

are, wonderfully beneficial; and the value of land has greatly increased. But though much has been done, there is still a wide field for improvement. The parish is still almost void of enclosures; and without these, little can be expected from the most industrious tenant. By far the greater portion of the hill land is still overburdened with moisture, and destitute of shelter,—draining, therefore, and planting ought to be particularly attended to. The sheep-walk should be separated from the improvable land by stone dikes, and hedging and ditching used for dividing it into suitable enclosures. The larger farms ought to be reduced in size, as I am afraid little will be effected in the inbringing of land, so long as the farmer's whole attention is engrossed with his sheep stock.

Much of the parish still resembles an unexplored region,—thousands of acres are to be found in a state of nature, which could be easily added to the cultivated land. If the waste land in this and many other parts of Scotland were reclaimed, it would add greatly to the resources of the country, be a fruitful source of profit to the proprietors, and the means of promoting the happiness and comfort of the labouring-classes:

July 1837.

PARISH OF MAUCLINE.

PRESBYTERY OF AYR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. JOHN TOD, MINISTER.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of this parish was formerly spelled Machlein, or Machlene, or Machlin; but of late it is more commonly spelled Mauchline,—*Magh* signifying “a field or meadow,” and “*linn* or *linne*” a pool or lake. *Maghlinne*, pronounced by the Scots who succeeded the Gael, *Machlin* or *Mauchline*, is the lake-field or meadow, and this etymology of the name corresponds with its original local description. As the fields around the town of Mauchline abound with numerous springs, they must have been anciently a marsh or meadow.

Extent, Boundaries.—The parish of Mauchline lies in the centre of the county of Ayr, is about 8 miles in length, and from 2 to 4 in breadth, containing about 24 square miles. It is bounded on the north, by the parishes of Craigie and Galston; on the east, by the parish of Sorn; on the south, by the parishes of Auchinleck and Ochiltree; and on the west, by the parishes of Stair and Tarbolton.

Topographical Appearances.—The parish is in general flat, excepting Mauchline hill, which rises a little to the north-east of the town, and runs in a ridge, from east to west, about a mile in the parish, terminating at Skeoch hill, in the parish of Tarbolton. From the hill, there is a very extensive prospect, not only over a great part of Ayrshire, but as far as Cairnsmure, and other hills in Galloway, and Benlomond, Jura, Arran, Kintyre, &c. This hill forms part of what is commonly known by the *long ridge of Kyle*. It rises about 1000 feet above the level of the sea.

The air is milder and more temperate here than towards the eastern coast of Scotland. Owing to its proximity to the western coast, it is rather wet; but, upon the whole, not unhealthy, neither are there any diseases peculiar to this parish.

Hydrography.—There are numerous perennial springs in the parish, particularly where the town is built, but as none of them have been analyzed, their chemical properties are unknown.

The only loch in the parish, called Lochbrown, is about three miles north-west from the town. It covers sixty acres of ground. It would have been drained many years ago, had it not been for the sake of two corn-mills which it supplies with water. Wild-ducks, geese, and sometimes swans resort to it.

The river Ayr runs through this parish, about a mile south of the town. In its course, it passes between steep rocks of red free-stone, from forty to fifty feet high. How this passage was formed, whether by some convulsion of nature, or by the water gradually forming a channel for itself, cannot now be ascertained. The scenery is beautiful and romantic. On its banks there are various caves cut out of the solid rock, similar to those at Auchinleck, of which Dr Johnson has taken notice in his *Tour to the Hebrides*. One of them is known by the name of Peden's Cave, where it is said Alexander Peden (whose name is so familiar to the inhabitants of the west of Scotland) often concealed himself during the unhappy time of the persecution.

About half a mile above Barskimming, the seat of Lord Glen-

lee, the Ayr is joined by the waters of the Lugar. It afterwards runs a course of ten miles, and joins the Frith of Clyde at the town of Ayr.

Geology.—The soil in the parish is *various*, for the most part of a clayish nature, except some fields about Mauchline, which are of a light sandy or mixed kind. A few fields consist of a deep loam, well adapted for every kind of crop. On the south side of the parish there are extensive strata of red freestone, in many places upwards of forty feet in depth. On the north side, white freestone, limestone, ironstone, and also coal abound, but the thickness of the strata is inconsiderable.

Botany.—The following is a list of the more rare plants in the parish, and the spots where they are to be found: *Vaccinium oxycoccus*, creeping bilberries or cranberries, found on the rocks near the Ayr; *Asperula odorata*, sweet-scented woodruff; *Campanula urticifolia*, nettle-leaved bell-flower,—these two are found in woods; *Botrychium lunaria*, moonwort, found upon the pleasure-ground of Barskimming; *Scolopendrium officinarum*, harts-tongue; *Hypericum Androsamum*, tutsan, St John's wort; *Vinca minor*, less periwinkle; these three found in the woods on the banks of Ayr: *Trollius Europæus*, globe-flower, also on the banks; *Drosera rotundifolia*, round-leaved sundew; *Drosera longifolia*, long-leaved sundew; *Comarum palustre*, marsh cinquefoil; the three last, found in the Kipple moss, on the estate of Barskimming: *Serapias latifolia*, helleborine, under the shady beeches; *Daphne laureola*, spurge-laurel; *Lycoperdon tuber*, truffle, found among the woods in various parts.

Soil.—The soil seems well adapted for the growth of trees, the young plantations being remarkably thriving. They consist mostly of firs, ashes, oaks, and beeches. On the estate of Barskimming there are larches of very great dimensions. They were among the first of the kind that were brought to this country. They were at first carefully preserved in hot-houses. They are now the tallest trees in the woods. In the churchyard of Mauchline, in the centre of the town, there is an ash 15 feet in circumference, containing upwards of 300 solid feet. On its top a colony of rooks have fixed their residence. The age of this tree is unknown.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is no connected history of the parish. It was once a priory, belonging to the Abbey of Melrose, and when that abbacy was

erected into a temporal lordship, the lands and barony of Kilmure and Barmure, and the patronage of the church of Mauchline, were given to the Lord of Loudon. This parish formerly included the parishes of Sorn and Muirkirk, and a great part of the parish of Tarbolton. There is no tradition of any battle in the parish, except one, at Mauchline Muir, between the King's party and the Covenanters, about the year 1647, when the former was defeated, and their military chest was found, it is said, many years after, hidden in the ground.

Upon the farm of Mosgiel, in this parish, Burns resided nearly nine years. Here he composed some of his most celebrated poems. While living here, by the advice of his generous patron, G. Hamilton, Esq. he published the first edition of his poems, which have immortalised him as Scotia's bard.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are, Claud Alexander, Esq. of Ballochmyle; His Grace the Duke of Portland; Lord Glenlee; Sir James Boswell of Auchinleck, Bart.; William Campbell, Esq. of Netherplace; George Douglas, Esq. of Rodinghead; Mrs Wallace of Cairnhill; Colonel Stewart of Catrine; and Captain Campbell of Roughdyke.

Parochial Registers.—The ancient parochial records are now lost. Sometime before the Reformation, the Popish clergy perceived their interest declining, and their downfall approaching in the kingdom. To prepare for the worst, they sold their lands in small parcels for ready money, and then departed, carrying with them all their money and effects, and the books and registers belonging to this, and, it is believed, to other parishes in the neighbourhood. The date of the earliest entry in the parochial register is 17th January 1670. The whole records of the parish are contained in ten volumes. Till about eighty years ago, they were most irregularly kept, being written mostly on detached leaves, so that they are almost useless.

Antiquities.—At the town-head of Mauchline, on the Green, there was a tombstone, from which it appeared that five men were put to death under the unhappy reign of James VII. of Scotland. Under their names were the following lines :

“ Bloody Dumbarton, Douglas and Dundee
 Moved by the Devil and the Laird of Lee,
 Dragged these five men to death with gun and sword,
 Not suffering them to pray nor read God's word;
 Owing the work of God was all their crime.
 The eighty-five was a saint-killing time.”

In 1830, this tombstone was lifted, and a monument erected by
 AYR. L

subscription in its place. On this monument the above inscription has been carefully preserved.

Modern Buildings.—Among the modern buildings, the only one worthy of notice is the new church, opened for public worship on the 2d day of August 1829. The old church, after having stood upwards of six centuries, was found to be both inconvenient and unsafe, and was taken down in 1827, and the present church erected on the same site. It is built of red freestone, chiefly in the Gothic style. It stands in the centre of the town, surrounded by the churchyard, which is used as the public burial-ground. On the east end of the church stands the tower, about 90 feet in height, and ornamented on the top with turrets. The inside of the church is plain, containing enclosed pews. The galleries are supported by slight cast-iron pillars. The pulpit is highly ornamented. The whole is well lighted. It is reckoned the most elegant church in this part of the country.

III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755, according to Dr Webster, was 1169. Since that time it has been gradually increasing. The cause of the increase is not very obvious. It may arise in part from the importation of Irish, and partly from the encouragement given to weaving in this part of the country, by the Glasgow, Paisley, and Kilmarnock manufactories.

The population of the town of Mauchline in 1881, was	1364
In the villages of Haugh and Auchmillan,	115
In the country,	753
	2232
The average number of births for the last seven years,	Total, 67
deaths,	33
marriages,	19
persons under 15 years of age,	790
persons betwixt 15 and 30,	628
betwixt 30 and 50,	445
betwixt 50 and 70,	250
upwards of 70,	78
The number of families of independent fortune,	4
Proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50,	11
Unmarried men above 50 years of age,	91
women above 45 years of age,	100
Average number of children in each family,	4
Number of insane, 2; fatuous, 2; deaf and dumb, 1; blind, 1.	
Number of families,	440
chiefly employed in agriculture,	99
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	220

The inhabitants are of a middle size, from 5 feet 4 inches to 6 feet 3 inches, and are in general of a strong and healthy constitution.

Within the last three years there were 15 illegitimate births in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The whole of this parish is arable except a small moss of about six acres, and some declivities on the banks of the Ayr, now covered with plantations. All the farms are inclosed and subdivided. The total number of acres is 5732, of these 5400 are cultivated or occasionally in tillage, leaving 332 under wood, either natural or planted. The kind of trees generally planted, is fir, larch, ash, oak, beech, plane. On marshy ground the alder, willow, poplar, &c. are planted. The mountain-ash, hazel, birch, are indigenous. The proprietors of the woods are careful in having them properly thinned and pruned.

Rent.—The average rent of arable land per acre is L. 1, 5s. The average rent of grazing is at the rate of L. 3 per ox, or cow grazed, and at the rate of 15s. per ewe, or full-grown sheep pastured for the year, 15s. There is no stated rate of labour in the parish.

Husbandry.—The principal improvement which has recently been made in agriculture is that of furrow-draining, and nothing but the expense of this plan prevents it from being generally adopted. The few spirited individuals who have drained their land in this manner have been well repaid. In many instances, the value of the land has been doubled, and in some places what was formerly barren has been rendered most fertile.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years. Some landowners let their land for a shorter period, but this is unfavourable to the occupier, as he is prevented from entering into any plan of improvement, lest at the expiration of his lease, his farm should be let to another. Others let their farms from year to year, but this plan is injurious both to the owner and the occupier, as the lands remain unimproved, and the houses and fences are allowed to fall into decay.

The greatest obstacle to improvement arises from the high rents paid for the land. Some proprietors imagine, that, by letting their farms to the highest bidder, they will thus make more out of their estates, never reflecting that the tenant will very soon be unable to pay them, or to carry any plan of improvement into execution, through want of capital.

The farm houses are in general large and commodious, particularly on the estate of Ballochmyle, (which contains about two-fifths of the whole parish.) The houses have almost all been lately built, two storeys high, slate roofed, with convenient office-houses. The farms are all inclosed and subdivided by thriving thorn hedges.

Quarries.—There is an excellent red freestone quarry near the

town, mostly employed for the building of houses. There are also other two of white freestone, near Deacon hill, about three miles to the north-west, the stones of which are much esteemed for their fine grain and colour, and, on account of their durability, are in request for pavement, tombstones, &c.

Limestone, ironstone, and also coal abound, but, owing to the thinness of the strata, the raising of them has now been abandoned.

*Produce.**—The following statement contains the average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as could be ascertained :

Produce of grain of all kinds, either cultivated for food of man or the domestic animals,	L. 6865	10	0
Of potatoes, turnips, cabbages, carrot and other plants cultivated in the fields for food,	2172	5	4
Of hay, whether meadow or cultivated,	1953	0	0
Of land in pasture, rated at L. 3 per cow, or full-grown ox grazed for the season,	3600	0	0
Of gardens and orchards,	250	0	0
Of the annual thinning and periodical felling of woods, plantations, and copse,	500	0	0
Of quarries and metals,	300	0	0
Of miscellaneous produce not enumerated under any of the foregoing heads,	150	0	0
Total yearly value of raw produce raised,	L. 15,790	15	4

Manufactures.—Under this head may be mentioned, the woollen manufactory at the village of Haugh, which employs upwards of thirty persons, who work eleven hours a-day, and are engaged five days and a-half per week. They are chiefly employed in spinning yarn for the carpet manufactory at Kilmarnock. Their wages depend upon the expertness of the workmen, as they are paid by the piece.

In the town of Mauchline there is a very extensive manufactory of wooden snuff-boxes. In this work about sixty persons are employed, who work ten hours a-day, and six days per week. The workmen are remunerated according to their knowledge of the art of box-making or painting. The stranger will be well rewarded by paying a visit to this work, as he will have an opportunity of seeing many elegant specimens of the art.

The works are so conducted as to be injurious neither to the health nor the morals of the individuals engaged in them.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The town of Mauchline is situated on the south side of Mauch-

* The above statement is exclusive of the produce of the dairy, which, valued at L. 7 for each cow, but from which the expense of grazing must be deducted, will amount to L. 3656, and the sale of young cattle, which may amount to L. 800.

line-Hill, about a mile distant from the river Ayr. It is neatly built, and contains 1364 inhabitants. It was formerly a burgh of barony; but about 120 years ago the charter was lost, (when the Register Office at Edinburgh was burnt,) and it has never since been renewed. The principal branches of trade are, weaving, shoemaking, and snuff-box making. It is well governed by the baron bailie and the justices of the peace in the neighbourhood.

Villages.—There are two small villages in the parish, Haugh and Auchmillan, the former containing 80, and the latter 35 inhabitants.

Means of Communication.—Mauchline being situated nearly in the centre of the county, enjoys easy means of communication with the most distant parts of the country. It has a post-office under excellent management; and there are two turnpike roads, which cross each other at Mauchline; the one, from Ayr to Edinburgh, runs in the parish from west to east about four miles; the other, from Glasgow to London, from north to south, about seven miles in the parish. Alongst this line of road a stage-coach passes twice every lawful day.

Over the river Ayr there are several very useful bridges near Mauchline, particularly the new bridge at Barskimming, built by the late Sir Thomas Miller. It excels all the bridges in the county in beauty and elegance, and is one of the greatest curiosities to be seen in it. It consists of a single span, the length 100 feet, height 90.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is situated in the middle of the town, nearly in the centre of the parish, in the most eligible situation that could have been chosen. It affords accommodation for 1100 persons. The sittings at present are all free,—no division of the church having yet taken place.

The manse was built in 1792, and is in good repair. The glebe consists of 7 acres of good land, and is worth L. 24 per annum. The stipend consists of 15 chalders of grain, half meal and half barley, the price of which is regulated by the fiars price for the county. The number of Seceders is not great, there being only one dissenting chapel in the parish, belonging to those in connection with the Associate Synod, known formerly by the name of Burghers. Their minister is paid from seat-rents and from collections,—the amount of the stipend being L. 125. The number of families belonging to the Established Church may be stated, 353; persons of all ages, 1784; communicants, 600. The number of families belonging to the chapel, 83; persons of all

ages, 448; communicants, 226. There are three Roman Catholics in the parish.

A Bible and Missionary Society, in connection with the County Society, was instituted in this place in 1815. The amount of the contributions yearly was once L. 24, but since the dispute about *pure circulation*, it has greatly fallen off,—now scarcely amounting to L. 14.

The amount of collections in the parish church for religious and charitable purposes exceeds L. 70 annually.

The church and chapel are in general well attended.

Education.—There are four schools in the town, and one at Crosshands, about two miles distant. There is only one parochial school, the other three in the town are unendowed. At the parochial school, the branches of education taught are, English, writing, arithmetic, practical mathematics, Latin, Greek, and French. At one of the private schools, English, writing, arithmetic, Latin, and Greek are taught. The school in the country is endowed with a house and garden from the Duke of Portland. The parochial schoolmaster has the maximum salary, a garden, and is allowed L. 9 for house-rent. The amount of school fees about L. 60. The expense of education per annum, for English, 10s.; writing, 12s.; arithmetic, 14s.; Latin, Greek, and French, 16s.

The children are sent young to school, generally about five years of age, so that they are able to read and write before they are nine. The people are so far alive to the benefits of education, as to have all their children taught to read; writing and arithmetic are less attended to. There are none in the parish upwards of fifteen years of age who cannot read.

Literature.—There is a public library in the town, and a religious tract and book society. The books in the library are not numerous. However, additions are made to them yearly. 5s. is paid at entry, and 3s. annually.

Charitable and other Institutions.—There are 8 friendly societies in the town, the object of which is to make reciprocal provisions for their members while labouring under disease. Two of these societies have existed for twenty years. The funds of the one are L. 240; of the other, L. 160,—the entry-money and quarterly accounts according to the age of the individual. The present allowance is 4s. weekly to such as are unable to work, and 6s. if confined to bed. Their regulations have been sanctioned by the Quarter-sessions, and certified to be in conformity to the provisions

of the late act of Parliament. These societies are most beneficial to the place. They keep alive the spirit of independence, by preventing any of their members from falling on the parish funds, and thus becoming regular paupers.

A *Savings Bank* was established in 1815. The investments, mostly from the labouring classes, amount to L. 900; the sums annually invested about L. 140, while nearly as much is withdrawn.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 40. They are paid monthly, and receive 5s. each on an average. The funds arising from church collections, mortcloth dues, &c. L. 50; the annual expenditure, L. 120. The difference is made up by an assessment annually agreed to by the heritors. None receive parochial aid but the aged and infirm, such as are unable to work for their own support, and whose relations are unable to maintain them. It is considered degrading, so that none but the necessitous make application.

Prison.—About six years ago, a lock-up-house, consisting of two cells, was built in the town. It is not designed as a place of long confinement. It serves the purpose of intimidating the disorderly.

Fairs.—There are seven fairs in the town, chiefly for the buying and selling of cattle. There is also a horse-race in the end of April.

Inns, Alehouses, &c.—There are two very good inns, besides 15 alehouses and spirit-shops, but those who keep them commonly deal in other articles, as grocery goods, &c. Alehouses, &c. are evidently injurious to the morals of the people, as they lead to dissipation, with all its ruinous consequences. The justices of the peace in this district are careful that none obtain license but such as are of a good moral character.

Fuel, consisting chiefly of coal, is brought from the neighbouring parish of Auchinleck, and also from the parish of Riccarton, a distance of eight miles, and costs 8s. per ton. Peat is procured from the parish of Sorn, and costs 4s. per cart.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the last Statistical Account was written, many important alterations have taken place. The inhabitants are now better educated, consequently more intelligent. Those superstitious observances which were formerly counted oracular, and in which implicit confidence was placed, are now altogether neglected, or practised merely for amusement. The existence of ghosts, witches, &c. is now discredited. Fanaticism and bigotry hide their dimi-

nished heads. People of different opinions in religion now regard each other as brethren.

The employments of the labouring classes have undergone a very great change. The erection of cotton-mills upon an extensive scale at the neighbouring village of Catrine (which have been conducted with unexampled spirit and success) has diffused comfort and happiness to all around. Here the labourer finds employment, and here the farmer finds a ready market for his produce. Spinning, weaving, tambouring, and sewing, have been extensive sources of employment. Common weavers have built for themselves houses, planted gardens, and lived in a style of ease and comfort. But there is a tide in the affairs of men; within the last fifteen years, a variety of causes having brought on a stagnation in commerce, (the most extensive calamity of the kind that has ever been felt in this country,) which has swept away all the particular advantages of the weaver, till at last he is fully more the child of penury and toil than almost any other mechanic. Perhaps, with respect to real comfort, the labouring classes, taking them altogether, are at present rather behind what they were at the time of the last Statistical Account.

The system of agriculture has also undergone a considerable change. Some thirty or forty years ago, this parish, like most of its neighbours, had gone far in adopting or imitating the agriculture of our eastern counties, and wheat, of course, formed the leading article in its cultivation; nearly the whole stock of manure was annually expended in supporting the new system; bear and barley were nearly abandoned; even oats, which have always given, and which perhaps always will give, the most steady and certain return, began to be in a great measure neglected. Alongst with wheat, summer fallow and green cropping were also adopted. But the system had not been many years pursued, before it was discovered that the soil and climate of this neighbourhood were decidedly unfavourable to its profitable continuance. So long, however, as the *war prices* for grain were obtained, the system was enabled to prolong its feeble existence; but the return of peace, with the consequent *peace prices* of agricultural produce, seems now to have, in this quarter, finally sealed the fate of the system. The soil of the parish is not, indeed, generally suited for raising bear and barley, although a considerable portion of it is decidedly so; and if to that portion of it only their cultivation were confined, they would most certainly yield a profitable return.

July 1837.