

## PARISH OF LOCHMABEN.\*

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. THOMAS MARJORIBANKS, MINISTER.

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, &c.*—THERE can be little doubt that Lochmaben derives its name from the number of lochs which surround it, although there is a tradition, that, in olden times, a nunnery was built upon a small island in one of the largest of these lakes; from which circumstance, persons conversant with the Gaelic language say,—Lochmaben signifies “Loch of the Maidens” or “Loch of the Fair.” The Scoto-Irish settlers called it Loch-ma'-ban, the lake in the white plain, because the Castle loch, near which Lochmaben is built, exhibits a white appearance, when contrasted with the black surface of the ridge which bounds it on the west. The town is most delightfully situated at a short distance from the banks of the Annan, verifying the old Scotch rhyme,—

“Lochmaben stands most beautiful,  
Near unto Annan side,  
In old times kings and princes there,  
For safety did abide.”

In viewing this ancient seat of kings from some rising ground on the west, it appears so completely surrounded with water, that a stranger would suppose it impossible to be entered without the aid of a boat.

*Boundaries.*—The parish is bounded on the north by Johnstone; on the east by Applegarth and Dryfsdale; on the south by Dalton; and on the west by Torthorwald and Tinwald. In length it extends 10 miles, and in breadth 3. Its contents are 10750 English acres, or 8546 Scotch, or  $16\frac{1}{2}$  square miles. The landward part of the parish is valued on the stent roll at 6000 merks, and the burgh roods at 500, thus making the landward part L. 7337, 1s. 11d., and the burgh L. 1824, 7s. 1d., or the whole L. 9161, 9s.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The surface is in general plain

\* Drawn up, while the incumbency was vacant, by the Rev. John Gardiner, a native of Lochmaben.

and level, with a considerable rise to the west, which scarcely can be called hilly, as the whole of it is under the plough. The soil accordingly varies; that which lies along the banks of the rivers Annan, Æ, Kinnel, and Dryfe, is of rich alluvial loam, and capable of bearing crops of every description. In some of these fine holm lands, from the frequent deposits left by the overflowing of the rivers, the soil in many places measures nine feet in depth. To the westward, it is light, gravelly, and cold. The greater part of it, which formerly was the commonry of the burgh, and was divided some years ago by a decret of the Court of Session, is now made arable, enclosed, and subdivided by hedge-rows and strips of planting. These properties vary in extent from five to thirty acres, and have good substantial houses, with suitable steadings built upon each of them. The only uncultivated portions of the parish are three separate parcels of moss, which are of great benefit to the people in supplying them with peat, which is the principal fuel,—no coal as yet having been found in the vale of Annandale.

From the situation of the greater part of the parish lying so low, and being nearly as it were surrounded with water, the climate very naturally may be supposed moist and unhealthy. This, however, is not the case, as there is no parish in the county more healthful, or where the inhabitants attain a greater age. The soil around the burgh is particularly dry, with a southern exposure. Snow lies only for a short time. The prevailing winds, which frequently blow with great violence, particularly in the spring, are from the north-east. The heaviest falls of rain come from the south and south-west. The average temperature during the year may be about 46 of Fahrenheit.

*Hydrography.*—The town and parish are abundantly supplied with water,—there being no less than nine lochs within its bounds, and four rivers passing through it in different directions. The parish is bounded from north to south by the Annan, and from west to east by the water of Æ, which falls into the Kinnel, near to the lands of Templand—which runs about a mile south, then takes a south-eastern direction, and joins the Annan, a short way beneath Applegarth church. About three-quarters of a mile farther south, the Dryfe, which separates a small portion of the parish from Dryfsdale, falls into the Annan about two hundred yards below the boat-house of Halleaths. There is one chalybeate spring, a mile west from the burgh, called the Physic Well, which some years ago was much resorted to by the inhabitants, on account of

its purgative qualities. There is also an abundant supply of spring water of the purest kind. The water of the lochs is used with perfect safety for culinary purposes during winter and spring. Families, however, prefer it at all seasons for washing, on account of its softness. There are five lochs in the parish of considerable size, viz. the Castle loch, which covers a surface of more than 200 acres; the Broomhill loch contains, 80; the Mill loch, 70; the Kirk-loch, 60; and the Hightae loch, 52. The depth (taken during winter) has been found in several of them to be 52 feet. Besides these five, there are four others of considerably less extent.

*Geology.*—The rocks found in this parish are all of secondary formation, and dip to the south. In the beds of the smaller rivers and burns, blocks of dark rolled whinstone are found, from which excellent curling-stones are made. The only quarry worked in the parish is of red sandstone. A very considerable portion of this rock is found in thin layers, which are easily separated, so that they are now much used in covering the roofs of houses, particularly of farm-steadings. The roof when properly put on looks very neat, though some objections are made against its weight, and tendency to draw damp in winter, which is injurious to the wood.

*Botany.*—All the common plants are found in this parish. Among the rarer aquatic plants, we may mention the white water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*), cat's tail or reed mace (*Typha angustifolia*), the reed (*Arundo Phragmites*), the great water horse-tail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), which grow abundantly in several of the lakes. The blaeberry (*Vaccinium Myrtillus*), and the cranberry (*V. Oxyccoccus*), are common, particularly the latter. The small sloe tree (*Prunus spinosa*), and the hagberry (*P. Padus*), are found in the brakes and hedges. The deadly nightshade (*Atropa Belladonna*), among the ruins of the old castle. The oak, the ash, the plane, and the horse-chesnut, are of great size around the pleasure grounds of Halleaths, Elshieshields, and of the castle.

*Zoology.*—No wild animals of the class Mammalia are found in this parish, except such as are common to the neighbouring country. The fox is seen frequently, both in the woods of Halleaths and Elshieshields. The otter, though not common, has been found in the Annan near Halleaths, and in the Castle loch. The badger has entirely disappeared for many years. The pole-cat or fougart, the weasel, and the different species of rats are all common. The *Vespertilio altivolans* has never been seen flying about

any of the lochs, though observed by Sir William Jardine, Bart. upon the Annan.

*Fishes.*—It has been frequently stated that no fewer than fifteen distinct species of fish, fit for the table, have been found in the Castle loch. In enumerating the chief of these, we may mention the pike, the perch, the loch-trout, of which there are two species,—one weighing from twelve to fourteen pounds, the other from two to five pounds,—the bream, the roach, the skelly or chub, the green-back, the vendace, the eel, the loach or beardie, the minnow, and the banstickle. With the exception of the vendace, the bream, and green-back, the others are found in great abundance in the different lochs. Pike has been taken weighing from twenty-four to thirty-five pounds. It is most destructive to the other species, except the perch, which is protected by its powerful dorsal fin.

*The Vendace.*—The vendace is found nowhere in Scotland, except in the Castle loch of Lochmaben, though it is said that Sir William Jardine caught a few in the Mill loch, but whether it was the case or not, we have not learned. The oldest fishers in the town have frequently told us that they never knew a single instance of one being caught, except in the Castle loch.\* The vendace, it is said, derived its name from Vendois in France, and was brought to this country by one of the James's. This, however, is mere conjecture, and, from what we know of its habits, highly improbable,—because they die the moment they are either touched, or exposed to the air. This beautiful fish measures from four to six inches in length, and tapers gradually to the tail. When taken out of the water, it has a bright silvery-white appearance, with a slight tendency to a light blue along the back and part of the sides. In size, it resembles a small herring or par, but particularly the former, not only in the mouth and the external appearance, but also in the anatomical structure. Upon the top of the head, there is a very distinct shape of a heart, covered with a transparent substance of a brownish colour, resembling a

\* According to Mr Stewart, in his *Elements of Natural History*, the vendace belongs to a species which he calls the "*Salmo albula*," or the "*Juvangis*." "This species," he adds, "is found in Lochmaben, in Scotland, and nowhere else; and is said to have been carried thither from England in the time of Robert the Bruce. It is thickly covered with roundish, entire, black spotted imbricated scales of a greenish-brown colour, and white on the sides." From this description, it is evident that Mr Stewart had never seen a vendace, else he would have described it in a different manner. Of all the distinct species which this lake is said to contain, not one of them, so far as ever fell under our observation, will answer Mr Stewart's description. The perch has entire black spotted scales, but not imbricated; the perch, however, is as distinct from the vendace as the ood is from the salmon.

thin lamina of mica slate, through which the brain is visible. This particular mark proves it to be as yet a distinct and an undescribed species. Nothing is ever found visible to the naked eye in the stomach of the vendace. They are extremely delicate, and are allowed to be the most pleasing to the taste of all fish. The general mode of taking them is with a net, as there is no instance known of their having been caught either with bait or the artificial fly. The pike, with which this lake abounds, is their greatest enemy, as he is seldom taken in the neighbourhood of the particular places which they frequent without being found gorged with them.\*

The salmon was found formerly in great abundance in the Annan and its tributaries, but since the stake-nets were erected at the mouth of the river, they have greatly decreased. In addition, the salmon fry has many enemies, particularly the carrion crow, the water-ouzel, and the heron. The moment a bed of spawn is seen to spring up by any of these birds, not one of them is left. The sea-trout and the herling (*Salmo albus*) are both found in considerable numbers. They ascend the river sometimes so early as June, if the season has been wet and the river swollen. The par, about which so many disputes have arisen, is plentiful in all the rivers which communicate with the Annan.†

*Reptiles.*—The most dreaded is the adder (*Vipera communis*), which is very common, and generally seen in dry mosses and around the bottom of old turf dikes. The water newt, or eft, the common eft, (which is found in cellars and damp houses,) the frog and the toad are also common. The *Lacerta agilis* is frequently seen running with all its speed among dry mosses and heathery moors.

*Birds.*—The common species are all found in the parish. Among the more rare, I may mention the white owl (*Strix flam-*

\* Dr Knox, Lecturer upon Anatomy in Edinburgh, states that he has not only discovered the food of the vendace, but actually exhibited it some months ago before the members of the Royal Society, and offers suggestions for the stocking of the various lakes in Britain with this exquisite fish, pointing out first the necessity of locating its natural food, without which it cannot live. Allowing, however, that the space of some neighbouring lake could be covered with some of these invisible and "incredibly minute entomostracous animals, which," the learned lecturer says, "constitute their food," we should still find a difficulty to transfer the fish, as every attempt to do so hitherto, though conducted with the greatest possible care and nicety, has failed.

† It has been stated as a fact, that the par is always found in rivers which salmon frequent. While in Morayshire last autumn, we made particular inquiry at the fishermen upon the Spey if they had ever seen the par; to our astonishment, each of them declared he never had. This must be considered as a very strong evidence that the par is a distinct species.

*mea.*) The water-ouzel (*Cinclus aquaticus,*) most destructive to the salmon fry, is very common about the lochs and the rivers. The missel-thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) is found both at Halleaths and Elshieshields. The stone-chats are in great abundance on the Lochmaben moors. The golden-crested wren (*Regulus cristatus,*) the willow or silver-wren breed around Halleaths. The titmice are all common, except the long-tailed one, which I have only seen once in the garden at Elshieshields. The white and yellow wagtails are very common about the lakes. The different species of linnets are found in great abundance. The raven (*Corvus corax*) is occasionally seen by the sides of the lakes picking up the small fish that happen to come within his reach. The hooded-crow is seldom seen. The jay (*Garrulus glandarius,*) though not abundant, is found in the woods of Elshieshields. The goat-sucker (*Caprimulgus Europaeus*) is frequently seen at night-fall, and its nest has been found at Halleaths. The pheasant is frequently shot in the parish;—also the black-cock and grouse, which breed within a mile of the town. The quail (*Perdix Coturnix,*) and the butcher-bird (*Lanius collurio,*) have both been seen.

*Aquatic Birds.*—The heron breeds in great numbers at Halleaths,—the numerous lakes and streams in the neighbourhood supplying them with ample food. The heron, in this part of the country, is very seldom destroyed, from a belief that it devours the adder. The water-rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) is very abundant about the outlets from the lakes. The curlew (*Scolopax arquata,*) the lapwing (*Vanellus cristatus,*) the golden plover (*Charadrius pluvialis,*) the snipe (*Scolopax gallinago,*) and the woodcock (*S. rusticola,*) are all common, particularly the *S. gallinago*. The cormorant (*Pelecanus carbo*) is seen fishing in the Castle loch, or sitting upon some insulated spot. The wild-duck, the teal (*Anas crecca,*) and the coot (*Fulica atra,*) are all abundant in the Castle and Hightae lochs, around which the common wild duck breeds in great numbers. The kingfisher (*Alcedo ispida,*) a shy bird, is frequently seen upon the banks of the Annan and of the *Æ*. The swan and wild goose resort to the lochs in severe winters.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Robert Bruce, first King of Scotland, was born in the old castle situated between the Kirk and Castle lochs, which was the chief residence of the Bruces till the end of the thirteenth century.

The writer of this article is not aware that any person particularly distinguished in the arts and sciences, or in literature, claims this

parish as his birth-place. It may, however, be remarked, that there are at present six ordained clergymen in the Church of Scotland, two Dissenters enjoying livings, six licentiates, four parish school-masters, and seven surgeons who were educated at Lochmaben by one master, who is still pursuing his vocation, but, unfortunately for himself, not in the parish where he taught for many years with so much success.

*Land-owners.*—Within the burgh roods there are no fewer than 141 small proprietors, and in the landward part of the parish 106, making in whole 247, who pay stipend to the clergyman. The principal land-owners are Andrew Johnston, Esq. of Halleaths; John Dickson, Esq. of Elshields; Sir William Jardine, Bart. of Applegarth; William Murray, Esq. of Castlemains; The Most Noble Charles Marquis of Queensberry; John Brown, Esq. of Broad Chapel; John Maxwell, Esq. of Esbie; His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; David Farish Junior, Esq. of Todhillmoore; and Sir James Broun, Bart. of Mayfield. Four only are resident,—Mr Dickson, Mr Brown, Sir James Broun, and Mr Farish.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest date of baptisms and marriages is 1765. These registers have been most carefully and regularly kept from the above date to the present time. In this parish, the Dissenters shew as much anxiety for the registration of their children as the members of the Established Church.

*Modern Buildings.*—The principal mansion-houses are Halleaths, Elshields, and Newmains.

*Castles.*—There is the site of an ancient castle close to the town, on a mound of considerable height, called the Castle-hill, which is surrounded by a deep moat and fosse. This castle was built in the twelfth century, and formed the chief residence of Robert Bruce, Lord of Annandale, previous to that family coming to the throne of Scotland. This noble family had two other seats in the Annandale district, one at Annan, the other at Hoddam, on the east bank of the river, with a large estate which continued in their possession long after they came to the Crown.

The other Castle of Lochmaben, which stands upon a peninsula on the south-east side of the Castle-loch, was by far the largest and strongest of any, either upon the English or Scotch borders; and before the invention of gunpowder was deemed impregnable. It was built by Robert Bruce, the first of that name, King of Scotland, towards the end of the thirteenth century. Tradition says that the stones of the old one were taken to build this, and the

place is pointed out where these stones were laid down, and carried across a portion of the loch to the present castle. This castle, including the out-works, covers nearly sixteen acres. It contains three courts strongly built with hewn stone. The walls in the few places where they are entire, measure twelve feet in thickness. It was surrounded by three deep fosses running from east to west, within which there was a bason built of stone of superior workmanship for holding the boats, and protecting them from the attacks of their enemies and the weather. In those days the principal entrance was by water, and from the ground being marshy around the castle for more than a mile, with a narrow neck of land leading to the outer fosse, must have rendered it not only a place of great strength, but also very difficult of access. It was preserved as a border fence till the union of the crowns. Before that time a garrison of 200 men was constantly kept in this castle, and the governor was maintained by very liberal provisions till the reign of James VI., when border hostilities ceased. Among the titles of the Marquis of Annandale, he assumed that of Constable or Hereditary Keeper of Lochmaben Castle. A salary of L. 300 Scots, with the exclusive fishings in the castle and mill lochs, with boats and nets, was given to the keeper. James VI., in 1612, granted to the corporation of Lochmaben the fishings of the six lakes near the town; but the present proprietor of Castlemains tried the legality of this grant before the Court of Session, and obtained a decret in absence, and now claims the exclusive right of the whole fishings in the Castle loch around which his property lies. The governor of the castle had also for the maintenance of the garrison what was called "a Lairdna Mairt," or "Lairdner Mairt cow," which was one of the best fat cows out of every parish in Annandale, and thirty-nine meadow geese and fastin e'ens hens. These were claimed by the Marquis of Annandale about a hundred years ago. The conversion of this claim was L. 20 Scots, which was uplifted out of thirty-three parishes, now reduced, by annexations at the Reformation, to twenty-one. Since that period, no demand for payment has been made. The castle was allowed to fall into ruins during the seventeenth century, and the only remaining part is the heart of the walls, from which the ashler work has been almost stripped off, and there are few houses in the neighbourhood in which some of the stones are not seen. The hewn stones were of red sandstone, and in all probability procured from the red stone quarry of Corncocklemoor, in the upper district of the parish. The lime

with which the heart of the walls was filled up, is as hard and firm as at the time when the castle was built,—the weather having no influence upon it whatever. In former times, there were a deer park and an oak forest of considerable extent around the castle.

*Spedlin's Tower.*—This old tower stands on the north of the parish, and was formerly the residence of the Jardines of Applegarth. It is strongly vaulted with walls of an immense thickness, flanked by round turrets at the angles. The entrance is on the north side, near the north-east angle, through a circular door, and has on each side a transverse loop-hole. Over the centre, at the top of the tower, is a square tablet containing the coat of arms of the Jardines, and the date 1605, probably the last time it was repaired. It is surrounded by a number of fine trees, and on two of its sides it is closely mantled with ivy.\*

*Rockhall Mount or Moat.*—This moat, in particular, is of very remote antiquity. It is a fine mound of earth perfectly round, and terminating in a sharp point. It is the largest and most entire of any in the parish or neighbourhood, and is situated upon the side of a ridge of hills which overhang the castle, and separate Annandale from Nithsdale, and overlook an extensive plain at the foot of the river Nith, part of Galloway, and all the Solway Frith. It is generally believed that the people met on these moats to enact laws and administer justice. We are rather of opinion that this moat, or, as it is more frequently called, the "Beacon-hill," was used as a place for keeping watch against the border marauders, and upon which fires were kindled to put the inhabitants of the lower grounds upon their guard against predatory incursions.

\* This tower is rendered famous over the country by a story of a ghost. Sir Alexander Jardine, in the reign of Charles II., had confined in the dungeon of his tower of Spedlins, a man named Porteous, by trade a miller, suspected of wilfully having set fire to his own premises. Being soon after suddenly called to Edinburgh, he carried the key of the vault with him, and forgot the prisoner till he was passing through the West Port of Edinburgh. Sir Alexander immediately sent back a servant to liberate Porteous, but, in the meantime, he died of hunger, and in the extremity of his sufferings he had devoured one of his hands and feet. No sooner was the man dead, than his ghost began to torment the household, and no rest was to be had within the tower of Spedlins by night or by day. In this dilemma, Sir Alexander summoned a number of ministers to his aid, and by their prayers, Porteous was confined to the scene of his mortal agonies, where he continued to scream occasionally at night, and to flutter like a bird against the door of his vault, and to remove the bark from any twig that was thrust through the key hole. The spell which forced the spirit to remain in bondage was attached to a large black letter Bible used by the exorcists, and afterwards deposited in a stone niche in the wall of the staircase. This Bible requiring to be rebound was sent to Edinburgh, but immediately upon its removal, the ghost getting out and crossing the river, made such a noise in the new mansion-house, hauling the Baronet and his lady out of bed, that the Bible was recalled and placed in its former situation. It was printed in London, by Robert Baker, in the year 1634.

There are remains of several Roman encampments in the parish, and the road which Agricola must have taken, on leaving his encampment on Burnswark, to Glota and Bodotria, can readily be pointed out.

*Ancient Relics.*—Many years ago, a person residing at Heck, in the close neighbourhood of the castle, found an immensely massive key, supposed to be the one that opened the lock of the principal gate which led to the castle. This ancient relic was offered to several persons for the sum of 2s. 6d., but no purchaser at that price could be found, and the person who got it had it converted by the blacksmith into two spades for cutting peat. In digging round the remains of the castle, several horse-shoes, spurs, old rusted keys, and large nails of very rude formation, have been found; also some large cannon balls, supposed to have been fired against the castle in the time of Oliver Cromwell. There was a large plain gold ring, without any inscription, picked up some years ago, by the tenant's daughter, at the side of the loch in front of the castle. Many were the conjectures with regard to the history and former owner of this ring; but we have little hesitation in stating that, in all probability, from its modern construction, it must have been dropt by some of the numerous parties who visit the remains of the castle. The ring is now in the possession of Lord Queensberry, who gave a handsome price for it to the finder. Two years ago, a party, while fishing with a net in a part of the loch on the east side of the castle, dragged up the head of a spear, in fine preservation, made of a composition of old mixed brass, or that species of copper which Pliny names "*caldarium*," or cast in a mould. The head was nine inches long, and the socket in which the handle was inserted about half an inch in diameter. It resembled the Roman *pilum* or *hasta*. This kind of weapon was not peculiar to the Romans alone, as all nations had spears. We know the Celtæ had their *lancea*, *sparrum*, and *matara*, to which the Roman *hasta* was similar. A small piece of the handle still adhered to it, but upon its drying crumbled into dust. It is in the possession of John Dickson, Esq. of Elshields.

*Coins.*—Coins have frequently been found in this parish. Six years ago, a workman cutting peat in the Whitehills moss, about three-quarters of a mile from the town, turned out a considerable quantity of small coins wrapt up in a piece of strong blue cloth. They were all silver groats of Alexander I. of Scotland and Ed-

ward I. of England. Coins of Robert III., Henry VIII., Queen Elizabeth, and Queen Mary, have been found in the parish.

*Barony of Lochmaben or Fourtowns.*—In the immediate neighbourhood of the castle lies the barony of Lochmaben, (or, as it is more frequently called, the Fourtowns,) which consists of four villages, named the Hightae (the largest,) which contains a population of 391; the Heck, 69; the Greenhill, 80; and the Smallholm, 65. The tract of holm ground around these villages is uncommonly rich and fertile. The proprietors hold these lands by a singular and peculiar tenure. From time immemorial, they were called the “King’s kindly tenants,” or the Crown’s “rentallers.” As the lands belonged to the Kings of Scotland, and formed part of the original royal domains, or proper patrimony of the Crown, it is generally believed that they were granted in small pendicles by King Robert Bruce (Lord of Annandale) to the domestic servants of the castle, though at what particular period, it has not been ascertained. The principal obligation incumbent on the tenants or rentallers was, to furnish provisions and other necessaries for the use of the royal fortress; and it is more than probable that the tenants composed the garrison itself. They had no written title to these lands, that is, neither charter nor seisin, and in the case of transference by a tenant of his right to a single successor, it is effected simply by a deed of conveyance, followed by possession or enrolment in the rental book of Lord Stormont, which is done without fee or reward by his Lordship’s factor; and the succession is taken up without service. The constable of the castle frequently treated them in a very arbitrary manner. They presented a petition and complaint to King James VI., stating that, notwithstanding their being kindly tenants and occupiers of His Majesty’s farm lands and tenantry, assigned to His Majesty’s House of Lochmaben, they, among other grievances, were subjected to extortion by the constables of the castle. In consequence of this representation, His Majesty, by a warrant under his sign-manual, ordered the keepers of the Castle of Lochmaben to desist and cease from molesting, troubling, or using any violence against those his tenants, and to suffer and permit them peaceably to occupy their possessions, as they, the keepers, should answer to his Majesty upon their disobedience.

In the reign of Charles II., the tenants were again under the necessity of applying to the Crown for protection. His Majesty, in 1664, issued a warrant under his sign-manual, setting forth, “that he understood the poor kindly tenants of his proper Crown lands

of Hightae, Smallholm, Heck, and Greenhill, have been exorbitantly raised in their rents and services, contrary to the express warrants of his Majesty's grandfather, dated in 1592 and 1602, granted to their predecessors on weighty and good considerations; therefore, his Majesty declares his royal intention, that the said tenants should be protected, and these warrants obeyed as constant leases, according to the true meaning thereof; and of new authorizes the said tenants and their successors to possess and enjoy their respective lands,—they paying and performing yearly the rent and services paid by their ancestors in the year 1602; and prohibits and discharges the keepers of the Castle of Lochmaben, or any who shall pretend right to the said Crown lands, in all time coming, to exact more rent or services from the tenants thereof than they were in use to pay and perform at the dates of the said warrants, or to remove them from their ancient possessions, so long as they thankfully pay and perform the same."

Besides the lands lying around the villages, there was a large and extensive common, in which they all had an interest. By mutual agreement, this common was divided many years ago, and their several portions improved, and substantial houses built upon them, which, from their extent, are of more value than the original property. The greater proportion of these lands have been purchased by Mr Bell of Rammerscales, a neighbouring proprietor.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755, amounted to 1998		
	1792,	2150
	1801,	2053
	1811,	2392
	1821,	2651
	1831,	2795
Average number of births for the last 7 years,		47
Do. of marriages,		17
Do. of deaths (though no register is kept,)		40
Number of families in the parish,		583
employed in agriculture,		216
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,		17
houses inhabited,		545
do. uninhabited		209
do. building,		4

*Character, &c. of the People.*—In this burgh and parish, no doubt, a considerable quantity of ardent spirits is consumed: but in general the inhabitants are sober, industrious, religious, and many of them of considerable intellectual attainments. Within these last forty years, great improvements have taken place, in regard to their comfort, both in houses and in clothing.

The prevailing game in summer is quoits, which is played by many with great dexterity; and in winter, curling. As players of

the latter interesting game, the parishioners of Lochmaben have long been celebrated and unrivalled.

Poaching, we regret to state, prevails to an alarming degree, both in game and in the salmon fisheries. Smuggling is unknown in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

The number of acres arable and of meadow land may be computed at	9000
not in tillage, but affording good sound pasture, . . . . .	1260
under wood and thriving plantations, . . . . .	90
moss and irreclaimable moor, . . . . .	400
Under the plough, . . . . .	5500

*Rent, Wages, Prices of Stock, &c.*—In a parish of this kind, where the soil is so various, the rent per acre must vary accordingly. Some of the fine croft land in the immediate neighbourhood of the town lets at L. 3 and L. 2, 10s. per acre. The lighter soils and high grounds generally give from L. 1 to L. 1, 5s. The leases of the principal farms are for nineteen or twenty-one years. The smaller farms vary from nine to fifteen years.

The grazing of a milk cow with a calf or stirk is from L. 4 to L. 4, 10s. Few sheep comparatively speaking are kept in the parish. Cows vary in price according to size, age, and condition, from L. 6 to L. 10. Two year old stots of the Galloway breed bring from L. 5 to L. 7, 10s. Few farmers keep their young stock more than two years, which is generally of the Galloway kind. This stock is well adapted for the pastures on the banks of the different rivers, and owing to its richness, they rise to a great size, and bring high prices. The farmer finds it his advantage to pay great attention to the breeding and rearing of cattle, as his profits depend much more upon a good sale of his live-stock, than on the returns from his grain produce. It is well known in Annandale that if cattle give good prices, the landlord is sure to be paid his rent. The greater part of these cattle are purchased by English dealers, and sent to Norfolk, and fattened on the English pastures for the Smithfield market, where they find ready purchasers, on account of the fine quality of their beef. This breed in general does not yield much milk, but the cream is very rich. They have no horns, are hardy, docile and good feeders. Many of the poor people who keep a cow pay little attention to the breed, provided they be, what they call good milkers; hence they prefer a kind of cross-breed which is common about Biggar and Carnwath.

There is one enterprising farmer in the parish, Mr John Halli-

day of Broadholm, who keeps an extensive dairy. He prefers the Ayrshire breed, as affording a larger quantity of milk. In point of symmetry they are very inferior to the Galloway breed, their shoulders being thin, and the fore quarters light. There is also another dairy at Broad Chapel.

Farm horses able for their work can be purchased from L. 18 to L. 30; the best bring L. 35, and sometimes L. 45. The colour is generally black, brown, or gray. A few years ago, gray was the favourite colour. A considerable number is bred and reared in the parish. They are of a good size, and bring high prices; hence many good judges prefer them to the finest of the Clydesdale breed.

Feeding of pigs is carried on to a great extent in this parish. Many of the farmers send to market every season from thirty to forty carcasses, averaging fifteen stones each. The price varies from 4s. to 5s 6d. per stone. This is a great source of revenue to the neighbourhood, and as all the sales are effected for ready money, it enables many of the smaller tenants to pay their rents. Forty years ago, business in pork was done in Annandale to the amount of L. 10,000; and the quantity reared and fed in the parish last year brought the large sum of L. 3411 at 4s. per stone. Every cottager keeps a couple of pigs, the price of which enables him to obtain in moderation the common luxuries of life during the winter season.

*Improvements in Agriculture.*—All the modern improvements have been introduced into this district, such as the improvements of waste lands by draining and fencing, the use of bone dust and rape cake for the raising of turnips, and eating them off upon the fields by sheep; also the cutting or pairing of peat-moss, and burning it upon the ground, after which good crops of oats are raised, or the land is converted into meadow by irrigation. No doubt, for some years past, the low price received for land produce has damped the spirit of improvement—but the lowering of the rents by most of the great landed proprietors has tended much to induce the farmer to persevere in his improvements, in the hope of better times.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets, Roads.*—By the activity of the present magistrates, and a few other respectable inhabitants, markets have again been regularly instituted. There are two principal fairs in the year for hiring farm-servants, which are numerously attended, the neighbouring farmers giving them their support. During the winter season there

is a regular weekly market for pork, in which business is done to a large amount. In order to give encouragement to these markets small premiums were given both to the person who brought the largest quantity to market, and also to the person who made the largest purchases.

*Roads.*—In this district, the roads of late have been much improved and kept in excellent order. A road from Glasgow to Carlisle runs for ten miles through the parish, but it is not much frequented, as travellers prefer the one by Beatoch Inn, to Lockerby. There is another excellent road which runs for six miles through the parish, giving great facility and safest, at all seasons, to travellers from the east to Dumfries. On this new line, a handsome bridge is built across the Annan. This road runs for a mile along the north-west side of the Castle loch, and enters Lochmaben at the new church. No mail-coach passes through the town, but a stage-coach runs from Dumfries, by Lochmaben, Lockerbie, and Ecclefechan to Langholm. It was at one time contemplated to run the Dumfries mail by Lochmaben, but the road trustees objected on account of the expense of building a bridge across the *Æ*, and of making a few miles of new road. There is a daily post from Edinburgh; a runner from Lochmaben awaits the arrival of the mail at Dumfries, so that a letter put into the Edinburgh post-office the previous evening at nine o'clock is delivered next morning at Lochmaben about ten o'clock.

*Burgh of Lochmaben.*—Lochmaben is a burgh of very ancient date, though at this distance of time the time of its erection cannot be correctly ascertained. The tradition is, that it was made a royal burgh soon after the accession of Bruce to the throne. When the Duke of Albany, the Lord of Annandale, was summoned in 1479, to answer the charges of treason, the summons was executed by the herald, at the market-cross of Dumfries, and also, “*apud crucem fori burghi de Lochmaben*,” and, moreover, at the castle of Lochmaben; and one of the witnesses of the execution at the burgh and castle of Lochmaben, was Robert Henrison, Bailie of Lochmaben. This shews that, in 1479, Lochmaben was a burgh, and had its bailies, and a market-cross, at which the process of the law was usually executed. Like other border towns, it suffered much from the inroads of the English, and was frequently burnt and plundered, so that its charter and records were destroyed. In 1463, the Earl of Warwick led an army into Dumfries-shire, and burnt the town of Lochmaben. In 1484, the Earl of Douglas,

and the traitor Duke of Albany attempted to plunder Lochmaben on St Magdalene's fair day; but they were disappointed. In a charter of *novodamus*, granted the 16th July 1612, by James VI. he gives as a reason for its renewal, that the burgh records had been destroyed when it was burnt by the English. This charter confirms all former charters which had been burnt, and it grants of new to the said burgh all the lands belonging to the same. It also gave full power to the inhabitants to elect magistrates for the government of the people thereof. We may state here, that William Maxwell sat in the Scots Parliament, as commissioner for the burgh of Lochmaben in October 1612. This is the first instance that can be traced of its representation in Parliament.

This burgh is governed by a provost, three bailies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, and nine ordinary councillors. There are five incorporated trades, which annually elect their deacons and office-bearers; and the deacons with the masters of craft, choose their convener; but none of them *ex officio* are members of the town council. The revenues of this burgh are very small, arising from the feu-duties and customs which are collected within the burgh roods. These funds are at present under the judicial management of the Lords of Session. The town contains about 1000 inhabitants, 39 of whom have votes under the Reform Bill for a member of Parliament. This burgh was one of the few which did not come under the spirit of the Reform Act, farther than losing its power, (which perhaps was its greatest,) as one of the five burghs which returned a member to Parliament. There is a very handsome town-hall with a spire and clock, built in 1745,—under which there is the jail and a lock-up-house, with an arched space in front for weighing the different commodities brought to market. When the cross, which was standing in 1479, was destroyed, there is a story told of the manner in which the magistrates for the time being got the present one erected. At the time the castle of Elshields was built, some of the building materials were left remaining; and Lochmaben being without a cross, which was indispensable in all burghs, the town council, as the price of these materials for erecting the cross, made over to the laird of Elshields, his heirs and successors, the mill and mill lands of Lochmaben, being a part of the burgh property, from which lands the present proprietor draws L. 100 Sterling.

There are no manufactories or trade of any kind carried on, so as to induce strangers to settle in the burgh. Some years ago, large quantities of flax were raised in this parish,—which

was manufactured into cloth and sold unbleached in England to the amount of 60,000 yards annually. A great proportion of the inhabitants farm small crofts, from the produce of which they bring up and educate their families,—the males generally seeking their fortune in other lands.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Robert de Brus, who married the bastard daughter of William the Lion, in the year 1183, granted to the monks of Gisburn the church of Lochmaben. A discussion, soon after, arose between the monks and the diocesan, on the proper construction of this grant. The dispute was settled in 1223,—to the effect that the monks were to retain the tithes of the corn, and to receive three merks yearly from the rector of Lochmaben. The Bishop of Glasgow was to exercise the power of ordination and collation. But there was reserved to William de Glencairn, the church of Lochmaben, with the chapel of Rokle for life, paying yearly to the monks three-and-thirty marks. In Bagimont's Roll, during the reign of James V., the rectory of Lochmaben was taxed L. 5, 6s. 8d., being a tenth of the estimated value. In 1612, the barony of Lochmaben, with the tithes and the advowson of the church, was granted by James VI. to John Murray, groom of his Majesty's bed-chamber, and ratified in Parliament. In 1625, he was created Earl of Annandale, and Lord Murray of Lochmaben. On the death of his son James, the second Earl of Annandale, without issue, in 1658, the lands of Lochmaben, with the patronage of the church, were inherited by his heir-male, David Viscount Stormont; and the patronage now belongs to the Earl of Mansfield. Besides the chapel of Rokle, there are vestiges of several others in the parish. In the fifteenth century, the bailies of Lochmaben endowed a chaplaincy at the altar of the Virgin Mary, in the church of Lochmaben; and they granted an acre of land, with the marsh, which is commonly called the *Struther*, with the second *turn* of the multures of the mill. This endowment was confirmed by James III., 28th April 1486.

The old church, which was taken down in 1818, was a Gothic building with a large choir attached, dedicated to Mary Magdalene. In one of the bloody feuds between the Maxwells of Nithsdale and the Johnstones of Annandale, which took place on Dryffe sands in the year 1592, the Maxwells were defeated with great slaughter, and in their flight took refuge in the kirk of Lochmaben, which the Johnstones burned to the ground. It may be mentioned, that the original key was found by some of the workmen while taking down the church. It was given to the clergyman, the Rev. Mr Gib-

son, who caused it to be presented to the Antiquarian Society. The new church, a handsome substantial building, capable of containing 1700 sitters, was opened for public worship in the year 1819, and cost the heritors, including a new wall round the churchyard, the sum of L. 3000. The heritors agreed to remove the church from its original site in the churchyard, and placed it at the south end of the burgh. The situation is very central, being nearly equidistant from all the extreme points in the parish.

The manse, which is still in tolerable repair, was built in the year 1761. The late worthy incumbent frequently proposed to the heritors to have a new manse, and had fixed upon the site, about 600 yards east of the church in front of the Castle loch; but, though he offered to contribute L. 100 towards the expense of the building, the plan was given up, as it was found no easy matter to gain the consent of 247 heritors. The glebe is very small, consisting of one acre lying very near to the manse, and another of meadow in the lower part of the parish. It was long supposed that a glebe belonged to this parish near to the chapel of Rokle, which is four miles distant from the manse. This opinion was confirmed by some documents that were found in the office of the chamberlain of the late Duke of Queensberry, in which it was discovered that an allowance was given for this glebe to a former incumbent. After the discovery of these documents, the late Mr Gibson took the necessary steps before the Presbytery, and then raised an action in the Court of Session against Lord Queensberry, the present proprietor. After a long and expensive litigation, Mr Gibson gained his case, though he did not live to see the excambion take place to which Lord Queensberry had agreed.

*Dissenting Meeting-Houses.*—There are two Dissenting meeting-houses in this parish, one of which belongs to the Cameronians, and the other to the Burghers. The Cameronian meeting-house is situated in the village of Hightae, and was originally built for a Relief congregation in the year 1796, during the incumbency of the late Rev. Dr Andrew Brown, Professor of Rhetoric, who was translated from Lochmaben to the New Grayfriars, Edinburgh, in 1799. The managers of this chapel, some years ago, sold it to the Cameronians, who have now a minister settled among them. The congregation is a mere handful, as there are only thirty-seven Cameronians in the parish. The clergyman has no dwelling-house, and his stipend does not exceed L. 50. The Burgher chapel, which was built in 1818, is situated within the burgh roods, and

may contain from 800 to 900 sitters. The Burghers in the parish amount to nearly 100. They give a bond to their pastor for L. 80 per annum, out of which sum he must provide himself with a dwelling-house. With the exception of these 136 Cameronians and Burghers, and 12 Roman Catholics, the remainder attend the parish church. The number of communicants at the last celebration of the Lord's supper amounted to 750.

*Stipend.*—In the year 1738, the stipend was fixed at 1200 Scots with 100 merks for communion elements. Since that period, three augmentations have been granted;—the first in 1792, afterwards modified to a certain extent in 1796, when the stipend was augmented to four chalders of victual, half meal and half bear, and L. 83, 6s. 11d. of money, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. A second augmentation was granted in 1807, when the stipend was augmented to ten chalders of victual, half meal half barley, payable in money according to the highest fiar prices of the county, with L. 50 Sterling of money, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. Last of all, the stipend was augmented in 1823, when it was modified to eighteen chalders of victual, half meal half barley, payable in money according to the highest fiar prices of the county, with L. 10 Sterling for communion elements. There has been no final locality applicable to any of these augmentations, the payment of each of them having been all along regulated by interim decrees. A locality has now been made up, which embraces the whole of these augmentations.

*Education.*—There are two endowed schools,—one in the burgh, which has the maximum salary and the interest of L. 200 Sterling at 5 per cent; “mortified by the late James Richardson, Esq. merchant, Reading, in the year 1726, under an obligation to teach ten poor scholars, within the parish, nominated by the kirk-session, English, Latin, writing, and arithmetic.” Mr Richardson also mortified another L. 100 for supporting a library, and keeping in repair a house of two storeys built by him for the accommodation of the schoolmaster. He likewise mortified another L. 100, and gave L. 20 to build a school at Hightae, and the interest of the L. 100 in favour of the schoolmaster for the time being, who was to teach gratis the poor children of the Fourtowns. Mr Richardson was a native of Hightae.

At an average, 50 scholars attend the public school in the burgh. The present master, an efficient teacher, has eleven pupils learning Greek and Latin at 5s. per quarter.

There are three other schools in the town, besides one in the upper district of the parish, and another in the west division. The schools in the burgh are well attended, particularly one of them, which in the winter season is attended by more than 80 scholars. There is also an excellent school for girls kept by a most respectable and well-educated person, assisted by her niece, in which sewing and other useful practical branches of female education are ably taught.

The average number of scholars for the last seven years who have attended the Hightæ school, amounts to 51. The fees are considerably lower than in the burgh school. The salary is one chalders of meal, collected from a great number of heritors, by the merks value, with the interest of L. 100 at five per cent. There are none of the present generation upwards of fifteen years of age who cannot read and write. There is a Sunday school under the management of the Burgher clergyman and his assistants, which is well attended. There is also another at Hightæ. These schools are supported by public collections in their own chapels.

*Literature.*—A new library was instituted in 1819. One of the original subscribers was the celebrated African traveller, Captain Hugh Clapperton, who was at that time residing in Lochmaben with his aunt, a descendant of Johnstone of Thornewhate, who was formerly an extensive proprietor in the parish. This library is very select, and the most approved works in the various departments of literature and history are annually added.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—In this large and populous parish no regular assessments have as yet been made, the heritors preferring to make up the deficiency, when necessary, by voluntary contributions. There are, at the present time, upon the poors' roll 34 persons, besides a considerable number who occasionally receive relief. The sum disbursed last year amounted to L. 81, 10s. 7d., of which one fatuous person received L. 10, and some old and feeble individuals L. 4 each. The weekly collections average nearly 16s.,—which sum, along with what arises from the proclamation of marriages, mortcloth dues, and fines inflicted for immoral conduct and irregular marriages, in ordinary seasons, nearly meets the expenditure. There was a considerable sum of money belonging to the poor of the parish; but unfortunately it fell into the hands of a person who became bankrupt, and the greater part of it was lost. There are four blind persons, and four deaf and dumb in the parish; one of the blind only receives aid from the poors' funds. It

appears to be the general opinion over Scotland, that the independent feeling which was wont to make the sons and daughters of the poor labour hard to support their parents, and to avoid the disgrace of being told that they were upon the poors' roll, is now fast dying away. We regret to say that it is so in this parish to a certain degree.

*Inns.*—There are three very comfortable inns in the burgh, besides several dram-shops in the different villages and parts of the parish. There cannot be a doubt that one-half of these places of entertainment is quite sufficient for the wants of the inhabitants and of travellers; but we deem it only justice to add, that, from the respectability of the landlords of the three inns, these houses are kept in a superior and orderly manner, and all excess in drinking is prevented.

*Fuel.*—The fuel generally used is peat, which costs per cart load from 10d. to 1s., exclusive of cartage, though a great number of families partly use coal, which is brought by sea from Maryport and Whitehaven in Cumberland to Dumfries, and costs 1s. per measure, the measure being equal to twenty-eight and a quarter gallons, six of which make a good cart load.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since 1792, when the last Statistical Account was written, a great and striking change has taken place in the state and appearance of this parish. The commonry, which has been divided and improved, and which was formerly a bleak moor, has given a new aspect to the west division, as the proprietors appear emulous to surpass one another in their improvements.

Want of coal and lime in the immediate neighbourhood has been felt as a considerable drawback to improvements. Some years ago, a survey was made by Mr Jardine, civil-engineer, for a canal from the mouth of the Solway Frith, to terminate in the Castle loch. If this plan had been executed, it would have been attended with unspeakable advantages, not only to this, but to all the parishes in and around Annandale. If this canal, as was proposed, had been 7 feet deep, and 28 wide at top, and from 18 to 20 at bottom, it would have been capable of receiving vessels which would carry 60 or 70 tons, and draw six feet of water. The whole expense was thus calculated: A lock to raise a vessel 8 feet, L. 1000; two locks, L. 2000; cutting the canal per mile, L. 1000; the distance being 12 miles, whole would cost L. 14,000.

October 1835.