

## ISLAND OF ARRAN.

### PARISH OF KILMORIE.\*

PRESBYTERY OF KINTYRE, SYNOD OF ARGYLL.

THE REV. ANGUS MACMILLAN, MINISTER.

#### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

**Name.**—Kilmorie, the name of the parish, is derived from *Kill-mhuire*, i. e. St Mary's. Its most southern extremity is in latitude  $55^{\circ} 29' 30''$ , and in longitude  $4^{\circ} 17'$ . It extends from Largybeg Point on the south, to Lochranza water on the north, a direct distance of about twenty-four miles. The ruggedness of the interior renders travelling through it impracticable, and the consequent circuitousness of the road, which winds along the shore, increases the actual distance between the extremities of the parish to nearly thirty miles. Its average breadth is 6 miles, and its area about 60,000 Scots acres. Its figure is semi-elliptical; the *greater axis* extending from the southern to the northern extremities, in a straight line, passing through the centre of the island, and dividing this parish, through its whole length, from Kilbride parish; the *circumference* running along the shore, bounded, on the south, from Largybeg Point to the Brown Head, by the Frith of Clyde, separating it from that part of Ayrshire called Carrick, from which it is about sixteen miles distant; and on the east, from the Brown Head to Lochranza, by the Sound of Kilbrandon, separating it from Kintyre, from which it is on an average six miles distant.

The arable land is chiefly confined to the vicinity of the sea coast. On the south, it lies on an elevated terrace about half-a-mile broad, having a precipitous sea bank in front, and heath-clad hills in the back ground. On the east, the vale of Shiiken, the most fertile and best cultivated part of the island, runs a considerable distance into the interior, and contains above 1700 Scots acres of arable land. From this to Lochranza, the soil is in general sterile, and the ground steep and uneven. In the sea bank, which

\* Drawn up by the Rev. A. Macbride, Minister of the parish of North Bute.

we have mentioned, and which is also found at Shiaken, there are numerous caves and fissures, some of them very spacious and romantic. These will be more particularly described under another division of this account. The extent of coast is about 30 miles, and is in general bold and rocky, especially at Dippen, Struey, Brown Head, and Drumidoon. The principal bays are those of Kilpatrick, Machry, and Lochranza; but it is only in the last that there is either shelter or anchorage. The principal headlands are Dippen, (a land-mark well-known to all who navigate the Clyde,) and the Brown Head. Off this, and about a mile from the shore, lies the Iron Isle, a sunken rock of considerable length, but only visible at low water. About the same distance from land, and opposite Kildonan, lies the low and green island of Pladda, on which a lighthouse 40 feet high was built about the year 1600. A new, higher, and more elegant one was built in the year 1626. The former one was allowed to remain, and thus, by showing two lights, the one above the other, Pladda light is distinguished from Cumbrae, which lies about twenty-two miles farther up the Frith. These lights are stationary, and erected upon separate towers, the one above the other. They appear like two stars of the first magnitude at the distance of four or five leagues, or at lesser distances, according to the state of the atmosphere. When seen in one line, they bear from each other, north and south.

The temperature of this parish, and other parts of the west coast surrounded by the sea, is understood not to be so warm in summer, nor so cold in winter, as that of other places in the same parallel, and of the same elevation, on the east coast, nor does the medium temperature vary so much here, as it does in the broadest parts of Britain, toward the south of England, where it is most distant from the sea. Still less does it vary so much as it does in the same parallel on the opposite continents of Europe and America. The air is keen and bracing; the climate dry and salubrious, for though the height of the mountains attract the clouds, and cause more rain to fall here than in parts which are less hilly, yet the numerous rivulets which run down their sides, and flow through the glens, soon carries it away, and thus the country is free from all those vapours which arise from stagnant waters, and from all febrile diseases which prevail in low and humid countries.

Thunder-storms are by no means of unfrequent occurrence in summer. It is impossible to convey to one who has not witnessed a thunder-storm among the mountains, any adequate idea of the terrific



length, likewise very narrow for its length; the former celebrated for its salmon, the latter for its trout.

Lochranza is the only salt water loch in the parish. It is about a mile in length. Near its head, and on the south side, a small low peninsula projects into the loch, and forms within, a commodious basin of great depth and security. On the peninsula stands the ancient castle of Lochranza, once a royal hunting residence, but now roofless, and fast falling to ruin. During the season of herring-fishing, Lochranza is a place of great resort. Two or three hundred boats may often be seen lying at anchor, drying their nets in the bay; and seldom will a lovelier sight be seen than when, in the summer evening, they move simultaneously out of the loch, separating as they advance, to shoot their nets on the fishing-ground.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—Arran has been much resorted to by geologists and mineralogists. Within the limited compass of this account, we can do nothing more than give a brief sketch of this part of the subject, and in doing so, we shall endeavour to connect, as much as possible, the local with the scientific arrangement. For this purpose, we shall commence at the north end of the parish. There the hills are all composed of the primary formation, which extends from Lochranza to Iorsa. To the south of Iorsa, the country is more level, and the strata entirely of the secondary formation.

*Granite.*—Benvarian and Glencatacol.—The granite in the parish is of a much finer grain than that in Goatfell and the adjacent hills.

*Mica Slate.*—Mica and chlorite slate extend along the shore from Lochranza to Iorsa, and form the hills in that district, until they come in contact with granite.

*Clay Slate.*—Argillaceous and clay-slate appear but in one small detached spot on the south-west of Lochranza. It is very abundant in the neighbouring parish.

*Conglomerate* comes next in order, and may be seen to great advantage along the shore, from Iorsa to King's Cove, and also on the secondary hills above Shisken. The ingredients that enter into its composition are fragments of clay-slate, mica-slate, gray-wacke-slate, quartz, a little jasper, and sandstone. These are generally rounded, as if worn by attrition, and are evidently the remains of former rocks, which are here consolidated.

*Red sandstone* is found lying below the conglomerate, but often

er above it. This rock is found in great abundance from Machry to Drumidoon, and also at the eastern extremity of the parish. The beds are usually of great thickness, and very much inclined as they approach the primary sandstone.

White sandstone, a variety considered by some as distinct from the former, lines the coast on the east side of the parish. It consists of numerous beds a few feet in thickness, separated by thin layers of shiver. The thickness of all this series of beds combined cannot be less than 1000 feet. This species of rock is very extensively distributed, extending along the shore from Shisken to Dippen, a distance along the coast of twelve miles, and throughout its whole course is visible, save when covered with overlying rocks, such as porphyry, or trap, or when intersected by veins of basalt. It is not confined to the sea shore, but extends backward into the interior beneath the secondary hills, to the other side of the island, as may be seen where the water courses have worn away the overlying soil or rock. The dip of the strata is to the south, and varies from an angle of  $20^{\circ}$  to  $43^{\circ}$ .

*Trap Rock.*—The varieties of this class of rocks extend over the secondary sandstone, and are so numerous, and pass into each other in such a manner, that it would be more than useless to attempt a description of all that mineralogists have enumerated, and which are to be found in this parish.

Greenstone abounds most about Dippen rocks.

Dikes of basalt and greenstone intersect the whole southern shore.

The variety of trap called clinkstone abounds in Pladda, and in the hills of the adjacent part of the island.

*Porphyries.*—All the above varieties of trap rocks have their porphyries near the same locality. The variety most worthy of notice is that called clinkstone porphyry, which is of a grey colour, and found on the farm of Drumidoon, and the hill to the south of it called the Brownhead.

Pitchstone porphyry is a striking feature in the mineralogy of Arran. It is found in great abundance in the vicinity of King's Cove, and Tornore, in veins of great thickness. It sometimes seems to approximate in character to what is by some called hornstone.

Limestone is found in two or three places in the parish. The beds about Shisken, especially at Glenloig, and Clachan glen, are well worth working. In these the lime approaches to almost

perfect purity. No traces of shells, or of any other fossil remains are to be found in it. Hence, it is believed to be of older formation than that found at Corrie, and other parts of the island.

Independent minerals.—In granites, rock-crystals, talc, epidote, stilbite.—In trap rock, prehnite, mesotype, chalcedony.

Names of the rocks and simple minerals in the parish: Granite. (No gneiss is any where found in it), mica slate, chlorite slate, clay slate, conglomerate, breccia or puddingstone, red sandstone, white sandstone, clinkstone, greenstone, basalt, basaltic-porphry, greenstone porphry, clinkstone-porphry, pitchstone, pitchstone-porphry.

Simple Minerals.—Rock-crystal, talc, epidote, stilbite, prehnite, mesotype, chalcedony in pitchstone veins.

All varieties of soil are to be found in the parish. Near the shore it is sandy or gravelly; beyond this, it is generally clayey; and in the vicinity of the hills, which are nowhere above a mile and a-half from the sea, it is mossy. The straths along the river sides are rich loam.

The only mines wrought in the parish, are the limestone quarries of Clachan and Glenloig, and these but to a limited extent, owing partly to their difficulty of access, partly to their distance from the arable land, but chiefly to the want of fuel to burn the stone.

Botany.—Arran is a field that has hitherto been but little cultivated by the botanist. It is seldom that he has penetrated its wild and sequestered glens, or climbed its alpine heights; but when at any time he has done so, he has been amply repaid for his toil; and I doubt not, when it is fully explored, it will be found as rich in plants as in minerals. We subjoin a list of the rarer plants of the parish, with their localities.

#### Alpine Plants.

Utricularia vulgaris.	Glen Iorsa.	Saxifraga stellaris.	Benvarain.
Alchemilla alpina.	Benvarain.	Salix herbacea.	Benvarain.
Thalictrum alpinum	_____	Uva-ursina.	Glenloig.

#### Sub-alpine Plants.

Plagiocaulis lusitanaica.	Clachan.	Lobelia Dortmanna.	Leath Iorsa.
Malaxis paludosa.	Kildonan.	Viola canina.	_____
Epipactis atrorubra, (extremely rare),	_____	Brassica montana.	Kildonan and Benvarain.
_____	Sliddery water	Vicia sylvatica.	Kildonan and Stray.
_____	palens. Inachic	Oenanthe nemoralis.	King's Cove.
Cotyledon umbilicos.	Stray rock.	Crataegus oxyacantha.	Inachic Rock.
Lithospermum maritimum.	Clachan	Lathyrus sylvaticus.	Stray rock.
_____	shore	Alnus glutinosa.	_____
Asperula tenuifolia.	Clachan shore.	Calluna vulgaris.	_____
Cerastium vulgatum.	Blackwater	Juniperus communis.	_____
Foot.	_____	_____	_____

The four last were not known to exist in the island till a few years ago, when they were discovered by a young gentleman belonging to the parish. They are extremely rare, so much so, that the only other places where they are known to exist in Britain, are the Mull of Galloway, and the Head of Houth in Ireland. The *Lathyrus sylvestris* is very seldom found in a wild state in Scotland.

The forests which covered the island so late as the time of Dean Donald Munro, who published his tour through the Hebrides in the year 1567, have almost entirely disappeared; and no attempt has as yet been made to replace them. The only spot of the parish that has been planted is a large tumulus on the farm of She-dog. The trees are very healthy, and considering the small body there is of them, and the exposed situation in which they stand, thrive remarkably well. Were parts of the hill-sides covered with plantations, and clumps of trees interspersed through the lowlands, especially along the banks of the rivers and streamlets, it would relieve the country of the bleak and naked aspect that it now presents, and increase both the beauty and the value of the property.

*Zoology.*—The destruction of the forests has proved fatal to all animals of prey, if such at any time existed in the island, and threatens to prove equally so to those of the chase. Foxes, badgers, polecats, weasels, &c. which are common in the adjacent counties of Ayr and Argyle, are here unknown. The red-deer, said to have been once very abundant in the parish, are now only, and but rarely, to be met with in the wild and solitary heights of Glenespig, Gleniorsa, and Glenfas. Hares are pretty numerous; and rabbits abound among the downs on the sea-shore, and the rocky heights of the interior.

The native breed of horses, cattle, and sheep, has entirely disappeared within the last twenty years, and a new and much improved one been introduced in its stead. This change has been effected partly by importation, and partly by crossing, but chiefly by the latter mode.

The native breed of horses, supposed to have in it a dash of Spanish blood, was diminutive, but remarkably sure-footed, hardy, and tractable. That at present used, approximates nearer in size and symmetry to the Ayrshire breed; which being heavier is better adapted for the purposes of agriculture.

The native breed of sheep was small, white-faced, and hornless; seldom weighing more than a stone, or a stone and a half;

and supposed to be of Norwegian origin. This has been supplanted by the black-faced; and it again, in one instance, but to a considerable extent, has been crossed with the Cheviot. It was feared that these would not be sufficiently hardy for the climate, but so far as the experiment has gone, they have not in any degree deteriorated, but have fully realized the expectation of the farmer.

The native breed of cattle, seems to have been a mongrel of Galloway, Ayr, and Argyleshire, with little attention either to size or symmetry; they were consequently reckoned in the market of an inferior description. Very considerable attention has been paid to their improvement since 1810, in the first instance by the proprietor, who introduced bulls of a superior breed from Argyleshire, giving the free use of them to the tenantry. Since that period the tenantry themselves have taken an interest in the matter, and the improvement has been most marked and rapid. Should the same system be persevered in for a few years longer; Arran will not be behind any part of the Highlands in its breed of black-cattle.

Goats are now kept only on one farm, and here they have long since ceased to milk them.

The roe, the wild boar, and capercaillie, are said to have been at one time very abundant in the parish; and the fact of its being part of the Royal hunting domain, gives credibility to the tradition; but they have been long since extinct. Black-game and grouse swarm in the most unbounded profusion. The ptarmigan is found on the tops of the granite mountains, and partridges are sometimes met with on the low-lands of the Southend. Plovers and starlings are common. Eagles, kites, hawks of various kinds, owls, and carrion-crows, were so at one time likewise; but since the proprietor has given a premium for their destruction, they have nearly been extirpated. The smaller birds, such as sparrows, bullfinches, &c. have become vastly more numerous since these enemies of their kind have been destroyed.

Several species of snakes are found in the woods, glens, and moorlands adjoining the arable ground; but seldom if ever in the heights of the interior. The largest of them is between three and four feet long.

Trout and salmon are found in all the rivers, most in all the lakes, and salmon in Loch Lorsa. Neither are by any means so abundant as they were forty years ago. The decrease is partly owing to the want of protection in all the rivers, and partly to the loss

of lime in agriculture. The salmon enters the rivers in July, and returns in October. No fishings are let.

Seals and otters are found along the shore. The sea around the whole parish is well stocked with fish of all descriptions. Haddock, whiting, mackerel, seath, and cod abound. Ling and turbot are caught off the Southend; but the fishermen engaged in taking them are almost all from the Ayr coast. Lobster and crab fishing is carried on by the natives about Kildonan, for the Glasgow market. At the Northend, the herring-fishery is carried on with great spirit, skill, and success by the inhabitants, who in a great measure depend upon it for their subsistence.

*Conchology.*—The following is a list of the rarer shells of the parish, drawn up by the Rev. Mr Landsborough of Stevenston.

Patella clypeus	Amphidesma compressum	Nucula nucleus
Bulla lignaria	Lucina flexuosa	Terebratula aurita
Cingula labiosa	Scalaris clathrus	Astarte compressa
Scalaris Turtoni	Tellina squalida	Venus castina
Trochus magnus	———— crassa	Cardium exiguum
Fusus cornutus	Venus fasciata	———— medium
Amphidesma pubescens	Venerupis-virginea	Pectunculus pilosus.
———— declive		

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There are few events of historical interest connected with this parish, except such as are common to the other islands of the Hebrides, till the time of King Robert Bruce. After his disastrous defeat at Methven, and his perilous escape at Dalry, he retired with a few of his most influential and intrepid adherents to the small island of Rathrin, on the north coast of Ireland. There, under the protection of the Lord of the Isles, he spent the winter of 1307, sighing, as he viewed the dark and distant hills of his beloved country,

"O Scotland, shall it ere be mine,  
To wreak thy wrongs in battle line,  
To raise my victor hands, and see,  
Thy hills, thy valleys—thy people free!  
That glance of bliss is all I crave,  
Betwixt my labours, and the grave."—*Lord of the Isles.*

On the return of spring, he crossed over to Arran, whither he had been preceded by Lord James Douglas and Sir Robert Boyd, who, on his landing,

"Met him like friends who part in pain,  
And meet in doubtful hope again."—*Ibid.*

Amid the forests and fastnesses of Arran, he could live concealed from his enemies, who lay on the opposite coast of Carrick, and his proximity to its shores enabled him to obtain the exact and most accurate intelligence of their situation and their

strength; to fan the embers of liberty that still lived in the bosoms of his countrymen, and be at hand to take advantage of any false movement on the part of his foes, or any favourable one on that of his friends. During his stay on the island, he made a cave, on the sequestered shore of Drumidoon, the place of his usual residence. How long he remained here is uncertain, but it was sufficiently long to attach the inhabitants unalienably to his interests. A body of their number fought under his banner at Bannockburn, and for services then rendered, or kindnesses formerly shewn, after his accession to the throne of his ancestors, he gave many of them grants of land on the island, one of which is held by the lineal descendant to this day.

The circumstances of his departure are somewhat differently related. Tradition, which always affects the romantic, narrates, that one morning, while musing in bed over his past misfortune, and his future prospects, he observed a spider vigorously endeavouring to raise itself to the roof of the barn in which he lay. Once and again it failed in its attempts, just as many times as he had done in his, to regain the throne of his ancestors. Though often baffled, yet it still persevered, and ultimately succeeded. Animated by this prophetic incident, alone, and disguised as a minstrel, he crossed over to his maternal castle of Turnberry, in Carrick, then garrisoned by the English under Percy. Should he find matters favourable to his cause, he was to make a signal to his friends whom he left behind, by lighting a fire on an eminence above the castle, on seeing which they were to follow him. Instead, however, of finding them favourable, he found them quite the reverse. The garrison was strong and vigilant; his partisans, few, feeble, and dispirited; and even his own hereditary vassals indifferent, if not hostile.

“ Long harassed by oppressor’s hand,  
 Courage and faith had fled the land,  
 And over Carrick, dark and deep,  
 Had sunk dejection’s iron sleep.—*Lord of the Isles.*”

The minstrel monarch was therefore on the eve of returning, when Providence achieved for him what his own prudence would not have permitted him to attempt. A fire was raised for some other purpose on the very spot where the preconcerted signal was to have been lighted. Aware of the consequence, Bruce spent the night on the beach, that he might apprise his friends of the mistake, before their arrival could be discovered by the enemy. They reached the shore before dawn, but, when told of the circumstances,

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and though assured that any attempt to surprise or carry the castle, or to raise the country, was desperate, and though dissuaded, it is said, by their royal leader, and urged to return in silence to their former retreat, they resolutely refused to quit the land of their fathers, till they had either freed it, or fallen in its rescue.

“ Answered fierce Edward, ‘ Hap what may,  
 In Carrick, Carrick’s lord shall stay ;  
 I would not minstrel told the tale,  
 Wildfire or meteor made us quail,  
 I will not credit that this land,  
 So famed for warlike heart and hand,  
 The nurse of Wallace, and of Bruce,  
 Will long with tyrants hold a truce,’  
 ‘ Prove we our fate, the brunt will bide,’  
 So Boyd—so Haye—so Lennox cried,  
 So said—so vowed the leaders all.  
 So Bruce resolved—‘ And in my hall,  
 Since the bold Southern make their home,  
 The hour of judgment soon shall come,  
 When with a rough, and rugged host,  
 Clifford may reckon to his cost.’ ”—*Ibid.*

The manner of Bruce’s departure, as related by the accurate Lord Hailes, in his Annals of Scotland, is circumstantially the same with that handed down by tradition, with the single exception of the task of exploring the country, being committed to a confidential messenger, instead of being undertaken by the King in person.

The sequel of the story, which forms one of the brightest pages in the annals of Scotland, belongs not to this part of the work.

At a subsequent, but more recent period, Arran supplied an asylum to another, who like Bruce, was outlawed for his rebellious adherence to the Royal cause of Scotland. After the discomfiture of the rising of 1745, the Honourable Charles Boyd, son of the unfortunate Lord Kilmarnock, who expiated the part he took in it, on the Tower Hill of London, fled to this parish, where he lay concealed in the farm of Aucheliffin, till he found an opportunity of escaping to France. While living in this gloomy and sequestered glen, he happened to fall on a chest of medical books, and amused himself by the study of that science, which he afterwards turned to benevolent account. After a residence of twenty years in France, he returned to his native country, and fixed his residence at Aberdeen. This is the person whom Boswell mentions as having received himself and Dr Johnson, when on their tour to the Hebrides, at Slanes Castle, in absence of his brother the Earl of Errol.

With the exception of the grants mentioned above, as made by King Robert, the property of the island since the time of Alex-

ander III., who wrested it from the Danes, by the defeat of Haco, continued in the crown till the reign of James III. The greater part of it seems to have been kept as a hunting domain for the Kings of Scotland, whose residence was the Castle of Lochranza. In 1334, Arran is mentioned by Boethius as the property of Robert, the great Steward of Scotland, afterwards Robert II. When ravaged by Donald, Earl of Rothes, and the Lord of the Isles, in 1456, it was the possession of James II.—James III. on the marriage of the Princess Margaret to Sir Thomas, son of Lord Boyd, erected Arran into an earldom, and gave it as a dowry to his sister. After her discreditable divorce from Sir Thomas, she was married a second time to Sir James Hamilton, and the same portion given her as on her first marriage. Arran thus became, in 1474, the property of the family of Hamilton, in which it has continued till the present day. The unentailed part of it, extending from Iorsa to Lochranza, was bequeathed by the late Duke Douglas to his only daughter, the Honourable Mrs Westenra, to whom it now belongs. The only other proprietor in the parish is John Fullerton, Esq. of Kilmichael, who holds the property of Whitefarlan, by the grant of King Robert.

*Eminent Characters.*—The Rev. William Shaw, author of the first Gaelic Grammar and Dictionary that were published, was born at Clachaig in this parish. In this arduous and patriotic undertaking, he was honoured with the patronage and advice of the then Earl of Eglinton, and the celebrated Dr Samuel Johnson. As it claims to be the birth-place of the first Celtic scholar, so also it claims to be the death-place of the first Celtic bard. Ossian is said to have died here.

*Antiquities and Natural Curiosities.*—There are a few Danish forts, Druidical circles, obelisks of unhewn stone, and tumuli of considerable magnitude, scattered through the parish.

By far the largest and most important of these fortifications is the Doon, on the farm of Drumidoon. The sea-cliffs in front form a defence 300 feet perpendicular. On the land side, the ascent is steep, and round the summit, on the edge of this inclined plane, there is a wall, extending from the cliffs on the one side, to the cliffs on the other side, enclosing a level area of several acres, containing what appears to be the ruins of rude habitations. The wall, which was dry built, is now fallen, and a great quantity of the stone carried away for drains, dikes, &c.; but still the ruins are very extensive, and the gateway distinctly discernible.

There is another, but much smaller one, called Tor-a-chaisteil, on the farm of Slidery. Though generally regarded as a Danish fort, its size, situation, appearance, and name, seem rather to indicate that it was a castle or circular building, roofed in either for refuge or defence. Druidical circles are found on many of the moors, and the moss which generally surrounds them proves the places to have been at one time covered with wood. The most perfect and interesting of these is that on "Sliabh-nan-carachan," on the farm of Tormore. It is called "Siudhe choir Fhionn," or Fingal's cauldron seat. All structures or monuments of magnitude are invariably ascribed by the Highlanders to the gigantic race of Fingal, whose stature and strength, if estimated by their works, completely cast the sons of Anak into the shade. On this circular row of stones, the cauldron of Fingal is said to have been supported, and if its depth bore any proportion to its diameter, it might have served for a boiler to the largest steamer that has yet crossed the Atlantic. In one of the stones that form the circle, there is a perforation, evidently artificial, and well worn on the edges, to which Fingal tied his favourite dog Bran.

Immediately adjoining this circle, stand three upright columns of rough unhewn stones, about 15 feet in height and 11 in circumference. A fourth has long since fallen, or been broken down by the surface, and attempted to be made into mill-stones; but they seem to have been spoiled in the making, for they still remain on the spot. As one-third, at least, of their entire length must be under ground, that cannot be less than 20 feet. They consist of primitive red sandstone, and millstone grit—a species of rock that is not to be found *in situ* near the spot. They must, therefore, have been carried from a considerable distance, up a long but gentle ascent, to their present position. The conveyance of such immense blocks, from such a distance, and by such a way, would require more skill in mechanics than is possessed by the present inhabitants of the parish. Tradition, therefore, ascribes their erection to Fingal, and his followers, though by some it is considered as more probably due to the Scandinavians, who long possessed the islands of the Hebrides, and whose native country is thickly set with such massive monuments. In the moss around the eminence on which these obelisks stand, large trunks of oak trees are found imbedded, which show that the place was formerly a forest, and which has been held as proof that this was a fane of Druidical devotion. We know that the Druids performed their

religious worship in groves, and that columns and circles similar to those that here exist mark the place of its celebration. Stone-hegne, and all similar remains of antiquity, will ever be attributed to the Druids,—yet they are found in countries such as Scandinavia and Scotland, where we have no evidence to show that they ever existed. We have no information of them, except what is furnished us by the Roman writers, who state, that their principal seats were in Gaul and Britain, and that they worshipped exclusively in groves. The monuments of antiquity called Druidical were clearly erected for public purposes, whether legislative, judicial, festal, sepulchral, or sacred, and consequently vary much in form and dimensions. A copious account of those found in Sweden has been published by M. Seoberg, the most distinguished antiquary of that country, but unfortunately in his own native language. One of these described by him is remarkable, as the stones of which it is composed are arranged in the shape of a ship, some of the rows representing the position of the masts, others the yards, &c. evidently indicating the burial place of a distinguished naval officer. The probability of these remains in Scotland being of Scandinavian origin, is heightened by the fact of their being chiefly found on the coasts and islands that were most frequented by the Norsemen.

Similar obelisks are found in different other parts of the parish, but they are evidently monumental, such are those at Marsgrioch, Auchincarr, &c. &c. In the former place, there are two columns about 30 feet distant. Between them there is a parallel row of smaller stones, forming a parallelogram about 4 feet wide. At a little distance, a smaller area is enclosed in a similar manner. The larger is said to be the grave of one of Fingal's heroes; the smaller that of his dog. Both were opened some time since, but found to contain nothing but dust and stones. Instead of the side stones forming the parallelogram being replaced in their former situation, as interesting monuments of antiquity, all that could be removed were carried away for building.

There are also many cairns or tumuli in the parish. The largest in Scotland is said to be that at Blackwater Foot. It is now much diminished in size, owing to the great quantity of stones that has been carried away from it for dikes, drains, houses, &c. but when entire, it was said to measure across upwards of 200 feet. To the north of it, and not far from Sliabh nan carachan, is another, said to mark the spot where Fingal held his court of

justice. The stone on which the culprit stood is still pointed out, and called the *Panel's stone*. In the neighbourhood is the farm where he celebrated his feast of shells. His daughter's grave is shown on the farm of Drumidoon. It is an immense unhewn trough or flag-stone, resting horizontally upon vertical stones at each end, deeply fixed on the ground. On being opened, there was only found in it an urn containing ashes. The urn was broken in the opening, and the fragments carried off by those engaged in the operation. The place was evidently one of sepulture, for around it are a number of vertical stones, which, by their arrangement, clearly indicate their object. About the middle of Glen-in-tshuidhe, and by the side of the old road, a cairn, now moss-covered, called *suidhe Challum Chille*, marks the spot where St Columba sat down to refresh himself with his disciple, when travelling through the island, evangelizing its heathen inhabitants. Another cairn, called *Aran*, or *Ar Fhinn*, on the shore of Catacol, marked the spot where Fingal defeated the Norsemen under Manus, son of the King of Sweden, whence some say the island took its name. The present road has been cut through it, and its materials used for its formation, so that now not a vestige remains to mark its site.

*Religious Houses.*—The ruins of the Convent of St Bride, celebrated by Sir Walter Scott, in his *Lord of the Isles*, as the lonely residence of the Lady Isabella, were but recently to be seen at *Lochranza*. The very foundation has lately been razed and removed, and not a stone now marks the cloisters, where dwelt the *Maid of Lorn*. The ruins of an oratory or cell belonging to a monk called John, and containing the remains of the saint, stand on the farm of *Balnacula*. Near it, and in the middle of the burying ground at *Clachan*, is the grave of St Molios, "the bare-headed servant of Jesus." His first residence was in the Isle of *Lamlash*, or the Isle of *Molios*; but he afterwards removed to *Shisken*, and fixed his residence where now repose his remains. He died here at the advanced age of 120. On the stone which covers his grave, and which is said to have been brought from Iona, the figure of the saint, arrayed in the robes of a mitred abbot, with chalice and crosier in his hands, is not inelegantly sculptured. Till within the last fifty years, it was customary for females after their confinement, to repair to the grave of the saint, and there deposit upon the stone a silver piece, as a thank-offering for their recovery. The ruins of another chapel are to be seen on the farm of *Binnicarragan*. This seems to have been in former times the

place of worship for the district, and around it that for interment, till the removal of the former to Kilmorie. Infants are still buried in it, and the wall that enclosed it may still be traced by its ruins, but the only monument of them which lie beneath, is a stone, beautifully carved. A well, once celebrated for its miraculous sanatory virtues, stands at a short distance from the chapel.

*Castles.*—Lochranza Castle, now roofless, and fast falling in ruins, stands upon a small green peninsula, near the entrance of the loch. The date of its erection is uncertain, but it is enumerated in 1380 among the royal castles, as a hunting-seat of the Scottish sovereigns. It was afterwards inhabited by the Montgomeries of Skilmorie, the ancestors of the family of Eglinton, who possessed a considerable part of the north end of the parish, but lost it in wadset to the family of Hamilton. Kildonan Castle is a square tower, standing on the edge of a precipitous sea-cliff, opposite to Pladda. It scarcely deserves the name of a castle, and seems rather to have formed one of a line of watch-towers, extending from the entrance of the Clyde to the Rock of Dumbarton. It was originally the residence of a family of the name of Macdonald, to whom the adjoining lands belonged. From these, it passed to the Stewarts of Kilquhully, in Bute, who sold it, with the rest of their properties, to the Marquis of Bute, from whom it was lately purchased by the Duke of Hamilton.

*Natural Curiosities.*—The natural curiosities are numerous, but those most deserving of notice are the caves and cascades. Of the former there are many, but the largest and most romantic are the Monster's Cave, at Strueyrook, which is 110 feet long, 40 feet broad, and 80 high; the Preaching Cave at Kilpatrick, and King's Cave at Drumidoon, the retreat and residence of King Robert Bruce. It is 114 feet long, 44 broad, and 47½ high. On the side-wall, and near the entrance, were inscribed the letters, M. D. R. These are now almost, if not altogether, deleted by the action of the weather, and the scribbling of visitants. But at its southern extremity may still be seen, rudely cut, a hunting scene, said to have been done by the fugitive monarch, as figurative of his own condition, when he made this lonely cavern the place of his abode. Several other representations are said to have covered its walls, executed by the same hand; but they have all been either entirely erased, or rendered untraceable by those of more recent writers. It has lately been cleared of its accumulated filth and rubbish, and a wall built around its entrance, to prevent the still remaining memorials of persecuted royalty from being injured,

or effaced by the wantonness of strangers. There are a number of other caves beside it, some of them of equal magnitude, though of less interest. One of them is called the King's Kitchen; another his cellar; a third his stable, &c. The cascades we have noticed elsewhere.

*Land-owners.*—The only heritors in the parish are, His Grace the Duke of Hamilton; the Hon. Mr Westenra; and John Fullerton, Esq. of Kilmichael, whose rentals are:—

The Duke of Hamilton,	L. 6000	0	0
Hon. Mr Westenra,	500	0	0
J. Fullerton, Esq.	110	0	0

Total rental of the parish, L. 6610 0 0

*Parochial Registers.*—There are separate registers for session, baptisms, and marriages, kept at Kilmorie, Shisken, and Lochranza. Those of Kilmorie are the earliest, the fullest, and the most accurate. The others are kept for the convenience of the inhabitants, at places, where, from the great extent of the parish, and the distance of the parish church, places of worship have been erected, and the ordinances are administered, either by the clergyman or his assistant. Those of Kilmorie commence in May 1701, and are regularly, fully, and beautifully kept till May 1729. From this date till 1762, they are lost, with the exception of the scroll minutes of a few meetings of session in 1736–7, on loose leaves stitched together, but almost illegible. From 1762 till the present date, they are regularly and carefully, though not very tastefully kept. The two first volumes, which are by far the most interesting, are quite loose in the binding; the edges much worn in, and a good deal of the writing gone. The words that are lost could still be supplied from the context, but, unless they are speedily transcribed, from the decaying state of the paper, they will soon be entirely destroyed.

A grain-mill at Shedog, a distillery at Lag, and a lint and wool-mill at Burican, are the only public works in the parish.

### III.—POPULATION.

We have no accessible means of ascertaining the state of the population prior to 1791, though doubtless the rent-rolls would furnish data for a pretty accurate approximation, as far back as they extend.

In 1791, it amounted to	2830
1801,	2996
1811,	2420
1821,	3627
1831,	5771

Of which number 1816 were males, and 1955 females.

The decrease of population in the last ten years was owing to the introduction of a new system of agriculture, by which the hamlet or runrig system of cultivation, which universally prevailed through the parish prior to 1815, was entirely abolished on the property of the Duke of Hamilton. Separate lots of land were then given to each tenant; and many farms which were formerly leased by eight or fifteen families, with as many cottars, were given to one individual. In one instance, as many as four hamlets, each containing a number of families, were depopulated, and converted into a sheep-walk. Some of the ejected inhabitants emigrated to North America, but by far the greater part of them removed to the towns of Ayrshire.

The population is entirely rural. There is not one village in the parish.

The annual number of births during the seven years, from 1825 to 1831 inclusive, is 97; and the annual average number of marriages during the same period, is 19. There is no register of deaths kept.

The number of persons under 15 years of age,	736
betwixt 15 and 30,	462
30 and 50,	349
50 and 70,	204
upwards of 70,	74
Bachelors and widowers upwards of 50 years of age,	80
Unmarried women upwards of 45 years,	70

Insane, 2; fatuous, 6; blind, 2; deaf and dumb, 1.

*Character of the People.*—In their persons, the people are generally tall; at least they are above the middle size, athletic and very well made. Their features are open and regular, and their limbs remarkably well-formed. The women are decidedly taller, handsomer, and better-looking than in most parts of the country. These remarks apply generally to the whole parish, but they more particularly hold with regard to the south end of it. In their manners they are courteous and affable, having little of the awkward embarrassment which the Highland peasantry generally manifest in addressing strangers and superiors. In mind, they are distinguished for their sound sense, intelligence, acuteness, and liveliness. In business, they are active, enterprising, and judicious. Like all islanders, they are generally inclined to a seafaring life, and their proximity to the ports of Greenock and Ardrossan, afford them ample opportunity to indulge their maritime propensities. Being generally steady, honest, and good seamen, such of them as have a nautical education, are soon promoted to the com-

mand of vessels, and many of them latterly become themselves owners.

In few parishes is there a greater respect paid to religion, or a more regular and devoted observance of its ordinances. A competent and correct knowledge of the peculiar and fundamental doctrines of the gospel is very generally possessed, and among them are to be found not a few spiritually-minded, lively, and intelligent Christians, adorning the gospel they profess, by a walk and conversation conformed to its precepts. After the revival which took place in the parish under the ministry of the late Rev. Neil Macbride, in 1812, there was scarcely a family in which the worship of God was not maintained morning and evening, but, we regret to say, that now it is by no means so common.

Many of the games, profane customs, and superstitions \* peculiar to the Highlands, formerly prevailed in the parish, but these, together with the vices of drinking, swearing, &c. in a great measure perished in the revival. We regret to say, that, among the rising generation, who give little promise of walking in the footsteps of their fathers, the latter seem to be again reviving. Both

\* The following extract from the session-records of Kilmorie will illustrate one of the superstitious customs of the Highlands. It was by no means peculiar to this island :

“ Session at Clachan, September 4, 1709.—Janet Hunter being formally summoned, and called, compared, and being questioned anent the report that was given forth on her, that she used a charm for the discovery of theft, by turning the riddle, she plainly confessed that she did use it; and being further interrogate what words she used, she replied that she used no words; and being asked if she did not say, ‘ by Peter, by Paul, it was such a person,’ she replied that she did use these words, and none else; and being farther interrogate, if the riddle did turn at the naming of any of those persons suspected, she replied that it did actually turn at the naming of one; and being interrogate farther, who employed her, she replied it was Barbara M’Marchie, in the same town, who employed her; and she being farther interrogate, if she had any other body with her at the said exorcite, she replied that there was one Florence M’Donald, servitrix to Hector M’Alister here, who was holding the side of the shears with her. It being farther interrogate, if she thought there was any fault or sin in it, she replied that she thought there was none in it, seeing she used no bad words; and she being farther interrogate if she knew who it was that turned the riddle, she answered that she did not know; but declared that it was not she, nor the other who held it with her, so far as she knew; and it being told her that if neither of them two turned it, that it behoved to be either God or the devil that turned it; to which she replied that she did not think it was God, and she hoped it was not the devil; wherefore the minister laboured to convince her of the horrid sin of this hellish art, and the heinousness of it, and how she had gone to the devil to get knowledge of secret things, and how she might be guilty of blaming innocent persons, and exhorting her to lay her sin to heart and repent, she was removed. And the session taking her confession into consideration, with the hatefulness of the wicked practice, and after mature deliberation, having the advice of the Presbytery, on the like affair, they do unanimously appoint her to make her compearance before the congregation three several Sabbaths, to give evidence of her repentance, and for the terror of others that use such acts, they refer her to the civil magistrate, to be punished as shall be thought fit by him, either corporally or pecunially; and she being called in again this was intimated unto her.”

swearing and intemperance are become much more prevalent than they were twenty years ago.

In dwellings, dress, and diet, the people have of late years become very much assimilated to the peasantry of the low country adjoining. The only striking difference is in the head-dress of the married females, many of whom still continue to wear the high cap, or mutch, instead of bonnets. They, in general, enjoy as many of the comforts, and feel as few of the privations of life, as others in the same station in more central parts of the kingdom. Absolute destitution is a thing unknown among the very poorest, and the great majority of those who are above pauperism, enjoy a competency of the necessaries of life.

Poaching is rare. Illicit distillation prevailed till a very recent period, to a very considerable extent, but within the last ten years, very decided measures were taken for its suppression, and it is now almost entirely done away. Its demoralising effects were not developed here so prominently, as in other places, from the circumstance of its not being considered a disreputable pursuit, and there being few, if any, in the parish, who, at some period of their lives, were not engaged in some department of smuggling. To the smuggler no stigma was attached on account of his employment; on the contrary, it was considered rather an honourable occupation, as exhibiting an intrepidity and art that acquired for their possessor a distinction in the minds of his companions. It was in the darkest night, and in the most tempestuous weather, when no cruiser would stand the gale, that, in his little skiff, the smuggler transported his cargo to the opposite shores of Ayrshire.

*Language.*—The language universally spoken is the Gaelic. A few families from the Lowlands have of late years settled in the parish, and this, together with the increased facilities of communication with the low country, has diffused a more general knowledge of the English than there was thirty years ago. There are few, if any, under thirty years of age, of either sex, who do not understand it, but still the Gaelic continues the language of common conversation. The English is certainly gaining ground; but we do not think that it has displaced the Gaelic to any considerable extent, though there is little doubt but in the course of time it will have this effect.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The parish contains about 6650 Scots acres of arable land, and about 66,350 waste and in pasture. How much

of the latter might be profitably brought under cultivation, has not been exactly ascertained, but it is evident that it can only be a very small fractional part. Nearly the whole of this tract was, till within the last twenty-five years, in a state of undivided common, to which all persons, be they cottar or farmer, might send as many sheep and yeld cattle as they chose. Hence it sometimes happened, that the cottar had more stock on the hill than the farmer who paid ten times his rent, and always, that both had upon it nearly as many times more than it could feed in summer, or they could fodder in winter. In these circumstances, no attention could be paid to rearing, and the consequence necessarily was, that both sheep and cattle were diminutive and ill-shaped. Of late, the hill, as well as the arable ground, has been divided and appropriated, and the effect upon the stock has been most beneficial.

Within the period above-mentioned, there has been the most marked improvement upon the dwellings, offices, mode and implements of husbandry, together with skill in the art, and beauty in the workmanship.

Formerly the dwellings and offices formed an irregular cluster, or hamlet, built generally of dry stones, pointed with mortar. The dwelling-house consisted of two apartments, the uppermost being the best, and the lower the kitchen. Both formed one end of a range, of which the byre formed the other, and a door in the middle was common to the inmates of both. Between them, however, there was a partition of wicker-work, plastered with mortar, and white-washed. The thatch was either of heather, or of fern, or of both, in alternate layers, very coarsely put on, and secured by heather ropes, laid across and athwart, kept tight by stones suspended to their ends, at the eaves. There were no vents. The fire was upon a stone in the centre of the apartment, and the smoke was allowed to make the best of its way by the door, the window, and an aperture for the purpose in the ridge of the roof. The offices, which were either attached, or contiguous to this principal range, were of the same materials and construction; and it is obvious that neither could be very durable or comfortable.

All the lands were undivided, and unenclosed. Each farm was leased by a number of individuals, sometimes by as many as ten and fifteen, who were jointly and severally liable for the rent. Each farm was thus a *societas arandi*, or township, containing as many families, having each an equal interest in its cultivation, each field being subdivided into as many stripes, separated by a narrow ridge,

called a "bone," where the stones, weeds, and other rubbish gathered off the land were accumulated. These stripes generally changed possessors every second or third year, according to arrangement of parties. The milch cows grazed in common upon the pasture lands, which lay between the arable and the hill common; but when the crops were secured at the end of autumn, sheep, cattle, horses, and swine, ranged at large over the whole farm. It is obvious that this associated form of occupancy precluded all draining, enclosing, laying down in grass, &c.; in short, presented an insuperable barrier to all improvements either of stock or of land. These large farms have in most instances been divided into a number of smaller ones, which have been let to one person, on leases varying from seven to nineteen years. An opportunity and impetus have thus been given to individual industry and enterprise, which has not been lost. On each of these lots, comfortable dwellings and commodious offices have been built. A great quantity of waste land has been reclaimed, partly by the spade, and partly by the plough; the whole, in most cases, thoroughly drained, and subdivided into fields of suitable size by quickset ditches.

The arable land, under the former system, was divided into infield and outfield. The latter was exclusively devoted to white crop, which was taken off in succession, as long as it would return more than the seed, and then suffered to lie lea for six or seven years, when it again underwent the same exhausting process. The infield rotation was, 1. potatoes; 2. oats or bear, with manure; 3. mashlam, or oats, or beans and peas mixed; 4. bear with manure; 5. peas; 6. oats; 7. bear, with manure; then potatoes as before. This rotation was by no means uniform, but varied with the quality of the soil, and the quantity of the manure they had to use. The bear was generally sown in beds, and the seed, instead of being harrowed in, was covered over with earth from a trench. The present rotation is, 1. oats; 2. green-crop; 3. bear, or oats; a few sow barley or wheat; 4. rye-grass; 5. two or three years in pasture.

The Duke of Hamilton, to whose property alone the improvements apply, affords the greatest facilities, and holds out the utmost encouragements to improvement, by sharing the expenses, directing the operations, and rewarding their proper execution.

The implements of husbandry were formerly of their own making, and of the simplest and rudest description. The plough was all of

wood, except the counter, sole and share, and most coarsely and clumsily constructed. No stone, however much in the way, or however near the surface, was ever disturbed. To break the plough was therefore a thing of annual, or perhaps weekly occurrence,—a thing that they regularly calculated upon, for which they made prudent provision, and which caused them little delay in their spring operations. An assortment of beams, stilts, &c. was always on hand, and what was broken in the forenoon was either repaired or replaced by the evening. The harrow consisted of three bills, generally having iron, but sometimes only wooden teeth, and so very light, that the harrowing was frequently a more tedious operation than the ploughing. The plough was drawn by four or six horses driven by one man, while two others followed with spades to level down the inequalities of the furrow and delve up what the plough did not turn. There were no carts in the parish till about forty years ago, nor indeed were there roads to use them on. In their stead, they employed cars or sledges, formed of two parallel trams, about four feet asunder, joined at the further end by cross bars. The horse was yoked in it as in a cart, but the trams, instead of being supported on wheels, slid on the ground. On these creels were fixed, in which they put whatever they had to carry.

The harness was of a piece with the carriage. A thick withe of strong straw or rushes, twisted hard together, served for a collar; two bent pieces of stick fastened at the ends with a leather thong, or birch twig, for haimes; a hair or rush rope for halter, and all the other parts in keeping.

The implements and harness are now the workmanship of regular tradesmen, the latter generally imported from the low country. Iron ploughs are common, carts universal, and farming operations carried on with the same ease and order, as in the more advanced agricultural districts of Scotland. The introduction of these improvements is partly owing to the younger members of families going to service in these districts, and thus learning the system there pursued, which on their return they continue at home.

*Rent, &c.*—The average rent of the arable land is L. 1 per acre; the average grazing of a cow or full grown ox, L. 2, and of an ewe, 4s. 6d. per annum. Labourers wages, 1s. 6d. per day; masons, 3s. 6d.; wrights, 2s. 6d.; tailors, 1s. 6d. with victuals; weavers receive 6d. per yard for linen, 5d. for harn, 4d. for plaiding; shoe-

makers charge 1s. 3d. with victuals for making a pair of shoes; servants receive the same wages that they do in Ayrshire.

*Fisheries.*—The herring-fishery is carried on at the north end to a considerable extent, and the white fishing on the south, but on a very limited scale, owing partly to the want of enterprise in those who pursue it, and partly to the difficulty of getting the fish carried fresh to market. There are no fisheries rented in the parish.

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

Grain of all kinds, wheat, oats, meal, barley, &c.	L. 3420
Potatoes.	3000
Butter and cheese,	750
Black cattle,	2150
Sheep and wool,	1875
Swine,	400
Fowls and eggs,	460
Herring and white fish, caught by 60 boats, L. 35 each,	2100
Shell-fish, lobsters, &c.	100

There are about 90 boats belonging to the parish. Of these the largest is about twelve tons burthen, the average four and a-half. Those engaged in the herring-fishing employ three men, the others two.

An agricultural society was instituted on the island, about eight years ago, which, by its premiums for ploughing, rearing, and cropping, has contributed, more than anything else, in forwarding the improvements in stock and farming operations. It has excited among the farmers a spirit of emulation, which has urged them to make improvements that even self interest would not have impelled them to.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is neither market-town nor market in the parish. All the disposable produce must therefore be exported to the opposite towns of Ayr, Campbelton, and Ardrossan,—the nearest of which is twelve, and the most distant eighteen miles, of an open and boisterous sea. There are no harbours; at least none which a vessel can enter, except at high water, and the largest of them will not, even then, admit vessels of more than fifteen tons. There is a packet-boat from Southend to Ayr, and another from Blackwater to Campbelton, which have each of them a small salary, levied from the tenantry in proportion to, and along with their rent. At the former place two converging whin dikes form a natural basin, in which the packet lies, and at the latter, a small harbour was constructed by the parliamentary commissioners. But neither

of them can accommodate more than half a dozen vessels, nor admit them, except at full tide. Should they approach the coast at any other time they must stand off till it flows, and, however tempestuous be the weather, they have no nigher place of shelter to run to than the one they left. It is therefore with considerable danger and damage that the communication with these ports is carried on. Commodious harbours, that could at all times of the tide admit vessels of thirty tons, are very much required at both these places, and might be constructed at no very great expense.

*Roads.*—An excellent parliamentary road extends from Blackwater Foot to Brodick. Two other roads, almost equally good, extend, one from Blackwater Foot, along the shore, to Largybeg, the other from Benecarigan across the island, to Lamlash. This last was made by the inhabitants, at the expense of the Duke of Hamilton, generally by those of them who had fallen behind in their rents, during the transition state of agriculture, and who by this means paid up their arrears. The former of them was made, and both are upheld, by the statute labour and three additional days, which, by their leases, the tenantry are bound to work at roads, mill-dams, and water-courses. The labour is directed by an overseer, who calls out the different districts in rotation, superintends the work, and sees that it be properly executed. Bridges have been erected over all the rivers and streams on his Grace's property, with the exception of Blackwater, Machev, and Iorsa, which lie on its confines, and contiguous to that of Mrs Westenra. On this the roads are very indifferent, and there are no bridges.

There is no post-office in the parish. The nighest are those of Brodick and Lamlash, both subordinate to Saltcoats, from which the mail is conveyed to both twice a week in winter, and daily in summer, by a steam-packet belonging to the island.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church was rebuilt on its original site at Kilmorie in 1785. It is a long, low, narrow building, with Gothic windows and a gallery in both ends. The latter erected in 1824. An aisle or outshot, with gallery, was added in 1810. It accommodates 832, and all the sittings are free, and most of them unappropriated. Its situation is far from central, it is six miles from the southern, and twenty-four from the northern extremity of the parish. The country around it is pretty densely inhabited, but there are other parts, about eight miles distant, that are equally so. There, also, there is a church where Divine

worship is performed by the parish minister every third Sabbath. It was rebuilt on its original site at Clachan in 1805, at the expense of the parishioners and others, among whom it is divided; and by whom it is upheld according to their respective subscriptions. It is seated for about 640. There is another church at Lochranza, built in 1795, and seated in 1835 to accommodate about 300; chiefly at the expense of the people. A licentiate of the church regularly officiates in it, and acts as catechist or assistant to both the ministers of Arran, taking charge of the northern extremities of both parishes, from Iorsa in the one, to Corrie in the other. He is paid by a mortification made for that purpose by the Duchess Anne of Hamilton about the year 1700, amounting to L. 27 per annum. Small as that sum now seems, and inadequate as it now is, to procure more than the mere necessaries of life, it was, at the time it was given, fully equal to the stipends of the beneficed clergy of the island. The farm of Coilemore, on which the incumbent resided, was at a later period attached to it, at a nominal rental; but during a recent lengthened vacancy, it was let to another tenant, and has not since been restored, nor any equivalent given in its room. All that now, therefore, the incumbent has to subsist on, is the original sum of L. 27, with the interest of accumulated vacant stipend, amounting to L. 13, 11s., which, being at the disposal of the kirk-session of Kilmorie and Kilbride, is generally, though not always, given to the officiating minister at this station. Unfortunately, the deed of mortification expressly prohibits the ordination of the assistant, and, being engrossed in that of entail, cannot be altered. This want of ordination is felt to be a very great grievance by the inhabitants, who must travel a distance, many of them of twenty-four miles, before they can obtain sealing ordinances. The Lord's supper has been but twice dispensed in the district,—first in 1814, during the incumbency of the Rev. Neil M'Bride, and in 1839, by the Rev. A. Macmillan.

The manse of Kilmorie is the original one, built shortly after the Revolution, and is said to be the oldest now inhabited in Scotland. It was at first roofed with thatch, but, being burnt in 1710, it was repaired and roofed with slate. With that exception, it has received little repair, and no addition, since its erection. It is in very indifferent condition, but, though condemned upwards of forty years since, no application has ever been made for a new one. The globe is about 11 acres and 3 roods, inclusive of church-yard and garden, and is worth about L. 14 per annum. The stipend is 15

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chalders, half meal, half barley, and averages L. 210. The farmers of the south end district, *i. e.* from Largybeg to Corriecravie, give each of them annually a cart of peats to the clergyman.

The patronage of Kilmorie belongs to the Duke of Hamilton, and that of Lochranza to his Grace, and the two ministers of Arran conjointly. That of Kilmorie, originally was in the Abbey of Kilwinning, and in 1600 the parish was united to the Presbytery of Irvine. The names of the clergymen who have successively been its ministers, are the Rev. Dugald Bannatyne, who was translated to Irvine; Charles Bannatyne, his son; James Stewart, translated to it from Kilbride; John Hamilton; Mr Smith; Neil Macbride; Dugald Crawford; Angus Macmillan.

In so extensive a parish, the attendance upon public worship must necessarily be much affected by the weather. When that is favourable, the church is sometimes insufficient to contain the congregation that assembles; and when this is the case, which is now much seldomer than it used to be, the minister preaches in a tent. During the ministry of Mr Macbride, seldom or never was it conducted in the church, and even in winter, when it was, crowds stood outside the doors, that could not be accommodated within. A spirit of indifference prevails among the rising generation, that painfully contrasts with that which animated their fathers, in regard to the means of grace. Still the attendance, though far from what it once was, is as good as in most parishes of the same population. The average number of communicants for the seven years preceding 1881, was 1050. The number of individuals belonging to Established Church, 8978; other religious denominations, 17.

There are no religious associations in the parish, nor are collections regularly made for any, except the Assembly's schemes. The average amount for each of them is L. 6.

*Education.*—There are 12 schools in the parish, *viz.* four parochial, two on the Assembly's scheme, and in the remaining six, the teachers are either salaried by the inhabitants of the district, or paid by the fees of the scholars. The branches generally taught, are, Gaelic and English reading, writing, and arithmetic. In the parochial and Assembly's schools, in addition to these elementary branches, English grammar, book-keeping, navigation, geography, and mathematics are taught. The salaries of the parochial teachers are respectively, Kilmorie, L. 17, 10s.; Shisken, L. 15; Inneschar, L. 6, 16s.; Lochranza, L. 10, 10s. All, with the exception of Inneschar, have also a dwelling-house, garden, and glebe.

The fees in all the schools are, for reading, 2s. per quarter; reading and writing, 2s. 6d.; these with arithmetic, 3s.; navigation and book-keeping, L. 1 per course.

There are none between the age of six and fifteen but who either can, or are learning to read; and the greater number of those of fifteen can also write. From fifteen to fifty there are none but can read, and the most of them can also write. There are a considerable number of individuals above fifty who cannot write, but few, if any, who cannot read. There is a universal desire among the people to have their children taught, at least the elementary branches of education. The number of private schools in the parish is clear evidence of this fact. The endowed schools are more numerous attended; the teachers better qualified, and the children better taught. Of these at least three additional are required; one at Machry water foot; (the one at Imachar more fully endowed); one at Auchemore; and one at Benan.

The establishment of the General Assembly's schools in 1828, formed a new and interesting era in the history of education in this parish. The introduction by them of a more rational, efficient, and expeditious system of education, speedily supplanted in the others that formerly pursued; while the energy displayed by their teachers, and the spirit infused by them into the children; the interest and pleasure they made them take in what they before felt to be an irksome task, and the rapid progress they consequently made, gave a stimulus, while it set a pattern to those others, which has completely changed their character and appearance. This, together with the religious instruction communicated, in a manner that makes what they repeat intelligible to the pupils, will, it is hoped, exercise a salutary influence on the rising generation. The teachers of the Assembly's schools merit the highest commendation, for the assiduity, ability, and zeal exhibited by them in their profession, and sustained unabated for upwards of eight years, during which they have been established. The school taught by Mr M'Kelvie at Little Mill, deserves special notice, and is decidedly the best in the parish; indeed, it is seldom that its equal will be found any where.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid for the last ten years, is 75; and the average sum allowed each, is 16s. Some get as low as 6s. and 8s.; and some as high as L. 2. The average annual amount of church collections during the same period, is L. 46. This sum, with the proclamation dues, which annually average L. 6; and the interest

of L. 50, bequeathed by the late Major Macalister of Sprinkbank, is the only provision for the support of the poor. Application for parochial aid is decidedly considered degrading, and none but such as are paupers in the strictest sense of the term apply for it. So long as the funds for the support of the poor are furnished by the congregation, the provision is regarded as a public charity, and relief from this source is therefore the last resort of the indigent, but were it levied by assessment, it would no longer be viewed in this light. The love of idleness would speedily overcome the pride of independence, and there would then be as much avidity manifested to seize upon it, as there is now aversion to accept of it.

*Fairs.*—There are three fairs held in the parish, all for the sale of horses, viz. one at Lag, and two at Shedog.

*Inns and Ale-houses.*—There are three inns, viz. Lag, Shedog, and Lochranza; and three ale-houses. Here, as elsewhere, their influence is pernicious, which is still the more grievous as their existence is unnecessary. More individuals addicted to spirits are to be found in their vicinity, than anywhere else in the parish, though we cannot say that in the whole of it there is one drunkard.

*Fuel.*—The fuel universally used is peat, which is found in great abundance on the hills throughout all parts of the island. A few of the larger farmers who are close upon the shore, and at a distance from the peat-moss, supply themselves partly with coals from the opposite coast of Ayrshire.

May 1840.