

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 16,998. Its greatest width is at the south end, from Bogany point to Ardsulphie 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-

tricts of Kerry and Cowal in Argyleshire, and on the east by the Frith of Clyde. The extent of its sea coast is about 30 miles, following the windings of the principal bays and headlands. If to this we add the small island of Inchmarnock, about 5 miles in circumference, and separated from Rothesay on the west side about 2 miles, we have 35 miles of coast in the parish. The shore is in general shelving rock and gravel, and is neither bold nor flat. The principal bays on the west side, are, Scalpsie, at the southern extremity of the parish, Saint Ninian's farther north, lying opposite to the island of Inchmarnock, and still farther north, about the centre of the parish, Ettrick. On the north east there are two, Kames, and Rothesay, both of them remarkably beautiful, and the latter, which is farthest to the east, affords the finest anchorage in the west of Scotland. In stormy weather a hundred vessels may be seen riding at anchor, which have found an easy entrance to it from the Frith of Clyde.

The surface of the parish is in general hilly, intersected from east to west by two beautiful valleys, the one stretching from the head of Rothesay bay to Ardsalpsie bay, and the other from the head of Kames bay to Ettrick bay. It is conceived that these may once have been arms of the sea, dividing what is now the parish of Rothesay into two islands. *Barone hill*, about a mile S.W. from the town of Rothesay, has an elevation above the sea of 582 feet, *Common hill*, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Rothesay, 430 feet; and *Kames hill*, near the head of the bay of that name, 875 feet. From these and many smaller elevations the most delightful views of the surrounding scenery are obtained.

*Climate.*—The air of Rothesay is remarkably mild and genial, which has led many to call the place the Montpelier of Scotland: the winter snows are hardly ever known to lie above a day or two unmelted; and ever-green plants, which thrive admirably here, are seldom or ever injured by the frosts.

Such is the mildness and salubrity of the climate, that many persons affected with consumption, asthma, and rheumatism derive the greatest benefit from a winter residence in the island. The range of the thermometer is here less than, perhaps, in any other part of Scotland, which, together with the fine shelter of the town of Rothesay, may account for its remarkable healthiness.

The following tables, kept with great care and accuracy at the cotton-works, deserve attention:



**Rain fallen in Bute during the under-noted years, as measured by  
Rain-Guages at Mountstuart and Rothesay.**

Yrs.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Quantity Yearly.
1800	6.67	3.15	1.21	5.89	2.80	.95	1.70	1.28	5.95	5.27	7.02	4.20	46.09
1801	8.63	4.52	4.88	.62	2.14	1.37	5.30	2.05	2.02	6.07	3.42	4.14	45.16
1802	3.33	5.59	3.57	1.52	1.13	3.21	5.71	4.94	2.86	6.19	.95	5.71	47.71
1803	3.15	4.83	2.32	2.74	3.31	2.50	1.06	4.31	3.27	1.67	4.28	3.81	38.45
1804	8.21	1.49	5.71	2.02	5.95	2.86	.83	5.38	2.74	8.21	3.81	2.02	49.21
1805	4.88	4.76	6.31	1.07	1.31	1.55	3.33	3.69	4.17	.77	2.97	4.64	39.45
1806	8.09	5.42	1.61	1.61	3.21	2.32	4.52	5.65	3.69	4.76	8.63	9.88	59.39
1807	4.22	3.51	1.90	3.81	4.03	1.79	5.48	4.09	5.00	5.77	3.51	2.79	45.92
1808	5.47	2.92	.24	3.33	5.77	2.50	4.17	8.51	1.90	8.99	5.59	3.27	52.66
1809	1.67	3.69	2.91	2.50	2.80	2.32	2.20	8.99	4.10	3.03	3.39	8.57	46.17
1810	6.13	3.81	3.57	3.57	.83	2.14	4.05	3.93	2.20	3.45	4.52	8.33	46.53
1811	4.76	9.88	2.98	5.00	6.53	3.81	2.86	8.09	2.26	9.82	6.79	8.57	71.37
1812	3.81	4.76	4.64	1.19	3.57	2.14	2.98	4.76	2.86	9.05	4.52	1.79	46.07
1813	5.95	9.17	3.81	2.14	2.38	1.61	2.98	1.90	3.93	4.52	5.95	2.14	46.48
1814	.83	3.39	2.02	4.29	.36	2.38	4.52	5.00	2.14	4.76	7.38	7.62	44.69
1815	1.73	3.63	8.09	2.02	4.70	5.48	2.44	5.06	8.33	6.61	4.11	5.47	57.67
1816	5.89	1.49	4.76	1.19	3.81	3.51	2.74	2.74	6.25	3.75	3.93	7.02	47.08
1817	5.65	6.67	5.71	.83	1.90	4.64	6.21	6.67	2.86	2.68	6.19	5.95	52.96
1818	7.40	5.70	5.90	1.40	1.75	4.85	5.90	2.05	4.30	5.85	6.30	6.50	57.90
1819	6.60	5.20	2.90	2.50	5.15	4.90	3.00	2.15	5.85	5.70	2.85	6.75	53.55
1820	4.65	1.20	3.20	1.75	4.45	2.75	1.00	6.15	4.50	3.25	4.10	4.70	41.70
1821	2.00	2.47	5.13	3.42	1.66	.05	2.44	2.04	5.54	6.90	6.78	5.48	42.91
1822	3.05	3.66	4.74	1.42	.01	1.35	4.56	2.86	2.09	5.62	8.30	2.92	41.18
1823	2.15	4.79	3.98	.90	3.70	.53	6.33	6.58	6.54	4.00	3.00	7.50	50.00
1824	3.02	2.00	4.00	2.66	.36	1.00	2.72	3.70	4.02	4.30	7.68	7.00	42.48
1825	5.22	3.30	2.72	2.68	3.00	2.84	.27	3.93	4.76	6.50	7.55	4.21	46.98
1826	2.05	6.33	2.00	2.42	.19	.40	2.23	5.00	2.31	4.60	3.20	5.65	40.38
1827	5.12	2.68	8.14	3.80	3.00	3.70	3.05	2.63	2.90	3.73	4.22	7.88	50.85
1828	5.45	4.56	2.56	3.76	2.60	2.28	4.80	4.80	3.30	4.40	7.10	7.50	53.11
1829	1.72	2.30	2.32	2.42	3.25	2.60	3.42	7.16	3.20	5.56	5.16	2.34	41.45
1830	1.36	3.46	4.18	3.96	4.10	2.48	5.79	4.32	8.43	2.58	5.28	3.57	49.49
1831	1.24	4.00	7.20	1.84	1.86	2.50	3.12	4.32	3.15	8.60	6.22	6.55	60.80
1832	1.85	2.66	4.86	2.20	1.21	2.20	2.02	2.80	3.00	4.90	5.25	6.00	39.25
1833	1.03	5.07	1.00	2.02	2.03	3.08	1.90	2.04	6.20	5.70	5.70	10.10	45.87
1834	9.00	3.30	4.00	.60	2.10	4.20	2.70	3.50	3.10	3.80	3.30	3.30	43.10
1835	2.50	6.05	4.30	1.60	5.80	1.70	4.60	5.20	6.00	3.90	7.10	3.70	52.40
1836	7.30	2.90	6.00	3.70	.20	3.60	7.50	3.70	7.90	5.30	6.30	5.90	61.20
1837	3.50	6.30	1.60	2.90	2.20	2.20	2.40	3.50	3.20	6.20	6.50	4.70	45.20
1838	1.40	1.80	5.20	2.60	1.10	5.10	5.30	5.90	4.00	5.00	3.00	4.50	44.90
1839	4.20	4.70	5.60	2.00	1.90	3.00	3.40	5.10	7.80	5.70	3.70	4.50	51.60
Aver.	4.27	4.17	3.94	2.52	2.75	2.61	3.69	4.41	4.21	5.28	5.13	5.43	

The Average Temperature and Rain from 1828 to 1839 is as follows:

Year.	Thermometer.	Rain in inches.
1828,	50°.73	53.11
1829,	47°.84	41.45
1830,	47°.78	49.49
1831,	48°.95	50.80
1832,	47°.89	39.25
1833,	47°.32	45.87
1834,	49°.16	43.10
1835,	46°.58	52.40
1836,	45°.08	61.20
1837,	46°.00	45.20
1838,	43°.40	44.90
1839,	45°.45	51.60



*Hydrography.*—There is a remarkable sulphuretted spring, discovered in 1831, close to the shore at Bogany point, and about a mile east from Rothesay. It is much visited by invalids, and many have derived great benefit from the use of its waters. The following analysis and note are by Dr Thomas Thomson, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Glasgow:—

“In an imperial gallon, or 277,274 cubic inches, there are common salt, 1860.73 grains; sulphate of lime, 125.20; sulphate of soda, 129.77; chloride of magnesium, 32.80; silica, 14.39.

“The sulphuretted hydrogen gas in the imperial gallon was 17.4 cubic inches. The great use of this kind of water is in diseases of the skin. When taken internally, or used in a bath, it is the most valuable medicine in existence in such diseases. It is also useful in glandular diseases in general.” We may add, that it has been found exceedingly beneficial in many cases of rheumatism.

The number of lochs in the parish is five, besides two which divide it from Kingarth on the south.

	Acres.	Roods.	Falls.
1. Lochfad, * which is near Rothesay, and covers,	151	0	0
2. Greenan, one mile and a half to the west,	11	2	35
3. Dhu,	7	0	21
4. Bull-loch,	5	0	30
5. Red-loch,	0	2	25
6. Ascog on the south border,	70	0	0
7. Quen, west of Ascog loch,	54	2	36

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—That part of the parish which lies south of the bay of Rothesay and of Lochfad is entirely composed of conglomerate and red sandstone; while all to the north of these consists of mica-slate, clay-slate, chlorite-slate, traversed by trap and quartz veins.†

The soil is in general shallow on the more elevated ground. In some parts, it is light, in others of stiff retentive clay, in others mossy. The finest soil, which is alluvial, is in the valley which stretches from Kames to Ettrick bay. It is loamy, and in some places mixed with moss, yielding most abundant crops of wheat, oats, barley, turnips, potatoes, &c. On the west shore at St Ninians bay, there is a bed of marl of considerable depth and value. There are no mines of importance, if we except the greenstone quarry in the immediate vicinity of Rothesay, out of which most of the houses

\* The cotton mill-dam which is connected with Lochfad covers, when full, 67 acres additional.

† For further geological details, see Professor Jameson's "Mineralogy of the Scottish Isles," Vol. i. p. 127 to p. 135.

in the town are built, and the slate-quarry near Kames, which is little wrought at present.

**Zoology.**—In Lochfad and Ascog loch are found abundance of pike and perch, and in Greenan loch excellent trout. The sea coast yields plenty of salmon, cod, haddocks, whittings, &c. with which Rothesay market is well and constantly supplied. It is believed that, if our fishers were more enterprising than they are, our shores might be rendered much more productive of gain to them, than they are at present.

**Botany.**—This parish is an excellent field for botanists, and is often visited by them, on account of the many rare plants which are found in it.

Among the less common plants in the parish of Rothesay may be mentioned :—

<i>Pinguicula Lusitanica</i>	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	<i>Anagallis tenella</i>
<i>Cotyledon umbilicus</i>	<i>Subularia aquatica</i>	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>
<i>Saxifraga aizoides</i>	<i>Lycopus Europaeus</i>	<i>Scolopendrium vulgare</i>
<i>Hypericum Androsæmum</i>	<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	<i>Lycopodium selago.</i>
<i>Lobelia Dortmanna</i>	<i>Bidens tripartita</i>	

There are various plantations of fir, larch, oak, ash, elm, beech, &c. which are all thriving. In the court of the Castle of Rothesay, there is a remarkable thorn tree of great height, and which, at the distance of three feet from the ground, measures 6 feet 3 inches in circumference. Last year it fell from its own weight, and now lies prostrate with half of its roots uncovered, but still vigorous in growth.

There are two remarkable ash trees, half-way between the town and the parish church, one on either side of the road, with their branches touching each other. They are commonly called *Adam* and *Eve*, and are venerable for their age, their numerous branches, some of which are broken off, and for the mass of wood which they contain. One of them girths 16½ feet, three feet from the ground, and the other 11 feet at the same distance. An oak of great size grows near the cottage of the late Edmund Kean, the tragedian, on the banks of Lochfad, under which he often expressed a wish that he might be buried. It measures 11 feet 1 inch in girth, three feet from the ground, and has a beautifully clean straight bole 16½ feet high to the first branch, where the circumference is 10 feet. Its finely balanced and conically shaped top spreads over an area 65 feet in diameter, covering 365 square yards, or about the 13th part of an imperial acre. There is a magnificent plane tree on the farm of Shalent, near the north extremity of the parish. It grows on the margin of a deep ravine, and divides into two limbs near the ground. One of these measures 12 feet, and the other 11 feet in

circumference. There are some noble plane, chestnut, and ash trees in the grounds at Kames Castle.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The royal burgh of Rothesay is situated at the head of a bay of the same name, on the north-east side of the Island of Bute, and is the chief town of the county of Bute. It is governed by a provost, two bailies, a dean of guild, treasurer, and twelve councillors, and now unites with the county of Bute in sending a Member to Parliament. Besides the burgh courts, the Sheriff and Justice of Peace Courts and County meetings are held here.

Rothesay Castle, now a noble ruin, was probably one of those erected by Magnus Barefoot, King of Norway in 1098, to secure his conquest of the western islands of Scotland. A village gradually arose around the walls, and under the protection of the Castle. Bute being one of the ancient possessions of the house of Stuart, the Castle of Rothesay continued to be a place of their occasional residence, after they came to the throne. On 12th January 1401, King Robert III. erected the town, which had been previously made a burgh of barony, into a royal burgh, and endowed it with a considerable landed territory. Its privileges were confirmed and extended by King James VI., by charter dated 19th February 1585.

The town of Rothesay necessarily shared the fortunes of its castle in the various wars in which Scotland was engaged, and was repeatedly taken and plundered by the Norwegians, by the Lords of the Isles, by the English, and by the different parties during the civil wars. The town, however, seems to have enjoyed frequent periods of prosperity, having been a mart, at which the Highlanders and western islanders met with the Lowlanders to exchange their commodities. Hence, arose, probably the opinion which is still prevalent, that Bute is a kind of neutral ground, neither highland nor lowland. About the year 1700, when Campbelltown was erected into a royal burgh, the family of Argyle held out great inducements to people to settle there, and many of the traders of Rothesay accepted of the tempting offers made to them. Having thus lost, not only many of her traders, but a great part of her trade also, the town fell greatly into decay, so that in the year 1760 nearly one-half of the houses had been allowed to fall into ruins, and the population had diminished to about one-half of what it was formerly. It continued in this languishing state till 1765, when a custom-house was established here for the accommodation of the Irish colonial trade; all colonies

produce requiring at that time to be landed in Britain before it could be imported into Ireland. The inhabitants of Rothesay then began to engage in the herring fishery, in which they were very successful. The town arose as it were from its ruins; and the harbour was enlarged. In 1778, an English Company established a cotton manufactory here, being the first of the kind in Scotland. It was not long afterwards transferred into Scotch hands, the celebrated David Dale having become its proprietor. This contributed much to the prosperity of the place, and to the increase of the population. The mills have since become greatly enlarged. For many years Rothesay was resorted to by such sea bathers as were fond of retirement, but the introduction of steam navigation in 1814 having rendered access to this place so easy, it has now become a fashionable watering-place. The demand for houses has increased so much on this account, that now new streets have been laid off on each side of the bay, and additional houses are constantly erecting.

*Ecclesiastical History.*—It appears from a charter granted by Allan, the son of Walter, High Steward of Scotland, to the monastery of Paisley, of the church of Kingarth and whole parish of Bute, about the year 1178, that Rothesay was not then erected into a parish. The patronage of the churches in Bute does not seem to have remained for any length of time in the hands of that monastery, as it is not included in any subsequent charter of confirmation. The first mention of the church of Rothesay that occurs is, that Gilbert de Templeton, Rector of the church of Rothesay, appears in the list of those who swore fealty to King Edward I. of England, anno 1296. In 1320, Allan, Bishop of the Isles, was entered "in Ecclesia Beatæ Mariæ de Rothesay in Buth," where his successor Gilbert was also entered two years after. It appears from these notices, as well as from many others down to the period of the Reformation, that the parish church was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and not to St Broke, as is erroneously stated by the late Dr M'Lea in his Statistical Account. "*Cilla Bhruic*," said by him to be the name given to that church by the Highlanders, is no better than a *nickname*, there being no such saint in the Romish Callendar. The minister's stipend was, in 1618, described as the "vicarage and small *Brokis* of Rothesay;" and it was probably from this term, that the fair held in July, (which was instituted in 1585), was denominated "*St Brux day*," or "*Brux-day Fair*." The tithes (*fructus*) of the rectory of St Mary of Rothesay were granted by King James IV. to the col-



legiate church of Restalrig, near Edinburgh, confirmed by charter of King James V., 10th October 1515. And on the dissolution of those establishments at the Reformation, these tithes were annexed to the chapel royal, the deans and prebends of which still hold, or at least lately held them. John Stewart, sheriff of Bute, obtained a grant of the patronage of Rothesay from the Crown, 18th January 1591, which still continues in the family of Bute.

The original church of St Mary of Rothesay, the walls of the choir of which yet remain close to the present parish church, was probably built as early as 1296, the windows being of the form then in use. It was one of the cathedral churches of the isles during the times of Popery, and was the sole cathedral of that see during the times of Protestant Episcopacy. On the south side of the choir, there is the monument of a knight with his recumbent figure, represented in the style of armour in use about the end of the reign of Robert III. That he was one of the royal family is certain from the coat of arms, but the individual cannot now be ascertained. There is also the monument of a lady and child on the opposite side, ruder in execution, and the form of the arch over it shows it to be a century later. The area of the choir and nave were used for interment by the principal heritors. The nave was taken down in 1692, when a new church on the present site was erected out of the ruins. This church also was taken down in 1795, and the present church then erected.

*Antiquities.*—At St Calmag's, near Ettrick, there is a Druid's temple in considerable preservation, and there are faint traces of several other such temples in various parts of the parish. Numbers of large standing stones and tumuli\* are found, the memorials of ancient battles. There are the ruins of thirteen hill-forts, some of which have lately been demolished: and the ruins or vestiges of twelve small chapels or oratories, including the one on Inchmar-nock; such as the chapel in the court of the Castle of Rothesay; St Bride's on the Chapel-Hill, close by the town; Kilmorie M'Neil; St Ninian's Point; Nether Ardrosdale; St Calmag; where a large stone cross still stands; Kildavanan; Kilmichael, at the north end of the island, &c. There are also the following castles, viz. 1. The Royal Castle of Rothesay above-mentioned, which consists of a circular court flanked by four round towers,

\* A tumulus on the side of a small stream near the Point House has been partially opened, and is found to contain many human bones mixed with the stones. It is said to have been the scene of a bloody battle between the Bannatyne of Knap and the Spences of North Kames.

and a building erected by King Robert II. projecting betwixt two of them on the north-east side; the whole surrounded by a wet ditch. It was burnt during the civil wars in 1686, till which time it had been the residence of the Bute family, who were its heritable keepers. 2. Kames Castle, a single tower, built probably in the fourteenth century; long the residence of the Bannatyne of Kames. It was formerly surrounded by a ditch, which was filled up, and a modern house added to the tower by the late Lord Bannatyne. It now belongs to James Hamilton, Esq. of Kames. 3. Wester Kames Castle, formerly the seat of the Spences of Wester Kames, was a small tower of no great antiquity, and is now in ruins. 4. Kilmore Castle, which consisted of several towers and buildings, was the residence of the Jamiesons of Kilmore, crownors or coronors of Bute, and is now in ruins. The original town-house of Rothesay was situated in Watergate; and when it became ruinous, another was erected in 1614 in Castle Street, and this has lately been replaced by a handsome building in the castle style, covering the sites of both the former ones, and erected at the expense of the burgh and county.

The island of Inchmarnock, which lies about two miles west of St Ninian's Point, may be regarded as a natural appendage of this parish, although it is really *extra-parochial*, and pays no teind to the minister. This island belonged to the monastery of Sadell in Kintyre. And the monasteries were not subject to the jurisdiction of parish ministers, nor even always to the bishops. Inchmarnock was given to the monastery of Sadell by Rodericus de Kintyre, probably about the year 1220, before the parish of Rothesay was erected, and it continued under the charge of the monks down to the period of the Reformation.

There is a large manuscript history of this parish in the possession of Mr Archibald McLea, writer, Rothesay, written by the late Mr Blane, sheriff-substitute of Bute. There is also a printed account of the Castle of Rothesay, by John Mackinlay, Esq. collector of her Majesty's customs, who, it is understood, is at present engaged in writing a history of Bute, and whose acquaintance with this subject is remarkably accurate and extensive. There is a map of the county of Bute by the same gentleman, showing the bounds of the different parishes. Several surveys of the parish by celebrated engineers, have been executed at the instance and expense of the Marquis of Bute, and are in his possession. Many documents illustrative of the history and antiquities of the parish are also among his Lordship's archives.

*Eminent Men.*—King Robert III. died here in 1406. Robert Wallace, Bishop of the Isles, died here 16th May 1669, and was interred in the church. The celebrated John Earl of Bute, Prime Minister to George III. was buried here. Matthew Stewart, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, son of Dr Dugald Stewart, minister of this parish, and father of the late Professor Dugald Stewart of Edinburgh, was born here in 1717.

*Land-Owners.*—The chief land-owners are, the Marquis of Bute, who owns six-sevenths of the land; and Hamilton of Kames.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers have been kept with considerable fulness and care from 1691 to the present date.

*Modern Buildings.*—Of modern buildings we may here mention the County Buildings and Prison, erected in 1832, which cost L. 4000;—a harbour, erected in 1822, at an expense of L. 6000; and a slip and building-dock adjacent to it are at present being erected. A contract has been formed for the construction of gasometers to light the town. Numerous mansion-houses and villas have recently been built amongst the sides of the Bay of Rothesay, and give great beauty to it. All the buildings are of greenstone. The freestone used for the corners, doors, and windows, is generally brought from Innerkip on the Renfrewshire coast.

### III.—POPULATION.

The state of the population, as given in the former Account, extending from 1766 to 1790, shows an increase during that period of 1374, having advanced from the number 2658 to 4032 souls. The country population gradually diminished, and that of the town increased in a still greater proportion. This seems to have been owing to the introduction of the new mode of agriculture; to the increase of trade in the port of Rothesay; and to the erection of the cotton mills.

According to an accurate survey of the parish, made in 1887, there were residing in the burgh of Rothesay, 4924; in Port Bannatyne, 800; in the country, 865; total, 6689.

The average yearly births for the last seven years, according to the register, are 125. But to this number ought to be added for Dissenters, who do not usually register their children in the parochial books, as many as 18, which will make the whole 143. This estimate has been made with the greatest care. It includes the yearly average number of 6 illegitimate births for the last seven years. The yearly average number of deaths for the

same period is 133; and of marriages, both parties residing in the parish, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; and one of the parties only, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; total numbers, 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

There are five proprietors in the parish whose lands are of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards.

The English language is generally spoken by the natives, and the Gaelic has rapidly fallen into disuse during the last forty years. Scarcely any of the children now learn or understand it. The habits of the people in regard to cleanliness and comfort are constantly improving. This is owing partly to all the new houses being of a better construction than formerly, partly to the influence of free communication with other places, and partly to prizes which were awarded by a Society, to those who had the cleanest cottages, in the country part of the parish. The dress generally worn is the same with that which prevails in the lowlands. The ordinary food of the peasantry and artisans is oatmeal and potatoes, with herrings and salt beef in winter. Wheat bread is also frequently used. Twenty years ago, there was only one baker in the whole parish; now there are no fewer than eight master bakers, with several apprentices and journeymen. The population generally enjoy much comfort, and many advantages for improvement. They are remarkably contented, orderly, and peaceable, and are distinguished for their sobriety and attention to the observances of religion. Poaching and smuggling are nearly unknown.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—That triangularly-shaped portion of the parish which lies between the valley formed by Lochfad and the valley containing Ascog Loch, having for its base, on the east, the promontory of Bogany point, rests, through the greatest part of its extent, upon a subsoil of red freestone conglomerate, which frequently, especially on the ridge immediately south and east of the town of Rothesay, crops out to the surface, and there, of course, the soil is thin and unproductive. On the southern slope, rising up from Ascog Loch, and towards the apex of the triangle, the soil is of considerable depth, upon a bottom of till, and is therefore rather wet. The northern slope, and that part of the valley between Rothesay and Lochfad is generally dry, and a considerable portion of it naturally very fertile.

Through the whole length of the valley running from Rothesay to Ardscalespie bay on the west, the under strata undergo an abrupt and entire change; for while those on the south side consist entirely of red freestone and conglomerate, except



when crossed by dikes of trap or greenstone, those to the north are composed of schistus, intersected likewise in various directions by similar trap dikes, some of which can be traced in a continuous line from the one formation to the other. A rocky elevated ridge, running parallel with Lochfad, which lies at its base, from the most westerly part of the parish at Ardschalpsie, terminates at its eastern extremity in Achimore and Barone hill, about a mile and a-half from the town of Rothesay, which commands a most extensive and delightful prospect, and is therefore a favourite resort of strangers.

Scattered along the whole extended shore of the parish, there are numerous patches of dry, gravelly, fertile soil, and in the valley of Kames, running from Kames bay, on the east, to Ettrick bay, on the west, there is a considerable extent of rich, deep, alluvial soil; but the general character of the arable land of the parish may be said to be a sandy loam resting on a retentive subsoil, ill adapted in its natural state to the modern system of farming, but capable, as has lately been proved on a large scale, of being converted, by the judicious application of draining, &c. into a most useful green cropping land. In general it has now ample justice done to it by the farmer. Draining, which in such soils is the foundation of all other improvements, is prosecuted most successfully, and to a very great extent. Lime also, which is procured from the neighbouring parish of Kingarth, is generally and liberally applied. Bone manure has been much used for some years in raising turnip; and rape dust has lately been tried with success.

The rotation of cropping generally followed, and that to which Lord Bute's tenants are restricted, is oats, then green crop, then oats or barley, or wheat, with grass seeds, and then four years in grass.

From the entire absence of any even the slightest allusion to the state of agriculture in the last report by Dr M'Lea, fifty years ago, it is difficult for the writer to institute anything like a just comparison, but, giving credit to Mr Aiton in his survey of the county of Bute, supported by the concurrent testimony of many credible eye-witnesses, the difference within that period is amazing; changes having been effected, and results produced within the last twenty years, which, there is reason to believe, have not been surpassed in any other district of Scotland. This, it would be injustice not to state, is mainly owing to the enlightened liberality

of the Marquis of Bute, and to the admirable management and skill of his factor, Mr Muir, and land-steward, Mr Girdwood. At the commencement of the period to which we have referred, and in consequence of the transition from war to peace, the tenantry on his Lordship's estate were, in common with the farmers over the kingdom, in very depressed circumstances. The mode of farming then followed left them few resources; the alternate system had not been introduced; potatoes had been begun to be cultivated, but not extensively; turnip cultivation was scarcely known; and the extent of sown grass was extremely limited. The produce of the dairy, now a principal source of profit, was in these circumstances very scanty; for, besides meagre feeding, little attention had been paid to the breed of cattle, which were then a mongrel race between the Highland and Ayrshire, greatly inferior to either. And as the high prices of grain for a series of years before the close of the war had tempted to overcropping, the shock had to be met with an exhausted soil; while draining, liming, and the application of extraneous matters to agriculture, were almost novelties both in practice and theory.

At this critical conjuncture, his Lordship acted with a judgment, liberality, and promptitude, alike creditable to his head and his heart. Instead of hastily rooting out the old stock of tenants and planting exotics, he turned his thoughts to discover the best method of improving and stimulating them. Not resting satisfied with an abatement of rent on a most liberal scale for several of the very trying years from 1819 to 1826, he organized a system of premiums on a most comprehensive principle, which was followed by the happiest results; and he is now reaping a rich reward in the possession of a comfortable, industrious, and intelligent tenantry, and in an increasing and well paid rental.

His Lordship's efforts were first directed to the introduction of an efficient system of drainage; and for this purpose, he at first paid the whole expense, leaving the tenants to execute the work under the direction and superintendence of his land steward, and giving an abatement to the amount of their value from the rent of the first term after their completion. Since 1824, up to the present time, the allowance has been one-half of the whole value of drains, paid in lime. Fully alive to the importance of turnip cultivation, he offered simultaneously with the premium for draining, and continued it for several years, one of £. 1, 10s. per acre for

every acre of turnip grown, together with clover and rye-grass for sowing out the lands. The allowance of grass seeds was continued till 1830. On these two items many thousands of pounds have been expended. -But this is not all, as will appear from the following brief communication. A barrel of lime was given for each yard of compost made; this is still continued; two prizes yearly are granted for the greatest quantities of dung imported, still continued; several prizes yearly for a number of years, for the best kept fences; and also, for a number of years, the sum of L. 40 yearly was given in premiums for horses and cattle.

The material used for filling drains is stone, of which there is an abundant supply on every farm. For a time, deep drains were exclusively made for cutting off the principal springs; but for some years past, the system of furrow or thorough draining has been extensively adopted. The leases on Lord Bute's estate are almost all for a term of nineteen years, and are found to be most beneficial to the tenant. The farm steadings have, for the most part, been of late years rebuilt and enlarged, and the rest are in the course of being so. Most of the farms are enclosed with white thorn hedges, which are thriving and well kept, being under the care of an experienced hedger, maintained by his Lordship. His Lordship is also building numerous neat cottages on the farms, which hold of himself, and have each an allotment of land sufficient for a garden, potatoes, and a cow's grass. This arrangement is intended for the benefit of the farmers, who thus procure labourers at hand, and also for the comfort of the cottagers themselves. It is found to answer remarkably well.

*Farmers' Society.*—The agriculture of the parish has also been greatly indebted to the Bute Farmers' Society, which numbers above one hundred members. Part of the funds has been devoted to the formation of a library, which now contains a very excellent selection of all the principal works on agriculture, and many works on collateral subjects. The society grants yearly premiums for the best ploughing, for the best cattle, cheese, butter, seeds, roots, &c. and for the encouragement of cleanliness among the cottagers. Part also of the accumulated fund has been laid out in providing two weighing-machines, placed in such parts of the island as were most in want of these useful auxiliaries to the farmer.

There are in the parish of arable land,	6805 imperial acres.
grass and pasture,	3652
hill and moor,	8724
moor,	556

There are in the parish of wood,*	724 imperial acres.
fresh water surface,	270
	<hr/> 20581

A large quantity of the arable land has been recently recovered from the wild pasture, and more is recovering every year. The rent of the arable land varies from 10s. to L. 3 per acre; and the average is about 18s. 6d. per acre.

Of raw produce there are,

Wheat, 110 acres, (imperial) at L. 9,	-	L.	990	0	0
Barley, 327 do. at L. 7,	-		2359	0	0
Oats, 981 do. at L. 4, 15s.	-		4659	15	0
Turnips and potatoes, 570, do. at L. 10,	-		5700	0	0
Hay, 570, do. at L. 5	-		2850	0	0
					<hr/> L. 16558 15 0

#### Live-Stock :

870 cows grazing, L. 2, 15s. each,	-	L.	2392	10	0
859 young stock grazing, at L. 1, 5s. each,	-		1073	15	0
4415 sheep at 3s. 6d. each,	-		772	0	0
Pasture for breeding mares and horses,	-		600	0	0
					<hr/> L. 4838 5 0
Total produce of land,					<hr/> L. 21397 0 0†

The cows are chiefly of the Ayrshire breed, and are kept for the dairy. Much attention is paid to their improvement. The cheese made in this parish is equal to the best Dunlop, and brings as high a price in the market.

**Wages.**—Ploughmen's wages vary from L. 5 to L. 9 the half-year; a woman servant's from L. 2, 10s. to L. 4, 10s. for an equal term. A labourer receives from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a day; a mason 3s.; a wright 3s.; a reaper 2d. an hour, without board. An iron plough costs about three guineas.

**Fisheries.**—Herring fishing is carried on to a considerable extent in the Kyles of Bute, and the adjacent salt water lakes. A salmon-fishing has lately been established round the shores by the Marquis of Bute, which promises to prove very advantageous. There is, besides, a regular fishing of haddocks, whittings, scaithes, and soles, which furnish an abundant and cheap supply to the Rothesay market. Large quantities of cockles are gathered at St Ninian's bay, and sent to Glasgow by a number of poor people, who thus make their living. There are no means of estimating the yearly value of the fisheries.

\* This includes about 270 acres of coppice, consisting chiefly of oak, ash, elm, and beech. The planted woods comprehend oak, ash, beech, and the various species of fir, which all thrive well. It has for the most part been planted within the last twenty years.

† To this ought to be added about L. 250, obtained from the thinning and cutting of wood.



*Factories.*—The cotton mill of Rothesay contains 23,448 spindles, and employs 355 hands. Spinners earn from 17s. to L. 1, 4s. a week, and women from 9d. to 1s. 3d. a day. The workers in this mill are generally very healthy. They work according to the regulations of the Factory Bill. About 150 of the youngest attend a well taught school in the evening, and their morals are not inferior to those of the rest of the population; a circumstance which is not a little owing to the excellent discipline kept up by the manager.

A power-loom factory employs 85 hands. The men's wages vary from L. 1, 1s. to L. 1, 10s. a week, and women's from 3s. 6d. to 8s. It was erected about fifteen years ago, is well managed, and the workers are of respectable morals.

There are several cooperages which employ 34 hands, who make yearly 15,000 herring-barrels of the value of L. 3000. There are also two small yards for building boats, which employ about 20 carpenters, and a tan-yard of considerable extent.

*Navigation.*—In 1837, there were 58 vessels of from 15 to 300 tons burthen, belonging to Rothesay; total register tonnage 2950 tons. These were navigated by 255 men, and were employed in the fishing, coasting, and foreign trade. 30,000 bushels of salt were imported, and 19,000 barrels of salt herrings were sent to market; 6,000 tons of coals were imported, chiefly from Glasgow. Seven steam vessels ply regularly to and from Glasgow, of from 80 to 100 tons each, exclusive of engine space. Their power of steam from 50 to 70 horses each, and their speed eleven miles an hour. Their value from L. 3000 to L. 5000 each. Fares to or from Glasgow, cabin 2s., steerage 1s. 6d. They are navigated by 70 men, steward's department included. The first steamer reached Rothesay quay in 1814: its speed was six miles an hour. Port Bannatyne sends about 25 small vessels to the herring fishing, which is the chief employment of its inhabitants.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Rothesay is the only market-town in the parish. The population within the burgh in 1837 was 4924. It exports cotton yarn and cloth, herrings, fresh fish, barley, turnips, potatoes, rye-grass seed, small timber and leather: and imports cotton, cotton yarn, hides, wheat, flour, oats, beans, bone-dust, lime, freestone, coals, salt, and barrel staves. It has no regular police, and does not seem to require it. Its chief ornaments are, the venerable ruins of its Castle, which stands in the centre of the town, and

close to it the town-hall and county buildings, which are in the castellated style, have an elegant tower, a bell and a clock, with two transparent dials, the gift of the Marquis of Bute. These buildings compose a court hall for the sheriff, burgh, and justice of peace courts, offices for the sheriff and town-clerks, and the prison for the whole county. The hall has lately been adorned by a splendid portrait of the present Marquis of Bute, executed by John Graham Gilbert, Esq. of Glasgow.

Port Bannatyne is the only village in the parish. It stands at the head of the beautiful bay of Kames, at a distance of two miles and a half north-west of Rothesay. There are some good houses in it, and it is frequented in summer by strangers for sea-bathing.

*Means of Communication.*—There are two arrivals of post from Greenock and Glasgow daily; one only on Sabbath. This Sabbath mail, it is the wish of the great majority of the inhabitants to have entirely done away, being both a profanation of the day, and quite unnecessary for business. The roads in the parish are all local, and are kept in repair by the statute labour money, and the liberality of the Marquis of Bute; consequently there are no tolls. These with the bridges and fences are upheld in tolerable repair; and afford some beautiful drives to various parts of the island. The harbour is in excellent repair, and admits vessels of considerable burthen in all states of the tide, and the dues are very moderate.

*Ecclésiastical State.*—The parish church, erected in 1796, and containing 1000 sitters, stands about half a mile south of the town of Rothesay, in a beautiful situation, but inconveniently distant from the inhabitants at the extremities of the bay. It is in good repair. The seats are allocated to the heritors according to the proportion of their assessment for the erection of the church. The present elegant manse was built in 1829. The glebe contains about 14 acres, and its yearly value may be about L. 30. The stipend consists of 10 chalders of bear, Linlithgow measure, 9 chalders of meal, and L. 10. for communion elements.

The new parish church, erected as a chapel of ease in 1800, contains about 900 sitters. It had parochial bounds assigned to it, *quoad sacra*, in 1834, which comprehend about 2000 souls. The ministers stipend is L. 180, and a house belonging to the managers, valued at L. 20 a-year. The stipend is raised by assessment on the proprietors of pews, by rents of seats which belong

to the managers, and by an endowment of L. 75 a-year granted by the Marquis of Bute in 1838.

North Bute church was erected after an elegant plan, in 1836, by the Marquis of Bute, for the convenience of the inhabitants of the northern part of the parish. It stands in the valley which stretches between Kames bay and Ettrick, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of Rothestay, and about a mile south of Port Bannatyne. It contains about 700 sitters; the seats are apportioned by his Lordship among the inhabitants. It is at present a *quoad sacra* parish, comprehending about 900 souls; but is about to be erected into a civil parish also by a process of erection and disjunction. The stipend is L. 150, with a manse and L. 10 a-year in name of glebe. This is one of the finest instances in modern times of an enlightened and generous regard, on the part of a proprietor, to the best interests of the community, over which Providence has placed him; and is worthy of more general imitation. Before the whole plan is completed, it will have cost his Lordship a sunk capital of at least L. 8000.

There is a Gaelic chapel of ease, in the town of Rothestay, built in 1837, containing 600 sitters. It cost L. 600, which was raised by subscription, and by a grant from the General Assembly's Church Extension fund. The services are entirely in the Gaelic language. The minister's stipend is L. 70, which is paid from the seat rents, and the collections at the church door.

Of places of worship in the parish not connected with the Established Church, there are a United Secession church; minister's stipend, L. 100, paid from seat rents and collections: A Reformed Presbyterian church; minister's stipend L. 80, paid from seat rents and collections; an Independent church, having no minister and no means of supporting one; and a small Episcopal chapel.

According to an accurate census of the whole parish, made for the Commissioners on Religious Instruction, the population in 1827 was 6089, of which there belonged to the Established Church, 5433; United Secession, 374; Reformed Presbyterian, 81; Relief, 14; Independents, 28; Episcopalians, 35; Papists, 53; Baptists, 30; Methodists, 2; Old Light Burghers, 6; no denomination, 38. The number of communicants of the Established Church in the whole parish is 1962; and the religious services in the Established churches are remarkably well attended.

Of societies for religious purposes in the parish, there are, 1. Rothestay Parochial Association for promoting the Benevolent and Religious Schemes of the General Assembly; collected last

year, L. 126, 6s. 1d. 2. New Parish Association for Do. and other religious purposes, L. 43. 3. North Bute Association for religious purposes, L. 10. 4. Youth's Society for Missionary and religious purposes; average receipts for the last five years, L. 44; one-third of the funds goes to the support of a library. It pays for the education of twenty poor children, and what remains is given to the support of missionary objects. 5. Female Benevolent Society, including L. 100, proceeds of a bazaar, L. 188, 10s. 2½d. 6. Old Man's Friend Society, including L. 40, proceeds of bazaar, L. 59, 11s. 10½d. Ladies' Society for Promoting Female Education in India, L. 30. The members of these associations almost entirely belong to the Established Church.

The church collections for religious and benevolent objects, independently of the regular collections for the poor, amounted last year to the sum of L. 97, 17s. 4d.

*Education.*—The number of schools in the parish is 15. There is one parochial school with three assistant teachers. The salary is L. 38, 0s. 6d. per annum, with no garden. The Marquis of Bute built three years ago a large apartment, at his own charge, in connection with the parish school-house, for the encouragement of education, and of the present distinguished teacher; no rent is charged for it, so long as the teacher keeps able assistants, and gives satisfaction to the public. Two of the schools are partially endowed by the Marquis of Bute. Two have their school-rooms free. One is a school of industry for females, and is supported by subscriptions, and a penny a-week from each scholar. Three are ladies' boarding schools, of an excellent description, and admit day-scholars also. The number of scholars attending these schools in the spring of the present year was 921, or 1 out of every 6½ of the population. The state of the schools generally, and the style of education in them are excellent. There is scarcely a young person brought up in the parish who cannot read and write.

As the rate of fees in the parish school very much regulates all the rest of the schools, we subjoin the following list of the parish school fees: Class I. 1. English reading, 3s. per quarter; 2. writing or arithmetic, 4s.; 3. writing and arithmetic, 5s.; 4. reading, writing, and arithmetic, 6s.; 5. English grammar or geography, 6s.; 6. English grammar and geography, 7s.; 7. reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and grammar, 8s. Class II. Latin, 7s. per quarter; Greek or French, 8s.; Latin and Greek, or French, 10s.



6d. ; mathematics, 10s. 6d. ; Latin, Greek, and French, 15s. ; Latin, Greek, French, and mathematics, 17s. 6d. ; book-keeping, L. 1, 1s. per course ; navigation, L. 1, 10s. Pupils attending any branch in Class II. may take any of the branches in Class I. without any additional charge, except Nos. 6 or 7 of that class, for either of which there is an additional charge of 2s. 6d. per quarter.

In the parish school there are 80 scholars learning Latin ; and 9 in another school where the classics are taught.

The people are much alive to the benefits of education. It is within the reach of all, and is greatly stimulated by the clergy of the place, and by the annual visitations of the presbytery of the bounds, as well as by the influential people in general.

*Literature.*—There are the following libraries in the town of Rothesay. 1. Rothesay Library, instituted in 1792, with 1400 vols. 2. Rothesay Youths, 1818, with 1200 vols. 3. Mechanics, 1833. 4. Parish Church Catechumens, 1836, with 190 vols. 5. Reformed Presbyterian Congregational, 1837, with 130 vols. 6. Parochial school, 1837, with 160 vols. There is in the custody of the minister of the parish, a library consisting of books left to the parish by the last Bishop of the Isles, who had his residence in Rothesay ; and of a valuable addition gifted by the Rev. Dugald Stewart, formerly minister of this parish, and grandfather of the late Professor Dugald Stewart of Edinburgh. Among the books there is a copy of Bishop Bedell's Bible, and a copy of the rare edition of the Irish Testament of 1681. There are in all 200 volumes. There are two public reading-rooms. The first was opened 1790. They are both of easy access, and possess most of the leading journals of the day. A small periodical has lately been begun to be published here, called Bute Record of Rural Affairs, in connection with the Bute Farmers' Society, instituted in 1825. It is conducted by Mr Samuel Girdwood, land-steward of the Marquis of Bute, and is valuable to agriculturists.

*Charitable Institutions.*—The following Benevolent or Friendly Societies exist, and have been of great benefit in promoting the independence and comfort of families. They seem, however, to be rather on the decline, as usually happens when the original members become old and infirm. The young are reluctant to join at a time when a great number are receiving alimnt from the funds. The Rothesay Society was instituted in 1786 ; the Rothesay Marine Society in 1790 ; the Rothesay Cotton Mill

Society in 1792; the Bute Friendly Society in 1802; the Cooper's Society in 1811.

*Savings Bank.*—The Bute Savings Bank was instituted in 1821, under the patronage of the Marquis of Bute. The following table, drawn up by the treasurer, will shew the progress of this interesting institution. The depositors are chiefly servants, tradesmen, and operatives.

Table of Savings Bank.

Year ending Sept. 30.	No. of entries.	Amount deposited.	Amount drawn.	Balance remaining, & interest.
1821,	51	L. 187 15 1	L. 14 18 5	L. 173 6 8
1822,	55	218 5 0	54 10 3	337 1 5
1823,	50	223 14 0	146 9 3	414 6 2
1829,	101	426 8 0	238 16 3	1108 16 7
1835,	183	747 6 9	560 14 7	2137 12 10
1836,	202	642 5 3	540 19 11	2238 18 2
1837,	231	728 11 8	596 17 11	2370 11 11
1838,	220	869 2 7	692 7 8	2547 6 10
1839,	233	921 7 4	568 4 5	2900 9 9

There are also branches of the Greenock, Renfrewshire, and Royal Banks, in the town of Rothesay.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The poor of this parish have always been superintended by the kirk-session, and their wants supplied without recourse to assessment. The number of poor on the roll in 1839 was 180, and the average sum allotted to each for the year was L. 1, 11s. 6d. besides an allowance of coals in winter from a yearly subscription of L.80 or L.90 for that special purpose. Twenty-four of the paupers have badges from the session, authorizing them to call for alms on Saturdays at the houses of the inhabitants of the parish. Each of them is understood to obtain by this means what is equal to 2s. a week. This arrangement has a great effect in preventing general begging.

The funds are raised as follows :

Collections at Established churches,	L. 265 14 3
Marriage proclamations,	21 12 6
Interest of Stock, L. 500, and mortification of L. 180,	32 4 0
Legacies,	25 0 0
Donation,	2 2 0
Mortcloth dues,*	2 2 8
Total,	L. 348 13 5

It may be remarked, that a large proportion of persons receiving aid from the fund, are capable of making considerable exertions for themselves, and require assistance chiefly in paying their house

\* The session purchased two hearses about two years ago, which are expected to assist greatly the revenue of the poor's funds. A large piece of ground was lately gifted to the Marquis of Bute for lares, and put under trust for behoof of the poor's funds. The sale of these will add considerably to the revenue in a short time.

rents. It is believed there are few places of a like population where the poor are more carefully attended to, and their wants better supplied. - Indeed, this parish furnishes a most convincing proof of the efficiency of the Scottish system of managing the poor. The extension of the Church to meet the increase of the population has here demonstrated its power over pauperism, both in keeping many from falling into that distressing state, and in supplying the necessary means of support to those who are in it. There is sufficient accommodation in the Established Church for the whole population; and, the churches being endowed, the collections all go into the poor's funds.

*Prison.*—The total number of prisoners confined in the county prison during the last year, ending 30th September 1839, was 32, of whom there remained at the last date 4. The average number through the year was 6. Of the whole prisoners admitted during the year, 20 were criminals, committed chiefly for petty thefts, and for defrauding the revenue. The prison is in excellent condition and well kept. Much attention is given to the health, comfort, and moral improvement of the prisoners.

*Fairs.*—There are three fairs held in Rothesay annually, on the first Wednesday of May, third Wednesday of July, and last Wednesday and following Thursday of October. They are but ill attended, and of little importance. There is an annual show of cattle, and another of seeds, roots, and dairy produce; on both which occasions, prizes are awarded for the best specimens. These excite much attention, and are productive of great benefit to agriculture.

*Inns and Alehouses.*—There are in the parish 51 houses licensed to sell spirits, and 4 to sell porter and ale alone. The number of them is unquestionably injurious to public morals, as it tends to lower the character of the houses themselves; and multiplies the allurements to drinking and excess. It would be a great benefit were a much higher rate of license fixed by the Legislature, for the express purpose of reducing the number of public houses throughout the country, and consequently of elevating their character.

*Fuel.*—Almost the only fuel used in the parish is coal, which is imported, for the most part, from Glasgow; sometimes also from Ardrossan, Salcoats, and Ayr. The general price paid at the quay of Rothesay is about 10s. 6d. per ton. Peats are also sometimes used towards the northern extremity of the parish.

June 1840.