

nature, the walks in the neighbourhood, either along the beach or through the adjoining groves and plantations, afford an unceasing source of pleasure. In these respects it must be admitted, that this favourite place of resort is unrivalled in the west of Scotland.

April 1842.

## PARISH OF KILWINNING.

PRESBYTERY OF IRVINE, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. ARCHIBALD BLAIR CAMPBELL, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Extent, &c.*—KILWINNING takes its name from St Winnin, a Scottish saint of the eighth century, to whom the ancient church of this place was dedicated. The greatest length of this parish, between the borders of Beith and Stevenston, is about 7 miles, and its greatest breadth, between the borders of Ardrossan and Irvine, is about 5 miles. According to Aitken's map, published in 1828, it contains  $17\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, or 11,200 acres. It is situate in Cunninghame, the northern district of the county of Ayr, and is bounded on the west by Stevenston and Ardrossan; on the east, by Dunlop, Stewarton, and Irvine; on the south, by Irvine and Stevenston; and on the north, by Dalry and Beith.

The figure of the parish is very irregular. Its surface gradually slopes upwards from the south-west to the north-east, and is varied by gentle undulations, but nowhere rises to any considerable elevation. It is intersected by the valleys of the Garnock and Lugton; the former, open and cultivated; the latter, more narrow and woody. The view from the upland district is extensive and beautiful, sweeping down the vale of the Garnock, on the one hand, and on the other, over the woods of Mountgreenan and Eglinton to the sea, and embracing the towns of Saltcoats, Stevenston, Kilwinning, and Irvine, the bay and headlands of Ayr, the rock of Ailsa, the Mull of Cantyre, and the serrated range of the Arran mountains.

*Soil.*—The soil in the higher and central parts of the parish, is

generally a thin clay, not fertile or productive, especially where the surface water has not been removed by tile-draining, though nearly the whole is under the plough; except what is occupied by plantations of forest trees. A better description of clay land is found on the slopes towards the river Garnock; and along its margin are some good loamy fields. From the town of Kilwinning towards the sea, there is a portion of light sandy soil, well cultivated and fertile. To the eastward, near Auchentiber, there remain probably sixty or seventy acres of a peat-bog, which was formerly much more extensive, a considerable part of it having been reclaimed and improved in the course of the present century.

*Climate.*—The climate of this parish, like that of the west of Scotland in general, though mild, is moist and variable. Amongst the endemic diseases engendered by it, the most prevalent is rheumatism, in all its forms. The peasantry who labour during the winter months at tile-draining, and other field work, often suffer from it severely, as well as aged and poor people in the town. Consumption is not unfrequent. In the town of Kilwinning, fever, *typhus mitior*, very often occurs, and is more endemical than in the neighbouring towns. Epidemical diseases, which are not more common than in other places, are generally very mild, and easily yield to medical treatment. In 200 cases of scarlet fever, attended by one practitioner during the year 1837, only five deaths occurred. On the whole, the inhabitants of the parish enjoy an ordinary length of days, and share of good health.

*Hydrography.*—The most considerable stream in this parish is the Garnock. It rises in the hills above Kilbirnie, about twelve miles from the town of Kilwinning, which it intersects, and, after a remarkably circuitous and serpentine course through the low lands to the west, falls into the sea at the same point with the river Irvine. The Lugton, a small stream, flows out of Loch Libo, in Renfrewshire, enters this parish near its eastern extremity, and, after passing through the woods of Mountgreenan and Eglinton, falls into the Garnock, about two miles from the sea. The Caaf water, also a tributary of the Garnock, forms part of the boundary line, for a short distance, betwixt this parish and Dalry. At Craighead mill, it falls over a rock of considerable height, and forms a pretty little linn or cascade in a narrow wooded dell. There is a sheet of water, about a mile and a-half to the north-west of Kilwinning town, called Ashenyard, or Ashgrove Loch. It is not of great extent, and part of it is included in Stevenston.

In the town and neighbourhood, an ample supply of the finest spring-water is obtained, as is almost invariably the case, throughout Scotland, around the sites of ancient monasteries, or other religious houses.

*Geology and Mineralogy.\**—The coal formation extends throughout the whole of this parish. The strata dip to the south, forming an angle with the horizon of from eight to twelve degrees. They are intersected by a number of whinstone dikes, running from east to west, and varying in thickness from five to twenty feet. These dikes cut the strata, without altering their general inclination, except when accompanied by slips, which is sometimes the case. Where there are no dikes, slips also frequently occur, breaking the continuity of the strata, while the different beds retain their relative positions, at different levels, and continue their course with the same inclination which they had before meeting with the slips. These slips vary in height from a few inches to ninety feet, and almost always run in an easterly and westerly direction. The outburst of the main coal, which is the lowest in the series of coals above the limestone, passes from west to east, nearly through the centre of the parish. It is four feet thick, and of good quality. Above this are seven other workable seams, in the following ascending order, viz. the stone-coal,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet; ell coal,  $2\frac{1}{4}$ ; Ladyha coal,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ; little coal,  $2\frac{1}{8}$ ; turf-coal, 3; parrot-coal,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; and five-quarter coal, 4 feet thick. They are situated at the respective distances from the main coal, and from each other, of 5, 10,  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , 48, 3,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , and 11 fathoms. All are of good quality. The seams, at present wrought at the different collieries, are the following, viz. at Doura, the ell and stone-coals; at Fergushill, the stone and main coals; at Redstone, the stone-coal; and, at Eglinton colliery, the Ladyha, ell, stone, and main coals. It is worthy of notice, that, on the western side, the bed of main coal is longitudinally split by a layer of shale, a few inches thick; but, to the east of Fergushill, and all through the lands of Doura, this layer increases in thickness to some fathoms, dividing the main coal into two distinct seams, of about two feet in thickness each, and, on this account, unworkable. Throughout the whole extent of Doura lands, and part of Fergushill, the four upper seams of coal have been but partially excavated, and are not wrought at present. A seam of coal, of rather inferior quality,

\* The information under this head has been kindly furnished by Mr A. Kennett, tacksman of the Eglinton colliery.

2½ feet in thickness, is found at the depth of seven fathoms below the limestone. It was partially wrought, some years ago, at Monkredding and Mountgreenan. Other seams are supposed to exist lower down, having been found in contemporaneous strata, in the adjoining parishes. Beyond the outburst of the main coal, limestone is found, appearing near the surface at Bunnach, Lylestone, Cloubeth, and Mountgreenan. Where it has been worked, it is five feet thick, and of good quality. It runs below the main coal, at a distance from it of about 70 fathoms. At Cartleburn, one mile to the north of the town, a bed of limestone, eighteen feet thick, is found cropping out. It has sometimes been wrought, and is of good quality, being almost entirely composed of fossil shells. The working of this bed was confined to the above locality, the outburst not having been found in any other place.

Ironstone bands, it is not doubted, might be found in abundance in connexion with the limestone beds, but have not been explored. They are seen, however, in corresponding strata on the Ardrossan shore, where they are numerous, and some of them are of the black-band kind, so much prized by ironmasters.

In some of the shales which intervene betwixt the coals, fossil vegetable remains, chiefly of the fern tribe, are found in great abundance. Balls of ironstone, in great quantities, and of various sizes, likewise occur, and also fossil shell-fish, generally mussels, with their shapes as entire and well-defined as if gathered alive upon the shore.

The nature of the various soils has been already adverted to. The subsoil generally, throughout the parish, consists of a tenacious blue clay, thickly interspersed with boulders, chiefly of whinstone, and of various sizes. In some parts, a bed of gravel is found above the blue clay and stones, and above the gravel a deposit of clay, entirely free from stones. It is used for making draining-tiles and building-bricks.

*Zoology.*—Among the mammalia may be mentioned *Lutra vulgaris*, the otter, a most successful salmon-fisher, occasionally detected poaching in the Garnock. From the near neighbourhood of the Irish Channel, the sea-fowl which frequent it are often seen in this parish, the rarer descriptions of which may be found specified in the Statistical Account of Stevenston. The following is a list, imperfect, we fear, of the rarer birds that may be found in this parish:—

*Alauda arborea*  
*Alcedo ispida*  
*Rallus aquaticus*  
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*crex*

*Pyrrhula vulgaris*  
*Phasianus colchicus*  
*Cinclus aquaticus*  
*Anas penelope*

*Anas crecca*  
*Sturnus vulgaris*  
*Scolopax gallinula*  
*Saxicola oenanthes*

Pike and perch are found in Ashgrove Loch; salmon and salmon-trout in the river Garnock. The fisheries in this stream were much more productive in former times than at present. The progress of agriculture diminishing the supplies of pabulum for the fish, the increase of population augmenting the number of poachers, together with the prevalence of stake-net fishing along the shore, near the mouth of the river, are causes which may, in part, account for this change. The river now yields no rent, and is preserved for angling, but seldom affords much sport to the disciples of Isaac Walton.

*Botany.*—List of some of the rare plants found in the parish :

*Lepidium Smithii*  
*Sedum telephium*  
*Lysimachia vulgaris*  
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*thyrsiflora*  
*Drosera rotundifolia*  
*Narthecium ossifragum*  
*Nymphaea alba*

*Nuphar lutea*  
*Oenanthe crocata*  
*Cicuta virosa*  
*Campanula latifolia*  
*Gnaphalium germanicum*  
*Scirpus sylvaticus*  
*Senecio Sarcenicus*

*Anagallis tenella*  
*Polygonum bistorta*  
*Veronica scutellata*  
*Asplenium trichomanes*  
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*thalyptris*  
*Hypnum auriscalpium,*  
 &c.

The finest forest trees in this neighbourhood are in the park at Eglinton. They are of unknown age and large size, consisting chiefly of oak, elm, and beech, which last predominate. The park is of great extent and thickly wooded, and beyond it considerable plantations have been formed by successive Earls of Eglinton, during the last seventy years. The mansion-houses of Mountgreenan, Monkcastle, and Ashgrove, are also surrounded with thriving plantations of different ages, and a considerable part of the parish is thus sheltered and ornamented.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

I am not acquainted with any work except the former Statistical Account, devoted exclusively to the history of this parish. It is noticed in Timothy Pont's "Cunningham Topographized," (MS. Advocates' Library,) and in Chalmers's Caledonia. A full account of it is given in Robertson's Topographical Description of Cunningham. The records of the regality of Kilwinning are preserved in the Register-Office. The chartulary of the monastery has unfortunately been lost.

The history of the parish begins with that of the patron Saint, from whom it derives its name.\* In the calendar of Scottish

\* For the following notice of St Winning, and some others relating to the anti-

Saints, the date assigned to St Winnin or Winning, is 715, and his festival was held on the 21st of January, on which day, O.S. there is still an annual fair held here, called St Winning's day. In Pont's MS. it is said, that "Vinnin was a holy man wich came from Irland, with certane of his discipells and followers, and heir taught the Gospell; the place of his residence retaining still ye name Killvinnin, ye church or cell of Vinnin, unto quhome, as to a notable sante, ye superstitious posterity dedicated." In the *Proprium Sanctorum*, a different parentage is given to St Winnin, as he is there said to have sprung of a noble family in Scotland. He was famous for his power in curing diseases, and for his control over the elements. In the parish of Holywood, a fountain of precious virtue sprung up on his intercession, and remained in repute until the beginning of the sixteenth century. A spring of fine water, a little to the south of Kilwinning manse, which still bears the name of St Winning's Well, was also celebrated for its virtues. But St Winnin could curse the waters as well as bless them, for on one occasion, when the river Garnock would not yield up any of his fish to one of his angling friends, the saint pronounced a malediction, on which the river "left its bed, and followed another course adverse to nature."\*

The fame and sanctity of St Winnin led to the building of the splendid monastery, near the site of the more ancient church of this place. According to the commonly received account, it was founded in the reign of David I., A. D. 1140, by Hugh de Moreville, Constable of Scotland, the chief benefactor, if not also the founder, of Dryburgh Abbey. In the Pont manuscript before quoted, however, a different origin is assigned to it, and the date of the foundation, or perhaps the completion of the buildings, is placed in the year 1591: "It was foundit by a noble Englishman, named Sir Richard Morwell, fugitive from his owne country for ye slaughter of Thomas Becket, Archbichope of Canterburrey, (being one of them), in the raine of King Henry II. of England, quho, flying to Scotland; was, by the then Scots King" (Malcolm IV. he elsewhere affirms), "velcomed and honoured with ye office of grate Constable of Scotland, as also inriched with ye Lordships of Cunninghame, Largis, and Lauderdaill, quhosse

quities of the parish, I am indebted to James Dobie, Esq., Beith,—a gentleman rich in antlquarian lore, and most obliging in communicating information, and granting access to his valuable library.

\* *Proprium Sanctorum*, fol. 38. For an account of a change in the course of the Garnock, to which this tradition applies, see *New Statistical Account of Stevenston*.

posterity for divers generations possessed ye said office and lands. Now ye forsaid Richard being, as vald seime, touched with compunctiōne for ye safty of hes soule, (according to the custome of these tymes), did found this Abbey of Kilvinnen, in testimony of hes repentance; and first of all did bulde ye queir or cancell of ye said Abbey Church, endowing it with divers lands, as namely, the the 80 lb. land of Kilvinnen, after this tennor, *Damus forrestam nostram de Kilvinnen, ibidem deo servientibus ad pascendum porcos eorum et ad excindenda ligna ad constructionem Monasterii, una cum decimis tergorum tam cervorum quam damarum eiusdem forrestae.* Also, Alicia Loncaster, viffe to ye said Sir Richard, with consent of her said husband, dottes, in puram et perpetuam elimosinam the land of Byth, Batth, and Threppewood to ye said Monastery. Item, Dorathea de Morvil, daughter to ye said Sir Richard, and vyffe to Philippus de Horssey, accomplished ye fabrick of ye said monastery, and hes sone, Dominus Valterus de Horssey, confirms to them ye same, and ye said foundatione, with ye donations and mortifications thereto belonging, is confirmed by Pope Honorius the 2<sup>d</sup>. An<sup>o</sup>. 2<sup>d</sup>o. pontificatus sui. These donations and foundatons ar also confirmed by King Alexander III.; as also by Jocelinus Dei Gratia humilis Glasguensis Ecclesie Minister Auctoritate Episcopali, &c. The reveneus of this abbey ver grate, and maney by (over and above) their proper lands. The founder therof, Sir Richard Morvill, layes interrred in the new cemetery of this church, under a tome of lymestone, framed coffin-vayes, of old polished vorke, without any superscriptiōne or epitaphe. The structure of this monastery wes solid and grate, all of freestone cutte; the church faire and staitly, after ye modell of yat of Glasgow, with a fair steeple of 7 score foote of height, zet standing where I my selve did see it."

It is difficult to suppose that Pont, who refers in another part of his work to "old records of ye monastery of Kilvinnen," and here quotes the original charter of De Morville to the monks, should yet be mistaken as to the individual member of that family who founded the abbey. If the common accounts, however, of the reign of Malcolm IV. are to be relied on, it closed in 1165, and consequently he could not receive the murderer of Thomas a Becket, for that prelate was not slain till 1170. His murderers, we are told,\* retired at first to Knaresborough in Yorkshire, which belonged to De Morville; from whence they repaired to Rome

\* Mosheim, Ecclesiastical History, Vol. ii. p. 401. M'Lean's note.

for absolution, and, being admitted to penance by Alexander III., were sent by the orders of that Pontiff to Jerusalem, and passed the remainder of their lives upon the Black Mountain, in the several acts of austerity and mortification. Pont says that the grants of the De Morville family to Kilwinning were "confirmed by Pope Honorius II. A<sup>o</sup>. 2<sup>do</sup>. pontificatus sui;" but the death of that Pontiff, according to Mosheim, (Vol. ii. p. 393), happened in 1130. In Morton's Monastic Annals of Teviotdale (p. 290), the murderer of Thomas a Becket is said to have been the uncle of Hugh de Morville, Constable of Scotland, whose family became extinct 1196 (Do. p. 59). It is highly improbable, indeed, that a sacrilegious assassin should have been welcomed by the Scottish monarch, and invested with lands and authority, at a period when the power of the Church of Rome had reached so great a height. It is possible, however, that Richard de Morville, son of Hugh, Constable of Scotland, may have founded the Abbey of Kilwinning in the latter part of the twelfth century, and that Pont, misled by that name, attributed the work to the murderer of Becket, and represented it as the atonement made to the Church for his crime. The date 1140 is adopted by the learned author of "Caledonia;" but he does not give his authority, and the matter is involved in some obscurity in consequence of the loss of the chartulary.

Though the founder and the date of the foundation be thus uncertain, it is known that the abbey was richly endowed by different members of the De Morville family. Successive monarchs and noblemen, also, "for the health of their souls," and sometimes for relief to the souls of their ancestors, contributed by their pious benefactions to increase its revenues. The estates belonging to it included nearly the whole land in the parish of Kilwinning, and various properties in the parishes of Dalry, Beith, and Kilmarnock. At the Reformation, the revenue of the monastery, exclusive of these property lands, amounted to L. 880, 3s. 4d; Scots; 67 chalders, 9 bolls, 3 firlots of meal; 14 chalders, 1 boll, 3 firlots, 3 pecks of bear; 8 bolls 1 firlot of wheat; 4 hogsheads of wine; 13 stirks; 140 capons; 100 hens; 268 cheeses; and 9 fathoms of a peat stack.\* To the abbey belonged the patronages and teinds of the following parishes, subject to the burden of stipends for the regular clergy, viz. Kilwinning, Irvine, Kilmarnock, Loudoun, Dalry, Ardrossan, Kilbirnie, West Kilbride, Beith,

\* Former Statistical Account and Beith papers. MS. collection by James Dobie, Esq.

Dunlop, Dreghorn, Stevenston, and Stewarton, all in Cunningham; Dumbarton and Kilmarnock, in Dumbartonshire; South and North Knapdale, in Argyll; Kilmory and Kilbride, in the Island of Arran.

The monks of Kilwinning were originally brought from Kelso, and were called Tyronenses, from Tyron, in the diocese of Chartres, where their order was first settled under St Bernard. It would appear that the usual artifices by which superstition was encouraged and confirmed in the Roman Catholic church, were not neglected by the occupants of this monastery. The fountains which had been blessed by St Winning continued in high repute, and one of them was believed to give warning of the approach of war, by flowing with blood on such occasions. R. Hoveden and Benedictus Abbas relate a portent of this kind as having occurred in the year 1184. "In eadem vero ebdomada qua rex in Anglia applicuit, quidam fons aquæ vivæ, juxta ecclesiam sancti vinini, in occidentalibus partibus terræ regis Scotiæ, infra Cuninham, non longe a Castello de Irevin, mutatus in sanguinem, manavit puro sanguine per octo dies et totidem noctes sine intermissione. Et dicebant indignæ quod simile portentum ibidem contingere solebat contra effusionem sanguinis. Sed numquam antea tam diu manavit ibi sanguinis manatio."\* This fact was mentioned by Lord Hailes, among the miscellaneous occurrences in the first volume of his Annals of Scotland. He was, in consequence, accused of credulity by the critics; and, in a subsequent edition of his work, he declares, that "the author must still remain under that imputation, for he cannot submit to acknowledge that he does not believe that a fountain, near Kilwinning, ran blood for eight days and eight nights, without intermission." A recent occurrence tends to prove the truth of the story, and to vindicate the stubborn faith of the learned Lord. In 1826, when the square or green, in the town of Kilwinning, to the west of the monastery, was being levelled, the workmen came upon an old leaden pipe, about an inch in diameter, which ran from the walls of the building, in the direction of a fine spring, now called Kyles Well. This pipe had a considerable descent, and could not have been used for the purpose of drawing water from the well to the abbey. Through it, therefore, in all probability, blood, or some liquid resembling it, had been caused to flow into the fountain, and thus the credu-

\* Ben. Abbas, page 406.

lity of the people was imposed upon, by the appearance of a miracle, which served to enhance the fame of the monastery, and the power of its priesthood.

Few of the abbots of Kilwinning attained to much celebrity, or are noticed in history. One of them swore fealty to King Edward in the year 1296, and another, more patriotic, fell, with his sovereign, on the fatal field of Flodden. The last of the order, Gavin Hamilton, was the most distinguished. He was frequently employed, by Queen Mary and her party, in offices of great trust and responsibility. In 1566, he was admitted an extraordinary Lord of Session, on the Queen's letter. He appeared in her cause at the battle of Langside, and was among the commissioners at York, in 1568, for settling disputes between Mary and Elizabeth. In 1571, he was declared a rebel, in a Parliament held by the Regent Lennox, and, in the same year, lost his life in a conflict, at Restalrig, near Edinburgh, between the Earl of Morton and the Queen's party.

Gavin Hamilton, and his immediate predecessors in office, foreseeing the fall of the Roman Catholic Church, considerably dilapidated the revenues of the abbey, by conferring grants of its lands on their friends or relations. What remained at the Reformation was annexed, with all other church lands in the country, to the Crown. The King gave the office of commendator to Alexander Cunninghame, third son of Alexander, commonly called the good Earl of Glencairn. He was bound to pay the salaries of the reformed teachers, in the parishes that held of the abbey, but appears to have been unwilling to recognize this obligation; for, in 1581, he was denounced and put to the horn, by John Boyd, "reider at Kilmarnock," for non-payment of his stipend. Imitating the example of the last Popish abbots, he conferred the estate of Mountgreenan, a valuable part of the abbey lands, on his son Alexander, in whose family it remained for several generations. In 1592, the whole remaining abbacy, or halydome, was erected into a temporal lordship, in favour of William Melville of Raith, then commendator, who soon after transferred his rights to Hugh, fifth Earl of Eglinton. By charter from the Crown, in 1603, these possessions were confirmed to the Eglinton family, in whose hands they still remain.

In 1560, the Estates of Scotland passed an "act for demolishing such cloisters and abbey churches as were not yet pulled down." The work of havoc was intrusted in the western Lowlands, to the

Earl of Glencairn, who, mindful of the dictum of Knox, "pull down the nests, and the rooks will fly away," destroyed that stately and splendid fabric, whose elegant remains still silently point to the sky. A part of the Abbey church was afterwards repaired and fitted up as a place of Presbyterian worship. It continued in use till 1775, when it was removed, and the present parish church was built on its site. The "fair steiple," which Timothy Pont did see, remained till 1814, when it fell from natural decay. It was a huge square tower, 32 feet on each side, and 103 feet high. The following year, a beautiful tower about the same height, and 28 feet square, was erected on the same situation, and separate from the church. The south gable of the transept, and one of its finely proportioned arches, a Saxon gateway, and some mouldering walls, are the only indications and memorials now extant of the once splendid results of superstitious piety and Italian art.

The following is a list of the ministers of Kilwinning from the time of the Reformation :

1. William Kilpatrick. In the "Register of ministers and their Stipends sen the yeir of God 1567," his stipend is said to be L.80, and in the "Buik of Assignationis of the Ministeris and Reidaris stipendis" for the year 1576, it is given as L. 100, with the kirkland of Kilwinning. A "reidare" at Kilwinning was at the same time allowed a stipend of "L.20, but without kirkland."

2. Alexander Wryttoun. In 1598, he subscribes an admission in favour of Mr Alexander Campbell to the kirk of Ardrossan. In 1606, he was infest in a house in Kilwinning.

3. David Barclay is mentioned as minister and parson of Kilwinning in 1609.

4. John Glassford, whose name occurs in the records of the regality of Kilwinning in 1619. He is mentioned in the preface to Fergusson's Sermons as one of the "eminent, learned, and pious men" who had laboured among the congregation at Kilwinning.

5. Robert Baillie, afterwards the celebrated Principal of the University of Glasgow, and author, besides other works, of those letters and journals which throw so much light on the history of his own times. In 1622, he received Episcopal orders from Archbishop Law of Glasgow, and became tutor to the son of the Earl of Eglinton, by whom he was presented to the living of Kilwinning. The exact period of his incumbency here is not ascertain-

ed. In 1626, he was admitted a regent in the College of Glasgow, and, having opposed the new ecclesiastical arrangements of Archbishop Laud, he was chosen to represent the presbytery of Irvine in the famous General Assembly of 1638.

6. James Fergusson, of the family of Kilkerran, esteemed by his contemporaries as a man of great piety and learning. He was invited to be Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow, but modestly refused. His works are, an "Exposition of the Epistle to the Galatians, Ephesians," &c. and a volume of sermons, delivered at Kilwinning in 1652, entitled, "A Brief Refutation of the Errors of Toleration, Erastianism, Independency, and Separation." This work was published after his death. He died about the year 1666.

7. Ralph Rogers. Under the first indulgence in 1669, he was admitted to Kilwinning, having previously been one of the ministers of Glasgow. He was translated in 1684, but to what office is not ascertained.

8. George Meldrum was admitted in 1688. He was chosen to be Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow. On the 25th March 1691, Principal Dunlop appeared at the Presbytery of Irvine, and urged them to proceed to his translation. In the meantime, he received a call to be one of the ministers of Edinburgh, which he accepted. He edited the sermons of his predecessor, Mr Fergusson, and his preface is dated Edinburgh, 1692.

9. George Chalmers was admitted in 1696; and in 1717, became Principal of King's College, Aberdeen.

10. Alexander Fergusson was admitted in 1721, and died 1770. A few years before his death, he was prosecuted for heresy by James M'Connell, town-drummer of Beith, an account of which process may be seen in the Scots Magazine of the time.

11. Thomas Pollock was admitted in 1770, and died in 1798. He was author of the former Statistical Account.

12. William Ritchie, D.D. previously minister of Tarbolton, was admitted in 1798, was translated to Glasgow in 1802, and thence to the High Church, Edinburgh, and to the Divinity Chair in the University of that city.

13. James Steven, D.D. from the Presbyterian chapel, Crown Court, London, was admitted in 1803, and died in 1824.

14. George Colville was admitted in 1824, and translated to Beith in 1831.

15. Archibald Blair Campbell was admitted in 1831.

*Masonry.*—The art of executing very large and magnificent buildings in timber frame-work was carried to high perfection in the northern countries of Europe during the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth centuries. Owing, however, to the perishable nature of the materials, and to accidents by fire, these buildings were frequently either destroyed, or reduced to a state of extreme decay; so that the ruinous state of the ecclesiastical edifices in the northern parts of Europe became a serious subject of inquiry at Rome, and measures were taken to obviate the grievance. The Pope created several corporations of Roman and Italian architects and artisans, with high and exclusive privileges, especially with a power of settling the rates and prices of their labour by their own authority, and without being controlled by the municipal laws of the country where they worked. To the various northern countries, where the churches had fallen into a state of decay, were these artists deputed. In consequence of the exclusive privileges conferred upon them, they assumed to themselves the name of Free Masons, and under this title became famous throughout Europe. These corporations, from their first origin, possessed the power of taking apprentices, and admitting into their body such masons as they approved of in the countries where their works were carried on.\* A party of these foreign artisans, aided by such workmen as they found in Scotland qualified to join them, are said to have constructed the monastery of Kilwinning. The architect or master mason, who superintended and carried on the work, was chosen master mason of the meetings of the brethren all over Scotland. He gave rules for their conduct at these meetings, and decided finally in appeals from all the other lodges in the kingdom. From this period, down to the fifteenth century, little is known of the history of masonry. It is acknowledged that Kilwinning continued to be the head-quarters of the order. In the notes to a French poem, *La Mâçonnerie*, published at Paris in 1820, p. 151, it is said, that “Jacques Lord Stewart recus dans sa loge a Kilwin en Ecosse, en 1286, les Comtes de Gloucester et Ulster, l'un Anglois, l'autre Irlandois.” King James I. of Scotland, eminently distinguished for his knowledge and taste in polite literature and in the fine arts, not long after his return from England, patronized the mother lodge of Kilwinning, and presided as grand master, till

\* P. F. Tytler's *Hist. of Scotland*, Vol. ii. pp. 395, 396.

he settled an annual salary, to be paid by every master mason in Scotland to a grand master, chosen by the brethren, and approved by the Crown. It was required that this grand master should be nobly born, or a clergyman of high rank and character. He had his deputies in the different counties and towns of Scotland. Every new brother paid him a fee at entrance. He was empowered to regulate and determine such matters in dispute, between the founders and builders of churches and monasteries, as it would have been improper to bring before a court of law. King James II. conferred the office of grand master on William Sinclair, Earl of Orkney, and Baron of Roslin. By another deed of the same King, this office was made hereditary in this very ancient and illustrious family. Earl William and his successors, Barons of Roslin, held their head courts, or, in the style of masonry, assembled their grand lodges at Kilwinning.\* The mother lodge continued in possession of the highest authority, and granted charters of erection to other lodges, till the year 1736, when the Lord of Roslin, hereditary grand master, assembled thirty-two lodges in Edinburgh, and resigned all right or title which he possessed, or his successors might claim, to preside over the masonic order throughout Scotland. His resignation being accepted, the Grand Lodge of Scotland was constituted, consisting of representatives from other lodges throughout the kingdom, in whom was vested the right of legislating and of granting new charters, or confirming old ones, for the whole order, for which purposes a general meeting is held, and office-bearers are elected annually. This usurpation was resisted for a time by the Kilwinning brethren, who continued to hold independent meetings, and to grant charters as formerly, till the year 1807, when the dispute was amicably settled, and the mother lodge relinquished her ancient privileges, joining the general association, along with the lodges which held of her.†

*Archery.*‡—It is well known that, in former times, the bow and arrow were used in war throughout the whole of Europe. By one or more of the old acts of the Scotch Parliament, the young men in every parish were strictly commanded to practise archery for an hour or two every Sunday, after Divine service. After the invention of fire-arms, archery was laid aside, as no longer useful and necessary in war. Though for this reason it was disused in most

\* Former Statistical Account.

† Robertson's Cuninghame, Appendix.

‡ From the former Statistical Account.

other places in Scotland, it has been practised here as an elegant and manly amusement, almost without any interruption, to the present day. At the same time, the laws and usages of the Company (the term used for the society), are known, and that too very imperfectly, only by tradition, prior to the year 1488. This date is acknowledged and rendered authentic by a minute in the records, dated September 1688. This minute is signed by a number of gentlemen of the most respectable characters. From this time, archery has been practised annually, at a certain stated time of the year, generally in the month of June. The species of archery in use here is of two kinds. The one is a perpendicular mark, called a *papingoe*. The papingoe is a bird known in heraldry. It is on this occasion, cut in wood, fixed in the end of a pole, and placed about 120 feet high, on the steeple of the monastery. The archer who shoots down this mark is honoured with the title of Captain of the Papingoe. He is master of the ceremonies of the succeeding year, sends cards of invitation to the ladies, gives them a ball and supper, and transmits his honours to posterity by a medal, with suitable devices, appended to a silver arrow. The prize from 1488 to 1688 was a sash, or as it was called a *ben*. This was a piece of taffeta or Persian, of different colours, chiefly red, green, white, and blue, and not less in value than L. 20 Scotch. This honourable badge was worn by the captain, which he kept, and produced another of equal value the following year. At the revival of archery in 1688, there was substituted a piece of plate, which continued to be given by every captain till 1723. The other kind of shooting is for prizes at butts, point-blank distance, (about twenty-six yards). The prize at butts is some useful or ornamental piece of plate, given annually to the Society by the senior surviving archer.

*Tournament.*—In the month of August 1839, a celebrated tournament was held at Eglinton castle by the present Earl of Eglinton and Wintoun. Accounts of it have been published, with pictorial illustrations of the armour and costume worn on the occasion. This romantic attempt to revive the sports and pageantry of ancient times was made on a magnificent scale, and it is supposed that 50,000 or 60,000 persons, of all the varied ranks of society, were assembled to witness the gorgeous spectacle. Though the park was thrown open to this promiscuous multitude, no wanton mischief was done to a single object, nor was an intoxicated individual seen within the gates. The tournament was held during two days;

but our limits forbid us to enter into any detail of its splendid scenes, either on the tented field, or in the halls of the castle where so many of the fair and brave of "high degree" were assembled to hold high festival. The courtesy and liberality of the noble Lord of the tournament were universally felt and acknowledged.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest minute of session is dated 12th March 1656, since which time, with the exception of a few intervals, they appear to have been regularly recorded. The record of baptisms begins 27th April 1669, and that of proclamations, 14th July 1676, and both are continued, with few interruptions, to the present day. In recent times, the register of births is far from being complete, and there is none of deaths or burials.

*Modern Buildings, &c.*—The chief of these is Eglinton Castle, a large and handsome house, suitable for the residence of the munificent and hospitable family to whom it belongs. It was built in the end of last century by Hugh, twelfth Earl of Eglinton. The park in which it stands is spacious and well-wooded, and stocked with deer. The gardens are extensive and beautiful. There is an elegant mansion at Mountgreenan, built about thirty years ago by Robert Glasgow, Esq. Monkcastle and Ashgrove are also furnished with suitable residences. There are four mills for grinding corn, and three saw-mills in the parish.

### III.—POPULATION.

|                                      |      |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| The population in 1755 amounted to   | 2541 |
| 1792,                                | 2360 |
| 1801,                                | 2700 |
| 1811,                                | 3291 |
| 1821,                                | 3696 |
| 1831,                                | 3778 |
| 1841,                                | 5251 |
| In the town, 1841, families,         | 630  |
| males,                               | 1447 |
| females,                             | 1524 |
| In the country, families,            | 387  |
| males,                               | 1210 |
| females,                             | 1070 |
| Total number of families,            | 1017 |
| The average number in each family is | 5.15 |

Of the rural population, about 800 reside in collier villages and hamlets.

The chief causes of the great increase since 1831, are the formation of the Glasgow, Ayr, and Kilmarnock Railway, and the extension of the collieries in the immediate neighbourhood of Kilwinning, and at Fergushill, where a village containing upwards of

200 people has sprung up within the last few years. There are at present a considerable number of labourers employed in the construction of the Kilmarnock branch of the railway, who are not permanently connected with the parish; and when it is finished, the whole population will probably not amount to more than 5000.

The number of proprietors whose annual rental is L.50 or upwards, is 35. Of these, the only persons of independent fortune resident, are the Right Honourable the Earl of Eglinton and Wintoun; William Millar, Esq. of Monkcastle; George Crichton, Esq.; and Miss Bowman of Ashgrove.

There are three individuals deaf and dumb in the parish, two fatuous, and two blind.

There is no smuggling. Poaching is carried on to a small extent.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

About one-third of the whole population are employed in agriculture; about one-fifth in mining; probably another fifth are labourers, shopkeepers, and artisans; and the remainder are handloom weavers. A great proportion of the females in the town sew the Ayrshire needlework, at which they can make a tolerably comfortable living.

*Agriculture.*—The farms generally are very small, many of them not more than 50 acres. The average extent may be stated at 80 acres. But from the character of the soil, and the extremely undulating nature of the surface, the land is not well adapted for large farms. They are cultivated chiefly by the farmers themselves and their families,—both those which are rented, and such as belong to the occupants, of which there are a considerable number.

About one-third or one-fourth is generally under crop. The rest is in pasture. There is a considerable extent of moss in the upper district of the parish, which can scarcely be regarded as improvable, as the soil is too poor to yield a profitable return for the capital that must necessarily be expended. I cannot specify the number of acres under wood, but they must amount to a good many hundreds, and some of the timber in Eglinton Park is very fine. The kinds of trees that chiefly abound are Scotch fir, larch, ash, elm, and oak. There are many very large old beeches at Eglinton, but this species is not now planted. The management of the wood is upon the whole good.

The average rent per acre of arable land is L.1, 15s. The average rent of grazing a cow or ox is L.4, 10s.; a ewe and lamb, L.1.

The farm-servants are of two descriptions,—those who live and board in the family of their master, whose wages average L. 16 per annum,—and those who are married, and live on, or in the neighbourhood of, the farm on which they are employed. The latter have a house and garden provided for them, receive 6 bolls of oatmeal, 4½ bolls of potatoes, their coals driven, and L. 14 in money, amounting in all to L.25 or L.30 per annum. They are generally well treated, and very comfortable, though few in number. Female servants engaged for the dairy generally get, in addition to their board, L.10 yearly. When men are employed for a short period only, they are paid 9s. a week in winter, and 12s. in summer. Masons, carpenters, and other artisans usually receive 15s. weekly.

*Live-Stock.*—There are not many sheep kept in the parish. The common breed is the black-faced, but there are also a few of the Leicester and Southdown kinds. The cattle, almost universally, are of the Ayrshire Dunlop kind. The horses are of the Clydesdale breed. Much attention has been paid to the improvement of the sheep and horses, with considerable success. But the cattle, though better kept than they were twenty years ago, have become inferior to what they then were.

The general course of husbandry pursued, especially in the poorer soils, is to take two white crops and six years' pasture. While in richer land, they only graze for the space of four, three, or two years, when the soil will admit of it. This was the plan universally followed, and the land was never cleaned, until, several years ago, green-cropping was introduced, and on the richer soils the tenants now observe a four year's rotation, viz. oats, green crop, wheat, and grass. A great part of the parish, from being an extremely tenacious, wet, and unproductive clay, is unsuitable for this method of cultivation. - It is all capable, however, of vast improvement by draining, liming, and manuring, and much is doing in this way. Indeed, the whole of this district, at the present rate, will be tile-drained in ten years. There are the greatest facilities for improvement, as there are lime and tile-works in the parish, and the leases generally are for the term of nineteen years. The inclosures are in good order, as the tenant is bound to keep them

in repair, but the farm-steadings, for the most part, are ill-planned, limited in accommodation, and inconvenient.

*Quarries and Mines.*—The coal-mines are, Doura, Fergushill, Redstone, and Eglinton, which employ 220 miners, whose wages are, for each man, 4s. per day. The price of coal at the pit mouth, is 5s. per twenty cwt. From these collieries are exported annually about 50,000 tons at the Harbour of Ardrossan, the greater portion of them to Ireland, some to the Mediterranean, and a few to the Highlands. There are two limestone, and one sandstone quarry, at which a considerable number of men are employed.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The nearest market-town to Kilwinning is Irvine, which lies, towards the south, at the distance of three miles.

The male inhabitants of Kilwinning are chiefly employed in weaving and mining; the females in sewing. The only individuals found necessary for keeping the peace are one of the county police and a sheriff-officer. The town has a fine and picturesque appearance from several points of view. It is situated on the banks of the Garnock, about four miles from its mouth, is surrounded by a considerable quantity of wood, and receives additional beauty from the ruins of the abbey, and a very handsome modern tower. The higher parts of it also command an extensive and varied prospect, including the bay of Ayr, and the hills of Arran, as well as the neighbouring country. The town itself, however, has not much to recommend it. It consists chiefly of one narrow street, about a mile in length, but the two portions at the extremities are somewhat detached; that towards the west is called the Byres, because, it is believed, the monks kept their cattle there; and the eastern has got the name of the Corsehill, from its being the place where they erected the cross.

The principal villages are, Doura, Fergushill, and Dalgarven. The two first contain each upwards of 200 inhabitants, and the third nearly that number.

For the accommodation of the public, there is a post-office, and the parish is intersected, in all directions, by roads, eleven miles of which are turnpike-roads. The rest are kept up jointly by the proprietors and tenantry. Formerly, there were several stage-coaches, which passed through Kilwinning to Glasgow and other places, but they have all been given up since the opening of the Glasgow and Ayr Railway, about two years ago, which affords the

greatest facilities, both for travelling and the conveyance of goods, and farm produce. It passes through the west end of the town, where a station-house has been erected, and where the branch to Ardrossan also meets the chief line. The branch to Kilmarnock, which is in the process of formation, and is expected to be completed in the spring of 1843, also passes through the parish, within a mile of the town; and it was originally intended to have a short off-shot branch, from the nearest point, stretching directly down to the Kilwinning station, to facilitate communication between Kilmarnock and Ardrossan. But this proposal has been given up in the meantime. Should the railway, however, better remunerate the proprietors, this plan very probably will be carried into execution. There is also another railway, with a single line of rails, from the Doura and Fergushill collieries, which meets with the Ardrossan branch of the Glasgow and Ayr railway, about two miles from the harbour. By this railway the coal is conveyed for exportation. It has been in operation several years.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situated in the middle of the town, and is the most convenient locality for the population generally, as considerably more than one-half live within a mile of it; and although it be little more than that distance from the western boundary of the parish, none of the parishioners live above five miles from it. It was built in 1775, and is in a good state of repair. When erected, neither the area nor galleries were seated, and they continued in this state until towards the close of last century. It accommodates 1030 people. None of the sittings are free, but they are seldom let for more than 2s. 6d. each, yearly. The seats set apart for the communicants, at the celebration of the sacrament, are placed at the disposal of the session, who let them at a low rate; and the Right Honourable the Earl of Eglinton, and the Lady Montgomery, who are the principal heritors, give the proceeds of theirs to the session also, for the benefit of the poor.

The manse was built in the year 1773, and has since undergone several repairs. The glebe contains about 6 acres, but this includes the garden, and site for the manse and offices. It is worth about L.4 per acre. The stipend is 17 chalders, and L.10 for communion elements. By the Royal Commissioners' Report, the average stipend in money for the period of seven years previous to 1834, was L.266, 12s.

In consequence of the extent and populousness of the parish, the present incumbent has, for several years, kept an assistant, who is supported jointly by himself and the patron.

There are two meeting-houses in the town, one of which is connected with the United Secession, and the other with the Original Seceders. The congregations attending them are not large. The minister of the former congregation receives L. 80 per annum, that of the latter L. 100, which sums are derived from seat-rents and other voluntary contributions.

Divine service in the Established Church is generally very well attended, although a large portion of the inhabitants altogether neglect Divine ordinances. The number of communicants may be stated at nearly 1000.

*Education.*—There are 8 schools in the parish, but only one of them is a parochial school. The others are all unendowed, and are supported almost entirely by school-fees. The branches of education generally taught are, English reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography, and in addition to these, in the parochial school, instructions are given in Latin, mathematics, book-keeping, and drawing. The maximum salary is allowed to the schoolmaster, and a house is provided for him. Two of the other teachers are in the town. The others are connected with collieries, or are in small hamlets in different parts of the parish. The school-rooms have generally been built by subscription. Near the village of Doura, a large school-room and a house for the teacher, with a play-ground and garden attached to it, have been erected at the sole expense of the Earl of Eglinton and Winton.

The average attendance on all the schools put together is about 550, and there are few in the parish who have not received instruction in reading and writing, and the other elements of a common education. It may also be mentioned, that there are six Sabbath schools, which are attended by upwards of 500 children.

*Charitable and other Institutions.*—There are four Friendly Societies in the parish, one for males, and the others for females. The first was formed in 1830, by the union of several that had existed previously. The rest have been in existence for the periods of twenty-four, twenty-six, and twenty-seven years. The members of the Male Friendly Society amounted at its commencement to 450, in 1840 to 440, and at present to the same number.

They pay two different rates, and receive a proportionate allowance. These rates are twopence and threepence a-week. Those who paid twopence for some time after the institution of the Society, received 6s. weekly when confined to bed, 4s. when walking about, but unable from sickness or infirmity to support themselves. Such as paid threepence were allowed, in the one case, 9s. and in the other, 6s. As it was found, however, that the income did not meet the expenditure, the rates of aliment have since been reduced to 5s. and 3s. for the one rate of payment, and 7s. 6d. and 4s. per week for the other. The funds at present amount to nearly L.500.

The Female Society, which was instituted in 1817, had, in 1820, 70 members; in 1830, 80; in 1840, 120. That which was formed in 1818, had, in 1820, 160 members; in 1830, 329; in 1840, 537. The remaining one, which was begun in 1820, had at first 160 members; in 1830, 346; and in 1840, 309. The rate of payment to these associations is one penny per week. The allowance granted to those connected with the first is 3s. when in bed, and 1s. 6d. when unable to work. It has scarcely any permanent or sinking fund. The aliment given by the other two is 5s. when the members are confined to bed, and 2s. 6d. when incapacitated from following their usual vocations. They have considerable funds, although, from the depressed state of trade, and other causes, they are gradually diminishing.

*Savings Bank.*—About two years ago, a Savings Bank was instituted; but, as there is a branch of the Commercial Banking Company's Bank in the town where small sums are received, it has not hitherto done much business. The investments amounted the first year to L.243, 12s. 3d., and there was drawn L.83, 17s. 6d. The second year, there was invested L.75, 12s. 4d.; drawn L.44, 10s. The investments are generally made by tradesmen in town, and, in some cases, by servants; frequently by those who, many years ago, had made a little money, and comparatively seldom by young people. The weaving part of the population, and those residing in the country, seldom make any deposits,—the latter from an idea that their money is not secure.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons on the poor roll during the last ten years, is 97. The average sum allotted to each annually is L.2, 8s. 8d. There are also occasional disbursements, which vary considerably in different years; but the

average may be stated at L.120 per annum. The average amount derived from collections for the last ten years is L.65, 18s. 2d. There are also two farms placed under the management of the session for the benefit of the poor,—one of them from a mortification, the annual rental of which is L.150; and another which was bought from the poor's fund at a time when the income far exceeded the expenditure, at least as far back as the beginning of last century, the rental of which is L.52, 10s. There were likewise other three mortifications, of L.100, L.80, and L.50 respectively, made by benevolent and charitable individuals, the interest of which was to be distributed among the poor of the parish of Kilwinning. As it was found necessary, however, to borrow money in order to meet the necessary annual expenditure, these have been appropriated in the meantime,—for the heritors and session are empowered to sell one of the farms, and can thus make good the mortifications at any time. The only other available funds are L.12 or L.15 annually, derived from seat-rents, and a small sum for proclamations, &c. There has hitherto been no parochial assessment; but, as the sources of income are not sufficient to meet the necessary outlay, and the population is so rapidly increasing, it is not probable that this can be long avoided.

It may be remarked, that, while the people generally prefer supporting themselves without relief, they do not appear to have any strong feeling against it, and few of them consider it degrading.

*Fairs.*—There are two fairs annually,—Bell's Day, generally kept on the first Wednesday of November, and St Winning's day, on the first day of February. The former was originally intended as a market for cattle, the latter for horses; but no such distinction is now observed, and horses and cattle are sold at both.

*Inns, Alehouses, &c.*—The number of houses or shops in the parish licensed to sell exciseable liquors is 27. Their effect on the morals of the people, especially of the miners and inhabitants of the town, is of the most pernicious description.

*Fuel.*—The fuel almost universally used is coal, which is procured at the different collieries in the parish at the low rate of 5s. per ton at the pit. Peat is also burned, to a small extent, in the upper district, in the immediate vicinity of the moss.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The changes most worthy of notice in the state of the parish since the writing of the former Statistical Account are, the opening of several additional collieries, the improvements adopted in agriculture, the planting of a considerable quantity of wood, and the vast

increase of the population, which, since that period, has more than doubled. There have, for a long period, been considerable facilities for internal communication; but the opening of the Glasgow and Ayr Railway, with branch lines to Ardrossan and Kilmarnock, affords the greatest advantages for intercourse with Glasgow, as well as the surrounding country, and must raise the value of property. The inhabitants are, we believe, more industrious than they were towards the end of last century; but they are also more extravagant both in regard to their clothing and mode of living, and it is to be feared, less contented with their circumstances. Scarcity of work, which sometimes occurs, and constant fluctuations in the price paid for it, are unfavourable to the interests and welfare of the manufacturing population. The desire for luxuries is, in many instances, too prevalent, and a want of prudence, foresight, and economy, often appears. The inhabitants of the parish, in general, are intelligent and well informed, and many of them are exemplary in the discharge of all the duties of their station.

April 1842.

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## PARISH OF LOUDOUN.

PRESBYTERY OF IRVINE, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. NORMAN MACLEOD, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—"THE name Loudoun," says the writer of the old Statistical Account of this parish, "is probably derived from a hill in the extremity of the parish called *Lowdon*, from the old word *low*, a fire, *don* or *dun*, a hill;" and from the extensive view of the surrounding country which the hill commands, and from its being in the immediate vicinity of a Roman camp, it has very probably been a station for a signal-fire. Others have suggested that the name Loudoun is a corruption of the Gaelic word *Lod-dan*, which signifies marshy ground; and as the river Irvine, now more confined than formerly to the bed which it has hollowed for its waters, at no distant period, flooded the low grounds of the parish, it is not improbable that the valley rather than the hill has had the honour of giving name to Loudoun. The banking of the