

## PARISH OF DOUGLAS.

PRESBYTERY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of Douglas is associated in the mind of every Scotchman with the most splendid periods in the history of his country. Whether this parish derived its name from the family so conspicuous in our ancient annals, or the family its name from the place, has become lately a matter of dispute. The favourite tradition, as detailed by Hume of Godscroft, is, that in the reign of Solvathius, King of Scotland, about the year 767, Donald Bain (*i. e.* the fair,) took the field against the King. Victory had nearly declared in favour of the rebel, when a person flew, with his sons and followers, to the King's aid, and by his activity and valour routed the forces of Donald, who was himself slain. The King, thus rescued from imminent danger, inquired to whom he owed his deliverance, when one of his officers, pointing to the champion, said, Sholto Dou-glasse, "there is the dark man." In gratitude for his services, the King gave him a large tract of land, and the surname of *Douglas*, which was extended to his domain, and to the river by which it is traversed.\*

*Situation and Extent.*—The parish of Douglas, comprehending nearly the whole extent of Douglasdale, occupies the south-western extremity of Lanarkshire, and is conterminous with the parishes of Lesmahagow on the north and north-west; Carmichael and Wiston on the east; Roberton and Crawfordjohn on the south-east and south; and Muirkirk, in Ayrshire, on the west. It extends

\* It appears to afford some confirmation of this tradition, that Sholto is still a kind of hereditary *prænomen* among the various branches of the Douglas family. This tradition is indignantly rejected by that laborious, able, but dogmatical antiquary, George Chalmers, who betrays an unbecoming eagerness to detract from the hitherto undisputed antiquity of the House of Douglas. The origin of the name he refers to the river, tracing it to the Celtic words *Du-glas*, "the dark blue stream." As a distinctive appellation, this is not particularly applicable to the Douglas water. Yet we mean not to quarrel with the etymology, which may perhaps be better warranted by the appearance of the other streams, both in Scotland and England, which have the same name.

from near the confluence of the Douglas with the Clyde to the summit of Cairntable, upwards of 12 miles in length, and it varies from 4 to 7 miles in breadth. Its superficial area contains about 28,004 Scotch acres; of which 3816 are arable; 22,376 pasture; 1492 wood; and 320 flow-moss:—in imperial measure the superficial contents are 35,318 $\frac{2}{10}$  acres; viz. of arable land, 4812 $\frac{7}{10}$ ; pasture, 28,220 $\frac{2}{10}$ ; wood, 1881 $\frac{8}{10}$ ; flow-moss, 403 $\frac{5}{10}$ .

*Topographical Appearances.*—Although Douglasdale cannot vie with the clothed luxuriance of some of our lowland districts, or with the bold and rugged grandeur of our highland scenery, it presents, along the whole course of the river, an aspect of sweet and unpretending beauty, which contrasts most favourably with the bleakness of the country, through which it is approached on every side. The river flows through a strath, which widens gradually in its course towards the Clyde. From this strath the ground slopes on each side to a considerable elevation, adorned, especially on the north side, with extensive and beautiful plantations. Around Douglas Castle, there is some fine old wood, chiefly ash and plane trees; and plantations of more recent growth, and of great breadth, extend for several miles above and below. At Douglas Mill, where the strath opens into wide and fertile holms, nearly surrounded with finely wooded banks, the scenery is particularly admired. Beyond the strath, on either side, the ground stretches into extensive moors; or swells into hills covered with grass to their summits. On the west it terminates in Cairntable, which, with its dependent range to the south, encloses it as with a chain of mountain ramparts. A great extent of ground has been recently planted by Lord Douglas; and as his Lordship is carrying on these plantations on a large scale, the aspect of the parish will be progressively improving for many years.

*Climate.*—The lowest part of the parish, near the Clyde, is 650 feet above the level of the sea, from which it is nearly 40 miles distant in every direction. The climate, of course, is cold; and there is scarcely a month in the year when it is altogether secure from frost. In 1821, there occurred on the 2d of July, a frost so severe, as seriously to injure the potato crop. Douglas has a large share, too, of the rains from the Atlantic, although considerably less rain falls here than on the coasts of Renfrew and Ayr. It is exposed to high winds, particularly from the south-west and west; which, being confined, as in a funnel, by the high grounds on each side, sweep down the strath with tremendous vio-

lence. In one of the heavy gales of last winter, about four acres of plantation were stript completely bare, as by a tornado; besides, trees innumerable were blown down in every part of the woods. The air, however, is pure and salubrious; the parish is remarkable for the general health of the inhabitants, many of whom reach extreme old age. Within the last fourteen years two men have died at the age of ninety-seven, and some have exceeded ninety.\*

*Soil, &c.*—In the arable part of the parish, the soil is in general good, capable of bearing rich crops of any kind of grain. In the strath, it is mostly a free black mould; in some places, more light and gravelly; and in others, spouty, the undersoil being a cold till. Clay soil occurs to a considerable extent. Even in the moors there is a great proportion of deep loam, which, in a more favourable climate, would amply repay the labours of the agriculturist; and it has often been remarked that there are few places where the moor lands are so inviting to the enterprise of the cultivator. Many parts of the moors, however, are occupied with moss or with morass.

Although the parish may be considered a hilly district, none of the hills are of great elevation, except Cairntable, which rises to the height of 1650 feet above the level of the sea. Auchinsaugh hill is likewise of considerable altitude; but is more remarkable as being the spot where the Cameronians met, towards the close of the seventeenth century, for the renewal of the solemn league and covenant.

*Hydrography.*—The only stream of any consequence is the Douglas, which issues from the foot of Cairntable, about nine miles above the town, and falls into the Clyde, after a course of sixteen miles. It receives several tributary rivulets, as the Monks, Pidourin, and Poniell waters on the left bank; the Kennox, Glespin, Parkhead, and Craighburn waters, on the right. All these streams formerly abounded with trout; but they have been of late years so much poached with set lines, nets, and every other means of destruction, that they now afford but indifferent sport to the angler.

*Mineralogy.*—This parish abounds in mineral wealth. It has

\* Longevity appears hereditary in some families, an ancestor of one of whom, named M'Quhat, toward the beginning of last century, died at the advanced age of 110, having lived during part of three centuries. There are at present in the parish two couples, who have been united for fifty-seven years, who were married on the same day, and whose aggregate ages amount to upwards of 312 years. One of the husbands, now upwards of eighty, has been fourteen years in the service of the present minister, and is still so active, that he can walk, without difficulty, from twenty to thirty miles a-day.

rich seams of excellent coal, which will be inexhaustible for many centuries. These seams stretch in a direction nearly parallel to the course of the river. They are from 2 to 7 feet thick, and vary considerably in their decline. At the eastern extremity of the parish, the decline is about 1 of 3; half a-mile westward, 1 of 2; and a little farther to the westward 1 of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . They are intersected with numberless slips, which throw the coal down from 30 to 50 feet perpendicular. These slips lie nearly parallel, and are generally from 60 to 200 yards apart. They cross the line of the coal, in a direction nearly west. As the country to the south and east is destitute, for a considerable extent, of this precious mineral, the coal of Douglas is in great demand, and a great quantity of it is carried to a distance of upwards of thirty miles. Limestone is wrought in several parts of the parish, particularly at Wishaw, near its south-eastern border. Freestone likewise abounds, some of it of a beautiful white colour, well adapted for building. Ironstone is frequent; and there are several springs in the parish pretty strongly chalybeate.

*Zoology.*—Among the wild quadrupeds found in this parish may be mentioned the fox, of which there are considerable numbers in the plantations, the polecat, which, however, is but rare, the weasel, the hedgehog, and the squirrel; hares are very numerous. Of the smaller birds there is a great variety in the woods. The most common species are, the blackbird, thrush, skylark, chaffinch, linnet, sparrow; the yellow-hammer, the wagtail, the robin, wren, and titmouse are not uncommon, and the goldfinch is occasionally seen. Swallows abound, starlings sometimes appear. In winter we are visited by flocks of fieldfares. Lapwings and curlews abound in the moors; wild ducks and coots are very numerous, particularly on the lake in the pleasure grounds of the castle; hawks, chiefly of the smaller kinds, sometimes venture to make their appearance, in spite of the vigilance with which they are persecuted by the gamekeepers; but the magpie is almost completely banished, although abounding in the adjoining parishes. There is great variety and abundance of feathered game; grouse, black-cock, snipes, woodcock, partridges, and pheasants. Perch, pike, and trout are the only fish which our waters afford to the angler. The Falls of Clyde effectually prevent salmon from finding their way to our streams.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Douglasdale, always interesting from historical associations, has

lately acquired a classical, though melancholy interest, as being the scene of the last historical romance of Sir Walter Scott. Before the appearance of "Castle Dangerous," the illustrious author paid a visit to the Castle and town of Douglas,—the last places which he visited, or perhaps intended to visit, with a view to publication,—as if it had been his design to close his splendid and fascinating illustrations of the historical antiquities of his country with the brilliant achievements of the Douglas, the friend and assistant of the Bruce in recovering the Scottish crown, and in rescuing the kingdom from English domination.

The civil history of a parish distinguished by the residence of the illustrious house of Douglas must be identified in a great measure with the most splendid and important portion of the annals of Scotland. Unfortunately it is covered with almost impenetrable obscurity. Not even tradition has saved from oblivion any considerable part of the eventful deeds, of which it must often have been the theatre; and no minstrelsy exists to aid the researches of the antiquary. During the long struggle which Scotland had to maintain for her independence, in consequence of the pretensions of Edward I. of England and his successors, the castle of Douglas was so important as a stronghold, and as a key to the western counties, that it was often the object of violent contention. It repeatedly fell into the hands of the English, and as often was wrested from them by its rightful owners. In these fearful conflicts, it was more than once destroyed by fire, always rising from its ashes in greater strength and stateliness. So perilous, indeed, was its occupation to the English governors, that it was designated the *Castle of Danger*. Of the bloody scenes that occurred in the course of these fierce contentions, the names of some places in the neighbourhood of the castle, as the *Bloody Sykes*, the *Bottomless Mire*, &c. still give significant, though obscure intimation. One of the conflicts in which the castle was recovered from Sir John de Walton, by the good Sir James Douglas, is too memorable to be omitted here. A fair dame of England, whom Sir Walter Scott calls the Lady Augusta de Berkely, had promised to her numerous suitors that she would bestow her hand on the man who should keep possession of the perilous castle of Douglas for a year and a day. Sir John de Walton, with the consent of Edward I., undertook the dangerous task; and after having discharged his duty faithfully and valiantly for several months, the lady, perhaps impatient to put him in possession of the promised reward, sent a letter to recall him,

declaring that she held his probation accomplished. Having received, however, a defiance from Douglas, who threatened, that, in spite of his utmost vigilance, he should wrest from him the castle before Palm Sunday, De Walton deemed it a point of honour to retain it till that day was past. On that very day, Douglas having mustered a band of faithful followers, while most of the English garrison were engaged in church, attacked and overpowered them as they came out; and then hastening to the castle cut down all that opposed him. Sir John de Walton was slain, and in his pockets was found his lady's letter, the perusal of which deeply affected the generous and gallant Douglas. While the garrison was yet in the church, the slogan, "a Douglas, a Douglas," being prematurely raised, Thomas Dickson of Hazleside, who was likewise within, watching their movements, thinking that his young lord was at hand with his armed retinue, drew his sword, and with only one man to assist him, opposed the English, who now rushed to the door. Although cut across the middle by an English sword, Dickson continued his opposition till he fell lifeless at the threshold. On these incidents, Sir Walter Scott has founded the tale of his historical novel, "*Castle Dangerous*."

I have adverted in another place to the frequent meetings of the Covenanters, which were held in the church of Douglas about the time of the Revolution in 1688. After many scruples and frequent and long discussions, it was at length resolved to raise a regiment, in aid of the Protestant government of William, and in defence of their principles and rights; and the Cameronian regiment, now the 26th Regiment of the line, was first mustered on a holm or place near the town of Douglas, on 29th April 1689, under the command of the Earl of Angus, eldest son of the Marquis of Douglas, — William Cleland being Lieutenant-Colonel. This regiment soon after distinguished itself by its gallant and successful stand against an army of 4000 Highlanders at Dunkeld.

The following notice of Douglas parish and castle, from the description of the sheriffdom of Lanark, by William Hamilton of Wishaw, written in the beginning of the last century, may be interesting to many of our readers. "Douglas parish and barony and lordship heth very long appertained to the family of Douglas, and continued with the Earls of Douglas until their fatal forfeiture, anno 1455; during which time there are many noble and important actions performed by them, by the lords and earls of that great family. It was thereafter given to Douglas, Earl of

Anguse, and continued with them until William, Earl of Anguse, was created Marquis of Douglas, anno 1633; and is now the principal seat of the Marquis of Douglas and his family. It is a large baronie and parish, and ane laick patronage; and the Marquis is both titular and patron. He heth there, near to the church, a very considerable great house, called the Castle of Douglas; and near the church is a fine village, called the town of Douglas, long since erected in a burgh of baronie. It heth ane handsome church, and many ancient monuments and inscriptions on the old interments of the Earl of this place."

*Family of Douglas.*—George Chalmers, (*Caledonia*, i. 579,) traces the family of Douglas to Theobald, a Fleming, who, sometime between the years 1147 and 1160, obtained from Arnold, Abbot of Kelso, a grant of some lands in Douglasdale. Even according to his account, they were not long in rising to consequence. William, the son and successor of Theobald, was witness to several charters between the years 1170 and 1190. In the letter addressed by the Community of Scotland to Edward I. in 1289, we find the name of William of Douglas among the barons. "But though the surname and familie of the Douglasses," says Hollinshed, "was in some estimation of nobilitie before those daies, yet the rising thereof to honour chanced through this James Douglas, the good Sir James, for, by means of his advancement, others of that lineage tooke occasion, by their singular manhood and noble prowess, shewed at sundrie times in defence of the realme, to grow to such height in authority and estimation, that their mighty puissance in main rents, lands, and great possessions at length was (through suspicion conceived by the Kings that succeeded) the cause in part of their ruinous decay." After the forfeiture of the Earls of Douglas in 1455, their possessions were bestowed on the Earl of Angus, by whose lineal descendants they were occupied till the death of the Duke of Douglas in 1760. A long plea for the succession then arose between the Duke of Hamilton and Archibald, son of Sir John Stewart of Grandtully, by Lady Jane Douglas, sister to the Duke. To the great joy of Douglasdale, and of the country in general, a decision was at length given in favour of the latter. The title became extinct; but Mr Douglas was created a peer of the realm in 1790, by the title of Lord (Baron) Douglas of Douglas. On the death of this nobleman, in the end of December 1827, he was succeeded by his eldest son Archibald, the present Lord Douglas. Distinguished as the ancient Douglasses were for their valour and martial achievements, their descendants of the

present race are no less eminent for the manly and generous virtues which become their high rank; and few noblemen in the kingdom can be more deservedly respected and loved as a landlord, a superior, or a friend, than the present Lord Douglas.

*Eminent Men.*—For the eminent men of the house of Douglas, including almost every male of the race who came to maturity, we must refer to the records of history. One native of this parish, distinguished by his literary attainments, was Dr John Black, late minister of Coynton, in Ayrshire, author of the *Life of Tasso*, and of a work replete with learning and ingenuity, entitled *Palaico-Romaica*, in which he endeavours to prove, with more ability than success, that the New Testament was originally written in Latin, from which our Greek version is merely a translation.

*Antiquities.*—On the farm of Parishholm, near the skirts of Cairntable, there are the traces of a fortress, which was probably a stronghold of the Douglasses, commanding the entrance into the parish from the west. It was here, in all probability, that the good Sir James lay with his faithful vassals, when he so often took occasion to surprise the English garrison at the Castle of Douglas. About a mile and a-half south from Douglas Castle, near the great road to England, are the vestiges of a fort, bearing the name of Tothorl Castle. This name appears to be a corruption for Thirlwall Castle; and it was probably built as an outpost by Sir Richard de Thurslewall, or Thirlwall, Lieutenant-Governor of Douglas Castle under Sir Robert de Clifford. A mound still called Boncastle, within the great park to the east of the Castle, was probably the site of a similar post of observation. Several years since, an urn was dug up near Douglas Castle; and near the same spot was found a great collection of bones. The head of a spear and a very massive ring of pure gold were likewise found in the vicinity.

There is in the possession of Lord Douglas a very ancient sword, resembling a claymore of the usual size, bearing, amidst a great deal of flourishing, two hands pointing to a heart, which is placed between them; the date is 1329,—the year in which Bruce charged the good Sir James to carry his heart to the Holy Land. Around the emblem are inscribed the following lines:

“ So many guid as of the Douglas beinge,  
Of ane surname was ne'er in Scotland seine  
I will ye charge after that I depart  
To holy grave, and thair bury my heart;  
Let it remane ever BOTH THE TYME AND HOUR  
To ye last day I see my Saviour.  
I do protest in tyme of all my ringe,  
Ye lyk subject had never ony kinge.”

This precious relic was nearly lost in the civil war of 1745-6, having been carried from Douglas Castle by some of the followers of Prince Charles. The Duke of Douglas, however, regained it, by making great interest with the chiefs of the Stuart party. It is now at Bothwell Castle.

There are several cairns in different parts of the parish,—one on the top of Auchensaugh hill, where the Covenant was renewed; another on the top of Kirkton hill called the Captain's cairn. On the farm of Poniel, there was a large cairn, beneath which the present tenant found a stone coffin a few years ago, and two other stone coffins had, some time before, been found on the same farm. There is likewise a stone coffin in the burying-place of the Inglises in the parish church-yard.

### III.—POPULATION.

Since the publication of the former Statistical Account of this parish, its population has been progressively increasing. In 1831, it amounted to 2549; in 1834, it had increased to 2567. It is remarkable, that during these three years, the population in the country part of the parish had decreased, while an increase to the amount of about 90 had taken place in the town. The obvious cause of the diminution in the country population was, that when the census was taken in 1831, there were several large families, most of the members of which had just reached, or were on the verge of maturity; and before the number of the population was again taken, the greater number of these were dispersed. In 1834, the population of the town of Douglas was 1343. When the former Statistical Account was drawn up, it was 684. The population of the whole parish in 1791, was 1715, so that an increase to the amount of 852 has taken place within the last forty-four years. The number of houses occupied is 532, the average proportion of inhabitants, therefore, is a very small fraction more than 5 to each house. As but few of the dissenters have the baptism of their children registered, it is impossible to state precisely the average number of baptisms in a year; about 45 are annually registered. The average number of marriages is 18. A register of burials has been kept since the beginning of the year 1833. In that year, the number registered was 46; in 1834, the number was 42. In this register it may be observed, the names of those only are inserted who were interred in the parish burying-ground. On the other hand, some of those whose names were registered were brought from

LANARK.

adjoining parishes, so that the register may be supposed to present a fair average of the deaths in the parish of Douglas.

Number of families,		528
chiefly employed in agriculture,		97
in trade, manufactures, and handicraft,		212

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 3989, 3s. 6d.; the real rent nearly L. 8450. Of this L. 3816 arises from arable land; L. 4134 from pasture land; and about L. 500 from minerals. The arable land thus averaging L. 1, and the pasture land 3s. 8d. per Scotch acre; or 15s. 10d. and 2s. 11d. per imperial acre. The land is divided into 60 farms, averaging about L. 140 of yearly rent; that of arable farms varying from L. 30 to L. 250, and sheep farms from L. 100 to L. 500.

*Live-stock.*—Sheep are here the principal objects of husbandry. The pasture is excellent; and the stock, consisting almost entirely of the black-faced short Scotch breed, is scarcely to be surpassed. The store-masters, particularly active and intelligent, direct their most sedulous attention to the means of maintaining the pre-eminence which their stock has long held in the markets. The whole stock of sheep in the parish is about 15,200. Great attention is likewise paid to the dairy. The milch cows are generally of the Ayrshire breed; about 450 in number; and the making of cheese is here as well understood, and perhaps as successfully practised, as in the most noted dairy districts of the neighbouring county of Ayr. There are, besides, about 460 black cattle of other descriptions. About 110 work-horses are employed in agriculture; and the saddle and young horses may be reckoned about 80. Swine are not kept in flocks here, as in Dumfries-shire; but they are very generally reared for home consumption; and the total number in the parish may be about 250.

*Husbandry.*—The danger of early frosts obliges the agriculturists of this parish to restrict themselves to oats, barley, and bigg or bear, as their only grain crops. Of these, the produce is generally abundant, and the quality good. For the last three or four years, one farmer has sown wheat with the most encouraging success; and others have been induced to follow his example. The soil is particularly adapted to potatoes and turnips, of which excellent crops are raised. The kinds of oats in greatest estimation are the Blainsley and early Angus. A boll of Linlithgow measure is the quantity of seed allowed for an acre; and the produce in favourable seasons is from eight to ten bolls. Harvest generally commences

about the middle of September; for the last two seasons, it has been considerably earlier. In the former Statistical Account of this parish, drawn up by the immediate predecessor of the present writer, it is said, that the corns are rarely got in sooner than the end of October, or the first week of November. As they have not been known for many years to be so late, a considerable improvement must have taken place, either in the seasons or in the mode of husbandry.

*State of Property.*—Nine-tenths of the parish belong to Lord Douglas. The other estates are Carmacoup, belonging to James Paterson, Esq. resident; Polmunckshead to Samuel J. Douglas, Esq.; Springhill, Misses Hamilton, non-resident; and Crossburn House, a small property, with a good villa and grounds tastefully laid out, belonging to James Howison, Esq. M. D. resident.

There are few parishes in Scotland, if any, more fortunate in their proprietary than Douglas. Lord Douglas, who resides chiefly at Douglas Castle, takes the greatest interest in the improvements, not only of the lands in his own natural possession, but in every part of his estates in this district; and stimulates the exertions of his tenantry by the most liberal, yet judicious encouragement. New and commodious houses and steadings have been recently built on almost every farm; suitable fences, chiefly of stone, are always readily granted; clumps of plantation, each of several acres, have been set down and enclosed on the store farms, for the protection of the sheep in the winter storms; and the face of the country has thus, within these few years, undergone the most decided improvement. No set of tenantry could be more worthy of such encouragement, or could more gratefully and cordially appreciate it.

In the grounds around the castle, the spirit of improvement has been, for a number of years, in most active and successful operation. Bothwell Castle having been, ever since the death of his first lady, the favourite residence of the late Lord Douglas, the castle and place here were almost entirely neglected. Fortunately his son took up his residence, about seventeen years ago, at Douglas Castle, for which he has ever since retained a decided partiality. Under his spirited and tasteful improvements, the place has assumed a quite different appearance; and is every year exhibiting new beauties. An unseemly morass of several acres, in the immediate vicinity of the castle, has been transformed into a large lake, ornamented with finely wooded islands. Extensive plantations have been formed in judicious adaptation to the grounds, and ac-

cordance with the older woods. Roads have been made, and new lodges built, and great numbers of work-people are constantly employed in carrying on extensive plans, by which the place is daily improving in value and in beauty.

Douglas Castle, the Castle Dangerous of Sir Walter Scott, as before observed, was the object of many a fierce conflict between the English and its proper lords. The conflagration by which it was consumed, in the year 1760, was accidental; and the celebrated architect Adam was employed by the Duke to build another, on a scale of magnificence adequate to his high rank and ample property. It was to consist of two spacious sides, or wings, and a front; and had it been completed on its original plan, would have been one of the most princely edifices in Scotland. Only one wing, or about two-fifths of the plan, was built before the Duke's death; but even in this wing, which was finished by the late Lord Douglas, there are 52 fire rooms. The dining-room, now used as a drawing-room, is a very splendid apartment—40½ feet in length, 25 feet in width, and 18 in height, with a particularly rich and beautiful ceiling. The hanging stair is greatly admired by persons of taste; the steps are of a freestone, veined and clouded like beautiful marble.

*Manufactures.*—In the year 1792, a factory for cotton-spinning and weaving was erected by a company from Glasgow, consisting of natives of Douglas. The carding was performed by horse power; the spinning by hand jennies. It continued in operation for only a few years, but it was the origin of a connection which still subsists between the manufacturers of Glasgow and the inhabitants of the village of Douglas, most of whom are employed in hand-loom weaving. A small carding-mill for wool, which was erected about the same time on the lands of Carmacoup, is still kept up, but to no great advantage.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Town.*—The town or village of Douglas is a place of considerable antiquity. Its streets, like those of most towns built when it was necessary to adopt precautions against the sudden incursions of an enemy, are very narrow. Some of the houses are of a very antique form. One lane is occupied by a range of houses, still called the *Dungeon*, and the thick walls, narrow winding staircases, and small windows, completely correspond with the name, in attesting the purpose to which it was originally destined. Douglas was, in former times, a place of much greater importance than

at present. As a burgh of barony, it possessed a regular magistracy, to whom the lords of the manor appear to have delegated some of their most important feudal prerogatives. Among these was the power of life and death. So late as the year 1675, we find the bailies compelling two persons, who, under the pretence of being travelling merchants, had infested the public markets as vagabonds, to come under an obligation, "upon condition of their liberty forth of the tolbooth of the burgh of Douglas, to depart furth of said burgh and lordship of Douglas, and never thereafter to return to the same, nor no place within the bounds and jurisdiction of the Marquis of Douglas, during all the days of their lifetime, under the pain of death, and that immediately to be execute upon them, without any jury or process of law to be sett or holden for that effect." The Gallow-hill, an eminence at a short distance east from the town, was probably the place to which the unhappy victims, whom the magistrates doomed to death, were led forth from the dungeon to execution.

Within the recollection of some old persons yet alive, Douglas was a place of considerable business. Two or three notaries, or, as they were called *clerks*, resided in the town. Its weekly markets were regularly attended by the farmers for the sale of stock; and its numerous fairs were not only attended, as they still are, by a great concourse of people, but were well supplied with the various articles of rural traffic. Now, no law practitioner is seen there but on an occasional visit. Its weekly markets are little more than nominal; and neither at them nor the annual fairs is any kind of stock ever exposed for sale. This decrease of business has proportionally affected the respectability of the inhabitants, very few of whom are now above the rank of mechanics or labourers: and it were difficult to find a village of equal population so destitute of genteel or respectable society.

*Roads.*—This parish enjoys the advantages of excellent roads. The great road from Edinburgh to Ayr, by Carnwath, Muirkirk, and Cumnock, traverses its whole length from east to west; and the great London road from Glasgow by Carlisle, one of the finest in the kingdom, passes through it for about 7 miles from N. W. to S. E. and S. The road to Ayr is the most direct from the capital, and is kept in excellent repair; but as a new road has some years since been opened through a more populous part of the country, this is comparatively but little frequented. The late Lord

Douglas, with the munificence which has always distinguished his noble line, had 20 miles of the old Glasgow road, and 30 miles of the road to Ayr, made at his own expense. There are several parish roads, besides, the expense of which is defrayed by the statute labour tax, which the householders pay with a grudge, but which is levied with the most considerate attention to their circumstances.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Besides the Established Church, there is a small meeting-house, in connection with the United Secession, and a Cameronian meeting-house at the lower extremity of the parish. The number of dissenters is not great, and it would have been much less, had not many been compelled to take seats in the meeting-house, from the impossibility of procuring accommodation in the Established Church. Rigside was one of the original seats of the Cameronians. It was at Douglas that many of the most important meetings of the Covenanters were held—especially about the time of the Revolution in 1688, when the propriety of embodying a regiment of faithful Covenanters for the maintenance of their religious principles and rights was the momentous subject of deliberation. Since that time, there has always been a Cameronian congregation and minister at Rigside; but although the congregation is collected from the adjoining parishes to a considerable distance around, the number of members in communion with that body was ascertained, a few years ago, not to exceed 20.

The church, although not old, is by much too small for the accommodation of the parishioners. A few years ago, the present minister was told by the people of the town, that there were 100 heads of families who were desirous of having seats in the church, and could not procure them. The statement might be exaggerated; but it proved, at least, how much the evil was felt. The well-known liberality of the heritors of the parish affords the best pledge, that the evil will not be allowed to continue long. Of their liberality and kindness, the present incumbent has had the most gratifying experience. In the summer of 1828, a new manse was built, after a plan by Mr Gillespie Graham, with a set of offices, which, for elegance and extent of accommodation, may stand a comparison with any similar buildings in the county. An approach to the manse was made, and a handsome gate built, at the expense of the heritors; and the garden was enclosed with a substantial stone wall, of considerable height, at the expense of the late Lord Doug-

las. The glebe is extensive and valuable. The stipend is 16 chalders, in equal proportions of barley and oatmeal; with L. 10 for communion elements.

*Monuments.*—The former church was of great antiquity. It appears to have been of considerable extent; and if we may judge from what still remains, it must have presented no mean specimen of Gothic architecture. A small spire, and the aisle that served as the burying place of the Douglas family, are still religiously preserved. The monuments in this aisle, though much defaced, are still much admired for their sculpture and chisel-work. Mr Edward Blore, than whom there is no more competent judge, reckoned them among the most interesting sepulchral antiquities in Scotland; and Sir Walter Scott was of opinion that, in their original state, they must have been not inferior in any respect to the best of the same period in Westminster Abbey. These monuments are said to have been defaced and mutilated by a detachment of Cromwell's troops, who profaned this sacred edifice by making it a stable for their horses. But we have unfortunately a less remote cause to which we may trace much of the mischief; for, during the many years when Douglas Castle was deserted by the late Lord Douglas as a residence, the aisle was left open and unprotected; and the boys of the place, with the destructive propensity characteristic of the Scots, made it a favourite amusement to aim with stones at the figures and chisel-work.

First in importance (although there is one of which the plainer and ruder workmanship seems to indicate a remoter antiquity,) is the monument of the good Sir James Douglas, the most valued and efficient associate of Robert the Bruce, in his efforts to vindicate the independence of his country, and his own claim to its throne. The figure is of dark-stone, recumbent as on a couch, and cross legged, to mark his character as a crusader; for he had not only, in compliance with the dying request of his royal friend, undertaken a pilgrimage to the holy sepulchre for the purpose of depositing Robert's heart in that sacred place, but had fallen in actual conflict with the infidels of Spain. The bones of this hero were conveyed home by his sorrowful comrades, and interred in the church of Douglas; and the erection of his tomb is expressly ascribed by Barbour, and other historians nearest that period, to his son Archibald Douglas.\*

\* "The banys hame with them tane,  
And syne are to their schippis gane;

In the vault is still the case in which the heart of the good Sir James was enclosed.

On the same side of the aisle, to the east of this tomb, is that of one of the Dukes of Touraine, the decorations of which are still more elaborate and elegant, though likewise much broken down and defaced. On the fragments appear the arms of the entombed, quartered thus: 1st, Touraine; 2d, Douglas; 3d, Galloway; 4th, Annandale;—with the following inscription: “Hic jacet Archibaldus Douglas, Dux Toureniæ, Comes de Douglas et Loueville, Dominus Gallovidiæ, Wigtoniæ, et Annandiæ, locum tenens Regis Scotiæ, obiit 26 die mensis Junii 1438.” This was the son of Archibald Douglas, surnamed Tineman, the first Duke of Touraine, and Maud Lindesay, daughter of David Earl of Crawford. In a niche on the south side of the aisle, commonly called St Thomas’s aisle, we find the following inscriptions upon a tomb of particularly fine workmanship, surmounted by two recumbent figures, exquisitely wrought, representing the Douglas and his lady; and having ten figures in *basso relievo* beneath, in a standing attitude, representing their children: “Hic jacet magnus et potens princeps, Dominus Jacobus de Douglas, Dux Toureniæ et Comes de Douglas, Dominus Annandiæ, Gallovidiæ, Liddaliæ, Jedburg Forestiæ, et Dominus de Balveniæ, magnus Wardanus regni Scotiæ versus Angliam, &c.; qui obiit 24 die mensis Martii, anno Domini 1443.” This James was brother to the above-mentioned Archibald, to whose estate and honours he succeeded after the murder of Archibald’s two sons in Edinburgh and Stirling Castles. The inscription for his lady is: “Hic jacet Domina Beatrix de Sinclair, (filia Domini Henrici Comitis Orcadum, Domini de Sinclair, &c.) Comitissa de Douglas, et Aveniæ, Domina Gallovidiæ.” On the east side of these is a stone with this inscription: “Hæ sunt proles inter prædictos Dominum et Dominam, generateæ. 1mo, Dominus Wilhelmus, primogenitus et hæres dicti Domini Jacobi, qui successit ad totam hæreditatem prædictam. Jacobus, 2do genitus, Magister de Douglas. Archibaldus,

Syne toward Scotland held thair way,  
And thar are cummin in full gret hy.  
And the banys honorabilly,  
In till the kirk of Douglas war,  
Er dyt, with dule and mekill car.  
Schyr Archebald his son gert syn  
Off alabastre baith fair and fyne,  
Ordane a tumbe sae richly,  
As it behowyt to swa worthy.”

3tio genitus, comes Moraviæ. Hugo, 4to genitus, comes Ormundiæ. Joannes, 5to genitus, Dominus de Balvenis. Henricus, 6to genitus. Margareta, uxor Domini de Dalkeith, Beatrix uxor Domini Joannis Constabularii Scotiæ; \* Janeta, uxor Domini de Biggar et de Cumbernauld. Elizabeth Douglas, 4ta filia erat." On the lead coffins in the vault are the following inscriptions: " Gul. Aug. Dominus ex Jacobo Marchione Douglasiæ et Dom. Maria Kerr, filia Comitis Lothianæ conjugæ, primogenitus, natus 15 Oct. 1693, obiit 20 Mar. 1694. Maria Gordon filia Georgii primi Marchionis de Huntly, quam Gulielmus primus Marchio de Douglas in uxorem secundo duxit, quæque anno suæ ætatis sexagesimo quarto, salutis humanæ 1644, mortem obiit. Hic situm est corpus Gul. Marchionis Douglasiæ eo titulo primi, qui ex diversis et mutuis thalamis ab Hamiltoniorum et Gordoniorum gente suam progeniem continuatam, Hamiltoniorum vero instauratam, reliquit. Obiit 11. cal. Mart. anno 1660, ætat. vero 71. Margaret Hamiltown, Angusiæ Comitissa, obiit 38 anno ætatis suæ, 11 Septembris 1623. Anna Stewart, duc. Lennoxis et Richmondis filia, Archibaldo Angusiæ Comiti per xviii. annos nupta, obiit xvi. die Augusti, anno MDCXLVI. ætat. xxxi. D. O. M. Hic positum est corpus Margarete, filis primogenitæ Gul. Marchionis de Douglas, relictæ ex matrimonio cum Margareta: obiit 1mo Jan. 1660. Katharina conjuga Domini de Torphichen, item Joanna Gul. Alexandri Comitis de Sterl. ætatis 49."—On the coffin of the last Marquis of Douglas the simple inscription is: " J. M. D. ætatis 54, obiit 25 Februarii 1700."

When the coffins in this ancient vault had accumulated so that it could not well contain more, it was abandoned for a new and spacious vault under the present church. There, are deposited the remains of the Duke and Duchess of Douglas, the late Lord Douglas and his two ladies, Lady Lucy, sister to the present Duke of Montrose, and Lady Jane, sister to the late Duke of Buccleuch, and Sholto, one of his Lordship's sons by his second marriage.

*Ecclesiastical History.*—The parish of Douglas belonged of old to the Abbots of Kelso, by one of whom part of it was given to Theobald, a Fleming, the founder, according to George Chalmers, of the Douglas family. The church and parish were dedicated to St Bridget or Bride; and the old church is still named St Bride's. "By St Bride of Douglas" was the usual oath of the Douglasses. A person of the name of Beckerton was presented to this church by Edward of

\* Godscroft calls him Lord of Aubigny.

England, in 1291; but it does not appear that he entered upon the charge. We find Ailmer de Softlaw, parson of Douglas, swearing fealty to Edward in 1296. Towards the end of the fourteenth century, the parish of Douglas was made a prebend of the cathedral of Glasgow. Archibald Douglas, rector of this parish, was engaged in the murder of Rizzio, for which Christian-like service he was raised by the Regent Murray to the office of a Lord of Session. At the Reformation the revenues of the rectory were let on lease at L. 200 per annum. In the old church there was an altar to the Virgin Mary, and one to St Thomas. Besides the church of St Bride's there appear to have been at one time several religious houses in different parts of the parish. At Anderson there was a chapel with a place of interment. The font stone was removed upwards of eighty years ago; and near the site of the chapel there is a remarkably fine spring called the Chapel Well. On the adjoining lands of Glentaggart, there was a building which was probably a chapel, as a font stone was found in it which is still preserved. Near Parishholm there was a chapel founded by James IV. and in the east of the parish there is a hill called the Chapel-hill.

Lord Douglas is patron of the parish and titular of the teinds. The parochial register of baptisms commences on the 7th September 1671; the register of the proceedings of the kirk-session on the 23d December 1692.

*Education.*—Extensive as this parish is, its inhabitants in almost every part of it have within their reach the means of good education. Besides the parish school, in which not merely the ordinary branches, but classical literature and mathematics may be learned, there is an English school in the town, very numerously attended. In the village of Rigside, in the lower district of the parish, inhabited chiefly by colliers, there was, about fourteen years ago, only one school, attended by 17 scholars, and so little interest did the parents then take in the education of their children, that not more than one or two appeared at the annual examination of the school; now, although the population of that district is not greatly increased, there are two schools, each attended by 60 scholars; and, at the last examination in May 1835, the number of spectators in each was nearly equal to that of the pupils. There is likewise a school at Tablestone, in the upper portion of the parish, generally attended by about 35 or 40 scholars. In general, these schools are supplied with excellent teachers. At the parish school, there have always been some poor children taught free; but as it has been found

that, owing to the low rate of weavers' wages, there are a greater number of children than usual, whose parents cannot afford to send them to school, an association is now forming for the purpose of raising a fund for insuring to the children of the most indigent the blessings of education; and it is to be hoped that it will be so liberally supported as to effect completely its benevolent and most important purpose. There are likewise two Sabbath schools in the town, both of which are well attended. The salary of the parish teacher is the maximum, and an elegant school-room, with a dwelling-house for the schoolmaster above, was built about eight years ago, at the expense of Lord Douglas. A yearly salary of L. 5 is likewise allowed by his Lordship to the principal teacher at Rigside, where a commodious school-house is now being built at the expense of the same generous nobleman.

*Library.*—There is a subscription library in the town of Douglas, containing about 1000 volumes, tolerably well chosen. It is gradually increasing, although the fund is but small.

*Poor.*—The proportion of paupers is great. The average number who have regular alimnt from the parish funds is 46; but there are many besides who receive occasional relief. The heritors raise by voluntary assessment the fund necessary for the maintenance of the poor and other parochial purposes, the assessment varying from 9d. to 1s. in the pound of valued rent. The church collections average about L. 45 yearly, and to this fund is likewise to be added the interest of L. 110 bequeathed to the poor. The late John Gillespie, Esq. of Sunnyside left L. 100 for the benefit of the poor of this parish, who are not on the roll of paupers, intrusting the annual distribution of the interest to the minister of the parish and the senior surgeon. Among the same class of poor are distributed the collections, averaging about L. 8, drawn on the Sabbath of the sacrament, and other days set apart for divine service on that occasion. In few parishes in Scotland, indeed, are the wants of the poor more humanely attended to. An annual donation of a cart of coals is made by Lord Douglas to every poor family in the parish, upwards of 130 hearths being cheered by this liberal present at the most inclement season of the year. In times of severe pressure from the dulness of trade, the poor have always had a certain resource in the liberality of his Lordship, who, with no less judgment than beneficence, employs them in useful labour, by which the place or the public is benefited, while they are saved from the degrading feelings and the evil habits that would result

from a dependence on mere eleemosynary relief. It is much to be regretted that the fine spirit of independence which rendered Scotsmen so reluctant to apply for charitable support is fast dying away; although it ought to be mentioned, to the praise of the people of Douglas, that, how low soever the rate of wages, so long as they can procure employment, they are industrious and uncomplaining.

*Friendly Societies.*—There are 4 friendly Societies in the town of Douglas,—the Society of Weavers, the Society of Free Masons, the Friendly Society, and the Douglas Friendly Club. Their funds are good; and being under judicious management, are productive of considerable benefit to their members, whom age or infirmity have rendered incapable of earning a maintenance.

There is a female religious society, whose funds are chiefly transmitted to the Edinburgh Bible Society, and partly appropriated to other religious purposes.

*Inns.*—Unfortunately for the morals of the people, there are no fewer than 12 public houses in the parish, including the two principal inns at Douglas and Douglas mill.

*Fairs.*—Another circumstance very prejudicial to the morals of the people is the number of fairs, of which there are 7 in the course of the year. These the working classes keep as holidays; and as few of them think of resuming their labours till the following week, there is a great loss of time, with a most ruinous waste of means. Most of these fairs might be abolished not only without detriment, but with great advantage to the place.

*Fuel.*—Coal is here so abundant and cheap, that it is the only fuel made use of, except in the remote parts of the parish, to which it would be difficult to have them conveyed. In such places peat is used, which is generally of excellent quality.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

Upon the whole, the parish is in a flourishing and improving state. The tenantry are active, intelligent, careful, and thriving; and their industry and enterprise are encouraged by the liberality, and stimulated by the example, of their generous and enlightened landlord. Their character is in general most respectable, still retaining many of the best traits by which the rural population of our country was in its best days distinguished.

*August 1835. Revised June 1836.*