

place is situated on the brink of a high precipice, overlooking the ocean near the south-west corner of the island; a spot to which it is said the young lady during her illness had become peculiarly attached, and where before her death, as stated on her tombstone, she requested she might be laid.

September 1837.

PARISH OF DALRYMPLE.

PRESBYTERY OF AYR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. ROBERT WALLACE, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—In charters of the fourteenth century, the name of this parish was written Dalrimpill, which is evidently an abbreviation of the Celtic, *Dail-a'-chruimpuill*, Anglicè, Dale of the crooked pool. This etymology literally applies to the situation of the village, where the church of Dalrymple stands, at a bend or turn of the river Doon; and "this (says an eminent Gaelic scholar, who visited this place in 1832,) is exactly what a Highlander, who knew no English, would denominate the valley of Dalrymple."

Extent and Boundaries.—The extent of this parish, from west to east, is 7 miles; its greatest breadth is 3 miles; and it contains a surface of about 12 square miles. It is bounded on the north and east, by the parishes of Ayr, Coylton, and Dalmellington; and on the south and west, by the river Doon, which separates it from the parishes of Straiton, Kirkmichael, and Maybole.

Topographical Appearances.—With the exception of the valley, where the village and church are situated, none of the rest of the parish can be termed level, for the surface abounds with numerous rising grounds, or little round hills, from most of which are seen the Islands of Bute and Arran, the peninsula of Cantyre, Ailsa-Craig, and the "lofty Benlomond," which is 44' north from, and on the same meridian line with the British fortlet on Woodland, the most southern eminence of this parish. From Kirkmien, the highest part of the parish, the north of Ireland is distinctly seen in clear weather.

Climate and Diseases.—The climate of the parish, and espec-

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ally in the valley, is mild, and considered healthy. In the course of the last eight years, out of a population of 960 and upwards, only 114 died. Of these, there were under twenty, 48; between twenty and forty, 23; forty and sixty, 16; sixty and seventy, 10; seventy and eighty, 8; eighty and ninety, 6; upwards of ninety, 3. The diseases of which they died are the following: viz. decay of nature, 24; consumption, 20; inflammation, 7; fever, 9; water in the head, 7; water in the chest, 4; whooping-cough, 5; measles, 1; croup, 5; dysentery, 3; dropsy, 2; apoplexy, 2; cancer, 4; small-pox, 1; scrofula, 1; influenza, 1; ulceration of the tongue, 1; liver complaint, 2; killed, 1; unknown, 14.

Hydrography, Springs.—There are several mineral springs; but, with the exception of one on the estate of Barbieston, they are seldom or ever thought of. With regard to this one, the late Mr Fullarton of Skeldon, formerly one of the heritors of this parish, sent the writer of this Account, the following communication: “I was at first led to notice the mineral spring near Skeldon, in 1798, when I heard that the late Captain Campbell of Barbieston used it himself, and frequently made his servants drink of it. It is a chalybeate, but not strong; also, I believe, a gentle cathartic. For some years it ran copiously, but the working of marl in the bank above brought down the brae face, and nearly choked the spring, though it has been constantly but gently discharging in that place ever since. I never knew it freeze during the severest frosts I have ever seen, having had frequent opportunities during winter, when shooting through these ‘banks and braes.’ I have not analysed it, but I have no doubt, if properly opened and secured (which I once intended to do,) it might prove both useful and medicinally beneficial.”

Lochs.—There are four lochs in the parish, Martinham, Snipe, Kerse, and Lindston. Martinham is the largest, being about a mile and a-half in length, by a furlong, at an average, in breadth, and it stretches a considerable way into the parish of Coylton. Its greatest depth is 26 feet. There is a small islet in this loch, and on it, the ruins of a building (probably in former times the mansion-house of the proprietor of Martinham,) 100 feet in length, by 30 in breadth. The islet is almost entirely covered with wood, and both the wood and the ruins are completely cased in ivy. The scenery around Martinham is exceedingly picturesque.

There are in all the lochs abundance of pike, perch, and eel; they are frequented too by wild geese and ducks, teal, widgeon, &c.

A pike was lately caught in Martinham loch, which weighed 29½ imperial pounds. An ordinary sized pike had first seized the bait and hook, and the large one was taken, by swallowing all three together. The outlet from Martinham Loch is a small burn which flows into the river Doon.

River.—The only river in the parish is the Doon, which runs along its south and west sides, and forms the boundary between the districts of Kyle and Carrick. This river flows from Loch Doon, and, after a course of thirty miles, or thereabouts, of various windings, and passing nine gentlemen's seats, viz. Berbeth, Hollybush, Skeldon, Cassillis, Monkwood, Auchendrane, Doonholm, Doonside, Mount Charles; and three kirks, Dalmellington, Dalrymple, and Alloway, also the monument erected in 1822, to the memory of Burns, the cottage where he was born, &c., it falls into the Frith of Clyde, near Ayr. Like other rivers issuing from lochs, the Doon is more steady in its course, and does not rise so high, or fall so much away, as the generality of them. It is, however, occasionally subject to floods. About fifty years ago, one of these occurred, which did considerable damage; and in January 1814, the melting of the snow on the adjacent hills swelled the river to such an extent, that it burst up immense fragments of ice, and forced them forward with irresistible impetuosity, in consequence of which the trees on the banks were bent like willows,—Skeldon wooden bridge was carried away,—the village gardens were under ice and water, and the village houses were inundated from three to four feet above the floors.*

The banks of the Doon are in general bold, and well-wooded, and there are many fine haughs on its sides.

Fishing.—The stake-nets at the mouth of the river have injured the fishing above very considerably; but notwithstanding these, salmon contrive to get up, and many are taken every year, from ten to twenty pounds in weight. Besides salmon, there are also in the river sea and yellow trout, par, eel, and pike.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The geological structure of this parish is very distinctly exhibited along the banks of the river Doon, which, as has been already mentioned, bounds it on the south and west. The banks are, in several places, of considerable height, and, by the influence of the weather, the strata, especially at Bore-

* A very interesting account of this was communicated to the editor of the Ayr Advertiser, and published at the time, by Mr Campbell of Cumnock, who was then parochial schoolmaster of Dalrymple. Mr Campbell was an eye-witness of the scene, and kindly received the villagers, who were driven from their houses, into his school, and supplied them with every comfort.

land, have been exposed; and in jutting out among the trees and copse-wood, by which they are generally covered, present striking and picturesque appearances. Here are observed beds of limestone, old red sandstone, and conglomerate, which dip at an inclination of between twenty and thirty degrees towards the north-east, under the coal fields of Coylton and Patna; and these are obviously to be classed under the same series of rocks, which in the neighbouring parishes of Maybole and Kirkmichael are surmounted by the coal measures. The limestone is generally found in masses, with clayey matter intervening, and is seldom more than a foot in thickness. It is extremely hard, and presents only occasionally the traces of small shells. It has in several places been dug out, and found, after burning, to yield a good lime for agricultural purposes. Trap penetrating the strata, and presenting the usual appearances, is also found in several districts; and boulders, both of trap and granite, are scattered over the fields.

Soils.—The soil is of various kinds. The greatest part, however, is the clay; the rest consists of gravel, sand, and loam. In some places, the clay soil is very poor and barren, scarcely repaying the expense of cultivation; in others, when properly managed, and sheltered from the wintry winds, by plantations or the adjacent elevated grounds, it produces excellent crops. The clay soil is in some places red, in others blue, and a bluish-white. The gravelly and the sandy soils yield the best pasture, and are best adapted for potatoes and turnips. The loam is mostly on the banks of the river, lochs, and rivulets, to which it has evidently been carried down from the higher grounds by the floods in winter. There is very little moss land in the parish.

Botany.—The following list of plants of the rarer kind found in this parish, was furnished by Mr Smith of Monkwood Grove, an enthusiastic botanist. The writer has here arranged Mr Smith's list according to the Linnæan system, and accompanied it with an English translation:

III. TRIANDRIA.

1. *Valeriana officinalis*, Great wild valerian.
1. *Scirpus lacustris*, Bulrush.
2. *Aira canescens*, Gray hair-grass.
2. *Briza media*, Common quaking-grass.
2. *Arundo phragmites*, Common reed.

V. PENTANDRIA.

1. *Menyanthes trifoliata*, Com. buckbean
2. *Sium verticillatum*, Whorled water parsnep.

2. *Pimpinella saxifraga*, Common burnet saxifrage.
6. *Drosera rotundifolia*, Round-leaved sun-dew.

VI. HEXANDRIA.

1. *Allium ursinum*, Broad-leaved garlic.
1. *Narthecium ossifragum*, Lancashire asphodel.
1. *Peplis portula*, Water purslane.
5. *Alisma plantago*, Greater water plantain.

Alisma ranunculoides, Small do.

VIII. OCTANDRIA.

1. *Epilobium hirsutum*, Great hairy willow-herb.

----- *parviflorum*, Small-flowered do.

----- *palustre*, Marsh do.

1. *Erica tetralix*, Cross-leaved heath.

----- *cinerea*, Fine-leaved do.

X. DECANDRIA.

2. *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*, Alternate-leaved golden saxifrage.

----- *oppositifolium*, Opposite-leaved do.

3. *Stellaria holostea*, Greater stitch wort.

----- *graminea*, Lesser do.

XI. DODECANDRIA.

1. *Lythrum salicaria*, Purple loose strife.

1. *Agrimonia eupatoria*, Com. agrimony.

XII. ICOSANDRIA.

1. *Prunus padus*, Bird-cherry.

5. *Geum urbanum*, Common avens.

----- *rivale*, Water do.

XIII. POLYANDRIA.

1. *Nymphaea lutea*, Yellow water lily.

----- *alba*, White do.

7. *Trollius Europæus*, Com. globe flower.

7. *Caltha palustris*, Com. marsh marigold.

XV. TETRADYNAMIA.

2. *Nasturtium officinale*, Common watercress.

Nasturtium terrestre, Annual rocket water cress.

XVIII. POLYADELPHIA.

4. *Hypericum elodes*, Marsh St John's wort.

XX. GYNANDRIA.

1. *Orchis bifolia*, Butterfly orchis.

----- *mascula*, Early purple do.

----- *latifolia*, Marsh do.

----- *maculata*, Spotted do.

XXI. MONŒCIA.

3. *Typha latifolia*, Great reed-mace.

3. *Sparganium simplex*, Unbranched bur-reed.

----- *natans*, Floating do.

XXII. DICÛCIA.

3. *Ruscus aculeatus*, Common butcher's broom.

XXIV. CRYPTOGAMIA.

2. *Botrychium lunaria*, Com. moon wort.

4. *Polypodium phegopteris*, Pale mountain polypody.

----- *dryopteris*, Three-branched do.

4. *Blechnum boreale*, Northern blechnum.

4. *Aspidium dilatatum*, Great crested shield fern.

5. *Pilularia globulifera*, Pepper grass pillwort.

Plantations.—The plantations consist of oak, elm, ash, alder, birch, plane, lime, larch,—silver, spruce, and Scotch fir.

There are six beautiful oaks in the old garden at Skeldon, supposed to be upwards of 300 years old. A native of this parish, who died here about five and twenty years ago, on the verge of a hundred, said, that he remembered no difference in them in the whole course of his life; and that the aged people in his time spoke of them as being more than 200 years old. Of two which were measured lately, one was 12 feet round, and contained within the branches a circumference of 220 feet; the other was 10 feet round, and 20 feet from the root to the branches. Near the oaks are several larches, equal in height and beauty to the generality of those in the Duke of Atholl's plantations at Dunkeld. Half-way between the church and manse, and in the glebe, are two magnificent and beautiful trees, a sycamore and a horse-chestnut.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The barony of Dalrymple was held in former times by a family,

who took from their lands the surname of Dalrymple. In the reign of David II. 1330-32, the barony was divided into two parts, and possessed by two families of the name of Dalrymple, who were probably derived from a common progenitor. In 1371, John Kennedy of Dunure obtained a charter from Robert II. of half the barony of "Dalrimpill," in Ayrshire, upon the resignation of Malcolm, the son of Gilchrist, the son of Adam de "Dalrimpill;" and in 1377, the same John Kennedy obtained another charter from Robert II. of the other half of the barony of "Dalrympill," upon the resignation of Hugh, the son of Roland de "Dalrympill," and the whole continued to belong to his descendants till the reign of Charles II. 1660-84.

Land-owners.—The land-owners of the parish are the Marquis of Ailsa, who has in point of valuation more than the half; R. A. Oswald of Auchencruive, Esq. who has nearly a fourth; the Honourable Mrs Leslie Cumming; and Andrew Hunter of Bonnington, Esq. Skeldon and Hollybush are the only gentlemen's seats in the parish. The former is the property of Mrs Leslie Cumming, and is occupied by Sir James Montgomery Cuninghame of Corsehill, Bart.; the other is the property of Mr Hunter, and is occupied by Captain Brian Hodgson, R. N.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers of births and marriages, and the minutes of the kirk-session, commence in 1699, immediately after the ordination of Mr Lawrie. The register of deaths commences in 1739, and ends at 1793. A new volume, however, was begun in 1816. Including an heritors' book, there are eight volumes altogether, and the whole have been kept pretty regularly.

Antiquities—Roman Road.—The line of a Roman road, supposed to have formed a communication between the Friths of Solway and Clyde, passes through this parish. Entering it at the eastern extremity, it passes through the farms of Polnessan, Smithston, Newfield, Boreland, Hollybush-Mains, and Causeway, which is supposed to have taken its name from this road. From Causeway it goes on to the farm of Perclewan, and passing through this and the farm of Lindston, it enters the parish of Ayr. Mr Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, mentions, that "some old people call this the Picts Road, and others, the Roman Way;"—"but the construction of the pavement in the Roman manner evinces clearly, he says, that it was a Roman Road."—"The Romans having such a road, he continues, must necessarily have had encamp-

ments through which it passed, yet no Roman camp has yet been discovered in Ayrshire. Their trinkets have been found in various parts of this extensive shire. They had erected their villas along the fine shore of the Clyde Frith, from Kellyburn to Irvine; and on this coast the remains of their baths have been discovered."

Roman Vessels.—A tripod of Roman bronze, and understood to be one of those used by the priest in pouring libations on the sacrifice, or otherwise about the altar, was found in a drained part of Lindston Loch, near the Roman road, about fifty years ago; and a pitcher of earthen-ware, like that represented in prints, in the hand of the woman of Samaria, at the well at Sychar, was found at Perclewan, on the line of the same road in 1833. Both have handles; the tripod has also a spout, and the pitcher is glazed, and of a greenish colour, and has the figure of a man's face and hands on the front, in relief.

British Fortlets.—On a ridge of a rising ground, about three miles in length, forming the boundary between the valley of Dalrymple and the low road from Ayr to Maybole, are the remains of three British fortlets. They are all circular, and surrounded by trenches, and contain each about fifty fathoms of ground. The trenches were filled with a rich black mould, resembling moss-earth; and on its being removed some years ago for the purpose of manure, human skulls, bones, and deers' horns were found.

Coins.—About ten years ago, some silver coins were found in a grave in the church-yard here. Two of them, which came into the writer's possession, are of the reign of James I. of Scotland, (1424–36,) and apparently half-groats. The one is of the Edinburgh mint, and the other was struck at Stirling. They bear on the obverse, within a rose, the head of the sovereign, crowned, full-faced, with the sceptre on the right. Legend, JACOBUS . DEI . GRATIA . REX . SCOTORUM. On the reverse, a cross with three pellets, and a fleur-de-lis alternately in the quarters. Legend, DOMINUS . PROTECTOR . MEUS . ET . LIBERATOR . MEUS, and within a dotted circle, the first, VILLA . EDINBURGI, the other VILLA . STREVEVLI.

There were also four silver pennies, of Edward I. and III. of England, found in a ploughed field near the village in 1835. The largest has on one side, EDW . R . ANGL . DNS . HYB, and on the reverse, CIVITAS . LONDON. Two of them have on the reverse, CIVITAS . CANTOR, and the fourth, CIVITAS . DUREME.*

* The coins, Roman vessels, a spear found in Barbieston holm, and part of a deer's

Stone Coffin, &c.—A stone coffin and bones were found in Barbieston holm, near the river Doon, and about a furlong to the east of Dalrymple village. In answer to inquiries on that subject, Mr Fullarton very kindly made the following communication: "About 1804-5, I had bought the farm of Barbieston, and, wishing to make a new approach to my house at Skeldon, I set some men to work to form that road, in the course of which operation they had to cut through a small hillock of gravel. This proving of immediate use in making the road, was followed, and a considerable part removed, when suddenly the workers came on a stone coffin, in which was the skeleton of a large-sized person in a state of decay. On taking up the right thigh bone, I applied it to my own leg, as nearly as I possibly could to my hip-joint, and it went nearly to the middle of my shin, and I stand five feet eleven inches. From these circumstances, I was led to think that the bones must have belonged to some tall, powerful man, some chief or captain, particularly as a battle is reported by Hollingshed, and also by Spottiswood, to have been fought at the ford of Barbieston." *

Cairns of Stones.—In Barbieston holm, and near the place where the stone coffin was found, there was a large cairn of stones; and not far distant there were two others, one at St Valley, and another at Priest-hill. The whole, however, were removed in the course of the last thirty years, and among the stones were human and other bones, and some heads of pikes, spears, &c. †

horn found in the trench of one of the fortlets, are all in the custody of the writer of this account at Dalrymple manse.

* Extract from Hollingshed. He asserts that the region of the Silures, or of Silurie, contains Kyle, Carrick, and Cunningham. He thinks Coil "the same whom the Bryttans name Gutteline."—"Coil of Bryttaine assembling an armie, he entred into the Scottish borders, lying towards the Irish seas, wasting with fire and sword whatsoever he found in his ways, till he came 'even to the river of Dune,' where he encamped on the banks thereof."—From Spottiswood. This historian relates, that, in the year 360. Maximus, a Roman prefect, excited the Picts to enter into an alliance with him against the Scots, and that the Romans and Picts encountered the Scots at the Water of Dun in Carrick. The Scots were routed, and their King, Eugenius, with most of his nobility, slain.—From Boethius, *Scotorum Historia*. He relates that Coil was king of the Britons, Kenneth of the Scots. The latter, in conjunction with the Picts, attacked Coil, "ad Dunæ amnis ripam." The Scots made the attack in front, while the Picts came upon him from behind by night. "Coilus ipse, dum incautius a suis servaretur, oppressus, decubuit, loco nomen, Coilum, (nunc Coil, mutato paulum vocabulo dicunt) perpetuo ad posteros relinquens."—Buchanan, *Rer. Scoticar. Hist. Lib. iv. C. iv. v.* "Igitur exercitu quantum poterant coacto duo reges bifariam Brittonum fines ingressi, agris ferro, flammaque late deformatis, cum ingenti præda domum revertuntur. Ad eam injuriam vindicandam, Britto Scotorum fines ingressus, ad Dunum usque amnem penetravit," &c.

† The following extract, from an historical and genealogical account of the principal families of the name of Kennedy, from an original MS. (printed at Edinburgh, 1820,) may account for one of the cairns. The House of Donour or Dunure.—"This house remanit ane lang time, bot in ane sober estait, not heffand na grit rent,

Castles.—There were several old castles in the parish, Kerse, Skeldon, Barbieston, &c. Some stones of the old vaults in Barbieston were found, bearing the dates of 1340 and 1345. This castle was modernized about fifty years ago, and is now a comfortable dwelling-house. A part only of Skeldon Castle is in existence, and like most ruined buildings, it has an echo. As to Kerse Castle, there is not one stone now left upon another, to point out where it was. The greatest part of it was used in the building of Skeldon House about sixty years ago, and the rest by the neighbouring farmers for various purposes.*

Mills.—Of mills, there are at Perclewan, a meal-mill; at Barbieston, a barley and flour-mill; at Dalrymple village, a saw-mill; and throughout the parish eighteen or twenty thrashing-mills, five or six of which are driven by water, and the rest by horses. At Nethermill, on the river Doon, there is a woollen manufactory, carried on by Mr William Templeton, a gentleman of great ingenuity and success, with respect to machinery. In the course of last year, Mr Templeton introduced gas light into his mill, which is of the greatest consequence and comfort to the workers.

nor commandymnt of the country. For we hear na gritt mentioune maid of thaim in Wallis dayis, nor the Brucis tyme. For at the Barnis of Air, the Laird of Caisillis was Sir Neil Montgomery; quha, as we read in Wallace buik, was hangit in Air, be the descitt of the Inglisshmanne; bot because that the Cronikil makis mentioune heirof, I rest theiron. Bot the airis of this Sir Neill bruikit the landis of Caisillis quhill the ring of Robert the Secund, the first of the Stewarts, at the whilk time the lairdis landis fell to ane lass. And the Laird of Dalrumpill, hir nyteboir, come to hir hous of Caisillis, and perseivit hir, be forse, to have hir in marrage; the quhilk scho wold noch condiscend to, bot defendit the hous. And at this tyme, the Laird of Donour that than was, he coming by, and perselving the samin, set upon the Laird of Dalrumpill and slew him, and releiffit the lady, and tuik hir with him to his hous of Donour. Now the Laird of Dalrumpill being slane as ye have hard, his landis fallis to his broder sonis amongis the quhilk, thair was gritt stryff; but the youngest at last sald his rycht to the Laird of Donour. And thane the Laird of Donour sett for the eldest, and slew him, littil abuiff the kirk of Dalrumpill; qubair now, thair is ane gritt cairn of stanis to this day. And this was Dalrumpillis conquest."

* It may not be out of place to refer here to a poem composed by the late Sir Alexander Boswell, from a traditional story communicated to him by George Rankine of Whitehill, Esq. to whom he dedicated it, and the date of the encounter he assigns to the fifteenth century. A few copies only were printed at the celebrated Auchinleck press, and circulated among his most intimate friends. Mr Pitcairn of Edinburgh, who published in 1830, the historical account of the Kennedys, already referred to, reprinted this poem in the appendix of that book. He says that two different versions of the story are traditionally current among some very aged people in Carrick. One of these is that which has been adopted by Sir Alexander Boswell. The other relates, that three of the Crawfords of Lochnorris were present at the battle, one of whom returned, heavily bemoaning the fall of his two brothers, when his widowed mother suddenly cut short his lamentation by exclaiming, "Is the sow flitted? Aye is she, replied the youth, and five score of the Kennedies are drowned in the Doon." In that part of the Doon which bounds Boreland farm in this parish, there is a pool, called "Kennedie's Pool," to this day, from the circumstance of their having been drowned there.

III.—POPULATION.

From the returns made to Dr Webster in 1755, it appears that the population of the parish at that time was 439; but when Mr Walker wrote his Statistical Account in 1791, the number of souls was only 380. Since that period, however, the population has greatly increased, partly from the erection of the village of Dalrymple, and partly from the subdivision of the lands of Martinham, so that the number amounted

In 1801, to	514	
1811,	811	
1821,	933	
1831,	964	
In June 1831, the number of persons under 15 years of age, was		387
betwixt 15 and 30,		238
30 50,		197
50 70,		105
upwards of 70,		37
Of these, 703 live in the country, and 261 in the village of Dalrymple.		
The number of families is		190
Of which are employed in agriculture,		88
Number of married men, 128; widowers, 9; and bachelors, upwards of 50 years of age, 11,		148
females who are widows,		23
unmarried, upwards of 45,		16
The average of births for the last eight years, from 1829 to 1836,		32
marriages,		9
deaths,		14

Character, &c.—In a letter from Mr Campbell of Cumnock, who was upwards of twenty years schoolmaster of Dalrymple, he says, “you will not fail I am sure to give the peaceful inhabitants of Dalrymple, that character for decency, sobriety, and orderly conduct, to which they are so justly entitled.” The writer of this Account, after an eight years residence among them as their minister, has great pleasure in bearing his humble testimony to Mr Campbell’s statement.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The number of acres standard imperial measure in the parish may be about 6700; of which 4200 are arable; 1900 consist of hill pasture and meadow; 500 are under wood, and 100 under water. The rent of land in the valley of Dalrymple is from L. 2 to L. 4, 10s. per acre; and the average of arable land throughout the parish is L. 1, 3s. The principal crops raised are oats and wheat. The soils on which the wheat is generally sown, and where it grows to the greatest advantage, are the clean clay, properly fallowed; the deep dry holm land, and the light sandy and gravelly soils after potatoes or turnips. If the ground be sufficiently dry, it is generally sown as soon as they are taken off the field; if not, the sowing is deferred till the following spring. Wheat in most

seasons grows best on fallow land, and when sown about the middle of autumn. The kinds mostly used are the white, red, creeping and spring wheat. Oats are sown on every kind of soil capable of cultivation; they grow best, however, on the clay and loam. A great variety are sown, among which may be mentioned the common, the potato, the red, the gray, and the early and late Angushire. Barley, bear, potatoes, turnips, beans, pease, carrots, beet, cabbages, flax, &c. are grown mostly for family use. The following are the general rotations of crops: first year or lea crop, oats; second year, green crop of potatoes, turnips, beans or pease; third, wheat, oats, barley, or any white crop, and sow down with rye-grass, white, red, and yellow clover. Another system is, 1. oats; 2. fallow; 3. wheat or any white crop, and sown down with rye-grass, &c. Another, 1. oats; 2. fallow; 3. wheat or oats; 4. beans or pease, and sow down; or 5. a white crop and sow down. Another, 1. oats, with manure on the surface, previous to ploughing; 2. oats and sow down. Another, manure the surface; take three white crops in succession, and sow down.

The general method of fallowing land in this parish is to plough it as lightly as possible, early in winter; to cross plough it with a deep furrow in May or June, and to give two ploughings more, in the course of the summer. These, with the necessary harrowing, draining, rolling, manuring, &c. make it ready for the seed, which is usually sown in September or October.

Rate of Wages.—Farm-servants get from L. 10 to L. 16 per annum, besides a free house and garden, two pecks of oatmeal, and two of potatoes a-week, and their coals led; women get from L. 5 to L. 8, with board and lodging; labourers from 1s. to 1s. 6d. with, and from 1s. 6d. to 2s. without victuals; cartwrights, from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. with victuals. Blacksmiths either charge a certain sum for each piece of work, or agree with the farmers at so much a-year.

Cheese.—There are, at an average, about 3600 stones of sweet milk cheese annually made in the parish; of which a great part are sold to retail-dealers, the rest to families in Ayr, Maybole, and throughout the neighbourhood, and part kept for home consumption. What is sold to the families is generally coloured, and, for the most part, shaped like the Cheshire and Stilton cheeses. The average price per stone for the last eight years was 8s. 6d.

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

Of grain,	L. 6400	0	0
Of potatoes and turnips,	1700	0	0
Of hay and hay-seed,	2600	0	0
Of land in pasture,	1760	0	0
Of miscellaneous produce, including a nursery garden,	800	0	0
	<hr/>		
	L. 13,260	0	0

The general duration of leases is nineteen years, a period far too limited to promote the improvement of agriculture, and the happiness and welfare of the farmer.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Village.—Dalrymple is the only village in the parish, and is situated on the river Doon, about half way between Ayr and Maybole. It formerly consisted of a few thatched cottages huddled together round the churchyard; but about the beginning of this century, the Marquis of Ailsa granted feus in a more eligible situation, and in a short time the present neat village, which is much admired by every stranger, was erected. A carrier from the village goes to Ayr every Tuesday and Friday, and returns on the same days; and as there is no post-office in the parish, he carries also letters and newspapers.

Means of Communication.—The London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow mail-coaches to and from Ireland pass every evening, about half-past nine or ten, within a mile and a-half of the village; and during a great part of the year, the Ayr and Dumfries stage-coach goes on one day and returns on the next, for several miles, through the upper part of the parish.

Ecclesiastical State.—“Of the more early history of the church of Dalrymple,” says Mr Chalmers in his *Caledonia*, “research has found nothing. When James IV. re-established the chapel-royal of Stirling in the beginning of the sixteenth century, he annexed to it the church of Dalrymple; the revenues whereof formed one of the prebends of that chapel. The cure of the church was in the meantime held by a curate. The patronage of the prebend of Dalrymple belonged to the King; and even after the church ceased to be connected with the chapel-royal, the King continued the patron of the same church.”—The present church is pleasantly situated on the river Doon, at the south-west extremity of the parish. It is near the village, but by no means convenient for the families in the upper part of the parish, as they are distant from it from four to six miles. It was rebuilt on the old foundation in a very superficial manner in 1764, and as it is, besides, by far too small for the population, it is to be hoped that the land-owners

will in a short time build a new church. Divine service is in general well attended. The Lord's supper is dispensed once a-year, and the average number of communicants is 350. The number of persons, male heads of families, who have the right of exercising the veto, amounts at present to 127. There is no other place of worship but the parish church; and, with the exception of four or five Dissenters who came from other parishes, the parishioners adhere to the Establishment. Tent-preaching is still kept up here on the sacramental Sabbaths. In one of the session records, of date 6th June 1808, after mention is made that the sacrament was dispensed according to appointment, the following is added: "It deserves to be remarked, that there was no sermon at the tent at all on this occasion,—a thing that has not occurred in this parish, as far as we know, in the memory of any living."

Manse, Glebe, &c.—The manse was built about the end of last century, and a very neat addition was made to it in 1832. The glebe consists of 4 acres, and is worth L. 10 per annum. It appears from a minute of the Presbytery of Ayr in September 1701, that the Kirk-hill, consisting of 14 acres, which lets at present for upwards of L. 30, was designed as a grass-glebe to the minister; but, from some unknown circumstance, the ground thus designed is now the property of the Marquis of Ailsa. The stipend is 15 chalders, half meal and half barley, besides L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements, and L. 1, 10s. 4d. as an allowance for a grass-glebe. The average price of a chalder to the clergy in this county for the last seven years, viz. from 1829 to 1835 (for the fiars for crop and year 1836 are not yet struck,) was L. 14, 13s. 3d.

Ministers of Dalrymple.—The first Presbyterian minister of Dalrymple, as far as can be ascertained from the records of the Presbytery of Ayr, which go back to 1642, was Mr Robert Sprèule, who was also Presbytery clerk. How long he was settled before that date, and how long he continued, and whether he had any immediate successor, is unknown, as some of the records of those troublous times are either lost, or were never in existence. In 1694, Mr James Gilchrist was ordained and admitted minister of Dalrymple; in 1699, Mr James Laurie; in 1727, Mr John Adams, who was translated to Falkirk in 1744; in 1745, Mr Samuel Walker; in 1754, Mr Ebenezer Walker, brother of the former; in 1798, Mr Robert Steven, minister of Catrine chapel, was admitted; and on the 19th of February 1829, the present incumbent, Mr Robert Wallace, was ordained and admitted.

Education.—There are two schools; the parochial, which is situated in the village; and Hollybush school, about the centre of the parish. The branches taught at these schools are English reading and grammar, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, Latin, Greek, French, geography, mathematics, &c. The parochial schoolmaster's salary is L. 30, which, with school-fees, L. 25, and L. 8 in compensation for a house and garden, and perquisites from his office as session-clerk, make his income from L. 60 to L. 70.

The teacher of Hollybush school has a free school and dwelling-house, and a good garden from Mr Hunter, the proprietor of Hollybush. The average number of scholars at the parochial school is 60; and at Hollybush school, 45; and both schools are very well conducted. The parochial school-house was formerly at St Valley, a little to the north-east of the village, and now forms part of a farm-steading.*

Societies.—Of societies, there are a Friendly Society, a Musical Society, a Burns's club, and a curling club. The Friendly Society, or, as it is termed, "the Dalrymple Friendly Society," was instituted in 1807. According to the articles of this Society, the number of members must be sixty; and if, by the providence of Almighty God, any member be disabled from work, by sickness or any evident misfortune, and judged so by the visiting master, he, without any regard to his circumstances, shall receive the sum of 6s. per week when confined within doors, and when able to walk about shall receive 4s. per week; and when any member dies, the surviving members are obliged to contribute each the sum of 1s. towards defraying funeral expenses,—to attend the funeral, if desired,—and if there be no relations, the preses is to act as chief mourner.

In 1836, a General Agricultural Association for Ayrshire was instituted at Ayr, and the minister and several of the farmers of this parish are members of the association.

Savings Bank.—In May 1831, a savings bank was established in Maybole for it and the neighbouring parishes, and, with the exception of Maybole, this parish, it seems, has contributed more than any of the rest. In the course of that time, there have been

* It is to this school that Mr Lockhart, the talented biographer of Burns, alludes in his life of the poet. "When Burns," says he, "was about thirteen or fourteen years old, his father sent him and Gilbert, week about, during a summer quarter, to the parish school of Dalrymple, two or three miles distant from Mount Oliphant, for the improvement of their penmanship. The good old man could not pay two fees, or his boys could not be spared at the same time from the labour of the farm."

63 contributors from this parish alone, 36 males and 27 females, principally composed, the former of tradesmen and servants, and the latter of sewers and servants. The average amount yearly invested is L. 73, and the amount withdrawn L. 41. This bank has had the tendency to give most of the contributors industrious and provident habits.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There are at present 12 persons regularly receiving parochial aid; and the average sum allotted to each is 6s. 6d. per month; there are several also who are supplied occasionally according to their necessities; and three orphans who are maintained from the parochial funds. The annual amount of contributions for their relief is about L. 70, of which from L. 30 to L. 40 arise from church collections, the income from a mortcloth, &c.; and the rest is obtained from the landed proprietors.

Alehouses.—There are two alehouses in the parish,—one in the village, and the other on the road from Ayr to Dalmellington, and about halfway from both places.

Fuel.—The fuel generally used is coal, brought from the parishes of Stair, Coylton, Straiton, and Dalmellington. The distance of the nearest coal-pit from Dalrymple village is five miles; and a ton of coals, including carriage and tolls, costs 13s.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In the former Statistical Account of Dalrymple, Mr Walker mentions that “the lower part of the parish is surrounded by little green hills.” These hills are now for the most part fruitful fields, and yield luxuriant crops of oats, wheat, &c.; the remainder is covered with thriving plantations of all the trees common to this country. When the former Account was written, there was no wheat grown in the parish. This is now, in the lower part, about one-third of the grain crop. The fences, which consisted formerly of large unshapen stones gathered from the fields, are now in a great measure superseded by hedges of thorn, beech, and privet, which, with clumps of plantations scattered throughout the parish, give it a much more clothed and interesting appearance, and are, moreover, highly beneficial in affording shelter to the cattle in wet and stormy weather.

Of upwards of thirty farm-houses and steadings, about one-half have been erected in the course of this century, with considerable taste, and at the same time for the comfort and convenience of the tenants. They are built of rubble stone, slated, and

rough-cast, with lime, sand, and gravel. They have each, too, a thrashing-mill, driven either by water or horses.

In the course of this century, that part of the barony of Martinham in this parish, consisting of about 500 acres, (formerly let as a grazing-farm, but without either a house or a residenter on it,) has been subdivided into several farms, and has now eleven dwelling-houses, inhabited by upwards of seventy souls.

With the improvements in the parish, the rental has also kept pace, having, in the course of thirty years, been more than tripled. In 1792, it amounted to L. 1570 Sterling; in 1807, to L. 3525; and in 1822, to L. 5192.

In 1736, the number of births was 13; in 1786, 12; and in 1836, 35. In 1736, the collections at church amounted to L. 7; in 1786, to L. 12; and in 1836 to L. 30.

The line of the projected railway from Ayr to Girvan passes through the southern part of this parish.

September 1837.

PARISH OF DUNLOP.

PRESBYTERY OF IRVINE, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. MATTHEW DICKIE, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of this parish is supposed to be derived from two Gaelic words, *dun*, a fortified height, and *luib*, a winding, as of a stream. According to local tradition, the Castle of Dunlop stood in ancient times on the top of a small eminence, (still called Dunlop Hill,) near the church. As the stream which passes Dunlop winds round the base of this hill, a castle so situated might have been appropriately called *dun-luib*, or the fortified hill at the winding; and it has been conjectured, that the name of this baronial residence was afterwards given to the church, and the parochial district annexed to it.

Extent, Boundaries, &c.—This parish is of an oblong form. Its extreme length from S. W. to N. E. is about 7 miles, and its general breadth nearly 2 miles. At the southern and northern extremities it becomes much narrower, being for about a mile of length