PARISH OF DALZIEL.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. JAMES CLASON, MINISTER.

I.—Topography and Natural History.

Name and Extent.—The parish of Dalziel is situated in the middle ward of Lanarkshire, 13 miles from Glasgow, 14 from Lanark, and 1 from the town of Hamilton. It is bounded on the east by the parish of Cambusnethan; on the west by the parish of Hamilton and the river Calder; on the south by the parish of Hamilton and the river Clyde; and on the north by the river Calder and the parish of Hamilton. At the north-west corner, four parishes meet,—Bothwell, Shotts, Cambusnethan, and Dalziel, the two former lying on the north side of the river Calder, and the two latter on the south side of that river. The origin and meaning of the name have been differently explained. In the charters of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries, the name appears in the form of Dalyell. Some have therefore thought that it is of Celtic origin, and denotes White Meadow, this being the meaning of the word Dalgheal in that language, and that it has been so called on account of a white scurf, or a large white gowan *(Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum)* which covered the ground before it was improved by cultivation. Others have supposed that it got its name from the Dalzells, afterwards Earls of Carnwath, who formerly possessed the barony of Dalziel. But it is more likely that it had previously received its name, and that they adopted it as their surname. The books of heraldry give the following account of the origin and meaning of the word Dalziel:—"A favourite and near kinsman of King Kenneth II. was taken by the Picts and hanged upon a gibbet. The King, urged by grief at the disgraceful treatment of his friend, proffered a large reward for the rescue of the body, which, as a forlorn hope, was for some time unavailing, until at length a valiant gentleman said to the King, in the old Scottish language, 'Dal Zell I dare,' and having successfully per-

formed the exploit, took the gibbet and words for his arms and name, which to this day are borne by his posterity. The name is now written Dalziel or Dalzell."

The parish is a small one, containing only 2283 Scotch acres. It is about 4 four miles long and 3 broad. Its figure is irregular, in consequence of a small part of the parish lying on the south of the Clyde; and two parts of the parish of Hamilton, the one extending nearly into the centre, and the other, in the north-west corner, on the river Calder, are entirely separated by this parish from that of Hamilton. There is a tradition that these portions of the parish of Hamilton formerly belonged to this parish, but no proper account is given of their disjunction. Why they have not been restored, if ever they formed a part of the original parish, is not known. But certainly the addition of these lands, and of Muirhouse, in the parish of Cambusnethan, which is situated three miles from the parish church, and little more than one from the church here, with the teinds parsonage and vicarage, would render this parish more compact, would improve the living, (one of the small ones,) and would be more convenient for the inhabitants, who in general are indebted to the minister of this parish for the means of religious instruction.

Topographical Appearances.—The land in general rises gradually from the rivers Clyde and Calder, interspersed with occasional inequalities, to a flat ridge in the centre of the parish; consequently there is always, with the exception of a few flat pieces of ground, a sufficient declivity to carry off the water, and snow does not lie so long as on some high grounds in the neighbourhood. The banks of the Clyde are in general low, except at the Roman camp opposite the Ross wood, where they are precipitous; those of the Calder are so in several places, and particularly on the farm of Ravenscraig, near Wishaw House, where they are quite precipitous, resembling the wall of a house. There are several glens of different sizes. The principal one is that contiguous to Dalziel House, and which is about two miles in length. No part of the parish is more than 200 feet above the level of the sea.

Hydrography.—Before the Clyde reaches this parish, it has traversed a distance of 50 miles, and after running about 18 miles farther it reaches Glasgow. It is liable occasionally to great inundations, which have sometimes been productive of injurious consequences. In the harvest of 1807, the tenant of the haugh grounds

upon the Clyde, lost, by the spate which occurred at that time, between L. 400 and L. 500, in crop and manure. This serious loss induced the proprietor to embank the river, and to alter the course of a burn, which has succeeded in preventing the land from being flooded. As the water, however, which covered the ground on such occasions was not running, but back-water, owing to a turn in the river, and the junction of the burn mentioned, doubts have been entertained by some whether the ground be as fertile as formerly.

The South Calder, (a name denoting wooded river,) which forms the principal boundary of this parish to the north, takes its rise in the parish of Shotts, is here about 60 feet broad, and from its source to its junction with the Clyde, at the south-west corner of the parish, may be estimated to be about 20 miles in length.

Besides these two rivers, there is a burn of considerable size called the Dalziel burn, which takes its rise in the parish of Cambusnethan, runs through the glen at Dalziel House, and joins the Clyde about two miles from its source.

From the nature of the soil—a hard clay,—there are few springs of water near the surface. Those which have been discovered, have therefore been much valued, and in Popish times were honoured with the name of saints, such as St Patrick's, St Margaret's, St Catharine's, and the well of Our Lady. Some of these wells have been seriously injured by the draining of quarries near them, and one by a similar operation in regard to land has, to the great grief of those in the neighbourhood, been entirely destroyed. This well was of a mineral and supposed medicinal quality, and was considered by those who knew its value to be superior to every other, for the infusion of tea, and was therefore called the Tea-well. Those who had been in the practice of using it for that purpose think they have not got that beverage in perfection since it was dried up.

Geology and Mineralogy.—This parish lies near the centre of the great upper coal-field of the Clyde, and, in a geological and mineralogical point of view, presents nearly the same features as the rest of the district. At the Roman camp, on the banks of the Clyde, the rocks are from 12 to 20 feet high, and are composed almost entirely of clay-slate and bituminous shale, with a sort of shivery freestone above it, which separates readily into very thin plates. The clay-slate is very friable, and falls down in large masses, when acted on by the alternations of frost and thaw. In the midst of the freestone, is a regular layer of flag or pavement, two

or three inches in thickness, which runs along the face of the rocks at a considerable height; and at one place, above a small well opposite the Ross wood, these stones crop out to the day, in a position so regular, and are so smooth and well polished, and neatly and regularly jointed, that they more resemble a work of art than of nature. Some of the freestone connected with the coal measures of this parish is different, in so far as we are aware, from that of any other district in the county. At the Windmill-hill quarry, at present wrought in two places, a very hard rough-grained freestone, abounding with unequal grains of quartz, much resembling the *Arenarius molaris* of Linnæus, is much sought after by masons, for forming chimney heads, and also by the proprietors of iron forges, for pavement, &c. it having been ascertained to be unequalled for standing both the weather and the fire. It was of this strong and durable stone that the bridge near Hamilton was built. Near the village of Craigneuk, there is an excellent flagstone quarry. These stones are of a fine grain, and of a reddish colour, and are from one-fourth of an inch to five inches in thickness. They are frequently used in the neighbourhood instead of slate, for the purpose of covering houses. The projected Wishaw and Coltness Railway is to pass near these quarries, and it has been ascertained, that, from the estates of Dalziel, Wishaw, and Coltness, 1600 tons of stones of different sorts may be sent to Glasgow annually, which at 7d. per ton for carriage, would yield the proprietors L. 466, 13s. 4d. The pavement required for gentlemen's seats which have been lately built in different parts of the county has been obtained from the Craigneuk quarry.

Coal abounds in this parish, but it is only wrought at No. 1 or Engine Pit, near Coursington. At the depth of 10 fathoms from the surface, we have the upper or rough coal, which is here 6 feet thick. Above this coal, there are five feet of surface, and the rest is blaes, (clay-slate, and bituminous shale,) intermixed with small beds of ironstone each 1½ or 2 inches thick. At the depth of 14 fathoms from the rough coal, the Ell coal occurs. It is here 4 feet in thickness, and is that now wrought. The main roof is rock, and the pavement a scurf of fine clay on solid rock. Fourteen fathoms farther down is the splint coal, but it has not yet been wrought in this parish. Above the coal, is a foot of blaes, and below it five feet of fine clay. The coal from this pit is often marked on its surface with the remains of various species of reeds, and with small

leaves, resembling chickweed, which gives it a chequered appearance. The dip is to the north, and the rise of course to the south. The freestone quarries also affect the same inclination. On the Clyde, however, at the Camp, the dip is to the east.

The greater portion of the surface of this parish is a yellow clay. There is, however, a considerable quantity of what is called croft land in almost every farm. The haughs and holms on the Clyde are a rich loam on a sandy or gravelly subsoil.

Zoology.—By an act James IV. Parl. 6th, cap. 74—for planting and policy—it is enacted, that "every Lord and Laird make parks with deer, stanks, *i. e.* fish-ponds, and cunningars or rabbit warrens." Accordingly there was here formerly a park well stocked with deer. There are also the remains of an ancient cruive dam at the camp, which indicates that the salmon were (which was really the case,) more abundant than at present. Forty-five years ago, they were often caught here in great quantities. Since the erection of the dam at Blantyre cotton works, and from other causes, they have become very scarce. The cunningar belonging to Dalziel still retains its ancient name. The *coneys* or rabbits, which occupied that spot, have been long ago extirpated, and the field levelled, and regularly cultivated. A number of these animals have, however, lately made their appearance in this quarter, report says, introduced by sportsmen for the purpose of furnishing food for the foxes. The cunningar is now on the opposite side of the Clyde, though still in the parish, from which it seems to have been cut off at no very remote period, by the river assuming a new channel and leaving the old one nearly dry,—now termed the dead waters. The haughs of Dalziel are famous for the number and the excellence of the hares which they produce.

The *Caprimulgus Europæus* or goatsucker is common in the woods. The *Lanius excubitor* or common shrike is also occasionally observed. The *Turdus iliacus* and *Turdus pilaris* or redwing and fieldfare thrushes, were observed this season to be absent little more than three months, a flock having been seen in the beginning of May, and again in the beginning of August. The *Fringilla spinus* or siskin is very common, also *Parus caudatus* or long-tailed titmouse. There was, till within these twelve years, an extensive rookery contiguous to Dalziel House; but by cutting the Scotch fir trees, (to which crows are partial) driving down their nests and other means, they were completely expelled. In passing the spot from which they had been driven *vi et armis*, they

were observed afterwards, to give a mournful and angry cry, and to make a sudden deviation from their course, turning away with seeming disgust, from a place where they had been so hardly treated. *Ardea stellaris* or bittern, one shot here lately.

The following are the only fish found in the Clyde and Calder, 1. *Petromyzon fluviatilis* or river lamprey, here called lamper-eel. We should doubt its going down regularly to the sea, as it has many obstacles to encounter, which seem to be too great for it to overcome, yet it is by no means rare in these waters. 2. *Salmo Salar* or common salmon. 3. *Salmo trutta* or sea trout, very rare. 4. *Salmo Salvelinus*, torgoch or char. This fish was taken, upwards of a century ago, from an alpine lake by Anne Duchess of Hamilton, and naturalized in the Pamilian and Avon near Strathaven, from which it occasionally descends to the Clyde. It is here termed Duchess Anne's trout. 5. *Salmo fario* or common trout, abundant. 6. *Esox Lucius*, or common pike, abundant in still water. 7. *Leuciscus rutilus* or roach, but there generally termed *braize*,—is rather a rare fish, and is chiefly caught in May. It is supposed by some that it comes into the Clyde from Lochlomond, when the general migration occurs, about the beginning of summer; but as there are obstacles in the Clyde which prevent larger fish from getting up here, we cannot see how so small a fish could overcome these difficulties. 8. *Leuciscus phoxinus* or minnow, very common. 9. *Cobitis barbatula*, loach or beardy, more common on the rocky bed of the Avon than in the Clyde. It lies basking in the sun at the bottom of rivers, and readily suffers itself to be taken by what the boys term a *sned*, *i. e.* two or three horse hairs plaited together, and fastened to the end of a wand, in the form of a loop, which is slipped over the fish's head and suddenly drawn up; vast quantities are thus destroyed, but are not eaten. 10. *Platessa Flesus*, flounder. It is most common below the dam at Blantyre, but has also been occasionally found here. 11. *Anguilla vulgaris*, or common eel, very abundant. 12. *Perca fluviatilis* or perch, occasionally found here. The par also common.

Botany.—The following is a list of the different plants: *Circea Lutetiana*, enchanter's nightshade; *Veronica montana*, mountain speedwell; *Phalaris Canariensis*, canary grass; *Milium effusum*, millet grass; *Galium boreale*, broad-leaved bed-straw; *Symphytum officinale*, common comfrey; *Campanula trachelium*, at Dalziel House, but now extirpated; *Epilobium angustifolium*, rose-bay

willow herb; *Trollius Europæus*, globe flower; *Serapias latifolia*, broad-leaved helleborine, &c.

II.—Civil History.

Family of Dalzell.—The Dalzells, the ancestors of the Earl of Carnwath, are the most remote proprietors of whom any thing is known. The precise time when they acquired the barony of Dalziel, which was sometimes possessed by one member of the family, and at other times shared by two or more of them, has not been ascertained. If the origin and meaning of their name, as given in heraldry, be correct, it is not improbable, that a grant of the lands of Dalziel may have formed a part of the reward, bestowed by King Kenneth, for the rescue of the body of his kinsman,—which will fix the date of their possession to have been in the ninth century. The earliest certain information we have respecting the family is in the thirteenth century. From this date, the Dalzells seem to have been knighted, either by royal authority or by courtesy. In 1365, Sir Robert Dalzell, who faithfully adhered to King David Bruce during his captivity in England, obtained a grant of the barony of Selkirk. But it appears he afterwards incurred the displeasure of his sovereign. William Hamilton, Esq. of Wishaw, who wrote an account of the sheriffdom of Lanark in 1702, and whose authority as an antiquarian is unquestionable, states that the parish and barony did anciently belong to the Dalzells of that ilk, until the forfeiture of Sir Robert Dalzell, in the time of King David Bruce, for abiding in England without the King's consent. The estate was then given to Sir —— Sandilands, (others say the name was Fleming.)* By the marriage of his grandchild to the heir-male of Sir Robert Dalzell, the estate returned to the family, and continued in their sole possession, until the death of a proprietor leaving two daughters. The eldest married the nearest heir of the family; and the youngest, a son of the Laird of West Nisbet. To distinguish the latter from the former, he was commonly called Baron Nisbet of Dalzell, and his share of the property, Dalzell Nisbet. The spot where his house stood is still pointed out, and the adjoining orchard retains the name of the Baron's Yaird. In 1628, Sir Robert Dalzell having been made Lord Dalzell by Charles I. he purchased from Baron Nisbet his share of the estate. The burying-place of the family seems to have been in the east end of the area of the old church. Upon a grave-stone found there, which the late

* There is a place in the parish still called Flemington.

proprietor removed, (I suppose, for its greater preservation,) to the burying-ground of the present family, there is the following inscription: "Here lyis James Dalyell, Mearchant Bvrger Edr. lawful sone to umql. Thomas Daylell, wch. Thomas wes lawful sone to the Right Honl. umql. William Dalyell of the ilk, procreat betwix him and his Lady Gelis Hamilton, lawful daughter to the Laird Preston, wch. James depairt tys lyf, at the place of Dalyell, the 8th of March 1608, being of the age of 78 yeiris." This stone seems to have been prepared with care; the lettering is good, and the armorial bearings of the family are, a man suspended from a gibbet cut upon it. Several members of the family have signalized themselves, and are specified in different charters and in military records. Sir William Dalzell, the person mentioned on the grave-stone, is described in heraldry as a gallant and humorous knight, who lost an eye at the battle of Otterbourne in the year 1388. Sir Piers Courtenay having accepted a challenge implied by Dalzell's adoption of badges borne by Courtenay, Sir William terminated the affair by a demand that, as by the laws of tournament, the champions should be equal, Courtenay should have an eye extinguished before the combat. Sir Robert Dalzell, in 1508, was killed by the Lord Maxwell. Another Sir Robert warmly espoused the cause of Queen Mary, and was engaged on her side in the battle of Langside in 1568. For his fidelity to her interests, he obtained a charter from Francis and Mary, dated 27th August 1559, "Roberto de Dalyell eodem terrarum de Dalyell et molendina de Lanark;" and he or his successor also obtained from her a grant of the patronage and teinds of this parish,—a grant, however, which, when litigated, he failed to make good. Lord Dalzell having acquired the estate of Carnwath from James Earl of Buchan in 1634, was in 1639 created Earl of Carnwath. In 1647 the Earl of Carnwath sold the principal part of the Dalzell estate to James Hamilton of Boggs. Johnston, a part of the barony, however, remained in the possession of the Dalzells till the end of the sixteenth century, when it was also purchased by Mr Hamilton, —whose descendant is still the proprietor of the estate. As the Dalzells and Hamiltons were connected by frequent intermarriages (the mother of Mr Hamilton of Boggs was a daughter of Sir Robert Dalzell), this may account for one of that family becoming the purchaser, and might also tend to his acquiring the property on more favourable terms than any other person.

All the Hamiltons in the west, and perhaps throughout Scotland, are descended from the ancestors of his Grace the Duke of Hamilton. Gavin, the fourth son of Sir James Hamilton of Cadzow, is the branch from which the Hamiltons of Dalziel have descended. He granted a charter in 1468 of the lands of Osbernston (now Orbiston,) with the consent of the chaplains of Bothwell, to whom these lands had been given by the third Earl of Douglas when he made that church collegiate to his son Robert, Chancellor of Glasgow, whom failing, to his other sons in succession. His third son, John, eventually succeeded to Orbiston, whose grandson, David, was the first proprietor of Bothwellhaugh. James Hamilton of Boggs, and first laird of Dalziel of that name, was son of the fifth proprietor of Orbiston; and his brother, Sir John, was Lord Justice-Clerk in the reign of Charles I. Heirs failing, both in Orbiston and in Bothwellhaugh, these estates came to the Hamiltons of Dalziel. Archibald, the fourth Hamilton of Dalziel, also succeeded his maternal grandfather in the estate of Rosehall, and removed the entail to Dalziel. Archibald was succeeded, first by his son James, and then by his son the late General Hamilton, who, surviving his son Archibald James, is succeeded by his grandson, John Glencairn Carter Hamilton, who is a minor. With the lands of Bothwellhaugh, there was conveyed to the Dalziel family the gun with which James, the second laird of that property, shot the Regent Murray, and which had been preserved in the family, not from an approval of that foul deed, but merely as a relic of antiquity. It is now in the possession of his Grace the Duke of Hamilton, having been presented to him by the late General Hamilton when he sold to him the lands of Bothwellhaugh.

Roman Road.—The principal branch of the western Roman highway or Watling Street, as it has been called, passed through this parish from east to west. It entered at a place called Meadowhead, near Wishaw gate. The present road from Glasgow to Lanark by Carluke has been here, for a considerable way, formed upon it. When the last Statistical Account was written, and till within these twelve years, a part of it had been preserved entire, and a large heap of the cinders of the Roman forges remained untouched. All trace of it has now been effaced by recent improvements. At the north-west boundary of the parish, there is a bridge over the river Calder, evidently of great antiquity, and

which, from time immemorial, has been called the Roman bridge, by which that people entered the parish of Bothwell. It is about 12 feet broad, and consists of an arch, high, causewayed, and without ledges.

Roman Camps.—Of these there were two in this parish. One was situated on a steep bank of the Calder, near the above bridge, and about seventy years ago was pretty entire. I made inquiry respecting it at an old man, now in his ninety-fourth year, with his faculties in great vigour, and who all his life, till disabled, had been in the service of the proprietor. He informed me that he recollected it distinctly, and that he assisted in its demolition. The other camp was in the centre of the parish, on the top of a steep bank of the Clyde. Parts of the ditches are here still traceable, in which, when they were cleared out, as stated in the last Statistical Account, were found cinders of the Roman forges. To perpetuate the memory of this camp, the proprietor, about a century ago, built a summer-house with a bartizan on the top of it, cleared the banks of the furze and briers, cut a number of terrace walks along it, and wherever he found a sufficiency of soil, planted forest or fruit-trees. From the bartizan on the summer-house there is an extensive view of the surrounding country, so beautifully diversified, as to form quite a panorama, well deserving the attention of the landscape painter. The lofty ruins and oaks of Cadzow,—the green pastures and gaudy pinnacles of Chatelherault,—the Ross wood on the steep bank immediately opposite,—the bridge, the town, the palace, and the policy of Hamilton,—the windings of the Clyde below, and for a considerable way up and down the river, and, but for a few trees on the east and west of the house, Strathclyde, from Tinto to Benlomond, with a rich variety of hill and dale,—render the scene perhaps one of the most gratifying in Scotland.

Sarcophagus.—In the foundation of the west gable of the old church, which was rebuilt in 1718, there was found a handsome stone coffin, large enough to contain the body of a full-grown man, but empty, and which is now placed against the old churchyard wall. In the inside, the upper part is hollowed out to suit the shape of the head and neck, and, when found, there was a hewn stone cover for the face, with a cinque-foil carved upon it, but which has not been preserved. The carving upon it is plain. It must have been used for some distinguished person; but for whom, is unknown.

Urn.—In digging the foundation of the lodge for the old entry to Dalziel House, about thirty-five years ago, an urn was discovered containing bones, which shows that the ancient Britons inhabited this part of the country.

Cross Stones.—Of these stones (at which the barons anciently held their courts, tried, condemned, and executed criminals,) there were three till lately. One of them stands near the site of Baron Nisbit's House. It is a heptagon, with a sword emblazoned on one side of it. The other two were placed where the Roman road deviated from the present one, but have been removed by recent improvements.

Dalziel Mansion-house.—It is situated on the north side of the Dalziel burn, and on the most picturesque part of the bank of the glen through which it runs. It was built in the year 1649, two years after the estate was bought by Mr Hamilton of Boggs, and is a very fine specimen of an old baronial residence. It is 88 feet in length, and 27 in breadth. The sunk story is arched over, in which was formerly the kitchen and extensive cellarage. The dining-room is 32 by 21 feet, and the walls are wainscoat unpainted, and hung around with the pictures of the ancestors and connections of the family. Among others, Sir John Hamilton of Orbiston in a coat of mail, James Hamilton of Boggs, and Lord Westhall, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, in his robes of office. Attached to the house is an old tower, formerly called Peel House, without date. It is about 50 feet high, the walls are 8 feet thick, having the holes or recesses, which were used for sleeping in, and it is 28 by 34 over walls. Only two parts of it are now used, the one as a cellar and passage to a modern kitchen, and the other as an upper kitchen. In this kitchen, an iron chain suspends from the roof a lustre, composed of large stag horns, connected with iron, with sockets for the candles of the same metal.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers commence in the year 1644, and except from 1744 to 1797, have been regularly kept; but are not voluminous.

Land-owners.—The land-owners are, the Right Hon. Lord Belhaven and Stenton; John Glencairn; Carter Hamilton, Esq. of Dalziel; Robert Stewart, Esq. of Carfin; and Thomas Mansfield, accountant, Edinburgh, is trustee on the unentailed lands of the Dalziel estate.—Proprietors all above L. 50 of yearly rent.

III.—Population.

In 1755,	-	351
1791,	-	478
1801,	-	611
1811,	-	758
1821,	-	955
1831,	-	1180 Increased since last census about 50.

Number of males in 1831, 592; females in ditto, 588.

The increase of the population for the last sixty years in this parish has been chiefly owing to the improvements in the cotton and silk manufactures.

Number of the population residing in villages,	859
in the country,	356
Yearly average of births for the last seven years.	30
of deaths,	18
of marriages,	9
Average number of persons under 15 years,	475
between 15 and 30,	371
30 and 50,	248
50 and 70,	109

Above 70, 10 men, 13 women; above 80, 2 women; do 88, 2; do 91, 1 woman; and above 94, 1 man.

Number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, above 50,	22
women, including widows, above 45,	50
families,	242
Average number of children in each family,	4½
Number of inhabited houses,	216
uninhabited or now finishing,	8
families employed in agriculture,	46
persons employed in manufactures,	205
labourers in mines,	18

persons employed in handicraft, masons, 13; wrights, 9; shoemakers, 9; smiths, 20; tailors, 6; retired labourers, 5; fatuous, 4; blind, 1; average of illegitimate children in the year, 1.

The language generally spoken is a mixture of Scotch and English. The use of the Scotch has decreased within the last forty years, in consequence, I apprehend, of the improvement in teaching at the schools. But when persons are under excitement, the language used is Scotch. Then, the writer has observed, here and in other parts of Scotland, that the lower orders of society and many in the middling ranks, too, discover an acquaintance with that expressive dialect, which could not be inferred from their ordinary conversation. The people, upon the whole, have within the last thirty years improved in cleanliness. In consequence of the depressed state of manufactures, they have been subjected to many privations, but they have borne them patiently. Now trade has improved, and since the introduction of silk-weaving, they gain better wages. A weaver generally works fourteen hours a-day, and sometimes longer. The people in general are quiet, sober, industrious, and regular in their conduct. No individual connected with this parish has ever been chargeable with a capital offence, and they

have hitherto kept free from any share in intimidation or acts of violence. A few cases of poaching have occurred, but not of an aggravated nature.

IV.—Industry.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—This parish contains 1873 arable acres Scotch, of a heavy clay soil, except about 140, on the banks of the Clyde and Calder, which are of a deep loam, or what is called haugh land. There are about 340 acres planted with wood, and 70 acres in copse,—410 in all. The kinds of trees which have been planted are, Scotch fir, larch, oak, ash, elm, lime and plane tree. As hard wood is generally planted among the firs at the distance of five and six feet, and the firs from three and a-half to four feet, in thinning, the plan generally adopted is to prune the firs for the first ten or twelve years, so as to allow the hard wood to rise. After this period, the firs are cut down whenever they seem to hinder the growth of the other trees, and the thinnings sold for making fences, &c. The yearly thinnings in this way yield from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2, 5s. per acre. The copse is cut once in twenty-six or twenty-eight years, and yields from L. 2 to L. 3, 10s. per acre, each year, from the time of its being cut. In noticing the wood, we must advert to two rows of large trees, planted in the form of an avenue, extending about a mile along the banks of the Clyde, which, closing together with their upper branches, present a good specimen of Gothic architecture, and with the breeze from the river, afford a cool and shady walk in the hottest day of summer. We are not aware of any thing like it in Scotland to the same extent, and in such a favourable situation. We must also mention a large oak tree, near Dalziel House, which, though it must have weathered the storm of many hundred years, is still in a thriving state. Its trunk is 21 feet in circumference, 1½ yard from the ground, and its branches spread out beautifully on all sides, to a considerable distance. This is probably one of those trees mentioned by Sir Walter Scott, at which the lord of the manor used anciently to receive and to welcome his guests.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of land is L. 1, 8s. per acre Scotch, but some parts are let at L. 3, 10s. and L. 4. The average rent for grazing a milch cow or ox is L. 2, 10s. to L. 3, 10s. A ewe 7s. to 7s. 6d.

Wages.—The rate of wages for farm labourers in summer is from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. with victuals; in winter from 1s. to 1s. 3d.; without victuals from 1s. 8d. to 2s. per day. Masons get in summer from

3s. to 3s. 6d.; in winter 2s, 6d. to 3s.; carpenters from 2s. 6d. to 3s.; smiths charge 2s. 8d. to 3s. for shoeing a horse; other work is at 4d. and 8d. per lb.; journeymen smiths get from 8s. to 10s. per week with victuals; shoemakers 2s. to 2s. 6d.; tailors 2s. 6d. to 3s.; weavers' wages the same as given in the account of Hamilton. There is a small foundery for spades, shovels, &c. kept by Mr Donald, who is famed for these articles.

Live-Stock.—Few sheep are reared here. The cows are chiefly of the Ayrshire breed, and the farmers pay considerable attention to the management of their dairy stock, often sending to that county for a supply. The horses are of a mixed breed, and consequently few are reared. The farmers now find that they can supply themselves at a cheaper rate at the Lanark, Glasgow, or Rutherglen markets.

Husbandry.—The mode of cropping on the light land is, 1*st*, oats; 2*d*, green drilled crops; 3*d*, wheat; 4*th*, hay. On the clay soils, some take two white crops, then wheat after summer fallow, next hay, after which two or three years pasture. Some take, 1*st*, oats; 2*d*, beans and peas; 3*d*, oats; 4*th*, wheat after fallow; 5*th*, hay; then pasture seven or eight years, and others take, 1*st*, beans and peas broadcast, with manure; 2*d*, oats; 3*d*, hay; 4*th*, two years pasture. The latter rotation has been more extensively adopted, since wheat became so low priced.

The soil is very capable of farther improvement, and stands much in need of furrow-draining, very little having yet been done here in that way.

The length of leases is generally nineteen years, which is considered a suitable period. If tenants at the end of their leases, were repaid a part of the expense of permanent improvements, and for the manure of which they have not reaped the benefit, it would operate as a means of keeping the land always in good condition, which would prove beneficial both to landlord and tenant.

The farm-steadings are in general old, but are pretty convenient, and are kept in tolerable order. There is a large one on the Dalziel farm, built about twelve years-ago, with very extensive accommodation for farming operations, which cost L. 3000. The fences on some of the farms have rather been neglected of late, as, owing to the markets being so low, the tenants have been unable to hire labourers to keep them in good order. A number of the farmers have thrashing-mills.

The only improvements recently made were effected by the late Archibald Hamilton, Esq. of Dalziel. He embanked the river

Clyde, planted a great part of the waste lands, enlarged and improved the orchards, trenched upwards of 230 acres to different depths, according to the nature of the soil and subsoil, which had a good effect both upon the crops, and in improving and deepening the thin soils.

Produce.—

Yearly value of grain of all kinds,	L. 3700
Potatoes,	748
Turnips,	444
Hay,	800
Natural hay,	50
Dairy produce,	1600
Large fruit in orchards,	435
Gooseberries and currants,	45
Produce of gardens in the parish, including Dalziel House garden,	200
Miscellaneous produce,	100
Quarries,	60
	L. 8182

There are 200 milch cows kept, and 52 horses for labouring the land.

The parish roads extend to 6½ miles, and are kept in good order, at the yearly expense of L. 45, which is paid by the landlords, tenants, keepers of horses, and such householders as are considered able to contribute. There are three bridges; one of them has been recently rebuilt, and cost L. 250, and the other two are in good repair. There is a mill for grinding wheat, oats, &c.

Orchards.—Orchards are of considerable antiquity on the Clyde. Merlin, the poet, who wrote about the middle of the fifth century, celebrates Clydesdale for its fruit. The soil and climate being inland, and consequently free from the blasting influence of mildews and fogs, may account for its being so favourable for the cultivation of orchards. At first, they were planted in the shape of gardens, attached to houses for the accommodation of the resident families. For two centuries or more, they have been cultivated as a source of profit; they chiefly prevail, and are most extensive and productive, on the north bank of the Clyde, having a southern exposure, though on the south bank there are also a considerable number, and some of them very fruitful. Those of Cambusnethan, the property of Robert Lockhart, Esq. of Castlehill, and of John G. C. Hamilton, Esq. of Dalziel, are the most extensive, and among the most productive. The fruit in the former has some years brought L. 800, and in the latter L. 600.

The orchards are in general planted on sloping banks, otherwise only fit for the growth of forest trees. In consequence, however, of their having been found profitable, especially during the late

wars, when foreign fruit was in a great measure excluded, and even that from England and Ireland was with difficulty brought to our markets, a considerable quantity of ground was planted with fruit trees, which was well adapted for any species of husbandry. In some cases, too, when a person had an orchard, but not of sufficient extent to make it an object of attention to a purchaser, he has been induced to enlarge it, by planting land which, in other circumstances, would not have been so occupied. But it may be remarked, that there is no profit in planting land with fruit trees which would yield a rent of L. 2, L. 3, or L. 4 per acre. The soil of many of the orchards is naturally a stiff clay, and the most thriving trees and the finest fruit is in general to be found on the poorest land, provided due attention has been paid to the cultivation of the orchard.

In this parish, there are from forty-five to fifty acres in orchards, which in some former years produced nearly L. 900, but which cannot now be rated above half that sum, though the quantity of fruit produced may be five or six times greater. The average is now four bolls per acre, at L. 2, 10s. per boll. The value of the orchards has of late years greatly decreased. This is owing to the ease with which foreign fruit is now imported,—to the facility afforded by steam-boats for the transmission of all kinds of produce from England and Ireland, particularly the latter,—to the indifference of many with regard to the quality of the fruit used,—if not also in some degree to the decay of patriotic feeling.

There is no situation on the Clyde more favourable for the cultivation of orchards than this parish,—very few spots, indeed, equal. The soil and subsoil and climate are suitable. Large fruit of all kinds thrives well here, which is not the case in all the orchards on the Clyde. Consequently, without any desire to disparage others, there is not better fruit to be found in any part of the district, or which is more sought after, by those who have ascertained its value. This excellence, I apprehend, is greatly owing to the nature of the soil, for it is a fact well established, that all kinds of crops grown upon a clay soil, and in a favourable situation, and in a good season, are superior in flavour to those produced on other soils, whether what is called dry-field or haugh-land. The ground is more difficult to cultivate; but when a crop has been obtained, though inferior to that of other land in quantity, it surpasses it in quality. The Horticultural Society, who have encouraged competition for the largest vegetables and fruits, ought also to test the above fact;

and to do justice to the inquiry, they ought to try the fruits in all the different ways in which they are used.

In the spring, when a cold east wind prevails, and a long drought, the caterpillar often does extensive damage to the orchards in Clydesdale, particularly to those situated in the upper ward of the county. Those in this parish are never injured by that destructive insect. This perhaps is partly owing to their being sheltered from the east by rising ground, and by extensive woods, and in no small degree, I apprehend, to the nature of the soil, for it is always observed, that those orchards where the soil is light are the first attacked, and suffer most severely. Various are the expedients which have been tried to destroy this insect; but the only effectual mode yet discovered for checking the ravages of the caterpillar is regular cultivation, and carefully picking them off the bushes and trees so soon as they appear, in so far as that may be practicable.

Kinds of Fruit.—Gooseberries and currants are cultivated in some parts of the orchards, chiefly as an under crop, but not to a great extent, the nature of the soil here not being favourable to their growth. The kinds of fruit chiefly propagated are apples, pears, and plumbs. These are very numerous, in regard to kinds; some of them late and others early. To mention the names of all is unnecessary, as the same kinds have received different names in different parts of the country. The kinds propagated in greatest numbers are those which are esteemed the best in quality, or in greatest demand in the market. With a few exceptions, large baking apples are now found to be most valuable. The plumbs grown are either common, *i. e.* are propagated from the sucker, and are planted about two feet from the hedges, inclosing the orchards, or they are grafted ones, such as are usually grown on garden walls. There are magnums and Orleans here as standards, fifty years old, which, when planted by the writer's father, were only known in this country as wall fruit. It was therefore viewed by gardeners as quite chimerical to try them as standards; but the result was so favourable, that for many years, they have been planted in the same way in the Clydesdale orchards.*

* The following is a list of those propagated and approved.
Early eating apples: Milford, Tam Montgomery, Early Almond, Thorl pippin, Dumbarton.—Harvest apples: Wheeler's russet, Orange or Holland pippin, Friars' pippin, Dalzell manse codlin, Silver Saturday, Red Colville, autumn do.—Winter eating apples: Hamilton pippin, Dunside or Orbiston, Ribston, Cammethan pippin, Liddington, Lemon pippin, Winter Holland pippin, Egg apple, &c. Baking apples: Yorkshire green, Early and Late Fulwood, Carse of Gowrie, Norfolk beafon, Dutch

It has been justly remarked, that apples and pears, particularly the former, after a certain time, degenerate. This has been verified here, and particularly in regard to what used to be the best Scotch apple for winter eating, the grey Liddington, which, fifty years ago, were produced here in great quantities, of great size and excellence.

Mode of Planting.—Some of the old orchards, particularly on sloping banks, have been planted without much regard to regularity, and consequently the trees are in many places too close to each other. But the method which has been generally adopted for nearly a century is the following: When a piece of ground is designed for an orchard, the distance between the rows is marked off, viz. 22 feet. Then a small border, about 4 feet broad, is dug deep, but not trenched, when the trees are intended to be planted, (with water runs on each side of it, and which are kept clear) and which is enlarged as they increase in size, till the intervening space is equally divided between the rows. The trees are planted as near the surface as practicable, to keep the roots up and dry. About two inches are pared off the top of the delf, where the tree is to be planted. It is then placed in the centre of that spot, the roots being carefully spread out with the hands,—and unhealthy ones, or those likely to interfere with others, being previously cut off. A person holds the tree steadily in its position, while another puts the earth around it, treading it with his foot. After the roots have been sufficiently covered with earth, a quantity of dung, not too old, is placed around the tree, and which is covered with earth. The use of this is to prevent the drought from injuring the roots, to keep them moist; and when rain falls, it acts most favourably towards the growth of the plant.

The trees are planted from 18 to 22 feet wide in the row. When the latter distance is adopted, early bearers, or gooseberries, are planted between those trees which are intended to stand, and which are taken out as they expand. A decided preference is given to plants of one year's growth, provided the graft be well sprung; those older than two years are not approved of. If of one year, the tree is cut over the first year it is planted, but if of two, it is not done

codlin, Early and winter strawberry, Red cluster.—Early pears: Crawford, Green pear of Pinkie, Green chisel, Lady Lemon.—Harvest pears: Brown beyry, Fair maid of Taunton, Early Auchen, Grey boney, Autumn bergamot, &c.—Winter pears: Auchen, Moorfowl egg, Winter bergamot—Grafted plumbs: Magnum bonum, Orleans, green gage, Red imperial, Precox de Tour.—Common plumbs: Burnet, Whitcorn, Horsejag, Common damson, &c. These are a few of the best kinds, and best bearers. There are probably 200 different kinds. Bad sometimes bear when others fail.

till the second. The use of cutting is to make the roots strike, and the tree branch out. The young trees are protected from the hares, sometimes by placing broom around them; but now most generally, by smearing them with a mixture of lime and cow dung, or by covering them with a straw rope, which is taken off during summer. Trees of all ages are grafted if healthy, when they have turned out bad kinds, bad bearers, or not in repute; and the graft is put between the bark and the wood. When the branch on which the graft is put is a thick one, one is put on each side of it, and the one which has thriven best, is preserved, while the other is taken away, unless it be likely to grow in a preferable direction.*

There is no anxiety felt here, to have what is called a handsome tree, having a tall stem, before being allowed to branch out. The great object is to have one that will bear a great quantity of fruit. The trunk is seldom above three feet from the ground, sometimes less. And another advantage resulting from this is, that the wind is not so apt to overturn the tree, and to blow down the fruit. In exposed situations, the young tree is sometimes kept in its position by means of a straw rope attached to a stob or two. There is little of the fruit on walls, except on houses, and in Dalziel garden. Consequently, it is not generally so large, but the quantity is greater, and is considered superior in quality.

The age to which a tree grows, depends on the soil, the quality of the stock on which the graft has been put, and the regular cultivation given. Many of the apple trees in the orchards here are 150 years old, pears much older. When an old tree dies out, care is taken to plant one of a different kind from the former, *i. e.* to put a pear where an apple has been, and an apple in the place of a pear. The principal orchards on the estate of Dalziel were planted by the great-grandfather of the present proprietor, who was quite an enthusiast in growing trees of all kinds, and who could not endure to see any of them cut down or destroyed.

Pruning.—Care is taken, while the tree is young, to train the branches, so as to make them spread out on all sides, to cut off those which are likely to encroach on others, and as much as possible to keep the tree open in the heart. From the older ones, rotten branches are lopped off, and also those which are hurting others, which, if suffered to remain, tend to injure the tree. From the great number of the trees, however, and the time required in do-

* As the wind is apt to break the graft (when the branch is a thick one,) a piece of stick is fixed to the branch with bass or mat-straw, to which the graft is slightly attached.

ing it, this operation is not so regularly attended to as it ought to be. When a branch is taken off, either with the knife or with the saw, it is cut close to the trunk; if large, it is cut in sections, and the wound is carefully smoothed over with the knife, and the bark around it, and then rubbed with a little earth. In the course of a few years, if the tree is not old, the bark covers the wound, so that it becomes imperceptible. Dr Lyon's plan of taking off the outer bark was tried by the late Mr Hamilton to a considerable extent; but, except in the case of canker, it has not been productive of any advantage. The trees are pruned during the winter or spring, when the weather is fresh. In a few instances, this has been done in June and July, when the tree has not been under crop, and has been found to answer well.

Cultivation.—Strangers, in observing the prices obtained for fruit upon the Clyde, are apt to conclude that the whole is profit. But it holds with regard to fruit, as well as every other kind of crop, that unless due care be bestowed in cultivating the orchard, no return can be expected. Forest trees grow without cultivation, but not fruit ones, except in some rich holms, where straggling ones have been planted, by way of ornamenting a gentleman's policy. Orchards if neglected in regard to culture soon die out, and any fruit they produce is small and destitute of flavour. Lime is found of great service, especially so here, where the soil is a strong clay, and seems to have the same effect that it has in regard to other crops.

When the orchard is large the ground is taken in rotation. Potatoes are planted occasionally while the trees are young, or when the ground requires to be cleaned. The rotation of crops usually followed is, *first*, potatoes or tares; *second*, barley or tares; *third*, hay; seldom more than one crop of hay is taken, under wise management, and it is generally cut before the seed ripens. When laid down with hay, a quantity of dung is put to the roots, near the trunk, when it can be obtained,—which, when the ground is a sloping bank, is laid chiefly on the upper side of the tree. In regard to manuring, the same rule is followed as in regard to other land designed for crop.*

Mode of selling.—The fruit is, with few exceptions, sold by auction to the highest offerer, on producing bill and caution to the satisfaction of the exposer and judge; or he is allowed a reasonable deduction for ready money. Should any dispute arise in connec-

* The common rate for digging is fourpence per fall.

tion with the sale, it is settled by the judge, whose decision is final and binding on all concerned. The fruit is sold, some time in the month of August, sooner or later, according to the season. A few days previous to the sale, the intending purchasers inspect the orchards, in order to ascertain the kinds and the quantity, and, after a little experience, are able to estimate them with astonishing accuracy. The purchaser is allowed housing for keeping his fruit, and a place for preparing his victuals and lodging the watchman of his fruit; he is also furnished with hay for his horse, and straw for packing his fruit, or receives a deduction for that purpose; a few potatoes and a cart or two of coals are also sometimes given him. After sale, the purchaser has the fruit entirely at his own risk. The disposer generally reserves in the articles of roup not particular trees, but such a quantity of fruit, and of such kinds as he may require for family use.

The fruit, about a century ago, were taken down by a person shaking the tree, and others gathering them up; but for many years, in so far as practicable, they have been pulled and handled with great care. When carried to market, they are packed in hampers and baskets of different sizes, which are placed on an open cart without sides, (not upon springs) with straw put under them. They are then firmly roped together and to the cart, and are covered with straw, and with a mat such as is used by carriers.

The principal market for fruit is Glasgow. The merchant starts for that place generally about 12 P. M. to be in time for the market, which opens at 5 o'clock A. M., sometimes earlier. He also disposes of many in the towns and villages around. Occasionally, in harvest, he visits Edinburgh; but most frequently when the winter commences. The fruit was, till lately, sold and reckoned by the *sleek* and boll. A sleek is of the size of a 20 pint cask, and 20 sleeks make a boll,—a sleek of apples consists of 40 lbs., of pears 50 do., and of plumbs 60 do. Since the alteration of the measures, they have been sold by the bushel, which is equal to one sleek one forpit.

The fruit-merchants are generally home wood merchants or industrious labourers who have realized some means. The occupation is a laborious one, but it is of short duration, and one of which they are peculiarly fond. If once they have engaged in it, they seldom relinquish the employment, however much they may be otherwise occupied. An old man died lately, who had been more than seventy years in the trade, who, though he never moved

from his house during the rest of the year, seemed to revive when the time of purchasing the fruit came round, and discovered an enthusiasm and activity which astonished all who saw him.

V.—Parochial Economy.

Means of Communication.—Hamilton is the nearest market-town to this parish, where there is a post-office and weekly market. There are two runners from that place, who pass and repass through the parish daily, the one to the post-office in Holytown, and the other to Wishawtown. A coach to Edinburgh from Hamilton runs through this parish, three times a-week. The road from Glasgow to Lanark by Carluke is, in this parish, about four miles in length, and that from Hamilton to Edinburgh is about one.

Ecclesiastical State and History.—The church at Dalziel, with its tithes and other property, was granted to the abbots and monks of Paisley, in the twelfth century, and was dedicated to St Patrick. It was confirmed to them by the Bishops of Glasgow, Jocelin and Florence, by a bull of Pope Innocent in 1209, and by one of his successors, Pope Honorius. It was afterwards given to the Dean and Chapter of Glasgow, and continued in their possession till the Reformation. The revenue consisted of 10 merks, and 60 bolls of oatmeal yearly. The cure was served by a vicar probationer, who had a settled allowance out of the revenue. The remainder was shared by ten vicars, serving for the canons in the choir of the cathedral of Glasgow. The stipend to the vicar serving the cure must consequently have been very small.*

After the Reformation, the patronage and tithes of this parish were given by Queen Mary to the College of Glasgow. It appears, however, that the Crown in these days was not scrupulous in making grants of the same subject to different parties. Sir Robert Dalzell had also obtained from this Queen, a grant of the patronage and tithes. The consequence was, as I have found from papers in the library of the college, a long litigation between those

* This accounts for an awkward mistake into which the incumbent fell, upon one occasion, as traditionally recorded in the parish. Owing to the meagre endowment allowed him, he was under the necessity of bettering his circumstances by having recourse to secular employment, and the occupation he followed was the very humble one of making *skulls*, *i. e.* open baskets with a handle on each side, made of unpeeled wands; of these he made one daily. But it unfortunately happened on one occasion that he was found making one of his baskets upon the Sabbath. Persons expressed their astonishment to find him so occupied on such a day; but he would not believe that it was the Sabbath till he counted his skulls, when he discovered his misdemeanour. This circumstance gave rise to a proverb, formerly more prevalent in the parish and district than now, when a person expressed doubts, or appeared ignorant with regard to the number of any articles in his possession, "count your skulls."

parties before the Court of Session. The result was, that the right of the college was found preferable, and decreet was given accordingly in their favour, dated 19th June 1581. They got and continued in possession, till the beginning of the seventeenth century, as appears from inhibitions at their instance, against the heritors, from a process of augmentation raised against them and Sir Robert Dalziel, as tacksman of teinds, by the minister, and from Mr Hamilton's account of the sheriffdom of Lanark in 1702. How it passed out of their hands I have been unable to ascertain. The Hamiltons of Dalziel have been long patrons and titulars of the parish.

The old church of Dalziel was a plain Gothic building, having the font for holy water, and the gorgets attached to it, used in punishing civil and ecclesiastical offenders, and was considered to be contemporary with the cathedral of Glasgow. It was taken down in the year 1798, and the stones used in building an addition to the old manse. This is deeply to be regretted, as the walls were found to be so strong, that the mason declared he would sooner have quarried the stones than taken them down. It might have been retained as a monument of antiquity, and used as a burying-place. The present church was built in the year 1789, is most conveniently situated, and affords accommodation to 370 persons. It is in the form of a cross, having only one gallery above the aisle, in front of the pulpit; but two additional ones are about to be erected, which will increase the number of sittings to 514. The seats are all unlet, and are allocated among the heritors, tenants, and feuars. *

The present manse was built in 1827, and is a most suitable and convenient one. The old manse, which was taken down in the following year, originally consisted of only a room and kitchen, but had several additions afterwards made to it. The glebe consists of 7 acres of good land; nearly 5½ acres are in orchard; and the average yearly value of the whole is L. 60; stipend, L. 150 per annum, consists of 47 bolls, 1 firlot, 2⅔ pecks, oatmeal; 7 bolls,

* *Church music.*—This was, about fifty-five years ago, in a very low state in this parish,—so much so, that it became proverbial in the neighbouring parishes, when a child cried, to style it Dalziel Ps——ms, a reproachful expression now almost disused. In this state, the writer's father found it, when he became assistant and successor in 1787. Understanding music himself, and delighting in having that part of the church service properly conducted, he got masters to teach the young connected with the church, and then drilled them himself, by meeting with them in the church once a week. The consequence of this training was, that, from being one of the worst singing congregations in the district, they became the very best,—the admiration of all strangers, and a model for the imitation of their neighbours. The taste for church music in the parish from that date, has never died out, but is still lively.

1 firlot, ¾ peck of bear, and L. 14, 8s. 1d. paid by the heritors, and L. 96, 3s. 4d. by the Exchequer. No dissenting place of worship in the parish. Number of persons of all ages belonging to the Established church, 717: do. to other denominations, 513; do. attending Established Church, 860; do. attending dissenting places of worship, 316; communicants in Established Church, 175. Established Church in summer well attended, not so well in winter, owing to its being one of the coldest perhaps in Scotland. There are occasional collections for religious purposes.

Education.—There are three schools in the parish, one parochial, and the schoolmaster has the maximum salary, with rather more than the legal allowance of land as a garden. Fees from scholars about L. 20. He is required to teach Latin, Greek, English grammar, English writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and practical mathematics. The other two schools are supported by the school fees; one of the teachers has a school-house rent free, and about L. 40 a year from fees; and in the other school, taught by a woman, sewing as well as reading is taught. The school fees are, for English, 2s. 6d.; for English grammar and writing, 3s.; arithmetic and book-keeping, 4s; Latin, 5s. About, on an average, 145 children attend these schools, 30 of which attend the one taught by a woman. The children of the parish are all taught to read, and a good many to write. The people in general are alive to the advantages of education.

Societies, &c.—There is a funeral society for the parish and neighbourhood; it was instituted in 1827, to aid persons in defraying the expenses occasioned by the death of any member of the family. The entry money is allowed to accumulate as stock. L. 3 Sterling are given for funeral charges, on the death of any member of the society; for children five years and under, L. 1; and above that age, at the rate of 1s. 6d. every succeeding year till they reach eighteen, —when they must either become a member, or forfeit all right to the benefit of the society. The entry money for unmarried persons, male or female, is 1s.; for a husband or wife, with or without children, a widower or widow having children, 2s. The allowance exigible is paid by the members proportionally. The regulations of the society are conform to the Friendly Society Act, 10 Geo. IV. cap. 56, and have been regularly sanctioned. There is no other friendly society regularly constituted; but for eight years past, a number of persons have been in the practice of aiding one another, when unable to work, by a contribution of one penny a week from each

individual. There was a savings' bank in the parish, but owing to the depressed state of trade and other causes, it has been shut for some time.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—Average number receiving parochial aid, 14; average allowance to each, 6s.; average amount of collections at the church, L. 16, 10s.; from mortcloths, L. 2, 5s, The poor were supported entirely by the weekly collections at the church, (towards which the Dalziel family contributed liberally) by collections at marriages, and by money arising from mortcloths, till the year 1831, when we were under the necessity of having recourse to a legal assessment, the average amount of which yearly is L. 50. This has had the effect here, as I believe everywhere, of diminishing that feeling of independence and reluctance to ask or to receive parochial aid, which was formerly so characteristic of the people of Scotland.

Inns, &c.—There are four public-houses in the parish, which have a most injurious effect upon the morals of the people, and in increasing poverty and disease. Licenses are too easily obtained, and no care is taken here to grant no more than what are absolutely required. There is no police as in cities, to maintain and enforce regularity upon the keepers of such houses. The subject calls loudly for the serious attention of the Legislature, and of all who are concerned for the best interests of their country.

Fuel.—The fuel used by the people is coal, which is wrought in the parish, and most conveniently situated for the inhabitants. It is driven by horses or donkeys. Price per ton, 2s. 6d. at the hill. The donkey carts, of which there are now five so employed in the parish, are of great service to the people; sixteen carts, sometimes more, are allowed by the proprietor annually to the poor,—which prove a great benefit to the ordinary poor, and to such as may be receiving occasional aid from the parochial funds.

Villages.—There are three villages in the parish, viz. Motherwell, (in the old charters *Moderville,)* lying near the well of our Lady, from which the inhabitants are in part supplied with water. It contains about one-half of the population of the parish. Windmill-hill is close to the church, and Craigneuk half a-mile to the east. The intended Wishaw and Coltness railway will intersect this parish to the extent of three miles.

Miscellaneous Observations.

Considerable changes have taken place in this parish since the last Account was published. The population has more than

doubled, the farms have been made larger, and are now only the half of what they were formerly, in regard to number. The land has been improved, and some waste lands have been brought into cultivation, or planted with wood. It must, however, be admitted that there is great room for farther improvement. Draining in many places is much wanted, the hedges require more attention than they have hitherto received. The plan adopted by Sir James Steuart of Coltness, of the landlord employing persons for that purpose, seems the only one likely to ensure good fences.

Lime is much wanted for the land in this parish. It is at such a distance, (the best, eight and ten miles,) that there is not much of it driven. But should the Wishaw and Coltness railway be carried forward, of which there is now a fair prospect, lime and manure of all kinds will be rendered more accessible, or rather more easily obtained.

June 1836.

PARISH OF STONEHOUSE.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. HUGH DEWAR, MINISTER.

I.—Topography and Natural History.

Name and Boundaries.—The name of the parish is of doubtful origin,—some deriving it from the mansion-house of the laird of Stonehouse, which, in former times, stood at no great distance from the site of the present village, and in those days was the only house in the parish which was built with stone and lime; the rest being only mud cottages, or at best but built of layers of stone and turf alternately. I find, in some very old records, the parish is called the Stannaus; and by many people in the neighbouring parishes it is still called the Stanis or Stenis.

The extreme length of the parish may be about 6 English miles, its breadth 3 miles at an average. It is bounded on the south, by the water of Kype, which separates it from the parish of Avondale; and for a considerable way on the west side, it is washed by the river Avon, which separates it partly from the parish of Avondale, and partly from the parish of Glasford; and which river intersects the parish near the centre, where it is narrowest, and then continues to