

## PARISH OF DALSERF.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE ancient name of this parish was Machanshire, probably from the Gaelic *Maghan*, a little plain, and the Saxon *Scir*, *Scire*, or *Shire*, which originally signified a division. In the Old Statistical Account of the parish of Ecclesmachan, in the county of Linlithgow, the late Earl of Buchan, a learned and respectable antiquary, seems to think that Machan is the name of a saint. Towards the north end of the parish of Dalsersf, there is a property which still retains the name Machan, or Auld Machan; and the whole of the higher and bleaker lands to the south, between Auld Machan and Draffan, in the parish of Lesmahagow, are still called Machanshire or Machanmuir. From this ancient designation of the parish and district, the Duke of Hamilton derives one of his many titles, as Baron of Machanshire. The name of the parish appears to have been changed from Machanshire to Dalsersf, when the parish church (or chapel as it had formerly been,) was transferred from the district of Machan to its present site on the banks of the Clyde. According to Chalmers in his *Caledonia*, Dalsersf is derived from the Gaelic *Dal*, a holm or flat field, and *Sarf*, a serpent or service tree, and thus will signify either the vale of the service tree, or the vale of the serpent, according to the fancy of the etymologist. When all is conjecture, one supposition is perhaps nearly as good as another. May the parish not derive its name from St Serf? There is, I believe, such a saint, though his history is entirely unknown to me. The term *Dal* forms part of the names of several places in the parish.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish is delightfully situated on the west bank of the river Clyde, in the middle ward of the county of Lanark. It is bounded on the north and north-west, by the parish of Hamilton; on the west and south-west, by the Avon and

\* Drawn up by the Rev. Dr Russell.

the water of Cander, which separate it from the parish of Stonehouse; on the south and south-east, by Lesmahagow; and on the east and north-east, by the river Clyde, by which it is divided from the parishes of Carluke and Cambusnethan. Its greatest length from south to north, namely, from the point where Cander Water first comes into contact with the parish on the farm of Whitehill, to the extremity of the farm of Highlees, on the bank of the Clyde, is about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles. From the confluence of the Cander with the Avon on the west, to Sandyholm on the Clyde in the east, the breadth is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles. In other places it varies from 2 to 3 miles in breadth, and at the northern and southern extremities runs into a mere point. The form of the parish is an irregular rhomboid, containing upwards of 11 square miles. The whole country slopes gently towards the north, and on the east and west sides, partially and somewhat abruptly towards the Clyde and Avon—the centre of the parish forming a sort of table-land between the two rivers.

This parish forms part of that narrow isthmus, not more than 60 or 70 miles broad, between the Friths of Forth and Clyde, which, opening gradually to the sea on each side of the island, participates more or less in the temperate breath of the sea-breeze. The height of the land between this and the west coast is inconsiderable, and the climate is of course much modified and influenced by the Atlantic. The high lands towards the east, in the parishes of Shotts, Cambusnethan, and Carluke, cut off our connexion in some degree with the eastern shore, though when the wind is from that direction we sometimes experience what is called the eastern *haar*. The view from the high lands of the parish to the south is bounded by Tinto, and on the north and north-west by the Campsie Hills, and the mountains of Dumbarton and Argyleshires, which, when covered with snow, very materially affect the temperature of this district.

The following table, drawn up from the observations of a medical gentleman, some time resident in the parish, will give an idea of the mean monthly height of the thermometer and barometer, morning and evening, throughout the year, and of the average quantity of rain falling.

	Thermometer.		Barometer.		Rain.
	Morning.	Evening.	Morning.	Evening.	
February,	40.6	39.9	29.8	29.6	1.90
March,	48.	44.	29.60	29.	3.16
April,	51.2	47.47	29.67	29.66	1.87
Average,	46.6	43.52	29.45	29.24	6.93 per quarter.

	Thermometer.		Barometer.		Rain.
	Morning.	Evening.	Morning.	Evening.	
May,	58.	48.20	30.	30.	.0322
June,	65.	58.	30.	30.	.0674
July,	67.90	59.38	29.8	29.86	4.1
Average,	63.63	55.19	29.9	29.96	4.1996 per quarter.
August,	64.90	58.30	30.	29.3	.0964
September,	61.30	51.31	29.3	28.6	3.
October,	58.9	48.6	29.	28.3	3.16
Average,	61.41	52.55	29.4	28.7	6.2564
November,	48.6	47.3	29.8	29.	1.30
December,	44.3	42.	28.	28.	3.6
January,	42.6	38.4	28.3	28.	.0872
Average,	45.1	42.5	28.7	28.1	4.9872 per quarter.

The average height of the thermometer throughout the year is 54.1805, morning, and 48.44 in the evening. The barometer in the morning averages 29.61, and in the evening 29.02. The quantity of rain falling is 21.7739 inches. These results, if compared with those in many places lying considerably to the east, will be found to be in favour of this part of Scotland. At Kinfauns Castle, near Perth, latitude  $56^{\circ} 23'$ , the mean temperature for the year 1830 was 47.626; here it is 48 and upwards; the quantity of rain which fell at the former place was 30.85 inches; here it is only 21.7739 inches. We may probably, however, have a greater number of wet or cloudy days, although less rain falls in a given time. But whatever may be the result of a comparison with other places, the climate of the parish may be described, in general terms, as dry and salubrious. There are probably few places in Scotland more favourable to health. The people are not liable to any prevalent distemper. Epidemics are of rare occurrence, and when they do visit us, are generally of a mild character, even in the crowded villages, and soon disappear. Dalsersf was one of the few parishes in this neighbourhood, which, in 1832, had no case of cholera. The temperature, of course, varies in different places, according to the degree of elevation above the level of the Clyde. In the sheltered vale along the banks of the river, the blossoming of the fruit-trees, and vegetation in general, are from ten to fifteen days earlier than on the rising grounds and slopes in the immediate vicinity.

*Hydrography.*—The principal rivers connected with the parish are the Clyde and Avon, which form, as has been stated, its eastern and western boundary. The stream next in point of size is the Cander, which falls into the Avon. That portion of the parish which is bounded by this stream is called the district of Cander

Water, comprising some excellent farms. The above rivers follow the general slope of the country, and flow in a northerly direction. There are nine rivulets or burns, all of which, except one, arise in the parish, and pursue an easterly direction towards the trough of the Clyde. These streamlets, though in general insignificant and sometimes quite dry, are liable, at certain seasons of the year, to be suddenly flooded, and are torrents in winter. Forcing their way through the lofty bank which skirts the western side of the river, they precipitate themselves in many places over the sandstone rocks in cascades of from 6 to 20 feet in height. The ravines formed by these water-runs, or *gills*, as they are here called, are in general well wooded, and add much to the beauty of the vale of Clyde. It is scarcely possible to conceive a more beautiful country than Clydesdale here is, on both sides of the river, at once highly cultivated and extremely picturesque. The course of the Avon, on the western side of the parish, displays also much striking and beautiful scenery. The banks of this river are bold and precipitous, consisting alternately of beautiful knolls, of abrupt ascent, and clothed with verdure from the summit to the water's edge, and of lofty sandstone rocks, the bases of which are washed by the dark waters of the stream. Even though the Clyde were wanting, the Avon itself would be sufficient to impart a character of romantic beauty to the district. The two rivers combined give more beautiful scenery to the parish than falls to the lot of most places in Scotland. The breadth of the Clyde at Milton Bridge, about eighteen miles above Glasgow, is 56 yards. At Garion Bridge, two miles farther down, it is 74 yards across. In many places it is much wider. The velocity of the river varies from three to eight miles per hour. The Avon, at Millheugh Bridge, is 80 feet across; the Cander, where it falls into the Avon, is about 50. The springs vary considerably in different parts of the parish. About the village of Larkhall, at the north end, water is always found in a loose sand or running mud, at from 12 to 18 feet from the surface. A little to the south-east, where this stratum runs out, no water is to be found among the clay. The central parts of the parish are rather deficient in water, and during summer droughts the farmers are often put to much inconvenience to procure a supply for their cattle. Towards the Clyde and Avon, springs are more abundant. There are many chalybeate springs in the parish; and on the glebe there are two springs, the one of a chalybeate, and the other of a sulphurous nature, within less than 100 yards of each other. The

latter probably imbibes its peculiar qualities from the sulphuric acid which abounds in some aluminous or clayey soils. Many of the waters, when boiled, precipitate the oxide of iron, and the sulphate and carbonate of lime. On December 3d, when the thermometer was  $47^{\circ}$ , the springs were  $48^{\circ}$ , and the Clyde  $44^{\circ}$ . During a pretty hard frost the water at the surface of open wells was about  $42^{\circ}$ .

*Geology.*—This parish constitutes part of the great coal basin or carboniferous formation which runs from Strathingo, near Glasgow, in the north, to the water of Douglas in the south, a stretch of nearly thirty miles. The same seams of coal are found in the collieries at Glasgow in the west, and in the collieries of Garion-Gill and Dalsarf in the east; and throughout the whole of this extent the metals dip to the trough of the Clyde. Within these few years, coal was wrought on the banks of the Clyde, near the church, at Woodside, Millburn, and Canderside, lying in a straight line, extending from the Clyde to the water of Cander. The following collieries are of long standing and in present operation, viz. Marlage on the above line, Raploch on the banks of the Avon, and Skellyton towards the north end of the parish. Within the last two or three years coal has been sunk for, and found generally at short distances from the surface, and is now in course of being wrought at East Machan, close to the mansion-house, Swinehill, and Shawsburn, on the side of the road from Edinburgh to Ayr, and on the farm of Netherburn, belonging to the Duke of Hamilton. Some additional trials have not yet been brought to a result. But besides the above going works, an excellent smithy coal is wrought, in small quantities, at Birkenshaw, on the Avon, and a similar seam, to a considerable extent, on the lands of East Machan, near Hairlees. In fact, there are at present no fewer than eight or nine going collieries, of more or less importance, in the parish. At Marlage the ell and splint coal are wrought in one pit, about 30 fathoms deep. The metals here dip at about  $20^{\circ}$  to west of north, and the dip is one foot in 10 or 12 feet. The slips or troubles seldom cross the metals, but run mostly in a north and south direction. The coal recently begun to be wrought at Netherburn, within half a mile of Marlage, is the second Marlage seam. It is found at 12 fathoms, is of good quality, and commands already an extensive sale. At Skellyton an excellent seam of splint and parrot coal, about 5 feet thick, is wrought at the depth of from 20 to 25 fathoms. The dip here is the same as at Marlage.

At Raploch the main or splint coal is wrought in a seam of from 5 to 6 feet, at the depth of  $30\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms. The rise is to the east, and the dip towards the bed of the Avon. The ell coal was formerly wrought here to a great extent. It is what is here called the Canderside coal, 20 fathoms below the splint, that is now wrought in the new pit at Swinehill. At Shawsburn the ell or main coal is now in course of being wrought. The fitting at East Machan, now in operation, is for the Springwell coal, at 11 or 12 fathoms depth, one of the seams lying below the splint. The smithy coal, in the same lands, now taken out near Hairlees, is supposed to be the splint coal *smithied*. The coal at East Machan House is of superior quality, and yields more gas than usual. All the above collieries have good roads leading to them, and at all of them the coal is wrought at a very moderate expense, and with little or no risk to the workmen. Accidents of any kind are of very rare occurrence. Besides the above seams, which are at present wrought, there is, at Low Millburn, a thin coal, called the Humph coal, from 2 feet to 30 inches in thickness, and about 12 or 15 fathoms below the splint coal. It is intermixed with ribs of splint and soft or yolk coal, burns well, and was formerly wrought to a considerable extent. The same coal has also been wrought at Ryehill or Canderside, where the splint coal has long been exhausted. At Birkenshaw, near the spot formerly alluded to, where smithy coal (of the species called Lightburn soft) is occasionally wrought, a bed of cannel coal, in a vertical position, crosses the bed of the Avon. Here a slip or dislocation occurs, which sinks the metals 40 fathoms. On the bank above, the metals to the south are observed to run out near a rock of a sort of rotten freestone, of a yellowish colour. About this spot, the strata all rise to the south: below it those on the Avon rise towards the south-east, and dip towards the bed of that river.

The parish of Dalsersf may be described as one large field of coal, very accessible in many places, and easily wrought. It is much to be regretted that lime and ironstone are not supplied in equal abundance, so as to cause a larger consumption of coal. A sort of calm limestone has been wrought formerly at Broomhill, on the west side of the parish. Like most limestones of the sort it requires peculiar management, and does not fall down freely, unless slaked before it cools. There is abundance of iron on the Avon, and in other parts of the parish, but none of it has

yet been wrought. In the course of the last few months trials were made for ironstone, both by boring and shafts, on the lands of Machan, and which, if carried to sufficient length, would have been decisive on this point in regard to the surrounding district. But the expense was considerable; and, though very favourable indications were obtained, the attempt was abandoned without bringing matters to a final issue. The trials were made under the direction of Mr Craig, mineral surveyor; and, though in the meantime abandoned, it is the opinion of skilful and practical men, that, by perseverance, ironstone will be obtained, not only in the lands of Machan, but in the neighbouring grounds belonging to the Duke of Hamilton and others.

The numerous new attempts for, and fittings of coal in the parish, have arisen from the speculative spirit of the age, from the impulse given by the railroad system, and the increased activity of the neighbouring ironworks, from the hope of finding ironstone, and more especially from the expectation that a railroad from Glasgow to the north of England will pass through the parish, affording an easy transit for its mineral stores. A survey of the line has lately been made, with what result is yet to be seen. But in the meantime the collieries of the parish have a large and increased sale from the parishes of Lanark, Lesmahagow, Stonehouse, Strathaven, and Glassford. Even Hamilton, Bothwell, Blantyre, Cambuslang, and East Kilbride, take a part of their supply of coals from us. Within the last few years, from 12,000 to 16,000 tons of coal used to be sold in the parish annually, at from 8s. to 3s. 6d. per ton. The quantity of late must have greatly increased. And that the coal-masters, though their speculative expectations have not yet been realized, are working, if not with much profit in some cases, yet without loss, is plain, from the fact that the price of coals to the inhabitants of the parish, amidst greatly increased competition, is much the same as formerly.

The sandstone connected with the above formations is mostly of a light whitish colour; whereas, farther down the country, near Hamilton, it is generally, from being impregnated with iron, of a reddish hue. The best freestone quarries in the parish are on the Clyde. It was from the quarry at Dalpatrick that the great columns and finest stones for the recent additions to Hamilton Palace were taken. Here stones to almost any size may be cut. There is a freestone quarry on the farm of Skellyton, from which

tolerable pavement is procured. At Auld Machan is found a dark brown sandstone, of a coarse grain, and spotted with black throughout, resembling the *Arenarius radians et decussatus* of Linnæus. It stands the weather well, and is excellent for chimney heads. The old mansion-house of Raploch was built of this material. On the banks of the Avon there are several good free-stone quarries, particularly one on the lands of Broomhill, from which an excellent stone for building is got, and another called Bannockstane, on Raploch Braes. From the latter of these, the village of Larkhall has been mostly built. There is very little whinstone in the parish. One small dike crosses the Clyde at Garion Mill, and runs along the face of the high grounds which skirt the western bank of the river in a southerly direction towards Craignethan, in the parish of Lesmahagow. Two singular dikes or reefs of whinstone occur at Birkenshaw. One of these, completely turned on its edge, crosses the Avon a little above Clocksymill, now in ruins, to which it formed a natural dam. Both rise to the south-east. The banks of the Avon abound with petrifying springs, where beautiful specimens of petrified Sphagnums, Hypnums, and also Marchantias are found. Pipe-clay is found at Millburn and other places.

*Soil.*—The soil and surface of the parish vary considerably in different places, and even on particular farms. The low-lying holms and haughs in the vale of Clyde are mostly composed of transported soil, of great depth, formed apparently of the mud and sand deposited in the course of ages by the damming up of water, and the overflowings of the river. The under stratum is entirely composed of sand or gravel. From these narrow plains the banks rise to the west with a bold and quick ascent to a considerable height, and are in many places steep and full of precipices. From the summit of this ridge the land rises very moderately till crossed by the road from Glasgow to Carlisle, from which it again falls down towards the Cander and Avon. The village of Dalsersf, on the Clyde, is probably about 120 feet above the level of the sea, and the highest ground in the parish about 400 feet in elevation. The soil of the higher grounds is, in general, a very strong heavy clay, lying upon a stratum of dense argillaceous substance, sometimes seemingly homogeneous, and disposed in regular horizontal layers, but more frequently of a mixed nature, without any appearance of divisions in any direction, and interspersed with little roundish stones of various descriptions. This under stratum or

subsoil, under all its varying forms and aspects, is generally called till. A singular stripe of sandy soil, of from half a mile to two miles in breadth, beginning at Cunnigar, in the parish of Hamilton, runs along the north-west end of this parish, and in a southerly direction towards Kittienuir, in Stonehouse parish. With this exception, the fields near the Avon are mostly loam, on a sandy or gravelly subsoil. With the exception of a few acres of moss in the southern boundary, the whole parish is arable and under cultivation. When left uncultivated, the ground speedily becomes covered with whins, broom, and heath. The soil of the upper part of the parish is in many places much injured by damp.

*Zoology.*—The wild animals to be met with in the parish are common to the neighbourhood. In regard to the feathered tribes, it may be mentioned that a good many varieties of water-fowl frequent the sheltered vale of the Clyde, chiefly in the winter months. Towards the latter end of the year, especially before storms, immense flights of the common gull (*Larus canus*,) occasionally pass from east to west, but never in a contrary direction. Perhaps the abundant supply of food which the shores of the immense Atlantic afford render their return unnecessary. Pheasants, during the last few years, have become rather plentiful in the woods and coverts of the parish, and are sometimes seen feeding with the domestic poultry. The blackcock is occasionally met with by sportsmen, and the woodcock, at the proper season, much more frequently. The owl, till within these few years, lived and hooted undisturbed along our banks; but by the persevering efforts of game-keepers, his wild cry is now seldom heard amidst the silence of night and the gusts of the wind. Towards the end of autumn, large flocks of plovers from the moorlands frequent the newly sowed or newly laboured wheat fields. The smaller birds here are nearly the same as in other places in the neighbourhood. There is scarcely a cottage in the parish that does not contain imprisoned linnets, bullfinches, goldfinches, or canaries, sometimes all these species, and cross breeds of every variety. Several persons, of rather idle habits, make a sort of employment of catching singing-birds for the supply of the market at Glasgow and other places.

Salmon, trout, salmon-fry, and par, are found in the Clyde and other streams in the parish, leading to the amusement of angling and fly-fishing, although not, it is believed, with very encouraging results. Previous to the year 1660, and probably long after, ex-

tensive salmon-fisheries appear to have been carried on in the Avon, at Broomhill and Patrickholme. Very few are now caught in any of the waters above Glasgow. For this deficiency in modern and recent times, the following reasons may be assigned, namely,—the deepening of the bed of the Clyde in order to improve the navigation of the river, and the great increase of fisheries below Glasgow; manufacturing machinery, and chemical and dye-works erected on the banks of the river; the lime used in agriculture insensibly carried into the bed of the Clyde, which forms the trough or common sewer of the whole country; par and fry-fishing; the depredations of the porpus, grampus, and other destructive sea fishes, particularly the grampus, which comes up nearly as far as the salt water reaches almost every tide at flood, during certain seasons, in pursuit of salmon, of which it devours great numbers; steam-vessels; and, in so far as this part of the country is more especially concerned, the obstructions and obstacles to be encountered at the dam of Blantyre works, and the dam at Millheugh mill on the Avon. Great depredations used to be committed in this part of the country by spearing the salmon at night, during the spawning season. It is believed that from the vigilance of the keepers employed by the Duke of Hamilton and others, this offence has of late years been considerably checked. There is a crive connected with the dam of Clydesmilt, where a few salmon are occasionally caught. It seems a pretty well ascertained fact, that wherever the salmon has, from any cause, disappeared from our rivers, the par is no longer to be found,—a circumstance which certainly gives strength to the idea, that the latter (the par) is the young of the former.

The parish cannot be said to have any plants but what are common to this part of Scotland. The woods are chiefly confined to the banks of the rivers and burns, the central parts of the parish being bare and unsheltered. On the banks of the Clyde and Avon, and the sides of the rivulets, plantations, and fringes of natural wood, of some extent, and of great beauty, abound. They consist chiefly of oak, ash, birch, elm, alder, beech,—holly, gean or wild cherry, sallows, crab trees, and wild plums of various sorts, intermixed with hazel, elder, and other shrubs. At one time, plantations of Scotch fir abounded in the parish, and especially in that part of it called Machan Muir. Of late years these old belts have all been cut down, or nearly so, without any attempt being made to supply their place; and thus many farms have been left

bare and unsheltered. It ought to be mentioned, to the credit of the Duke of Hamilton, that, within the last five or six years, plantations of considerable extent, consisting of fir and hard-wood of various kinds, have been laid off in the upper parts of the farms of Skellyton and Cornsilloch, and other places, which promise to be in good time a great benefit and ornament to the country. The other proprietors are doing nothing in the way of planting. It is the practice of the day to plant young trees in masses, from simple regard to the growth of the timber, and a cover for game, without paying attention to the shelter which a more extended distribution would afford to high lying and exposed lands. The writer of the present article, without contending for narrow belts, which are seldom of much use, would recommend a compromise of views. He feels thoroughly assured, that if the expense incurred by the Duke of Hamilton in planting masses of young trees, had gone to the formation of *wide* belts, over the whole barony, a large per centage would have been added to the value of His Grace's farms. The only argument that can be used against this view of the subject, is the expense of maintaining fences around the new plantations, which, by a good understanding between landlord and tenant, need not be much.—In the lawn in front of Dalsersf House, there is an ash tree of great size and girth, perhaps one of the finest in Scotland, and which generally attracts the notice of strangers. At Raploch there is an ancient yew tree, one of the few remaining traces of the old family residence of the Hamiltons of Raploch, and which is deserving of notice, on account of its singular form and great size. It has no fewer than nine stems, all nearly of equal thickness; the diameter of the ground which it covers with its boughs is 40 feet; and the circumference of course is about 120. It has been long known by the name of the Raploch bush.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Machanshire (afterwards Dalsersf) was anciently an appendage and chapelry of the parish of Cadzow, (now Hamilton,) and was for many ages the property of the crown. The powerful family of the Comyns at one period had possession of it; but during the contested reign of John Baliol, it again became part of the royal demesnes, and continued as such till the year 1312, when King Robert Bruce made a grant of it to Walter, the son of Gilbert, predecessor of the Hamilton family. Since that period, much of the district has been disposed to cadets of the family, and gentle-

men of the name. James de Hamilton, son and heir apparent of James de Hamilton, Dominus de Hamilton, had a charter dated 18th April 1426, "to the lands of Dalsersf, in the barony of Machane," which had escheated to the crown, on account of the said James having conveyed these lands to his brother David de Hamilton, by a charter under his seal, and made him personally infeft in the same, without the consent of the king, or governor, in absence of the king at the time. The descendants of the above David have been proprietors of the estate of Dalsersf, properly so called, ever since the time of King Robert III. John Hamilton, son of James Lord Hamilton, became proprietor of Broomhill and Machane Muir, 16th February 1473. James Hamilton, a descendant of the Hamilton family, was infeft in the estate of Raploch in 1440.

In the fourteenth century, this district was made a barony, and was afterwards called the barony of Machane or Machanshire. At what period it obtained the name of Dalsersf is uncertain. In 1545, however, David Hamilton of Broomhill had a tack of "the teinds of Machan Muir;" and so far down as 7th April 1681, James Hamilton has a charter to the lands of Broomhill, Fleurs, &c. described as lying within "the barony of Machanshire." This would seem to indicate, that the old designation prevailed till rather a recent period. The present church bears date 1665, on a small stone in the southern wall. It is probable, that as early as the Reformation, if not sooner, the church was removed from Dalpatrick or Chapelburn, and that the village of Dalsersf, near to which it was built, soon gave name to the whole parish.

The gentlemen of this parish and their retainers, as vassals of the Hamilton family, were of course involved in many of the troubles and adventures of their feudal superiors, which form matter of Scottish history. In 1516, John Hamilton of Broomhill, a stout, hardy, and bold man, though lame, attended the Earl of Arran, at the taking of the castle of Glasgow, against the Duke of Albany. In 1537, David Hamilton of Broomhill was in France with the Earl of Arran, at the marriage of Queen Magdalen to James V.; and on 10th September 1547, he and Cuthbert Hamilton of Cander, a gentleman of this parish, were slain at the battle of Pinkie, in attempting to rescue Lord Semple, who had been taken prisoner. The wars of the Reformation, and the interest which the Hamilton family took in the fate of Queen Mary, involved the inhabitants of Machanshire in many troubles and misfortunes.

Robert Hamilton of Dalsersf has his name recorded as having fought for that princess at the battle of Langside in 1568, and as having incurred forfeiture on that account. But the following extracts from the "*Acta Parliamentorum*," would seem to indicate that there is some mistake in this. "At Edinburgh, 12th July 1568, compeared, Johnne Ramage, reider at the kirk of Dalsersf, as excusator of Robert Hamilton of Dalsersf, and schew, that the said Robert is sua vexit with infirmities, and sa unable, that he has lyne bedfast thir eight yeires begane, like as is known to ane part of the nobility now present, and was ready to make oath thereupon." Whatever share the above Robert may have had personally in the affair at Langside, his son Robert, and his brother Patrick were probably present at the battle; at least they were forfeited, but returned from exile with the Lords in 1585. Gavin Hamilton of Raploch, and commendator of Kilwinning, was also at Langside along with the Hamiltons; was one of Mary's commissioners at York in 1570; and was included in the treaty of Perth in 1572. John Hamilton of Broomhill was not only wounded and taken prisoner at the same battle, but about two years afterwards had his house burnt to ashes by Sir William Drury, Governor of Berwick.

During the persecuting reigns of Charles II. and James II., the inhabitants of this parish, in common with the whole neighbourhood, suffered much hardship on account of their resistance to Episcopacy. Traditions of the sufferings of their forefathers are still cherished in several families. The then laird of Raploch made himself notorious by his officious zeal in behalf of the government, and his severity towards his Presbyterian neighbours. He survived for several years the Revolution of 1688, and lies buried in the church-yard of Dalsersf. His memory is still in bad odour in the parish, and his tomb is pointed out at this day as that of "the persecuting Raploch."

By an old decret of locality of stipend to Mr Francis Aird, minister of Dalsersf, of date 19th May 1721, it appears, that, at that period, the land of the parish was in the hands of the following heritors, viz. "The Noble and Potent Prince, William, Duke of Hamilton; Sir James Hamilton of Broomhill, Knight Barronett; Gavin Hamilton of Rapploch; Cuthbert Hamilton of Cander; William Hamilton of Dalsersf; Robert Hamilton of Milnburn; James Hamilton of Neilsland, (in Hamilton parish,) and James Wood, portioner of Auld Machava, heritors of the lands

and parochine of Dalsersf." It appears from the above list of heritors, that in 1721, nearly all the land in the parish was possessed by Hamiltons. Though the principal names and designations remain the same, the state of property has been much altered and modified since the above period. The Hamiltons of Cander and Broomhill have entirely disappeared.

The first Lord Belhaven was of this parish, being eldest son of Sir James Hamilton of Broomhill. His first designation was Sir John Hamilton of Beil. On account of his devoted attachment to the cause of Charles I., he was, by that unfortunate monarch, created a peer by the title of Lord Belhaven and Stentoun, 15th December 1647. His Lordship's next brother James, was ordained minister of Cambusnethan by Patrick Lindsay, Archbishop of Glasgow in 1635, and in 1661 was promoted to the bishopric of Galloway. The bishop seems to have acquired the lands of Broomhill from his elder brother, Lord Belhaven, and spent much of his time at the family mansion. He had two sons, both of whom died without issue, and the estate came into the possession of his daughter Jean, married to Mr John Birnie of that ilk. Broomhill remained in the possession of the Birnies till little more than twenty years ago, when, upon the death of the last direct descendant, a lady, the estate was sold by her heir to James Bruce, Esq. a native of the parish, who had returned with a fortune from India.

The following is a copy of the valuation of the parish, showing, along with the names of the present heritors, the sum at which each property is rated in the county cess-book :

The Duke of Hamilton's land,	L. 1900	17	2
Dalsersf and Millburn, Robert Campbell Hamilton, Esq.	676	2	8
Raploch, Thomas M'Neil Hamilton, Esq.	260	0	0
Broomhill, Miss Bruce,	250	0	0
West Machan, Mr Robert Burns's heirs,	62	10	0
East Machan, Mr John Burns,	62	10	0
Howlethole or Dalbeg, late Earl of Hyndford's heirs,	51	1	0
Sandyholm, Dr Charles Frechairn,	45	0	0
Woodside, Mr James Hutcheson,	40	0	0
Birkenshaw, Mr James Lohoar,	35	0	0
Hillstonemyre, Mr John Forrest,	20	15	0
Torland, Mr Archibald Templeton,	12	0	0
Rosebank, Mr Muir's Heirs, four-fifths, Sir W. C. Anstruther, one-fifth,	4	2	10
Total,	L. 3319	18	8

There are, besides, two or three small properties, which have no separate valuation. The two properties of West and East Machan, forming what was wont to be called Auld Machan, are at present advertized for sale. The Lohoars of Birkenshaw, who were for a considerable time tenants before becoming proprietors of the

farm, which was formerly a part of the Broomhill estate, have a tradition, that they are of French extraction, and that their ancestors, being Protestants, fled from France, in order to avoid persecution. Amidst all the changes that have taken place in the lapse of years, *Hamilton* is still a prevailing, perhaps the predominant, surname in the parish.

The ancient residence of the Hamiltons of Dalsarf was Alton, (or Auldtown,) now converted into a farm-steading. Scarcely a trace remains to show where the lairds of Raploch formerly lived. The house of Broomhill, formerly mentioned as having been burnt by Sir William Drury, Governor of Berwick, was, we are told, but one room wide, and four stories high, with a bartisan. It was again repaired, and a turnpike added. It was called the Castle of Auld Machan. In 1563, a mob came to pull down the old Romish chapel at Broomhill; but the lady of Sir John Hamilton, meeting them on the way, assured them that they might save themselves the trouble, as she meant to make a good barn of it. With this statement they were satisfied, and the chapel was permitted to remain till 1724, when it fell down of its own accord. The field where it stood is still called Chapel Rone. A private chapel, belonging to the Raploch family, formerly stood at Chapel Know, between Raploch and the village of Larkhall; hence the neighbouring farm of Crossgates was also called Chapeltree. There were two chapels on the east side of the parish,—one at Chapelburn, near the old line of road from Hamilton to Lanark, by Nethanfoot; and another at Dalpatrick, dedicated to the saint of that name, and also sometimes called the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin. No traces of either now remain. Near the village of Larkhall, is a level piece of ground called Bowman's flat, or vulgarly Bomflat, where, according to tradition, archery was formerly practised, after it was reintroduced for some time by the Stuarts. These parochial practisings were, of course, subservient to the system of general and stated weaponschawings, of which Sir Walter Scott gives an account in his novel of *Old Mortality*. There is a conical rising ground (*Gallowhill*) south-east of Larkhall, where, it is said, culprits used in ancient times to be executed. If we are to be guided by etymology, local executions must at one time have been general over the country, as there are few parishes that have not a *Gallowhill*, or some place indicating the former use of the gallows. The circumstance is, of course, to be explained by the local and heritable jurisdictions of former times.

by "the power of pit and gallows," possessed by feudal superiors and lords of the soil. The traces of two ancient tumuli may still be discerned in this parish. In removing one of these a few years ago at Dalpatrick, the workmen came upon a stone-coffin, about two feet and a half long, and one foot and a half wide, composed of flag stones, in which an urn was deposited. In the coffin some bones were found, among which was a human under jaw, quite entire, and containing all the teeth except one. The urn was about six inches high, of baked earth, reddish without and dark within, of a coarse texture, narrower at the mouth and bottom, and apparently formed in a mould of straw, or some such material, before it was put into the fire. Another urn, of nearly the same shape and size, but of a whitish colour, of a finer texture, and ornamented about the handle, was found among the rubbish; and also a smaller vessel of baked clay, which appeared to be a lamp. A part of these relics is in the possession of William Lockhart, Esq. of Milton-Lockhart. In removing the cairn, a curious whinstone, of a roundish form, and about four inches in diameter, was picked up, perforated with a circular hole, through which the radicle of an oak, which grew near the spot, had found its way. This curiosity is in the possession of Mr William Henderson, at Dalpatrick, who removed the tumulus. There was formerly another cairn at the south-west end of the parish, called Cairncockle, which occupied the highest land in the whole district. Some old persons recollect of its being surrounded by a ditch like a fortification. It has long been removed. Castlehill and Cairnsilloch, (*i. e.* the dirty tumulus, or burial-place for mean people,) near the village of Dalsersf, were no doubt, as their names intimate, once remarkable places. About twenty years ago an earthen pot was dug up in a garden in the village of Millheugh, containing brass or copper and silver coins of the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., and his son, Charles I. Near the same spot an ancient silver coin was got when deepening a mill lead.

The Rev. John M'Millan, the well-known successor of Cargill, Cameron, and Renwick, and the individual from whom the Cameronians or Covenanters, in modern times, are frequently called M'Millanites, resided for some time at Braehead, near Millheugh, in this parish, and was buried in the churchyard of Dalsersf, near the south-east corner of the church. He was father of Mr M'Millan, who was settled at Sandyhills, near Glasgow, and grandfather of the late Mr M'Millan of Stirling, Professor of Theology to the Reformed Presbytery. On Sabbath, 8th September 1839, a ser-

mon was preached in the churchyard of Dalsarf, by the Rev. Dr Symington of Paisley, and a collection made for the purpose of erecting a suitable monument to Mr M'Millan's memory.

There is no history of the parish, either printed or in manuscript; but some interesting notices of its former state and condition, and of the families of the principal heritors, may be found in Hamilton of Wishaw's manuscript History of Lanarkshire, and in Anderson's Memoirs of the Hamilton Family and its branches.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers, till they came into the hands of the present schoolmaster and session-clerk, had been very irregularly kept. Indeed, for nearly fifty years preceding 1812, there had been no regular session in the parish. In August 1812, a kirk-session was formed, and from that date there are accurate minutes of session business, and carefully kept registers of proclamations of bans and of baptisms. Of late years a register of burials has also been kept. The old parochial records are contained in two volumes of a very confused and miscellaneous description. The earliest entry is the registration of a baptism, 30th November 1738.

*Eminent Men.*—The parish has little to boast of in the way of eminent characters connected with it, either by birth, residence, or burial. In addition to the names of persons already incidentally noticed, however, it may be mentioned, that there is a tradition that the celebrated Bishop Burnet once lived at Broomhill, and that he there wrote a part of his works. This is probably a mistake. At least, the tradition cannot be authenticated, and has probably arisen from his being confounded with the before-mentioned James Hamilton, Bishop of Galloway and Laird of Broomhill. The Rev. James Hog, whose name appears rather prominent in public affairs during the stormy period succeeding the revolution of 1688, and who was one of the authors of the well-known book called the "Marrow of Modern Divinity," which caused so much controversy and discussion in the church, was for some time minister of Dalsarf. He appears to have been a talented, learned, and pious man; both as a member of the church courts and as a parish minister, he had his own share of difficulties and troubles; and, after a short ministry, resigned his charge. After a brief interval he was appointed minister of Carnock, where he laboured with much acceptance and success for many years.\* Mr Hog was the

\* See interesting notice of this individual in a late number of the Edinburgh Christian Instructor.

author of a considerable number of pamphlets and theological tracts, and died at Edinburgh in 1736. Mr John Pinkerton, the well-known historian, critic, and antiquary, was descended from a family, who at one time resided at Dalsersf, though they afterwards removed to the neighbourhood of Edinburgh. Several of his connexions and relations live in the vicinity, and claim the privilege of burying in the church-yard.

### III.—POPULATION.

No account of the population in ancient times is known to exist. Beginning with the return made to Dr Webster in 1755, the following statement will shew the amount of population at each census subsequently taken by direction of Parliament, and the increase during the several intervals.

1755,	.	756 souls,	0 increase.
1791,	.	1100	344
1801,	.	1130	30
1811,	.	1660	530
1821,	.	2054	394
1831,	.	2680	626

Total increase in 76 years, 1924

By the census of 1831, the number of males was 1337, and of females, 1343, = 2680. In order to meet the inquiries of the General Assembly and the Religious Instruction Commissioners, with regard to church accommodation, a careful census of the population was taken in 1835. The return was 2874 souls, shewing an increase in eighty years of 2118. The population now (1840) must be considerably upwards of 3000. The increase is entirely in the villages, and especially in Larkhall and neighbourhood. The agricultural and rural population is rather decreasing, from enlargement of farms, and improved habits of husbandry. Houses for country cottars will soon disappear. There is even a scarcity of country tradesmen and artisans, living among and supplying the wants of their farming and labouring neighbours. The villages are in course of rapidly absorbing the whole population, except farmers and their servants. For the large increase of the manufacturing and village population of late years, several reasons may be assigned. The Larkhall district has a salubrious air, good water, and abundance of fuel and freestone. It is near the town of Hamilton, intersected by the great road from Glasgow to Carlisle, and enjoys means of ready communication with the whole surrounding country. Ground for feuing is obtained easily, and on moderate terms. Of this facility, advantage has been taken by building societies, (elsewhere referred to and explained), which,

of late years, have had a powerful influence in accelerating the increase of the population. Nothing but a cessation of the demand for cotton weavers, or something deeply affecting the manufactures of the country, is likely to prevent this increase from being progressive.

About two-thirds of the population live in villages. The villages of the parish, exclusive of two small collections of colliers' houses, with their respective populations, were as follows, in 1831 :

	Houses.	Families.	Males.	Females.	Souls.
Larkhall,	139	188	469	494	963
Pleasance,	45	59	154	143	297
Millheugh,	42	45	116	119	237
Rosebank,	24	38	74	102	176
Dalsersf,	19	22	56	55	111
<b>Totals,</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>1784</b>
Average number of marriages for the last seven years,					24
of births,					77
of deaths,					30

A register of burials was begun in 1831, and has since been carefully kept. The following table gives the deaths, at different ages, for five years :

	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.
Under 5 years,	6	9	7	13	12
5 to 10,	2	1	0	0	4
10 to 20,	0	2	4	1	2
20 to 30,	0	7	1	5	5
30 to 40,	0	1	0	1	1
40 to 50,	2	1	1	2	3
50 to 60,	0	1	0	0	3
60 to 70,	2	1	1	0	6
70 to 80,	2	7	8	3	5
80 to 90,	2	3	5	3	2
90 to 100,	0	0	0	0	1
Still-born,	1	1	1	0	0
<b>Totals,</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>44</b>

The following is a register of the deaths in each month for the above years :

	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.
January,	1	6	5	3	4
February,	5	5	2	2	8
March,	4	3	5	2	5
April,	0	3	0	1	6
May,	2	5	4	1	5
June,	2	5	0	2	0
July,	0	2	1	3	0
August,	0	2	5	4	1
September,	1	2	0	2	1
October,	0	1	2	3	3
November,	0	0	0	2	6
December,	2	0	4	3	5
<b>Totals,</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>44</b>

If we take an average of five years, beginning with 1831, for marriages, births, and deaths, we shall find that, during that period, there were 126 marriages, 476 births (386 for Churchmen, and about 90, at 18 per annum, for Dissenters,) and 151 deaths, giving an average of 25 marriages, 95 births, and 30 deaths yearly. In reference to the whole population, this is nearly one marriage to every 115 individuals, one birth to 30, and one death to 95. From the preceding tables, it will be seen that, as might be expected, the greatest number of deaths in each year is among persons under five, or above seventy years of age, the former class averaging 51, and the latter 41, in five years. The great number of children dying in infancy, among a population so healthy, is deserving of notice. Of thirteen children who died under five years of age in 1834, only one had reached the age of four years; 2, six months; 4, two months; 2, one month; and 4 were only a few days or hours old. Is there not reason to believe that the treatment of infants among the labouring classes admits of much improvement? In five years, there were only three still-born children, or about one in 50 births. The proportion of twin-births is nearly the same. The proportion of male to female births is as 11 to 10. One in 20 marriages is unproductive, and the rest have about 3 children per marriage. The ratio of marriages during the five years above referred to, is, to every 100 inhabitants, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; of births,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  nearly; and of deaths something short of 3.

The number of families in the parish by last census was 514, and of inhabited houses 423, shewing that there were 91 more families than houses; families living in villages 276, and in the country 238; inhabited houses in the country 154; in villages 269. Average number of individuals to each house upwards of 6, and to each family about 5, viz. 6 in villages, and 4 in the country. Males upwards of twenty years of age, 617. Inhabitants to the square mile about 261. There may be said to be no uninhabited houses in the parish at present, except a few in the country in a dilapidated and ruinous state, and which in all likelihood will never be repaired. The number of houses in course of erection by building societies varies at very short intervals, but may be stated as being at present about 6 or 8 in the course of the year.

The following classification, made in 1835 and 1836, will shew the relative numbers of Churchmen and Dissenters in the parish

at that date, with the proportions of the poor and working-classes belonging to the two denominations :—

	Established Church.	Other denominations.	Of no religious denomination.	Total.
Poor and working classes,	2294 1986	552 503	28 27	2874 2516

The persons (28 in number), described as being of no religious denomination, were nearly all nominally of the church, and would probably have been very averse to being returned as above. But, having ceased for some years to attend public worship anywhere, they were excluded from the list of persons belonging to the Church of Scotland.

The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards is 8 or 9. The principal heritors are mostly non-resident. Their mansion-houses, however, are, in general, let to respectable tenants, which makes their absence the less felt. Four families of independent income reside in the parish. About the same number of families live on their private means, less or greater, without following any industrial occupation.

The people of the parish may be described in general terms as a well-favoured race, of light and florid complexion, and in point of size and strength fully equal to the average of the district. There are 2 deaf and dumb persons, 3 blind, and 6 who are weak or disordered in mind. Of this last class 4 may be described as fatuous, while 2 are liable to fits of violence, and require occasional restraint.

A disease resembling the *goitre* of alpine countries is rather prevalent in the parish, especially among females, 10 or 12 of whom are affected by a large and unseemly swelling of the throat. The disease of late years has been on the increase. There is, probably, some local reason for it; but the medical men who have been applied to have not been able to give any explanation of the matter.

In point of intelligence and general character the inhabitants of the parish are, at least, upon a level with their neighbours around them. Not a few natives of the parish have realized fortunes in India and elsewhere. Several of these have, at various times, purchased estates in different parts of the country, and founded families, now ranking among the landed proprietary and gentry of Scotland. In stating the general character of the people, moral and religious, the same set of remarks will not apply equally to the agricultural and manufacturing population. The former, or rural

class, are entitled to be described as cleanly in their houses and persons, and neat in their dress. The standard of dress among them, indeed, is rather too high, often preventing persons who cannot appear like their neighbours from attending church for a time. Speaking generally, however, this class of the population are exemplary in their attendance on public worship and the ordinances of religion. They are a simple-minded, sober, industrious, and frugal race—respectful to their superiors and kindly towards one another—peaceable and inoffensive, and not given to meddle with public matters, either civil or ecclesiastical. The manufacturing population present a picture, in many respects, very different from this. The weaving class, from being enabled at a very early period of life to earn a man's wage, marry, for the most part, in mere boyhood, and begin housekeeping on credit. What is begun in imprudence is too often followed by thoughtlessness and improvidence afterwards; and, if even occasional dissipation be combined with the burden of a family, it cannot be wondered at that the rapid result is poverty, squalor, and wretchedness. The want of clothes speedily prevents attendance on public worship, or, at least, is the apology urged, and the Sabbath is spent in loitering and sin. This class, moreover, is too often very pestiferously busy in regard to politics and church and state affairs—trying to reform the institutions of the country, instead of trying to reform themselves, and to become sober, exemplary, and useful members of society. From this description there are many honourable exceptions; or, rather, perhaps, the above description ought to be taken as an exception from the general character of the manufacturing population. In Larkhall and the surrounding manufacturing district, there is a great number of just as respectable and well-conducted persons as any who are to be found in the parish. Still the above remarks apply by far too generally. It is much to be deplored, that the cotton trade, which has added so much to the general wealth and resources of the country, should be allowed to be the means of bringing down the standard of the religious and moral character of the population. The enlightened and patriotic interference of Government, in regard to education and pastoral superintendence, would do much to remove or abate the moral evil, and at the same time to increase the temporal good. For it is righteousness alone which exalteth a nation.

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

Families employed in agriculture,	-	-	115
trade and manufactures,	-	-	367
All other families,	-	-	32
			—514
Agricultural occupiers of the first class,	-	-	35
second class,	-	-	12
Families of agricultural labourers,	-	-	68
			—115
employed in manufactures, weaving, &c.	-	-	226
retail trade and handicraft,	-	-	83
of capitalists, professional persons, &c. &c.	-	-	92
employed in labour not agricultural,	-	-	58
			—399
Males employed in agriculture, upwards of 20,	-	-	168
cotton weaving,	-	-	290
work not agricultural,	-	-	77
trade and handicraft,	-	-	93
			—568
Capitalists and professional men,	-	-	23
Inferior and retired tradesmen,	-	-	9
			—
			600
Farm-servants upwards of 20 years,	-	-	34
under 20 years,	-	-	49
All female servants,	-	-	53
			—136
Colliers,	-	-	48
Freestone quarriers,	-	-	12
			—60
Cotton weavers, by a late census,	-	-	462

These proportions, founded on a preceding census, would require at the present date, now that cotton-weaving and coal working have much increased, and that great changes have taken and are taking place, to be much modified, as will be shown by the approaching census of 1841.

The parish contains upwards of 11 square miles, 5725 Scots acres, or about 7219 acres, imperial measure. The land, with the exception of a small patch or two of moss, is all either regularly or occasionally cultivated. Agriculture in its present improved state is of comparatively recent date in this part of Lanarkshire. So late as the year 1769, the absurd and ruinous system of croft and outfield continued to prevail. The croft was dunged every third or fourth year; the field land was alternately cropped and rested, without being either fallowed or manured. This practice had been followed from time immemorial. The proportion of field to croft land was, in most farms, as three, four, and sometimes five to one; Machan Muir was mostly of this worst description of soil, and hence a proverbial saying in the parish and neighbourhood,

“ He that's rich and wants to be puir,  
Let him tak' a mailin' in Machan Muir.”

This adage has for many years ceased to be applicable, and is no longer repeated. For, by judicious farming, the district, once so reproachfully spoken of, now contains some of the best and most productive farms in the parish. The husbandry at present pursued is of a mixed kind, judiciously adapted to the varying soils and capabilities of different farms, and of the several portions of each farm. Hence every farmer depends partly on his grain crops, of various kinds, and partly on his dairy produce. In this mode of farming there is far less risk to the tenant than when the course pursued is more regular and systematic. If the wheat crop fails, there are probably fields of good oats, beans and pease, to keep the farmer from despondency; and even when the whole grain crops are deficient, as sometimes happens, there is still the produce of the dairy to meet the demands of the landlord for rent. If farmers in this part of the country seldom realize large profits, they just as seldom, from seasons and circumstances, incur absolute ruin. None but native agriculturists do any good. Farmers from more favoured districts who have taken farms, at different times, in the parish and neighbourhood, and attempted a regular course of husbandry, have always ruined themselves in a very short time. With the exception of the low-lying grounds in the vale of Clyde, and a few stripes on the banks of the Avon, the land of the parish is not fit for green crops. Fallowing has in most cases to be resorted to. Wheat and oats are the principal crops. Wheat succeeds best in strong soils, and yields, according to circumstances, from 25 to 60 bushels per acre. Oats are hardy, and succeed with less manure and culture. The variety most in repute for the higher grounds of the parish is late Ayrshire; but which, from long use, has acquired in this part of the country the name of Machan Moor oats. It yields a large quantity of straw and fodder for cattle. The produce in grain from an acre of oats, varies from 25 to 60 bushels. Beans and pease thrive well on lands which are in good order. On poorer lands they give a return of from 12 to 24 bushels per acre. The produce of an acre of potatoes, in soils adapted to them, has been found to weigh from 12 to 13 tons. They are not only much used as an article of human food, but likewise for feeding cattle, especially milch cows. Till a few years back, very few turnips were raised. They are now getting into more general cultivation on light soils, and are found to pay as well as potatoes. Carrots and mangel-wurzel have for some time formed part of the cropping of the farm of

Raploch mains, and have been sold at from L. 2 to L. 3 per ton, or at the rate of from L. 30 to L. 40 per acre. Rye is sometimes sowed in orchards and other places shaded by trees, from its not being liable to be eaten by birds. It must be added, that neither is it at all savoury, in this part of the country, as an article of human food. Hay yields from one to two tons per acre. There is a little flax raised for domestic use; but the farmers do not think it a sure crop on stiff clay.

The management of the dairy, in making butter and cheese, and fattening calves, is well understood—and the farmers' wives can, in this respect, vie with any of their neighbours in the surrounding parishes. The cows are mostly of the Ayrshire breed. On some farms, however, a mixed breed is kept, rather coarser and wider in the horn than the former, and which is supposed to yield a larger quantity of milk. In 1791, there were 300 milch cows in the parish, and about 60 young were annually reared. At present there are 500 milch cows, 350 young cattle, and about 100 are reared every year. The number of pigs is about 450. Very few sheep are kept. The produce of the dairy is made into full milk cheese—or churned, and the milk and butter sold among the villagers of the parish, or in the town of Hamilton. Many of the villagers themselves, however, have a taste for keeping cows. There are upwards of 40 in the village of Larkhall alone. The horses employed in husbandry are all of the Clydesdale breed, and of the best kind. The farmers in general are most attentive to the rearing of the best sorts of cattle, and have often obtained premiums at competitions for stock. In particular, Mr James Frame, tenant of the farms of Broomfield and Overton, on the Hamilton estate, is well known as having often obtained prizes at the exhibitions before the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, and county and parochial associations of a similar kind.

*Plantations, &c.*—The number of acres under wood, whether natural or planted, is not great, and would require to be much increased. The plantations and coppices are, from year to year, carefully pruned and thinned. In regard to trees, it is the orchard of fruit trees that is of most interest and importance in this part of the country. Fruit cultivation is of great antiquity in the district. The fruit district of Clydesdale may be said to extend from near Lanark on the one hand, to the extremity of the parish of Bothwell towards Glasgow on the other, comprising a distance of about twenty miles. The banks of the Clyde at Dalsarf are

nearly in the centre of this favoured range. The orchards are chiefly planted on the declivities which overlook the river, or on the sides of the ravines which run into it, and very few of which could be cultivated by the plough. A few acres are planted on the holms and banks along the side of the Avon, on the western boundary of the parish, but not with the same success as in the Vale of Clyde. The plum district is not co-extensive with the general fruit one. Taking Dalsersf as the centre, the plum range, on both banks of the river, does not extend beyond three or three and a-half miles on either side. Within these limits, several kinds of plums appear to be indigenous, and thrive and yield a crop in hedgerows, and without cultivation. The native varieties of this sort of fruit are, burnets, whitcorns, horse-jags (harsh gage?) bullets and devons—all of which grow luxuriantly, and yield fruit without care, besides filling the surrounding ground with suckers. It was long believed, that, even in this favoured tract, grafted plum trees would not thrive unless reared against walls. This idea has been corrected by recent experience. It has now been ascertained, that magnum bonums, Orleans plums, precoce de Tours, green gages, red imperials, and other varieties, flourish as luxuriantly, as standards, as the indigenous plums, and, taking the average of a few years, yield a larger crop. They merely require the same treatment as apple and pear trees, namely, regular cultivation and manuring. Of apples, about sixty varieties are now cultivated, viz. sixteen sorts of summer, twenty of harvest, and twenty-four of winterapples. Of pears, there are about twenty-four kinds. Different kinds of fruit prefer different soils and situations. Speaking generally, however, orchards are observed to succeed best on a clay soil. On sandy land, the trees grow faster, but yield less fruit, the blossoms and leaves being more exposed to blight and the ravages of the caterpillar. In preparing the ground for an orchard, every springy or damp place is carefully drained, either by open or covered drains. Young trees are planted at the depth of from six to eight inches, and the earth raised a foot or eighteen inches around them above the roots, to enable them to withstand the blast. For some years at first, much attention is required to prevent the bark and twigs from being bitten and destroyed by the hares in winter. A tree that has been hare-bitten, even to a small extent, seldom does any good; and some young orchards, planted at considerable expense, have, from want of care in this respect, been entirely ruined. Some of the old orchards are very irregu-

larly planted. The system pursued at present is to set out the young trees in rows, at from ten to thirty feet distant from each other, with a space of from ten to twenty feet between the trees. Regular and careful cultivation is required, especially when the trees are young. The expense of this is covered by the under-crops, such as potatoes, oats, beans, barley, rye, &c. Potatoes, with dung, are generally followed by oats, and then by clover and rye-grass. But very often, when the soil admits of it, gooseberry bushes are planted along with the young fruit trees, so as to prevent any regular under crop. For a good many years the two thrive well together, and the gooseberries soon yield more than defrays the expense of cultivation. The tacksmen of the cottage orchards in this neighbourhood are bound by their leases to apply manure once in four years. Lime occasionally used has great effect, especially in old orchards, in quickening the growth and productiveness of the trees. Gooseberries, in the way above-mentioned, and sometimes in plantations by themselves, are cultivated to a considerable extent. The bushes thrive best on a light soil. It is needless to plant them in stiff clay. The ground around the bushes requires to be delved and cleaned of weeds every year, and dunged once in two years. The kinds most in repute at present are, the early sulphur, the Warrington, the amber, Harvie's red, and other varieties of the jam-berry. Taking one year with another, gooseberries are a surer and more productive crop than large fruit.

The extent of ground occupied by orchards within the bounds of the parish is about 50 acres; 6 or 7 of which lie on the banks of the Avon. In these orchards there is wood enough to yield, at a full crop, about 8000 bolls. The fruit boll contains 20 sleeks. A sleek of plums weighs 60 lbs., of pears 50 lbs., and of apples 40 lbs. The average amount of bolls per annum is greatly below the above statement. During the late war, the prices of fruit were often prodigiously high, and large rents were obtained. This state of things has long since passed away. For some years past, the dealers have seldom ventured to give beyond L. 2, 10s. or L. 3 for a boll of fruit, taking all kinds and varieties into account. The facility with which Irish, English, and foreign fruit is now brought to Glasgow by means of steam, has tended much to diminish the incomes of the Clydesdale orchard men. The recent reduction of the duty on foreign apples to a mere trifle, bids fair

to put a stop, ere long, to the cultivation of this kind of fruit altogether. Indeed, even before this check occurred, the price of apples of inferior kinds had fallen so low in years of tolerable plenty, as scarcely to be worth the expense of pulling and carting to Glasgow. An attempt was accordingly made, two or three years ago, to have them regularly converted into cider. A cider-press was established in the parish of Cambusnethan, which has yielded a very promising beverage. The experiment was checked by the total failure of the fruit crop in 1839, and the result in better years is yet to be seen. Gooseberries, plums, and pears being less liable to be affected by competition, still yield an encouraging return to the cultivator and dealer, and good table fruit of all kinds, including the better sorts of apples, whether for desert or baking, is in general in fair demand. The fruit of Clydesdale is taken for the most part to Glasgow or Paisley, sometimes to Edinburgh; and of late years, since the Glasgow market has got supply from other quarters, a good deal of it has been disposed of in the towns and villages of the more immediate neighbourhood. The raising and management of fruit gives employment at certain seasons to a considerable number of persons of both sexes, young and old, and any thing materially affecting this branch of rural industry is deeply felt in the whole district. Considerable dissatisfaction and alarm have of late been excited, by the alteration of the duties on foreign fruit.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of land in the parish is from 10s. to L. 2, 10s. per acre. There are spots which are let for a limited period, at from L. 2 to L. 4 per acre. In general, the leases are for nineteen years, sometimes, however, for seven and fourteen, and on the several estates there are a few tenants at will. Grazing is paid for at from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3, 10s. per cow or ox.

*Wages.*—Labourers have about 12s. per week in summer, and 9s. in winter. From the extent of orchard ground under the spade, this class of persons is in general well employed when the weather permits. Delving among fruit trees and gooseberry bushes requires some skill and experience, and is not safely entrusted to any but individuals belonging to the district, or at least well acquainted with the kind of work. Carpenters get 2s. 6d. per day, and masons about 16s. 6d. per week. The price of all articles required for the different purposes of rural and domestic

economy is fully as high as in the neighbouring market-town of Hamilton.

The Duke of Hamilton has twenty-two farms in the parish, rented at from L. 50 to L. 400 per annum. The farm-steadings, recently built, are in general commodious and neat. Those of older date are miserable hovels; but, as they become unfit for occupation, they will, no doubt, be replaced by buildings of a better description. Tile-draining has commenced in several places of the parish with good effect, and the Duke of Hamilton has recently established a manufactory of draining tiles near Larkhall, for the supply of his own tenants, and for sale in the neighbourhood. The farms are mostly let at rack-rent. Still the farmers go on improving, and pay their rents well. Tenants appear always to do best with the stimulus of a smart rent over their heads. The least thriving portion of the farmers of the parish are the small proprietors who occupy their own grounds.

*Rental, &c.*—The old valuation of the parish, as elsewhere stated, is about L. 3320 Scots. The real rental given in to the Teind Court before the last augmentation of stipend was L. 5764, and is now probably pretty much the same. The Duke of Hamilton's proportion of this sum is about L. 2389, 8s. 1d. The average gross amount of raw produce may be estimated as follows:

Grain of all kinds, hay, &c.	L. 7000	0	0
Potatoes, turnips, carrots, beet, &c.	1910	0	0
Land in pasture, at L. 3 per cow, and L. 2 per head for young cattle,	2200	0	0
Orchard and garden produce,	1250	0	0
Coal, quarries, &c.	2000	0	0
Miscellaneous produce,	640	0	0
	<hr/>		
	L. 15,000	0	0

Taking into account the number of acres in the parish, the gross produce is at the rate of L. 3 per acre nearly. But from the acres there must be a considerable deduction for roads, channels of rivers, sites of villages, &c.

*Manufactures.*—The principal manufacture in the parish is cotton-weaving, conducted for the most part by local agents, employed at a per centage by the manufacturing houses in Glasgow. The new bleachfield about to be commenced at Millheugh will give employment to a considerable number of hands, and be of benefit to the parish. The lace manufacturers of Hamilton employ a great many of the females. The prices of weaving and lace-making are frequently varying; but, in general, it requires long hours to make a very moderate wage. The manufacturing population is healthy.

The employment of cotton-weaving is overstocked; and the weavers themselves are tempted to continue and increase the evil. A poor man earning an insufficient wage is led to put his boys and girls on the loom at a very tender age, in order to swell the amount. It is difficult to see how this state of things could be remedied except by providing factory employment or other kind of work for the young.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—The nearest market-town is Hamilton, about four miles and a-half distant from the centre of the parish. Farmers and others belonging to Dalserf, very generally repair to Hamilton on Friday, the market-day. There are several villages in the parish. Dalserf, (which derives its name from the parish, or gives to the parish its name,) was at one time a clachan or kirk-town of some size and importance. It now consists merely of a few low-roofed cottages, on the two sides of the lane leading from the Lanark road to the parish church. Till about twenty years ago, when Garion Bridge was built, there was a ferry at Dalserf, connecting the two banks of the river, and which caused considerable stir in the village. Standing close to the mansion-house of Dalserf, the proprietors for a good while past have felt a natural desire to have it wholly removed, and it bids fair very soon to disappear altogether from the landscape. Nothing but the presence of the parish church, which cannot be so easily removed, saves the few remaining houses from destruction. The village of Rosebank, about a quarter of a mile up the Clyde, has arisen in the course of the last thirty years to supply the deficiency of dwellings occasioned by the decaying state of Dalserf. Rosebank is a beautiful village, standing nearly opposite to Mauldslie Castle. Building, however, has already nearly come to a close in it, from the want of ground for feuing. There is a positive want of house accommodation in this part of the parish. Millheugh, on the Avon, is a place of considerable antiquity. At one time, it had a brewery, a distillery, a waukmill, and an inkle-factory, all of which have disappeared. A bleachfield, however, above referred to, the buildings connected with which are already finished, is about to be set agoing in its immediate neighbourhood. The *Lupulus*, or hop-plant, is often found wild near the village, and is supposed to have been formerly cultivated here. An old two-storey house presents a curious sun-dial in the Egyptian style, executed upwards of 100 years ago

by a person of the name of Burns. Larkhall, situated close to the boundary with Hamilton parish, and near the road leading from Glasgow to Carlisle, is the largest and most important village in the parish. It is chiefly built upon the Raploch property, though partly also upon the Duke of Hamilton's lands, and those belonging to West Machan, on leases of ninety-nine years. It is mostly inhabited by weavers, and the houses are nearly all of one description, namely, an apartment (seldom two) for family use, and a four loom shop. Larkhall has been nearly all built since 1776. In 1791 it contained about 100 houses. At present it consists of not fewer probably than 250, and is increasing with great rapidity. This increase is in no small measure owing to the establishment of building societies, and other causes which are elsewhere noticed. It is impossible to speak of Larkhall separately from the hamlets, rows of houses, and dwellings, in its immediate vicinity. The whole neighbourhood in which it stands, is one large village, containing a population of upwards of 2000 souls. Within the last two or three years a post-office has been established in the village, subordinate to Hamilton and Glasgow. This may be a benefit, perhaps, to persons in the village and its immediate neighbourhood, but is felt to be a positive nuisance to those living on the banks of the Clyde, who, from greater facility of communication, would in general rather have Hamilton as their post-town. The payment of a runner, with a single letter perhaps, renders the recently established penny postage of no benefit.

*Means of Communication.*—There are three great lines of road which intersect the parish, namely, the road from Glasgow to Carlisle, the one from Glasgow to Lanark, by the banks of the Clyde, and the more recently formed line from Edinburgh to Ayr, which crosses the river at Garion Bridge. The Carlisle road, which is of long standing, was much altered and improved about twenty years ago, and afforded seasonable employment to the manufacturing population in the troublesome years of 1819 and 1820. The Lanark road was formed about the end of last century. Though beautiful and picturesque in its windings, it is not distinguished by those principles of road-making which now prevail, and admits of many improvements. The road from Edinburgh to Ayr only became a thoroughfare about ten or twelve years ago, and its use and importance are only yet beginning to be appreciated. These roads traverse the parish to an extent of about eighteen miles, and are a great benefit to the farmers of the parish and the neighbourhood

in general. Without stating the extent of the parish roads, which is rather indefinite, it may be mentioned that, for many years, there was a heavy load of debt on the Statute Labour Fund, and that, consequently, these roads were very ill kept. Of late, there is a decided improvement in this respect. The merely farm and service roads of the parish, from running through beds of clay, and not being metalled, are, in general, in a very wretched state, and in the winter months nearly impassable. Of late a good road has been made, by subscription, through the farm of Bent, which affords communication between the parishes of Lesmahagow and Dalserf, in their interchange of coal and lime. The Duke of Hamilton has also, within these few months, made a good new road through the farm of Overton, so as to connect his new colliery at Netherburn with the Lanark road on the banks of the Clyde. It is probable that both these new openings, from their obvious public utility, will be adopted by the parish road trustees. These trustees, from the provisions of the act on this subject, are very few in number, and the interest of the public is often very imperfectly attended to. It is a pity but a thorough revision were made of the Statute Labour Act. The London Mail passes through the parish at stated hours on its way to and from Glasgow. There is also a daily stage-coach from Edinburgh to Ayr, another between the towns of Strathaven and Stonehouse and Glasgow, and a third between Glasgow and Lanark. The village of Dalserf is about 18 miles south-east of Glasgow; 34 west of Edinburgh; 37 east of Ayr; and is about half-way between Hamilton and Lanark, or  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles from each.

There are two excellent bridges over the Clyde, connecting the parish of Dalserf with the opposite bank, namely, Garion and Milton Bridges. Garion Bridge, near Dalserf, consists of three arches, of 65 feet span each, the roadway being  $20\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and the height of the parapet from the bed of the river 34 feet. A large stone, built into the toll-house, contains the following inscription:—"In testimony of respect and gratitude to General Sir James Stewart Denholm of Coltness and Westshiel, Bart., in whose patriotic zeal for the improvement of his country this bridge originated, and by whose liberal contributions, united with those of Mrs Catherine Birnie Mitchelson of Broomhill, and the Rev. John Scott, D. D. minister of Avondale, it was happily completed in the year 1817, at a time when there was no safe passage across the Clyde from Lanark to Bothwell; the other contributors erected this stone.

Erected by Kenneth Mathieson, Glasgow." This testimony is the more worthy of being responded to, as the bridge, though a great public benefit, has as yet been the reverse of any source of profit to the subscribers or their heirs. The bridge at Milton is the private property of William Lockhart, Esq. of Milton Lockhart. It is a graceful structure, consisting of three arches, ribbed in the old style, like those in Bothwell Bridge and old Avon Bridge, near Hamilton, both of which are of unknown antiquity. There is a bridge of one arch, of 80 feet span, over the Avon at Millheugh; another over the Cander, near Stonehouse, with numerous smaller bridges crossing the rivulets of the parish.

The land is nearly all enclosed. At one time, dry stone dikes were in general use for this purpose. These have now, in a great measure, disappeared, their place being supplied by hedges of thorn and beech. The hedges on the Duke of Hamilton's lands, along the sides of the principal roads and around his plantations, are excellently kept, and every encouragement is given by his Grace to his tenants to attend to the subdivision fences on their farms. There is still great room for improvement. The subdivision hedges of the parish are too often neglected and insufficient. Indeed, unless landlords take the trimming and upholding of fences into their own hands, the expense of planting them is, in too many instances, just so much money sunk and lost. They are forthwith allowed to be trampled down by cattle, and being left unshorn and unattended to, except at long intervals, become useless as enclosures, causing a constant and annoying demand upon the landlord for stob and rail. Wood grows readily, and hedges are reared without difficulty in every part of the parish.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is beautifully situated, but very inconveniently placed for the greater part of the population. It stands on the banks of the Clyde, which is the eastern boundary of the parish. Its distance from the farthest boundary is about four miles. It was built, as already noticed, in 1655. It appears from the Presbytery books, that both church and manse were repaired in 1721, at an expense of L. 427, 18s. Scots. Some alteration and repairs of the seating took place in 1818 and 1819, so as to make the interior of the church more respectable in appearance and more comfortable, but without giving any additional accommodation. Though old, the present condition of the building is such as, in the existing state of the law, to justify the heri-

tors in refusing any alteration, and to exempt them from the obligation of building a new church—a circumstance of which they have not failed to avail themselves, when applied to on the subject. In 1834, a meeting of heritors was convened at the instance of the feuars and other inhabitants of Larkhall and neighbourhood, and a memorial presented, praying for a new and sufficient church in a central situation, so as to afford accommodation for the whole parish. These persons at the same time offered a large sum by way of subscription in aid of the heritors, upon being allowed a right to a certain number of sittings. Only two or three heritors attended, who were averse to the proposal; no encouragement was given by those who were absent, and the matter came to nought. In consequence of this failure, a subscription was forthwith entered into for building a chapel at Larkhall. It will shew the necessity of something being done, to state, in contrast with the preceding population returns, the simple fact, that the church only contains about 550 sittings, and, before the erection of Larkhall into a separate parish, was not more than sufficient to contain the actual communicants. For several years previous to 1835, tent-preaching in the church-yard had to be resorted to for a good many weeks in the summer. It may easily be supposed that this want of accommodation drove a number of persons, not disposed to have left the church on any other ground, to seek accommodation in Dissenting meeting-houses. Yet the seats, in so far as they went, might be said to be all common. The church has never been divided; at least no legal division is known to exist, and the people were accustomed to take seats wherever they could find them. The writer of this article felt it his duty to discourage any new and formal division of seat-room among the heritors, which would forthwith have dissevered a large portion of his flock from the Establishment. There has always been a sort of use and wont occupation by the heritors and their principal tenants, whose seats and pews were in general, though not always, safe from intrusion. From the state of things now alluded to, the crowded state of the church, and the want of division, much bad temper at times prevailed amongst the parishioners, and some unseemly quarrels took place even in the church. Since the division of the parish, things, of course, are in a much better state in this respect.

The manse formerly stood in the village of Dalsersf, close to the church-yard wall. At what time the change of site took place

cannot be accurately ascertained. The present manse, standing on an eminence overlooking the church and village and the vale of Clyde, is probably considerably upwards of 100 years old. Though commanding one of the most splendid views in Scotland, the house is a very insufficient and uncomfortable residence. It was proposed about thirty years ago to build a new manse; but, from a misunderstanding between the minister and heritors, the latter contented themselves, as they were entitled by law, with making some repairs on the old building, and adding a back jamb, containing two new apartments. It would have been much more economical for the heritors and their successors to have built a new manse at once. The offices were erected at the date above referred to, and are in good repair.

The glebe consists of about ten Scots acres, of which about four acres are in orchard. It would probably bring a rent of about L. 40 per annum. The returns for fruit in certain seasons would appear to warrant a larger estimate. But it is well-known to those who are conversant with this subject that a fruit rental is the very reverse of being all profit. The glebe is all good ground, and, when properly cultivated, never fails to make a suitable return. In connexion with the glebe, it may be mentioned, that, about thirty years ago, the present nominal incumbent of the parish, Mr Craig, applied for, and, after some litigation, obtained as grass-glebe, a piece of ground at that time in the possession of the Earl of Hyndford, proprietor of Dalbeg, and which was partly covered with trees, old and young, some of them of considerable size and value. Soon after getting possession, he proceeded to sell the timber, but was interdicted by the heritors, on the ground that the trees belonged to the *living*, and not to the existing incumbent. The case came before the Supreme Court, and the decision was that *trees are crop*; that a minister is entitled to cut them down for his own behoof; that glebe ground is given for the purpose of furnishing meal and milk for his family, and that he is at liberty to crop the ground in whatever mode he may think proper. This decision fixed a general principle as to glebe ground.

The stipend in 1755 was L. 75, 6s. 8d.; in 1795 it was, including the allowance for communion elements, and the value of the glebe (not of the manse), rated at L. 148, 15s. In 1807, an augmentation was granted. The present stipend, modified 2d June 1824, commencing with the last half of crop 1822, and finally al-

located 1829, is 17 chalders of victual, the one-half meal, and the other barley, with L. 10 for communion elements. There is still a moderate sum of free teind in the parish.

This parish, like many others, seems to have had no settled minister for some time after the Revolution in 1688. We find, from the records of Presbytery, that competing calls were given about this period to a Mr Robert Barclay, by the people of Dalserf and Strathaven. Under date August 26th 1690, there is the following entry in the minutes of Presbytery, "With reference to the parish of Dalserf, the Presbytery find, that that parish in their present circumstances, cannot give a legal call to a minister for want of an eldership. To remove this difficulty, they appoint, at the desire of that people, Mr G. Cleland (of Shotts) to preside at the nomination of an eldership, on Thursday 9th September 1690, and to preach on the Lord's day thereafter, that an edict may be served for the said persons, who shall be found qualified, and Mr William Kerr to preach on Tuesday thereafter, and to receive them according to form." This was accordingly done. On August 20th 1690, the parish had given a call to Mr William Lamb. From some cause not explained, (probably the irregularity of the call) he was never ordained. He appears, however, to have served the cure, from March 1688 to March 1690. The following is a list of the ordained ministers of Dalserf from the Revolution downwards:—James Hog, ordained 20th January 1691, afterwards settled at Carnock; Alexander Adamson, ordained 19th May 1697; Francis Aird, ordained (date not known); William Steel, (of Wygateshaw) ordained 20th August 1730; John Risk ordained 2d July 1761, died 7th May 1805; James Craig, ordained 26th September 1805; retired from the duties of his office in 1817, and has since lived in England; John Russell, LL.D. ordained A. and S. 29th April 1817; and has since been the only resident minister, and had the sole pastoral charge of the parish.

The chapel at Larkhall, formerly referred to, is in the earliest class of places of worship erected under the impulse of the General Assembly's Church Extension movement. There was most urgent need of it. The people were far too poor to do much for themselves, and were deeply indebted to distant and generous friends. The chapel was opened for public worship 10th January 1836. Mr James Macletchie, who had some time previously been appointed preacher and catechist for the district, officiated for

some time without ordination,—the parish minister exchanging pulpits with him, and dispensing ordinances and discipline as might be required. In due time a constitution was obtained for Larkhall Chapel, and Mr Macletchie having been chosen by the people as their minister, was ordained, 27th July 1837, as first minister of the *quoad sacra* parish of Larkhall. Having shortly afterwards been removed to the newly erected *quoad sacra* parish of Gartsherrie, he was in due time and form succeeded by Mr Robert Orange Broomfield, now minister of Larkhall, formerly of the Scottish chapel at Stamfordham in Northumberland, and who was settled in his present charge, 26th July 1838. The minister of Larkhall is paid in the same way as other ministers of the same description under the Assembly's Extension Scheme, namely, out of the seat rents. He has a bond for L. 70. The church contains 720 sittings, of which 450 are let. There are 30 free sittings, and it is an article of the constitution, that one-half of the sittings shall not exceed 3s. a sitting, and that a strict preference shall be given to the parishioners. A considerable sum of debt has hitherto hung over the chapel. Active measures, however, are at present in operation for getting it liquidated, and there is no reason to doubt that it will speedily be cleared off. The collections, by consent of the heritors, recorded in their minutes, go to the benefit of the chapel funds. It is provided by the constitution, that as soon as an endowment is obtained, one-fourth of said collections shall be given to the poor. The parish laid off by the presbytery for this new erection, comprises the lands of Broomhill, West Machan, Meadowhill, and Muirshot, with all that portion of Dalsersf which lies between this line and the river Avon—along with considerable stripes of the parish of Hamilton to the north and west. The whole population of the *quoad sacra* parish of Larkhall is upwards of 2200.

There is a Relief Meeting-House at Larkhall, built about the same time with the new church there. It has no gallery as yet, and contains about 400 sittings on the ground area. The state of its affairs is not known to the writer of this article. The first ordained minister died some time ago, and has just been succeeded by another. There is, besides, a small Independent congregation at Larkhall, of a good many years standing. It consists at present of eight or ten persons who meet on Sabbath along with their aged and worthy minister for social worship. He has a sort of endowment, consisting of a two storey house and garden, conferred upon

him for life, by a zealous independent, a native of this parish, who was settled in Paisley, and died some years ago.

The population of the parish is at present not less than 3000 souls. The number of Dissenters of all denominations does not probably exceed 550, leaving, as belonging to the church, 2450. The larger portion of the Dissenters belong to the Relief congregation at Larkhall. There are some, however, connected with the United Secession, the Reformed Synod, and the Independents, who attend places of worship in the neighbouring parishes. Although there may be now and then a few migratory Irish Catholics living in the parish for a short time, for the sake of employment, there is not and seldom has been any Catholic among the permanent population. The Episcopalians occasionally residing within our bounds have always been of the higher ranks, and have never failed to conform for the time to the Established Church. The Dissenters of the parish belong for the most part to the Larkhall district. There are very few among the population, amounting to about 1000 souls, to whom the pastoral care of the minister of Dalserf is now restricted. In case the number of inhabitants assigned to Larkhall parish should appear disproportionate, it must be mentioned, that two-thirds of the whole population of Dalserf live within half a mile of the new church.

The gross number of communicants belonging to the church and living in the parish was reported to the Commissioners of Religious Instruction as being about 800. The estimate was not then too high, and cannot be diminished now. Of this number about 500 or 520 (exclusive of non-parishioners and strangers) were in the habit of communicating at Dalserf in summer, and upwards of 400 in winter. They are now divided of course between the two places of worship. The communicants at Dalserf now are upwards of 300, and in summer never short of 350. At Larkhall, as per General Assembly's Church Extension Report, the number is 290. This increase in the number of actual communicants points out the good that has been done by affording church room, and a facility of attending upon ordinances. Public worship is generally well attended. At Larkhall the average attendance on Sabbath is 500. The church of Dalserf, which before the division of the parish was, in good weather, always full, has been very little affected by the formation of the new congregation at Larkhall. The diminution of the average attendance never exceeded fifty persons; and any slight blank that may have

been perceived at first, from the abstraction of so large a portion of the population, is in rapid course of wholly disappearing. A considerable number of persons belonging to the parishes of Lesmahagow, Carluke, and Cambusnethan, were always inclined, for convenience's sake, to make the church of Dalsersf their place of worship, though they were much discouraged by want of room. Since Larkhall chapel was built, much more accommodation has been afforded them, and they have not failed to avail themselves of it. It is much to be desired, as matters now stand, that a *quoad sacra* separation, at least of certain portions of the above-named parishes, should be effected, annexing them to Dalsersf. They fall naturally, and by way of neighbourhood, under the charge of the minister of that parish. The writer of this article feels himself called upon to express in the strongest terms, for himself and his parishioners, their deep sense of obligation to the promoters of the General Assembly's Extension Scheme, for the good which it has done in this parish and neighbourhood. There are no societies in the parish for religious purposes; but collections are regularly made in the parish church for the Assembly's Schemes, and occasionally for other general and local objects. The amount of money collected in this way is (exclusive of Larkhall) about L.10 or L.12 per annum.

*Education.*—There are two parochial and endowed schools in the parish, viz. the principal one at Dalsersf, and a district one in Larkhall. Dalsersf parish school, like the church, is inconveniently placed for the population. It is at present, however, the only school in the old parish, and is well attended. A small private school was kept up for some years in the village of Rosebank, but not affording encouragement, nor even subsistence to the teacher, it has of late been abandoned. The school at Larkhall was in the first instance built by subscription, but in a short time was adopted by the heritors, and has for many years been endowed, regulated, and supplied by them in terms of the Act of Parliament. The two parochial schoolmasters are required to be qualified to teach English reading and grammar, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, practical mathematics, and Latin. Both of them attended College for two or three sessions. In the parish school there are generally young persons learning Greek and French. The parish schoolmaster has the maximum salary of L. 34, 4s. 4½d., with a house and garden of the dimensions and extent required by law. He is, besides, session-clerk and collector of poor's rate. His of-

ficinal emoluments may amount altogether to about L. 90 per annum. The teacher at Larkhall has a good house, school-room, and garden, with an annual salary of L. 5. His income from school-fees cannot be accurately stated. The school can accommodate about seventy scholars, and is generally well attended. His emoluments altogether do not exceed L. 40 or L. 45 a year. The fees in the parish school (and the rate does not differ materially in the other schools of the parish) are, English reading and grammar, per quarter, 2s. ; do. with writing, 3s. ; arithmetic and mathematics, 4s. ; book-keeping per set, 10s. 6d. ; Latin, &c. per quarter, 5s.

In the parish schools the Bible is the standard book, and the Assembly's Catechism is regularly taught and explained. The other school books are of proper kinds, and the mode of teaching, without being exactly adapted to the present fashion, has been improved in many instances, and is in course of improvement. The number of private schools varies considerably in a very short period. In reply to the Lord Advocate's queries in 1835, five were reported, attended by about 230 children. At present, there are only two worth mentioning, namely, one in Larkhall, and another in Millheugh, both of them efficiently taught and well attended. The branches taught in the private schools are in general only English, writing, and arithmetic. No high standard of qualifications can be required where the emoluments are so small. The interference of Government is essentially requisite, in order to procure a better class of teachers, and a more efficient and extended system of education, for the largely increased population of this manufacturing district. The provision made by law at present is quite inadequate. It will be a pity if any new schools that may be erected by the aid of Parliament, are not placed as heretofore, under the superintendence and control of the Established Church, which has, by long experience, so amply vindicated its claim to praise in regard to promoting and watching over the interests of education. From the preceding statement of fees it will be seen that the expense of education is the reverse of being oppressive. School wages, however, are in general ill paid. The people are by no means indifferent to the benefit of having their children taught to read and write ; but poor parents are often tempted to take their boys and girls alike from school far too early, and to employ them at the weaving-loom and tambouring-frame before they have been even taught to read perfectly. Any deficiency of

this kind is in general afterwards supplied by attendance on week day evening and Sabbath schools. The parish schoolmaster is bound to teach all children of paupers that are sent to him, gratis, and the teacher at Larkhall takes three or four in the same way. The kirk-session is always anxious that none should be left untaught from want of means, and pays for a good number of children who, from the poverty of their parents, would otherwise be neglected. There are three well-attended Sabbath schools in connection severally with the parish church, the church at Larkhall, and the Relief meeting-house there. The number of young persons, accordingly, between six and fifteen years who cannot read, more or less, is very small. From fifteen years and upwards there may be said to be none, of sufficient capacity to receive education, who have not been taught, or are in course of being taught, to read the Bible. Writing is by no means so common a qualification. The number of young persons at present receiving instruction at the different week-day schools in the parish is probably not much short of 300, or about a tenth of the whole population. A subscription has lately commenced at Larkhall for the purpose of erecting, with the aid of a government grant, an additional school there, in connection, if possible, with the new church. An institution of this kind would be of great benefit, and it is to be hoped nothing will occur to make the proposal miscarry.

*Libraries.*—There are two subscription libraries in the parish, one at Larkhall, and another at Dalsersf. The one at Larkhall was instituted in 1809, and contains upwards of 500 volumes. The entry money is 5s. and the annual payment 3s. The library is open at all times, and the librarian receives L.1 per annum. The library at Dalsersf was begun in 1822, with a stock of books, amounting to about 120 volumes, which has not been increased. From causes which it would be difficult to explain, this library has for some years past nearly fallen into disuse. The books, however, are carefully preserved in a good press in the parish school-room. There is no great taste for reading among the rural population. Attempts have been made, not without success, to excite and encourage such a desire among the young. A few years ago, two sets of the Kildare Street Library were placed at the disposal of the teachers in the parish, for circulation among their scholars, and there are juvenile libraries attached to the Sabbath schools. The parish has no Savings Bank. The nearest institution of the kind, and that very recently set agoing, is at Hamilton.

*Friendly Societies.*—There are several friendly societies for mutual relief in cases of sickness. St Thomas's Mason Lodge at Larkhall consists of about 300 members; and about 60 more individuals are connected with a similar lodge at Stonehouse. There is a Colliers' Society, containing 30 members; a Rosebank and Dalsersf Friendly Society with 60, and a Millheugh and Larkhall Friendly Society containing about the same number. There is also a very useful Funeral Society, which affords assistance to its members in case of a death occurring in any of their families. They possess a pail or one-horse hearse, which they also let out for hire. Under the head of societies may be mentioned house-building associations, of which there are several in the parish. The "Larkhall and Pleasance Building Society" was commenced at Martinmas 1814; the idea being suggested by the great demand which existed at that time for houses and weavers' shops, occasioned by the return of disbanded soldiers from the army and militia. The Pleasance Park, forming part of the lands of West Machan, and consisting of 4 acres, 2 roods, 12½ falls, was feued at L. 8 per acre, the whole amounting to L. 36, 12s. 6d. per annum. This piece of ground was laid off in three lengths, affording space for three rows of houses, a double and a single row, each house being 39 feet long, and 21 feet wide, with portions of garden ground attached to each. Each of the houses cost from L. 45 to L. 60. The operations of this society were finished some years ago, and the association dissolved. Each member is now in- feft in his house as his own private property. Another association for a similar purpose, called the "Larkhall Building Society," was instituted at Martinmas 1824, and consists of 29 members. These each pay 1s. a week to the treasurer for six years, or till the sum subscribed amounts to L. 16, 12s. Each member on getting a house pays 1s. 3d. per fall for his own ground over and above the weekly payment of 1s., and also L. 4, 10s. per annum as rent. The ground feued by this society at L. 10 per acre extends to 2½ acres, and 15 falls, belonging to the estate of Raploch, and lying on both sides of the Glasgow and Carlisle road, as it runs from Larkhall northwards. The ground allotted to each feu is 38 feet front, and 7 falls backwards. The houses built by this society are better than those erected by the former, and cost each about L. 70. The society is to continue till all the members are furnished with houses. Its operations are drawing to a close, and it will in a short time be dissolved like the former asso-

ciation. The houses belonging to this society have been mostly built since 1831. Two associations of the same kind, of more recent origin, are now in course of active operation; one is building on the lands of Raploch, lying on the two sides of the Glasgow and Carlisle road, as it runs from Larkhall to the southward, and another on the lands of Avonglen, near Millheugh, belonging to Mr William Gowans. The houses of the former cost L. 70, and those of the latter L. 80. These societies do not proceed in the mere ratio of funds actually collected by them, but borrow money upon the value of their property and the security of the association, and carry on their building operations with great rapidity. The effect of the whole system now referred to has been, and is to cause an increase of population far beyond the usual ratio. In a very few years, unless some check occur, there will be a startling accumulation of houses and inhabitants in this district, requiring something more than increased church accommodation and pastoral superintendence. Indeed, there is already much need of a jail or house of correction, with an efficient magistracy and police to take care that such a receptacle is not, when occasion requires, left untenanted. The different societies now referred to, especially the building ones, have beyond doubt had a favourable effect on the character of the people, by promoting frugality and industry, and cherishing a desire of independence. The friendly societies for mutual relief are not calculated to be of any lasting benefit. They begin to pay aliment before a sufficient amount of stock has been collected; and hence, unless there be a large and regular accession of new members, which is seldom the case, they are in general in a very exhausted state by the time that the original contributors have died out.

*Poor.*—In 1791, there were twelve poor people who received regular monthly aliment. The number on the roll at present is 50, among whom the sum of L. 15 per month is divided, at a rate varying from 2s. 6d. to 16s. each. The larger sum is paid for one or two bedfast paupers, requiring constant attendance. Besides the roll of regular paupers, there are about 40 persons who require occasional aid. The sum expended in this way by the kirk-session varies in different years from L. 45 to L. 60 per annum. For the last year it was L. 55. The parish has long been assessed. In 1791, the assessment was L. 44, 4s. At present it is about L. 210 per annum, levied, one-half on the heritors, according to the old valuation of their lands, and the other half

on the inhabitants, according to their supposed means and circumstances. The assessment on heritors is at the rate of 7½d. per pound Scots. The proportion laid on inhabitants is never all realized. It would save much trouble in the collection, and have altogether a good moral effect, if householders below a certain rank and station were wholly exempted. An indiscriminate assessment of the labouring poor just tends to augment the poors' roll, by creating a desire to get back as soon as possible what has been, with difficulty, and grudgingly paid. The church collections (made with the ladle) have amounted, for some years past, to from L. 30 to L. 36 per annum. For the last year they have amounted to about L. 40, shewing that the interests of the poor have not suffered from the abstraction of what was formerly contributed by the people of Larkhall and neighbourhood, now annexed to the new parish, which has the disposal of its own collections. From the above sum must be deducted extra collections for religious purposes and session payments of various kinds, amounting in all to about L. 16 per annum, leaving what remains for distribution among the occasional poor. A very small sum is added to the session funds from the hiring of mortcloths, now almost abolished by the general use of pails. There is generally a collection at marriages for the benefit of the poor; but the sums raised in this way are expended by the minister among needful persons on the spot, and not reported to the session. This parish has been favoured beyond most others around, in regard to donations and legacies to the poor. John Muir, Esq. some time merchant in Quebec, and who at the time of his death (1823) was tenant of Dalserf House, left by will L. 50, to be distributed by the kirk-session among ten poor and industrious families, at the rate of L. 5 each, which was done accordingly. A short time previous to the above date, William Stewart, Esq. a native of the parish, and some time merchant in Calcutta, bequeathed by will to the kirk-session, in trust for the benefit of the poor, L. 500, (deducting legacy duty, L. 450), directing the principal sum to be invested on heritable security, or in the public funds, and the interest to be distributed on the first Monday of every year, among persons not entitled to relief from the heritors. A few years ago, Robert Hastie, Esq. cousin of the above gentleman, and likewise some time merchant in Calcutta, bequeathed, in more general terms, L. 100, (free of legacy duty), to the kirk-session of Dalserf, for the benefit of the poor of the parish. The interest arising from these bequests is

distributed in small sums among fifty or sixty individuals, not receiving regular parochial alms. Several of the occasional poor, however, are in the number. But, with whatever prudence this charity may be managed, there can be little doubt that the above legacies, however kindly meant, have contributed considerably to accelerate applications for regular relief, and to swell the roll of paupers. There is, whatever the causes may be, far less reluctance than formerly to apply for parochial aid. With honourable exceptions, of not unfrequent occurrence, there are far too many who do not think it in the least degrading to seek, on not very pressing emergencies, public aid for themselves and their relations. The parish, about twenty years ago, by contributing L. 50 to the Royal Infirmary at Glasgow, acquired the right of recommending patients to that excellent institution. The session pays a subscription of L. 1 annually to the Glasgow Eye Infirmary, in order to procure advice and medicines for poor persons, labouring under diseases of the eyes. The poor's funds are to a large amount expended among the manufacturing poor. Three-fourths of the whole sum collected go to Larkhall and neighbourhood. During seasons of dull trade, extraordinary collections and subscriptions have occasionally had to be resorted to. The coal-masters almost every year give liberal donations of coals in winter. But for the manufacturing villages, the parish could easily support its rural poor out of the church collections.

*Fair.*—There is a sort of fair, accompanied by a horse-race, at the village of Larkhall in the month of June; the only purpose served by which is to collect idle people, and to promote dissipation and riot.

*Inns.*—The parish contains 16 or 17 inns and alehouses, or, to describe the larger portion of them more correctly, shops for the retail of ardent spirits. Their effect on public morals is decidedly bad. It is a pity but that the number of such places were diminished, and those that are allowed to remain placed under strict regulations. Night and Sabbath drinking are far too common.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Great changes in all respects, mostly for the better, have taken place in the parish since the publication of the former Statistical Account. Whatever room there may be for further progress, it cannot be denied, that, in regard to intelligence, the arts and comforts of social life, general habits and appearance, and character

and conduct, moral and religious, the people have, for a good while past, been steadily advancing, and have advanced, amidst all complaints to the contrary, in a ratio fully equal to that of the increase of population. The hand-loom weavers have, for some years back, had to struggle with low wages and much discouragement. They have in general, however, borne their lot with great fortitude and patience, and with far less deterioration of character than might have been expected. It is to be hoped, that better times will come to reward their good conduct and perseverance.

In regard to rural matters, no person, who is able to look back twenty years, can travel through the parish without being struck with the improvement that has taken place during that time, in regard to roads, fences, houses, and a better and more spirited style of farming. There is still, in many things, great need of a further advance, as will be seen from some of the preceding statements. The upper part of the parish would be greatly improved by belts of planting for shelter, of which it is at present nearly destitute. A large portion of the same district stands much in need of draining, and especially of furrow-draining. This improvement has commenced in several places, and, it is to be hoped, will be persevered in, till the whole ground in the parish is made dry and rendered fit for a more regular rotation of crops. In regard to any ground, deserving of the name of soil, no expenditure gives a speedier or surer return than the money spent on drains. Lime applied to wet and damp ground is, in a great measure, thrown away. Landlords ought to build better farm-steadings on the larger farms of the parish, as they are required. At present, about two-thirds of the farmers of the parish perform manual labour, along with their servants. Although large farms are scarcely adapted to this part of the country, there might, by judicious arrangements, be an improvement in this respect.

The Clyde, in several places, requires embanking. Besides smaller evils occurring from year to year, the river about once in every six or seven years, overflows its banks to a considerable extent, destroying the ripe grain in autumn, and in winter and spring, carrying off the young wheats, manure, soil, and all; and sometimes depositing beds of sand or gravel on considerable portions of good haugh land. Something has been done on the farm of Overton and elsewhere to prevent this evil; but the improvement would require, for the farmer's security, to be carried to a much larger

extent. In regard to all the improvements indicated in these remarks, it may with safety be anticipated, that, if matters go on as they are doing at present, the next Statistical Account of this parish, given at a similar interval, will present contrasts still more striking and satisfactory than those between this and the last.

April 1840.

## PARISH OF BOTHWELL.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. MATTHEW GARDINER, D. D. MINISTER.\*

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—IN the "Rotuli Scotiæ," (temp. Edward. I.) preserved in the Tower of London, and now published by order of Government, this parish is mentioned under the form of *Botheville*. It is variously written in subsequent reigns, as *Bothuel*, *Boethwell*, *Bothell*, and *Bothwell*; and in a charter granted to Dame Margaret Leslie, Countess of Angus, in 1581, it assumes, apparently for the first time, the present form of Bothwell. According to Bullet, (*Mémoires sur la Langue Celtique*), the name is derived from *Both*, an eminence, and *wall*, a castle, and was given to the Castle of Bothwell, as standing considerably elevated above the Clyde. A more probable conjecture is, that it is a compound of the two Celtic words *both*, in its signification of a *dwelling*, and *ael* or *hyl*, a *river*, a habitation on a river, which is strictly descriptive of the castle in this parish, as it is also of the Castle of Bothell or Bothall, in Northumberland, the one situated on the Clyde, the other on the Wentsbeck.

*Situation and Boundaries.*—The parish of Bothwell is situated in the middle ward of the county of Lanark, on the north-east bank of the Clyde. In form, it somewhat resembles the figure 8, or a sand-glass, being narrow at the centre, and widening spherically towards both ends. Its extreme length from Tillers Burn, on the east, to Calder Bridge, on the Glasgow and Carlisle road, on the west, is about 8 miles and 5 furlongs; the breadth in the

\* Drawn up by the Rev. William Patrick, Hamilton.