

## PARISH OF CARMUNNOCK.

PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

REV. JOHN HENDERSON, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of the parish now called Carmunnock appears in old charters in the various forms, Cormannock, Carmanoch, Carmannock, and Curmanock. On the oldest of the communion cups, (date 1707,) it is found in the form Carmannock, and the same form occurs on the tokens still in use of date 1777. The most probable account given of the origin of the name is that which derives it from the Gaelic *Caer-mannock*, signifying the Monk's fort.

*Extent, Boundaries, &c.*—The original parish is about 4 miles long from east to west, and averages  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles in breadth from north to south. There are two annexations, however, *quoad sacra tantum*, the one from the parish of Kilbride, and the other from the parish of Cathcart, inclusive of which it is fully 6 miles in length, and 4 in breadth. These annexations were by a regular decret of the competent court united to the parish of Carmunnock in 1725. The parish originally belonged to the presbytery of Hamilton, but was by authority of the General Assembly, and with consent of the then incumbent, united to the presbytery of Glasgow in 1597. The village of Carmunnock, which is situated about the centre of the parish, is fully 5 miles to the south of the city of Glasgow; and the parish is bounded on the east, by the parish of Cambuslang; on the south, by Kilbride; on the west, by Eaglesham and Mearns; and on the north, by Cathcart.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The parish, which is generally elevated, is beautifully diversified with hill and dale. From the higher eminences, particularly from the top of Cathkin-hill, situated towards its eastern boundary, and about 500 feet above the level of the sea, it commands one of the richest and most extensive prospects in the west of Scotland. In a clear day, the eye takes in part of sixteen counties. The immediate objects of at-

traction are, the city of Glasgow with its extensive suburbs and surrounding villages; the towns of Rutherglen and Paisley, and the whole of the fertile vale of Clyde from Hamilton to Dumbarton, with numerous views of the windings of the river, now crowded with trading vessels and steam-boats conveying goods and passengers in every direction. The distant objects chiefly worthy of notice are, to the east, Arthur's seat, and the Pentland hills, in the immediate vicinity of Edinburgh, to the north Benlomond, Benledi, and the neighbouring heights, and to the west, the hills of Arran and different parts of Argyleshire.

*Climate, &c.*—The atmosphere is remarkably pure and healthy, and though, from the elevation of the parish, rather cold than otherwise, has been much ameliorated in this respect within the last forty years, by the increased quantity of plantation and general improvements that have been made in agriculture. The parish, however, is still very subject to early and late frosts. The prevailing winds are the south-west, the west, and north-east. The wind from the south-west is often very boisterous, and generally accompanied with rain. I cannot state any diseases as peculiar to the climate, and few places afford so many instances of longevity. It is seldom that any epidemic spreads in the district, and it is worthy of remark, that though during the late visitation of Asiatic cholera, (1832), there were cases of that frightful malady in all the surrounding parishes, not one took place in the parish of Carmunnock.

*Hydrography.*—The parish everywhere abounds with perennial springs of excellent water, and there are no fewer than five public wells in the village, which even in seasons of the greatest drought seldom fail to afford an abundant supply. There are a few springs slightly impregnated with carbonate of iron, but there is none perceptibly chalybeate to the taste. It is mentioned in the last Statistical Account (published in 1796,) that the parish had been surveyed some time previously, with the view of ascertaining whether a quantity of water sufficient for the supply of the city of Glasgow could be procured. This speaks at once for the quantity and quality of the springs; but it was found upon the survey, that, if all the springs on the brow of the hill were collected, they could only afford 70 Scots pints in the minute, a supply even then two-thirds less than what was required. There are no natural lakes of any extent in the parish, and the only stream running through any part of it is a small rivulet called the Kittoch. The White

Cart, however, runs along its western boundary, the banks of which being high and craggy, and thickly wooded, are in some parts very picturesque and beautiful. On this stream is situated the village of Busby, containing a population of nearly 1000, mainly supported by a printfield and cotton-mill. A small portion of this village, within which is the printfield, belongs *quoad civilia* to the parish of Kilbride, but is annexed *quoad sacra* to Carmunnock. The other, and by far the greater portion of it, within which is the cotton-mill, is in the parish of Mearns.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The parish presents but few remarkable geological features. Whin or trap-rocks prevail throughout the district. In the estate of Cathkin, which is nearly one-third of the parish, almost all below the surface is solid whin, and indeed, the same may be stated of a considerable portion of the remainder. On the same estate there are two fine specimens of basalts. Throughout the parish there are several quarries of decomposed trap much used for farm and parish roads. There is also a quarry of freestone of considerable extent, the stone roughly granulated, but of a very firm texture. A few seams of coal are to be found in the parish, but only one of them has hitherto been wrought, and that very partially. The coal was of an inferior quality, and chiefly used for the burning of lime in the neighbouring parish of Kilbride. My own impression is, however, that good coal, to a small extent, exists in the parish, forming, in a few instances, the cropping out of some of the seams that constitute the great coal basin of the Clyde. Limestone and ironstone are also to be met with, both of them of the first quality. Though the former has not yet been wrought, I am informed that a bed of it was nearly contracted for last year; and a bed of the latter was, about the same time, wrought to a small extent for trial, and may soon attract the notice of persons interested. They are both in the estate of Castlemilk. The general direction of the strata of the parish is from south-west to north-east, and they have almost uniformly their dip or declination towards the Clyde.

*Soil.*—There is no great variety of soil. Generally speaking, it may be said to consist either of a free earthy mould, averaging seven inches in depth, on the surface of the whin rock mentioned as so common, or of a wet clayey soil on a retentive bottom, the latter yielding excellent crops when well drained and generously manured, but occasionally so mixed with sand as to render it naturally poor and unproductive.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

“ During the reign of William the Lion, the territory or manor of *Cormanock* was possessed by Henry, the son of Anselm, who took from it the local appellation of Henry of Cormanock. He appears as a witness to a number of charters of William the Lion, in which he is called, ‘ Henricus de Cormanoc.’ Before the year 1189, this Henry, for the salvation of the souls of his father and mother, granted, in perpetual alms, to the abbot and monks of Paisley, the Church of Cormanock, with half a carucate of land in the same manor, and common of pasture, and all other easements; and he directed, that when he and his wife, Johanna, died, their bodies, with a third part of their goods, should go to the same monastery. The church, &c. continued to belong to the monks of Paisley till the Reformation.”—“ In 1587, the patronage and tithes of the church of Carmanock, which were then held by Lord Claud Hamilton, as Commendator of Paisley, for life, were granted to him and his heirs, together with the other property of the monks of Paisley; and upon his death in 1621, they were inherited by his grandson, James Earl of Abercorn. In 1653, the patronage and tithes of Carmunnock passed, with the Lordship of Paisley, from the Earl of Abercorn, to Sir William Cochran of Cowden, who was created Lord Cochran in 1647, and Earl of Dundonald in 1669. In the following century, the patronage of the church of Carmunnock was acquired by Stuart of Castlemilk,” (*Chalmers’ Caledonia.*) The patronage still remains with the descendants of the last mentioned family, the present proprietor of Castlemilk, and patron of the parish, James Stirling Stirling, grand-nephew of the late Lady Stuart, being a minor.

*Land-owners.*—There are in all sixteen heritors, but only two of any considerable extent, viz. the above-mentioned James Stirling Stirling of Castlemilk, whose property extends to more than the half, and Humphry Ewing M’Lae, Esq. of Cathkin, who is in possession of nearly one-third of the parish. With three exceptions, the remaining 14 are feuars, who at different times have purchased a piece of ground from Castlemilk.

*Parochial Registers.*—Before the year 1640, a registration of marriages and births began to be kept; but several parts of the register, from decay and other accidental causes, cannot now be read. There is an entire register both of marriages and births from 1765, and the different parochial records are now kept with great accuracy and neatness.

*Antiquities.*—In the estate of Castlemilk, there are the remains of a Roman military road, and also of a Roman camp. In the same property, and also in the estate of Cathkin, several pieces of ancient armour, with camp utensils, have been dug up; and many tumuli have been met with, in which, when opened, urns formed of clay and rudely carved were found. The urns, when exposed to the air, went all to dust, except one, which was vitrified, and is still to be seen. In one or two instances, they contained a quantity of human bones mixed with earth. The sepulchral cairns, most of which are now destroyed, were in a straight line, and stood on bases of from 6 to 12 falls. Some of them were 6 feet high, and 6 falls on the top, and one of them, part of which is still standing, might measure from 14 to 15 feet in height. When deepening a ditch on the march between Cathkin and Castlemilk, about seven or eight years ago, the bottom of a boat was discovered, 10 feet long and 2 feet broad, all of black oak. There are no marks of iron about it, but strong wooden nails.

The late proprietress of Castlemilk, Lady Anne Stuart, is supposed to have been in her day the most direct descendant of the royal line of that name, and in the House of Castlemilk, one of the most beautiful residences in this part of the country, the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots is said to have lodged the night before the battle of Langside. An old thorn tree is pointed out as near the spot where, on the following day, she witnessed the discomfiture of her army; but perhaps a more likely situation is a rock on the top of Cathkin-hill, which still goes by the name of the *Queen's Seat*.

I may add to these notices, that, a few years ago, on taking down the old offices belonging to one of the Castlemilk farm-houses, a number of silver coins were found, of the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I. and II. They were wrapped up in what appeared to be an old stocking, and concealed in one of the walls. There can be little doubt, from the history of Scotland in connexion with the date of the coins, that they had been hid as a precaution against plunder.

*Recent Events.*—In 1819-20, memorable for a foolish rising against the government of the country, on the part of a number of deluded persons, especially in the West of Scotland, the top of Cathkin hill in this parish was selected as the place of rendezvous for a general assault upon Glasgow. The subjoined account of this absurd enterprise is extracted from the *Glasgow Herald* of the 10th

April 1820,—a newspaper which, in addition to its general respectability and extensive circulation, has always been remarkably accurate in its local intelligence. “Wednesday night last, (5th April 1820,) was the period fixed for a simultaneous attack upon the city by the Radicals. Cathkin Braes, about five miles south, was the site chosen for their encampment. The Strathaven division, between 20 and 30, with such arms as they could seize or collect, arrived there at the appointed time; but, instead of the many thousands expected to be encamped, they did not meet with a single individual to welcome them; and on that wet boisterous and dreary night, were necessitated to seek refuge in the woods. The Radicals, at last finding that they had been imposed upon by a delegate who had summoned them to the meeting, next day, between one and two o’clock, left their lonely and comfortless abode, threw away their arms and dispersed. Some of them went into a house occupied by a labourer, in which there were none but women at the time, and requested a few potatoes then boiling, which they fell upon like as many hungry dogs. Nothing could exceed their wretched and alarmed appearance.

“About a dozen of the Strathaven Radicals, who had been at Cathkin Braes, were, on their return home, apprehended by the armed tenantry of Strathaven parish, and carried prisoners to Hamilton, where they underwent an examination before the Sheriff. Nearly a dozen of Radicals, armed with pikes and pistols, visited two public-houses in New Cathcart, about twelve o’clock on Tuesday night, on a search for arms, but they did not find any. There was scarcely a village, however small, within twenty miles round, in which the Radical address was not posted up, and in most of them there were preparations made to obey the call expected from Glasgow.”

I am happy to add to this Account, that though then, as now, there were what are called “Radical opinions,” in the village of Carmunneck, yet I am not aware of preparations being here at any period made for deeds of violence.

### III.—POPULATION.

There has been a gradual increase in the population of the parish, as will be seen by the following statement.

Population in 1755,	471
1796,	570
1821,	637
1831,	692

The above is the population of the parish *quoad civilia*. By

adding the districts annexed *quoad sacra*, the present population may be nearly 1000. It is deserving of notice, that, in taking up the Government census in 1831, the proportion of males and females was exactly equal, there being of each sex 346.

Yearly average of births for the last seven years,	22
deaths,	20
marriages,	14
Number of illegitimate births in the parish during the last three years,	4

*Proprietors of Land.*—There are six proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards.

*Character of the People.*—The people in general are decent in their morals; sober, honest, and industrious; and there is no instance of any individual from the parish having been tried for a capital crime. In bearing this general testimony, it is not to be expected that we are free from the injurious influence of public-houses, the fruitful source of vice and misery throughout Scotland. I may add, however, that in few parishes is there a more general regard paid to divine ordinances, or a greater proportion of serious and devout individuals. The beneficial effects of what is usually called the “Cambuslang Work,” 1742, no doubt partially extended to this and other neighbouring parishes, and it is a place that, for nearly 150 years, has never wanted a Gospel ministry. The people have been much distinguished also for warm affection and respectful kindness towards their pastors. It is said that the practice of family worship was at one time kept up in every household. Though the good habit is still prevalent, I am sorry I cannot give the parish so enviable a distinction at the present day.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The parish contains about 2810 acres Scotch. Of these, 2400 are arable, and under a regular system of cultivation. 250 are under wood, almost all of which has been planted, and about 106 are constantly in pasture. The remainder are occupied with roads, &c. During the time of the present proprietor of Cathkin, there were in one square on the hills above 20 acres of waste land; besides 6 or 7 acres of moss in such a state as to render it dangerous to pass over them. The whole of these have now been brought in, and the acres that were previously moss are now considered the best ground belonging to the farm in which they are situated. They require less manure than any other part of the farm, and are particularly adapted for carrots, turnips, and potatoes. There is no undivided common in the parish.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land is from

L. 1, 10s. to L. 1, 15s. per acre Scotch, but some parts are let at nearly L. 3. The gross rental of the parish has been much more than doubled within the last forty years, and may now be reckoned at L. 4200.

*Wages.*—The wages of regular farm servants may be stated as follows: Males, from L. 7 to L. 10 per half year, with bed, board, and washing; females, from L. 2 to L. 5, according to their fitness for work. The rate of wages for day-labourers is 2s. per day in summer, and in winter 1s. 8d., without victuals.

*Live-Stock.*—The number of milch cows in the parish may amount to 350. They are all of the Ayrshire breed, and the farmers generally rear a few young cattle yearly. The farm-horses are of the Clydesdale breed, and are for the most part first rate animals, and kept in excellent condition. Of these, there are from two to six on each farm, according to its extent.

*Husbandry.*—In few places has there been a more rapid improvement in husbandry, and so well is the greater part of the land cultivated, that, notwithstanding the elevation of the parish, and some natural disadvantages of soil, we have excellent crops of all sorts. Improvements are still progressing, particularly in the way of draining, which is carried on in many of the farms to the extent of from 1500 to 3000 falls annually. Furrow-draining is most approved of, and tiles have been much used for the purpose within the last few years. Each farm is divided into fields proportionable to its size, and intersected with roads convenient for the carting of manure, and the removal of the crops. The fences are for the most part of thorn, but occasionally with a mixture of beech. They have been much better attended to of late years, and, along with the quantity of young thriving wood, and the natural diversity of hill and dale, give a richness and beauty to the general aspect of the parish to which, thirty years ago, it was a stranger. The general rotation of crops is, 1. oats; 2. green-crop, with a portion of the field in summer fallow; 3. wheat; 4. hay; and then three years pasture. The cropping is so managed as to make the pasture always extend to fully one-third of the farm, the produce of the dairy forming a great proportion of the income of the farmer, without which it would be impossible for him to make good his rent. Since green cropping became general, many of the farmers make a point of having several of their cows yielding milk during winter, in order to increase their supply of manure. Notwithstanding this, a considerable quantity of

the manure used in the parish is brought annually from Glasgow, at a very great expense. The average size of the farms is 115 acres Scotch.

*Leases.*—The general length of leases is nineteen years.

*Farm-Houses.*—Some of the farm-houses are very superior, and, with few exceptions, they are all in good condition, having been lately either wholly rebuilt, or put into complete repair.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication, &c.*—The nearest market-town is Rutherglen, which is about three miles and a half distant. There are seven fairs in this town annually, and several of these are frequented by our farmers for the sale and purchase of horses and cows. The chief market resort, however, for the above purposes, and the place also where the farm produce of all kinds is mostly disposed of, is Glasgow. The village of Carmunnock containing a population of 400 souls, is the only village in the parish *quoad civilia*. The village of Busby, formerly alluded to as in part annexed, *quoad sacra*, is distant from Carmunnock about one mile and a quarter, and has recently been privileged with a penny-post from Glasgow, which has proved a great convenience to the surrounding district. In the village of Carmunnock, there are 3 grocers, two of whom are also publicans. Besides these, there are 2 other public-houses, 2 wrights, 1 tailor, 1 smith and farrier, 2 carriers, and about 15 day-labourers. The remaining population of the village is chiefly composed of hand-loom weavers. In the country part of the parish, (which is otherwise wholly agricultural,) there are 1 wright, 1 smith and farrier, and 1 miller.

There is only one turnpike road within the whole parochial district, extending to about three miles and a-half, and without any public coach. The Glasgow and Muirkirk road, however, passes along the eastern boundary of the parish, and is travelled by a coach from Strathaven three times a week. The parish roads are, generally speaking, in good order.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is in the middle of the village, and very conveniently situated for the parishioners. It was built in 1767, and underwent considerable repairs last year. It is upon the whole neat and comfortable, when compared with most country parish churches of the date of its erection, and may accommodate from 450 to 500. There is no Dissenting meeting-house in the parish, and there are very few Dissenters, except in the village of Carmunnock. These, too, are for the most part persons who, at a

time of political excitement, and the agitation of the question about the lawfulness of National Religious Establishments, have only recently gone to the meeting-house of a Dissenting minister of voluntary principles in the neighbourhood. The number of communicants belonging to the Established Church is from 240 to 250. The church is well attended.\*

Number of families in the parish attending the Established Church:—

In the parish <i>quoad civilia</i> ,	-	101
Do. <i>quoad sacra</i> ,	-	21
		— 122

Number of families Dissenting or Seceding:—

In the parish <i>quoad civilia</i> ,	-	38
Do. <i>quoad sacra</i> ,	-	18
		— 56

*Stipend, Manse, &c.*—Carmunnock is one of the small livings of the Church of Scotland. The stipend by a decret of modification, of date 28th June 1797, consists of 94 bolls, 1 peck, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  lippies of meal, 23 bolls, 2 firlots, 3 pecks, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  lippy of bear, and in money L. 15, 6s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. To the above, there is now added by the Exchequer, for raising the stipend to an average of L. 150 per annum, the sum of L. 39, 10s. 10d. The heritors have lately built a very elegant and substantial manse, and the offices, which stand in need of some slight repairs, are immediately to be attended to. The glebe is scarcely 5 acres in extent, but of an excellent soil.

*Education.*—The only school in the parish is the parochial one, where instruction is given in all the usual branches. The schoolmaster has the maximum salary, and the school-fees average L. 40 per annum. Till within these few years, the schoolmaster had neither house nor garden, but received an annual sum in lieu of them. The heritors, however, lately purchased a piece of ground for him, and erected both an excellent school-house and dwelling-

\* *Succession of Ministers in Carmunnock.*—Mr Andrew Hamilton, vicar 1586; Mr James Hamilton, reader and vicar 1586; Mr Archibald Glen, from Rutherglen, admitted 27th April 1609; Mr Robert Glen, 23d August 1614; Mr James Mowbrae, 27th November 1622, and removed by the Archbishop in 1633; Mr James Hutcheson, from Houston, admitted 7th December 1639, and deposed 1639; Mr Matthew M'Kaill, admitted 17th May 1640, and went to Bothwell 1649; Mr Andrew Myrton (Morton) admitted 8th May 1650, turned out at the Restoration, and reinstated at the Revolution, died July 1691; Mr Robert Boyd, during the deposition of Myrton, 18th January 1665; Mr Andrew Tait, admitted 22d March 1695; Mr John Kerr ordained 3d May 1744, and died 24th April 1775; Mr Joseph Hodgson, ordained 30th May 1776, died 6th December 1785; Mr James French, ordained 21st September 1786, and translated to Kilbride 21st April 1791; Mr Adam Forman, ordained 26th January 1792, and translated to Kirkintilloch 6th June 1811; Mr (now Dr) Angus Makellar, ordained 30th April 1812, and translated to Pencaitland 29th June 1814; Mr (now Dr) Patrick Clason, ordained 11th May 1815, and translated to Buccleuch parish, Edinburgh, April 1824; Mr John Henderson, ordained 22d July 1824.

house, and he has now not only all the legal accommodations, but the whole educational establishment does much credit to those concerned. The school-house has a play-ground in front, an appendage that should always be looked upon as a *sine qua non*.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of poor on the permanent roll may be stated at five. Besides these, however, occasional relief is annually afforded to many whose circumstances for a time require it, and in no place are the wants of the poor more zealously attended to, or more liberally supplied. The weekly collections at the church door average L. 20 per annum, and in addition to this source of aid, the poor derive assistance from several mortifications made at different periods for their behoof, the interest of which is L. 25 per annum. We have no assessment, nor is there any prospect of one ever being required. There are frequent collections at the church door for charitable and religious purposes, which may amount to from L. 25 to L. 30 per annum.

*Fairs.*—There was at one time an annual fair held in the village of Carmunnock, on the first Friday of June, but it has now gone into complete desuetude.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The above statistics have reference solely to the parish of Carmunnock *quoad civilia*, except when mention is expressly made of those portions of territory annexed *quoad sacra*, a more full account of which is likely to be furnished by those ministers to whose parishes they belong *quoad civilia*. The most marked improvement since the publication of the last Statistical Account is beyond question, that which is connected with the agricultural state of the parish, and its consequent increase of yearly rental. It might have been mentioned on the subject of longevity, that the writer of this account was once present at a funeral in the parish, where there were present the father of the deceased, one of the grandfathers, and the two great grandfathers; and though this was ten years ago, they are all alive at the present day.

July 1839.