

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.

PARISH OF LOUDOUN.

PRESBYTERY OF IRVINE, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. NORMAN MACLEOD, MINISTER.

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

river and tile-draining have made this name no longer a descriptive one; but the memory of the "marshy ground" is kept alive in the title of "Waterhaughs," a farm skirting the Irvine, on the Galston side of the valley.

Figure, Extent.—The figure of the parish approaches nearly to that of a right-angled triangle, the base being formed by the river Irvine, which, rising in the north-east corner of the parish, flows due south for about two miles, dividing Loudoun from Avondale, sweeping round Loudoun hill, and pursues a course due west, dividing the parishes of Loudoun and Galston for about seven miles. On the west, north-west, and north, it is bounded by the parishes of Kilmarnock, Fenwick, and Eaglesham, the two latter joining it among moor-hags and heather. The extent of the parish from east to west is about 9 miles. Its greatest breadth towards Eaglesham is about 7; at the west extremity, it is only about 3.

Geology.—Dr M'Culloch remarked, that there was no coal district in Britain so much disturbed by trap, or, in miner's language, so "full of troubles," as Ayrshire. The parish of Loudoun contains no other minerals than trap, and those belonging to the coal formation. A minute account of its geology would be very unprofitable, as no phenomena have been observed which are not familiar to every geologist.

Loudoun Hill is composed of columnar trap, and forms a portion of a large trap dike, which, it is said, cuts the whole coal-field of Ayrshire in a north-west and south-east direction.

The coal formation occurs in almost every part of the parish, though in most of the upper districts it is so much broken up by trap as to be unworkable. The limestone, which is abundant, and which is of excellent quality, is extensively wrought. One quarry, at "the Old Place," consists of a "post" about six feet thick. The upper bed is soft and shelly, the lower, hard and splintery. The limestone at Howlet burn is about six feet thick. It is wrought by mining, and is at present let to the Cessnock Iron Company for smelting. The general dip of the limestone is to the south-south-west and north-north-east.

A large coal-field has lately been proven, extending along the valley for about two miles from the western boundary of the parish. Eight different seams of coal have been already discovered in it, varying from one foot to seven feet in thickness. In all, 27 feet 3 inches. With the exception of two seams, they are all workable. The quality is superior. The distance from the sur-

face to the largest seam is 53 fathoms. The clay ironstone of this formation is likewise abundant, in some places extending over several hundred acres, and near the surface. At the Old Place quarry there are four different seams, of 1 foot 8 inches, and 15 inches in thickness. On the farm of Redding, there are five or six seams, in all about three feet thick.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY,

Historical Events.—Few historical events of any importance have occurred in this parish. A spot is yet pointed out at the eastern base of Loudoun Hill, as the scene of one of Wallace's exploits. The fact of his having attacked and conquered a party of English near Loudoun Hill, who were conveying provisions from Carlisle to the famished garrison at Ayr, is recorded in all the histories of the hero. The remains of a small turf redoubt can now be easily traced on the summit of an almost precipitous bank, which overhangs the old public road, where it is said Wallace lay in ambush during the night, and whence he issued to attack the rich convoy in the gray dawn of the morning, while it was entangled in the narrow defile. Loudoun Hill has been the centre of more than one warlike exploit. The Roman camp, though on the Galston side of the Irvine, is almost beneath the shadow of the hill; the shouts of Bruce's victorious army have been echoed by its gray rocks; and the watchmen who warned the Covenanters of Drumclog (which is in its immediate neighbourhood) of the approach of Claverhouse, were perched upon its summit.

No public events of any interest occurred in Loudoun until the time of the Persecution.

"Times,
Whose echo rings through Scotland till this hour."

But many tales of more or less interest, connected with that season of trial, are still to be heard from the peasantry. Claverhouse, Dalryell, and Captain Inglis, have each left behind them records of their ignorant and cruel policy in the graves of some of the headless martyrs of the Covenant, which are to be seen in our church-yards. It may not be out of place to mention one or two current anecdotes regarding some of the leaders of "the rising" who were connected with Loudoun.

Captain Nisbet of Hardhill was born upon the present glebe, a few hundred yards from the manse. He commanded the Loudoun troops at Bothwell, and carried his flag (still in good preservation in Darvel,) safe out of the ill-fated engagement. On the reported

approach of Claverhouse to Drumclog, Nisbet was sent for to Hardhill, and arrived in time to head the successful charge of the Covenanters across the morass. On his way to Drumclog, when passing through Darvel, he induced John Morton, the smith, to accompany him to the field of battle, where his brawny arm would find sufficient occupation. John followed Nisbet in the charge. A royal dragoon, who was on the ground entangled in the trappings of his wounded horse, begged quarter from John, whose arm was uplifted to cut him down. The dragoon's life was spared, and he was led by the smith as his prisoner to the camp of the Covenanters. But the life which was spared on the field of battle was demanded by those who saw, in the royal party, not merely cruel persecutors but idolatrous Amalekites, whom they were bound in duty to execute. The smith declared, that, sooner than give up his prisoner's life, he would forfeit his own! The dragoon's life, thus defended by the powerful smith, was spared, but the smith was banished from the army as a disobedient soldier. The dragoon's sword is now in possession of John Morton's representative, Andrew Gebbie in Darvel. Captain Nisbet was afterwards executed at the Grassmarket in Edinburgh, in 1685. His life is in the Scots Worthies.*

The Reverend John Nevay.—His life also is given in the Scots Worthies. In Sir James Turner's Memoirs of his own time, it is stated that Nevay, then minister of Loudoun, and chaplain to David Leslie's army, was the chief instigator of the bloody massacre of Dunaverty in Cantyre, where the whole garrison of 800 were put to death in cold blood, whose bones may even now be seen among the sand banks, on the beach near the fort.—“I hope,” quoth David after the massacre, “you have had enough of blood to day Maister John.” Nevay, and thousands who acted with him, we believe, had no love for such deeds, but their arguments were first wrong, then their actions.

James, second Earl of Loudoun, then Lord Mauchline, was flying for his life, having been, with his father, exempted from the general amnesty granted by Cromwell to Scotland. He took refuge in the farm-steading of the Hag-houses, which formerly stood on the rising ground near the lime and coal road, below the wood. He had just changed his dress, and put on the clothes of a labourer.

* An autobiography of Captain Nisbet's son is mentioned in Macgavin's edition of Howie's Scotch Worthies, (p. 479, note,) as being in MS., but never published. A copy is now before me, printed at Bombay in 1829, and now in the possession of Mr A. Brown, shoemaker, Newmills.

ing man, when some dragoons arrived who had tracked him to the house. His being recognized seemed inevitable, when the tenant with great presence of mind, struck Lord Mauchline and said, "You lazy loon, why do you not go to your work?" and in this way drove him out before the dragoons, who never imagined he would dare so to treat his landlord, and he was thus saved. He soon after fled to Holland, and died at Leyden, where he was buried.

The Old Tower in Newmills.—This old tower, itself without any history, was the scene of more than one transaction characteristic "of the troublous times." This was Captain Inglis's head-quarters when in the district. In one of the expeditions of Inglis's troops in the search of conventicles, eight men, who were discovered praying in the Black-wood, near Kilmarnock, were taken prisoners. One of them, it is said, was immediately executed, and the soldiers in mockery kicked his head for foot-ball, along the Newmills public green! Inglis was about to shoot the others, when it was suggested to him that it would be prudent to get a written order from Edinburgh for the execution. The seven men, in the meantime, were confined in the old tower. But while the troop was absent on one of its bloody raids, with the exception of a small guard, a man named Browning, from Lanfine, with others who had with him been at Airds Moss, got large sledge hammers from the old smithy, (still in existence,) with which they broke open the prison doors, and permitted the Covenanters to escape. John Law, (brother-in-law to Captain Nisbet,) was shot in this exploit, and is buried close to the wall of the tower. The dragoons soon went in pursuit of the prisoners, but they had reached the heather, and there no cavalry could pursue them. The soldiers, however, having ascertained that John Smith of Croonan had given the runaways food, went to Smith's house, and, meeting him at his own door, shot him dead! Within a short period his grave was to be seen in the garden of the old farm-house.

The Loudoun Family.—The barony of Loudoun belonged, in the days of David I., to one Lambrinus, father of James de Loudoun, who got a charter of the barony of Loudoun from Richard de Morville, constable of England, also a charter from William de Morville, both in the reign of William I. This James left an only daughter, Margaret, who married Sir Reginald Craufurd, heritable sheriff of Ayrshire. Their great-grand-daughter (only

child of Hugh Craufurd,) was mother of Sir William Wallace, as old Winton says,

His father was a manly knight,
His mother was a lady bright.

Susanna Craufurd, only child of the Sir Reginald who died in 1303, and great-grand-daughter of the first Sir Reginald, married Sir Duncan Campbell of Lochawe, (grandson of Sir Colin Campbell More of Lochaw,) who held the sheriffship of Ayrshire, and was the first of the Campbells of Loudoun. The following short historical notices of some of their descendants may be interesting.

Sir Andrew Campbell followed King David into England, was taken prisoner at the battle of Durham in 1346, and was not relieved until 1357. His son,

Sir Hugh, was one of the barons nominated to meet the King at Durham, in 1423. His son,

Sir George, was of the hostages for the ransom of King James I., when his (Sir George's,) annual revenue was estimated at only 300 merks. He accompanied the Princess Margaret to France in 1436.

Sir John succeeded his father, Sir George. A charter was given by his wife to support a chapel on Irvine water, in 1451. The ruins of this chapel are still seen at Loudoun kirk.

Sir Matthew promoted the cause of the Reformation. He was taken prisoner at Langside, when fighting (so rigid was his loyalty), on the side of Queen Mary. From Sir Matthew's second son, who settled in Livonia, and who assumed the surname of Loudoun, the Austrian field-marshal, Laudohn, was descended.

Sir Hugh, Sir Matthew's eldest son, and tenth Campbell, was created a Lord of Parliament, by the title of Baron Loudoun, in 1601. Sir Hugh had one son and three daughters. The son, George, died young. Margaret, his eldest daughter, Baroness of Loudoun, succeeded her grandfather in 1622, and married Sir John Campbell of Lawers, who was created Earl of Loudoun in May 1633. His Lordship was one of the commissioners from the Scottish army who settled the pacification of Berwick in 1639, with Charles I. He sat as a member of the famous General Assembly of 1638. He was made Lord Chancellor in 1642, and died in 1652. He was buried in the vault of Loudoun kirk, where, beneath the coffin lid, his face, a few years ago, might be seen in perfect preservation. A full account of his

life is given in the Scots Worthies. His son, James, as we have already mentioned, was obliged to leave his country during the persecution in Charles II.'s time, and died in Leyden in 1684. He married Lady Margaret Montgomery, second daughter of Hugh, seventh Earl of Eglinton. His son,

Hugh, third Earl, was privy-councillor in 1697. Argyle, writing to Lord Carstairs, says of him, "Lord Loudoun, though a young man, is an old and noted Presbyterian. His Lordship has it in his blood, and he is a mettled young fellow, so that those who patronise him will gain honour by him." After the accession of Anne, he was appointed one of the commissioners for the treaty of Union in 1705. He married Lady Margaret Dalrymple, daughter of John, first Earl of Stair, a lady of uncommon abilities, possessed of all her faculties at ninety-nine, and universally esteemed. She died at Sorn castle in 1779. He served under Argyle at Sheriffmuir, was commissioner of the Assembly from 1722 till 1731, and died in 1731. His only son,

John, fourth Earl, represented the Peerage for forty-eight years. On the breaking out of the Rebellion in 1745, he raised a Highland regiment, and served as Adjutant-General under Sir John Cope. There is a fine portrait of him in his Highland dress now in Loudoun Castle. He was made Governor of Virginia in 1756; Commander-in-Chief in America in the same year; was second in command under Lord Tyrconnel, who commanded the troops sent to Portugal in 1762; and died in Loudoun in 1782. Dying unmarried, his title devolved upon James Mure-Campbell, his cousin, and only son of Sir James Campbell of Lawers. Sir James Campbell was the third son of James, second Earl of Loudoun, (who died in 1786), and was killed at Fontenoy, at the head of his regiment, the Scots Greys. His son, James Mure Campbell, was Major-General in 1781. He married Miss M'Leod of Raasay, and died in 1786. He left an only daughter, the late Marchioness Dowager of Hastings and Countess of Loudoun, Flora Mure-Campbell, who was born in Edinburgh, September 2, 1780, married the late Marquis of Hastings, then Earl of Moira, 12th July 1804, and died at Kelburne House, Ayrshire, July 9, 1840. She had six children, four of whom survived her. She was succeeded by her eldest son, the present Marquis of Hastings, who was born in 1806, married 1831 the Baroness Grey de Ruthyn, the only child of the twentieth baron of the family. They have one son and three daughters.

Eminent Persons connected with the Parish.—Francis Marquis of Hastings was born in Ireland 7th December 1754. He was educated principally in England, and attended Harrow and Oxford. He entered the army in 1773, and travelled on the continent until he went to America with his regiment in 1775. He was then a Lieutenant in the 5th Regiment, (grenadier battalion.) During the six years of war which he spent in that country, he was present at twenty-one engagements, besides many skirmishes. At Bunker's Hill, seven only of his company escaped unhurt. It was in allusion to his conduct upon this occasion that General Burgoyne in his official dispatch said, "Lord Rawdon has this day stamped his fame for life." Returning from America in a packet ship, he was captured by the *Genereux* French frigate, one of Count de Grass's squadron, and remained aboard the French fleet three months, when he was released. On his arrival in England, his services in America were appreciated by his country; he was created a peer of the realm, and made Aide-de-Camp to the King. Soon afterwards Mr Pitt put him in command of the army collected at Southampton, and intended to aid the Bourbon cause in La Vendee. The destination, however, of this corps was changed, and he was sent with it to relieve, if possible, the army of the Duke of York, then in Holland, and so hemmed in and hotly pressed by the superior numbers of the enemy, as to be in imminent danger of being either taken prisoners of war or destroyed. This perilous and seemingly desperate enterprise, he conducted with consummate skill and bravery. By "one of the most extraordinary marches recorded in military history," he effected, with 10,000 men, a junction with the allies, though two French armies were between them and Ostend, where he landed with his troops. It was upon this occasion he won from the Austrian Field Marshal, Clairfait, the high compliment, "*Vous avez tenté l'impossible et vous avez reussi.*"

In 1803, Lord Rawdon, now Earl of Moira, (to which title he succeeded on the death of his father in 1793,) was appointed commander-in-chief of Scotland. In July 1804, he married Flora, Countess of Loudoun. The ceremony was performed in London by the Bishop of London (Porteous), at the house of Lady Perth. The Prince of Wales gave away the bride.

He was made Master-General of the Ordnance in 1806, when he of course resigned the command in Scotland. He was also appointed Constable of the tower of London, an honour which he

he held till his death. On the death of Mr Percival in 1812, Lord Moira was commanded by the Prince Regent to form an administration, but his friends, Lords Grey and Grenville, insisting on their ministry having the appointment to all the offices in the royal household, a demand which Lord Moira deemed an infringement of the rights of the sovereign, he resigned the responsibility with which he had been entrusted.

In 1813, he was made Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of India, where he displayed in both capacities the full extent of his wonderful powers. It would be going beyond the narrow limits necessarily assigned to a sketch like the present to attempt anything more than a slight allusion to this period in his history, so full of great and important events. He found India in circumstances the most critical, and left it in circumstances the most prosperous. The kingdom of Nepal, which he found insolent and hostile to the British, and dangerous from its position along an open and extensive frontier, he completely subdued, and rendered dependent upon the British power for its existence as a separate kingdom. By a series of the most beautifully planned and admirably executed military manœuvres, along an extensive line of operations, he utterly destroyed the Pindarries, so long the scourge and terror of India, whose predatory excursions, with their hordes of cavalry sweeping over the peninsula, might be described in the language of the Prophet Joel, "A fire devoureth before them, and behind them a flame burneth—the land is as the Garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness, yea, and nothing shall escape them." He extinguished every hope so strongly entertained, in 1813, by the native powers, of their being able to expel the British from India; and, by moral, as well as by military tactics, he destroyed every germ of a powerful and extensively ramified confederacy to effect this long cherished purpose; and yet, during the five years in which he was thus constantly occupied in accomplishing those vast and expensive designs, he filled the treasuries of the three Presidencies, which he found nearly emptied, and made returns to England five times greater in amount than the supplies which he received! While thus actively engaged in consolidating our Indian empire, he was not unmindful of its eternal interests, of that "Righteousness which exalts a nation." In peace and in war, no object was nearer his heart, or more constantly present to his thoughts, than the religious improvement of the people under his care; and in all his efforts—and

they were many—to advance their souls' welfare, he was cordially, ably, and indefatigably seconded by Lady Hastings.

The principal features of his administration are thus summed up by one who was well able both to appreciate and to delineate them: "The intuitive rapidity with which he seized the true history of the country; the comprehensive system in which, from the first, he proposed to embrace the relations of the Peninsula; the masterly military skill with which he circumscribed and crushed within his grasp the fugitive force with which he had to contend, while he dissipated all the combinations by which it was supported; his complete assertion of the British supremacy without the violation of public faith; and the great progress which he made towards maturing all the reciprocal interests and obligations of the different states into consistency, must place his government among the most splendid and useful administrations by which the affairs of India have ever been directed."*

Lord Moira was created Marquis of Hastings, Earl of Rawdon, and Viscount Loudoun in 1816, and twice received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament for his achievements in India. He returned to England in 1823; and in 1824 was appointed Governor of Malta. In recording this fact, and remembering at the same time all Lord Hastings had done for his country, and what he deserved from its hands, we cannot but say with the poet, "How seldom doth a good man get what he merits—how seldom doth he merit what he gets." But though Malta was comparatively a narrow and limited sphere for the exercise of such commanding talents and enlarged views as were possessed by Lord Hastings, yet he directed to his new government all the energies of his character; for a great and good man, as he was, is like the sun of Heaven, which fructifies and gladdens a secluded valley with the same genial beams with which it shines upon a world. The Maltese still cherish his memory, and remember his government with gratitude. He removed from Malta to Naples for change of air, and died on board the *Revenge*, in the Bay of Baia, November 28, 1826. At his own request his remains were conveyed back to Malta; and they now repose in the bastion of St John, at Valetta.

We have thus glanced at the public events in the life of one of the "eminent persons connected with the parish." We shall say little of his private character, because we feel how unable we are to de-

* Colonel Stewart on the Policy of the Government of India, 1825.

lineate its many rare excellencies. No man was ever more enthusiastically beloved by his immediate friends than Lord Hastings was. He possessed a warmth and generosity of heart, a force of sympathy, a playful cheerfulness, combined with a singularly refined and dignified manner, which charmed and captivated all with whom he came in contact. It has been said of him as of another great man, that his ample fortune absolutely sunk under the benevolence of his nature. "He died in perfect resignation to the Divine will, in charity with all mankind, in those sentiments of elevated piety which had been habitual to his life."

The Lady Flora Elizabeth Hastings was born in Edinburgh upon the 11th of February 1806, while her father, then Lord Moira, was Commander-in-Chief in Scotland. There are few events in her early history which are interesting to any beyond her more immediate friends. She went to India in 1813 with her parents, when Lord Moira was appointed to the government of that country,—returned to England in 1816, where she was educated and resided during her parents' absence,—and accompanied them to Malta in 1824, where she remained until her father's death. She visited Scotland and lived at different times there, in England, and abroad, from 1823 till 1834, when she was appointed one of the Ladies of the Bed-chamber to H. R. H. the Duchess of Kent, with whom she remained the faithful and deeply-attached friend and servant, until the period of her death in 1839. The circumstances attending that death are yet fresh in the nation's memory, and therefore need not be recited here. The sympathy of the whole nation in her sufferings and her wrongs was deeply felt and loudly expressed. She died at Buckingham Palace upon the 5th of July 1839. From her beautiful Christian conduct during her severe trials, it may, with strict propriety, be said of her, that her "bonds in Christ were manifest in the palace as well as in all other places." Her body was conveyed to Loudoun at her own request, and was buried in the family crypt at Loudoun kirk. It was followed to the grave by her aged mother, sisters, and brother, and a few relations of the family. But many parishioners, sad and sorrowful, went to see her laid in the tomb, whose gentle and kind manners they had all experienced, and whose death they all sincerely mourned. Her venerable mother, loved and respected by all who had the privilege of knowing her, survived her daughter only six months. Her heart, too, was broken; for no mother and daughter could be more deeply attached to one another than they were.

Her daughter died with the words "my mother" on her lips, and the mother, in the feverish sleep which immediately preceded her death, often spoke of "her Flora."

A year after her death, a volume of Lady Flora's poems was published and edited by her talented and devoted sister, Lady Sophia. It will be an enduring monument not only of the extensive acquirements, refined taste, and lofty poetic genius of its author, but also of the desire, on her part and on that of her family, to do good to Loudoun, as the proceeds of the volume, in furtherance of a wish she had once expressed, were to be devoted to some object of usefulness in the parish. All who peruse these poems will agree in the opinion expressed of them by an able reviewer, that "Such a deep love for the beautiful, the exalted, and the holy, reigns throughout them all, that it is impossible to repel the conviction that her actions accorded with her words, and that her words gave but utterance to the calm and sinless feelings of her heart."

The chief Land-owners in the parish are the following, with their respective valuations in pounds Scots:

The Marquis of Hastings,	L. 4285
Thomas Brown, Esq. of Waterhaughs,	250
James Alston, Esq.	280
Hugh Morton, Esq. Greenbank,	115
Messrs Smith, Parkhouse,	102
Messrs Leiper,	140
John Anderson, Esq. Ladytown,	60
John Wood, Esq. Passford,	49
William Cameron, Esq. Loudounhill,	85
John Wardrop, Esq. Burnbank,	32
Thomas Morton, Esq. Skallyhill,	25

Besides the above, there are about 100 small proprietors, whose separate valuations vary from 10s. Scots to L. 15 Scots.

Parochial Registers.—There are two parish registers. 1. Marriages. The earliest date of this register is 3d December 1678, and it has been kept regularly since November 1759. 2. Baptisms. Earliest date 16th October 1763; kept regularly since November 1759. Few Dissenters register their children in this register.

Map of the Parish.—The parish was surveyed by Robert Aitken, Beith, in 1829, and an excellent lithograph map from this survey was published the same year by Ballantyne in Edinburgh.

Antiquities.—Since the last Statistical Account was written, few antiquities have been discovered worth noticing. In Loudoun Park, some years ago, five stone coffins were found beneath a large cairn of stones. They contained what appeared to be the dust of

the bodies which they once inclosed, and a few cutting instruments made of stone. Whether this tumulus was the monument of those "who fought in battles long ago," or is to be classed under the comprehensive and inexhaustible head of "Druidical remains," it is not easy to determine.

Three vessels of Roman bronze were dug out of the moss in the farm of Braidlee, a few years ago. These vessels were a large and smaller pot, and a kettle, or rather jug, supported by three legs. The two latter vessels were found inside of the large pot, and are now in the possession of Mr Brown of Waterhaughs. They were very probably a cooking apparatus used by the Roman soldiery. From the remains of large oak trees which are occasionally found imbedded in moss in the upper district of the parish, in which these Roman antiquities were discovered, it is likely that it was at one time an extensive forest.

Modern Buildings.—The only building in the parish of any note is Loudoun Castle, the imposing and magnificent mansion of the Loudoun family. One of the square towers, with its battlement of unknown antiquity, was destroyed when the castle was besieged by General Monk.* Another tower, larger and higher, was built about the fifteenth century, and is still entire. A large addition was built to the castle by the Chancellor Loudoun; but the greater and most stately part of the building was completed in 1811. The library contains upwards of 11,000 volumes. The old castle of Loudoun was destroyed by fire about 350 years ago.†

* It was defended on this occasion by Lady Loudoun, who capitulated on honourable terms.

† The current tradition regarding the burning of the old castle, ascribes that event to the clan Kennedy at the period above-mentioned, and the remains of an old tower at Achruglen, on the Galston side of the valley, is still pointed out as having been their residence. The following fragment of a ballad, known among the peasantry from time immemorial, would assign a different author and later date to this story. The same ballad, however, with the alteration of a few names, entitled "Adam of Gordon," recording the burning of Towie Castle, in the north of Scotland, in 1571, was published about a century ago by Lord Hailes in Glasgow, has since appeared in Percy's *Reliques*, in Chambers and in Pinkerton's *Collections of Scottish Ballads*. In a note to the ballad in Percy, it is said that the wandering minstrels changed the names in their songs, to suit them as far as possible to similar events in the histories of the different families which they visited.

1.

It fell about the Martinmas time,
When the wind blew snell and cauld,
That Adam o'Gordon said to his men,
Where will we get a hold.

2.

See not where yonder fair Castle
Stands on yon lily lee,
The laird and I hae a deadly feud,
The lady fain would I see.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish at different periods is as follows:

In 1755,	.	1494
1791,	.	2308
1801,	.	2509
1811,	.	3170
1821,	.	3741
1881,	.	3959
1841,	.	4444

3.

As she was up on the househead,
Behold on looking down,
She saw Adam o' Gordon and his men
Coming riding to the town.

4.

The dinner was not well set down,
Nor the grace was scarcely said,
Till Adam o' Gordon and his men
About the walls were laid.

5.

It's fause now fa' thee, Jock my man,
Thou might a' let me be,
Yon man has lifted the pavement stone,
An' let in the loun to me.

6.

Seven years I served thee, fair ladie,
You gave me meat and fee,
But, now I am Adam o' Gordon's man,
An' maun either do it or die.

7.

Come down, come down, my lady Loudoun,
Come down thou unto me,
I'll wrap thee on a feather bed,
Thy warrand I shall be.

8.

I'll no come down, I'll no come down,
For neither laird no loun,
Nor yet for any bloody butcher
That lives in Altringham town.

9.

I would give the black, she says,
And so would I the brown,
If that Thomas, my only son,
Could charge to me a gun.

10.

Out then spake the Lady Margaret,
As she stood on the stair,
The fire was at her goud garters,
The lowe was at her hair.

11.

I would give the black, she says,
And so would I the brown,
For a drink of yon water,
That runs by Galston town.

12.

Out then spake fair Annie,
She was baith jimp and sma',
O row me in a pair o' sheets,
And tow me down the wa'.

The population, according to the census of 1841, is thus divided :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Newmilns,	964	1024	1988
Derval,	658	702	1360
Landward,	553	543	1096
	<u>2175</u>	<u>2269</u>	<u>4444</u>

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—There are about 19,169 imperial acres in the parish, of these there are,

Arable,	10720
Bent and moor pasture,	3153
Plantations,	882
Moss,	4414
Total acres imperial,	<u>19169</u>

The valued rent of the parish is, (Scots) L.5696, 1s. 10d. The real rental is about L.9250 Sterling.

The first agricultural improver in the district was John, Earl of Loudoun. He built a bridge across the Irvine, made roads through the parish ; the one made from his own house to Newmilns was

13.

O hold thy tongue, thou fair Annie,
And let thy talkin be,
For thou must stay in this fair Castle,
And bear thy death with me.

14.

O mother, spoke the Lord Thomas,
As he sat on the nurse's knee,
O mother give up this fair castle,
Or the reek will worrie me.

15.

I would rather be burnt to ashes sma',
And be cast on yon sea foam,
Before I'd give up this fair castle,
And my Lord so far from home.

16.

My good Lord has an army strong,
He's now gone o'er the sea,
He bad me keep this gay castle,
As long as it would keep me.

17.

I've four-and-twenty brave milk kye
Gang on you lily lee,
I'd give them a' for a blast of wind,
To blaw the reek from me.

18.

O pittie on yon fair castle,
That's built with stone and lime,
But far mair pittie on Lady Loudoun,
And all her children nine.

the first constructed by statute-labour in the county. He plied vigorously the work of enclosing and planting.*

A great many improvements have taken place in the Loudoun estate within the last few years. Many farm-houses, of the most approved description, have been built, which add to the beauty of the landscape, as well as to the comfort of the tenants. Many roads have also been made. A large tile-work has been in operation for the last six years, solely for the benefit of the tenants on the estate, who pay a small per centage for the tiles. This year upwards of a million tiles have been manufactured, which will drain 250 acres. Another tile-work has this year been erected on a part of the estate, near the village of Darvel. It is let on a lordship, and is intended to supply tiles for public sale.

Plantations.—The plantations around Loudoun Castle contain some fine trees. Lord John, mentioned above, planted, about 100 years ago, upwards of a million of trees, chiefly elm, ash, and oak. Many of the elms and oaks, (and these too not the largest), which were lately cut down, contained upwards of 150 square feet of timber. The soil seems admirably adapted for forest trees. Many of the various kinds of trees and shrubs, such as yew, holly, Portugal laurel, cedars, and arbor vitæ, American oaks, hickories, walnuts, &c. have grown to a remarkable size. Many of these shrubs were brought from America by Lord John himself, who was Governor of Virginia in 1756. "He also formed," it is observed by Dr Walker, "one of the most extensive collections of willows ever made in this country. Wherever he went, during his long military services, he sent home every sort of valuable tree he could meet with. All the willows he found cultivated in England, Ireland, Holland, Flanders, and Germany, as also in America and Portugal, where he commanded, were procured and sent to Loudoun." One Portugal laurel, now in the old garden, sweeps with its branches a circumference of 140 feet. The "old yew tree of Loudoun," which grows close to the castle wall, is of unknown-antiquity. It is said that one of the family charters was signed under it in the time of William the Lion. One of the articles of union, it is also said, was subscribed by Lord Hugh, under its deep shade. When Lord James went into voluntary banishment to Holland, he addressed his letters, (being afraid of detection) for his lady "to the gudewife at the Auldton, at the old yew tree of

* The first "Ayrshire rose" was brought into this country by Lord John from America. The original plant is yet growing fresh and vigorous at Loudoun Castle.

Loudoun, Scotland," and they always reached their intended destination in safety. The old yew tree is still growing fresh and strong in the full enjoyment of a green and healthy old age.

Manufactures.—Almost the whole population residing in Darvel and Newmilns, amounting to upwards of 3000, depend, directly or indirectly, for their subsistence upon hand-loom weaving. With the exception of a small wool-mill, this is the only branch of manufacture carried on in the parish. The following table will show the number of weavers and of those immediately connected with weaving in these villages, and also the average amount of the wages of each class :

	Newmilns.	Darvel.	Total.	Weekly wages. Average.
Male weavers,	460	267	727	From 3s. to 8s.
Female weavers,	90	61	151	3s. to 6s.
Clippers, (females from eight years upwards,)	290	189	479	2s. to 3s. 6d.
Winders of plns,	154	84	238	1s. to 2s.
Weaver's wrights,	8	0	8	
Warpers, warp-winders, and starchers,	12	0	12	
Mounters and twisters,	4	0	4	
Agents and manufacturers,	13	2	15	

Within the last two or three years, since the jacquard machine has been brought into almost universal use in harness weaving, upwards of L.1300 have been expended in Newmilns alone upon machines. The introduction of this machine has been of great advantage, not only to the weaver but to his children, who formerly were employed as early as the age of eight to perform for the weaver the mechanical labour now more efficiently accomplished by the machine.

The only other branch of manufacture carried on in this parish, besides weaving, is wool-spinning. The wool-mill was established in 1804. It belongs to a company of carpet manufacturers in Kilmarnock ; employs 25 hands ; and manufactures about 8000 yards of woollen yarn per annum.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages.—The two villages or towns in the parish are Newmilns and Darvel.

1. Newmilns contains a population of 1988. It is situated upon the river Irvine, and about the centre of the parish. It contains the parish church and school, and post-office. It was made a burgh of barony by James IV. The ancient burgh is governed by two bailies, a chancellor, a treasurer, and fiscal, and thirteen councillors ; and, it is to be presumed, that, in such a multitude of councillors, there is wisdom. In Newmilns, there are publicans,

14; tailors, 6; butchers, 2; bakers, 2; shoemakers, 5; licensed grocers, 15; carters and coal-drivers, 7; wrights, 5; smiths, 2; milliners, 2; carriers to Glasgow and Kilmarnock, 2; surgeons, 2; writers, 1; teachers of schools, 4.

2. Darvel, population, 1360. It is situated a mile east from Newmilns. About ninety years ago, it contained but four houses. There are in it shoemakers, 19; sewers, 17; masons, 8; publicans, 10; tailors, 8; bakers, 4; carters, 7; carriers, 4; sawers, 4; wrights, 12; butchers, 4; coopers, 1; flax-dressers, 1; dyer, 1; grocers, 18; smiths, 4; surgeons, 3; teacher, 1; &c.

Besides the above, there is the small village of Auldton or Alton, in the north-west part of the parish, containing about 24 families. In this village there are, 1 smith, 1 wright, 1 shoemaker, 1 grocer, 1 publican, and 1 teacher.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is most conveniently situated for the parish. It was built in 1738. It is seated for 800 only; though the present number of communicants regularly partaking of the Lord's Supper in it is upwards of 900! It is much out of repair. Every hope is entertained that a new one will soon be built. The manse was built in 1768, and additions were made to it at a subsequent period. It was repaired four years ago.

The glebe contains eight acres arable land, and eight acres of pasture. It is worth about L.50 per annum. The stipend consists of 165 bolls of meal, 14 bolls of barley, and L.43 in money.

Religious Denominations.—About 620 families profess to belong to the Established Church, of whom 315 are in Newmilns, 167 in Darvel, and 138 in the country. Of these, there are families or rather individuals who are not in communion with any church, but who have been baptized in the Establishment.

There are two Dissenting congregations in the parish, one connected with the United Associate Synod, the other with the Reformed Presbyterian or Cameronians. The United Secession congregation was formed in Newmilns in 1772. Their first place of worship was built in 1773, and contained 400 sittings. Their present church was built in 1833, and contains 780 sittings. The congregation consists of persons from different parishes; but chiefly from Loudoun and Galston. The number of communicants in 1841 was 470.

The Reformed Presbyterian old place of worship was built in Darvel in 1785, and the present one in 1835. There are at present

89 families and 165 members in Darvel and its neighbourhood professing to adhere to this body. Besides the above there are 3 Roman Catholic, 2 Episcopalian, and 10 or 12 Baptist families in the parish.

Education.—The total number of schools in the parish is six; of these, one is the parochial school, situated in Newmilns. Darvel and Alton have school-rooms and dwelling-houses for the teacher, provided for them by the Loudoun family; one in Newmilns is a female school, which is partly supported by subscriptions. The other two, Harkowsike and Newmilns, are wholly unendowed. The amount of fees paid to the parochial schoolmaster is L.40 per annum. The salary is the maximum, with house and garden. He receives L.14 per annum, as clerk to the session and heritors, and L.10 per annum, as factor on a mortification for the benefit of the poor, left by a Mrs Crawford.

There are about 450 children attending at present all the schools in the parish. The children from the landward districts enter school when about five years of age, and remain about five years at school. In the villages, they are sent between the years of five and seven, and remain from eighteen months to three years. The education in the manufacturing villages is sadly defective. This arises solely from want, not of the will, but of the means on the part of the parents to educate their children. Nothing can exceed the anxiety of the parents in this respect, but they can neither spare their children's work nor their wages. The female school has been of much service in teaching useful branches of knowledge, industry, and habits of neatness in the children. The wages are 4s. a-quarter, including books, &c. It is attended by about 60 scholars; and, though only begun five years ago, has succeeded admirably. The parish school is most efficiently taught.

Literature.—There are three libraries in the parish; one is congregational as to superintendence, but every individual in the parish may read from it at 1s. a-year. It was established two years ago, and contains nearly 300 volumes. The other two, one in Darvel, and one in Newmilns, are subscription libraries, and have been established for many years. They contain together about 1000 volumes. These libraries have been of incalculable benefit in instructing and interesting the working classes.

Friendly Societies.—There are in the parish one Masonic, to relieve the sick and infirm brethren connected with the lodge; two Co-operative, to obtain groceries, meal, cheese, &c. at

prime cost; the members paying shop rent, salesman, &c.; one Economical, to join a small part of their weekly gains, and to lodge these in bank when they amount to L.4, the principle being nearly that of the savings' bank; two Funeral, to pay for the mortcloth and the expenses of the funeral of the members, their parents, and children; one Farmers', for mutual relief in case of fire, on the principle of fire insurance.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of persons at present upon the poor's roll of the parish is 70. Those paupers may be divided into the following classes, with the weekly aliment received by each. Aged and infirm, 46, three of whom receive weekly 2s. 6d.; five, 2s.; five, 1s. 6d.; thirteen, 1s.; twelve, 9d.; eight, 6d. Widows with families, 9,—one, 2s. 6d.; three, 2s.; three, 1s. 6d.; two, 6d. Orphans, 9,—four receive 2s.; three, 1s. 6d.; two, 1s. Fatuous, 7,—one, 7s.; one, 3s.; one, 4s. 3d.; one, 1s.; one, 9d.; one, 6d. Total, 70; per week, L.4, 10s. In addition to the above weekly allowance, L.24, 12s. 6d. is paid by the heritors for house-rent to the paupers, while upwards of L.30 is expended on incidental poor, whose names are not on the roll; and also in occasionally giving additional aid to the regular pauper. The above sum is raised by voluntary assessment, except what is collected at the church door, which in the year amounts to about L.34. The assessment is laid upon the valued rent, the heritors charging the tenants with one-half.

Charitable Bequests.—There are three charities in the parish: 1. Smith's Bequest, left by a Mr John Smith, who was born in Newmilns, and died a merchant in Glasgow. It is for decayed burghesses in Newmilns, their widows, and children. The managers are, the two magistrates, and two councillors named by them; the minister, and two elders named by him. The income at their disposal is L.60 per annum, which is all expended in Newmilns, and is confined to those who receive no parochial aid. 2. Mrs Crawford of Bolquairn's mortification, of L.16 per annum, in favour of four old people, L.4 to each; the session are the managers. 3. Mr Brown of Waterhaugh's Charitable Foundation educates twelve children, six in Galston, and six in Loudoun. The parents of the children receive L.2, 3s. 6d. to clothe their children; the school fees being paid to the master besides.

Pauperism is either steadily upon the increase, or the poor are getting more into the habit of seeking relief from the parochial fund. The causes of our pauperism are of course various, such as

bad habits, bad health, and bad trade. As pauperism is a disease inherent in the body politic, it never can be altogether cured. It has baffled human skill since the Fall, and will do so till the end of the world. As Sir Thomas Brown says, "Statists that labour to contrive a commonwealth without our poverty, take away the object of charity, and forget the prophecy of Christ." But as far as poverty can be cured in our country parishes by human means, the best means for Scotland, we humbly conceive to be, a more extended and well-worked Scotch poor law, and a more extended and well-worked Scotch church.

The poor in the villages are very kind to each other. As far as they can assist, they do so. But in most of our weaving villages, each man has his hands full at home. Besides, poverty while it increases the demand for charity, "brings on a sore and petted mood," and creates a selfish spirit which shuts the hand that, in better times, would be liberal. We have not found the poor greedy. They are much more grateful for small favours than greedy for great ones. They often suffer fearfully before they complain. Families will live for days, and even weeks, on a few potatoes and salt, and pawn their clothes before they seek public aid, though they know, that, whenever there is a case of destitution, relief will be granted. Necessity often teaches them a secret which it would be better they had never discovered, viz. upon how little food life may be supported. This secret has led many, steeped in poverty, to the whisky-shop. Hundreds of gallons of whisky are drunk by men who are starving. Drunkenness is undoubtedly, in many cases, the effect as much as the cause of poverty. The weaver, after sitting sixteen hours a day in a damp loom-shop, without healthy bodily exercise, his nerves unstrung, his digestive organs deranged, will often rob himself of his food and raiment to banish, by intoxication, that bodily wretchedness and mental irritability which he knows, from sad experience, will soon return with increased misery. The habit of drinking is thus often formed, and, when once formed, never almost is it banished. Much whisky is consumed in our villages by a class of weavers termed *trampers*, generally young men, who, wearied of the restrictions of home, wander from village to village, working for such as keep looms on purpose to supply those wandering mechanics. They live miserably, spending the greater portion of their wages in whisky, which they consume, not only in public and private houses, but also in the fields. After thus "wasting their

substance in riotous living," they frequently decamp upon a sudden, leaving behind them debt and a bad example, neither of which they ever intend to cancel; and taking with them, in exchange for what they leave, many of the young men of the place where they have for a time been located, who are, in some distant village, initiated into all the loose ongoingings of the tramper's life.

Inns, Alehouses, &c.—There are 26 public-houses in the parish, 15 in Newmilns, 9 in Darvel, and 2 in the country. The average quantity of whisky consumed in the year in the parish is about 4500 gallons. This quantity, when mixed for retail sale, and when sold at retail prices, will bring nearly L.4000.

March 1842.