PARISH OF CAMBUSNETHAN.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. ARCHIBALD LIVINGSTONE, MINISTER.

I.—Topography and Natural History.

Name.—Camus, in the Gaelic language, signifies a bay or curve. There are two fine bendings of the river Clyde, from either of which the name may have arisen; the one at Garrion, below the junction of the Nethan and the Clyde; and the other at the old church, which is said to have been dedicated to Saint Nethan, whom Archbishop Usher styles, "Religiosissimus et Doctissimus Nethan."

Extent, Boundaries.—The parish is in shape somewhat like a parallelogram, or rather like a sand-glass, and stretches from east to west. Its length from the old kirk on the Clyde, at the west, to Badallan beside Breich Water on the east, is nearly 12 miles. The widest place at the west end, from Garrion on the south, to Calder near Swinstie on the north, is 4 miles and 1 furlong; and the widest place on the east, from Aughterhead on the south, to Calder at Dykehead on the north, is nearly the same. In the centre from Bogside on the south, to Bridgend on the north, it is scarcely 2 miles.

The parish is bounded by Shotts on the north; Whitburn and West Calder, on the east; Carnwath, Carstairs, and Carluke, on the south; and Dalserf, Hamilton, Dalzell, and Bothwell, on the west.

Hydrography.—The South Calder rises in the moorland grounds near Tarrymuck in Linlithgowshire, and, pursuing a westerly course, forms the northern boundary between this parish and Shotts for upwards of nine miles. In the eastern parts of its course, it runs through an open exposed country; but for many miles before it falls into the Clyde, its banks are steep, richly covered with wood, highly romantic, and interspersed with many gentlemen's seats.

Lingore Linn, Kitchen Linn, Darmead Linn, and Leadloch Burn, which fall into Breich Water, are considerable streams at the east end of the parish. Blindburn, Coalburn, and the stream which issues from Redmyre Loch, fall into the Calder nearer its centre. Auch-

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

ter water, which rises near Bontyhillock in Carluke, after forming the boundary between that parish and Cambusnethan for upwards of a mile, pursues a serpentine course through the parish for about three miles, and falls into the South Calder at Bridgend; and Garrion Burn, which separates this from Carluke parish, after running for three miles through a most romantic gill, often precipitous, shaded with wood, and adorned with orchards, empties itself into the Clyde above Dalserf.

Topographical Appearances.—The grounds on the banks of the Clyde are low and level, expanding into a series of beautiful and fertile haughs. From the eastern border of these haughs, the country rises to a considerable elevation; the face of the acclivity being generally adorned with orchards. The distance from the river to the summits of these acclivities is nearly a mile. From them there is a general rise, till the parish merges into the Lothians. The elevation of the haughs on the Clyde is not more than 120 feet. The high ground which skirts them on the east may be about 250 feet in elevation; while some of the higher lands in the east end of the parish attain the altitude of at least 900 feet. The climate is much the same as in the neighbouring parishes. At the confluence of a small stream near Badallan with Breich Water, the parishes of Cambusnethan, Whitburn, and West Calder, and the counties of Lanark, Linlithgow, and Lothian meet.

There is an artificial knoll at the north-west corner of this parish, close to the river Calder, below Wishaw House, where it is said the four parishes of Cambusnethan, Dalzell, Bothwell, and Shotts unite.

About twelve years ago, a new road was formed from Edinburgh to Ayr, which reaches this parish at Breich Water, and comes down through the centre of it, nearly eleven miles, to Garrionbridge, which was thrown over the Clyde in 1818.

The eastern, which is the highest part of the parish, has a very extensive view. From Knownowton you see the Castle of Edinburgh, Tinto, Loudon-hill, Dumbarton Castle, and the hills of Argyleshire; and to no evening scene have I ever been attracted with greater rapture, than to observe the summer sun setting behind the serrated cliffs of Arran, or throwing a blaze of parting radiance around the lofty Benlomond. From the church of Cambusnethan you can see fifteen country churches, besides those of Glasgow. *

* In Acta Parliamentorum Gulielmi, 1695, there is an "act in favour of Sir

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

Mineralogy.—This parish forms part of the great coal-field of Lanarkshire, and coals are wrought in a great many places throughout its bounds. It may be sufficient to mention only one of them. The pit near Wishaw distillery is twenty-two fathoms deep, and three seams are wrought in it. At the depth of fourteen fathoms, the Ell coal occurs, which is here about seven feet thick. The galleries are entered by means of a stage, but as the roof is chiefly of fire clay, there are only about five feet of coal wrought. Eight feet farther down, the Pyatshaw and Main coal are found in one seam, about nine feet thick. The metals between the Ell and the Pyatshaw are chiefly blaes, with about a foot of sandstone. The splint-coal lies about fifteen fathoms below the main coal. It is wrought in the pits at Muirhouses, at the trifling depth of ten or twelve fathoms. The whole metals are thrown up here by a great dike, which may be seen at Bridgend. Another dike runs east and west, passing below the distillery; and there are several other dikes which uniformly assume the same direction. At present ten men are employed at the Wishaw colliery, each putting out forty-five cwts. per day or 2700 cwts. per week. Fifteen cwts. are now sold at 3s.

Nearly the whole of the parish is full of coal, and in many places it is of great thickness. Should the railway come through this parish, as is expected, it will open up the coal-fields in various places, where there is at present no demand; and will add greatly to the wealth and improvement of the district.

The east end of the parish contains a great deal of valuable ironstone. The blackband ironstone is found in the neighbourhood of Headlesscross, as well as on the estates of Coltness and Allanton.

Thomas Stewart of Kirkfield, for two yearly fairs, and two weekly mercats at the town of Overtoun of Cambusnethan." About a century ago, the greatest quantity of oatmeal brought into the Glasgow market, and which also sold dearer than any other, was Cambusnethan meal, so called, because it came from that parish, where, two days in the week, it was collected at a market, once held at the village of Overtoun, and afterwards, by the authority of the gentlemen of the county, transported to a place more conveniently situated on the great road from Glasgow to Carnwath, called Barnhall of Cambusnethan. In this market was collected the greater part of the meal coming from the markets of Kelso, Peebles, Carnwath, and the parishes adjacent to the market itself; for which reason, the whole, when it arrived at Glasgow, was called Cambusnethan meal.

This meal was sold at Barnhall by the load, containing thirty-three pecks Lanark weight, and the expense of winter transportation on horseback was as follows: From Peebles to Carnwath, per load, 1s. 8d.; from Carnwath to Barnhall, 1s. 2d.; from Barnhall to Glasgow, 1s. 8d.; transportation of fifty miles, 4s. 6d. This load is the eighth part of a chalder, so that the transportation of a chalder at this rate would be L. 1, 16s. or 8¾d. per mile. Such was the winter price, when the roads were dreadful; but in summer, the price was scarcely one-half; for then a horse could carry from three to four loads in a cart.

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

Sandstone of excellent quality is also found in various places. This parish, in short, wants only some means of communication, with an available market, to render it one of the most valuable in Scotland.

Two tile-works, on an extensive scale, are at present in active operation upon the estate of Wishaw, and one on that of Coltness. The clay is of excellent quality, and generally ten feet in thickness. The shelves in one of the works are capable of containing upwards of 29,000 undried tiles, and the stoves dry about 21,000 tiles at once. Both roof-tiles and draining tiles are manufactured here in great perfection. There are three sets of draining tiles. The middle-sized are sold at about L. 1, 10s. per 1000.

The Shotts Iron-Works, at the east end of this parish, have two blast furnaces constantly employed. In consequence of these works, the population has increased about 2000; and nearly one-third of that population resides in this parish, at the ancient village of Stane, which is separated from the parish of Shotts by the river Calder.

Here is the principal coal-field; and here the Shotts Iron Company have planted thirty acres of fiorin grass, which has, for these twenty years, been very productive. Mr Baird, who superintends the works, assured me that 3000 stones of grass, amounting to upwards of 500 stones of hay, have often been raised from one acre. It cost L.15 per acre to prepare it for the fiorin grass, and, previous to that preparation, the ground was worth nothing. The soil throughout this parish is generally clay, upon a bottom of an older formation, here usually termed *till*.

The clay is in some places so strong, that it is wrought at a great expense both of labour and cattle; in other places, however, it is more friable, and in some very fertile.

The haughs are mostly of transported soil, and bear evident marks of having formed, at some remote period, the bottoms of lakes. In the higher parts of the parish, the soil is generally intermixed with gravel and black sand, which renders it rather unfavourable for cultivation. There is, however, much good land in the parish, and grain of all sorts is raised in great perfection.

Zoology.—The deep ravines and craggy precipices about Garrion Gill and the banks of South Calder, have been long the favourite retreats of the fox and otter.

The badger, though formerly very common, is beginning to be a rare animal, and the squirrel, formerly unknown, is establishing itself throughout the whole of this district. The haughs on the

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

Clyde are famous for the number and quality of their hares. Other game is abundant; but woodcocks are beginning to be scarce.

The Clyde contains about twelve species of fishes, of which the salmon is the principal. This fish, long scarce, has of late begun to reappear; and during the last few seasons, it was particularly abundant. This may, in some measure, be owing to the generally swollen state of the river, which permits them to overcome the serious obstacles they have to encounter at Blantyre Cotton Mills.

Botany.—This parish presents a great variety of soil and surface, and is therefore highly favourable for the growth of various plants. A very complete and accurate list of these has been published in a "Popular Description of the Indigenous Plants of Lanarkshire, by the Rev. William Patrick." The following may be given as a specimen of a few of the rarer and more interesting sorts, viz :—

Schœnus albus
Eriophorium vaginatum
Poa aquatica
Melica uniflora
Symphytum tuberosum
Solanum dulcamara
Erythræa
Polygonum bistorta
Chrysosplenium alternifolium
Stellaria nemorum
Hieracium sylvaticum
Habenaria trifolia
Listera Nidus-Avis
——— ovata
Nasturtium amara
Scolopendrium vulgare
Veronica montana
Asplenium Trichomanes
Doronicum Pardalianches

II.—Civil History.

According to the Wishaw manuscript, "The barony of Cambusnethan belonged of old to a family of the name of *Baird*; after whose forefaulture, it fell into the hands of Sir Alexander De Stewart. From the Stewarts it passed into the hands of the Sommervilles, who were the proprietors for many ages. The first of this name who was Laird of Cambusnethan, was Sir John Sommerville; who married the heiress of Cambusnethan in 1372; succeeded his father in 1380, and died in 1405. He was buried in the choir of Cambusnethan church, beside his wife, and was the first of the name who was buried there. This ancient and valuable barony remained in the hands of the Sommervilles for six generations; during which period, much of it was disponed to other heritors; particularly, the lands of Crindledyke and Branchellburn, to the Laird of Lauchope; the lands of Coltness, Wishaw, Watstein and Stain, were purchased by Hamilton of Uddsten, the predecessor of Lord Belhaven; Greenhead was purchased by John Robertson, and Overtown and Pather, became the property, first of Lord Bel-

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

haven, and latterly of Sir David Stewart of Coltness. About the year 1649, the house and mains of the barony of Cambusnethan were disponed to James Sommerville of Drum, and by him in 1661, to Sir John Harper, Advocate, who rebuilt the mansion house of Cambusnethan. He sold the superiority of the Mains of Coltness, and also the temple lands of Goukthrople to Sir Thomas Stewart of Coltness.

"Upon the death of Sir John Harper, the lands of Cambusnethan were sold to the Lockharts of Castlehill." The barony of Cambusnethan now goes to the second son of the Sinclairs of Stevenson and Murcle; but the proprietor is always to assume the name of Lockhart. The estate of Cambusnethan was left by the first purchaser of the name of Lockhart to his sister, Martha, spouse of Sir John Sinclair of Stevenston. It was incorporated into a free barony, called the Barony of Cambusnethan, in favour of James Lockhart of Castlehill, by a charter under the Great Seal, dated 26th July 1695. In the year 1764, these lands came into the possession of Captain James Lockhart, second son of Sir Robert Sinclair of Stevenston, Bart., who succeeded his uncle, George Lockhart, Esq. of Castlehill, one of the Senators of the College of Justice. The superiorities, &c. of the estates in the parish of Stonehouse, which formerly belonged to Martha Lockhart, were also formed into a barony by a charter under the Great Seal, called the Barony of Castlehill; which is the title that the family of Cambusnethan still retains.

Chalmers says, that the church of Cambusnethau, with its tithes and other rights, was granted to the monks of Kelso, during the twelfth century, by William Finemund, the Lord of the Manor; and it was confirmed to them by Malcolm IV., and by William the Lion. From Radulph de Cler, who seems to have succeeded Finemund, as Lord of the Manor, the monks of Kelso obtained a confirmation of the church of Cambusnethan; and he granted to them, and to the said church, the tithe of all the multure, and his produce of the mills of Cambusnethan; and a right of priority in grinding their corns at the said mill; in return for which, the monks granted him a license to have a private chapel within his manor house. (Chart. Kelso, No. 278.)

The monks also obtained confirmation of this church from Walter, Bishop of Glasgow, in 1232. Before the end of the thirteenth century, the church of Cambusnethan, with its tithes and other property, was transferred from the monks of Kelso to

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

the Bishop of Glasgow. And it continued to belong to the Prelates of that see, as a mensal church, till the Reformation; and in after times, while Episcopacy continued to exist, the cure was served by a vicar.

At the Reformation, Sir James Hamilton had a lease from the Archbishop of Glasgow, of the parsonage tithes of Cambusnethan for a small rent. After the Reformation, the tithes and the patronage of the church followed the fate of the spiritual property of the Archbishop of Glasgow.

In Acta Parliamentorum, v. 598, there is a ratification in favour of the Duke of Lennox of the church lands of Cambusnethan. And in 1696, there is also a ratification in favour of Anne Duchess of Hamilton, of the whole rectory and vicarage tithes of the parish church of Cambusnethan, to be held in blench-farm for the payment of one penny Scots yearly, and also paying the minister of that parish the yearly stipend, as modified, from the parochial tithes.

The patronage of the church was afterwards granted to the proprietor of the barony of Cambusnethan; and it now belongs to Robert Lockhart, Esq. of Castlehill, who holds that barony.

At or within the manor house of Cambusnethan, was a chapel, dedicated to St Michael, to which certain lands in the vicinity were mortified.

The old church of Cambusnethan stood in a most romantic spot at the south-west point of the whole parish, very near the river Clyde. It had certainly been built there for the accommodation of the Baron of Cambusnethan, so near his mansion house, and probably at his sole expense, there being no other heritor in the parish then but himself. The date of its erection is unknown; but it was long before the barony was separated, and long before Thomas Lord Somerville gave to Lord Yester his first interest in the parish. It had a choir, and from the remains of it still visible, must have been a much more magnificent structure than the present one. It was, however, inconveniently situated for the parish at large, many of the parishioners, particularly those beyond Redmyre, having to travel from six to twelve miles to attend it.

This church having stood nearly two centuries, was, after an inspection in presence, and by appointment of the presbytery of Hamilton, declared, 17th March 1837, by two respectable architects, upon oath, to be in a ruinous and dangerous condition; and the minister was, by order of the presbytery, prohibited from preach-

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

ing in it. A new church was ordered to be built, capable of containing 1000 sitters, the minister and the great body of the parishioners expressing their wish that it should be built to accommodate the legal number of the population of the parish, which contains 4000 inhabitants. The church, however, it was agreed, should be built for only 800; the Church Extension Committee promising to build a chapel between the parish church and the manse, to contain an equal number. Although two years have elapsed, neither church nor chapel has yet been begun; and the condemned church has, with the sanction of the presbytery, been again opened for public worship.*

The church, after being seated in every corner, contained only 660 sitters. It was cold, damp, and uncomfortable. From these and other circumstances, the people were forced to become Dissenters, and built a house for themselves at Wishaw Town, in connexion with the Relief body.

There, there is also a house in connexion with the Reformed Presbyterian Church, or the Cameronians; and as this parish was a very ancient seat of Secession, a house in connexion with the Burghers, now with the United Associate Synod, was built nearly a century ago at Davies-dykes, which has of late been transferred to Bonkle, a small and romantic hamlet on the Allanton estate.

Modern Buildings.—The principal seats in this parish besides Cambusnethan House, are those of Wishaw, Coltness, Allanton, and Muirhouse. About twenty years ago, a very elegant structure was erected at Cambusnethan, under the inspection of that celebrated architect, Mr Gillespie Graham, on the site of the former, which had been consumed by an accidental fire. This building is in the Gothic style of architecture, and is a very chaste and perfect representation of a priory. It is placed in a most romantic situation, and is an object well fitted to attract the admiration of every traveller.

The present proprietor has added much to the beauty of the place, and to the extent of the orchards. He has upwards of 25 acres planted with apple, pear, and plum trees of the best descrip-

* It is but justice to the heritors to mention, that since I gave in my Statistical Report in March last, a new parish church has been begun in June, very near the site of the present one. This site has been selected with good taste, as it is dry and commanding, and not far from the centre of the population. The church is a neat, plain structure, in the Gothic style, built of an excellent white freestone, which is abundant in many parts of the parish.

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

tions; and owing to the natural fertility of the soil, and the warm and sheltered situation, his is the most productive orchard upon Clyde.

The fruit was sold in 1828 for L. 402; 1829, L. 371; 1830, L. 231; 1831, L. 317; 1832, L. 60; 1833, L. 485; 1834, L. 180; 1835, L. 350, being at the average of L. 300 per annum. And before the Glasgow market was so glutted with fruit of an inferior description, by the facility of steam navigation, this orchard, when it had not arrived at its present state of maturity, has some years brought the sum of L. 1000.

There are in the parish upwards of 160 acres in orchard ground. It is, however, less productive now than formerly; and the spirit of planting orchards is at present on the decline. A cyder press, however, has been lately established, and, if properly conducted, may tend to cause a reaction. In 1827, upwards of L. 2300 was received for the orchards in this parish, besides L. 400 for gooseberries and currants.

Wishaw House, the seat of Lord Belhaven and Stenton, is situated on the River Calder, at the north-west corner of the parish. This mansion has been recently enlarged and beautified under the direction of Mr Gillespie Graham. The style of architecture is the castellated; and the whole is a very successful alteration of an ancient building. The front has an extremely handsome appearance, the outline being much varied by the different heights and projections of the towers and embattled walls. The apartments are suitable to the extent of the house, and some of them are particularly worthy of examination for their beauty and proportions. There are several excellent family portraits preserved at Wishaw House; one of Sir James Balfour, Lord Lyon, King of arms in the reign of Charles I. by Vandyke, is reckoned a very valuable painting. There is also a picture of John, Lord Belhaven, who, in the reign of Queen Anne, made so strenuous an opposition to the treaty of Union.

Family of Belhaven.—The territorial possessions of this family in the county of Lanark are very ancient. The peerage of Belhaven and Stenton was conferred on Sir John Hamilton of Biel, in the county of Haddington, by Charles I. in 1647. The patent was surrendered to Charles II. in 1695, and regranted by his Majesty with farther remainders.

The father of the present Lord Belhaven succeeded to the

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

title in 1799, by a decree of the House of Lords. He died at his seat 20th October 1814.

By Penelope, daughter of Ranald Macdonald, Esq. of Clanronald, he left Robert Montgomery Hamilton, eighth Lord Belhaven, born in 1793. He married in 1816 Hamilton, daughter of Walter Campbell, Esq. of Shawfield, maternally descended from the family of Belhaven.

Garrion, a most romantic spot, at the south-east corner of the parish, opposite the House of Dalserf, and immediately adjoining the parish of Carluke, is also the property of Lord Belhaven. Here the river Clyde takes a most beautiful bend; completely encircling the house and lands of Garrion on two sides. From this is seen to great advantage the picturesque scenery about Mauldslie Castle, the rich and highly cultivated haughs of Cambusnethan, studded with magnificent trees; also the church and village of Dalserf with Milburne, surrounded by orchards, and presenting a most enchanting view, particularly at the season when the fruit trees are in blossom.

There was an ancestor of Lord Belhaven, a Mrs Anne Hamilton, daughter of Robert Hamilton, younger of Wishaw, who, previously to the year 1730, gave and bequeathed the sum of L. 600 Scots money, for the use and behoof of the indigent widows and children of such Presbyterian ministers within the presbytery of Hamilton, as should join and contribute money for the same ends and uses; and committed the administration thereof to the ministers of said presbytery, who should thereafter contribute for the said purposes. This sum, having received several additions, particularly one from the celebrated Dr Matthew Baillie, one of the physicians of George III., whose father had been minister of Shotts, and afterwards of Hamilton, now amounts to about L. 2000 Sterling, from which each of the widows of the ministers of Hamilton Presbytery receives an annuity of L. 20 Sterling.

Family of Stewart of Coltness.—The Coltness estate belonged to Sir James Stewart Denham of Coltness and Westshields, now in his ninety-fifth year. Sir James, many years ago, added a new front to the house of Coltness; and it is now a very elegant and commodious building. The dining-room and drawing-room are large and well-proportioned; and between them runs a gallery, hung round with ancient portraits of the family; and the extreme distance of the dining-room and drawing-room along this gallery is nearly 200 feet. The second son of James Stewart of Allan-

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

ton became the first Sir James Stewart of Coltness and Kirkfield. He was born in 1608, and, being a banker in Edinburgh, he acquired a large fortune. In 1653, he purchased the lands of West Carbarns or Kirkfield, from Sir John Somerville of Cambusnethan, and soon after, the estate of Coltness, from Sir John Hamilton of Udston. It had been sold as early as 1553 by the Somervilles of Cambusnethan, to Sir Robert Logan of Restalrig. In 1649, he was elected Lord Provost of Edinburgh; and, being a zealous Covenanter, he was, in the following year, chosen, together with the Marquis of Argyle and the Earl of Eglinton, on the part of the Scotch, to hold the conference with Oliver Cromwell in Burntsfield Links. In 1659, he was again elected Lord Provost; but, on account of his Whig principles, dismissed at the Restoration, and sent prisoner first to Edinburgh Castle, and then to Dundee, and fined in L. 1500 Sterling. A length in 1670 he obtained a pardon.

The excellent Bishop Leighton was brought up in Edinburgh under Sir James Stewart's care; and the undaunted Hugh M'Kail, who was so inhumanly tortured by order of the privy-council, and afterwards executed in 1666, had been chaplain in his family.*

Mr Hugh M'Kail, who was tutor in the family of Sir James Stewart of Coltness and Goodtrees, in a sermon which he preached in the great Church of Edinburgh, showed that it was no new thing for the church to suffer persecution. He said, "A Pharaoh on the throne, a Haman in the state, and a Judas in the church, had been instrumental in that work in former times;" and Sharpe and Lauderdale, thinking their portraits had been very accurately taken, were galled to the heart; and for this a troop of Dragoons surrounded the house of Sir James Stewart, and apprehended Mr M'Kail.

Sir James Stewart, son of him before named, was born in 1635, and married Agnes, daughter of the Rev. Robert Traill, minister

* Among many particulars which I found recorded in "the Coltness manuscripts," I shall transcribe the following:

"Sir James Stewart, who had been twice first magistrate of Edinburgh, when nearly seventy-three years of age, after his last visit to Coltness, when going to Edinburgh, accompanied by some of the most respectable in the land; at Muiryett, about two miles from Allanton, there is a rising ground which draws an extensive prospect, there he stopt, and having turned his horse, he looked around upon a scenery that he was convinced he should behold no more, and exclaimed, while tears of gratitude flowed down his venerable cheeks, "Westshiel, and Lanark, and Carnwath Church, my early home, my favourite haunts, farewell; Coltness and Allanton, and Cambusnethan Church, my later sweet abodes, farewell. Ye witnesses of my best spent hours, and of my most ardent devotions, a last farewell. It is long since I bade the vanities of this world adieu." May piety so exalted distinguish all, who frequent these places of worship, and who inhabit these abodes!

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

of Edinburgh. He was bred to the Bar, and was one of the most eminent lawyers of his time. He died in 1713, in the office of Lord Advocate, and was succeeded hy his son, the third Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees and Coltness. He was born in 1681, and married Anne, daughter of Sir Hugh Dalrymple of North Berwick, Lord President of the Court of Session. He was an Advocate, and became Solicitor-General for Scotland.

His daughter, Margaret, born in 1715, married Thomas Calderwood of Poltown, whose eldest daughter, Anne, married James Durham of Largo, father of the present General; and of the Admiral Sir Philip Durham, K. C. B.

Agnes, born in 1717, married David, Earl of Buchan, father to David, the late Earl, Henry Erskine of Ammondelle, and Thomas Lord Erskine, Lord Chancellor; and Marion, born in 1723, married Alexander Murray of Cringletie, father of James Wolfe Murray, late Lord Cringletie.

Sir James died in 1727, and was succeeded by his son, born in 1713, who married Frances Wemyss, eldest daughter of David, Earl of Wemyss. He, too, was bred to the Bar, and early displayed superior abilities and commanding eloquence. In the Rebellion 1745, he was believed to have been Prince Charles's confidential agent at the court of France. He resided there for eighteen years. In 1763, he was allowed to return to Scotland; and eight years after, a formal pardon was procured for him.

He died 1780, and was succeeded by his only son, Sir James Stewart of Coltness and Westshiel. He married Alicia, daughter of Blacker of Carrick, in Ireland. He is a General in the army, and represented the county of Lanark in three successive Parliaments.*

The estate is now in the possession of Thomas Houldsworth, Esq., M. P. for Nottingham, who is erecting extensive iron works at New Mains, and setting a pattern to his tenantry, by draining his estate in the very best manner.

Family of Stewart of Allanton.—The lands of Allauton belonged of old to the abbey of Aberbrothic, and have for centuries been in the possession of a very ancient branch of the Darnley Stewarts.

"Allan Stewart of Daldowie," (Crawford's Description of Renfrewshire, p. 469,) "early attached himself to the house of Douglas, under the celebrated Sir James, commonly called 'Black Douglas,' and married into that family. From his bravery in head-

* Sir James Stewart died since this account was drawn up.

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

ing a party which stormed the Castle of Alnwick in Northumberlandshire, he obtained the sirname of 'Alnwickster.'

"In 1385, (according to the traditional accounts of the family) when Scotland was invaded by King Richard II., Allan, though past sixty, commanded a chosen body of men, consisting of his tenants, at Daldowie, and others levied in the neighbourhood of Rutherglen, and was marching to join the army then assembled on the borders, under the Earl of Douglas, when he encountered, at a place called Morningside, in the Moor of Macmoreen, a detachment of English horse, which, on account of foraging and plunder, was scouring the country. After a severe conflict, the enemy was routed; but he himself was killed in the action. His remains were deposited in the chapel of Beuskiag, close by Morningside, a religious house, dependent on the abbey of Aberbrothic, the Abbot of which was lord of the district."

Sir Walter Stewart of Allanton was born in 1606, and married Margaret, daughter of Sir James Hamilton of Broomhill, and sister to the first Lord Belhaven, and to James Hamilton, minister of Cambusnethan, and afterwards Bishop of Galloway.—"It is recorded that Oliver Cromwell, in 1650, after the battle of Dunbar, in his progress through Lanarkshire, halted with a few attendants at Allanton House, where he was hospitably entertained by Lady Stewart, and where he passed the night. Sir Walter, being a Royalist, took care to be out of the way. On the Protector's arrival, it is said, some choice Canary and other refreshments, were presented, but he would suffer nothing to be touched, until he himself had first said grace, which he fervently did, for more than half an hour, to the great edification of the lady. He then courteously inquired after Sir Walter, and on drinking the health of the family, observed that his mother's name was Stewart, and that he always felt a kindness for the name."

James died in 1772, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Henry Stewart, Bart. of Allanton, LL. D., F. R. S., &c, author of a Translation of Sallust, 2 vols. quarto, and an Essay on the best mode of Transplanting Trees," in which art he was very successful. By adorning his estate with an uncommon degree of skill and assiduity, he conferred no slight benefit on a considerable district of this parish. He made a splendid addition to the old Castle of Allanton, under the direction of Mr Gillespie Graham, and beautified an extensive park which surrounds it. He formed a most picturesque lake in front of his house, of very considerable magni-

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

tude, studded with islands, clothed with wood, and from no one point of which can its extent be seen. Sir Henry was an elegant scholar, and an accomplished gentleman. He was born in 1759, and married in 1787, Lillias, daughter of Hugh Seton of Touch. He died in March 1836.

Elizabeth, his only daughter, born in 1789, married Reginald Macdonald of Staffa, third son of Colin Macdonald of Boisdale, but the eldest by his second marriage. He was Sheriff of Stirlingshire, and died in 1833. He has left, besides the present Sir Henry James, two sons and two daughters.

Muirhouse, the property of the ancient family of Dalzell, and the jointure house of that family, is situated at the western extremity of the parish, within half a mile of the House of Dalzell. It is an old building, on a very commanding situation. It was at one time the residence of the clergyman, when public worship was performed at the Old Kirk, from which it is little more than a quarter of a mile distant. Between these places runs a hedge, called Stockleton Dike, where a farmer is said to have been murdered in times of persecution.*

III.—Population.

Wishawtown and Stewarton, included, form the chief village in the parish; containing a population of 1700. Kirknow, around the church, contains 250. Bonkle, three miles up the parish, contains 200. And Stain, four miles further up, contains 600. The population of this parish is as follows:—

In 1755, it amounted to		1419
1781,	-	1562
1791,	-	1684
1803,	-	1795
1814,	-	2657
1824,	-	3248
1839,	-	4059
Number of families in the parish,	- -	765
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	118
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,		342

* The following is the inscription on his tombstone in the old church-yard:

"Here lies Arthur Inglis in Nethertoun, who was shot at Stockleton Dyke by bloody Graham of Claverhouse, July 1679, for his adherence to the word of God and Scotland's covenanted work of Reformation. Rev. 12, 11.

"When I did live, such was the day,
Forsaking sin made men a prey
Unto the rage and tyranny,
Of that throne of iniquity,
Who robbed Christ and killed his saints,
And brake and burned his covenants,
I at that time this honour got,
To die for Christ upon this spot.

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

The number of illegitimate births during the last three years, is 13.

I am decidedly of opinion, from many years of laborious experience, that nothing would conduce more to the moral and religious interests of this extensive population, than infant and juvenile schools, erected in the most populous parts of it; as from the habits of the females, who are principally devoted to tambouring and sewing muslin, their maternal and domestic duties are too much neglected.

IV.—Industry.

Assuming that in this parish, there are altogether 26,000 imperial acres, I learn from the most diligent inquiries, that 10,000 of these are either cultivated, or occasionally in tillage; that the remainder have never been cultivated; but that 10,000 more might, with a proper application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish; and that about 6000 acres are in woods, roads, quarries, &c. and incapable of being rendered arable.

Lord Belhaven has lately erected at the west end of the village of Wishawtown, a very large and extensive distillery. The whole buildings are of the very best mason-work, and completely slated, and, besides, there are extensive shades for feeding cattle, annexed to it, in complete unison with the other buildings.

Much has been done, within these few years, regarding draining. But as yet, the process to the tenantry is still expensive, as it requires 3050 tiles to drain an acre. But from the nature of the soil throughout the parish, viz. a cold wet clay, the most extensive draining is necessary to render the soil either fertile or productive.

V.—Parochial Economy.

Ecclesiastical State and Education.—The stipend of this parish is 18 chalders, half meal, half barley, at the fiars price for Lanarkshire; together with L. 100 Scots for communion elements. There is a glebe of 4 acres, but it and the manse are two miles from the church. The number of families connected with the Established Church, is 419.

There are three endowed schools in the parish. The parochial school, at which Latin, English grammar, writing, and arithmetic are taught, has attached to it the *maximum* salary, a free house and garden, and the usual fees, which do not exceed L. 20 a year. At Stain, a school was built and endowed with a salary of about L. 20, by Mr Wilson in Whitburn; and at Muiryett, ground was

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow

given by Sir Henry Steuart to build a school, a teacher's house, and garden, to which there is attached a small salary.

There are at present altogether nine schools which the children of the parish attend, and this last season (1838), there were at one time 476 scholars at the whole, which is no less than one to every eight inhabitants.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons regularly receiving parochial aid is 50. Those who receive accidental charity vary according to circumstances. From L. 200 to L. 250 is annually distributed. The collections at the church-doors, amounting to about L. 45, and the sums received for mort-cloths, together with an annual collection from each of the Dissenting houses, are the chief sources of their relief; and what is required beyond these, is made up by the heritors, according to their respective valuations. The whole valuation of the parish is L. 5400, 10s. Scots. During the years 1832 and 1833, there was a regular assessment on the parish, and then the collections at the church dwindled into a mere trifle. The poor came forward shamelessly demanding support; and this plan was attended with so many difficulties, it was so unpopular and likely to bring such an additional burden on the parish, that it was laid aside.

The inhabitants have given a good specimen of their taste for literature, by the institution of two libraries, supported by subscription, and containing a judicious selection of books chiefly historical and religious.

About the centre of the parish, still called Chapel, there is said to have been an ancient place of worship. But no vestige of it now remains. And in the eastern part of it, at Darmead Linn, there are said to be the ruins of an old church "where Cameron thundered, and where Renwick poured the gentle notes."

March 1839.

© The University of Edinburgh
The University of Glasgow