

PARISH OF CARSTAIRS.

PRESBYTERY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. GEORGE MUNRO, A. M. MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name—THE etymology of the name of this parish is involved in some uncertainty. In charters of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, the name appears in the form of *Castleterres* or *Castletarres*; and in documents subsequent to that date, in the form of *Carstaires*, *Carstares*, and *Carstairs*. The prefix *Car* or *Caer*, in the old British language, signified a fort, or walled place, or castle, and is thus synonymous with the other prefix *Castel*; so that both forms of the name have the same meaning. The affix *Stairs* or *Stair*, anciently *Staer* or *Ster*, denoted an estate or possession. Adopting this etymology, the meaning of the whole is, "An estate, or possession, where there is an enclosed, or fortified place;" and local circumstances seem to sanction its correctness. The notion that *Stair* is a term derived from the ridges on the west side of the church, is evidently fanciful. Nothing can be argued in favour of this etymology from the addition of the final *s*. Such an addition to words which do not require it, is a thing quite common among the illiterate of our country; and the name appears of more ancient date than these ridges, which seem, like those at Newlands and Strathaven, of an artificial character.

Extent and Boundaries.—In form the parish is an irregular oblong, situated on the right bank of the Clyde, at the distance of 27 miles west from Edinburgh, and 25 miles east from Glasgow. It is bounded on the south by the River Clyde, which separates it from Pettinain; on the west, by Lanark; on the north and north-west, by Carluke and Cambusnethan; and on the east, by Carnwath. The extreme length may be reckoned at 6 miles from north to south, and the average breadth about 3 miles. It contains about $18\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, or 11,840 imperial acres.

Topographical Appearances.—The aspect of the parish is various. The surface is diversified to a considerable extent, with a

multitude of roundish sand-knolls, varying indefinitely in shape, and height; some of them being only 15, others more than 60 feet above the general level. The hollows between some of these heights being completely land-locked, have become mosses, both from the remains of old woods, the aggregation of vegetable remains blown into them by the wind, and the successive growth and decay of plants peculiar to such spots. These moss beds, together with some fields of the same nature, but wider in extent, which are situated in the centre of the parish, tend rather to hurt the general aspect,—a blemish which is not a little added to, by stagnant pools of moss water, plentifully stocked with rank *carices* and *scirpi*; and the never-failing tenant of such spots the *eriophoron*. Yet even in spots of this character, the eye is often agreeably relieved by a pleasing diversity of cultivated eminences, some of which, being crowned with wood, possess not a little beauty. The southern portion of the parish is very picturesque and beautiful. The Clyde, which here forms the boundary, having escaped from its concealment behind the lofty hill of *Tinto*, and flowed for several miles in a serpentine channel through holm lands of the most fertile description, becomes on reaching the parish a large and noble river. Its banks being ornamented with rich pastures, and an agreeable intermixture of woods and plantations, the landscape has an air of great elegance. Embosomed amid forest scenery, and on a bank sloping gradually towards the Clyde, stands Carstairs House, a magnificent modern mansion in the Gothic style, the seat of Henry Monteith, Esq. the principal heritor and patron of the parish. The surrounding lawns, the shrubberies and plantations, the avenues, and the approach from the village, are all laid out in the best taste, and kept in the best order. Adjoining the house is a rich garden, well planned, and completely sheltered on all sides, which produces almost every variety of fruit. The cottage of Brownrig, belonging to the same gentleman, adorns the northern side of the parish, with the woods amid which it stands, and a sloping, or rather hanging, garden on the banks of the River Mouse, and is soon to become the summer residence of Lord Fullerton, one of the Senators of the College of Justice. The village, which contains the parish church, with a handsome spire, is a most beautiful and picturesque spot, presenting an object which charms the eye from whatever quarter it is approached. Naturally well situated, it has been vastly improved and beautified by the present proprietor. Before the estate of Carstairs fell into his

hands, the inviting appearance which the village wore at a distance, was miserably mocked on entering it, by the peat-stacks and dung-hills which obtruded on the view. The generous superior has, at his own expense, removed these nuisances; and in their room are now to be seen neatly enclosed gardens, tastefully laid out, and decorated with ornamental plants, and culinary vegetables, which regale the eye of the passenger, and afford profit to the tenant.

Meteorology.—Although variable, like other parishes in the upper ward, the climate is by no means insalubrious, or unfavourable to vegetation. From the sandy nature of the soil in most spots, snow disappears more rapidly than in the parishes to the east and south, and the effects of continued rain are proportionally unfelt, while continued drought is proportionally severe. It adds, of course, to the early maturity of the crops, that the soil dries rapidly, and is easily warmed. Nowhere, perhaps, do fewer diseases prevail, which may be the effect of climate, or any local peculiarity; and though in some places a few more remarkable instances of longevity occur, yet in none does a greater proportion of the population reach the ordinary limits of human life. Several individuals are in the enjoyment of good health at the age of eighty and eighty-five; and one has attained the advanced age of ninety-nine. As climate is a good deal dependent on the local situation, the mossy spots in the parish must necessarily be somewhat both cold and moist, considering that its computed altitude is from 600 to 700 feet above the level of the sea.

Hydrography.—There are only two rivers of any note in the parish, the Clyde, which forms the southern boundary, and the Mouse, which traverses the centre of the parish, flowing westward. During their connection with this parish, both rivers flow on in a smooth and placid course—the Clyde through rich holm lands, the Mouse through mossy flats; this last forming in many places deep sluggish pools. The course of both is changed on entering the parish of Lanark; the Clyde coming to a rocky bed, which terminates in the Falls of Bonnington and Corra Linn; and the Mouse entering between the dark, rugged, and precipitous crags, called the Cartlane Crags, which are the astonishment and terror of every beholder. During the lapse of ages, the Clyde has often changed its course in this neighbourhood. A former channel of no very recent date is still to be seen upon the property of West-bank. This channel at present has the appearance of a winding lake, so overgrown in some parts with reed and marshy grass, as

to have consolidated into a sward, capable of being cut by the scythe—the mower, to ensure a better footing, fastening flat boards to his feet, after the fashion of the Esquimaux snow-shoe, while in others it still remains limpid and deep, forming pools for the pike, and a quiet retreat for wild ducks and other aquatic birds. While the Clyde, in winter, aids the farmer by the deposition of its rich slimy mud, it at other seasons becomes his dread, by bursting with rapid inundations on his holms when in crop, and leaving desolation in the place of luxuriant fertility.

Geology—Soil.—The soil varies with the situation. Along the banks of the Clyde, it is alluvial, arising from depositions of the river, and the holms thus formed bear crops of the most luxuriant quality, not to be surpassed in the richest parts of the county. But as these lands are liable to inundations of the river, and if under crop to extensive damage, they are usually laid out in pasture. Between the alluvial soil on the banks of the Clyde and the River Mouse, there intervenes a region of sand, thrown up, as already noticed, into a multitude of sand-knolls. These internally are composed of strata of sand and pebbles, and the superincumbent soil is artificial to a great extent. Between the heights, patches of moss intervene, which might be made more available than it is to the improvement of the soil generally. Good level roads are made by turning the heights into the hollows, and so here, by turning the knoll into the moss, which could be done without much labour, many a sterile patch might be reclaimed. The moss is thus made available in some degree, and while it supplies the parishioners with a considerable portion of fuel, and is reckoned preferable to coal for the purposes of the dairy, it affords inexhaustible means of manure, the return and uses of which have been most satisfactorily ascertained. Beyond the River Mouse, the soil changes. In the western portion of the parish, it is of a clayish quality; in the eastern, almost wholly moss, and very flat. This is the dreariest and most uninviting portion of the parish. At Brownrig Cottage, the banks of the Mouse begin to be rocky and precipitous. The rock is a greyish sandstone, very friable. Limestone has been found, and whinstone,—the latter in some abundance; but there is no great quarry in the parish. Coal has not been discovered. The clay in the north-west of the Mouse is of a very fine quality. This circumstance induced the proprietor to erect a tile-work, where tiles for draining are now made to a great extent. It is needless almost to notice that the class of vegetables varies with the varia-

tion of the soil, and to the practised eye becomes no bad index of what is underneath the surface. The sand of which the knolls are composed, is very loose. Some years ago, two workmen, employed in sinking a well at the farm-steading of Hills, were overwhelmed by the bursting of the sides, when they had reached the depth of twenty-two feet. It was the Saturday previous to the winter communion. The bell of the village church being tolled as soon as the alarm was given, a large body of active fellows turned out, and, by dint of exertion, dug out the poor men, who were both alive, though twelve or thirteen hours had elapsed before they were reached. One of them recovered perfectly, and the other would have done so too, had he not received injuries from the fall of a portion of the wooden frame-work which had been employed to prop the bank. He died in the course of the Sabbath.

Zoology and Botany.—No animal of a peculiar character haunts the parish. Herons are found on the Clyde and the Mouse. The lapwing, a clamorous bird, frequents the moors and marshy spots, annoying the passenger in every direction. Rooks formerly frequented the woods around Carstairs House, but, getting too numerous, the inhabitants rose "en masse," killed and extirpated them some years since. Many attempts have been made to build nests by crows, probably young ones, who were ignorant of the bad usage of former times, but every such attempt has been rendered abortive, by the attacks of older birds, who seem determined to oppose the restoration of the rookery. Both the Clyde and the Mouse afford excellent sport for the angler, and in the former, trouts of several pounds weight are often taken. Pike are to be found in the deep pools, and in the old channel of the Clyde at West-bank. But Stonebyres Fall, several miles below, is the "ne plus ultra" of salmon.

Some of the rarer species of plants have been found, and such as are peculiar to mossy tracts are abundant. Neither bramble nor sloe is to be found in the parish. Plants varying with the soil, it is presumed that, from the variety of soils to be found within the compass of the parish, its vegetable productions are no less diversified.

Woods and Plantations.—The proprietor of Carstairs estate has done much to beautify and improve it, by laying out new plantations in favourable spots. Still a greater extent of wood would be favourable to the climate, and desirable to the eye. The north-eastern district of the parish, through which the Mouse flows, is

very bare, a dreary flat, but once the seat of a magnificent forest, certain proofs of which remain in the extent and depth of the moss to be found in it. The lawn at Carstairs House contains some fine trees. Below the house, on the bank of the river, is an extended avenue of beeches, terminated on the east by the mausoleum, which contains the ashes of the late proprietor, Mr Fullerton. This structure, in the shape of a small temple, and on a rising ground, supplies a beautiful termination to the vista.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—There are in all nine land-owners in the parish, four of whom are Commissioners of Supply; viz. Mr Monteith of Carstairs; Mr A. E. Lockhart of Cleghorn; Mr R. C. Buchanan of Drumpellier, and Mr Robert Campbell of Dalserf.

By far the greater portion of the parish is possessed by Mr Monteith, who spares no pains to improve his estate. He is constantly resident, superintending the extensive operations which are continually going on; thus affording an abundance of employment and good wages to the labouring-classes, whose comfort and welfare have been much advanced by the personal residence and public spirit of such an heritor. Were every one, who has it in his power, to follow Mr Monteith's example, he would confer a signal blessing on his neighbourhood.

State of Property.—The manor of Carstairs, with its church and pertinents, belonged to the Bishop of Glasgow, in the twelfth century, whose right was confirmed by bulls from different popes; particularly in the years 1170, 1178, 1181, and 1186. Soon after the death of Alexander III., Robert Wishart, then Bishop of Glasgow, with the consent of Edward I. of England, built a castle of stone* near the church of Carstairs, and the manor and parish

* The ancient Castle of Carstairs was originally a Roman station or fortification, and was given by King David, or St David, as he was called, in A. D. 1126, to the Bishop of Glasgow, for his country palace.

The following curious information is from the *Rotuli Scotiae* in the Tower, published by the Record Commission:

When Edward I. was at Berwick in 1292, deciding on the claims of Bruce and Balliol, he was in possession of all the fortresses of Scotland. At that period the King granted a license to Robert Wishart, Bishop of Glasgow, to finish the Castle of Carstairs, which had been begun without his leave. The following is a copy of the license: "The King and Sovereign Lord of the kingdom of Scotland, to all his bailiffs and faithful men to whom those shall come, greeting, Whereas a venerable father, Robert, Bishop, at his own manor of Carstairs, county of Lanark, a certain castle of stone and mortar, after the death of Alexander of blessed memory, began without any license to build, We to the same bishop, a special grace being willing to have granted in this part to him, for ourselves and for our heirs, that he the said castle so begun may finish and fortify with kernels, and the same so finished, and turreted, and kernilled, may hold to him, and to his successors for ever. Nor wish we that the said bishop,

continued to be held by the see of Glasgow till the Reformation. By the general annexation in 1588, when all the church lands were annexed to the Crown, in order to aid the public revenues, James VI. bestowed this fine barony, extending to a forty-eight pound land of old extent, with the advowson, vicarage-lands, and heritable jurisdictions, upon Sir William Stewart of Monkton, third son of Lord Ochiltree.

In 1589, Sir William sold the whole to Sir James Hamilton of Avondale. On the re-establishment of Episcopacy in 1603, the King gave to the Bishop of Glasgow the superiority of this barony. Sir James afterwards sold the barony to Sir James Lockhart of Lee, who gave it to his eldest son by a second marriage. From that family the barony and patronage passed to the late William Fullerton, Esq. of Carstairs, and from his heirs it was purchased by the present proprietor, Henry Monteith, Esq.

Antiquities.—The parish retains the vestiges of a Roman camp upon the farm of Corbiehall. The camp measures six square acres. Though it has been considerably injured by the plough and the spade, the walls of circumvallation are still easily traced, the pretorium is visible, and the causeway to and from the camp, running in a direct line, can be traced for many miles. To lay down the exact line of this Roman road has been the subject of deep and serious research, and after the most patient investigation, it has been found, that “Gadanica” in the ninth Roman Iter, “Colanica” of Richard’s map, and the “Colonia” of Ptolemy, a town of the Damnii, are the same. From this post, which corresponds so exactly with the Damnian town on Little Clyde, the Iter must have proceeded in a north-east direction, along the south-east side of Clydesdale, till it reached the remarkable turn which the river makes a little to the west of Biggar. From this point, following the course of the river, the Iter would naturally proceed in a northerly direction, along the eastern or right bank, till it reached Caer-stairs, the Coria, or Corium of the Iter, another town of the Damnii, which is twenty-four miles from the Colonia on the Little

or his successors, by occasion of the said castle being begun without our license, or will as aforesaid, is by us, or our heirs, or our bailiffs, or our servants whatsoever, be quarrelled, or in any way aggrieved. “Witness the king, at Berwick-on-Tweed the 15th of July.”

It is remarkable that in 1292 the castle and manor of Carstairs was possessed by one of our most public-spirited bishops, a citizen of Glasgow; and now, after a lapse of more than 500 years, the magnificent mansion and extensive manor of Carstairs are possessed by a citizen of Glasgow, alike distinguished for public spirit and active benevolence, whether engaged in mercantile enterprise, employed in the senate, or enjoying honourable retirement.

Clyde. Here, too, was a place known by the name of "Castledykes," which was said to be finely situated on the right bank of the Clyde, near Carstairs. From the station at Castledykes, there diverged a vicinal road across Clydesdale, probably intended to form a communication between the western Iter, and the estuary of the Clyde. This road passed the Clyde near Lanark, and led over Stonebyre hill, after which it crossed the Nether. Beyond this point, its vestiges have been frequently discovered by the plough. The locality of this now unknown spot may be further pretty accurately ascertained, by the fact, that on the south side of the Mouse, are the remains of a Roman camp in Lanark moor, said to be three miles from Castledykes.

Another account is, that the Iter, or great road, passed through the station at Castledykes, near Carstairs, and leaving Ravenstruther on the right, proceeded to Cleghorn mill, where it crossed the River Mouse. The road led thence through the enclosures of Cleghorn, leaving the Roman camp on the right, and proceeded by Collylaw, Kilcadzow, Coldstream, and Guilshields, to Belstane, in the neighbourhood of Carluke, being throughout Clydesdale known by the appropriate name of Watling Street.

Near Carstairs church were found the remains of a bath. Besides pots, dishes, and instruments of war, as well as those used in sacrifice, there have been found coins bearing the inscription of M. Aurelius, M. Antoninus, Trajanus Imperator, &c. some of which were sent by the late Mr Fullerton to the Society of Antiquaries, and to the University of Glasgow. A cairn or tumulus was dug up a few years ago, on the lands of Mossplat, and some urns were found in it, one of which is preserved by Mr Campbell of Dalserf. All these circumstances concur in affording a proof of the very long residence of the Romans in the neighbourhood of Carstairs.

In 1820, there were found underneath the stone-dike that encloses the south-west part of the glebe, a cannon bullet ten feet below the surface, imbedded among the rubbish of old buildings, and close by it, a floor of considerable dimensions, laid with large smooth pavement: also, a gable-wall of immense thickness, built with large massy stones. In 1838, there were found upon the side of a reclaimed moss, turned up with a hoe, thirty-six silver coins, neatly packed in a cow's hoof, having on one side "Civitas London," and, on the other, a man's face with the inscription, "Edw. Reg. Ang."

The bullet and the greater part of the coins are now in the possession of Henry Monteith, Esq.

Remarkable Occurrences.—In 1639, 13th April, Mr John Lindsay, minister of Carstairs, was deposed from the office of the ministry for adherence to the Service-book and the Bishops; and on the 30th of April in the following year, he was again admitted to the ministry of Carstairs by the imposition of hands.

On the 26th of May 1642, Mr John Lindsay reported to the presbytery, "that thro' occasion of a tumultuous brithal and promiscuous dancing at Carstairs, there must have fallen out, except the Lord in his mercy had prevented it, great mischief and blood." The presbytery, taking it into their serious consideration, "Ratify their former acts against number and peace at pennie brithals, and for preventing the like danger in tyme coming, ordains farder, that there be no promiscuous dancing, or excessive drinking, under the loss of the consigned money; and, in the meantime, ordains George Ogston to summons Thomas Lithgow, the author of the tumult, to compear before the session of Carstairs, under pain of the censures of the kirk."

1648, 7th December.—Proportion each parish was to pay for a bursar at Glasgow, as settled by Mr John Lindsay; Lanark, L. 22; Lesmahagow, L. 22; Carluke, L. 11; Douglas, L. 10; Crawford Lindsay, 10 merks; Carmichael, 10 merks; Pettinain, L. 5; Carstairs, L. 5; Dunsyre, L. 5; Roberton, L. 5; Wiston, L. 5; Carnwath, L. 10.

Parochial Registers.—A correct parish register has been kept for many years, and the session records extend as far back as the year 1672; in which there is nothing interesting or curious, except some severe instances of church discipline, especially during the ministry of Mr John M'Leran, who was afterward so well known, and so much esteemed at Edinburgh.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish at different periods has been as follows:

In 1755, the population was	845
1791,	924
1801,	899
1811,	875
1821,	937
1831,	981

By this table it appears, that, during the last war, the population decreased. It has increased gradually since the peace. The increase, since 1831, has not been great.

Census 1831,—males, 460—females, 521,				981
Males 20 years old,				17
Males upwards of 20 years old,				244
Males under 20 years old,				46
Male servants upwards of do.				23
Female Servants,				92
Labourers,				48
Occupiers of land not employing labourers,				20
Labourers employed in agriculture,				54
Males employed in manufactures,				18
retail trade,				42
Wholesale merchants, professional persons, and educated men,				6
Employed by the three preceding classes, and other labourers not agricultural,				16
Inhabited houses,				183
Inhabited houses occupied by families,				207
Uninhabited houses,				13
Families employed in agriculture,				82
trade,				46
	Births.	Burials.	Marriages.	
1828,	23	15	8	
1829,	27	9	9	
1830,	26	12	7	
1831,	25	16	9	
1832,	20	18	9	
1833,	25	12	12	
1834,	31	13	11	
1835,	29	15	2	
1836,	27	9	8	
1837,	19	16	15	
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Average 25½		18	9	

The average number of illegitimate children will not amount to two annually. There is only one fatuous person in the parish, one deaf and dumb, and none blind.

Character of the People.—The people on the whole are contented with their situation and circumstances, enjoying as they do the comforts of life in a reasonable degree. They are decidedly sober and industrious in their habits, and very regular in their attendance at church.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

Number of acres, standard imperial measure, in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	9936
Number of acres which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste, or in pasture,	1500
Number of acres that might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, whether that land were afterwards to be kept in occasional tillage or in permanent pasture,	500
Number of acres in a state of undivided common,	4
Number of acres under wood, whether natural or planted,	400

Every modern improvement in agriculture has been adopted in the parish. Some of the farmers are skilful and industrious, and particularly attentive to the regular rotations, so conducive to their interests as agriculturists. When the season per-

mits, ploughing is generally well forward before the winter frosts set in; and the fields are ready for sowing as soon as the vernal months are propitious. The extravagant opinion of theorists, "that nature never intended the land to rest,—that if it does not bear crops it will produce weeds," has been exploded as wild and chimerical; and every farmer finds it his interest to have as much of his lands as possible in grass or pasturage. If farmers could be induced to extend this practice, and never to have less than one-half of their fields in grass, they would find it still more conducive to their interest; and the rich returns, when broken up and cropped with the regular rotations, would amply repay the experiment. Turnip husbandry has been particularly successful. The use of bone-dust has been introduced, but it is not generally adopted. In no part of the country are better crops of potatoes produced. In favourable seasons many of the farmers have several hundred bolls in the market; and they can always find ready sale at the establishment of New Lanark, belonging to Messrs Walker and Company. The soil, in general, is well adapted to the potato crop; and our farmers are alive to the importance of a change of seed,—a practice which, not being observed in other quarters, has given rise to the most deplorable failures in this important necessary of life. The Ayrshire breed of cattle is to be seen on every farm. Upon some lands, which the proprietor retains in his own possession, are to be seen a description of cattle which cannot be surpassed in Scotland. The great improvement in agriculture and stock, which not this parish alone, but Scotland as a whole, now enjoys, is to be traced to the institution of ploughing-matches, cattle-shows, and the like, which have excited a laudable emulation among farmers,—the good effects of which have terminated to their own advantage, and will continue to add to it.

Thrashing-mills are in general use; and the painful and laborious exercise of the flail is only to be seen in small pendicles. Fences, too, are much better than formerly; but still, in some places, there is an evident want of attention to this highly useful and ornamental part of husbandry. Thorns, indeed, do not thrive well on the dry-sand soils; but in such soils as do favour their growth, it is painful to see large gaps in the hedges, arising from mismanagement and culpable inattention to the plants while young.

Draining.—We may here mention that Mr Monteith has exerted himself, in the most praiseworthy manner, to introduce agricultural improvements. He has drained and improved the fields in his own hands, and to such purpose as to double their value.

The following memorandum will best exhibit what he has done. It is supplied by one who has superintended personally the whole of the operations mentioned.

Mr Monteith commenced draining in 1836, on the plan recommended by Mr Smith of Deanston, called "the Frequent Drain System." For the first two years stone drains were used, and finished in the following manner:—Dimensions, 13 inches wide at top; 6 inches wide at bottom; 2½ feet deep; filled one foot, with stones broken to pass through a 2½ inch ring, on the top of which was laid an inverted turf, and the loose earth filled in above it with a plough or shovels. The cutting and filling cost 2s. 9d. per rood, (the subsoil being all to pick;) the stones cost 3s. per yard for quarrying, breaking, and cartage of two miles; and two yards were required for one rood, or 36 yards of a drain. The drains were 18 feet apart, so 26½ roods are required per Scots acre. The whole expense per Scots acre is as follows:

Cutting and filling 26½ roods at 2s. 9d.,	L. 8 12 10½
53½ yards of stones at 3s.,	8 0 6
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	L. 11 13 4½

The operation of subsoil ploughing, performed the following season, was done thus:—A common plough, with three horses yoked abreast, takes a furrow, one foot broad, and ten inches deep, and is followed by the subsoil plough of 400 weight, drawn by five horses, three abreast, and two in front, taking a furrow in the bottom of the last one seven inches deep. This operation turns the soil, and breaks up (but does not turn) the subsoil to the depth of 17 inches. The subsoil ploughing is always performed at right angles with the drains, and costs L. 1, 16s. per Scots acre.

The tile-work, already noticed, was erected in 1838; and draining with tiles is now preferred to stone drains, being much cheaper. The drains for tiles are made 12 inches wide at top, 5 inches wide at bottom, and 2 feet deep. The soles and tiles are then laid, and covered with an inverted turf, and the loose earth is filled in similar to the stone drains. The drains, for the most part, are put in 18 feet apart, and cost as follows:

Cutting and filling 26½ roods at 1s. 10d.,	L. 2 9 0½
2500 tiles at L. 1, 10s. per thousand,	3 15 0
Cartage two miles, 2s. 6d. per do.,	0 3 9
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When soles are required in soft land, add 2500 soles	L. 6 7 9½
at 15s.,	1 17 6
Cartage of soles at 1s. 3d.,	0 1 10½
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	L. 8 7 2
Add subsoiling, as formerly,	1 16 0
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	L. 10 3 2

This operation, although expensive, has hitherto done more than double the value of the land; and the proprietor is amply remunerated for his outlay by the two succeeding crops, besides getting his land laid down in a superior state, being quite level, and without furrows.

The reaping-machine was introduced in 1836. It does its work very neatly in favourable circumstances, viz. when the ground is level, free of stones, and the corn not lodged; but, owing to the climate and exposure of this parish, it is not likely ever to be generally adopted. The machine was made at Carstairs Mains, and constructed on the principle of Mr Smith's invention, which has been generally known throughout Scotland for the last ten years.

Leases and Rotations.—Leases, in general, run nineteen years; but many farms in this parish were let for fifty-seven years by the late Mr Fullerton, and at amazingly low rents, which in the present day bear no proportion at all to the advanced price of land. The low rate at which farms were formerly let tended to foster indolence and slovenliness, and operated as a direct hinderance to every species of improvement; while, on the contrary, upon farms where the rent has been more than doubled, the tenant is found to be in much better circumstances,—thus affording a certain demonstration, that the rise has only stimulated to more useful and profitable exertion. The rotations in general practice are as follows:—1st, From lea, one or two crops of oats; 2d, a green crop, viz. potatoes or turnips; 3d, oats or barley, sown down with grass and clover-seeds; 4th, a crop of hay. Some persons at this stage most injudiciously turn up the land for a fresh crop, while the more skilful allow it to remain in pasture for two or three years. The rotation occupies at the farthest eight years; at the least six, if regularly followed out.

Rent.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 2150 Scots; and the real rent, as given in by the former incumbent in 1794, was upwards of L. 2000 Sterling. It has now advanced to nearly L. 5000; and when the long leases of the former proprietor of Carstairs estate shall have expired, a much greater advance will take place.

Manufactures.—This is wholly an agricultural parish; no manufactures of any kind being carried on, except what is termed “customary work,” executed by a few weavers, who are also employed by the Lanark agents for some manufacturing houses in

Glasgow, to work up cotton fabrics. These weavers are as often found handling implements of manual labour in the field as on the loom-board,—the former employment being found more pleasant and more profitable than the latter.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns.—There is no market-town in the parish; the nearest are those of Lanark and Carnwath,—the first, four; and the other, two and a half miles distant from the church.

Villages.—There are two villages in the parish,—Carstairs, containing the church and parochial school, and Ravenstruther, a mile and a half to the west. We have already spoken of the aspect of Carstairs village, and the improvement made on it by the proprietor. It contains 420 inhabitants, Ravenstruther 100.

Inns.—There is one inn in the village of Carstairs, the tenant of which is licensed to retail spirits. A second existed for a short period; but the license being withdrawn, the premises were converted to other uses. One inn is quite sufficient for the place and the parish, if even one be necessary. There is not a drunkard in the parish.

Means of Communication.—The great road from Lanark to Edinburgh by Carnwath, as well as that by Wilsontown, and the road from Glasgow to Peebles, all pass through this parish, and are kept in excellent repair. The parish roads, kept up by the statute labour conversion money, are also in excellent order. A coach from Lanark to Edinburgh plies daily, and is well supported. The means of communication are thus abundant.

Ecclesiastical State.—The earliest information which can be collected on this subject is, that, in A. D. 1170, the church and barony of Carstairs, with right to present to the benefice, were, by several bulls from different popes, confirmed to Robert Wishart, Bishop of Glasgow, during the period when Bruce and Baliol contended for the Scottish Crown, and referred the decision of their right to Edward I. of England, who usurped the sovereignty. This church and barony remained vested in the see of Glasgow till the total demolition of church property, at the Reformation in 1588. The rectory of the church of Carstairs, with its property and revenues, had been constituted a prebend of the Cathedral church of Glasgow, and the cure was served by a vicar. By a taxation of the prebends in that bishopric in 1401 for the use of the Cathedral, Carstairs was at that time assessed in two merks per annum. In *Reginon's Roll* the prebend was taxed L. 4 Scots yearly;

and the vicarage L. 2, 13s. 4d. At the Reformation the prebendary parsonage was held by Bishop Kennedy, and the vicarage by Mr John Scott. The former was then reported at eight and a half chalders meal, and one-third bear, the latter at L. 40. The aggregate of the prebend in money was L. 105, 12s. By the act of annexation 1588, when all the church lands were annexed to the Crown, the superiority passed into the hands of the sovereign. It would appear, that when the estate of Carstairs was conveyed to Sir James Hamilton, (of which conveyance no record is to be found in history,) the benefice and all other pertinents were bestowed on him also. Both are now held by H. Monteith, Esq.

The parish church, with its surrounding burying-ground, stands in the centre of the village on a rising ground, a situation exceedingly well chosen for the convenience of the population generally. It was rebuilt in 1794, and is ornamented with a spire and clock. It affords 430 sittings, all of which are divided among the heritors, according to their respective valuations, and again subdivided among the tenants, excepting the seat of the patron, according to the size of their respective farms. None of the seats are let. The families in the village of Carstairs, having no sittings attached to their feus or houses, complain of the want of accommodation, and, in consequence, some have left the Established Church and joined the Dissenters.

There is no Dissenting place of worship in the parish. The Dissenters who reside in it are chiefly connected with the Relief and Associate Synods, and attend the places of worship belonging to these sects in Lanark and at Braehead, in the adjoining parish of Carnwath.

Number of families attending the Established Church, 163; number of Dissenting or Seceding families, 42.

An elegant and commodious manse, with offices and garden-wall, was built in 1820, on a new and very eligible site, about five minutes' walk from the church. The glebe contains 13 acres, including the ground occupied by the garden, manse, and offices. It may be valued at L. 40 yearly.

The stipend, which was augmented in 1819, amounts to 15 chalders, half meal and half barley, estimated at the rate of the highest fiars in the county, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

Education.—There are two schools in the parish; the parochial school in the village, and a private school at Ravenstruther. The

parochial school is attended by about sixty scholars, and the branches taught are, English reading, grammar, arithmetic, book-keeping, practical mathematics, Latin, Greek, and geography. The fees for English reading are, 2s. 6d. a quarter; for writing, 3s.; for English grammar, 3s. 6d.; for arithmetic and practical mathematics, 4s.; for Latin and Greek, 5s.; for book-keeping, L. 1, 1s. No extra charge is made for geography; and the fee for the higher branches always includes the lower. The salary is the maximum, L. 34, 4s. 4½d., with a free house and the statutory quantity of ground for a garden. The schoolmaster, also, receives the produce of a mortification (left by Sir James Lockhart of Carstairs, Bart. in 1751,) that yields about L. 1, 10s., annually, and for which he pays 5s. of feu-duty to the superior. Taking into account the salary, school-fees, and perquisites belonging to the session and heritors' clerk, the amount received by the teacher may be estimated at L. 75 yearly.

The private school at Ravenstruther has no salary attached to it. It is attended by about 65 scholars, a considerable number of whom come from the parish of Lanark.

The inhabitants of the parish seem alive to the advantages of education. The children are sent young to school, generally about five years of age; so that they are able to read and write before they are nine. There are none in the parish above ten years of age who cannot read.

Library.—There is a library in the village of Carstairs, containing about 350 volumes, tolerably well chosen. It is gradually increasing, although the fund is but small.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of poor upon the roll may be stated at 8. These are wholly supported by collections made in the church, which may average 10s. weekly, and the interest of L. 200; together with the mortcloth dues, amounting to about L. 1, 10s. yearly. There are many more who receive occasional aid in the shape of money, clothes, coal, and house-rent. There is no assessment, as in some of the surrounding parishes, and the non-resident heritors, with one honourable exception, have hitherto contributed nothing to the support of the poor.

Fuel.—From the extent of moss in the parish, peat is used as a considerable portion of the fuel. But the vicinity to coals, as well as their comparative cheapness, and the labour and expense of preparing peat, induce as great, if not a greater, consumpt of coals than peat.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the former Statistical Account was written, the population has increased. The value of land has risen also considerably, and the farms, which have been let since the present proprietor acquired the property, have been so improved as to wear a totally different aspect. Mr Monteith takes a deep interest in all agricultural improvements, and has exhibited them on his own home farm to a very great extent. It is not saying too much to affirm, that his residence in the parish has proved a blessing of no ordinary character. Besides affording constant employment to the labouring classes, and striving to render their situation comfortable, he takes every opportunity of discountenancing vice, and promoting true religion, by his personal example.

January 1839.

PARISH OF CARLUKE.

PRESBYTERY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. JOHN WYLIE, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE earliest notice of Carluke parish occurs in a charter of Robert I.; by which he grants to the monks of Lesmahute ten merks yearly, from the revenue of his mills of Maldeslay, for the purpose of supporting lights at the tomb of St Machute.* In a second charter of the same monarch, dated 8th March 1315, he conveys to these monks from his mills of *Carluke*, other ten merks yearly, to supply eight wax lights for the tomb of Machute, on Sundays and festivals. In the same reign, the Church of Eglis-Maluack, in Strathclyde, with all its rights and pertinents, is granted by the King to the monks of Kelso. From these facts, it is supposed that the name of the church was Eglis-Maluack, whilst the parish in general was distinguished by the appellation of Carluack or Carluke. The former of these names is supposed to be

* Spotswood's "Religious Houses," appended to Hope's Minor Practicks of the Law of Scotland, p. 442.