

Among the lower orders of the people, there are now more temperance and industry than formerly.

The inhabitants of Leadhills have long enjoyed a respectable character, and every encouragement is held out for them to maintain the high character which they have gained. They have an excellent library, and through the liberality of the Earl of Hopetoun they enjoy many comforts. They have been allowed as much of the waste or muirland as they can cultivate.

July 1835.

PARISH OF CULTER.

PRESBYTERY OF BIGGAR, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. JAMES PROUDFOOT, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THE name of this parish is a Gaelic compound, consisting of *Cul*, the back part or recess, and *Tir*, the land or country. The village of Culter accordingly, viewed from any commanding station in the adjacent valley, appears to occupy the “Back part or Recess of the District.”

In 1794, a decret was given by the Lords of Council and Session suppressing the parish of Kilbucho, and annexing part of the same to that of Culter. By this deed, which took effect on the death of the then minister of Kilbucho, a very considerable addition was made both to the territorial extent and population of Culter. The following remarks, therefore, refer both to Culter, as described in the former Statistical Account, and to that part of Kilbucho which has since been added.

Extent, &c.—The mean length of the parish, as it is now constituted, is 7 miles, and the mean-breadth somewhat less than 3. It contains 19 square miles. In shape, it is a long narrow tract, extending from north to south; the Kilbucho part forming a large excrescence on the eastern side of its northern extremity. It is bounded on the west by Lamington and Symington; on the north by Biggar and a small part of Skirling; on the east by the united parishes of Broughton, Glenholm, and Kilbucho; and on the south by Drummelzier and Crawford.

Topographical Appearances.—The lower part of the parish consists of a long tract of land, partly level and partly undulating, running from S. W. to N. E., bounded on the one side by the river Clyde, and part of Biggar; and on the other by the hills rising toward the south. The whole of this vale is uncommonly beautiful. Here no less than five proprietors have their residences at no great distance from each other. Two of these are delightfully situated on the banks of the Clyde, and the other three stand nearer the hills. These, surrounded with their lawns and gardens, and partly seen from amongst long lines and clumps of fine old trees, present to the eye a landscape partaking more of the richness of England, than of our northern clime. The hilly part of the parish again exhibits a striking contrast to the division now mentioned. A long range of green hills, partly planted and parked, rises abruptly from the vale. These as they recede southward increase into mountains covered with heath, the chief of which is *the Fell*, ascertained by a late measurement to be 2330 feet above the level of the sea, thus overtopping the neighbouring hill of Tinto by 94 feet. But neither is this mountainous district without its peculiar beauty. There is no sweeter glen than that of Culter water. As far as Birthwood, two miles upward, it is partially cultivated and wooded. Beyond this it narrows, affording little more than room for the stream, which here has its *linns* with their necessary accompaniments of “rock and roar” to captivate the admirer of wild and romantic beauty. The hills which border on the arable part of the parish range from S. W. to N. E. But in the higher district, their range is exceedingly varied. Sometimes they are lumpish and detached, and sometimes they run into chains, lying in all possible directions.

Meteorology.—In the vicinity of such mountain ranges, the atmosphere must be moist and rains frequent: but as we have no bogs or undrained marshes, the people are in general healthy, and in many instances live to a very advanced age. On the 28th day of July 1829, the thermometer at the manse stood at 83° in the shade: and on one day towards the beginning of the same month in the year 1834, at 82°. These are the greatest heights observed by the writer for the last seven years. On the evening of January the 17th of the present year it stood as low as 10°.

Hydrography.—Towards the southern extremity of the parish, is a spring which has generally been considered to have a petrifying power. The moss by which it is bordered is completely indurated, and many beautiful specimens have been preserved, which

have all the appearance of having undergone a regular process of petrification. But upon a closer examination, it is found that the moss has by no means been converted into stone, but only been covered over with it, having received a deposition of the incrusting carbonate of lime. The only stream of any consequence is Culter water, which, after dividing the parish lengthways nearly into two equal parts, falls into the Clyde, about half a mile beneath the village. The Clyde itself forms the western boundary for about two miles. At the point where it leaves the parish, the river makes a remarkable bend, changing its course from N. E. to N. W. and this is the first of the many great curves which it makes in its progress to the sea. *

Geology.—Sandstone does not occur within our bounds, although conglomerate or puddingstone is found in some places. The hills are composed chiefly of greywacke, the common blue whinstone of the peasantry, so prevalent all over Tweeddale. The soil is of great variety, as is generally the case where the surface is very uneven. In the lower grounds it is a sandy loam, not very deep, but dry, and when well managed never fails to yield the husbandman an ample return. On the braes and hills it is much lighter; and towards the eastern or Kilbucho part of the parish it inclines to clay. Moss may be seen on the tops of the highest hills, and in some particular spots of the lower grounds; but the general character of the soil is that it is hard and dry. Foot-rot among the sheep is altogether unknown, and in few places are they so seldom exposed to diseases of any kind.

Botany.—The plants at all worthy of being called uncommon are extremely few. The following, with their several localities, are given as a specimen: *Cistus Helianthemum*, found at Cultercraigs and several other places; *Geum urbanum*, growing abundantly in a ditch at Hartree; *Ononis arvensis*, seen scantily near Cornhill; *Rubus suberectus* and *Primula veris*, both found in Culterallers

* At Wolf-Clyde, the point above-mentioned, a curiosity may sometimes be seen, viz. the Clyde running into the Tweed. The vale of Biggar-water, which here stretches between these two rivers, is but slightly elevated above the bed of the Clyde. During a top-flood, part of the latter river sometimes finds its way into Biggar-water, and is thereby carried into the Tweed, and this happens once perhaps in three or four years. Hence it will be seen that it were a very easy matter to send the Clyde to Berwick instead of Glasgow. Indeed a common tradition is prevalent here that the famous magician Michael Scott had nearly accomplished this. The story is, that he was marching down the vale of the Biggar, with the Clyde following at his heels, but that, being alarmed by the sound of the water as it came roaring behind, he looked back, and so the spell was broken, and the vagrant waters returned into their wonted channel. Of course little were the Glasgow folks dreaming of the peril to which their city was exposed.

wood; *Orobus sylvaticus* and *Thussilago petasites*, near Culter water; *Saxifraga granulata*, near Wolf-Clyde Bridge; *Scleranthus annuus*, top of Crosscroin; *Malva moschata*, road near the village; and *Rubus Chamæmorus*, towards the top of the Fell. At Culterallers is the only piece of copse to be found either in the parish or neighbourhood. It consists of several acres, and has the following trees growing in a natural state: The sloe, the birch, the alder, the hazel, the hawkberry or bird-cherry, the rowan or mountain-ash, and many different kinds of the willow. In only one place (Kingsbeck-burn) is the juniper to be seen. Trees that have been planted are of the common kinds, but these are too numerous to be given in detail. Some attain to a very large size. At Nisbet is a very fine plane of the following dimensions: height of trunk 10 feet: girth of trunk at 3 feet from the ground $12\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The branches cover a circle 66 feet in diameter. This is no contemptible tree, standing, as it does, at an altitude of about 650 feet above the level of the sea.

Fine Old Maple Tree.—The following description of this tree is taken from Sir Thomas D. Lauder's Edition of Gilpin's Forest Scenery:—"A maple at Culter, in Clydesdale, measured in the year 1800, at the height of three feet from the ground, was found to be 8 feet in circumference: at the height of three feet it divides into two arms, one of which at two feet above the trunk measures 6 feet round; the other at the same height above the trunk measures 4 feet 2 inches round." These were its dimensions in 1800, as taken by Dr Walker, then Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh. Its dimensions in the year 1835 are the following:—At the height of three feet above the ground the circumference is 10 feet; of the larger arm at two feet above the trunk the circumference is 7 feet, 6 inches; of the lesser arm at the same height the circumference is 5 feet. The branches cover a circle, the diameter of which is 57 feet. This very fine tree stands directly in front of the mansion-house of Mr Baillie of Culterallers, and is understood to be the largest of the kind in Scotland, with the exception of one at Roseneath, belonging to the Duke of Argyle. From a comparison of the above measurements may be seen what has been its increase for the last thirty-five years.

The tree that holds the predominance in this parish and district is the Scotch fir; and the result here, as in other places where it has been planted in a light soil and very exposed situation is, it thrives very well for about twenty or thirty years: it then begins.

to decay, and finally dies at a premature old age. This melancholy spectacle is but too common in this parish. Several plantations on the higher grounds and lighter soils are fast dying out, and ere long must totally disappear,—an evil which might have been avoided if, instead of the fir, had been planted the larch, and the many other kinds of trees which might have been found better suited to the soil.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Parochial Registers.—The oldest register bears date 1700. The sederunts of session are recorded continuously from that date down to the present time; but there is no record of births, baptisms, marriages, or deaths, from 1721 to 1737. For this blank no cause can now be assigned. The whole sessional accounts and records are contained in five books or volumes. During the incumbency of the Rev. Mr Forrester, ordained in 1700, these documents seem to have been kept with considerable care; but generally speaking, afterwards, very little attention has been bestowed upon them.

*Land-owners.**—Besides Mr White, farmer in Shaw, who jointly with another person has lately purchased that farm, the land-owners are the following: David Dickson, Esq. of Hartree and Kilbucko; Robert Granbery Baillie, Esq. of Culterallers; Adam Sim, Esq. of Cultermains; William Bertram, Esq. of Nisbet; Robert Paterson, Esq. of Birthwood, and Robert Bruce Campbell, Esq. of Cornhill. With the exception of Mr Bertram, the whole of these reside on their respective properties, and for the most part during the whole year.

Eminent men.—Anthony Murray, minister of the parish during the religious persecutions of Charles II. is mentioned by the historians of these times in terms of the highest commendation. He belonged to the suffering party, and seems to have been a leading man. It appears from Wodrow that he was related to the

* The following extract from Chalmers' *Caledonia* throws some light on the proprietorship of the parish in ancient times.—"During the reign of David II. the half of the barony of Culter was held by Walter Bysset of the King *in capite*, and Bysset stated that it had been so held by his ancestors. In 1367, Walter Bysset granted to William Newbiggin of Dunsyre, all his lands in the barony of Culter, except the lands of Nisbet; and he also granted the patronage of the church with these lands, to be held by Newbiggin and his son David, of the King. In 1367, Sir Archibald Douglas the Lord Galloway obtained, on the resignation of Walter Bysset of Clerkington, a charter of the lands of Clerkington in Edinburghshire, and the half of the barony of Culter in Lanarkshire. On the 10th of December 1449, William Earl of Douglas obtained a charter of the half of the land near the parish church of Culter, and of the advowson of the same church. The right of these was forfeited by his successor James Earl of Douglas in 1455."

Duchess of Lauderdale, and that, on account of this connexion, he was delegated by the influential ministers of the day to present an address to the Duke in favour of the Nonconformists.* A tradition, which is still prevalent, says, that, after being prohibited from preaching, he continued to reside in the parish, and supported himself by his medical skill, observing facetiously, that Now he would make the *doctor keep the minister*. He outlived these troublous times, and died minister of the parish, as is testified by the inscription on his tombstone in the church-yard.

Under this head may be also mentioned the late Dr Jackson, so well known by his excellent work on *fever*, and numerous other valuable contributions to medical science. He was not a native of Culter, but his father came to the parish whilst he was very young, and here his boyhood was spent.

Antiquities.—A little way below the village, on the west side of Culter water, is a place called Chapel-hill, where once stood a house belonging to the Knights-Templars, founded by Walter Bysset, in the reign of David II. At that time the church of Culter belonged to the Abbey of Kelso. A keen dispute having arisen on one occasion between the abbot and the master of the Templars, about tithes alleged to have been due to the Abbey, the latter, in his unwillingness to pay, gave an instance of special pleading, which must appear a curiosity to all who have seen the place to which reference is made. "The master and brethren pleaded, that their order enjoyed a general exemption from paying tithes; also that the parish church of Culter, standing on the other side of a great river, on which there was no bridge, was seldom accessible to them without great danger."† All things seem formidable to an unwilling mind. The great river here spoken of is Culter water, a stream of a few paces in width, and which is not so large, even once in half a dozen of years, that it may not be forded. In the last Statistical Account, mention is made of four circular encampments, popularly called Castles, the use of which seems to have been to afford temporary security to the inhabitants and

* Sir David Menzies, laird of one half of the barony of Culter in Lanarkshire, gave the whole of his part of the land called Wolfelyde to the convent (of Melrose) in 1431. After the Reformation this land came into the possession of Sir William Menzies of Gladstones." *Morton's Monastic Remains*, p. 276. It is worth remarking that the lands of Wolfelyde, now a part of Hartree estate, pay a few shillings annually to the Duke of Buccleuch, in right of the Abbey of Melrose, of which his Grace is Lord of Erection.

* Wodrow's History, Vol. ii. page 349.

† Morton's Monastic Remains of Teviotdale, p. 144.

their cattle in times of civil or predatory warfare. And to these may be added two round mounds or *moats*, one at Wolf-Clyde, and one at Bamflat, anciently employed as watch-towers and signal posts. A chain of these artificial mounds can easily be traced all along the vale, running between the Clyde and Tweed, and from these the inhabitants of the one district *telegraphed* to those of the other, when danger was near.

In the midst of a morass, half a mile north-east from the farm of Nisbet, may be seen a very singular remnant of antiquity. A mound of an oval shape, called the Green Knowe, measuring about thirty yards by forty, rises about two or three feet above the surface of the surrounding bog. On penetrating into this elevated mass, it is found to consist of stones of all different kinds and sizes, which seem to have been tumbled promiscuously together without the least attempt at arrangement. Driven quite through this superincumbent mass, are a great number of piles, sharpened at the point, about three feet long, made of oak of the hardest kind, retaining the marks of the hatchet, and still wonderfully fresh. A causeway of large stones connects this mound with the firm ground. All around, it is nothing but soft elastic moss; and beneath it too,—for on cutting through the bed of stones you immediately meet with moss. No vestige of lime has ever been found near the place. The spot was probably chosen for concealment or protection to man or cattle, perhaps to both. The thick stratum of loose stones would afford firm footing,—the oaken piles driven through the bed of stones would consolidate them, and hold them together like a pavement; whilst the surrounding marsh would keep off the aggressor. Near the spot are the remains of some very large trees. Suppose the whole morass to have been a wood, might not the cattle during a sudden foray have been driven into this encampment as a place of concealment? For who would think of searching for them in a moss? All this, however, is conjecture, and conjecture for which there will soon be no *data*. The mound for many years has been used as a quarry; hundreds of cart loads of stones have been taken from it, and at this date the work of demolition goes on.

III.—POPULATION.

Culter proper being in Lanarkshire, and the part of Kilbucho annexed being in the county of Peebles, the population of each is here given separately.

In 1755, the population of Old Culter was	422
In 1791, - - - - -	326
In 1801, - - - - -	369
In 1811, - - - - -	415
In 1821, - - - - -	467
In 1831, - - - - -	497

Of these 175 were found to live in the village of Culter, and the remaining 322 in the country part of the parish.

In 1811, the population of the Kilbucho part of the parish was	183
In 1821, - - - - -	160
In 1831, - - - - -	171

In Culter.

Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	8
women, including widows, upwards of 45,	20
<i>In the Kilbucho part of the parish.</i>	
Number of unmarried men bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50,	0
women, including widows, upwards of 45,	2

In 1831, the population of the *united parish* was 668. The average number of births yearly for the last seven years, according to the public register, is $9\frac{1}{3}$; but many are not registered. The average number of deaths for the same period is $5\frac{1}{3}$; and of marriages 5. The average number of children in a family is 4, if we take account only of those families where children actually reside; but if we include all the families in the parish the average number of each family is 3. There is one fatuous person and one blind; and seven proprietors of land whose respective properties exceed the yearly sum of L. 50.

Character of the People.—The people are of sober and industrious habits, respectful to their superiors, and kind and obliging in their intercourse with each other. With few exceptions, they are regular in their attendance on public worship, and the other ordinances of religion; and a thoroughly profligate or reckless person is not to be found among them. No lover of his country, however, can fail to deplore the growing prevalence of an evil which was comparatively unknown to our forefathers, the unlawful intercourse of the sexes, especially among the poorer and more dependent classes of the community. There were four illegitimate births in the parish during the last three years. The writer would by no means insinuate that this vice is peculiarly prevalent here. But it does prevail in this parish in common with the other parishes of the bounds, and it is to be feared of Scotland generally: And it is an evil omen of the times, and threatens ere long to bring down the common people of Scotland from that high station of respectability and moral worth which they have occupied so long, and which perhaps never has been attained by the people of any other nation. The Christian philanthropist hopes that true religion may be on the increase; but the

hope is damped by the consideration, that "the Wisdom which cometh down from above is first *pure*."

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The tables under this head are again given separately, in order that it may be seen what portion of the parish lies in Lanarkshire, and what in the county of Peebles.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—

Old Culter contains 9950 imperial acres, of which there are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	2671
Of lands which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly in pasture there are	6871
Acres in a state of undivided common,	0
Acres planted are,	408
The Kilbucho part of the parish contains 1597 imperial acres, Of these there are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	1319
Of lands which never have been cultivated and which remain constantly in pasture, there are	251
Acres in a state of undivided common are	0
Acres planted are,	27

In the united parish, there are still perhaps from 100 to 200 acres which might be profitably brought under the plough.

Rent of Land, Wages, &c.—There is great diversity in the quality, and consequently in the rent of arable land. Whilst some of the better sort might be let as high as L. 4 or perhaps L. 5 per acre, a still greater proportion would scarcely bring 15s.; but the average may be given at L. 1, 3s. The average rent of grazing is at the rate of L. 3 per cow or full-grown ox; L. 2 per head of young cattle; and 5s. 6d. per ewe or full-grown sheep. Wages are the same as in the neighbouring parishes.

Breeds of Cattle.—The sheep with which our hills are pastured are of the short or black-faced kind. No other kind has ever been tried, as the grounds are reckoned too hard and bare for rearing a finer species. They are all regularly *smear*ed with tar and oil at the approach of winter. The horses are mostly of the Clydesdale, and the cows of the Ayrshire breed. Upon this latter kind of stock a very great improvement has been made of late years. Till very lately the cows in this district were neither of the Teeswater, Ayrshire, nor of any regular and approved breed, but a mixture of all the different kinds; but now a fine animal is known and appreciated, and consequently the inferior kinds are rapidly disappearing. This amelioration of stock we owe in a great measure to a Farmer's Society instituted in Biggar, which has an annual competition, at which stock of all the different kinds is exhibited, and prizes duly awarded.

Husbandry.—Whilst our farmers have been improving their

live stock, they have not been stationary in the improvement of their lands. Their farms are managed pretty much on the common rotation plan, viz. first oats, then green crop, then barley, then hay, and lastly pasture, which last is allowed to continue for one, two or more years, according to the quality of the land. Lime, which is driven from a distance of seven miles, is plentifully applied, and on new land yields a rich return. It seems to be generally agreed, however, that, when repeatedly applied to the same field, its effect is greatly diminished, and the farmer sees more and more the necessity of *resting* his land. Big or bear is fast disappearing, and barley coming in its place. Till the last two or three years, there was not a field of wheat in the parish, but now there is scarcely any farm, however small, where it is not to be seen. Draining in all its different branches is duly attended to. The sheep-walks have been dried with surface-drains, and much wet land reclaimed and rendered arable by those of the ordinary kind. The late Mr Sim of Cultermains, erected an embankment along the Clyde nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile in length, which cost upwards of L. 1000; and calculated that he had, on that part of his property which he retained in his own possession, underground drains extending to the length of 35 miles.

Leases, Farm-Buildings, &c.—The leases all over this part of the country are of nineteen years duration,—a term which seems to give satisfaction both to landlord and tenant. The farm-houses and offices are in general commodious, and enclosures are numerous and increasing.

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

Produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for food of man or domestic animals, including straw,	L. 5236	15	5
Of potatoes, turnips, cabbages, and other plants cultivated in the fields for food,	1177	0	0
Of hay, whether meadow or cultivated,	1032	3	4
Of land in pasture, rating it at L. 3 per cow or full-grown ox; L. 2 per head of young cattle; and 7s. per ewe or full-grown sheep, including the fleece,	2829	8	0
Of gardens and orchards,	80	0	0
Miscellaneous produce not enumerated under any of the foregoing heads,	119	0	0
Total yearly value of raw produce raised in Old Culter,	L. 10,474	6	9

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

Produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for food of man, or domestic animals, including the straw,	L. 2894	12	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Of potatoes, turnips, cabbages, and other plants cultivated in the fields for food,	556	6	0
Of hay, whether meadow or cultivated,	341	10	0

Of land in pasture, rating it at L. 3 per cow or full grown ox; L. 2 per head of young cattle; and 7s. per ewe or full-grown sheep, including the fleece,	709 9 0
Of one garden,	30 0 0
Miscellaneous produce not enumerated under any of the foregoing heads,	47 0 0

Total yearly value of raw produce raised in the Kilbucho part of parish, L. 4575 11 8½

The gross annual produce of the *united parish*, therefore, is L. 15,049, 18s. 5½d.; and the gross rental, as nearly as can be computed, is L. 5210.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—Biggar is the market-town and the post-town of the district. The two parishes are contiguous, and the village of Culter is distant from the town of Biggar nearly three miles.*

Village.—There is but one village, and, as has been already stated, it contains only 175 persons. It is pleasantly situated close upon Culter water. The houses are scattered along the stream, interspersed with fine old trees, neatly built, and in many instances adorned with honeysuckle, and flowering shrubs. It has its mill, its smithy, and small grocer's shop, and altogether presents a very pleasing aspect to the passenger. The turnpike road from Dumfries to Edinburgh lies through its centre by an excellent bridge, built a few years ago.

Means of Communication.—The Dumfries road now mentioned is carried through the parish for the space of nearly four miles; and the parish roads are kept in good repair. Where there are hills the roads must often be uneven, and such is the case here; but no pains are spared to render them smooth and dry. The parish roads are about ten miles long.

Ecclesiastical State.†—The church, which was built in 1810, and contains 350 sitters, is situated conveniently enough for the bulk of the people.‡ Within it is sufficiently commodious, but the exterior is plain and tasteless, which is the more to be regretted, as the beautiful site and splendid trees amid which it stands, would have done ample justice to a handsomer building. The

* Culter is distant from Edinburgh 30 miles, from Glasgow 96, from Lanark 11, and from Peebles 17.

† Chalmers in his "Caledonia" says, that "Richard, the parson of Culter, witnessed a charter of Hugh de Biger on the 14th of February 1228-9, and he appears as parson of Culter before that time. In 1296, Mestre de Tillol, the parson of Culter, swore fealty to Edward I. Thomas de Ballasky was rector of the church of Culter in 1388. George Shoreswood was one of the King's clerks, and rector of Culter in the reign of James II." And we learn from the same authority, that "at the Reformation this benefice was held by Mr Archibald Livingston, who reported in 1562 that the revenues of the parsonage and vicarage of Culter were leased by him for 160 merks yearly."

‡ None of the seats are paid for, but none are common, they being divided among the heritors according to their respective valuations.

manse was built in 1774, and is still in a state of very good repair. It has an orchard in front, and a steep hill covered with wood to the top, behind, and is the very *beau ideal* of a quiet parsonage. The glebe consists of 8 or 8½ acres of excellent land; is well enclosed all around, and might be let for about L. 25. The stipend is L. 208 in money, with twelve bolls, three firlots of oatmeal, and the interest of L. 282, 12s. lodged in the Royal Bank of Scotland. This latter sum is the half of the price obtained for Kilbucho glebe when that parish was suppressed. By order of the Court of Session it must lie in the bank till it can be invested in land contiguous to the glebe of Culter. In the meantime the interest forms an *item* in the living. The families presently in connection with the Establishment are 100; the average number of communicants yearly is 290, and the average number of young persons admitted to the communion for the first time is 12. The dissenting families are 23, partly connected with the Relief, and partly with the United Secession church. There is neither chapel nor dissenting meeting-house of any kind. The Dissenters attend their respective places of worship in Biggar, to which, indeed, a great proportion of this parish are nearer than to their own parish church. Collections have been made in the church from time to time, in support of the Infirmary of Edinburgh, the Assembly's Schools, Bible and Missionary Societies, and for other charitable and religious purposes, the amount of which may be estimated at L. 5 yearly.

Education.—The parochial school is the only one for general education. On it, however, the Kilbucho part of the parish is no-ways dependent. It has still a school of its own: for the legal mandate that swept away the church spared the school.* In the school of Culter are taught Greek, Latin, practical mathematics, and geography, besides the more ordinary branches of education. The teacher's salary is L. 34, 4s. with a small garden; and as the quarter fees bring about L. 20, his income, exclusive of the dwelling-house, is rather more than L. 54. No part of the parish is so distant as to prevent the attendance of the young, and there is not an individual upwards of six or seven years of age who is unable to read. It may also be mentioned, that a Sabbath school is conducted by the writer of this article and the schoolmaster, which is attended by an average number of scholars of about thirty-five. Con-

* At the election of the present schoolmaster of Kilbucho the minister of Broughton objected to the vote of the minister of Culter. A long dispute ensued, but the matter being ultimately referred to the arbitration of Sir James Montgomery, Bart. he gave a decision in favour of the minister of Culter, awarding to each of the two ministers an equal vote in the election of schoolmaster for Kilbucho.

ected with the Sabbath school is a small library but lately begun; and this is the only one in the place; but the want is in some measure supplied by the vicinity of Biggar, where there are several very good libraries, and where books of all kinds may easily be found.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—At present, there are five regular paupers on the roll. Of these two are very old women; two widows with families, and one an old man with a family. They receive on an average L. 4, 10s. a-year, a sum which would be inadequate for their support were they totally incapacitated for labour; but all of them can do something for themselves.—Besides these, there are several others who receive occasional help from the session, in the form of house-rents, coals, and small donations of money. To meet this outlay, there are the church collections, which average for the last seven years L. 32 a-year, with L. 4, 4s. of yearly interest upon L. 105, the only lying fund belonging to the poor. Hitherto these sources have yielded a sufficient supply without either assessments or extraordinary collections of any kind. But how long this state of things may continue is uncertain, as the reluctance to receive assistance from the public fund, though slowly, is perceptibly on the decrease.

Bequests for the Education of the Poor.—The session have under their management the following sums, the interest of which goes to the education of poor children. 1. L. 18, understood to have been mortified by the Rev. Anthony Murray, previously mentioned. 2. L. 40 mortified by William Nisbet, saltman in Biggar, who died in 1820. 3. L. 100 mortified by the late David Sim, Esq. of Cultermains, who died at London in 1834. This latter bequest is for “the education and clothing of a boy or girl in the parish of Culter, of poor and industrious parents.”

Inns.—We have no public-house nor inn of any kind. The heritors, seeing that nothing of the kind is needed, do not allow any to be kept, by which wise resolution, whilst they do no injury to the community at large, they lay this parish under very great obligations.

Fuel.—Almost the only fuel used is coal, driven from Douglas, a distance of eleven miles, and costing 7s. 6d. per cart of four loads, each load consisting of about three cwt.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

It appears from the last Statistical Account, that this parish was in a forward state as far back as 1793. The writer of that account tells us, that in the lowland part of the parish “the ground was mostly either well enclosed with hedge and ditch, or covered with

thriving plantations ;" that " many thousand trees had also been planted in different parts of the parish within the last seven or eight years ;" that " the proprietors seemed to vie with each other in improvements ;" and that " enclosed land was let at an average of from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2 per acre." The improvements thus early begun have been going on steadily and progressively ever since, as will appear when we have mentioned some of the more remarkable changes that have taken place within the period now referred to. Since 1791 the population has been increased by an addition of 171 ; the rental has been nearly trebled ; a new church has been built ; a new school and school-house, and a new bridge over Culter water. Since then, an elegant mansion-house has been erected by Mr Campbell of Cornhill. The wooden ploughs which were then in use have almost totally disappeared, and their place been supplied by others made of iron. The labour of hoeing has been greatly abridged by the introduction of the drill harrow, an implement then altogether unknown. The church collections have risen from L. 8 to L. 32 annually ; farm-houses and cottages have been either rebuilt or undergone a sufficient repair ; and agriculture in all its branches is much better understood and more successfully practised. Plantations also have been greatly extended, and are still extending ; and, with some exceptions referred to under a former article, are healthy and thriving. For many of these improvements, the parish is indebted to the late John Dickson, Esq. of Hartree, the principal landed proprietor within its bounds. He first introduced many of the most approved modes of husbandry into this district, at a time when the art was but little understood ; and gave an impulse to a spirit for planting at a time when trees were indeed " few and far between." Mr Dickson, having survived what Dr Johnson calls The frightful interval between the seed and the timber, died in May last at a very advanced age. The heritors, who are seven in number, are all resident with but one exception. The advantages resulting from such a state of society must be obvious to any one. Money is plentifully circulated ; regular employment is given to tradesmen and labourers of every kind ; the church collections are large, whilst the number needing parochial aid is comparatively small ; courtesy and good breeding are diffused on every side ; the richer and poorer classes are brought into frequent and intimate intercourse with each other ; and that kindly bond of connexion is formed between landlord and tenant, which constitutes at once the happiness and strength of the country.

July 1835.