

*Alehouses.*— There are 9 ale or public-houses in the parish, the effect of which upon the morals of the people is most pernicious. Various attempts have been made, from time to time, both to lessen their number, and to restrain their licentiousness; but the misnamed liberality of the present age opposes all such attempts, as encroachments on the liberty of the subject.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

There are two things which have frequently been mentioned as being rather opposed to the improvement of the place: the largeness of the farms, most of them being of greater extent than one man can easily superintend; and the want of resident heritors, or men of wealth and influence, who might either propose or carry into effect any plan for the public good.

It has also been often mentioned, that a road round the island would be of vast consequence to the parish; both to the farmer in carrying his produce to market, and in collecting his manure for the fields; to the inhabitants in general in their ordinary intercourse, and to strangers, who visit in the summer months, who might be thereby induced to build villas round the shore, and consequently to remain in the place, and thereby increase the value of the respective properties, and add to the means and resources of the parish in general.

May 1840.

## PARISH OF KINGARTH.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNOON, SYNOD OF ARGYLE.

THE REV. JOHN BUCHANAN, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*— This parish occupies the southern part of the Island of Buta. It takes its name from a promontory forming its extreme point to the south, called in the Gaelic language *Ceann Garbh*, which signifies *stormy end*, or *stormy head*.

*Extent and Boundaries.*— It is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length from north to south; and its average breadth is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles. It is bounded on the north and north-west by the Loch of Ascog, a part of Loch-Lad,

and Quien loch, which separate it from the parish of Rothesay; and on the east, south, and west, by the Frith of Clyde. It is irregular in its figure, being indented by several small bays on both sides; but it gradually narrows from its northern extremity, till it becomes an isthmus of a mile and a half in breadth, beyond which it forms a peninsula of two miles in length, terminating in the promontory above-mentioned.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The land in general rises considerably above the level of the sea. The principal hills are *Suidhe* or *Suidhe Chatain* (*the Seat of Catan*), 520 feet high, and *Saint Blane's Hill*, 486 feet. The coast to the east and south is for the most part rocky, in many places rising precipitously at a little distance from the shore, in ridges that appear to have at a former period served as a barrier to the sea, and to have been subsequently raised by volcanic action to their present level. To the west the coast has, in general, a more gentle rise, although it exhibits a similar appearance of a shore elevated above its original position. The shore is principally sandy, but to the east and south rocky; and at Kilchatan bay, and on some parts of the west coast, it contains a stratum of blue clay. The bays are those of Ascog, Scoulag, and Kilchatan to the east; and of Scalpsie, Stravanan, and Dunagoil, to the west. The only headland is the Garroch-head, which has its name corrupted from the Gaelic *Ceann Garbh*.

A table, serving to indicate the temperature and pressure of the atmosphere, and the prevailing winds in this parish, will be found in the Account of the parish of Rothesay.

The climate is somewhat moist; but is remarkably healthy, and induces invalids to seek it for its singular mildness. No distemper prevails at any time, that can reasonably be attributed to any peculiarity in the atmosphere, or other local cause; and cases of longevity are very common.

The Frith of Clyde, which bounds the parish on the east, south, and west, is 9 miles in breadth betwixt Scoulag bay on the east shore, and the nearest point of Ayrshire, at Largs; and 8 miles in breadth between Dunagoil bay on the west shore, and the nearest part of the Island of Arran; and 80 fathoms deep betwixt the Garroch-head and Little Cambus, where its depth is greatest. The water is usually clear; its saltness is diminished by the volume of fresh water proceeding from the Clyde and the rivers of Cowal in Argyleshire.

The lakes connected with the parish, all of them forming part of its boundary towards the parish of Rothesay, are, the Loch of

Ascog, containing 75 acres, 1 rood, 28 poles, imperial, of surface; Quien Loch, containing, 68 acres, 3 roods, 30 poles; and Lochfad, containing about 400 acres.

*Geology.*—The soil is in general of a light gravelly or sandy nature, though in some places loam and clay are to be found. The predominating rocks are old red sandstone with conglomerate, and veins, beds, and overlying masses of trap.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Of the ancient state of the parish little is known. That it was the scene of important events in times of rapine and bloodshed, may be inferred from its situation, which exposed it alike to the northern invaders, and the ravaging hordes of the Ebudæ, in their attacks on the neighbouring coasts; and is indicated by its sepulchral antiquities, and the appearances of places of defence still remaining. That it flourished in population and in wealth, is to be gathered from its remains of religious edifices, of a date when the distinction of any place for its sacred erections was no bad criterion of the consideration in which it was held for its general prosperity. But materials for an authentic history of it have not been found.

*Land-owners.*—The lands, for a period extending to several centuries back, appear to have been held by several proprietors called Barons—a local designation still retained. These have, within the last hundred and fifty years, been gradually reduced in number; and they are at present represented by four owners of a small portion of land respectively, the rest of the parish being the property of the Marquis of Bute.

*Eminent Men.*—Of persons connected with the parish who attained eminence that has transmitted their memory to posterity, is to be mentioned Saint Catan, or Cathanus, whose name is preserved in the appellation Kilchattan, (*Cil-Chatain, the cell or burying place of Catan,*) belonging to the bay so called; and in that of Suidhe Chatain, a hill overlooking the bay, and pointed out as his *seat*. Saint Blane also has here monuments of his fame. Tradition assigns to him this parish as the place of his birth; adding many particulars respecting him grossly fabulous, and not deserving to be regarded. He is commonly believed to have been the founder of the original church of Kingarth, of which the ruins remain, and which is still called by his name; as is also a hill which ascends from the Garroch-head.

*Parochial Register.*—The parochial register commences in the year 1648, from which date it is continued with partial interrup-

tions down to the year 1708. It resumes in 1740, and is regularly kept till 1820, when it is again interrupted till 1827; from which period, it is complete to the present time. It occupies five volumes.

*Antiquities.*—Near the north-east shore of Kilchatan Bay are two barrows or tumuli, at a short distance from each other. One similar, farther along the same shore, was opened some time since, and some pieces of old weapons were dug out of it. All barrows of this description, it is believed, will be found to contain sepulchral remains.

In the peninsula which connects the northern and southern portions of the parish, half a mile from the east shore, are what have been considered the remains of a Druidical circle. The circle is imperfect towards the north-west; but it is distinctly indicated by three stones placed upright, at a distance of from 23 to 25 feet from each other. They are from 7 to 8½ feet high from the surface of the ground; in breadth from 4 to 6 feet; and from 15 inches to 6 feet thick. The circle has been supposed, when entire, to have been formed by seven stones; but the vacant space appears to leave room only for two, and to limit the original number to five. Nearly half a mile distant, towards the west shore, also stand three stones, which have been variously conjectured to have been connected with Druidical rites, or to mark a scene of battle, and to have served as monuments for persons who fell in it. Most probably it was the latter object for which they were erected. They are situated on a plain at the foot of a gently rising ground, half a mile distant from the bay of Stravanan, where an enemy was likely to land; and indicate a position singularly favourable for a defending force. On the other hand, they have little appearance of a Druidical erection. They are placed in a line running nearly from north to south, and are made to face towards the east and west; and although their direction has a slight inclination towards being circular, the circumstance may have been accidental: and if they formed part of a circle it must have been greatly larger than that above-mentioned. They stand closer, too, than the stones in the former, the distance betwixt them little exceeding 7 feet. In dimensions, the stones are both nearly alike.

A mile farther south, on the west shore, is the fort of Dun-ma-goil (*the fortified hill, or rock, of the Lowlanders*), near the bay to which it gives name. It is formed by a ridge of rock 50 feet high, rising with a steep ascent from the sea on the west side, perpendi-

cular to the north and east, narrow and difficult of access towards the south, with a level space of some extent on the summit. Along the verge of this space, towards the west and south, are the remains of a wall, built apparently for the defence of the place, where it was most accessible, the precipitousness of the rock serving for a natural defence on the other sides. The external parts of this wall appear to have been completely vitrified. The heart is formed of stone partially fused. The stone chiefly used in the structure is whinstone, of which the rock itself is composed. The station is a very advantageous one. It commands the most natural, and perhaps the best landing-place on the whole coast; and it affords a complete view seawards, at once of the passage from the western seas by Kilbrannan sound, and of the entrance into the Frith of Clyde from the south. All surmises as to its era or use are now vain. It has been conjectured to have been a Danish fort; its name would rather point it out to have been a hold, occupied, for whatever purpose, by inhabitants of the neighbouring eastern or southern coasts, who, in common with those who dwelt in the interior southern portion of Scotland, were usually described in the Gaelic tongue by the term signifying *Lowlander*, as retained in the designation of this place.

Towards the centre of the peninsula, stands the ruin of the church or chapel of St Blane, supposed to have been founded by the saint whose name it bears, who flourished about the close of the tenth century. That a church existed here at a period not much posterior, and that he was commonly regarded as having been a benefactor to it, there is evidence still extant to show. In a charter given by Allan, son of Walter the Second, Great Steward of Scotland, dated before the year 1204, conveying certain grants to the monastery of the Clunian order at Paisley, is contained the following clause:—"Also, for the benefit of the soul of King David, and the soul of King Malcolm, and the souls of Walter my father, and Eschene my mother; and for the salvation of our Lord William, King of Scotland, and his heirs, and the salvation of myself

"*Emendatorem ego ipse pro anima regis David, et pro anima regis Malcomi, et pro anima patris mei Walteri, et matris mee Eschene, et pro salute domini nostri Willemi regis Scocie, et heredum suorum, et pro salute mei ipsius, et heredum meorum, dono, concedo, et hoc mea carta confirmo eidem domui de Paisley, et monachis ibidem Deo servientibus, ecclesiam de Kingair in insula de Bote, cum omnibus capellis in tota parochia quondam sancti, et cum tota terra quam sanctus Blaisidius dicitur? olim possedit a meo tempore ad nostrum per nos et heredes et apparentes." Registrum Monasterii de Paisley. Printed by the Maidland Club.*

and my heirs; I give, grant, and by this my deed, convey to the said monastery at Paisley, and the monks serving God therein, the church of Kingaif (Kingarth) in the island of Bute, with all the chapels and the whole parish of that island, together with the whole of those lands of which the boundaries, said to have been fixed by St. Blane, are still apparent from sea to sea." From this charter, it would appear, also, that at the time of its date, this was the parochial church of the whole island. The extent of the ecclesiastical lands mentioned in the above grant, it is not now easy to determine. They may have comprehended the whole peninsula; perhaps only the part of it which would be cut off by a line drawn from Dunagoil Bay on the west, passing a little to the north of the church, and terminating at one of the small creeks on the eastern shore. The church stands on a level space raised by art considerably above the adjoining ground, and enclosed by a wall of massy stones rudely piled one over another, 500 feet in circumference. The whole of this space is found arched or built with mason work underneath, at a distance of two feet from the surface. Connected with it by a built passage that seems to have been under ground, is another space on a lower level, and surrounded by a similar wall 124 feet in circumference, which is known by the name of the nunnery. It has been commonly considered to have been the site of a convent; on no authority that has been discovered, but that of tradition. Both spaces have been used for sepulture; but this ground is believed to have been set apart as a burying-place exclusively for females; and the ashes reposing in it have been little disturbed for ages, although frequent interments still take place in the other. A considerable portion of the walls of the church remain standing, and discover an architecture of great antiquity. The elevation on which it is situated, is approached on the north by a flight of steps, leading from a grove at a short distance, which contains a remarkable kind of building, of which the use remains altogether unknown. This consists of a wall forming a complete circle 80 feet in diameter; rising to 10 feet in height above ground, and obviously filled with rubbish to some depth; 9 feet thick, and having a passage or gateway 9 feet wide. The erection was doubtless formed with a view to great strength. It is composed of rude stones, many of them of immense size. The workmanship seems to be of a more remote date than that of any other part of the adjacent ruins; but its evident communication with these, shown by marks still remaining, would indicate,

its having been connected with them, for whatever purpose. It is situated at the foot of a ridge of rock, running from north to south, 50 feet high, and forming at each end a junction with an outer wall, which marked, it is probable, the sacred precincts, and which comprehends a space of some extent beyond any ruins that remain.

The scene around is one of uncommon beauty. Towards the north, an amphitheatre of lofty gray rocks secures the seclusion of a spot, with whose time-worn relics it so well harmonizes. On the right, the grove with its deep shade forms a grateful object for the eye to repose on, while its mysterious associations carry the mind back to events and ages long past. Before us lifts up its dim form, all that remains of a pile, around which is gathered the depth of interest which its sacred use, its great antiquity, and its gracefulness, even in decay, are so well calculated to create. To the south is the sea, opening up, in the approach to the Frith of Clyde, a view of water and coast, not surpassed in beauty by any similar scene in Scotland.

The place of worship for the parish has long been removed to a situation more central for the inhabitants, on a rising ground, between the bays of Kilchattan and Stravanan. The present church is an elegant modern structure. There is also a small neat church within the grounds of Mountstuart, near Scoulag Bay, still in good repair, that had been some time used as the parish church.

*Mansion Houses.*—The mansion-house of Mountstuart was built by James, second Earl of Bute, in the year 1718. The grounds around it were laid out about the same period in the style of the time. The plantations are extensive, and contain many trees of a remarkable size. The flower garden is an object of great attraction. It has been formed under the direction of the present accomplished Marchioness of Bute, whose taste has adorned it with many rare and beautiful plants. Such is the mildness of the climate, that here are found, in a vigorous state, some exotics, which thrive in few places in Britain.

Together with Ascog House, built in the fashion of the seventeenth century, there are several ornamental villas, recently erected, on the north-east coast of the parish.

### III.—POPULATION.

According to the former Statistical Account, the number of inhabitants in the parish in

March 1791, was 727

By the census of 1801, it was 875

1811, 854

By the census of 1821, 890  
 1831, 746  
 In April of this year, there being males, 401, }  
 and females, 499, } 1840, it is 840

In the work above-mentioned, Mr Thorburn states, that the population had decreased in number by 230 in the course of fifteen years previous to the year 1791, which circumstance he accounts for by "the town of Rothesay finding employment for day-labourers and other workmen, and affording them higher wages than they can receive in a country parish." Since that period, the most considerable fluctuation in the state of the population is shown in the increase of it by 148, betwixt the years 1791 and 1801, for which no cause has been assigned: the decrease of it by 144, betwixt the years 1821 and 1831, probably owing to the enlargement of farms, and the removal of cot-houses, which took place about that time; and the increase of it by 94, betwixt the years 1831 and 1840, which is to be ascribed, partly, to the erection of several villas in the interval; and partly, it is probable, to the greater number of farm-servants required by the progress of agricultural improvement in the parish during that period.

The number of persons residing in villages, is:—In Kerryeroy village, males, 29; females, 35; total, 64. In Kilchatan Bay, males, 74; females, 79; total, 153. Total in villages, 217. Residing in the country, males, 298; females, 325; total, 623.

The yearly average of births for the last seven years has been,—males born, 74; females, 75; average for each year, 21½. Of deaths,—males died, 45; females, 38; average, 11½. Of marriages, 9.

Average of persons under 15 years of age,	285
between 15 and 30,	282
30 and 50,	202
50 and 70,	64
upwards of 70,	27

The number of unmarried men upwards of 50 years of age, is of bachelors, 8  
 widowers, 8  
 women upwards of 45 years of age, 10  
 widows, 28

The average number of children in each family is 5  
 Number of families in the parish in 1831, 140  
 chiefly employed in agriculture, 58  
 trades, manufactures, and handicraft, 14

There are 4 fatuous persons, 3 being males, and 1 a female; 2 blind persons, a male and a female; and one female deaf and dumb.

The Marquis of Bute has a residence in the parish, at Mount-stuart; and there are besides him, three proprietors of land of the yearly value of upwards of L. 50.

*Language, &c.*—The English language is that spoken in general by the inhabitants. Persons who have come to maturity understand commonly the Gaelic language also; but its use has much decreased within the last forty years, and is now chiefly confined to the aged, among the natives of the parish. The people are cultivated in their habits. They are, for the most part, remarkable for cleanliness both in their persons and in their dwellings. Their dress is plain and decent. The food of the peasantry equals, in plenty and quality, that of any of their degree in the country. All classes enjoy a full ordinary share of the comforts and advantages belonging to their situation in life, and appear to be correspondingly contented and happy. In their intellectual, moral, and religious character, they afford a fair specimen of their countrymen. Smuggling is wholly unknown among them; and in no similar district, probably, is there less of poaching.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The parish contains—

Of land occasionally under tillage, imperial measure,	3986	acres,	3	roods,	39	poles.	
Moor and pasture land,	3071		0		21		
Land that might, with a profitable application of capital, be brought into cultivation,	377		0		21		
Under wood. { natural coppice, 34 A. 2 R. 10 F. {	905	1	81	{	940	0	1
plantations,							
Total extent,	8325	acres,	1	rood,	2	poles.	

The plantations consist of spruce, larch, and Scotch fir, with the usual proportion of oak, and other hard-wood; and are carefully thinned, and otherwise well managed. The average rent of arable land is 19s. an acre.

*Wages.*—Men-servants receive from L. 7, 10s. to L. 8 of wages for the half-year; maid-servants from L. 3, 10s. to L. 4; country artisans are paid from 1s. 8d. to 2s. a day; and day-labourers, 1s. 6d. a day during winter, and 1s. 10d. in summer.

*Live-Stock.*—Great attention has, of late, been paid to the rearing of cattle; of which the breeds and mode of management are, with little variation, the same as in Ayrshire. Agriculture has made rapid advances, especially within the last twelve years. A complete system of draining has been introduced; the most approved rotation in crops is observed; the use of the subsoil plough is beginning to prevail; and an enterprising tenantry are ready to import the most recent discoveries in husbandry. The duration of leases is nineteen years; a period generally acknowledged to be advantageous both to landlord and tenant. The farm-houses and offices, for the most part, have been recently built, and are remark-

ably neat and commodious. The grounds are well inclosed, chiefly with thorn hedges. Every advantage is derived by the tenants from the well known zeal for agricultural improvement of the principal proprietor, the Marquis of Bute, and from the attention to the welfare and comfort of all classes of the community for which he is distinguished.

The parish contains coal, which, however, has not been wrought, owing, either to a defect in the seams, or the facility with which that article can be imported. Lime is abundant; of which, besides the supply afforded for the whole island, a quantity is shipped for exportation at Kilchattan Bay.

*Fisheries.*—The fisheries are chiefly confined to whiting, haddock, and cod; and salmon, the fishing of which has been commenced within these few years.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish is estimated as follows:

Produce of grain of all kinds, viz.

50 acres of wheat, at L. 9 per acre,	L. 450	0	0
140 do. barley, at L. 7	980	0	0
610 do. oats, at L. 4, 15s.	2897	0	0
			<hr/>
			L. 4927
390 do. turnips and potatoes, at L. 10 per acre,			3900
390 do. hay, at L. 5 per acre,			1650

Land in pasturage, viz.

Grazing for 390 cows, and fattening stock, at L. 2, 15s. each,	1083	10	0
Do. for 420 head of young stock of different ages, at L. 1, 5s. each,	525	0	0
Pasture for 1650 sheep, at 5s. each,	412	10	0
Do. breeding-mares and young horses, estimated at	250	0	0
			<hr/>
			2271
Fisheries,			710
Lime,			550

Total yearly value of raw produce raised, L. 12808 0 0

The annual value of the real property of the parish, in the year 1815, as assessed for the property tax, was L. 6820.

*Navigation.*—The shipping belonging to the parish in all does not exceed 50 tons. Craft of considerable burden from other places frequent the ports, for purposes of importation and exportation.

To the increase of produce both for home consumption, and for the market, the Bute Farmers' Society has greatly contributed; and under its spirited encouragement, still greater improvements may be expected to be made.

## V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market.*—There is no market-town in the parish. In the year 1708, James, first Earl of Bute, obtained a charter from the Crown for the erection of the burgh of regality of Mountstuart; granting thereto power to deal in merchandise, and to carry on handicraft trades, to have a weekly market, and three annual fairs, and to erect free ports and harbours; and conferring on it all other privileges enjoyed by burghs of regality. The provisions of that charter, however, were not carried into effect; the thriving royal burgh of Rothesay, with its commodious harbour, in the neighbourhood, probably offering most of the advantages contemplated from the proposed erection of a new market-town, and port. Rothesay is now the market-town for the parish, distant six miles from the parish church.

The villages are, Kerrycroy, consisting of a few neatly built houses at the bay of Scoulag; and Kilchatan-bay, so-called from its being situated in the bay of that name, and which contains fifty inhabited houses.

*Means of Communication.*—There are no public means of communication betwixt the parish and Rothesay; and that burgh being the nearest post-town, the want of a post-office is felt to be a great inconvenience. There are no turnpikes, but the roads are good, and adapted for carriages of all descriptions. The bridges are sufficient; and the fences are attended to. There is a wharf at Kilchatan Bay, for lading and unlading small craft; and also at Scoulag Bay. The former is about to receive considerable enlargement, demanded by the rapid increase of agricultural produce exported from this quarter.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is conveniently situated, four miles distant from the northern extremity of the parish, and two miles and a-half from the southern. It was built in the year 1826. It has accommodation for 600 persons. All the sittings are free; and ample space remains for accommodating an increase of population. The manse and offices were built in the year 1769. They were last repaired in the year 1833, and are in a comfortable state. The glebe contains nearly 11 acres imperial, and has been valued at L. 12 per annum. The minister's stipend consists of 47½ bolls imperial of meal; and 10 quarters 6½ bushels imperial of bear; and L. 148, 6s. 7½d. money. The last augmentation of the stipend took place in the year 1814. The tithes are exhausted. There is no place of worship but the pa-

rochial church. The inhabitants are in general a church-going people. The annual average of communicants, during the last thirteen years, has been 281. There is one family in connection with the United Associate Synod; and one person who is a Roman Catholic. The rest of the people belong to the Established Church.

*Education.*—There are three schools, one of them parochial. In it the usual branches of education are taught, including Latin and Greek; in the others, chiefly English-reading, writing, and arithmetic. The parochial schoolmaster has the legal accommodations, with the minimum salary. The other teachers have school-houses, and dwellings, and a small salary, allowed them by the Marquis of Bute; the rest of their support is derived from school-fees, which are moderate. The present number of schools appears to be sufficient for the parish, they being so situated as to afford access to instruction for the children from all quarters. The people seem duly to value the blessings of education. There are few, if any, between the age of six and fifteen years, who are not taught to read, and to write at the proper age; and above fifteen, not one, probably, of the native inhabitants, who has not been taught to read, and few who cannot write. A gradual improvement in morals has undoubtedly accompanied the progress of education. A parish library, established some years since, affords increased facilities for the attainment of knowledge, and a growing disposition to read is beginning to show itself among the rising generation. In the respective school-houses, Sabbath-schools are established under the superintendence of the minister, which are numerous and regularly attended.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of poor at present on the session roll is 13, besides three persons receiving occasional parochial relief. The greatest sum given to a pauper during the year past has been 10s. 9d. per quarter; the smallest 4s. The sum that has been collected at the church during the same period is L. 18, 8s. 7d.

*Ale-houses.*—There are six ale-houses in the parish; three of which are in the village of Kilchatan-bay. Of these last, two are superfluous, and likely to prove injurious to morals, as the multiplication of such houses, especially in villages, is invariably found to be.

*Fuel.*—The fuel in general use is coal, which may be purchased at any of the landing-places, at 7s. 6d. a cart of 14 cwt.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In taking a general view of the parish at present, compared with

what it was at the time when the former Statistical Account was written, we cannot fail to perceive that its state has greatly improved. The superior means of communication which it now enjoys, have afforded it great advantages. At the period above-mentioned, all ordinary intercourse with the mainland was maintained by a ferry-boat, plying once a-week from Scoulag; or a packet sailing twice a-week from Rothesay to the village of Largs, on the opposite coast.\* Now, the introduction of steam-sailing affords daily a speedy and cheap mode of conveyance for passengers and goods, to all the ports of the Clyde; and thence to all parts of the kingdom. The change in the food of the people indicates a material increase of comfort in their circumstances. Herrings, which formerly were the chief maintenance of the greater number of the inhabitants during three-fourths of the year,† have ceased to be with any an important article of subsistence. Animal food has become general; and it has become common for cottagers to rear pigs and poultry for their own use. A corresponding improvement is observable in fuel. It will astonish a farmer, who is accustomed to make the price of an acre of turnip pay for a year's supply of coals for his family, to learn, that fifty years ago, "the farmers being employed the most part of the summer in casting and leading peats, could not provide manure for their farms."‡ The difference is remarkable betwixt the habits and pursuits of the young men of the present day, and those of the race that preceded them. At the period we have been referring to, few farmers' sons were bred to farming; all the young men in the parish were engaged in the herring-fishery; their highest ambition was to become masters of herring-busses; and when they were not employed in their favourite pursuit, no wages could induce them to engage in any other kind of work.§ Their successors, at present, furnish only fifteen persons for the herring-fishery; are strongly attached to agriculture, one at least of every farmer's sons generally adopting his father's occupation; are ready, when disengaged from their more ordinary employment, to put their hand to any needful work; and in many cases, direct their aim successfully to the counting-room, or the learned professions. The improvements in agriculture, which have been so great throughout the country, within the space of time under our review, have made their benefits to be especially felt in this parish. The appearance

\* Old Statistical Account.

† Ibid.

‡ Ibid.

§ Ibid.

of the fields shows careful and skilful cultivation to have arrived at a pitch not often perhaps attained, and seldom exceeded, in the more fertile districts of the kingdom; and a glance at the amount of the raw produce, as shown above, compared with that from the former Statistical Account, we gather it to have been at the period when that account was written, will prove how great an increase in the profits of the soil has accompanied the improvement in its management.

June 1840.

## PARISH OF ROTHESAY.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNOON, SYNOD OF ARGYLE.

THE REV. ROBERT CRAIG, A. M. MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—ROTHESAY parish comprehends the whole of the northern part of the Island of Bute, which gives name to the county. The word Bute is of uncertain meaning and origin, though it may probably be connected with the term Ebudæ, by which the western islands of Scotland are sometimes denominated. The ancient Gaelic name of this parish, according to the former Account, was, *Cilla 'Bhrui*, signifying "the Church of St Broke." This seems never to have been its proper name. (See Ecclesiastical History.) The present name is said to be derived from the Gaelic *Roth-suidhe*, "circular seat," or the place where courts were held, and justice dispensed. This was done in very ancient times on round artificial mounds, which are still called Laws or Motes, in Scotland.

*Extent, &c.*—The length of the parish from south to north, is  $9\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and the average breadth  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, which gives an extent of  $31\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, equal to 16,133 Scots acres. The Scots acres, by actual measurement, are ascertained to be 15,998. Its greatest width is at the south end, from Bogany point to Artiscalpsie point, a distance of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

It is bounded on the south by the parish of Kingarth, on the west by the sea which separates Bute from Arran and Kintyre, on the north by the kyles of Bute which separate it from the dis-