

PARISH OF BERTRAM SHOTTS.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. WALTER L. COLVIN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—ACCORDING to a tradition which seems well authenticated, this parish derives its name from a robber called Bartram de Shotts, who in ancient times infested this part of the country, and was the Rob Roy of his day. He was killed not far from the situation of the present church.

Extent, &c.—The figure of this parish is nearly that of an oblong square. It extends 10 miles in length, and 8 in breadth; it varies in elevation from 200 to 850 feet above the level of the sea. It is divided from East Monkland and Torphichen on the north, by the North Calder, and from Cambusnethan on the south, by the South Calder. On the east, it is separated from Whitburn by a small burn, and on the west, from Bothwell by an old fence. In ancient times Shotts formed part of the parish of Bothwell, under the designation of "Bothwell-muir."

Geology and Mineralogy.—The geology of the parish is of a mixed character, consisting partly of a portion of the great coal-field of Lanarkshire, where it encroaches on the calciferous deposits of Wilsonton and Clympie on the south-east, and the trappean rocks of Shotts and Monkland to the north. Indeed, the parish of Shotts, geologically speaking, nearly divides itself into two great groups or portions, the igneous and sedimentary rocks. The trappean rocks are mostly dolerite or common greenstone, and are protruded in a very bold and massive group, constituting nearly the whole of the northern half of the parish. The line of division between the igneous and sedimentary rocks is indicated on the map with tolerable precision by the south Edinburgh and Glasgow road. Some of these traps are undoubtedly protruded upwards among the coal measures of this extensive mineral district, while certain portions are found overlapping the mineral deposits, or distinctly interstratified between them. At Shott-burn, both coal and iron are found below the trap, and the sandstone in contact with it is

blackened and hardened as if it had been subjected to a considerable heat. At Bogend the lowest members of the coal formation have evidently been upheaved by the lava-like protrusion of the trap, which brings the Millstone-grit and its accompanying bed of coal to the surface. The minerals below the trap at the Kirk of Shotts are as follows :

	Coal.		Ironstone.		Limestone.		Other rocks.		
	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	Fath.	Ft.	In.
Dark green shale,	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Slaty sandstone,	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Light fire-clay,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Ironstone about,	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Coal,	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Light fire-clay,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Slaty pavement sandstone,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Light shale,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Coal smithy,	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shale and faiks,	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0
Hard sandstone,	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Shale,	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
Smithy coal,	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Faiks and shale,	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Two ironstone bands,	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Cannel coal,	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sandstone and shale,	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0
Coal,	1	4	0	9	0	0	0	0	0

The most interesting portion of the parish, in reference to its mineralogy, lies to the south of the Glasgow and Edinburgh road, and comprehends some of the most valuable carboniferous deposits in this valuable mineral section of Scotland. The coals have been chiefly wrought here. The principal seams wrought are the Lady Anne, or splint coal, the Shotts Ironworks first and second coals, the Smithy coal, and the parrot or cannel coal. The relative positions in which these coals stand to each other are as follows : From Lady Anne coal to Shotts Ironworks first coal, 40 fathoms ; to Shotts Ironworks second coal, 6 fathoms ; to Shotts Smithy coal, 9 fathoms ; to parrot coal, 4 fathoms. The coal which ought to be found above these are the Ell, Pyotshaw, and Main coal. As the Monklands have now become the Rome and Athens of our coal districts, there seems to be a propriety in adopting, as far as possible, their mineral phraseology. We therefore give the same seams, though designated by different names, as follows :

Names in Shotts.

Ell coal.
Pyotshaw.
Main coal.
Lady Anne coal.
1. Shotts Ironwork coal.
2. do. do.

Names in Monkland.

Ell coal.
Pyotshaw.
Main coal.
Splint coal.
Vertenwell coal.
Kiltougue.

The smithy is an altered coal, and along with its accompanying splint seems to be the same as is found at Kirkmuirhill, in the parish of Lesmahago. From the undermost coals only being found here, it appears that the great carboniferous group is beginning to crop out, and that in due time it will gradually wear out and merge into the calciferous deposits found a little to the south-east, in the parish of Carnwath. The distance from the limestone in most parts of the parish is, however, very great, and, if calculated from the lowest coal alone, includes a succession of 147 different strata. The succession of the strata at Curry side, near Shotts Ironworks, is as follows:

	Coal.		Ironstone:		Other rocks.		
	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	Fath.	Ft.	In.
1. Shale,	0	0	0	0	0	2	6
2. Ironstone with nodules,	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
3. Bituminous shale,	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
4. Coal, (1. Shotts Ironwork,)	2	6	0	0	0	0	0
5. Shale and sandstone,	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
6. Coal, (2. Shotts Ironwork,) or Drumgray,	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

The following strata are also found at Benhar in this parish.

	Coal.		Ironstone.		Other rocks.		
	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	Fath.	Ft.	In.
1. Alluvium,	0	0			7	3	6
2. Coal,	1	6			0	0	0
3. Soft shale,	0	0			0	0	4
4. Sandstone,	0	0			0	4	0
5. Shale,	0	0			0	1	6
6. Sandstone,	0	0			0	0	6
7. Shale,	0	0			0	3	0
8. Splint coal,	3	8			0	0	0

The Lady Anne coal, as already mentioned, is a splint coal. The first Shotts coal is known in the west end of the parish by the name of the Cleland Wee coal. It has a stratum of balls and a band of ironstone above it. This is a soft coal, and, being entirely free of sulphur, is of excellent quality for making iron. The second coal is chiefly used for house fires. The Shotts smithy coal, from eight to nine fathoms below the Shotts second coal, is apparently only a partial deposit, but where found, if of good quality, is one of the most valuable coals in Scotland. It averages from about twenty-four to thirty inches thick, and is always best when found near to the igneous or dolerite rocks. In this condition, it is known to extend all over the glebe. It is at present wrought on the Duke of Hamilton's lands, and to the north of the glebe, in a pit about fifteen fathoms deep, in which there is an engine to lift the water, and the coals to the surface. This, like the Shotts first coal, is wrought by room and rance.

The only ironstone wrought in the parish has been a few indifferent strata of ball and band above the Shotts first coal. The balls may be considered rich, producing about thirty-five per cent. of iron from the raw stone; but the band is very poor, and produces about twenty per cent.

There is abundance of fire-clay all over the south side of the parish, which has now become of great importance from the number of blast furnaces in the neighbourhood. The pavement of all the coal-fields is of fire-clay, but the best is considered to be that found below the Shotts first coal, which is easily wrought, and very abundant. Another very good stratum, lying about ten fathoms above the Shotts first coal, has also been wrought for a period of years, and used in making brick for blast and air furnaces. It is several feet in thickness, but there are only about three feet of it wrought in the middle of the stratum.

Zoology.—There are few woods or plantations of any very great extent in the parish, and of course, the *Mammalia fera*, birds, and other animals which delight in such localities are rather scarce. Among quadrupeds we have, by our ditches and lakes, the *Sorex fodiens* or water-shrew, and the *Arvicola aquatica* or water vole. The *Mustela Erminea* attains a great size in this parish, is sometimes entirely white, and is said to be destructive to young hares. It is also very fond of eggs, pigeons, rats, mice, and putrid meat. Among the birds, the *Lagopus Scoticus* and *Tetrao Tetrix*, are common in the moors. The *Falco Tinunculus*, *Buteo nisus* and *ærginosus* are the most common of the hawk species. The *Caprimulgus Europeanus* is common about Murdostown. The *Ardea cinerea* often visits us from Hamilton, Gartshore, and other places, and the stately *Numenius arquata* often whistles about our ears in the high and barren parts of the country. The *Scolopax gallinago* affords excellent shooting in some quarters, and also the *gallinula*, which is pretty common. The *Vanellus cristatus* affords excellent eating, and if it were better known would be preferred to some species of game.

Of the reptile kind, the most common are *Lacerta agilis*, *Vipera communis*, *Triton palustris*, *aquaticus* and *vulgaris*, *Rana temporaria*, and *Bufo vulgaris*.

In the Lily-loch, besides the common trout, the *Salmo salvelinus* or red char is found in great perfection; also *Esox Lucius*; and in the reservoir, the *Percu fluviatilis* is so abundant that the trout and other fishes present a lean and starved appearance from want of food.

Of molluscous, radiated, and zoophytic animals, there are many varieties, but these, like the Cryptogamiæ of the vegetable kingdom, are too minute in their physical organization and distinctive characters ever to become a very popular branch of natural science.

Botany.—There are many interesting plants in this parish, of which our present limits will only afford a very imperfect notice. The *Chara vulgaris* is found in stagnant ditches, and also the *Callitriche verna* and *autumnalis*. The *Veronica anagalis* is found in ditches near Newhouse. Many species of *Carices* are found in the moors, some of them scarce; also a great variety of the *Orchidææ*.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The only historical event worthy of being recorded connected with this parish is the great revival of religion which took place in the year 1630, in consequence of a sermon preached by the Rev. Mr Livingstone. His discourse was delivered upon the Monday after the dispensation of the sacrament, which was the first time that a meeting for divine service was held upon that day. No fewer than 500 persons are stated to have been savingly impressed on that occasion.

The parish of Shotts appears to have contributed its quota of fighting men to the fatal field of Bothwell Bridge in 1679, as the banner which was borne by them on that occasion may still be seen at the farm of Nethertown, in excellent preservation, bearing the well known motto, "For Scotland's covenanted work of reformation." In the church-yard are interred the ashes of one of these right-hearted men of other days. Upon his gravestone the following lines are inscribed,—“Here lyes the bones of William Smith, who lived in Moremellen, who with others appeared in arms at Pentland hills in defence of Scotland's covenanted work of reformation in anno 1666; agreeable to the word of God, in opposition to Popery, Prelacy and Perjury, and was murdered on his return home near this place.”

Eminent Men.—Three celebrated persons were born in the parish, viz. Mr Gavin Hamilton of Murdoston, the famous historical painter; Mr John Miller, who was Professor of Law in the University of Glasgow, well known to the world by his learned publications; and Dr Matthew Baillie, the distinguished anatomist and physician. He was the son of the Rev. James Baillie, D. D. minister of Shotts, and brother of Miss Joanna Baillie, the talented authoress.

Dr Cullen began his practice as a medical man in this parish.

In speaking of the climate of Shotts, he was wont to say—not in irony—that it was the Montpelier of Scotland.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest entry in the parochial registers bears date 1641. These registers do not appear to have been regularly kept until the year 1785.

Land-owners.—The principal land-owners in the parish are, His Grace the Duke of Hamilton; Sir Thomas Inglis Cochrane of Murdoston, M. P.; the Right Honourable Dowager Lady Torphichen; and Robert Carrick Buchanan, Esq. of Drumpellier.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of Shotts, according to a census taken by myself two years ago, amounts to 3750 souls. In 1755, the number was 2322, thus showing a very considerable increase, which is mainly attributable to the establishment of the iron-works in the south-east quarter of the parish. Of the population, 1270 are resident in villages; the remainder live in the country, and are very much scattered.

The yearly average of marriages for the last seven years is 47. I cannot speak with the same degree of accuracy as to the average of births and deaths in the parish during that period, in consequence of the want of proper registers.

Number of families in the parish in 1831,	621
chiefly employed in agriculture,	246
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	345
Number of illegitimate births in the parish during the last three years, about	20

There are 34 proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards; and it is much to be regretted that so very few of them reside in the parish. There are at an average 3 children in each family. There are 12 fatuous and 2 blind persons in the parish. With regard to the general character of the people, I am happy in having it in my power to state that they are intelligent, moral, and religious. They are more than usually active and industrious; and although the husbandmen have been very inadequately repaid for their labours by the crops of the last three years, yet I have rarely heard a murmur or complaint. Smuggling at one time prevailed to a very considerable extent in the parish, but is now altogether unknown amongst us.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The total number of imperial acres in the parish is about 32,000. From one-half to two-thirds of the lands in the parish are arable; the remainder is uncultivated. At least, one-half of the unreclaimed land might be profitably improved; but it con-

sequence of the want of capital amongst the tenantry, and the absence of adequate encouragement on the part of the landlords, it is to be feared that the heather-bell will bloom perennially in the parish. There are about five or six acres of undivided common. There are at least 500 acres under wood. Formerly the Scotch fir was planted to the exclusion of all other trees, but now spruce and larch are preferred, both of which thrive remarkably well. It is a pity that our landed proprietors seem to forget that he who plants a tree is a benefactor of his species. Shelter is sadly deficient, particularly in those districts where it is most required.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of arable land is from 10s. to L. 1, 10s. per acre.

Wages.—The wages of labourers range from 10s. to 12s. per week all the year round. Artisans, viz. masons and wrights, receive at an average from 18s. to L. 1, 4s. a week.

Live-Stock.—For the fineness and symmetry of their cows, the farmers here deserve much commendation. Their draught horses also are excellent, being the best Clydesdale breed. Much success has attended the rearing of horses in this parish. A stimulus has of late years been given to the improvement of farm stock by the establishment of an agricultural society, whose shows are highly creditable to the tenantry of this district.

A very large portion of land has been reclaimed, during these last twenty years, by means of draining and digging. Two first prizes for ameliorations were some time ago awarded by the Highland Society of Scotland to two gentlemen in this parish; one to Cosmo Falconer, Esq. of Hartwoodhill, and the other to William Weir, Esq. of Shottsburn.

Leases.—The general duration of leases is nineteen years. Were they longer it would be much more advantageous for the occupier of the land, especially where a considerable part of the farm is waste.

The tenants here are not, generally speaking, well accommodated with regard to dwelling-houses, but latterly an improvement in this respect has taken place.

As almost all the raw produce raised in this parish is consumed by the farmers themselves, it is exceedingly difficult definitely to ascertain its value.

Manufactures.—There are two iron-works in Shotts,—one in the south-east, and the other in the south-west part of the parish. The former were established in 1802 by a few private individuals,

and have ever since been under the management of John Baird, Esq. who planned and superintended their erection. Besides the smelting of iron ore, which was all that was originally contemplated in these works, an extensive foundry was built many years ago, the castings from which have long maintained a character second only to those of the Carron Company. For many years there was only one smelting furnace in blast, and the produce of pig-iron was no more than 45 tons weekly, but in consequence of various local improvements, and particularly the use of heated air, the produce from two furnaces now in operation is 160 tons weekly. A third furnace is at present being erected. A large engineering establishment was added to the works some years ago, in which many marine and land steam-engines, and other kinds of machinery, have been fitted up, which have given much satisfaction to the purchasers.

The country around these works was formerly altogether unproductive, and, from the want of roads, was of little or no value; but from the impulse given to improvement by the circulation of L. 500 weekly amongst the workmen, &c. the face of the country has undergone a most surprising change.

The other iron-works in the south-west of the parish are called the Omoa works, and were erected in 1787. They are the property of Mr Young, and at present there is one furnace in operation.

It gives me sincere pleasure to state that Mr Baird has of late stopped the working of his furnaces on Sabbath.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is no market-town in the parish.

We have four villages, viz. Shotts Works, Omoa, Harthill, and Sallysburgh. We have a penny-post at Shotts Works, and have reason to expect that in a very short time there will be another established on the line of the mail-coach in Sallysburgh. The length of the turnpike roads in the parish is about seventeen miles, and no fewer than twenty public coaches pass through it daily.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church stands in a very central position, being, as nearly as may be, equidistant from the different extremities of the parish. It was built in the year 1820, and is in a good state of repair. It affords accommodation for 1200 persons. All the sittings are free. Within the last year a new manse was built, which may well be characterized as most substantial and commodious. Great praise is due to the heritors for their liberality in erecting such an excellent house. The glebe extends to

nearly 44 acres, and as to surface value, is worth L. 1 per acre. Four acres are under wood. The glebe lands contain two seams of coal, viz. the parrot or splint, and the smithy. From these seams coal was wrought to a greater or less extent by my predecessors during the last thirty-six years. The subject of the glebe minerals was first brought before the presbytery of Hamilton in the year 1802 by Mr Hamilton, the then incumbent of Shotts. He represented to the presbytery that he had worked coals in his glebe sufficient for his family in the season, and had sold as much as defrayed the expenses of the working. He farther stated, that certain stone or other durable fences for the improvement of the glebe would be of permanent advantage to the minister of the parish, and that these objects might be obtained by authorizing him to continue the working the coal and selling the same for a time, the profits of which to be applied in making the above amelioration.

Upon this representation by Mr Hamilton, the presbytery authorized him to continue the working and sale of the coal. Such was the commencement of the sale of the coal in the glebe of Shotts, which has been continued till within these few years. Some time ago, his Grace the Duke of Hamilton sunk a coal-pit in the immediate vicinity of the glebe, upon which he erected an engine, and by means of which the whole coal of the glebe could easily be wrought. Finding, it is believed, this to be the case, an offer was made on behalf of the Duke of Hamilton to purchase the coal and other minerals within the glebe. Doubts and difficulties having been started as to the legality of a sale, the transaction has not as yet been carried into effect.

The abstract question, as to the power of an absolute sale, seems not to have been hitherto expressly decided, yet, by analogy to other decided cases, it does not appear to be a question attended with any serious difficulty. Could the heritors and presbytery be convinced of this, a considerable increase might be obtained to the value of the living.

The stipend is 16 chalders of grain, and L. 25, 16s. 5d. in money.

There is one Seceding chapel in the parish, belonging to the Associate Synod, which was built in the year 1771. The stipend of the minister amounts to L. 120 per annum. With regard to the congregation (which owed its existence to the violent intrusion of Mr Wells) I may remark, that, although still in a state of

secession, they have, nevertheless, all along consistently maintained the principle of an Establishment, and, of course, cherish a friendly feeling toward the mother church.

The number of families who adhere to the Established Church is 457, and the number of persons of all ages attending the church of Shotts is fully 800. Our average number of communicants is nearly 500. The amount of church collections yearly may be stated at L. 27. The Seceding chapel is attended by 150 families, and the number of sittings let is about 500. Those belonging to the United Secession church are 125 families; of the remaining part of the population, 10 families are Roman Catholics, 5 Cameronians, 2 Episcopalians, and 1 Unitarian.

Education.—The total number of schools in the parish is 6. Of these, 3 are endowed, and 3 unendowed. There are none supported by societies, but one by individual subscription. The branches of education which are taught are, Greek, Latin, English, geography, writing, and arithmetic. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is L. 34, 4s. 4d.: his fees may amount to L. 28: and his other emoluments to L. 18.

I am not aware that there are any of the young between six and fifteen years of age who cannot read or write, although there are a few adults in that unfortunate state of ignorance. A school is much required for Omoa Works, where there is a population of at least 260 souls. They are at a considerable distance from any place of instruction.

Literature.—There are two circulating libraries in the parish. In the library belonging to the Shotts Iron-works, there is a large and excellent assortment of books.

Charitable and other Institutions.—There is no savings bank in the parish, but we have it in contemplation to establish, in a very short time, an agency here in connexion with the National Security's Savings Bank in Glasgow. I have been endeavouring to enlighten the people on this most important subject, by means of the circulation of pamphlets and otherwise; and I have little doubt but that all the working-classes will gladly become depositors whenever the opportunity is afforded them.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons who receive parochial aid is 60, and the sum allotted to each per week may be stated to be 1s. 2d. The proportion of that sum arising from church collections is L. 15. A legacy was left to the poor of this parish some years ago, the annual interest of which

amounts to L. 11. I am glad to have it in my power to state that, generally speaking, there is a spirit of independence amongst the poorer classes, which causes them to refrain as long as possible from asking parochial relief; such relief being considered as very degrading.

Fairs.—In virtue of a “warrant granted by James VII., anno 1685, to the Duke of Hamilton, for two yearly fairs and a weekly mercat at the Kirk of Shotts,” there are two fairs held in the parish every year, one on the third Tuesday of June, old style, and the other on the third Tuesday of November, old style. The locality chosen for the said fairs is somewhat *mal a propos*, being immediately adjoining the church. The chief business done at these markets is the buying and selling of horses and cattle.

Inns, &c.—There are 16 public-houses in the parish. Many of these, however, are chiefly supported by travellers on the great roads between Glasgow and Edinburgh. Unquestionably, if we had fewer alehouses, we would have less intemperance, and were these shut on the Sabbath, there would be less desecration of the Lord’s day, but still, all circumstances considered, it cannot be said that drunkenness prevails to any great extent among us.

Fuel.—The fuel which is used here is coal, peat being rarely seen in the parish. Indeed there is no inducement to dig in the mosses, as a cart of coal weighing 12 cwt. can be purchased at the Duke of Hamilton’s pit for the small sum of 2s. This, however, is an inferior kind of parrot coal, but the ashes are considered very valuable as manure.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

There is a very marked contrast between the state of the parish as it now exists, and as it is represented in the last Statistical Account.

A large proportion of those lands which were then unreclaimed, and which are there spoken of as unimprovable, is now under tillage, and bears astonishingly good crops. The price of labour is now much higher and a better and more ready market can be obtained for all kinds of provisions. Much advantage has of late years been derived by the inhabitants of the parish from the Shotts Iron-works, —the employment which is there given to the active and well-behaved, and the money which is there circulated weekly, may well call forth a desire on the part of us all for their prosperity and extension.

It cannot be too strongly pressed upon the proprietors of the parish, that draining and planting are improvements of paramount

importance in Shotts. It is admitted by competent judges, that the soil is in general very good; why then should the benefits of such ameliorations be withheld? With regard to the reclaiming of waste land, the experiment has been tried again and again, and the result has invariably been, that the expense of such improvement, when judiciously made, is repaid in a few years, and that the land is ever after able to stand the regular routine of cropping.

The industry of the working classes here is amply recompensed; and were they more provident of their earnings, their happiness and comfort would be much increased.

August 1839.

PARISH OF OLD OR WEST MONKLAND.*

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. WILLIAM THOMSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE ancient name of the Monklands is unknown; but it appears from the Chartulary of the Monks of Newbottle, for many years lost, but recovered by Patrick Modart, about 1462, and now in the Advocates' Library, that the present was the popularly received name of this district before 1323. The etymology is not difficult. The lands of Monkland, formerly constituting a third part of the domains of the Abbacy of Newbottle, were for many ages the property of a company of Cistercian or Bernardine monks belonging to that abbey, and hence the very obvious appellation, the "Monklands," was given to all their ecclesiastical domains in this quarter of the country. When this extensive district was afterwards divided and erected into two parishes, one of these parishes was called Old or West Monkland, and the other New or East Monkland, and they are now popularly known by the names of the Old and New Monklands.

Boundaries, Extent, &c.—The parish of Old Monkland is a remarkably fine, extensive, rather flat and low-lying district, extending along the eastern bank of the river Clyde for many miles, immediately after leaving the highly ornamental and picturesque scenery of Bothwell and Hamilton, and before it reaches the great

* Drawn up by the Rev. William Patrick, author of a Description of the Plains of Lanarkshire, &c.