

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

at each end, scarcely half a mile broad. It contains about $10\frac{1}{4}$ square miles of surface. It is bounded on the N. by Neilston; on the N. W. by Beith; on the S. and S. E. by Stewarton. The greater part of it lies in the district of Cunninghame and county of Ayr, but on the N. it extends into Renfrewshire. It has been alleged that these lands in Renfrewshire, extending to about 1000 imperial acres, are connected with Dunlop only *quoad sacra*, and that, *quoad civilia*, they belong to the parish of Neilston. It has never been clearly ascertained whether this is the case or not; but the circumstance of their having paid all parish burdens to Dunlop from time immemorial, seems to lead to a different conclusion.

Topographical Appearances.—Though the whole parish is considerably above the level of the sea,* the ground nowhere rises into any eminence that deserves the name of a hill, much less of a mountain. Perhaps no height in the parish has an elevation of more than 150 feet above the adjacent hollow. The surface of the greater part of it is gently undulating. It rises with a gradual slope from S. W. to N. E., where it attains its greatest elevation in the small hills of Craignaught and Knockmead. In the neighbourhood of the church, the surface is very uneven, a number of low hills, or more properly knolls, being there crowded together in a very irregular manner: and in many other places, while the low ridges between the streamlets that intersect the parish, slope upward on one side with a gentle ascent, they terminate abruptly on the other, in steep grassy banks or precipitous rocks. The aspect of the country would be much improved by additional plantations. Those already existing, are chiefly on those parts of the estates of Dunlop and Caldwell which lie on the confines of the parish, so that in the central parts, though almost every farmhouse has some trees about it, there is not enough of wood to give the country a sheltered appearance. From its comparatively elevated situation, this parish from many points commands a very rich and varied prospect. From Brackenheugh, about a mile to the south of the church, the view is particularly grand. The highly cultivated and richly wooded district, lying between Dunlop and the sea, seems spread out like a map; the shores of the Frith of Clyde, from Ardrossan to the Cairn of Lochryan, with its various bays and headlands, are distinctly seen, while the mountains

* The church of Dunlop is computed to be about 350 feet above the level of the sea, and Knockmead Hill, the highest point in the parish, about 560.

of Arran, with Ailsa Craig and the hills of Ireland, form the background of the scene.

The temperature of Dunlop is somewhat colder than that of the lower parts of the county. This is to be ascribed in part to its height above the sea, but chiefly to the wetness of the soil in many places, and the want of wood. If the land was thoroughly drained, and properly sheltered by plantations, it is thought that this evil might in a great measure be got rid of. Persons well qualified to judge are of opinion, that the draining already effected has done much good in this respect. It is supposed to be owing to this, that early autumnal frosts, which were at one time common and very hurtful, are now little known.

The climate of Dunlop is justly considered very healthy. There is no endemical disease in the parish, and it has seldom suffered much from the epidemics which, from time to time, have prevailed in neighbouring districts. The people in general enjoy excellent health, and many of them live to a good old age. At present there are nine persons upwards of eighty years of age. Two of these are above ninety.

Hydrography.—Dunlop abounds with springs of excellent water. They are all perennial. None of them deserve particular notice, on account either of the quantity or quality of their water.

There is now no lake in the parish, Halket Loch, (extending to about nine or ten acres,) which was the only one, having been drained a few years ago, at the joint expense of the proprietors whose lands border on it. It is now an excellent meadow. The draining of this loch has had the effect of completely preventing the mildew, from which the crops immediately around it formerly suffered much.

The principal stream connected with the parish is the Lugton. It rises out of Loch Libo in Renfrewshire, and, after a course of about fifteen miles in a south west direction, joins the Garnock near Kilwinning. It separates Dunlop from Beith. Corsehill burn separates Dunlop from Stewarton. The Glazert, which is joined by a few very small rivulets, drains the centre of the parish, dividing it into two nearly equal parts. After a course of about ten or eleven miles, it falls into the Annack, which is tributary to the Irvine. It passes close to the church and village. All these streams are very inconsiderable, affording scarcely water enough to drive the corn-mills erected on them.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The prevailing rocks are claystone,

passing into claystone-porphry and amygdaloid, with subordinate masses of greenstone and basalt. These rocks often jut through the surface, sometimes forming precipices of considerable height, but though many quarries have been opened where they are thus exposed, they have not been wrought to such an extent as to show their general direction and inclination. Where they break through the surface they are often much disintegrated, and are generally a confused mass, destitute of regular stratification. The irregular seams and fissures running through them, all lie in a direction approaching to vertical. At Craighead, near the centre of the parish, is a bed of greenstone, composed of seams of different thicknesses, which supplies excellent building stones. The depth and extent of it have not been ascertained. At Templehouse, near the village, and a few other places, greenstone of good quality is also met with. Columnar basalt occurs at Lochridgehills. The columns, as far as they have been laid bare by the working of a quarry at the place, are about 18 feet in height, and 20 inches in thickness. They are generally pentagonal, and somewhat curved.

Next to these rocks, limestone is the most abundant. At Laigh Gameshill it has long been quarried. This bed is in some places about 16 feet thick, and of excellent quality. In other places it is of much less value, being thinner, and having many layers of indurated clay interspersed. Another bed of limestone appears at intervals in the farms of Bourock, East and West Waterland, on the banks of the Lugton. Very little use has yet been made of it. Connected with this limestone, freestone and coal are found. They are still almost untouched. A short time ago, a few carts of coals were taken out, but they were found to be of such inferior quality as not to be worth the expense of extracting them. It is not known whether the sandstone and coal are co-extensive with the limestone. Besides these two principal beds of limestone, there are less extensive masses of it in various other places. It everywhere abounds with petrified shells.

The soil incumbent on all these rocks is generally of a clayey retentive nature, but very productive, especially in grass, when properly drained. In a few places, in the southern division of the parish, it is loamy, and in the higher grounds patches of moss occur here and there.

Zoology.—Of quadrupeds, the hare, wild rabbit, weasel, and mole are common. Roe-deer have for some years past frequented

the woods in the neighbourhood of Caldwell. It is supposed that their number does not exceed eight or nine. The fox has nearly disappeared, though it is still occasionally seen.

The following birds are found in great numbers: blackbird, thrush, bullfinch, lark, curlew, grey and green linnet, rail, and partridge. The pheasant, missel-thrush, goldfinch, heron, wild-duck, teal, and snipe, are to be met with, but they are not numerous. The starling, which a few years ago was almost unknown, is now very common.

In the Lugton, pike and trout abound, and the other small streams are well stored with burn trouts. The Glazert is said to have produced char in former times, but they are not now found in it.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Accounts of the Parish.—In Robertson's topographical description of Cunninghame, a short account is given of the parish of Dunlop. The author's attention is chiefly directed to family history. A series of maps of the different parishes in Cunninghame was published a few years ago by Mr Aitken, land-surveyor, Beith. These maps are supposed to be very correct.

Eminent Characters.—Several persons who have highly distinguished themselves have been connected with this parish by birth or residence. The learned John Major or Mair, the instructor of Knox, while Professor of Theology at Glasgow, was also vicar of Dunlop, in which character it may be supposed he was at least occasionally resident in the parish.*

James Hamilton, Viscount Clandeboyes, eldest son of Hans Hamilton, Vicar of Dunlop, by his talents and success, reflects honour on his native parish. He was sent to Ireland by James VI. in the year 1587, along with James Fullarton, to keep up a correspondence with the Protestants of that kingdom, and communicate intelligence from time to time as to the designs of the Irish, in the event of Queen Elizabeth's death. The better to conceal their design, they opened a school in Dublin for the education of Protestant youth. After teaching privately for se-

* His connection with this parish is shewn by the following extracts from the Old Register, entitled, "Annales Universitatis Glasguensis." Under date 3d November 1518, there is the following entry, "Eodem die, incorporati sub dicto Dno Rectore, Egregius vir, Mag. Johannes Majoris, Doctor Parisiensis ac principalis regens Collegie et padagogii dicte Universitatis, Canonicusque Capelli regie, ac vicarius de Dunlop," &c. Under date 24th May 1522, he is designed "Theologie professor, thesaurarius Capelle regie Strivilingensis, Vicariusque de Dunlop."—M'Crie's Life of Knox, Vol. i. p. 340, 341.

veral years, they were appointed to fellowships in Trinity College, then newly founded, and by their talents contributed much to establish the high character which it soon acquired. After the accession of James to the throne of England, James Hamilton, who had discharged his mission to the satisfaction of the King, was rewarded by extensive grants of forfeited lands in the county of Down and elsewhere; and after being employed in several important services, was at length, in 1622, elevated to the peerage, by the title of Viscount Clancuboyes and Baron Hamilton. This title became extinct on the death of his grandson, Henry, Earl of Clanbrassil.*

Lord Clancuboyes' five brothers having followed him to Ireland, shared his good fortune. Their numerous descendants, the Hamiltons of Down, Armagh, Dublin, and Carlow, with their various collateral branches, are still possessed of great wealth and influence. From them are descended the noble families of Clanbrassil, Roden, Massareene and Dufferin. The first of these titles having become extinct through the failure of heirs in the eldest branch of Hans Hamilton's family, was granted to one of the descendants of a younger son, but has again become extinct. Archibald Hamilton Rowan, so well known from his connection with the last Irish rebellion, was the lineal descendant of Hans Hamilton's second son, Archibald.

James Dunlop of that Ilk, and Alexander Dunlop, his son, are deserving of notice as warm supporters of the Presbyterian cause in the reign of Charles II. Their opposition to the oppressive measures of the government, was severely punished by fines and imprisonment. †

In later times, several members of this family have been highly distinguished in the profession of arms, particularly Lieut.-General James Dunlop, the last laird. His mother is well known as the early friend and correspondent of Burns.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners, in the order of their valued rents, are, William Mure, Esq. of Caldwell, John Dunlop, Esq. of Dunlop, M. P., Richard Trotter, Esq. of Hapland, Andrew Brown, Esq. of Hill, and Col. M'Alester of Kennox.

Parochial Registers.—The register of proclamations commences in 1700, and that of baptisms in 1701. With the exception of two or three short intervals, they have been kept with extreme in-

* Anderson's History of the House of Hamilton,

† Wodrow's History, i. 280. ii. 309, 373. fol. ed.

accuracy till the year 1780, when the late minister entered on the charge of the parish. Since that time they have been kept with great regularity.

Antiquities.—The antiquities of Dunlop are not numerous. A few years ago, the ruins of a chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, were removed. They stood at a place called Chapelhouse, about half a mile from the village. Whether this was the parish church before the Reformation, as is conjectured in the former Statistical Account, or a chapel distinct from it, as stated in Chalmers' Caledonia, is now uncertain. In a field in the neighbourhood, is a large detached stone, round which, if tradition is to be believed, it was customary for persons attending at the chapel to perform part of their devotions. It is called the "*Thugartstane*," supposed to be a corruption of "*the grit stane*."

Dunlop House is another relic of former times, which has now disappeared. It was taken down about three years ago, to make way for the splendid new mansion which its proprietor is now erecting. It is thus described in Pont's Cuninghame Topographed. "Dunlopp, ane ancient stronghouse, fortified with a deipe fousse of watter, and planted with goodly orchards.—It belongs to James Dunloppe of that same, and chieffe of his name." It is uncertain when the original square tower, part of which remained till the whole building was removed, was erected. One of the more modern additions bore the date of 1599.

Aiket Castle, about a mile south from the church, is now the oldest building in the parish. The date of its erection is not exactly known; but as a considerable branch of the family of Cuninghame possessed the property of which it was the mansion, for some centuries preceding 1700, about which time it passed into other hands, we may assign to it a very respectable antiquity. It consisted originally of a square tower, vaulted on the ground floor, and four or five storeys high. To this had been added at a later date some lower buildings. The appearance of the whole has been very much altered, by reducing the tower to the level of the annexed buildings. It is still inhabited.

The only other building that has any claim to antiquity, is a small vaulted chamber in the churchyard, in which Hans Hamilton, the minister of Dunlop, already mentioned, and his wife, are buried. There is a very accurate description of it given in the former Statistical Account of the parish.

Modern Buildings.—Dunlop House is the only modern building

that deserves particular notice. It is a magnificent mansion in the old English style. The design was furnished by Mr Hamilton of Glasgow. It stands in a beautifully sequestered situation, on the banks of the small stream which separates this parish from Stewarton.

III.—POPULATION.

Population according to Dr Webster in	1755,	796	
last Statistical Account, in	1791,	779	
Government census in	1801,	808	
	1811,	990	
	1821,	1029	
	1831,	1040	514 males.
			526 females.

The population in the month of August 1835 was 1157, of whom 572 were males, and 585 females. The demand for labourers in consequence of agricultural improvements, is the chief cause of the increase of population which has so long been going on steadily. During last summer, the building of Dunlop House and the church, also caused a temporary increase of the population.

Number of the present population residing in the village,	284
in the country,	873
* Yearly average of births for the last seven years,	334
of marriages,	94
Number of persons under 15 years of age,	425
betwixt 15 and 30,	357
30 and 50,	221
50 and 70,	120
upwards of 70,	84
	<hr/> 1157
Number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers above 50,	25
unmarried women above 45,	48
Number of families,	222
chiefly employed in agriculture,	134
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	45
Number of fatuous persons,	2
insane,	1
blind,	1
houses inhabited,	183
uninhabited,	0
building,	2

One family of independent fortune resides in the parish. The number of proprietors of land, of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, is 37, of whom 23 are resident. The total number of heritors is 54.

* As the registration of births is scarcely ever neglected here, the statement with regard to their average number may be considered very nearly correct.—It often happens that only one of the parties proclaimed resides in the parish. In the above estimate, two such proclamations are considered equivalent to one marriage.—As no register of deaths is kept, their number cannot be exactly stated. The yearly rate of mortality for the three years and a half, during which the writer has resided in Dunlop, is 22. This is probably somewhat less than the average of a longer period would be, as there has till lately been comparatively little sickness in the parish.

This minute division of property is not of recent date. From an old manuscript valuation of Cunninghame, in the possession of John Dunlop, Esq. of Dunlop, it appears that in 1640, the time when it was drawn up, there were thirty-three heritors in the parish. The property of eight of these is still possessed by their descendants; that of the rest has passed into other hands. Of the present heritors, several are the representatives of families that have possessed the properties they now hold from a remote period.

Family of Dunlop.—The family of Dunlop of that Ilk can be traced back to the year 1260, in which year Dom. William de Dunlop is incidentally mentioned, in connection with an inquest respecting certain lands in litigation between Dom. Godfrey de Ross and the burgh of Irvine. The deed is in the charter-chest of Irvine. In the Ragman Roll, Neill Fitz Robert de Dunlop, who is supposed by Nisbet to be an ancestor of this family, is mentioned as one of the barons who swore fealty to Edward I. of England in 1296. Since that early period, this family has held the estate of Dunlop up to the present time, with the exception of a short period about the end of the fourteenth and beginning of the fifteenth centuries, when it was forfeited on account, as has been conjectured, of the part its representative took in the contest between Bruce and Baliol for the Scottish crown.—(Nisbet's Heraldry, Vol. ii. and Robertson's Description of Cunninghame.)

Family of Gemmil of Templehouse.—The family of Gemmil of Templehouse is also of old standing in this parish. From Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, it appears that on the 4th of November 1570, Patrik Gemmil of Tempilhouse was one of a jury on the trial of "William Cunninghame of Aiket, William Fergushill, Florence Crawford, and John Raeburn of that Ilk, delatit of the slauchter of umql. Johnne Mure of Cauldwell." The property of this family has always been small.

Other Families.—The families of Anderson of Broadlee, Brown of Hill, as representative of the Andersons of Craighead, and the Dunlops of Hill and Boreland, as well as some others, are of more than two centuries standing.

Character of the People.—It is believed that the people generally enjoy in a reasonable degree the comforts as well as the necessaries of life. Where labourers have made early and improvident marriages, their circumstances may not in some instances be so prosperous as could be wished; but as they have good wages and abundant employment, any thing like destitu-

tion among them is unknown. There are no indications of their being discontented with their situation. They are distinguished for shrewdness in managing their affairs, as well as for persevering industry; and as they generally retain the frugal habits of the olden time, many of them have prospered in their worldly circumstances. Though not much given to reading, they have almost all a small collection of books, chiefly in divinity. As in other places, there are some persons addicted to intemperance, and the other grosser vices, but in general they are sober and moral in their habits. They are commendably regular in their attendance on divine ordinances. Family worship, it is alleged, is more neglected than in former times, but is still kept up in a considerable proportion of families. Though the killing of game without a license is not looked on as a very heinous offence, especially if the permission of the proprietor on whose land it is found has been obtained, poaching is little practised. Smuggling is altogether unknown.

During the last three years there have been 4 illegitimate births.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—According to the information received from the different farmers as to the extent of their respective holdings, it appears that the parish contains 6554 imperial acres. This estimate can be considered only as a near approach to the truth, several of the properties not being measured. The land may be thus divided:

Cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	-	5894 imperial acres.
Uncultivated, { Natural pasture,	-	311
{ Meadow,	-	248
{ Moss,	-	30
Under wood (planted,)	-	131
		<hr/>
		6554

With the exception of moss, which would not repay the expense of improvement, and meadow, which is more valuable in its present state than if it was brought into tillage, almost all the uncultivated land consists of steep banks where the plough could not be used, so that probably not more than 40 acres of it could be cultivated with profit. There is no natural wood. The kinds of trees planted are, larch, Scotch fir, ash, elm, beech, and plane.

The management of the plantations on some of the larger estates is good, pruning and thinning, as well as draining and fencing, being carefully attended to. This cannot be said of the management on many of the smaller properties. The plantations on

these are generally narrow belts immediately around the farm-houses. From a wish to get as much shelter as possible, with a small sacrifice of ground, the trees are often allowed to grow up in so crowded a state, that they soon choke each other. There are few trees of great age or size in the parish. The largest is a plane tree on the farm of Laigh Gameshill. It measures 13 feet 10 inches in circumference at the height of three feet from the ground.

• *Rent of Land.*—The rent of land cannot be exactly ascertained, as more than 1600 acres are in the natural possession of the owners. The average rent of that occupied by tenants, which being of various qualities, may be considered a fair average of the whole, is L. 1, 4s. per imperial acre. The uncultivated land is, on an average, equal in value to that under tillage, for though the natural pasture and moss are worth less, the meadows are worth more. According to this estimate, the rental of the parish, if all was in lease, would be L. 7864, 16s. The valued rent is L. 4115, 17s. 6d. Scots.

The average rent of grazing for the summer is, for a milch cow, L. 4, 10s.; for a cow or ox fattening, L. 3, 10s.; for young cattle of different ages, L. 1, 10s. each on the average. The grass of a ewe or full-grown sheep for the year costs 15s.

Rate of Wages, Prices, &c.—The rate of wages of farm-labourers and country artisans varies a little at different times, and according to the qualifications of the persons hired, but for several years it has been nearly as follows: man-servant for the year, with board and lodging, L. 16; maid-servant, do. do. L. 8; labourers, per day, with victuals, in summer, 2s.; in winter, 1s. 8d.; in harvest, 2s. 6d. to 3s.; females for field-work, per day, with victuals, in summer, 1s.; in harvest, 1s. 6d. to 2s.; tailor, per day, with victuals, 1s. 10d.; mason and carpenter, in summer, 2s. 6d.; in winter, 2s.

Several kinds of work are occasionally done by the piece. The following is a list of the prices usually paid: building rubble wall, per rood, exclusive of material, L. 1, 10s.; plastering per yard, do. 3d.; building dry stone dikes, per fall, do. 1s. 10d. to 2s.; mowing meadow hay, per acre, 3s. to 3s. 6d.; mowing rye-grass hay per acre, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d.; reaping oats per acre, 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d.; ploughing, harrowing, and sowing per acre, L. 1, 1s.

Live-Stock.—The cattle kept in the parish are of the Ayrshire breed. Great attention has long been paid to their improvement,

and perhaps nowhere is the stock more select. Some persons, enticed by the high prices given for fine animals, have been too much in the habit of selling the best of their young stock, but the practice is far from being common. Clydesdale horses, mostly of a light description, are generally used. They are almost all bought in, very few being reared. The few sheep that are kept are of the Leicester breed. The quantity of stock in the summer of 1835, after very minute inquiry, was found to be as follows: 178 horses, including 20 young horses; 910 milch cows; 111 cows or oxen fattening; 415 young cattle of different ages; 109 sheep; 258 pigs.

Husbandry.—Oats is the grain chiefly cultivated. Almost every farmer raises barley or bear for the use of his own family, but little, if any, for sale. A few acres of wheat have for some time past been sown every year, but the success of the experiment has not been so great as to cause the cultivation of it to extend much. The land being in most places retentive of moisture, turnips are not grown to any great extent; and the quantity of potatoes raised, except on a few farms, is not much greater than is necessary for home consumption.

The mode of cropping followed in this parish, does not coincide with any of the rotations now recommended by writers on agriculture. When lea is broken up, three crops of oats in succession are generally taken from it. With the last crop, rye-grass is sown, most frequently without clover. The rye-grass is often allowed to ripen its seed, for the purpose of being threshed, and is thus nearly as scourging to the land as an additional corn crop. The ground is then allowed to lie in pasture for at least four or five, and sometimes even for ten or twelve years, when the same course of cropping is again repeated. Potatoes and turnips, so far as the cultivation of them extends, take the place of the second crop of oats, and on a part of the ground which has borne potatoes, the wheat and barley that are raised, are sown. In some instances, only two crops of oats are taken, and this practice is gradually extending. In these cases, a small field is sometimes set apart for raising potatoes, turnips, barley, &c. which do not come into the ordinary rotation of the farm. This system of management, it may be thought, must tend greatly to impoverish the soil; but, owing partly to its natural fertility, and partly to the pains taken to keep it in good heart, by liming and top-dressing, it is not found to suffer from it. It is a very common practice to top dress the ground with dung,

soon after it has been laid down in grass, and again to lime it a year or two before it is to be ploughed up. The reason why this system of cropping, which has long since been given up in the more improved districts of the country, is persevered in here, is, that the cultivation of green crops is thought to hurt the pasture, on which the farmer places his chief dependence. It is customary here to plough with three horses. In defence of this practice, it is alleged that as much additional work is done by using three instead of two, as fully to cover the extra expense. This is very doubtful.

The dairy has long been the chief object of attention in Dunlop. Dunlop cheese has justly obtained a very high character. The cheese made here, as well as in other parts of the country, was made of skimmed milk, till about the end of the seventeenth century, when one Barbara Gilmour,* introduced the practice of using the whole milk. This practice for a time was confined to this parish and its immediate neighbourhood, but it has gradually extended to almost every part of the west and south of Scotland. All the cheese made in these districts, with unskimmed milk, still goes under the general name of *Dunlop*, that being the name by which cheese of this quality was originally known. It is not now pretended that what is made here is superior to that of other places, but it is nowhere excelled. The average quantity made during the season from each cow's milk is about 27 stones of 14 lbs. avoirdupois, or 24,570 stones from the whole parish. In some small dairies, each cow has been known to produce on an average 42 stones. A good many calves are reared every year, a part of which are kept to uphold the original stock, and the rest sold when two or three years old. Pigs are now also a source of some profit to the farmer, being kept in considerable numbers to consume the refuse of the dairy.

For a long time, draining, though much needed, was very little attended to, but of late it has been carried on with much spirit. The importance of this improvement is now fully understood, and where adequate encouragement is given by the landlord, lea is sel-

* It is mentioned in the last Statistical Account, that she had learned this mode of making cheese in Ireland, where she had gone during the troubles of Charles II.'s reign. There seems to be no reason to deny her claim to the honour of having introduced this improved manufacture, but it is at least very doubtful whether she imported the improvement from Ireland. Ireland has never been noted as a cheese producing country, and the little that is now made there, is barely eatable. Mr Brisbane mentioned to the writer of this Account, that his only reason for supposing that this mode of making cheese had been learned in Ireland, was, that Barbara Gilmour had introduced it soon after her return from that country.

dom ploughed up without being previously drained. The consequence is, that the rushes, sprits, and other coarse and worthless herbage, which formerly gave such a waste appearance to the country, are gradually disappearing, and the land is rendered much more productive both in grass and corn. Much still remains to be done in this way, as it is computed that not more than a fourth-part of the parish has yet been gone over. On the Dunlop estate, where landlord and tenant pay equal parts of the expense, nearly a-half has been drained. The system of draining adopted here is furrow-draining. In every furrow a trench is dug, about 18 inches deep, and 8 or 9 inches wide at the bottom. This is half-filled with broken stones, of which there is almost everywhere an abundant supply. Where tiles are used instead of stones, in forming the water course, the trench is not made either so deep or so wide. The average expense of draining is about L. 4 per acre. Where the furrows have been laid dry, a few attempts have been made to level and straighten the high crooked ridges, but this practice is yet only in its infancy.

The general duration of leases is from sixteen to nineteen years. Rents are usually a fixed sum of money. On the Dunlop estate, the rent is a stipulated quantity of cheese, convertible into money at the prices given for it in Glasgow market, on certain specified days. This mode of payment is very satisfactory to the tenant. In all leases, tenants are bound to plough only a fourth of their ground each year. This restriction seems to be very unnecessary, as few of them seem inclined to cultivate as much as they have leave to do.

Some of the older farm steadings are exceedingly paltry and incommodious; those more recently erected are neat and comfortable, though, as the farms are small, the accommodations are not extensive. Many of the smaller heritors have erected substantial and convenient houses on their farms. The whole parish is now enclosed, partly with stone dikes, partly with hedge and ditch. The hedges are often very indifferently kept.

Quarries.—On the farm of Laigh Gameshill, a limestone quarry has long been wrought. About 5000 bolls are taken from it annually, part of the stone being burnt on the spot, and part taken away by the farmers in an unburnt state, to be prepared at home. Limestone is raised in several other parts of the parish, but as it is quarried by the farmers, on whose land it is found, for their own use, no account of the quantity raised can be given. *Quarries*

have been opened in every direction for procuring the stones used in dike-building, draining, &c.

Produce.—The average gross amount and value of raw produce raised in the parish may be as follows:—

1132 acres of oats at L. 5 per acre,	L. 5660	0	0
27 acres of barley at L. 6 per acre,	162	0	0
10 acres of wheat at L. 8 per acre,	80	0	0
8 acres of beans at L. 6 per acre,	48	0	0
13 acres of turnips at L. 5 per acre,	65	0	0
184 acres of potatoes at L. 10 per acre,	1840	0	0
482 acres of rye grass hay at L. 3, 10s. per acre,	1687	0	0
248 acres of meadow hay at L. 2, 10s. per acre,	620	0	0
910 milch cows grazed at L. 4, 10s. each,	4095	0	0
111 oxen or cows fattening at L. 3, 10s. each,	388	10	0
415 young cattle, average of all ages, L. 1, 10s. each,	622	10	0
109 sheep, at 15s. each,	81	15	0
20 young horses, at L. 5 each,	100	0	0
Thinnings of plantations,	60	0	0
	L. 15,509 15 0		

Cheese-Dealers.—Besides the cheese produced in the parish of Dunlop, a large proportion of what is manufactured in other parts of Ayrshire, passes through it on its way to the consumer. Being a convenient *entrepot* between the producing country to the south and west, and Glasgow, Paisley, and the neighbouring villages, a considerable number of persons follow the business of cheese-dealers or *cheese cadgers*, as they are commonly called, purchasing it from the farmers, and supplying the victuallers in the manufacturing districts. Several persons engaged in this traffic have amassed considerable property. Though not now so profitable a business as formerly, it is still sufficiently so to induce many to carry it on. Fourteen persons in this parish are at present engaged in it.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns.—The nearest market-towns are Kilmarnock and Irvine, the former eight, and the latter nine miles distant from the village of Dunlop. In an opposite direction, Paisley at the distance of 12, and Glasgow of 16½ miles, are excellent markets for the sale of agricultural produce. Dunlop is the only village in the parish. It consists of one street, and contains at present 284 inhabitants.

Means of Communication.—The nearest post-office is Stewarton, 2½ miles distant. A runner is despatched to it every day for the Dunlop letters. The parish is well supplied with roads. The turnpike road from Kilmarnock to Paisley runs through it for five miles, and a branch of this road leading to Neilston, for about four miles more. There are besides about fourteen miles of parish roads, made and repaired by the statute labour. They are generally kept

in very good order, and are well laid out for the accommodation of the parishioners. A coach from Irvine to Glasgow passes and repasses every lawful day, close to the village. Bridges have been built wherever they were needed, which are all kept in good repair.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, which is the only place of worship in the parish, is conveniently situated for the greater part of the population. It is about two miles and a half from the southern extremity, and a little more than four from the northern. The old church having become too small for the increased population, the heritors last spring (1835,) agreed to erect a new one. The building was begun without delay, and, though not quite finished, was opened for public worship in December. It is a handsome and commodious edifice, capable of accommodating about 750 persons. In the old church, each heritor had sittings proportioned to his valued rent, which he divided, rent free, among his tenants. The table seats alone were not allocated in this way. These, reserving four sittings for the paupers, who very seldom occupied them, were annually let by roup to the highest bidder, and on account of the want of room, generally brought extravagant prices. Ten shillings have sometimes been paid for a single sitting. The new church is divided in a similar manner; but, as it affords more accommodation than the parish in its present state requires, those who have no sittings from being occupiers of land, are able to procure them at a reasonable rate, seldom exceeding a shilling for a sitting.

The manse was built in the year 1781. A considerable addition was made to it in 1814. It contains a good deal of room, and when the alterations now in progress are completed, will be a comfortable and convenient house.

The extent of the glebe is about 7 acres. Nearly 4 acres of it are arable. The remainder consists of steep banks, which are fit only for pasture. It is worth about L. 14 a year. The stipend is 14 chalders, one-half oat-meal, and the other barley, convertible into money at the fair prices of the county. The average value for the last seven years has been L. 215, 4s. The allowance for communion elements is L. 8, 6s. 8d.

Of the 222 families in the parish, 215 attend the Established church, and 7 attend dissenting places of worship in the neighbourhood. The total number of Dissenters is 26, including those who live as servants in families, the heads of which belong to the Established Church. Of these, 15 are connected with the United

Secession, 7 with the Relief, 1 with the Old Light Burghers, 2 with the Original Seceders, and 1 with the Independents.

The parish church is remarkably well attended. The general complaint for a long time has been, that many persons could not attend for want of room. The average number of communicants is 360.*

* The church of Dunlop belonged in former times to the Abbey of Kilwinning, the monks enjoying the rectorial tithes, and appointing a vicar for the performance of the spiritual duties. In Bagimont's Roll, as it stood in the reign of James V., the vicarage of Dunlop, in the deanery of Cunninghame, was taxed at L. 5, 6s. 8d., being a tenth of the estimated value. (Caledonia.) It is not known at what time it was erected into a parochial charge. The earliest notice I find of it is in the chartulary of Paisley, from which it appears that in 1265, "John de Reston was perpetual vicar of the parish church of Dunlop. In 1505, Sir Andrew Marshall, the vicar of Dunlop, was chamberlain to the Archbishop of Glasgow, and one of the vicars-general of the archbishopric. John Major, Professor of Theology in Glasgow, already referred to, appears to have been vicar of Dunlop from 1518 till 1523. From that period, till the time of the Reformation, when the vicarage was held by Mr John Houston, I have not been able to learn any particulars concerning my clerical predecessors.

Hans Hamilton, son of Hamilton of Raploch, appears to have been the first Protestant minister of this parish. It is stated in the inscription on his tombstone, and the monument which his son erected to his memory, that he died in 1608, after having served the cure at this church forty-five years. He must therefore have entered on this charge in 1563. In the "register of ministers, exhorters, and readers, and of their stipends after the period of the Reformation," lately published by the Maitland Club, there is the following entry with regard to Dunlop: "John Hamilton, vicar and exhorter, the thryd of the vicarage extending to xxvi. li. providing he wait on his charge beltym 1567." The only way I know of reconciling this extract with what was previously stated, is by supposing that John Hamilton is the same person with Hans Hamilton. Hans being only an abbreviation of Johannes. Hans Hamilton was succeeded in the charge by Hew Eglinton, who died in 1646. As the records of Presbytery during the time of his incumbency are lost, little is known about him. From an incidental notice in the record of the Presbytery's proceedings at a subsequent period, it appears that he was under process at the time of his death, but the cause of the process is not specified. In 1648, two years after the death of Hew Eglinton, Gabriel Cunninghame was settled. He was ejected in 1663, and restored again by the indulgence of 1672, when Mr William Mein was associated with him in the charge of the parish. After this he seems to have fallen under the suspicion and displeasure of the government, for on the 2d of April 1683, he was indicted, along with some others, "for aiding, assisting, and corresponding with Mr John Cunninghame, late of Bedlane, a notorious traitor." Failing to appear, "he was denounced and put to the horn, and his moveable goods ordered to be escheat, and brought into his Majesty's use, as an outlaw and a fugitive." He is mentioned by Wodrow, as having lived till after the Revolution; but whether he was restored to his charge before that period does not appear. He seems to have been a person of considerable eminence, and to have taken a prominent part in the deliberations of the Presbyterian ministers in those distracted times.—(Wodrow, i. 352, 353, 437, appendix, 75, 137: ii. 298, folio edition.) The following is a list of the ministers of this parish, admitted after the Revolution:

John Jameson, ordained 21st September 1692, died 1706; James Rowat, ordained May 1709, translated to Jedburgh September 1732; Robert Baird, ordained 28th March 1734, died 27th March 1756; James Wodrow, D. D., ordained 1st September 1757, translated to Stevenston, October 1759; John Fullarton, ordained 25th September 1760, translated to Dalry, 16th March 1762; John Graham, ordained 12th May 1763, translated to Kirkiner, 30th June 1779; Thomas Brisbane, ordained 27th April 1780, died 9th May 1837; Matthew Dickie, admitted from Limerick, 8th May 1834, assistant and successor.

The writer of this account has to acknowledge his obligations to James Dobie, Esq. Beith, for supplying him with most of the particulars respecting the ancient state of the parish, which are incidentally mentioned.

Education.—There are at present four schools in the parish, one of which is parochial. The branches of education taught in the parish school are, English reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, practical mathematics, and Latin. The same branches are taught in the private schools, with the exception of practical mathematics and Latin. The parish schoolmaster's salary is L. 27, 16s., including L. 2, 2s. 9d. in lieu of garden. The school fees amount on an average to about L. 17 a year. The school-house was built in the year 1641, as appears from the following inscription over the door :

“ 1641.

“ This school is erected and endowed by James, Viscount Claneboyes, in love to his parish, in which his father, Hans Hamilton, was pastor 45 years, in King James the Sixt his raigne.

IcLV.”

It is still in pretty good repair; but though it affords to the schoolmaster what may be called legal accommodation, it does not afford such accommodation as a well-qualified teacher ought to have. If, as the inscription intimates, the school was ever endowed by Lord Claneboyes, all knowledge of the source whence the endowment was derived is now lost.

The rate of school fees per quarter is as follows :

	<i>Parish School.</i>	<i>Average of Private Schools.</i>
English reading,	2s. 0d.	3s. 0d.
Reading and writing,	2 6	3 6
Reading, writing, and arithmetic,	3 0	4 0
Do. Do. with Latin,	4 0	
Practical mathematics,	4 0	

In this parish children are generally sent to school, when they are between five and six years of age, and kept at it, with occasional interruptions in seed time and harvest, till they are about thirteen. In the month of November 1834, an inquiry was made as to the number of children attending school, for the purpose of making out the returns on the state of education, ordered by the House of Commons. It was then found that 164 were at school, (all day scholars,) and that only one individual above fifteen could not read. She had come here a few months before as a servant, and has since gone away. These circumstances sufficiently shew that the people in general are alive to the importance of education, and disposed to avail themselves of the opportunities of obtaining it. The establishment of a school at the distance of about a mile and a half from the upper end of the parish, would

be of very great importance to the families in that district, as the children out of a population of fully 300, residing from two to four miles from the parish school, would then have the means of education within a moderate distance. Hitherto the schools in that quarter have seldom remained long in one place. A few neighbouring farmers have usually engaged a young lad to teach their children, some one of them providing a school-room. Whenever his family grew up, the school of course was removed to another house.

Libraries.—There are two libraries; one, called the Sabbath School Library, from having been established at first in connection with a Sabbath school, contains about 250 volumes, chiefly in religious biography and practical divinity. It is open to all the parishioners gratis. The other is a subscription library, established in 1828. It now contains about 110 volumes, in general literature.

Friendly Society.—A friendly society was established here about twenty-three years ago, whose object is to afford relief to sick and aged members. It has hitherto prospered. There is reason to think that it has had a good effect in cherishing feelings of independence.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid for the last seven years is 12, and the average allowance of each during the same time L. 5, 4s. a year. In addition to their stated aliment, some of them have an allowance for fuel and house rent. The total sum expended annually has amounted on an average of seven years to L. 71, 18s.

The average income for the last seven years has been L. 63, 17s. 3d. arising from the following sources, viz. Church collections, * L. 36, 4s. 10d.; proclamations, L. 1, 7s.; mortcloth dues, L. 1, 10s. 8d.; interest of money formerly saved, L. 24, 14s. 9d. total, L. 63, 17s. 3d.

It thus appears that the expenditure has exceeded the income by L. 8, 0s. 9d. a year. This deficiency has been supplied, by taking from the money at interest as much as was necessary to meet current expenses;—a mode of supporting the poor, the propriety of which is very questionable. It may be proper to men-

* Under the head of church collections, are included contributions by a few non-resident heritors. They are put under this head, because they are sent by them weekly or monthly, as collection, by the hands of some of their tenants. These contributions amount at present to about L. 8, 8s. a year.

tion, that for nearly two years past none of our accumulated money has been taken to make up deficiencies. The average number of poor has not increased for many years past; and though it has risen from eight to twelve since the date of the last Statistical Account, yet this is not more than keeping pace with the increased population. There is still a general unwillingness to be dependent on parochial aid; although a few, who are by no means proper objects of charity, are clamorous enough.

Fairs.—Two fairs for the sale of dairy stock are held annually at Dunlop,—one on the second Friday of May, old style, and the other on the 12th of November. They are both well attended.

Inns, Alehouses, &c.—A very respectable inn has been built at Lugton bridge, on the road from Irvine to Glasgow. Besides this there are six houses in which spirituous liquors are sold. One-half of them might, with benefit to the public, be suppressed. It is found that wherever a public-house is opened, some persons in the neighbourhood fall into dissipated tipping habits, which otherwise they might have avoided.

Fuel.—Coal is the only fuel used. It is chiefly brought from the neighbourhood of Kilmarnock and Irvine. The pits at both these places are about seven miles distant from the village, where coals can be laid down at 12s. per ton, including the expense of carriage.

A pit has lately been opened in the parish of Beith, at a distance of three miles from Dunlop. If the coal should prove to be of good quality, it will be of very great advantage to this part of the country.

January 1836. Revised September 1837.