

PARISH OF CRAWFORDJOHN.

PRESBYTERY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. WILLIAM GOLDIE, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE origin of the name cannot be easily discovered. Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, relates a story on the subject, with all becoming gravity, proceeding upon the supposition, that names of a similar construction are to be discovered everywhere throughout Scotland. "John the son of Baldwin de Biggar," he says, "held in the reign of Malcolm IV. a portion of this extensive mountainous district. He assumed the name of Crawford, and fixed his residence on Duneaton river, and from him the name of his settlement was called John's town, and in some charters it is designed *villa Johannis privigni Baldwinnii*."—"Before 1279 the district of Crawfordjohn," he continues, "was established as a distinct parish, and the chapel of John's town became the parish church, hence the name of Crawfordjohn was affixed to the parish." But this summary mode of accounting for the name cannot be satisfactory to any one who recollects, that there are no authorities produced by him, and that it is not merely the only parish, but the only village (I presume) in Scotland, which is designated by a Christian and family name, joined together in this awkward, unusual form.

Extent and Boundaries, &c.—According to Forrest's map of the county, the length of the parish is between 11 and 12 miles, and its breadth between 9 and 10, and it contains 41.50 square miles, and 21,123 Scots acres. The figure of the parish is irregular. At the east end, it is only about 2 miles broad, but it soon widens in both directions, till, from the most southern point near Leadhills to the north east at the source of Millburn, it is about 10 miles across; higher up than this, it gradually becomes more narrow, till above Sheriffcleuch it lies all on one side of Duneaton, and, at the very top, is little more than one mile broad. On the east by north, it is separated from Robertson (now united to Wiston) by Millburn and Duneaton; on the east, from Lamington and Crawford, by Clyde;

on the south Glengonner, for about two miles, divides it from Crawford; and then the boundary is the ridge of the hills north of that stream, and as far as the county of Lanark reaches in that direction; on the west, it has the parishes of Sanquhar and Kirkconnel in Dumfries-shire, and Auchinleck and Muirkirk in Ayrshire, contiguous to it, from all of which it is separated by no natural boundaries, except, in some places, by the ridge of the hills; and, on the north, lies the parish of Douglas, separated from it by Duneaton for some miles from Cairntable downwards. This is the parish in Lanarkshire which unites with it the counties of Dumfries and Ayr, and, at one spot, this junction is indicated by the appellation, bestowed on a certain stone, of the "three shire stone."

Topographical Appearances.—This parish may be said to consist of one large glen, along with the adjoining hills, ascending from Clyde at Abington to Cairntable on the borders of Ayrshire, which lies entirely between Duneaton and Glengonner, where they fall into Clyde, but which gradually expands, so as soon to comprehend both sides of Duneaton for eight or nine miles of its winding course, and also the glen through which Snar runs before falling into Duneaton, and several other glens with their tributary streams, and which is at last limited, and for several miles, to the lands on the south side of Duneaton. All the hills which ascend from the banks of the principal river, as well as of its tributaries, are flat on the top, of gentle acclivity, much diversified in their form and size, and generally clothed with excellent pasture. Several of them are apparently some hundred feet above the level grounds near the river, though I am not aware of any accurate measurement ever having been made of them; and, perhaps, as exact a notion of their altitude, as is required, will be attained, when, instead of specifying indefinite particulars, it is mentioned that the village of Crawfordjohn may be about 200 feet lower than Leadhills, which is understood to be 1280 feet above the level of the sea, and that the top of Cairntable is 1650. There is no one so much elevated above the rest as to be remarkably conspicuous, Cairntable excepted.

Soil.—Soil of almost every description is to be met with in the parish. By the side of Duneaton, some of the holms consist of a deep and rich loam, while others, being more exposed to inundations, are gravelly and sandy. Upon the sides of some of the hills, there is a strong red clay, susceptible of high cultivation from manure and draining; and, upon the sides of others, the soil is not sufficiently deep, and rather gravelly, requiring to be often ma-

nured, and producing tolerable crops, only when, in the early part of summer, the showers of rain are frequent. All the croft lands are excellent, and present many varieties of soil; and, though at one time rather exhausted by cropping, yet lately they have been allowed to recover, and are now judiciously indulged with a rest during a few years of pasturage. All the mossy grounds are deep, and need both to be thoroughly drained, and to have gravel or hard soil mixed with them, before the labours of husbandry can be executed; but as soon as the moss is reduced in quantity, and it is possible for the plough to get through it, and the cart over it, the abundant crops, even for three or four years in succession, reward the farmer with an ample recompense. To any one who has been in the parish, it is superfluous to add, how many are the acres of deep moss, which hold out such encouragement to the active cultivator.

Climate.—The climate is particularly moist. In addition to long tracts of incessant rain at every season, many are the showers which often fall every day, even in the course of the warmest and driest summer. Children are liable to croup, and many die of it; persons approaching puberty, or a few years past it, are often carried off by pulmonary complaints, and many of both sexes, but particularly women in the prime of life, suffer much from complaints of the stomach. Rheumatism prevails to a considerable extent, and at times affects persons of all ages and in all ranks.

Hydrography.—Duneaton is the only river, unless Snar and Blackburn be honoured with the same appellation. It rises at the foot of Cairntable, and runs the whole length of the parish, receiving such a supply from the almost numberless streams, which run down from the hills on both sides of it, that for the last four or five miles of its course, it is at an average about 40 feet broad. Like all rivers in similar situations, it overflows its banks, after heavy rains or a dissolution of snow, and spreads over the adjoining holms; and is liable to a change in its course and fords. Everywhere the finest springs of water are to be met with, and many of them, not more agreeable to the taste, than fitted for all domestic purposes. In several places, there are chalybeate and petrifying springs; and one, a few yards off the public road near the thirty-third mile-stone from Glasgow, seems worthy of the careful examination of the chemist.

Mineralogy.—It is the fixed opinion of the natives of this district, that many different minerals would be found in the parish, if attempts to discover them were conducted upon a liberal scale, and by scientific miners. The same range of hills, which proceeds from

Wanlockhead to Leadhills, and the highest points of which, at certain places, constitute the boundaries of this parish, continues for seven or eight miles from the latter village, to the confluence of Duneaton and Clyde, having Glengonner on the south of it, and Duneaton part of the way on the north, and may reasonably be supposed to have veins of lead in it throughout the whole of its course: as, within these few years, a lead mine was profitably wrought at Snar's head, near its upper extremity; as, within the memory of persons still alive, lead was got at Glendouran, near the middle; and, as about eighteen years ago, there was a discovery of lead sufficiently encouraging made at Craighead, within a mile of its lower extremity. There are vestiges of a work on the lands of Abington, which is reported to have been made in search of gold, and prosecuted with considerable success. In a manuscript journal of the movements of the Earl of Selkirk, in the beginning of last century, I have learned it was mentioned, that his Lordship came to Crawfordjohn, and "visited the silver mines, &c." which are declared by tradition to have been near the Kirkburn. When improving a road some years back, what was denominated the copper vein was again come upon, and several pieces of spar, with the copper in it, were to be seen lying scattered near the road; and, upon the lands both of Glespin and Netherton, there have been repeated indications of coal observed. And, certainly, any recent efforts upon these lands, or those of Whitecleugh and Lettershaws, were conducted in such a manner, and brought to an end so abruptly, that to any one of an enterprising spirit, a failure in these instances, will be regarded as nothing else than a powerful incitement to greater exertions.

Zoology.—The adder, (*Vipera communis*), weasel, hedgehog, and polecat, are often to be seen; the otter, fox, and squirrel seldom. Black game, grouse, partridges, and hares are very numerous. About forty years ago, there was on the trees of Gilkerscleugh an extensive heronry, but in the course of time, and after many severe contests with their multiplying foes, the herons were killed or dispersed, and the victorious rooks occupied their place. Against the rooks in their turn a hot war by agents of another kind having raged for some years, powder and shot at last either destroyed or frightened them from their residence; and, at the suggestion of a proprietor, alarmed for his fish ponds, the same effectual means were resorted to last spring, for the extermination of the few herons which had begun to congregate at Glespin. A solitary tame rabbit, some years ago, formed an intimacy with a hare; and the nume-

rous progeny, though in colour like the hare, were in shape and size liker the rabbit. They did not exactly burrow, but excavated such holes that they were nearly concealed in them. It is understood that they have now all become the prey of the swift-footed collies. A pair of fieldfares have twice remained the whole year, and built their nests near the manse. In the winter of 1834, a *Corvus graculus* or red-legged crow appeared in the vicinity of the village, and was shot. A blackbird with a white head remained for some time, and was seen by many persons lately at Gilkerscleugh; and at Townhead the appearance of a black sparrow was an occasion of equal curiosity to many.

The common trout is very numerous in all the burns and streams. The dark-coloured in Blackburn is still as famous as when the last Statistical Report was drawn up; in it there are also eels, one of which I saw 2 feet 8 inches long. Unfortunately for those who enjoy the amusement of angling, persons from villages in the adjacent parishes are accustomed every season to come with nets, and contrive to destroy a greater number of trouts, than they find it possible, or convenient to carry home.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

I have neither seen nor heard of any documents or papers which serve to throw light on the history of the parish, or which detail any remarkable events that have occurred in it; and there is no tradition of persons having been born in it, who have become greatly distinguished in the world. Mr Robert Davidson, father of the late Principal of the University of Glasgow, was minister here from 1713 to 1749; and his memory is still cherished in the neighbourhood as an able and faithful pastor, who was always prepared for the emergencies of life; who instantaneously penetrated the motives of human conduct; and who, by his practical exposition of absurdities, and his humorous representation of real occurrences, at once maintained the ascendancy of a superior mind, and contributed to the harmless amusement of his friends and associates. Mr Davidson was succeeded by Mr William Millar, whose ministry was prolonged to fifty years; a Nathaniel, indeed, as was declared of him in a funeral sermon, in whom there was no guile, and who, though unable, from his childlike simplicity, to relish the broad humour of his predecessor, or to enjoy with high zest the inimitably told stories, and inexhaustible wit of the kind-hearted neighbour,* who pronounced upon him the above merited panygeric,—yet, from his perfect ac-

* The Rev. W. M'Cubbin, late minister of Douglas, who died in 1820.

quaintance with his professional duties, and his unwearied diligence in discharging them, established for himself, in the estimation of the people, the character of one, who would not be misled by the fashions of the world to gloss over iniquity by giving it false names; but who would fearlessly condemn meanness, expose artful designs, and denounce prevarication, wherever he detected them. Mr Millar's successor, Mr John Aird, died in 1815. It is singular that Mr Black, in his ninety-fifth year, should have seen all the four incumbents who have been in the parish for the last 122 years.

Land-owners.—The chief of these are, taking them in order, according to the value of their lands: T. H. Colebrooke, Esq., Lord Douglas; G. Irving, Esq. of Newton; The Duke of Buccleuch; and Lord Hopetoun.

Parochial Registers.—The oldest volume of the session records commences 1693, and ends 1709. It is apparently entire and regularly kept. The next volume commences 1714, and the records from that period are uninterrupted till the present day; and, after perusing most of them, I would have said they are correctly engrossed and well kept, had I not come upon the following entry: "16th May 1764. That the above register was revised by appointment of Presbytery, and with recommendations of more accuracy appointed to be attested by Robert Thomson, P. C." There is also a volume containing a duplicate of many of the minutes of session from 1731 to 1797.

The oldest register of births and marriages goes back to 1690, and ends 1743; but the leaves are loose, many of them injured by damp, and several lost. The next begins 1743, and ends 1792; the next 1793, and ends 1816; but none of them appear to be complete. In 1817 new and separate registers were got for deaths, marriages, and births; the two first have been kept with perfect accuracy, and the last are not so complete.

Antiquities.—It is said there was originally a castle at Crawfordjohn, which furnished part of the materials for building the castle of Boghouse, of which notice is taken in the last Statistical Account, and of which all the vestiges will soon be effaced. At Mosscastle, too, there was once a castellated dwelling, as well as at Glendorch and Snar; but of none of them, except the last, is there any thing very remarkable related. One of the proprietors of Snar was famous in the days of border warfare; and, wherever bodily strength, and the instantaneous execution of a cruel and revengeful determination were calculated to excite terror, the character of Jock of Snar facilitated the accomplishment of his daring

deeds. Upon one occasion, some of the Annandale depredators had lingered too long in his well-provided mansion; Jock came home very unexpectedly, and while, with no sparing hand, he administered chastisement to all around him, one pleaded his sacred office as a title to mercy; but Jock was not disposed to admit such a plea, and terminated at once his sacerdotal functions, and marauding propensities, in a deep pool at the back of his dwelling,—the appellation of the Priest's Pool still certifying the fact.

The two concentric circles on the Black Hill, opposite Gilkerscleugh, are still discernible. The diameter of the inner one is 34 yards, and the outer one is distant from it about 12. As the view from this place down Clyde is extensive, and as a great part of the lands some miles up Duneaton can be seen from it, there is a probability that it was either a small fort or military station, or a receptacle for cattle and necessary stores, and connected with other similar stations in the vicinity. Between Clyde and the house of Mr J. Watson, Abington, there are visible traces of another circular enclosure, 32 yards being its diameter. Nearly opposite Coldchapel, upon the side of Clyde, there is the appearance of a moat, which goes back from the river about 60 yards, and encloses ground along the edge of it for about 64 yards in length; within which, and towards one side, there is a mound between 20 and 30 feet higher than the surface of the water, and the circumference of which measures 50 yards. A little higher up Clyde, in the parish of Crawford, there is a mound of a similar description; and, for whatever purpose constructed, they seem to have formed a continued chain, for several miles, along the banks of the river.

In the peat-hags, as they are here called, trunks and branches of trees are often come upon; and in many of the peats brought home for fuel, alder and hazel are distinguishable. Several coins have at times been picked up, but never in any great quantities. Lately, a silver piece, almost the size of a sixpence, was found, having on it Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus; and above twenty others with Edward, Dublin, and Waterford on them.

Upon Mr Irving's farm of Birkcleugh, and at the edge of Cra-wick moss, there is an opening in the ground of about a foot in diameter, into which the waters from the adjacent hills run, after any heavy rain; but, whether they are absorbed in the moss at some distance from Hole-merry (as the opening is called,) or are accumulated under the moss, so as to be preparing a miniature exhibition

of what took place on the Solway, or emerge quietly and unobserved from their subterraneous abode, has never been ascertained.

Modern buildings, &c.—The mansion-houses of Gilkerscleugh and Glespin are in a very dilapidated condition, and could not accommodate any respectable families without undergoing extensive repairs.

There is only one mill in the parish, in which are ground oats, bear, and pease.

Historical notices.—Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, mentions, that the lands of Crawfordjohn, having come into the possession of co-heiresses, were long held in two shares or half baronies,—that they were united in the time of James V., when Sir James Hamilton of Finart, bastard son of the Earl of Arran, acquired one-half of the barony, and obtained the other half from his father,—that his successors, the Hamiltons of Crawfordjohn and Avondale, held the barony and the patronage of the church during the reign of Mary and a great part of the reign of her son,—that before 1625, the barony and patronage were purchased by James Marquis of Hamilton,—and that in 1693 the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton conferred them on their youngest son Charles Earl of Selkirk.

Towards the end of the last century, they were purchased from the Earl's descendant by the late Sir George Colebrooke, one of whose sons is the present proprietor.

By a charter of Charles II. (18th January 1668) to Anne Duchess of Hamilton, the village of Crawfordjohn was made a burgh of barony, with the privilege of a weekly market and annual fairs.

Part of the rebel army, in the end of 1745, came through this parish on their way to Glasgow, and the tradition is, that they were in a very disorderly state. So late as 1820, I saw a cheerful old man, the late tenant at Coldchapel, playing on the ice, and heard him in the evening, when bantered by his companions concerning his age, admit that he was strong enough in 1745 to provide himself with a musket, taken forcibly from one of the rebels.

III.—POPULATION.

In the former Statistical Account, the following table of the population is given, viz.

In 1755	-	765
1761	-	550
1788	-	620
1790	-	590

In the first of these numbers I conceive there must be a typographical error. For, upon conversing with persons upwards of

eighty years old, and natives of the parish, I learn that no extraordinary change took place between 1755 and 1761, to occasion a difference of 215; and one person recollects having heard the late Rev. Mr Millar say, that the population was little more than 500, when he was ordained in 1750, and gradually increased till the end of his incumbency, which was for fifty years. The diminution of 30 from 1788 to 1790, can be accounted for from a change upon 2 or 3 farms.

According to the Government census, the numbers were in

1801	-	712
1811	-	858
1821	-	971
1831	-	991

This last consists of 188 families,—73 being employed in agriculture; 34 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft; and 81 not comprised in the two preceding classes.

I have been accustomed, in the course of visiting the parish, to take a list of the inhabitants; their names being written out, and every page summed up, so as to render it easy to correct any accidental mistakes. The following table is extracted from these lists:

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
1816	- 474	- 490	- 964	1827	- 472	- 478 - 950
1818	- 455	- 484	- 939	1829	- 478	- 501 - 979
1820	- 478	- 509	- 987	1831	- 490	- 508 - 998
1822	- 467	- 495	- 962	1833	- 501	- 516 - 1017
1825	- 476	- 498	- 974	1835	- 512	- 495 - 1007

According to the list of 1835, there are resident in the villages of Crawfordjohn, 121
Netherton, 46
Abington, 149
country, 691

The yearly average of births during the seven years preceding 1835 is	285
deaths,	147
marriages	74
Number of persons under 15 years of age is	384
betwixt 15 and 20	306
30 and 50,	171
50 and 70,	120
upwards of 70,	26
Unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers above 50,	23
women above 45,	38

There are 188 families; and, taking merely the families which have children, and those children who are at home, the average number in each family is exactly $3\frac{4}{7}$, *i. e.* there are 148 families who have children living with them, and the number of these children is 460.

Only one of the ten heritors of the parish constantly resides in it; and there are eight proprietors of land of the yearly value of more than L. 50.

There are 3 fatuous persons, 2 males and 1 female, and 2 males insane. There are 6 smiths, 8 wrights, 2 masons, 2 coopers, 3 shoemakers, 8 weavers, 6 tailors, 2 carriers, 4 miners, 7 retail-

ers of groceries, cloth, &c. 8 keepers of public-houses, and 2 keepers of toll-bars.

Character of the People.—In their manners the people are plain and unaffected; frank and sincere in their intercourse with others; obliging and neighbourly among themselves; kind and charitable to the poor; singularly attentive and hospitable to strangers. To every object near them, either animate or inanimate, they are fondly attached; and, with much uneasiness, they contemplate the possibility of a permanent removal from their native place. To belong to the parish confers, in their estimation, upon any one an undoubted claim to their sympathy and good offices; and the same feeling, which, within the recollection of many, prompted them to espouse the cause of every injured or insulted fellow-parishioner at a market or fair, and to administer instantaneous castigation, exists, I believe, as strong as ever, though exhibited in a less boisterous form. They are sober, frugal, industrious, and active. To the principles of religion and morality, their attention is directed from their earliest years; and that they study the Scriptures to good purpose, as well as the Westminster Confession of Faith, is proved most satisfactorily, no less by the regularity of their attendance on ordinances, and the punctuality with which many assemble their families for religious exercises, than by the manner in which they acquit themselves at the parochial examinations. Upon all occasions, they show a readiness to listen to any suggestions conducive to the advancement of their temporal prosperity, or subservient to the improvement and comfort of others. They consented to the abolition of tent-preaching,—to the reduction of services at funerals to one in place of seven or eight,—and to abstinence from public entertainments on the Sabbath, when newly married people were first in church, or children were baptized; and have expressed thanks for these innovations upon their long-established practices. Whenever asked, they both enlarge their contributions to purchase coals for the poor, and drive them gratis; and it is necessary to make this demand upon them almost every alternate year.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—In Forrest's map, it is said there are 21,123 Scots acres in the parish, which is probably near the truth; since, upon summing up the items given me by the tenants, the amount is almost the same; 3200 being represented as arable, and nearly all the rest as pasture. The plantations at Gläspin, Gilkerscleugh, and Abington do not cover, I think, above 50 acres. They consist of Scotch fir, spruce, larch,

ash, plane, beech, lime, chestnut, and oak; some of the oldest being well grown, and of an excellent quality. About half an acre around the manse was planted seventeen years ago; and besides the above, there are silver fir, birch, elms, alder, poplars, and willows, which are thriving; but they grow very slowly. I observe also two or three clumps lately planted, which, I presume, are intended to prove by experiment, what time trees will take to reach maturity upon the poorest land, and in the most exposed situations. I have no doubt of them becoming, in forty or fifty years, large enough to afford agreeable shelter to linnets and hedge-sparrows.

Rent of Land.—Small pieces of land are let as high, perhaps, as L. 2 an acre. The average rent of the whole can be easily calculated from the statement that shall be given. Grazing a cow may be estimated L. 3, and a sheep at 5s.

Rate of Labour.—The wages of good men-servants have, of late, been about L. 12 a year, and of women, L. 6.; for mowing, the rate is 2s. a day with meat, and for other work, 1s. 6d.; wrights and masons get 2s. a day with victuals; and slaters, 2s 6d.; shepherds have forty-eight or fifty sheep kept for them, which form part of the farm-stock; and they are also provided with victuals. It is customary to hire persons for harvest, who come and reside in the house, and receive from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2, 5s., according as the duration of harvest labour is short or long.

Live-Stock and Produce.—All the sheep are black-faced, except one flock of fifteen scores, which are a mixed breed of the Cheviot and Leicester; the horses are of the Clydesdale breed; and the cattle of the Ayrshire. Great attention is paid to all of them, and most strenuous efforts are made to bring them to a state of the highest improvement. Horses reared here have long been dispersed into all parts of the country; and of late, cows of exquisite symmetry and most attractive beauty have been produced in greater numbers, than could have been anticipated by those, who have heard chiefly of our great elevation and unfavourable climate.

Having received an account of the produce and stock of every distinct farm, the following statement must make a near approximation to the truth.

There are 114 horses employed for working or riding; 36 do. young, but at least a year old; 666 milch cows; 403 young do. at least a year old; 31 bulls; 153 pigs; 507 scores of sheep; 620 bolls of oats sown, which produce 30 imperial bushels each boll; 36 do. bear; which produce 48 do.; 134 acres Scots of

potatoes planted, which produce 40 bolls an acre; 62 do. of turnips sown, which are worth L. 4 an acre.

Oats and bear in the following table are calculated at the highest fiars prices for 1834. The bolls mentioned are equal to 5.82512 imperial bushels.

10,140 sheep at 5s. a head,	-	-	-	-	-	L. 2535	0	0
Oats, 2325 quarters, at 18s.	-	-	-	-	-	2092	10	0
Bear, 216 do. at L. 1, 4s. 8d.	-	-	-	-	-	266	8	0
Potatoes, 5360 bolls, at 4s. per boll of 25 imperial stones,	-	-	-	-	-	1072	0	0
Turnips, 62 acres Scots, at L. 4,	-	-	-	-	-	248	0	0
Rye-grass hay, 19,140 stones at 6d. a stone of 17½ imperial lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	478	10	0
Meadow do. 77,535 do at 4d. do. do.	-	-	-	-	-	1292	5	0
Pasturing of 114 horses, at L. 4,	-	-	-	-	-	456	0	0
Do. 36 young do. at L. 3, and 10s. for foggage,	-	-	-	-	-	126	0	0
Do. 666 cows L. 3, and 10s. do.	-	-	-	-	-	2331	0	0
Do. 403 young cows, 15s. and 5s. for do.	-	-	-	-	-	403	0	0
Do. 31 bulls, L. 3, and 10s. do.	-	-	-	-	-	108	10	0
Whitecleugh and Glespin parks let for (the stock in them being at times changed, could not be easily counted,)	-	-	-	-	-	254	0	0
						L. 11,663	3	0

Besides the above, there were 6 bolls of pease sown; of the 36 bolls of bear, 3 were really barley; and all the present year's calves and foals are excluded.

The valued rent is L. 2360, 6s. 8d. Scots. The real rent is L. 5925, 17s. 6d. Sterling, including L. 16, the rent of lime. The common practice, as to sheep, is to keep one hog or young one for every five ewes; and the average is, that the fleeces of nine sheep weigh two stones, or forty-eight imperial lbs. As to cows, the calculation is, that, taking the whole in the byre, the quantity of sweet milk cheese made must be from fourteen to sixteen stones each; twenty-two imperial lbs. being in the stone.

In 1828, three cows were kept on the glebe, which calved nearly at the same time in the beginning of May, were pastured during the day, and at night, and while the weather was excessively hot at mid-day, were fed in the house with clover and vetches. The family, consisting of five grown up persons and four children under seven years of age, were amply supplied with milk, butter, and cheese, during the whole year; and the remaining value of produce from the cows amounted to L. 28, 14s. 2d. There were 71 stones 6½ lbs of cheese sold, and a fattened calf.

Dairy produce from this parish is sold as advantageously in Edinburgh and Glasgow, as any brought from quarters of long-established celebrity. A few still make both butter and cheese. In one or two dairies, the curds of cows' milk and of ewes' milk being wrought separately, are put one upon the other into the same vat, and pressed; in consequence of which the cheeses have two sides of different qualities, and have been by some so highly relished,

that the price got for them has been 50 per cent. above what could be got for sweet milk cheese alone.

Draining.—Surface draining has been carried on to a considerable extent and very successfully; but the draining of arable land has not been prosecuted with the same ardour, or conducted upon the most approved principles. Many fields have their appearance disfigured, and are rendered much more difficult to cultivate, by corners and plots of meadow or marshy ground in them, which could be drained at a very trifling expense. Irrigation is attended to, and productive of many of its usual benefits; but these benefits would be more extensive and more durable, were care taken to level the surface. Several large meadows would, in the course of a few years, repay the expenditure of L. 200 or L. 300 in leveling them.

Leases, Farm Buildings, and Fences.—The leases are generally for fifteen or nineteen years. The farm-houses and offices are not in a good state. No one set of them has been built according to any plan; in consequence of this, there is no correspondence between the constituent parts of the whole, and ample accommodation is not in fact provided, even when the houses are really numerous. A great want of enclosures is still apparent, although many miles of dry stone dikes have been lately erected.

Tenants would soon feel, in their comfortable experience, how much the management of their business is facilitated and their convenience promoted by order and cleanliness, could they get their houses constructed in conformity with their wants, and with a special view to dairy husbandry: their boiler and milk-houses, for instance, placed near their byres, and connected with them by doors; and their dwelling-houses with at least two doors in them, and a separate approach to each, so that there might be no necessity for every visitor treading in the path marked out by the cows. All their offices ought to be slated; and the expense of this they themselves had better incur at the beginning of their leases, than be almost every year employed thatching.*

Thorn hedges grow well and rapidly,—as may be seen around the manse: and two or three fields, enclosed by them on every farm, would afford admirable shelter to the cows, at particular seasons, and during wet, stormy weather. The crofts are well fitted for such enclosures, and in eight or nine years, a hedge, properly ma-

* In the building of all dwelling-houses, whinstone should be used, for every kind of freestone is porous, and draws damp in this wet country. Masons should be taught to cut the whinstone with hammers of different sizes, as they do the granite at Aberdeen; and with a little care, whinstone thus cut presents a very agreeable appearance.

naged, makes a sufficient fence. If this system were once begun, it could not fail to be universally approved of, and no difficulty would occur in selecting such portions of land, as do not expose the hedges to the sheep.

These are all matters to which the proprietors themselves ought to look; and, in addition to their encouragement of agriculture, by laying out money on houses and dikes, and charging their tenants six per cent. for it, it would be no injury to their real interest, if they got an architect to plan suitable buildings, which, with slight modifications, might be convenient for all, and provided these at the beginning of every lease: and if they both planted hedges and employed workmen to keep them in order. Trees undoubtedly should be planted upon a large scale in many situations, but at first in hollow sheltered places by the sides of burns, and on good land; and then, as they grow up, desirable shelter would be furnished by them; and plantations might thus, in the course of time, reach the tops of the highest hills. The lazy streams, with deep stagnant pools, should all be made straight; which would at the same time increase the rapidity of their currents, and render draining less laborious and expensive. Blackburn, particularly, should undergo this change, as on the surface and along the sides of it, the first threatenings of frost are always observed. From the leases should be removed those restrictions to which, in most cases, it is reckoned inexpedient to make the tenants submit. And, when it is mentioned, that for some lands a multure of a seventeenth part is exacted, a most satisfying proof is surely adduced of the necessity that exists, for exempting from every form and degree of this bondage. Were these reasonable alterations all introduced, and direct encouragement in this manner given to skilful farmers, it could not but happen, that tenants, who, left entirely to themselves, and struggling against many disadvantages, have manfully surmounted many obstacles in their progress, would advance with accelerated speed in the course of improvement, and tread upon the heels of those, who imagine they are at an immeasurable distance before them.

Quarries, &c.—Two quarries of freestone are wrought, and many of whinstone. There is one lime-work at Whitecleugh; but the greatest quantity of lime is procured at Wildshaw, on the borders of the parish, and about three miles from the village. A lead mine, a few years since, was opened on the lands of Snar, and the appearances were reported to be most encouraging. They are at present working it.

Society for Stock.—Last year the parishes of Crawford and Craw-

fordjohn formed an association for the exhibition of stock. Most of the farmers joined it, and several of the heritors sent subscriptions: and the various kinds of stock produced both years were highly commended, as well by the judges, who determined the comparative excellences of each lot, as by the many experienced agriculturists, who assembled from the adjacent counties.

Above a dozen of tenants and subtenants, besides labouring their respective lands, employ their horses in driving coals to Moffat, Leadhills, and Wanlockhead.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns, &c.—At Douglas, distant six miles through the moor, and eight by the road, a little business is occasionally transacted; but Biggar, distant fourteen miles, and Lanark sixteen miles from Crawfordjohn, must be reckoned our nearest market-towns. Letters come both by Douglas and Leadhills every day, and to the latter place we enjoy almost daily access by the coal carts. There are five miles of the Glasgow and Carlisle road in this parish, and nearly the same of the Biggar and Leadhills. Along the one, the Edinburgh and Dumfries coach passes, and along the other, the Glasgow and Carlisle mail, up and down every day. Only one bridge is entirely in the parish, over Duneaton, and on the Glasgow road: The parish, however, is connected with the parishes of Crawford and Robertson by two bridges,—one over Duneaton, and another over Glengonner. The parochial roads are 33 miles long, which have been kept in repair during the last ten years at an yearly average rate of L. 80, 18s. 9d. There are 29½ ploughgates, as fixed in 1807; and L. 2, 2s. for each of them, 10s. 6d. for every supernumerary horse, and 3s. from every householder, make up the above sum. In the upper quarters of the parish, and more than four miles from the manse, there are no made roads.

Ecclesiastical State.—“At John’s-town,” Chalmers says, “a chapel was erected, which was for some time dependent on the parish church of Wicestoun. This grant was confirmed by William the Lion, and the monks afterwards obtained from Walter the Bishop of Glasgow, in 1232, a confirmation of the church of Wicestoun with the two chapels of John’s-town and Robertson.” Again he says, “an account of the property of the monastery of Kelso, made up by the monks between 1309 and 1316, states that they had the church of Crawfordjohn in rectoria, which used to be worth L. 6, 13s. 4d. yearly. The monks of Kelso appear to have relinquished this church some time before 1450, when it appears to have been an independent rectory. In Bagimont’s Roll, as it stood in the

reign of James V., the rectory of Crawfordjohn in the deanery of Lanark was taxed L. 10, 13s. 4d."

The church is situate conveniently enough for the greater part of the population,—is only 4 miles distant from one extremity of the parish, but between 11 and 12 from the other. It was enlarged and newly seated in 1817, is in a tolerable state of repair, and accommodates 272, independently of the communion seat, which accommodates 38 or 40, and may be considered free. The attendance in church is, on the part of a great many, exactly what it ought to be, viz. as regular as the return of the Sabbath. The number of communicants is from 360 to 370; and the average of young communicants for the last twenty years is 19, and nearly $\frac{1}{5}$ * 137 male heads of families are entitled to exercise the veto.

There are 20 persons who belong to the Relief, 12 to the United Associate, and 8 to the Reformed Presbyterian, Synods. In 1816, the same denominations in their order numbered as follows: 51, 8, 4; and the variation in the two last has been quite accidental; two strangers belonging to the latter of the two having come into the parish, and being joined by other two who left the Relief; and no fewer than ten having come amongst us who belonged to the former. Some strangers, lately arrived, are not in communion with any denomination of Christians; and all the rest belong to the Established Church. On the day of the General Assembly's fast,

* In the Presbytery records there are various particulars in regard to a vacancy in Crawfordjohn. The first entry is 1st March 1704, "absent John Bryce, removed by death." Then 1st November 1704, it was proposed to give a call to T. Lining to succeed Mr Bryce; but, difficulties having occurred to prevent this being done, after considerable delay, Lord Selkirk and his dependents wished to have James Wilson, while another heritor and his adherents were desirous of having Matthew Wood, and another party proposed to reconcile both these, by giving a call to a third. Protests were the consequences of these unfortunate proceedings, and the business was carried before the Synod and General Assembly, whose decisions were adverse to the views of all these zealous parties. At last Mr Robert Lang was appointed to preach, at Crawfordjohn, 26th December 1708; but in a representation by certain parishioners conveyed to the Presbytery, it is stated "how John Weir of Newton, bailie to Lord Selkirk, James Gray, chamberlain, George Irving, clerk, and Robert Galloway, kirk-officer, went into the church with candles, on the Saturday night, and nailed such doors as wanted locks, and put the key in Gray's custody, so that Mr Lang had to preach in the church-yard; and caused the officer to go to several of the tenant's houses, and discharged them to hear Mr Lang preach, (albeit little obedience was given to his commands,) &c." After Mr Lang was ordained, 9th March 1709, (a vacancy of five years having taken place,) to a question of the Presbytery, as to his peaceable possession of the manse, he replied "he had none at all, for Gray had taken off the old locks, and put on new ones, and refused to give him the same." The Presbytery appointed a letter to be written to the Lord Advocate, who replied, "he was fully satisfied that Gray was guilty of a riyot in what he had done, and that application should be made to the Justices of the Peace to make open doors, and repossess Mr Lang in the manse of Crawfordjohn," and the Presbytery advised him to cause it be put in execution. The kirk-session was ordered to cite the dignified chamberlain to appear before the Presbytery, to answer for his conduct in carrying off the church key.

individuals of all these denominations, and one of them an elder, were in the parish church,—a most severe reproof to their own pastors, which should never be forgotten by them.

There is a Bible Society whose contributions amount to L. 5 yearly.

The manse was built in 1803, and has been repaired during my incumbency every four or five years. The glebe is rather more than 8 Scotch acres, and would let for L. 16. The stipend is 15 chalders, half meal and half barley, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The average of the last seven years, including the communion allowance, is L. 244, 2s. 10½d. In 1755 it was L. 51, 4s. 5d. In 1803 it was L. 75, 13s. 4d.; then it was augmented to L. 110, at which it remained till 1818, when the last augmentation was got. The minister has also a right to fuel, feal, foggage, and divot, on the farm of Balgray, worth from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2 yearly.

Education.—There is one parochial school. The teacher has the legal accommodations, and a salary of L. 32, 10s., which, along with his school fees and other emoluments, makes his income on an average L. 65. He teaches English, writing, arithmetic, geography, and the Latin, Greek, and French languages. At present, he has 3 advanced scholars, the 2 oldest only fourteen years old, and the youngest eleven years old; who have read the usual portions of the Latin classics, and lately have gone through three books of Livy, and nearly the whole of Horace, who are regularly drilled upon grammar, are acquainted with mythology and Roman antiquities, and accustomed to write Latin verses. Two of the gospels in Greek have been read by them, and some of Professor Dunbar's *Collectanea Minora*; and, at the same time, they have acquired some knowledge of geography, and wrought almost all the accounts in Gray's *Arithmetic*. They are about to begin the study of French. The average number of scholars for the last ten years is 79 $\frac{9}{10}$.

At Abington there is a private school, and one of the heritors gives a salary of L. 6. Of late no other branches have been required to be taught than English, writing, and arithmetic. The average of scholars for the last ten years is 34. Children do not usually go to school till they are about six years old; and all learn both to read and write, the parents being alive to the benefits of education, and several of them submitting to severe privations, that their continuance at school may be prolonged. In the remote parts of the parish, it is customary for families to associate together in getting a young person, who teaches all their children assembled

in one place ; and for whose maintenance and salary they contribute in proportion to the number of pupils. There is little likelihood of these thinly inhabited districts being ever provided with endowed schools.

Library and Friendly Society.—More attempts than one have been made to get a parish library permanently established ; but local circumstances have always proved unpropitious, and, after a few years, the books collected have come to be divided among the subscribers. A Friendly Society existed from 1799 till 1833,—when it was thought prudent to dissolve it.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—A most pernicious change has been going on in the habits and views of the poor ; the full consequences of which may be anticipated, though as yet they are very imperfectly developed. In 1817, only 7 were on the roll, and during the subsequent fifteen years, the average number was $9\frac{2}{3}$, whose maintenance was derived from the collections, the interest of money lodged in the bank, and a part of the principal. Now, there are 15 families and individuals on the roll, to whom the highest sum given is 12s. and the lowest 3s. a month ; and, the lying money having been all expended, the heritors have voluntarily assessed themselves for three years in L. 25, L. 40, and L. 50 respectively. In the beginning of 1832, the session found it necessary to decline taking any farther management of the poor ; and satisfy themselves with distributing half of the collections, &c. to such as are not on the roll, or require any extraordinary aid. No discovery having been made of any means of giving employment to aged women, who formerly gained a sustenance by spinning, it must unavoidably happen that applications for parochial assistance will increase in number every year ; and it is quite obvious, that, whenever the management is left solely with the heritors, there will both be a gradual diminution of the collections, and a more unhesitating determination, on the part of the poor, to extort from their grasp every farthing that it is possible to obtain.

Fairs.—No fair is held for the transaction of business ; but on 26th July there is an assemblage of all the inhabitants, who subscribe for horse and foot races, indulge in social intercourse, and treat their children with toys and sweetmeats.

Inns, &c.—In this parish, there are no fewer than 8 houses in which spirituous or malt liquors are sold. In 1819, the Justices of the upper ward issued most excellent regulations, requiring all applicants for licenses to have certificates from their parish ministers.

To these regulations, however, it is much to be regretted, the Justices themselves have not uniformly adhered.

Fuel.—Peats of various kinds can be easily got on many farms, and are still used in considerable quantities by several families. They are certainly expensive, and are perceived to be so by all who keep accurate accounts, and form a proper estimate of labour; and therefore in time they will be less used. Coal is cheap and more convenient for all purposes,—a cart of it containing between 9 and 10 cwt. costs 2s. at Glespin or Ridgeside in Douglas; and the driving to the village costs 2s. 6d. more.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

From a register kept by one of the farmers in a central part of the parish, I perceive that, from 1812 to 1835, inclusive, the earliest day when he began sowing was 14th March 1821, and the latest 4th April 1827; that the earliest day when he ended his sowing was 1st April 1828, and the latest 30th April 1827; that the earliest day when he began reaping was 8th August 1826, and the latest 16th September 1816; that the earliest when he finished reaping was 2d September 1826, and the latest 28th October 1816. In 1762, the rental of Gilkerscleugh lands was L. 177, 15s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; in 1802 it was L. 522, 10s.; and in 1835 it is L. 1100. I have seen a copy of a receipt of the Laird of Glespin, dated 13th November 1694, for L. 5, 11s. 4d. Scots, half a year's rent for Slimanford and Sheriffcleugh, which is 18s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling a-year. Now Sheriffcleugh is let for L. 80; Slimanford is let along with Shawhead for L. 170, and is accounted the third of its value, so that we have in 1694, 18s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and in 1835, L. 136, 13s. 4d.

The differences betwixt the present state of the parish and that at the time when the former Account was written, are many and evident. In that Account, it is said there were about 20 farms; now there are 33, besides small pieces let at Abington, and 4 are joined together so as to make only 2. In it, 20 ploughs are said to have been kept, which laboured merely 30 acres each, making in all 600 acres; now, there are 114 horses; 620 bolls of oats are sown, 36 of bear, 196 acres are in green crops, and 19,140 stones of rye-grass hay are raised. In it, the number of black-cattle is said to have been considerable,—now, there are 666 milch cows, 403 young cows, and 31 bulls. At the time of the former Account, there was no proprietor who had his lands separated by any fence from those of his neighbour; now, not only is this in every instance done, but there are only three farms in the least improved quarter, which are not fenced off from each other; and the rest are likewise sub-

divided more or less, by several distinct and convenient enclosures.

Dairy husbandry should be principally looked to, in the cultivation of the land, and cropping should be followed no longer than is necessary for preparing the land to be laid out in pasture. No return of oats or bear, during the currency of a lease, remunerates the farmer. Turnips should be sown more extensively; and the use of bone dust enables every one to do this, while frost never destroys them. And additional divisions of the land by fences will render it quite convenient to eat off the turnips with sheep.

The great, expensive operations of straightening Blackburn and two or three other streams, of draining "flow mosses," and of planting for shelter, ought to be executed under the eye of the proprietors, and at their expense. Or, if it be imagined the plantations might be injured from the carelessness of the tenants, let it be a part of the agreement that, whatever trees any one may have planted, shall be taken from him at a valuation at the end of his lease. Let direct encouragement be given to the industrious and enterprising, either in the form of a premium for every acre reclaimed, or for every signal improvement introduced, or by a renewal of the lease, upon more moderate terms, than would be offered by other competitors for the farm. Let the two proprietors, who are most interested, exert themselves to have the coal road made along the side of Glespin lane, and to meet the principal parish road a little below Eastertown; from which, a mighty advantage would accrue to the inhabitants in getting cheap coal, and an equal advantage would be enjoyed by these proprietors themselves, as the old coal road might then be shut up, and the flocks on Crawfordjohn, Mosscastle, and Andershaw farms would be permitted to feed undisturbed by travellers. Let a stone bridge be thrown over Duneaton below the village and towards Leadhills, and another over Blackburn,—a better road being made to meet the Glasgow and Edinburgh roads; and then few causes for complaint about roads would exist.

Prejudices in favour of local practices are fast dying away; the intelligent and cautious look anxiously around them, and can ascertain what is most conducive to their own interest; and were due countenance given them, the proprietors might rest assured, there are many at present in the parish, who, while contemplating, in the first place, the welfare of themselves and families, will adopt such views, and carry forward such measures, as shall finally promote the improvement of their property.

June 1836.