as 2300.

*Character, &c. of the People.*—In general the people of this parish are industrious, intelligent, and sober. Many of them very correct in their morals and sound in their religious principles. The inhabitants are healthy and peaceable, and, as a proof of their sobriety, it may be mentioned that there is a Tee Total Society in Creetown with upwards of 300 members.

Poaching and smuggling were at one time but too common. The former is now little followed, and the latter is entirely unknown.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture.*—

Number of acres imperial that have been cultivated, about	5300
of meadow, about	900

Land that has never been cultivated, quantity unknown.

These quantities are partly conjectural, the whole parish never having been accurately measured, so far as I know. With regard to the number of acres that might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, there may be a considerable difference of opinion. But I have no doubt, by the use of bone-dust upon the steep and dry land, and the introduction of tile-draining into the mossy and wet land, 1000 acres might be reclaimed with advantage. The practice of the Duke of Portland, in draining the land for his tenants, and charging them a certain percentage upon the money expended, would prodigiously improve the appearance and fertility of Galloway, and it would be good for the tenants in this parish if the practice of the Earl of Selkirk, in giving lime, were followed by our landlords.

There is no land in this parish in a state of undivided common. There are about 1000 acres under wood, two-thirds of which may be natural, and one-third planted. Oak, ash, hazel, alder, and thorn, are indigenous; and the trees that have been planted are in general a few of the most common varieties of the fir and oak, beech, sycamore, chestnut, and elm.

The woods are in general judiciously managed; thinning, pruning, and felling being all attended to in their proper seasons, and conducted according to the most approved methods.

*Rent.*—The average rent of arable land per imperial acre may be about 15s. yearly. The average rent of grazing an ox or cow may be rated at L. 2, 15s. yearly. Black-faced sheep, on hill pasture, about L. 4 per score; white-faced, pastured on low land, according to the size, say about L. 7, 10s. per score.

*Wages.*—The rate of wages varies here as in other places; but, in general, common labourers receive 1s. 6d. per day of ten hours; farm-servants about L. 25 yearly, without victuals, or L. 11, 10s. with them; women servants, L. 6 per annum, with victuals. Rate of wages for masons, carpenters, and smiths, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per day. At the quarry, the wages are in general higher than these rates, both for labourers and artisans. A table of the rate of wages in this parish in the year 1794 is here subjoined:—Masons and joiners, from 1s. 8d. to 2s., without victuals; tailors and shoemakers, from 8d. to 10d., with victuals; an experienced manservant, from L. 8 to L. 9 per annum; women-servants, from L. 3 to L. 4 per annum.

The prices of produce are of course variable. In general they are regulated by the Dumfries and Liverpool markets. The average may be stated, for wheat, per imperial bushel, at 6s. 6d.; of barley, 3s. 6d.; of oats, 2s. 4d.; of potatoes, per bushel, 10d.; of rye grass hay, 26 lb., 7d.; black-faced wool, 6d. per lb.; white-faced, 1s. do.; butter, 10d. per lb.; cheese, 6d. do.; eggs, 4d. to 6d., seldom more. A good cart, L. 8, 8s.; an iron plough, L. 4, 10s.; a double harrow, L. 1, 15s.; a drill harrow, L. 1, 10s. Shoeing of a horse, 2s. 8d. Horses are cheap in this parish. A good sound young horse, fit for country work, may be had for L. 16, and sometimes even less. Cattle have been high for the last three years. The best two-year-old Galloways have brought L. 9; the best three-year-old, L. 11; good Ayrshire cows, about L. 11.

*Live-Stock.*—The live-stock have already been described. Under this head it may merely be stated, that the sheep are in general black-faced, of a small size. The white-faced are Leicester and Cheviot, and crosses from these, &c. The black-cattle are in general “pure Galloways.” Ayrshire cows are increasing very much in this parish.\*

*Husbandry.*—The system of husbandry in this parish is improving rapidly, by the introduction of bone dust and guano, by greater

\* Ayrshire cows are already beginning to decrease, (1844.)

attention to cleaning the land, and by following the most approved rotation of cropping. There are still a few who cling to the old system, and who would do well to imitate the example of their more enterprising neighbours.

The rotation that is perhaps best adapted to this parish is, one grain crop—a green crop—a grain crop—and the land sown down in rye grass and clover, not cut, but eaten on the ground, and to remain in pasture a longer or shorter period according to circumstances.

Mr M'Lean of Mark, many years ago, received the Highland Society's medal for reclaiming waste land. Improvement in this way is still progressing, though slowly. Indeed, some of the tenants have but little encouragement, being left to struggle with a heavy rent, a short lease, miserable houses, and wretched fences.

Shelling land, which at one time was employed to a great extent in this parish, is now but little followed. There have been about fifteen acres of land reclaimed upon the Cassencarrie shore by an embankment of "rubbish" from the quarry, by the Liverpool Dock Trustees. The land is rapidly rising by the deposit that is left by the ebbing and flowing of the tide, and the decomposition of the salt water, and will soon be a field of valuable pasture. There are many acres upon the shores of Kirkbride and the glebe capable of being reclaimed by *warping*, a system which has been introduced by the Hon. Montgomery Stewart on the other side of the bay with great effect, and which is much cheaper than embanking. Indeed, by this process the land is gradually raised, and the tide is made to embank itself.\*

*Leases.*—There are a great many tenants in this parish under yearly leases, a system which operates most powerfully against improvement. Others are more fortunate in having longer leases. They vary from three to nineteen years. There are a few old leases even much longer, although not liferents. Some of the old leases are upon very favourable terms to the occupant; but of late years the competition for farms has become so great, that, it is to be feared, in some of the new leases, the tenants are over-rented. This is an evil which will eventually cure itself, but for which, in the meantime, the tenants have themselves to blame. The farm-houses upon the Kirkdale property are in general good, and kept in excellent repair; and very neat and comfortable farm-houses have been lately built at Cuil, Carsewalloch, &c.; but upon several properties the houses are miserable.

\* This system was introduced by Mr Stewart on Lord Galloway's property; several embankments have also been raised in the bay lately; and it is expected that many hundreds of acres will soon be inclosed, and in valuable pasture.

There are many obstacles to the improvement of land in this parish, and amongst these may be mentioned the high price of lime; the want of capital in some cases,—the want of encouragement in others; and, in too many, the want of houses and leases.

*Quarries and Mines.*—There was a copper mine lately opened at Craigneuk, and a lead mine at Glen; and at one time there was a trial made for lead at Blairs; but none of them succeeded.

“*The Quarry.*”—There is a large granite quarry in this parish, immediately behind the glebe. It was opened about ten years ago, by the Trustees of the Liverpool Docks, for the purpose of procuring stones for the docks. The working of this quarry, in 1834, cost nearly L.15,000, including rent, and tonnage of vessels, &c. At that time there were upwards of 450 men and boys employed. There are only about 60 at present.\* This quarry is wrought in *three breasts* of about 30 feet high each, the one above and behind the other. The operations are conducted with much skill and regularity. At one time powder was very much employed in this work: 50, 60, and as high as 70 pounds were used in one blast. These explosions were felt and heard at a considerable distance, as the slight shocks of an earthquake. The use of powder, however, except in opening up corners, has been for some time entirely given up. Blasting was found to shake and frequently to destroy some of the finest blocks. Drills, wedges, crowbars, sledge-hammers, and cranes, are now principally used in quarrying even the largest masses; and it is truly astonishing to see with what facility even mountains can be removed by *handicraft*.

The *modus operandi* may be shortly described. In the quarry the rocks are stratified. The strata are perpendicular, and vary in thickness from nine inches to five feet. When a mass is to be separated, wedges are introduced between the strata, and are driven down with sledge-hammers until a separation is effected. A large crowbar, well manned, is then applied, to throw down the mass to the bottom of the quarry. This accomplished, the next thing is to cut up the stone into blocks as large as the materials will admit of. And this part of the work is perhaps the most interesting process of the whole. The rude and unshapely mass may be 5 feet thick, and 10 or 12 feet long, and must be cut into the form of a parallelogram,† to fit with mathematical precision its own appointed place in the docks. Holes are bored 4 or 5 inches deep, with a drill or jumper, and 8 or 9 inches apart, in the line the

\* In 1840 there were only about 60 men employed; there are now above 160.

† Or to any shape that may be required.

stone is to be split. A block of 14 tons is soon cut to the size and shape required, by the power of the "plug and feather." As the "plug and feather" have extraordinary mechanical powers—are of great use in quarrying operations—and are rather a novelty "in these parts," a description of them may here be given. When a hole has been bored of the required depth, two wedges are introduced into the hole, with the thick end down, and a third is introduced between them, with the small end down, and by driving the one in the centre, the combined power of three wedges is thus obtained, and made to bear upon every hole, and thus split the stone. A few holes charged with "plug and feather" will be found sufficient to split a very large stone. In splitting granite in this way, the quarrymen are careful to place the holes and the wedges parallel with the *reed* or *grain* of the stone. This arrangement renders the process comparatively easy; and the skilful workmen can shape their blocks and paving-stones with as much comfort as if they were cutting wood in a saw-mill. As a proof of the extraordinary power of the "plug and feather," it may be stated, upon the authority of the present skilful overseer, that masses of 500 tons are sometimes lifted or removed by their aid. The cranes, chains, rails, waggons, "braiks," employed about the quarry are all of the strongest description. There is one very fine traversing crane. There are several "inclines." The largest is upwards of 300 yards, and rises about an angle of 40°. The railroad on this incline is double, so that the loaded waggons in going down the one road draw up the empty waggons on the other.

*Fisheries.*—There are several fisheries in this parish upon the Cree, and in the bay, principally for salmon, spirlings, flounders, herring, &c.; and the nets employed for taking them are stake-nets, bag-nets, draught-nets, fish-yards, and half-nets. The rental of all the fisheries in the parish may be about L.100 a-year.

*Manufactures.*—Kelp was at one time manufactured in this parish, but is now given up. This, however, is not to be regretted, because the sea-weed may be turned to a much better account in manuring the land. The tan-work, cotton factory, and mill for shot lead,\* mentioned in the old Statistical Account as having been in operation in Creetown in 1794, have long been given up. There is at present a small carpet manufactory near Creetown, which lately employed about thirty hands. In the meantime there is little doing. Prices have not been remunerat-

\* It was here the first patent shot was made.

ing. Men, women, and children employed at the mill generally work six days a-week, and twelve or thirteen hours each day,—certainly too long hours, especially for children, and must be injurious to their health. There are two saw mills and two grain mills in the parish.

*Navigation.*—There is one smack belonging to Creetown of 47 tons burthen. There are also several vessels, from 20 to 50 tons burthen, that frequent Palnure and Creetown ports. Besides these there are occasionally foreign vessels with tar and timber. We have also trading and coal vessels from Whitehaven; and from one to eleven schooners have been regularly employed since the opening of the quarry in carrying granite to the Liverpool docks. Three schooners have been lost in the granite trade, and in two of them all hands perished. The Cree is the only river navigable in this parish, and is so as far as Carty.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—The nearest market-town is Newton-Stewart, and is only six miles distant from Creetown.

*Villages.*—On the Cree there was a considerable village in 1300, when the English army rendezvoused here. It was then called *Creth*.\* It was afterwards called the Ferry Town of Cree, from a common passage over the river at this place, and more recently it obtained the present name of Creetown. It is probable that the ancient village had long disappeared before the present one began, because it is stated† that Creetown was begun in 1785, and, in 1792, it consisted of 50 dwellings, and 50 more were laid out. There are a few old houses in Creetown, which were built long before 1785.

It was erected into a burgh of barony through the influence of John M'Culloch, Esq. of Barholm, on the 13th December 1791, and registered at Edinburgh, 27th January 1792. One bailie and four councillors are elected triennially by the resident feuars according to the charter. About the year 1790, a small cotton manufactory was established, with a tan-yard, and a mill for making shot-lead. These have been discontinued for many years. The old shot-mill has been lately repaired and fitted up with machinery, for the purpose, it is supposed, of making potato-starch, &c. The old cotton factory has been changed into a carpet manufactory, which has already been noticed under its proper head. A town hall and lock-up have lately been erected in Creetown, which have been found most useful.

\* Chalmers' Caledonia.

† Stat. Account, 255.

The situation of Creetown is very picturesque. It is built between two rivulets or burns and four bridges. The gardens are so abundantly stocked with fruit-trees, that in spring, when the blossoms are exuberant, the village appears as if it had been built in an orchard. The scenery around is particularly beautiful. On the west lies the Bay of Wigton with its boats and smacks; on the north, the fine plantations and mansion-house of Barholm; and above and behind the village stands Hill House, begirt with ornamental trees; and the new church, with its handsome tower and cathedral roof,—with the Larg hill and the woods of Cas-sencarrie—close in and enrich the landscape in the south. These beauties did not escape the observation of Mr M'Diarmid in his *Sketches of Nature*. He describes them with much of his characteristic humour and raciness, and numbers among the eccentricities of our streets, the cherry-trees that adorn the walls of some of the houses, and the blacksmith's sign, who shod horses on the principles of expansion. The drive between Creetown and Gatehouse is one of the finest in the south of Scotland.

*Post-Office.*—There is a post-office in Creetown. The Irish mail comes in at 11 o'clock, P. M., and the Dumfries mail at 2 o'clock, A. M. daily. Letters are delivered at the houses of all within the burgh.

*Turnpike Roads.*—The length of the turnpike road that passes through this parish is nine miles. The road is remarkably well kept and thoroughly Macadamized. The Dumfries and Portpatrick mail-coaches travel this road daily. There are also regular carriers to Newton-Stewart, Gatehouse, and Dumfries. The bridges are in good repair, and substantially built. There are no railroads in the parish, except at the Quarry.

*Fences.*—The fences in this parish are in general built of stone. Some of them are well built and in good repair, but too many of them are the very reverse. There are many specimens of both the single and double dike, five and six quarters high.\* There are few hedges, although thorns grow remarkably well, and would be a great ornament to the parish. Indeed there is a number of very fine old thorn trees in the parish, of a large size. One hundred years ago, there were few fences of any kind in this part of the country. Now they are very numerous, such as they are, and may measure not less than fifty miles in this parish.

The land is stony, and the general plan is to quarry the stones out of the field that is to be enclosed. This answers the double

\* A quarter is ten inches.

purpose of clearing the ground and fencing it at the same time. A great deal more might be done in this way with advantage.

*Harbours.*—At the “Point of Caskiel,” there was a harbour built about ten years ago, by the Liverpool Dock Company, for the purpose of loading their schooners with granite. At Palnure a place has been fitted up for loading and unloading small vessels, but which is not worthy of the name of a harbour. At Creetown the vessels are moored upon the beach, no other accommodation having as yet been provided.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is built upon the Clauhan Croft, near Creetown, and is very conveniently situated for the inhabitants of the village, although not particularly so for the landward part of the population. On the southern and eastern extremities of the parish, some of the people are six miles from church.

The present church was opened for public worship on the 14th December 1834. It is in excellent repair, and was reckoned, at the time it was built, the handsomest church in Galloway. It is seated to hold about 800. The landward population have their sittings free. The inhabitants of Creetown have hitherto paid 1s. each sitting yearly, which goes to the poor. Even this small charge will soon be abolished, and the Gospel will be preached to all “without money and without price.”

The following table contains a list, so far as can be ascertained, of the ministers of this parish since the Reformation:—John Moffet, (1535 to 1589);\* James Donaldson, (1597); John Kallender, (1601 to 1603); William Dalgleish; Samuel Row; Patrick Peacock; Andrew Naughley; ——— Shaw; Patrick Peacock again, (1689 to 1691); David Edgar, (1693 to 1701); Samuel Brown, ordained 31st March 1703, died 17th May 1751; Samuel Brown, ordained 6th August 1752, died 23d July 1779; John Inglis, ordained 12th October 1780, deposed 17th April 1804; John Sibbald, ordained 20th April 1809, died 20th December 1833; John Muir, ordained 19th June 1834.

*Manse.*—I have not been able to ascertain when the old part of the manse was built. It must have been at least 130 years ago, because the Browns lived in it. The antiquity of the building may be conjectured from the thickness of the gable walls.† Repairs

\* In 1567 Thomas Regnall was reader and vicar of Kirkdale, and John Moffet, exhorter of Kirkmabreck.—*Hist. Gall.*

† Four and a half feet thick.

have been executed and additions built at different periods. The last repairs and additions were made in 1835. The manse is now a handsome and substantial building, and is both comfortable and commodious. And it is but justice to state, that the heritors have been most liberal. The situation of the manse is much admired. It stands on an eminence about 150 yards from the sea, and commands a most extensive view. Although it is about 70 feet above the level of the sea, four churches, twelve parishes, and the Isle of Man may be seen from the front door.

*Glebe.*—The glebe contains nearly thirty acres. About the half of it is arable, the other half is very rough, steep, and rocky, and about seven acres of it are under wood. Some fields have lately been cleared of stones, and new fences built, and some other improvements made, which will soon render it more valuable. In the meantime it is worth L.20 per annum. As the glebe lies along a flat shore, it is capable of being greatly extended by warping and embanking. There are at least forty acres that might be reclaimed in this way.

*Stipend.*—The stipend of this parish is sixteen chalders, half meal, and half barley;—a part of it has been commuted (into money) to the amount of L.104, including L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

*Dissenters.*—There is one place of worship in Creetown belonging to the Seceders. It will hold about 300. It is reported that the minister's stipend is about L.80, and is paid by the congregation.

Divine service is in general well attended at both places of worship; and, in addition to the usual service during the day, there is sermon regularly in the parish church on Sabbath evening, and a lecture every Thursday evening at seven o'clock. Tracts are distributed monthly; and Sabbath schools and prayer meetings in connection with both congregations. The Lord's Supper is dispensed twice a-year in each place of worship.\* It is hoped by the diligent and prayerful use of all these means much good may be done.

There are 27 families belonging to the Seceders; 27 to the Roman Catholics; 1 to the Episcopalians; 1 to the Cameronians; 340 to the Church of Scotland.† The average number of

\* It is now dispensed thrice in the Seceders.

† Dissent has rather increased since the unfortunate secession from the Church of Scotland in May 1849. There are a few "Free Kirk" adherents in Creetown.

communicants belonging to the Church for the last seven years has been about 500. Last year L.14, 4s. were collected for the General Assembly's four schemes; besides L.4 for the Sabbath schools; L.5, 10s. for a church in Armagh; L.2, 0s. 3d. for the education of the blind in Edinburgh. I am not aware of the sums collected by the Seceders for religious purposes; but I believe it is very considerable, according to their numbers.

*Education.*—There are five schools in the parish, viz. the parochial school; a subscription school of industry for females; two schools at the teachers' own adventure, all in Creetown; and one school in the country, partly supported by the heritors and partly at the teacher's own adventure.\*

*Branches taught.*—Reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, mathematics, Latin, French, and, in the "female school of industry,"† besides the elementary branches of education, sewing, knitting, &c. are also taught.

*Schoolmaster's Salary, &c.*—The schoolmaster's salary is the maximum, viz. L. 34, 4s. 4½d. per annum. His house has the legal accommodation, and the school-fees may amount to about L. 26 yearly.

*Rate of School-Fees.*—Reading, 2s. per quarter; reading and writing, 2s. 6d.; reading, writing, and arithmetic, 3s. All these branches with English grammar, 4s.; ditto with Latin, 6s.; ditto with French, 7s.; ditto with geography, 5s. These are the terms at the parish school. At the private schools they are about the same (in the branches taught.) At the school of industry, 30 girls are taught free; they have also occasionally received books and a part of their clothing.

It is to be regretted that the accommodation in the parochial school is by no means what it ought to be,—an evil which, it is hoped, the heritors will speedily remedy.

*Literature.*—There is a circulating library in Creetown, and also a small library in connection with the Sabbath schools. It would be an improvement, if a well-selected subscription library were established for the benefit of the whole parish.

*Poor's Funds.*—The average number of regular paupers is about 30, and of occasional paupers 10. The aliment allowed to each varies according to circumstances, and runs from L. 1 to L. 8 per annum. About L.95 are paid out of the poor's funds annually for

\* This teacher has a free house and garden from Kirkdale, and L. 10 yearly from the heritors.

† This school is also under the patronage of Miss Hannay of Kirkdale.

the relief of the poor, besides a donation of L.40 a-year from Mrs Hugham of Cotswold House. The poor's funds are supplied in the following manner: church collections, L.48 yearly; proclamation dues, hearse hire, &c., L.7; voluntary assessment from the heritors, L.40;—L.95.\* There is now but little disposition among the people to refrain from seeking parochial relief except amongst a few of the old residenters.

*Prisons.*—There is an excellent lock-up in Creetown, and it is to the praise of the people that it is now but seldom used.

*Inns and Ale-houses.*—There are eight inns and public houses in the parish, which are in general well kept; consequently they are much less injurious to the morals of the people than they otherwise would be; although half the number would be quite sufficient for the entertainment of travellers and the convenience of the population.

*Fuel.*—Both coals and peats are very much used. Coals are in general brought from Whitehaven, and cost about 16s. per ton. Peats are procured from the mosses in the parish, and cost from 2s. to 2s. 6d. a-cart. The practice referred to in the old Statistical Account, of the poor people cutting whins and brushwood for burning, is still common. Coals are now (1844) only 13s. 4d. per ton.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the last Statistical Account was written in 1794, the population has increased about 500; wages and prices have risen about 50 per cent.; the rental of the parish has greatly increased, the style of husbandry has improved, and a great many fences have been built. Schools have become more numerous, and church accommodation more abundant. The quarry has been opened, and new fisheries established; and although the manufacturing and shipping have diminished, yet the "political economy" of the parish may be represented as in a prosperous and improving condition; and my heart's desire and prayer is, that the piety which adorned this corner of the vineyard in the days of Rutherford, Dalgleish, and Peacock, may adorn it still.

\* The number of paupers has lately increased considerably. There are at present 57 regular paupers on the roll, and it will now require above L.200 per annum to pay their aliment.

*Drawn up in 1840.*  
*Revised April 1844.*