

chial. Salary, the maximum; fees about L. 15. The teacher has the legal accommodations.

Library.—There is one parochial library.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The number of poor this year is 11, four of these have families, 4, 2, 4, 5, in all, 15 children; the 11 have at an average 1s. 5½d. per week. It may be said the poor are yearly increasing. There is a legal assessment for their support, the collections at the church not being sufficient. The poor do not consider it in the least degrading to seek relief.

Inns.—There is one small inn on the road between Lanark and Biggar.

Fuel.—Coals are procured at Rigside and Ponfigh, the former in the parish of Douglas, and the latter in the parish of Carmichael: distance ten miles; expense, 18s. 6d. per ton.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Great advances have been made in husbandry since the Carlisle and Stirling road was made through the parish, which passes through Lanark, and opens up a fine market for produce; and if the proposed rail-road from the south passes through the village, at which the branches from Glasgow and Edinburgh are to meet, the village will probably become a general depôt, and speedily receive a great increase of inhabitants.

July 1840.

UNITED PARISHES OF COVINGTON AND THANKERTON.*

PRESBYTERY OF BIGGAR, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.

THE REV. THOMAS WATSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE writer of the former Statistical Account of this parish states the name Covington to be a corruption of *Convent-town*, without giving any reason for this opinion. But, according to Chalmers (*Caledonia*, iii. 747), the old parish and barony of Covington was called Colbanstoun in the charters of the twelfth

* Drawn up from Notes furnished by Mr Archibald Stodart, Covington Hill-head.

and thirteenth centuries; the name being obviously derived, he says, from a person named Colban, who settled there and gave his name to the place. In subsequent times, this name appears in the different forms of Cowanstown, Coventoun, and Covington.

The parish of Thankerton is said to have derived its name from a Flemish settler of the name of *Tancard*, who obtained a grant of lands therein during the twelfth century. In the charters of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, it is called *Tankards-toun*, *villa Tankardi*, *villa Thankardi*. The same Tankard, or another individual of the same name, obtained from Malcolm IV. a grant of lands in the lordship and parish of Bothwell, where he settled, and to which he gave the same appellation—Tankardstoun.

Extent, Boundaries, &c.—The united parish extends in length from south to north 4 miles, and its breadth is about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. It is bounded on the east by the Clyde, which separates it from the parish of Libberton; on the west, by Carmichael; on the south, by Symington and Wiston; and on the north, by Pettinain.

The mineralogy, zoology, and botany of this parish are so similar to those of the neighbouring parishes of Carmichael and Pettinain, that it is unnecessary to enter into the details. Trout and pike of large size are found in the Clyde, which winds along the eastern boundary.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Thomas de Colbanstoun witnessed a charter of William the Lion at Lanark in 1188. In 1296, Margaret de Colbanstoun, Isabel de Colbanstoun, and Edmund de Colbanstoun swore fealty to Edward I. In the reign of Robert I., the lands of Colbanstoun were acquired by Sir Robert de Keth, Marischal of Scotland, and they were held by his descendants for more than a century. From that family the lands and barony of Colbanstoun, with the patronage of the church, passed to a branch of the family of Lindsay before 1442; and the Lindsays of Colventoun or Coventoun held this property for two centuries and a half. One of this family built the castle or fort, the massive ruins of which are still to be seen not far from the church. A short time before the Revolution, the barony of Covington, with the patronage of the church, was purchased from Lindsay of Covington by Sir George Lockhart of Carnwath, Lord President of the Court of Session.

The patronage of the church of Covington has been connected with the territorial property from the twelfth century. In 1296, Hurve de Chastel-Bernard, the parson of the church of Colban-

stoun, swore fealty to Edward I. In Bagimont's Roll, the rectory of Covintoun, in the deanery of Lanark was taxed L. 4, being a tenth of the estimated value of its spiritual revenues. In the south-west of the old parish of Covintoun was formerly a chapel dedicated to St Ninian, the patronage of which belonged to the proprietor of the lands of Warrandhill.

The church of the old parish of Tancardstoun was dedicated to St John, and hence it was called St John's Kirk. In the period between 1175 and 1199, the monks of Kelso obtained from Anneis de Brus a grant of the church of Tankardstoun called *Wodekyrch*, which was confirmed by the Bishop of Glasgow, and afterwards by Symon Lockard. In the reign of Robert I. the rectory of the church of Tancardstoun continued to belong to the monks of Kelso; but, as they received from it only an allowance of forty shillings yearly, they appear to have afterwards relinquished it. The parochial district of Wodekirk comprehended only the territory of Tancardstoun, and the church stood in the south-east corner of the parish, about a mile and a half from the village. The lands and barony of Thankerton, with the patronage of the church, belonged to Lord Fleming at the close of the reign of James V. In Bagimont's Roll, the rectory of Thankerton was taxed at L.4. Lands of considerable extent formerly belonged to the parish church of Thankerton, which, at the Reformation, passed into lay hands, and have since formed a property called St John's Kirk. The two small parishes of Covington and Thankerton were united some time between 1702 and 1720. The patronage of the united parish belongs to Sir Norman Lockhart, as patron of the old parish of Covington, and Sir Windham Carmichael Anstruther, as patron of the old parish of Thankerton, who present by turns.

It was at Covington Mill in this parish, that the celebrated covenanting clergyman, Daniel Cargill, was taken prisoner by Irvine of Bonshaw, in the house of "Andrew Fisher, and his spouse, Elizabeth Lindsay." He was executed at Edinburgh along with four others in July 1681.

Land-owners.—The principal land-holders of this parish are, Sir Norman Macdonald Lockhart, Bart.; Sir Windham Carmichael Anstruther, Bart.; James Howieson, Esq. of St John's Kirk; and Michael Carmichael, Esq. of Eastend. There is only one mansion-house in the parish, that of Mr Howieson of St John's Kirk. -

III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1755 was	521
1779	484
1791	470
1801	456
1811	438
1821	526
1831	521

No. of families in the parish,	106
chiefly employed in agriculture,	40
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	42

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of acres in the parish which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage is about 2000. About 3500 acres are pastured by black-faced sheep, which may be worth annually about 5s. 6d. per head. About 600 acres might be added to the cultivated land, and might be kept in occasional tillage. And there are about 80 acres of planted wood in the parish. The rent of land varies from 2s. 6d. per acre to L. 2, 2s. The real rental of the parish is supposed to be about L. 2500. Agricultural improvements in this parish have kept pace with the progress of husbandry in the neighbourhood. The old Scots plough, in general use when the former Account was printed, is now laid aside; furrow-draining is practised to a considerable extent, and the turnip husbandry and sown grasses are an important part of the agricultural course. There is no land in the parish in a state of undivided common.

Wages.—The wages of farm-servants are from L. 10 to L. 12 a-year, and of women-servants L. 6 or L. 7. Masons get at present 3s. 6d. a-day; common labourers 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There are two villages in the parish, Thankerton and Covington. The bridge over the Clyde at Thankerton was built by public subscription in 1778. The distance from Biggar, the nearest post-town, is about three miles.

Fuel.—The fuel in universal use is coal, brought from a distance of about nine miles.

Education.—The parochial school is the only one in the parish: it stands in the village of Covington. Salary of the master, L. 28 per annum. Fees about L. 16 per annum.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parishes of Covington and Thankerton were united towards the beginning of last century, when the old church of Thankerton was permitted to go to ruin, and an addition made to that of Covington to contain the people of both

parishes. The value of the stipend in 1755 was L. 56, 16s. 8d.; 1791, L. 80; in 1798, according to Chalmers, L. 112, 2s. 8d. The extent of the glebe is about eight acres, and it may be worth L. 1, 10s. per acre. The manse, built about forty years ago, is at present undergoing extensive repairs and additions to its accommodation.

Poor.—The number of poor who received parochial aid for the year ending November 1838 was 12. The amount of contributions for their relief for that year were L. 30, 11s. 1½d.; of which L. 8, 8s. 2d. were from church collections; L. 16, 8s. from interest of stock; L. 5, 10s. 1½d. from voluntary contribution by the heritors; and the remainder from mortcloth, proclamation, and other dues.

Mortification.—In 1790, Mr James Scot, surgeon in Peebles, mortified one acre and one rood of land in the neighbourhood of that town, for educating poor children belonging to the parish of Covington.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

At the period when the former statistical report of this parish was published, there were not more than 630 acres in tillage. There are now nearly 2000. The rental of the parish in 1791 was L. 920 per annum; it is now about L. 2500. The farm-houses and offices are of a better description than formerly; and the farmers are intelligent and enterprising. There is still, however, a want of wood in the parish; and much might be done by a judicious arrangement of belts of planting, to improve the climate, and shelter the inclosures.

September 1840.