

PARISH OF RENFREW.

PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

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I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of this parish, as well as of the county, appears to have belonged originally to the site and neighbourhood of the present burgh. A town bearing the same name existed here in the reign of David I., which commenced in 1124. We are, from this and other evidence, carried back to a period when some dialect of the Celtic must have been spoken in this part of the country; in this immediate neighbourhood,—most probably that of the Strath-Clyde Britons. Clyde, Leven, Lomond, Dumbarton and, as we think, Renfrew, are all British names. The author of *Caledonia* derives the last of these from *Rhyn*, in Welsh, or *Rinn*, in Gaelic and Irish;—both meaning a point of land; and *Frew*, or *Fraw*, in Welsh, a flow of water; thus making Renfrew the point of land near the flow or conflux of the rivers Clyde and Gryfe. All who are acquainted with the localities of the burgh will recognize in this an apt description; yet it must have been much more so, when these rivers spread out as they formerly did, leaving the lands around the burgh literally as a point appearing amidst the waters. Assuming, then, that this name was anciently applied to the site of the burgh, it is easy to understand how it would afterwards be given to the burgh itself, and from it to the parish; and we know, that it was afterwards extended, first to the barony, and then to the sheriffdom or county. Hence the name of the burgh, the parish, and the county of Renfrew.*

Extent and Boundaries.—This parish comprehends the whole of the burgh, and a landward district extending to about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles

* It may not be improper here to notice an error, into which several respectable writers have fallen on this subject; apparently copying one from another. Among others, Crawford, in his history of the county, alleges Renfrew to be the same with Randuara, a name said to be found in Ptolemy, as quoted by Camden. The reference to Camden is correct, but the word used by Ptolemy is *Vanduaris*; and the place to which this latter name is applied, instead of being on the very banks of the Clyde, appears to be nearly equidistant between it and the Ayrshire coast.

in length, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ at its greatest breadth,—the amount of surface being about 9 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the parishes of East and West Kilpatrick, both in the county of Dumbarton; on the east chiefly by the parish of Govan, in the county of Lanark; on the south by the Abbey parish of Paisley; and on the west, or rather the north-west, by the rivers Black Cart and Gryfe, which separate it from the parishes of Kilbarchan and Inchinnan.

Topographical Appearances.—The general outline is irregular, and is farther broken by the intersection of several navigable rivers. Fully one-third of the whole is on the north side of the river Clyde; this being the only part of the county which crosses that river. A similar proportion of what remains is separated from the rest by the White Cart, and a navigable canal which runs for a short distance alongside of it. Communication with this district of the parish is maintained by bridges, and with the north side of the Clyde by boats. Row-boats are employed for foot-passengers, and a large vessel open at both ends, and moved along a chain by a hand-windlass, for cattle, carts, and carriages. The general appearance of the parish, in its two southern divisions, is that of an almost perfect level, and very much in the centre of an extensive plain; stretching southward to the hilly country above Paisley; westward into the parishes of Kilbarchan, Houston, and Erskine; northward to the base of the Kilpatrick range; and eastward towards Glasgow. In this general division of the parish, there is only one noticeable acclivity, which, from its insular situation, commands an extensive view, and is dignified with the appellation of *Knock*, a low hill. On the north side of the river Clyde, the surface is more unequal. The hilly undulations, which skirt the base of the Kilpatrick range, shoot down and overlook the lower grounds; and, running eastward towards Glasgow, are formed into a succession of low conical hills, several of which are within this parish. The most considerable of these is Jordanhill, which rises perhaps 180 feet above the level of the river. Between and around these, the lands are low, flat, and alluvial; resembling those on the south side of the river. On both sides are several handsome mansion-houses, with plantations corresponding, which greatly diversify and enrich the general landscape. There is a small hill above Scotstown gate, from which the central and richest portion of the view is best seen; and for a more distant and general view of the parish and

surrounding country, we know of no point better than the hill on which the High Church of Paisley stands.

Climate.—Although our climate cannot differ greatly from that of the surrounding parishes, it is probably in some respects modified. Most of the parish lies very low, and is yet remarkably open; the subsoil is generally dry and gravelly,—in many places, a bed of fine sand; the tide ebbs and flows through it in several channels; and it is to a considerable extent sheltered by the Kilpatrick and Campsie hills on the north; and the upper lands of Renfrewshire on the south and south-west. These and other local circumstances probably affect both the temperature and the quantity of rain common to the surrounding parishes. Unfortunately there is no journal kept on either of these points; but we know it to be the opinion of several intelligent observers, that there is a difference. Showers, especially from the west, are attracted by the hills, and fall out in the more broken parts of the country; very much passing over the central plain. An intelligent farmer, who has resided all his life on an elevated tract of the Kilpatrick hills, from which the whole vale of the Clyde may be distinctly seen, assured the writer, that he has been always accustomed to observe the lands about Renfrew and the point of Cardross, (another point similarly situated,) sooner free of snow than any other part within view. In common also with other parts of the country, our climate has been improving. Our winters are milder, our summers are said to be cooler; and yet between sowing and reaping there is a shorter period. This last may be in part owing to the introduction of foreign seeds, that are of quicker growth; but still more, we apprehend, to increased draining, better and more thorough cultivation, and stimulating more abundantly with hot manures. The general deepening and embankment of our rivers, the drying up of stagnant pools, the growing of plantations *containing many evergreens*, and the cultivation of the country at large, must have also contributed to the amelioration of our winters. We are not sure whether the greater coolness of summer has yet been satisfactorily explained. The greater cold during winter might have made the summer's heat more noticeable, and perhaps the inferior equipments of husbandry, used sixty years ago, might have rendered both men and cattle more oppressed by the heat; but may it not be farther submitted, whether, upon the same principle on which both the summer's heat and the winter's cold are modified near the sea, namely, the greater radiation of heat,—the general and more thorough cultivation of the soil

may not have contributed to effect a similar change on land? In connection with climate and other circumstances, this parish has long been accounted remarkably healthy. The writer of the former Statistical Account says, "No place, perhaps, in the west of Scotland is so peculiarly healthy as Renfrew. Epidemical distempers are hardly ever known." In illustration of this latter circumstance, it may be mentioned as a current tradition, that the plague which raged so much in the neighbourhood, especially about the beginning of the seventeenth century, never entered Renfrew.* And it can scarcely be said that the Asiatic cholera of 1832 entered it; for, although there were two deaths believed to be by cholera, the individuals affected were understood to have caught the disease in Glasgow. We mention these facts as matters of observation, but without believing them to be explicable on any other principle than that of Divine Providence. It is not to be concealed, however, that typhus fever and British cholera, as well as the usual epidemics affecting children, occasionally visit this as much as other places. In 1787 or 1788, or about that time, small-pox seems to have been very fatal in the burgh and neighbourhood. Since that time, it yielded to the general use of vaccination, and seldom occurred till last autumn, when a species of the disease again appeared, spread generally among children, and attacked some grown people; several of whom died, though they had been previously vaccinated. The general impression, however, of aged people, who had seen small-pox in its more virulent forms, is, that our late visitation has been comparatively mild.

Hydrography, &c.—The subsoil being for the most part alluvial, our springs vary in their quality, and also in the depth to which wells must be sunk for them. About the burgh, they flow from the south chiefly through a bed of fine sand, and are remarkable for purity and perennity; some of them, however, being slightly tinged with the oxide of iron. From the great changes which have taken place in our rivers, especially in the Clyde, and on account of its great commercial importance, it may be desirable to go more into detail under

* At this time, Renfrew was a place of much greater relative importance than it now is; and the inhabitants of Paisley were then, it would appear, accustomed to make purchases in it. During the time of the plague they were refused, as tradition says, admission into the burgh; and to accommodate both parties, a kind of Exchange was established at the head of the "Hairst Loan," the way leading to Paisley. A large fire was kept burning, with a pot suspended over it, containing water and a ladle in it. The Renfrew merchant having grasped the ladle, stretched it towards his Paisley customer, who deposited in it the price of his purchases; it was then immersed in the boiling pot, and brought out purified from all infection, and declared current.

this head than would otherwise be necessary. In the middle of the seventeenth century, there were between the Point House (opposite Govan) and Erskine Ferry, a distance not exceeding perhaps eight miles, not fewer than eight islands, four of which appear to have been within this parish. The largest of these was called the King's Inch; it had in it a large castle, once a royal residence; and it now forms the principal domains of Eldersly House. Another, the Buck Inch, or, as it is vulgarly called, the Packman Isle, now forms part of the lands of Scotstown. A third, called the Sand Inch, still bears the name of "the Isle," and is part of the common near the ferry of Renfrew. And a fourth, the Ron or Ren, lay in the mouth of the Gryfe.* When the river was thus divided and broken by so many islands, the different channels were full of banks. These naturally interrupted the currents, and caused the adjacent lands to be often flooded to a great extent. One of the channels passed immediately under the burgh, so that the gardens along the street called Townhead are still described in deeds of property, as bounded on the north by the Clyde, though they are now distant from the river probably half a-mile. About seventy or eighty years ago, a square-rigged vessel, which afterwards sailed in the Virginia trade, is said to have been launched into this channel from a building yard, which must have been over the present green, near Eldersly west gate.† This ancient channel may still be traced from the Marlin Ford above Braehead House, through the grounds now of Eldersly, along under the burgh and through the common. During the earlier part of this course, it formed the boundary line between the counties of Renfrew and Lanark; and having received the Mill-Burn at the east end of the burgh, part of it is still partially open, under the name of Puddough,—a name most probably derived from the appearance of this channel when the other had been so deepened as very much to withdraw the water, leaving it comparatively small and muddy. From the burgh down to the ferry, there is a navigable canal, which was opened about fifty years ago, and which is partly in the old bed of the river. Towards the ferry, however, it is cut across what was at one time an island. To furnish some idea of the improvements which have been going on in the present channel, it may be stated,

* These may be seen in a map of the county, published originally in Amsterdam in 1654, and republished with the last edition of Crawford's *History of the County* in 1818.

† At that period much smaller vessels were employed, we understand, than at present.

that, in 1755, there was only one foot six inches of water at several of the fords (in summer) opposite the grounds of Eldersly; whereas there are now about six feet all the way up. And, as there is a rise of nearly six feet more during ordinary tides, twelve feet water have thus been secured. With spring tides, under high west and south-west winds, it may even rise to sixteen feet and upwards. Here at the period referred to, the width of the river at these places was from 684 to 884 feet, and now it runs from 230 to 280.* Operations for deepening the channel commenced soon after 1770, and have been chiefly directed to two points,—the confining of the current by parallel dikes and banks, and the deepening of the bed of the river,—latterly by dredging-machines, which are wrought by steam.†

Geology and Mineralogy.—Nearly the whole of the low grounds in this parish are strictly alluvial. The subsoil consists chiefly of extensive beds of sand, often interspersed with thin strata of clay, sometimes of moss (peat-bog,) and occasionally interrupted with large masses of solid unstratified clay. The disposal of these and other deposits strongly indicates a submarine formation. Selecting a piece of land near the centre of this level tract, we had pits dug round several fields for examining the upper strata. And after passing through the soil, we sometimes found a few inches of clay, and at other times of moss, but more generally sand. Between the layers of sand, we found large deposits of the oxide of iron (which gives the water a rusty appearance,) but no ironstone; and often a quantity of coal gum, interspersed with pieces of coal, containing probably from one to six or eight cubical inches. This coal deposit, we found generally a few inches under the soil, and probably from two feet and a-half to three feet under the surface, and uniformly *water-worn*. We have repeatedly burned the coal, and found it to burn clearly like gas coal, and to be remarkably light.‡ Beneath this, we sometimes came to a fine sand, naturally white,

* This, as well as the constant agitation of the water by steamers, may in part account for the small quantity of ice now found on the river. Old people recollect, when coals and other materials were usually carted across the Clyde on the ice for many weeks together; and even so late as 1814, the people on the north side are said to have walked over to church for four or five Sabbaths in succession. Anything of the kind occurring now would be accounted very wonderful.

† Much important information will be found, respecting the improvements of the river, in Dr Cleland's Statistical Work, and in the Account of Glasgow in this work. Farther improvements are at present under consideration. An Engineer's Report now before me, contains plans for deepening the whole bed of the river to not less than 20 feet, at high water, during neap-tides, and at an expense of L.377,867, 2s. 9½d.

‡ This coal deposit, which must have been left by the water, is partially spread over the whole plain; as we lately found it, on the west of the Cart, at a distance of nearly two miles from the other.

but appearing at first bluish black, from the tinge of the water with which it is filled. On running a walking stick frequently into the sand, it became quite dyed, so as to retain the colour, though frequently washed. On opening a pit, there was also a strong smell of bilge water, or such as is felt on digging within the flow of the tide down the frith. These pits were dug probably from four to six feet under the surface of the soil. And we may add, that the above observations may be verified by examining almost every deep ditch in that neighbourhood. In one place, we found a quantity of small shells,—cockles, muscles, welks, &c. not more than about twenty inches under the surface, imbedded in sand, but resting on a mass of clay. This was about a mile south of the burgh; and about half a mile farther south, there is a long ridge or bank consisting chiefly of sand or gravel, and bearing the name of the “Cockle Hill.” Near the place where the small shells were found, larger shells, resembling cockles, are also occasionally found at a depth of ten or twelve feet in unstratified clay; and they have also been found in other parts of the parish. The western extremity of the ridge already described also rises into a small conical hill, and consists, for a considerable depth, of gravel, bearing strong marks of its having been thrown up by cross currents. There are other two similar knolls or hills in the parish, and of like consistency. One of these, Blawerthill, has been dug to a great depth; and it appears that, under the gravel, there is a bed of clay exactly corresponding in quality and situation with that around the hill,—thus showing the gravel to be distinct from the surrounding strata, and resting upon it. We have also before us, stones which were raised by the dredging-machine out of the bottom of the present channel of the Clyde, near Scotstown. These are composed of a soft slaty substance, and are evidently water-worn, being formed into a variety of circular and other rounded figures, such as might be expected on some beach of fine sand, under the action of the tide. Yet they are found deeply imbedded in white mud, and lower than the wonted channel of the river.* The conclusion to which these facts naturally lead, is, that the whole of the level tract already described must at one time have been under water, and that the surrounding heights, still free of alluvial matter, were then the

* 117 borings have just been made in the bed of the river, between Glasgow and Findlayston, a distance of perhaps 10 miles; and throughout this course nothing has been found which may not be regarded as alluvial. Along this parish, running mud, sand, gravel and clay, sometimes mixed with small stones, form the chief materials. Along a considerable way, the bed of the river consists of white soft mud.

shores of this inland frith,—the little insular hills having been banks and islands. And it forms an interesting corroboration of this, that the ancient names of several places indicate such a state. Even the name Renfrew may have originally marked a mere point of land, generally surrounded with water; and the frequency of the name “Inch”—island, as applied to inland districts, probably refers to an earlier period than the mere branching of the Clyde. And what is still more remarkable, an ancient seat on the border of this plain is still called “Garscadden”—“*The Herring Yair*,” although now at a distance of probably a mile and a-half from the Clyde. It is perhaps farther confirmatory of this, that in charters of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, the herring fishing of the Clyde is spoken of as important, and as being possessed by the community of Renfrew, and other parties farther up the river. That the level of the tide was also at one time much higher than at present, is demonstrated from the appearance of the banks all the way down the frith, and even on the southern extremity of the island of Arran. The cause of this important change furnishes a tempting field of speculation; on which it would be injudicious at present to enter.

Under the alluvial matter thus described, the different strata seem very much to agree with those in the adjacent districts. They consist of diluvial clay, and similar materials containing boulders, chiefly of trap rock, and resting on the coal formation, common to this whole district of country. About the middle of the last century, both coal and lime were wrought on the farm of Porterfield,—about a mile south of the burgh. The working of these was frequently interrupted; but it continued at intervals down to about 1814. They were found at a depth of about thirty-five fathoms, and corresponded in quality with those found at Hurllet, but wholly different from the above mentioned deposit. The gentleman who last wrought these, mentions his having found a fossil fish, of considerable dimensions, imbedded in the limestone rock, at that depth. It was sent to Glasgow, and is probably deposited in some one of the museums. Coal has long been wrought on the north side of the Clyde, in the lands of Scotstown and Jordanhill. We have now before us an account of the working of this coal, drawn up by the manager, and from which we shall furnish an abstract. The Skaterigg and Annisland coal is quite distinct from the general field already described. It rests on more elevated strata, is of a different quality, and is disposed in seams of much

smaller dimensions. It was wrought, till lately, by the Dumbarton Glass Company, and was used in their works, on account of its purity, as being free from sulphur and other obnoxious qualities. There are at present two pits in operation; one 31 fathoms deep, and the other 38,—the engine pit being 64. There were originally three seams of coal;—one 18 inches; another, called the main seam, 24; and that now wrought, 21. This last seam contains 7 inches of excellent gas coal, each pound yielding $4\frac{1}{2}$ cubical feet of gas, 4 inches of soft coal, and 10 inches of smithy coal. A dike, running from south-east to north-west, passes through the engine pit, leaving the seam on the north side $4\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms lower, and which is wholly unwrought. Beneath all of these seams, it is believed, there may be found a continuation of the general coal field already referred to,—the coal wrought being not only different in quality, but also occupying a higher place in the arrangement of the different strata.

Botany.—The whole of this parish being either cultivated or laid out in plantations, and possessing, moreover, a limited variety of soil, its indigenous botany is comparatively scanty. The following are among the less frequently occurring plants. *Ophrys ovata* and *O. cordata*, *Serapias latifolia*, *Campanula rotundifolia alba*, *Veronica officinalis alba*, *Asplenium scolopendrium*, *A. ruta muraria*, and *A. adiantum nigrum*. Some of the more tender evergreens occasionally suffer, and in exposed places they often fail; but wherever there is sufficient shelter, and especially from the previous growth of trees and shrubs, not deciduous, they grow freely enough. In the border of Scotstown garden, there is a very fine Tulip tree and several Acacias, all of which have been richly covered with flowers.

Zoology.—We have now before us, through the kindness of a friend, a list of nearly seventy species of birds, known to frequent this parish, about one-half of which are resident throughout the year. It has been remarked, that the missel-thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*), which was rare in this country perhaps twenty years ago, is now so abundant as to cause great annoyance, where there is small fruit. The starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) also regularly breeds here, and remains with us throughout the season. And the kingfisher (*Alcedo ispida*) is occasionally seen. We are persuaded that the improvement of the country, and especially by forming plantations of evergreens, is rapidly increasing settlers among us from the south. And although we have not had the same means of being

informed respecting insects, we have little doubt that a similar change is going on among them.

The most important fish in our rivers is the salmon. And as this burgh long possessed an exclusive right to fish along the whole length of the county, the value of the salmon-fishing, is to it a matter of importance. To ascertain with as much accuracy as possible, the effects which the commercial improvements on the Clyde may have had on the quantity taken, we have had a statement made out of the rents of the fishing for 120 years, ending with 1834. During that period the rent seems to have made gradual progress. Taking the last sixty years, during which these improvements have almost wholly taken place, and dividing them into three periods of twenty years each, the amount of rent for each period will stand thus: From 1774 to 1794, L. 1126, 14s.; from 1794 to 1814, L. 3902, 4s.; and from 1814 to 1834, L. 4199, 1s. From this it would seem as if the fishing had actually increased, whereas we find it to be the uniform testimony of aged men, practically acquainted with the matter, that the quantity is probably not more than one-third or even one-fourth of what it once was; the increase of the rent being chiefly dependent on the rise of the price, and partly, perhaps, also on competition among bidders for the fishing. The embankment of the river keeps the fish in the current, leaving them no resting-place; and even this is, during perhaps fifteen hours of every day, (Sabbaths only partially excepted,)—frequently agitated by steamers. They are also deprived probably of many beds where they were wont to spawn. But, above all, the water of the river is now so saturated with poisonous matter, from Glasgow and other places, as greatly to injure them. During severe drought in summer, we have seen many large fishes floating dead on the surface of the water.*

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Family of Stewart.—The ancient family of Stewart had their first residence and special patrimony in this parish. The earliest ancestor of this family, respecting whom we have properly authenticated information, was Walter, usually denominated Filius Alani. To him, the burgh and territory of Renfrew, with other estates and perquisites, were granted by David I., who ascended the throne in

* It is a curious fact, attested by all fishermen, that the salmon uniformly seeks to return to the place where it was spawned. As the spawning beds of the Clyde are chiefly above Glasgow, it forces its way up the river, and has to encounter all the hinderances that occur. It were well, therefore, even in an economical point of view, that every hinderance to the upward progress of the salmon were on Sabbath removed, and this noble fish allowed the free use of his native river.

1124, and died in 1153. This Walter was, at the same time, invested with the office of Seneschallus Domus Regis, Steward of the King's Household, or Dapifer Regis, the King's Steward, which he is sometimes called; and hence the origin of the name Stewart. It seems to be clearly proven, that this Walter had also property in Shropshire, and was otherwise connected with that part of England; from which it has been inferred that he himself came from that country. After settling in Renfrew, he founded the abbey of Paisley, and died in 1177, being succeeded by his son Alan. He also inherited his father's office, and flourished in the reign of William the Lion. He died in 1204, and was succeeded by Walter, also denominated in charters, Filius Alani. He was made Seneschallus *Scotiæ*, and the office was now rendered hereditary in the family; in consequence of which, he and his successors were commonly called "the Stewards." This term seems to have been used for some time officially; but when surnames came to be introduced, it naturally assumed that character. This "Steward" died in 1246, and was succeeded by Alexander, who, in 1255, was appointed one of the regents, and in 1263, commanded the Scottish forces at the famous battle of Largs. He died in 1281, or betwixt that year and 1283, and was succeeded by James, who took a leading part in behalf of his country in the troubles which followed. He died in 1309, leaving his son Walter only sixteen years of age. When twenty-one, he appeared with his vassals at the Torwood, before the battle of Bannockburn; and was, with Sir James Douglas, put in command of a division of the Scottish army. After the battle, he was knighted by King Robert the Bruce, and the year following he became son-in-law to the King, by his marriage with Marjory, the King's only daughter, on whom the reversion of the crown had already been settled. In 1316, only a year after marriage, his wife died, leaving by him a son called Robert. This son succeeded his father in 1326, and in 1371, he succeeded his uncle David II. under the title of Robert II. Hence the accession of the Stewarts to royalty.

Several memorials of the ancient residence of this illustrious family are still observable in Renfrew. On a rising ground between the cross and the ferry, is the site of the ancient castle, the common residence of the "Stewarts." A charter granted by "James the Stewart," and grandfather to King Robert II. is dated "apud manerium nostrum de Renfrew." Crawford also mentions that he had seen a lease of the castle of Renfrew, with the orchards

and meadows therewith connected, granted in favour of Lord Lyll and his heirs, and bearing date 1468. After this, the Hawkhead family became Heritable Constables. Within the recollection of many living, there was a deep fosse partially round the site, built with stone on the inner side, and having a small rivulet passing through it; but no part of the castle is recollected. Immediately adjoining and stretching away from the burgh, there had been an extensive orchard, and part of the fruit trees are remembered; and farther on, was "the King's Meadow." It is still called by the same name; the lands formerly an orchard, are still called "the orchard;" the site of the castle is still "Castle hill;" and part of the ancient foundations were lately dug up, when several rings and a key were found. A small street immediately adjoining is still called the "Dog Row," meaning the place where the ancient kennel was. And a chimney-piece, of unusual length and remarkably low, is still found in a cottage opposite the end of this row, which tradition alleges to have belonged to an establishment for boiling dogs' meat. Close by Renfrew are the domains of Eldersly, formerly an island, and bearing the name of "the King's Inch." On this island, and only a short way in front of the present mansion-house, stood another castle, formerly possessed by the Stewarts, and afterwards by the House of Hawkhead. In a charter granted by Walter "the first Steward," the following expression occurs,—"*cum illa maisura super rupem, ubi aula mea erat fundata;*" and in a confirmatory charter, granted by his son Alan, "the second Steward," the same clause is thus repeated, "*cum illa maisura super rupem ubi aula patris mei erat fundata.*" It is a remarkable circumstance, that there is not a spot in this parish, where rock is visible, except where the ancient castle of the Inch stood. Here there was a mass of whin rock, which was removed on the erection of the present mansion of Eldersly. And as it is clear, from the terms of these charters, that the "Aula" referred to, was about Renfrew, we are disposed to believe, that the first residence of "the Stewards" was on "the Inch." The castle and domains of the Inch afterwards passed into the hands of the Hawkhead family, and the ruins of the last castle were taken down preparatory to the erection of Eldersly House. At that time they consisted of three stories, but were built in a castellated form. A sketch of the ruins was taken, not long before their removal, and was possessed by the present provost of the burgh; but it became amissing, and has not yet been found.

Two points of the above narrative of the house of Stewart may

be illustrated from other memorials, now on the verge of oblivion. Nearly sixty years ago, two monuments connected with the history of that family stood on the Knock hill, an elevated ridge of land about half way between Renfrew and Paisley, and described in the former section. A highly respectable farmer, who was born and brought up on the Knock, and who was accustomed to see these from his infancy, guided the writer to their sites, which are now wholly obliterated. The following description may therefore be of use to after generations. Proceeding first to the *highest point* of the road between Renfrew and Paisley, and as it crosses the Cockle hill, we find a gate on the west side. Ninety-six yards from this gate, in a straight line towards the north corner of the Knock farm-house, there was, at the period referred to, a circular mound of earth, about twenty yards in diameter, and surrounded by a moat five yards broad, the mound having been apparently raised by the earth taken out of the moat. This mound was commonly known by the name of the Kempe Knowe. * The tradition is, that there was at one time a wager between the Scottish and English sovereigns; the latter having challenged Scotland to furnish a man able to fight a noted champion attendant on the English court; and the former having accepted the challenge. The King of Scotland being much perplexed to find a man competent to the task, offered "*The Inch*" as a reward to any who should successfully encounter the Englishman. At last Sir John Ross of Hawkhead offered his services, and arrangements were made on the Knock hill for the fight. The moat was filled with water, a large fire was kindled on the mound, and the parties were expected to grant no terms. To escape was to meet death by drowning; and to be vanquished was to perish,—if not otherwise, by fire. The Englishman was of large stature and renowned prowess, while Ross was only a private gentleman, and of small stature, but of great agility and muscular strength. Having equipped himself with a dress of skin, the smooth side out, and rendered farther slippery with grease or oil, he appeared on the ground with his more bulky antagonist. After many unavailing attempts to lay hold of Ross, the Englishman held out his own hands, inviting his antagonist to grasp them, and no doubt trusting to his own superior strength against any advantage which might thus be given. The invitation was "palm my arm." This, it seems, was the hold Ross most coveted. He seized the Englishman by the wrists, and, by a sudden jerk, wrenched his shoulders out of their sockets, and made easy work of him.

He now claimed his reward, and the King, desirous of retaining the castle and lands of Inch, offered for *this inch* a *span of land* anywhere else. Ross, thanking the King, expressed his satisfaction with the Inch for present services, and the happiness it would give him to have the honour of serving his Majesty for the span at some other time. Hence, as is alleged, the origin of the rights of the Hawkhead family to the ancient castle and lands of the Inch. From this time, adds tradition, Ross went commonly by the name of "Palm-my-arm." Figures of this same knight and his lady, Marjory Mure, lay long under an arch in the church of Renfrew, having over them on the circle of the arch the following inscription: "hic jacet johēs: ros miles quōdem: dominus de hawkehede et marjoria uxor sua; orate pro meis, qui obiit." The statues have been removed within the aisle, but the inscription may still be read in the church. This monument is evidently very old, but probably somewhat posterior in date to the age of the persons represented. When speaking of this monument, however, the old inhabitants give it no other name than "Palm-my-arm;" while in relating the anecdote they call Ross Josias, being probably led into a mistake by the contraction of the name.

Proceeding from the centre of the circle on the Knock farm, as already described, and towards a point about two yards and a half south of the byre door, and at the distance of 134 yards, we come to the site of another monument. Sixty years ago an octagonal column, of about ten feet in height, and inserted in a pedestal of perhaps six feet in diameter stood here.* It was without any inscription, but went commonly by the name of "Queen Blearie's Stane." Tradition describes the person meant, to be Marjory Bruce, daughter of King Robert I., mother of King Robert II., and wife of Walter the Steward. It farther accounts for the monument, by alleging that she had been hunting, and fell from her horse at this particular spot,—that she was at the time far advanced in pregnancy,—that the child was separated from her by a surgical operation, but at the expense of the mother's life. A similar account will be found in "Hamilton's Description of the Shires of Lanark and Renfrew," and also in two old histories reprinted with it. And

* To render the exact position of this ancient monument more certain, let the observer look from the point assumed, directly towards Cochney House in Kilpatrick, and his line of vision will, if his position be correct, pass a few yards west of Inchinan bridge, and directly over the adjoining drawbridge. The monument which stood here at the period referred to, was removed in 1781 or 1782, as near as can be recollected. The shaft was made the lintel of a barn door, but the farm-steading having been since rebuilt, it has disappeared.

farther proofs and illustrations of both this and the former monument will be found in the same work by its ingenious and learned editor. With the historical controversy raised on this last tradition, we cannot farther intermeddle than to add our name to the list of those who sustain the tradition, supported as it is with historical facts; and simply to add, that we examined the spot, accompanied by our fore-mentioned guide,—that the ground rises immediately behind this into a dry, hard, gravelly knoll, while the place where she is said to have fallen is soft and marshy; and was so to a much greater extent in the recollection of our informant. “He had often,” he said, “seen the cattle *lair** in it.” And he added, that the common belief of those whom he had heard in early life repeat the tradition, was that her horse must have been coming over the knoll, and got into this marsh before she was aware; and the appearance of the grounds still comports with this explanation.

Religious Houses.—One of the objects which first engaged the attention of the Stewards after their settlement, was the establishment of religious houses in this quarter. Walter, the first Steward, seems to have established a monastery of the Cluniac order of Benedictine monks first at Renfrew. In a confirmatory charter of Malcolm IV. a previous grant by Walter the first Steward is thus described: “*Sciunt tam posteris quam presentes me concessisse, et hac mea carta confirmasse, Deo et ecclesiæ Sanctæ Mariæ et Sancti Jacobi, de insula juxta oppidum Reinfræ, et priori ejusdem loci, et monachis ibidem.*” And in a charter granted afterwards in favour of the abbey of Paisley, the following clause occurs: “*et molendinum de Renfru, et terram ubi monachi prius habitaverunt.*” From this and other evidence, it would appear, that what afterwards became the abbey of Paisley was first a religious house at Renfrew; and that, during the lifetime of the founder, it was chiefly removed to Paisley. As to the place it occupied here, we are disposed to differ from some in thinking that it was on the Inch. We believe it to have been rather on the south banks of that channel of the Clyde which passed under Renfrew, and therefore not far from the street opposite Mill-Burn House. And hence the adjoining lands were afterwards chaplainries,—the chaplainries of St Mary and St Thomas,—which names they still bear. And lands immediately adjoining these are still called Monk Dyke, &c. We may add, that a great number of altarages were afterwards erected, such as that of St Mary or our Lady, St Christopher, St Ninian, St Andrew, St Thomas, St Bartholomew, and the Holy Cross.

* “Lair, stick in the mire.”—JAM. ET. DICT.

Burgh.—This burgh was first regal, as possessed by the ancient Kings of Scotland. On its passing into the hands of the Stewarts, it became a burgh of barony. But Robert III., to whom it belonged as part of his patrimonial inheritance, granted a charter to the “burgesses and community,” making over his right, and constituting it a *royal* burgh. This charter was granted in 1396, and contains a full grant of the burgh itself, of the fishing on the river, of the customs levied within the burgh and throughout the barony, and of whatever other privileges might be enjoyed by any other burgh in Scotland; the reddendum being eight merks and payment of a hundred shillings to support a chaplain in the parish church. Two confirmatory charters were granted in the reign of James VI. The former of these bears date 1575, and conveys an additional grant of all the religious houses and altarages, &c. connected with the burgh. This latter is dated in 1614, and ratifies the two former, explaining, if not making, additional grants, especially in connection with privileges belonging to the burgh as the principal port on the Clyde. These are numerous, and particularly secured. After enumerating a long list of properties and privileges vested in the burgh, the following statement is set forth as containing the special ends to be served by these: “*Pro meliore sustentatione pauperum et scholæ grammaticæ in dicto burgo, pro educatione adolescentium ejusdem in virtute et literis prout Præposito et Ballivis dicti burgi expediens videretur:*” *i. e.* for the better maintenance of the poor, and of a grammar-school in the said burgh, for the education of the young in virtue and learning; and under the direction of the provost and bailies. In an after part of the same charter, certain ecclesiastical property is also specially set apart for the maintenance of a grammar school. In 1703 another confirmatory charter was granted by Queen Anne, ratifying those which preceded, both generally and specially; and it may be added, that she also speaks of herself as coming in the room of the ancient Stewarts, from whom, moreover, the Royal family still derive one of their titles,—Baron of Renfrew. The arms of the burgh consist of a vessel constructed after an ancient and simple form, having a figure of the sun over the prow, and of the moon over the stern, with two crosses, one fore and another aft. Two escutcheons are hung from the yard, one bearing a lion rampant, and the other the arms of the Stewarts,—Or, a fess checquie, azure and argent. In the colours flying at the mast-head is a St Andrew’s cross. And the whole is surmounted with the motto “*Deus gubernat navem.*”

The limits of the royalty are extensive, probably comprehending the whole of the burgh's ancient domains, and being confined to these;—for Castle Hill, and Orchard lands, &c. anciently belonging to the baronial residence, are legally without the burgh, though forming part of the town; while other lands more than a mile distant are included. The Parliamentary boundaries are, on the other hand, drawn closely round the part built upon, without any reference to ancient limits. They are also on one side *incorrectly* described,—the term “Puddough burn” being mistaken for Mill burn. The affairs of the burgh are managed by a provost, two bailies, and sixteen councillors; and the annual rental of burgh property amounts to about L. 1500, the interest of debts being upwards of L. 100. Weekly courts are held by the magistrates for the administration of justice. The quarter sessions are still held here, as are several other county meetings, especially that for electing the county member,—the Sheriff and most other courts being held in Paisley. Previous to the Reform Act, this burgh, along with Glasgow, Rutherglen, and Dumbarton, returned a member to Parliament; but since the passing of that act Renfrew is connected with Kilmarnock, Rutherglen, Dumbarton, and Port-Glasgow, the number of voters in this burgh being about 80.

Antiquities.—The additional antiquities of this parish are neither numerous nor perhaps important. Historians speak of a great battle having been fought at Renfrew, in 1164, between Sumerled, Lord of the Isles, and the inhabitants of this country; but we are not aware of any existing memorial to mark the spot. We have also seen the record of a tradition, assigning to the “Knock” hill in this parish the origin of the surname Knox. And it is at least remarkable, that, in a charter dated 1503, and quoted by Crawford, the proprietor of “Knock” is styled “Uchter Knock.” It is farther noticeable, that Knock and Ranfurly were at that time possessed by the same family: thus connecting the alleged descent of the Reformer with the Knock as well as Ranfurly. In 1778, two urns, containing human ashes, were dug up on the summit of the Knock hill. They were believed to be Roman,—this point being little more than a mile from the place where the Romans had a station, near Paisley. In connection with the same hill, it may be added, that, on the side nearest Renfrew, the lower edge of the hill is to this day called the “Butts,” most probably as marking a place of exercise for the practice of archery; and thus confirming some of the preceding remarks respecting the early state of the burgh. With-

in the domains of Renfield, now usually called Blythswood, and not far from Inchinan bridge, is the "Argyle stone." The unfortunate Earl of Argyle, who made his descent on Scotland in 1685, had his troops scattered in Dumbartonshire, crossed the Clyde, and was pursuing his way towards Renfrew in disguise, when, after fording the Gryfe, a little way beneath the present Inchinan bridge, he was attacked by some militiamen, wounded, and taken prisoner. The Argyle stone was that on which he fell or probably leant, on being wounded, and which was thus, as tradition says, stained with his blood. It is a large block of sandstone, weighing probably a couple of tons, and having perhaps some red veins in it, which caused many so long to believe that it retained the stain of the Earl's blood. It is now enclosed and secured against damage by the proprietor; while it is judiciously allowed to mark the spot where the capture took place.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers of this parish are in all four,—the minutes of session, the registers of marriages and of births and baptisms, and the sessional cash-book. The minutes of session begin with an account of registers and other documents, belonging to the session, which appear to have been lost during the time of the latter persecution; or at least not to have been delivered to the session at the Revolution settlement. This brief narrative also details some interesting particulars, respecting Mr Simpson, the ousted minister, and his congregation, between the Restoration and Revolution.* From 1690 to 1696, the minutes are complete; but are wanting from the latter date on to 1731. From this, they are regularly kept down to the present time. They extend in all to five volumes. The registers of births, baptisms, and marriages are kept in the same book, though in separate columns or pages. They begin with memoranda from 1673, but form a regular record from 1692 downwards, and are contained in four volumes. The cash transactions of the session are recorded from 1732.

Land-owners.—The principal heritors in the parish are, the Incorporation of the burgh; Alexander Speirs, Esq. of Eldersly; Lord Douglas; W. M. Alexander, Esq. and others, proprietors of Walk-

* Mr Patrick Simpson seems to have been an able, acceptable, and faithful minister. He was ousted in 1662, but continued to meet his people when allowed, down to 1690, and was then restored. On attaining the fiftieth year of his ministry, communion cups were presented to him as a token of respect, and they are still used in the parish church. I have not yet been able to ascertain whether Professor Simpson, so well known in the history of the church, as charged with heretical sentiments, was the son of Patrick; but I find that the Professor held a farm in this parish, and that Patrick mentions his son's having written certain documents for him, as if he lived near to him.

ingshaw; Miss Oswald of Scotstown; James Smith, Esq. of Jordanhill; and Archibald Campbell, Esq. of Blythswood. Five handsome mansions are on as many of the estates. Eldersly House is spacious, and surrounded by one of the noblest parks in this part of the country. Blythswood and Scotstown Houses have been more lately built, and are very handsome. Blythswood House and grounds especially, are in the best taste, and kept in a state of high order. Jordanhill House is on an elevated site, and commands a very extensive view of the whole country. The Walkingshaw House has not been regularly inhabited for some time, and has gone much into disrepair. There are few other remarkable buildings in the parish. The Incorporation buildings, containing the jail, town-hall, and council-chambers, are convenient, but plain; and the church is old, low, and uncomfortable, as well as small.

III.—POPULATION.

The rural inhabitants of this parish have doubtless partaken of the changes generally affecting the country; but we are not aware of any thing special in their case. Their farms are generally larger than they once were, and they are better cultivated. Their cattle are superior to what they were, and both the farmers and the servants perhaps work more. But the relation between master and servant has, in many cases, been allowed greatly to alter, and the alteration has tended not a little to lessen the respectability, and deteriorate the moral habits of the latter. Partaking of the spirit of the age, many regard their masters as having a claim merely on their labour, and thus repudiate all moral restraint; while, on the other hand, masters too often care for little more. And hence the frequency of change and want of cordiality between the parties. The circumstances of the inhabitants of the burgh have been altered still more. A considerable proportion of the inhabitants seem anciently to have possessed houses and pieces of land, by which they partially supported themselves and families. The salmon-fishing also was at one time let only to burgesses, and the rent would, on this very account, be moderate. Many of the young men went also to sea, and became afterwards concerned with trade. From these different sources of income, they seem to have been on the whole comfortable, and holding, as a community, a somewhat respectable situation in society. But trade and manufactures, which have so enriched several places in the neighbourhood, appear to have had the effect of impoverishing Renfrew. Business in Glasgow and Paisley withdrew many of those who had a little property, and

thus, as well as by sales, much of what formerly belonged to inhabitants of the place, has now passed into the hands of strangers. The nearness of the burgh to these large towns, rendered it at the same time convenient for muslin weavers. They therefore took the place of those who departed. Barns and other offices, formerly appended to the dwellings of substantial burgesses, became loom-shops. Instead of a *butt* and a *benn*, a single apartment was now all that could in general be afforded as a dwelling-house. And instead of living on the produce of lands, of fishings, and of trade, the greater number of families are dependent solely on the fruits of their daily labour; which, in consequence of the long depression of this branch of trade, are scanty enough. The usual effects have followed, both morally and economically.

The average number of births in the parish for the last seven years may be about 75 annually, of marriages 23, and of deaths 65. The number of persons at present under fifteen years of age is, as near as I can ascertain, 1047.

There are only four families usually resident, possessed of considerable landed property; and not more than perhaps one other has lands to the amount of L. 50 annually. There is not at present any insane person in the parish, but five or six are in a fatuous state. There is only one person blind, and none either wholly deaf or dumb.*

The number of families in the parish is	535
chiefly employed in agriculture	117
in trade, manufactures or handicraft,	366

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.— There are 3776 acres English measure in the parish. Nearly the whole is in a state of cultivation. We have not the means of ascertaining with precision the amount of lands enclosed around gentlemen's houses and under plantations. The latter, however, are chiefly around parks and lawns, and consist of beech, ash, elm lime, oak, larch, spruce, birch, horse-chestnut, &c. with a variety of shrubs and evergreens, such as the bay laurel, Portugal laurel, lauristinus, &c. all of which thrive, when properly sheltered. There is no undivided common in the parish, but there

* When reseating the church in 1821, a large quantity of earth was dug out of the floor, and with it many bones; some of which were unusually large. To prove this, thigh bones were laid alongside the thigh of living men about six feet high, and the mere bones were said to exceed in length the living limb with all its integuments. One of the largest hats which could be found, was also too small to draw over some of the crania. We state these facts as reported by credible witnesses, but without venturing to infer any thing as to the general size of the ancient inhabitants.

cannot be fewer than 100 acres in small properties around the burgh. Upwards of seventy acres are on the south side, and divided into twenty-two separate properties; the marches being dependent on the turning of the furrow, year after year. This mode of cultivation is no doubt unfavourable to the amount of produce and agricultural improvement; but is, on the other hand, highly favourable to habits of industry, economy, and morality. Families possessing even single acres of land have, in consequence, a certain standing in society, which they naturally seek to maintain. They have labour to occupy their spare hours, and virtuous cares giving a direction to their thoughts. Hence they generally succeed in laying up some little stock beyond their daily earnings.

Rent of Land.—The average rent over the *whole* parish is probably from L. 2, 10s. to L. 2, 15s. per acre. On several estates, the principle of a grain rent has been adopted; the price of a given quantity of wheat being usually the rent per acre; and this principle seems to be approved of by the farmers. To a disinterested observer it seems preferable for both parties. For, as the farmer cannot long pay an old rent with falling markets, the proprietor must, in these circumstances, suffer loss, be the conditions what they may; and yet he can have no claim for an advance of money rents, however much the markets may improve; while with a grain rent he has the chance of profit as well as the risk of loss; and farming itself is thus rid of half its cares. At the same time, it would doubtless be an improvement to include more than one staple commodity. If, in such a district as this, the price of a boll of wheat, a boll of oats, and a stone of butter, were substituted for their value in money, the farmer would be but little dependent on the fluctuations of the market. The rent for grazing in this parish is not usually paid per head, but either per acre, or so much for an entire field; the grass being chiefly around gentlemen's seats; and may be estimated at an average of L. 3, 10s. or L. 4 per acre.*

Rates of Wages.—The wages of steady and able labourers are from 10s. to 12s. per week. Men servants are hired for from L. 7 to L. 11 in the half-year; with bed and board; and females for L. 3 and upwards to L. 5, and L. 5, 10s. The common wages for journeymen masons are from 18s. to 20s. per week; for wrights from 15s. to 18s.; and for smiths about 18s.

* A large herd of cows feed on an extensive meadow, belonging to the corporation, at so much per head; but the rate is beneath the actual value, and may vary from time to time: and besides, the privilege is confined to burgesses.

Live Stock.—The common breed of dairy cows in this parish is the Ayrshire,—only they are considerably heavier than in most parts of Ayrshire. And to prevent their becoming too heavy, they are very commonly allowed to go into calf during the second year. The sheep and bullocks are for the most part from the west Highlands, but various, as being often the property of Glasgow butchers, and consisting of such as are brought into their market. And working horses are, in consequence of our vicinity to the large towns, also various; but they are generally of the Clydesdale breed, or some of its crosses.

Husbandry.—One of the chief improvements in agriculture, now occupying attention, is furrow-draining; which, from the want of stones, is executed chiefly with tiles. In heavy and rather wet lands, it costs about six guineas per acre, and has been found to pay the entire outlay in two crops. It is accordingly going forward, in nearly all the farms in this parish. The most common way of meeting the expense is for the proprietor to pay the outlay, and the farmer to pay a per centage, during his lease. The most common manure, in addition to stable and byre dung, is “Soapers’ waste,” which is largely used in the light soils. It costs 5s. per ton in Paisley, and from 7s. to 7s. 6d. when laid on a great part of the land. It is valued, particularly on account of its giving adhesion to loose soils. This special end might perhaps be more cheaply served by pulverized clay. Large masses of very adhesive clay exist in the centre of our light soils. Suppose it to be raised towards the end of summer, dried and pounded if necessary, with mallets, and laid on stubble or old pasture about to be broken up, at the rate of 30 or 40 carts an acre,—it would during winter amalgamate with the lighter soils, and give them next season increased adhesiveness at comparatively small expense. Let the same be repeated at the end of each rotation, for five or six times, and the effect would probably be permanently to improve the general character of the soil. The implements of husbandry are the same here as in the neighbouring parishes; in some of which they will probably be described. Comparing our farm steadings with those in other parts of the country, they hold a middle place. They are decidedly inferior to those in the Lothians and other districts, where the farms are very large; but are at least equal to those in the neighbouring parishes, and throughout this district. Some of the farms here extend to perhaps about 200 acres, all arable; and some do not exceed 40 or 50; but

they generally run from 60 up to 100. Several farms around the burgh are made up of separate fields, possessed or taken from different proprietors; the farmers having their establishments within the burgh. The leases of large farms are commonly nineteen years, but in this there is considerable variety, especially in farms made up as those last referred to. The common rotation is, first, some kind of green crop, then wheat, then hay and clover, then oats, perhaps, and the same rotation over; or the second crop of hay is pastured upon, and the land is allowed to rest.

Manufactures.—The manufactures in this parish are various, though not extensive. The first and most important is the muslin weaving. Connected with this branch, there are 257 looms, of which 176 are called harnessed looms. Each of the whole occupies one man,—except a few, which are wrought by women; and every two occupy one woman winding yarn. But in addition to these, every harnessed loom requires the assistance of a boy or girl, from seven or eight years of age, up to probably fourteen or fifteen. There are thus, 257 weavers, 176 children drawing, and at least 128 women winding,—making in all 561. Weavers' wages vary not only with changes in trade, but also according to the different branches of work in which they are employed. But taking an average of the whole, their earnings are believed not to exceed perhaps 8s. or 10s. per week; all deductions being made. The children employed in drawing earn from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week, and winders do not probably realize more than 2s. Besides those who are thus immediately connected with the weaving, a considerable number of females are employed with clipping, tambouring, and flowering. They bring their webs from Glasgow and Paisley, and work in their own houses; their earnings being probably very much in the proportion of those already described. Though these different employments are generally free from any thing noxious to health, they are all sedentary and long-continued, usually from six o'clock in the morning till ten o'clock at night. The practice of employing children at drawing is, on various accounts, objectionable. Parents are induced to send their children to this employment generally about seven or eight years of age, thus arresting their progress in education, when they have but well begun. They endeavour afterwards to pick up a little at evening classes, but their hours of labour are too extended to admit of this without oppression: their having been employed in this line from

childhood, virtually shuts up the boys to the single occupation of weaving, in after life. They pass with ease and at little expense, from the employment of drawing to that of weaving. The trade is thus kept overstocked with hands, and wages continue, on this as well as on other accounts, depressed, so that the very poverty of the weaver perpetuates some of the causes of his distress. But the employment of children in drawing is morally objectionable. Listening, as they do, to all that is said, often by the irreligious and profane, and placed as they are under the authority of these very masters, it is not wonderful that their own language and after conduct should, in many cases, be tainted with what is unbecoming. We recollect being told by a gentleman holding a high and responsible situation in one of the large manufacturing towns, that he had himself been a draw-boy; and that he now almost shuddered to look back on what he recollected of his situation.

Next to the weaving and its kindred branches is the bleaching. There is only one bleachfield in the parish, which is in the burgh, and employs 12 men and 90 women and girls. The men earn from 9s. to 16s. per week, the women and girls from 3s. to 7s. Their employment, however, is not constant, and they have to work in apartments too much heated to be very healthy. It may be proper here to mention a very laudable and advantageous practice common among females, usually employed with manufactures during the greater part of the year: in summer and autumn, a considerable number lay aside their needles and other implements of manufactures, and hire themselves to the farmers in the neighbourhood, at potato planting, hay-making, hoeing and weeding, and latterly at reaping, digging potatoes and raising turnips. This change of employment is beneficial to health, profitable to the labourers, and convenient to the farmers; and ought farther to be encouraged, as productive of intercourse and kindly feelings between different classes of the community.

There is a manufactory of starch in the burgh; but it employs only two or three men. The starch itself is chiefly used in the bleachfields.

A tile-work was set agoing two or three years ago, about a mile south of the burgh. The tiles made are for draining land, and are of various sizes, according to the kind of drain they are to occupy. They consist of *soles* and *covers*; the former being flat, like flooring-tile, and the latter formed archwise, the rounded side being kept up. This work employs about half a dozen men, and nearly the same number of children.

The Trust on the river Clyde have their chief establishment in this parish. They occupy about 15 men ashore. These are employed as smiths, hammermen, carpenters, wrights, and sawyers, earning from 12s. to L. 1 per week. During summer they occupy about 36 men aboard of their vessels. These are partly engineers and others in special trust; but chiefly labourers or puntmen, who earn 15s. per week. There are also, perhaps, 80 men employed ashore, in connection with the punts and dredging-machines; but these move from place to place along the river. A considerable proportion of the whole, and especially of the two former classes, live within this parish.

Near the river Trust establishment there is, and has long been, a distillery, manufacturing whisky from malt, made partly from barley, and partly from bear or bigg, dried with peat. The annual produce of this distillery may be estimated at 140,000 gallons. About 22 men are constantly employed here, receiving from 12s. to 16s. per week of wages. Connected with the distillery, there is a large dairy, consisting of about 100 milch cows. During winter they are fed on turnips, draff, &c.; and in summer they are pastured. The produce is chiefly sent to Glasgow. This employs five men, three dairy maids, and four milkers.

The coal-works before described employ between 30 and 40 men and boys under ground, and several on the hill; and a considerable number of men and horses find work in carrying the coal. A collier's wages probably average from 15s. to 18s. per week, when he is regularly employed; but there are many interruptions and particular expenses to which he is incident; and the employment itself is neither agreeable nor healthy. Speaking of the colliers in this parish, it is proper to mention, that they are, with a few exceptions, not inattentive to divine ordinances, and decent in moral conduct; and that one of them is a worthy and estimable member of the kirk-session.

Navigation.—This burgh once occupied a much more important place in respect of navigation than it does at present. In the charter of 1644, it is described as the principal sea-port on the river; and it continued to have a little trade within the recollection of some now living. At present, there are no vessels belonging to Renfrew, except such as carry coals, manure, &c. on the river. A considerable number of vessels, however, load and unload at the harbour. Those discharging are chiefly laden with grain from Ireland, and dye-stuffs, &c. for Paisley. Potatoes also, and fish, &c. are

sometimes brought from the Highlands. At other times potatoes, &c. are shipped here. A commodious quay was built last year, at an expense of about L. 800, and the harbour is still susceptible of important improvements. As the quay runs chiefly along the canal, it might, at comparatively small expense, have also the advantage of a wet dock. Let the canal be widened and the quay extended, and a flood-gate thrown across the mouth of the former, and vessels might be discharged without the agitation of even a steamer's surge. And from the width and openness of the river below this, sailing vessels would be generally able to come up without the aid of any dragger.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Trade and Means of Communication.—Renfrew, though a county town, has no regular market, except fairs, which are chiefly for cattle; the principal market-towns in the neighbourhood being Glasgow and Paisley. The former of these is little more than four miles from the nearest extremity of the parish, and the latter scarcely a mile and a-half. The means of communication with other parts of the country are very abundant. As the Clyde passes through the parish, we have the advantage of nearly all the steamers to and from Glasgow. During five days of the week, we have a daily coach to Glasgow; and during summer, another goes to Paisley six or seven times a-day. In addition to these, we have three carriers to Glasgow, and two foot-runners to Paisley. Those who live on the north side of the river have not so many opportunities, yet they also have considerable means of intercourse. Our post-office is a sub-office to Paisley, and we have two arrivals from Paisley, and one by the Dumbarton post, on the north side of the river. Few parishes are so much intersected with roads and rivers. Two public roads run parallel to each other on the two sides of the Clyde,—the one, the old Glasgow and Greenock road, and the other, the Glasgow and Dumbarton road. The former runs about a mile and a-half in the parish, and the other about two and a-half. These are chiefly from east to west. Another public road runs from Paisley northwards, crossing the former of these in Renfrew, proceeding to the ferry, and thence to the Dumbarton road; extending to about two miles within the parish. Another proceeds north and north-east from the Dumbarton road to the north-west extremity of the parish, and extending perhaps to about a mile and a-half. A fifth, of about the same extent, runs from Inchinan Bridge southwards towards Paisley; and a sixth crosses the south-west extremity, running about half a-mile within the parish. A railway has also

been commenced between the Clyde near Renfrew Ferry and the town of Paisley. The only considerable bridges connected with the parish are two,—the Barnsford Bridge, which is thrown across the Gryfe and Black Cart, immediately after their junction, and the Inchinan Bridge, which is thrown across this united stream and the White Cart, immediately above their confluence. This last consists properly of two bridges united; the one spanning the White Cart, and the other the Gryfe, but both resting on the point of land which separates these two rivers. A timber drawbridge crosses the canal before noticed, as running alongside the White Cart.

Ecclesiastical State.—From the irregular form of the parish, no place would be in all respects convenient to the whole population, and the present site of the church is in the circumstances as suitable as any that could be selected. The greatest distance which parishioners have to come to church is about three miles,—but with the inconvenience of having a river to cross; and it ought to be mentioned, that the town-council allow an abatement of rent, so as to permit the labouring classes on the north side to cross the ferry, on the Lord's day, *gratis*. It does not indeed appear, that it was ever the practice to charge parishioners any fare on Sabbath for coming to church, beyond what is levied on the farms in produce. The great bulk of the population, however, are in and around the burgh, to whom, therefore, the *situation* of the church is all they could wish. The present church was at least repaired; and had an aisle added in 1726; but whether it was then wholly rebuilt, we have not been able distinctly to ascertain. It has undergone various alterations, and in 1821 was wholly reseated. In order to gain a greater elevation of ceiling, a large quantity of earth was at the same time removed out of the floor, which is now about two feet under the level of the soil around the church. On this and on other accounts it is damp and uncomfortable. It contains about 760 sittings, — a number under the legal provision for the parishioners, and greatly short of the amount actually required. To meet this, as well as otherwise to promote the spiritual improvement of the parish, a separate service has been for several years conducted at eight o'clock every Sabbath morning.

The manse was built in 1790; but was repaired and the offices rebuilt in 1831. The glebe is wholly separate from the manse, and is divided into two portions, the larger being at a considerable distance. The whole amounts to upwards of twenty-one Scotch acres; but the greater part consists of inferior land, which was obtained by excambion, for the legal amount of rich land near the burgh.

Now that it has been fenced, drained, and improved, the whole is probably worth about L. 50 a-year. The stipend is 18 chalders, half meal and half barley.

The former ministers of this parish whose names we have ascertained, were the following:— Mr Andrew Hay, inducted in 1576; Mr John Hay, in 1602. Mr John Hay appears to have been succeeded by a son of the same name, who is described as Parson of Renfrew, in 1632. The Hays possessed property in the parish, and were Episcopalians. Mr John Hay Jun., appears to have been removed from his charge, and was succeeded in 1650, by Mr John Maule, who was a Presbyterian. And he was succeeded by Mr Patrick Simpson in 1653, who was outed in 1662, when Mr John Hay was readmitted. He was succeeded by Mr Francis Ross; and he again by Mr Robert Douglas, the dates of the admission of the two latter being unknown. These two latter, as well as Mr Hay, were probably Episcopalians, and made but little impression on the parish; for after the indulgence, Mr Simpson, the outed minister, and his people met, in what he calls a “meeting-house,” and carried on the discipline of the parish, much in the same way as before. In 1690 Mr Simpson was readmitted, and died in 1715. In 1716, Mr Neil Campbell was translated from Roseneath, and in 1728, was again translated to be Principal of the University of Glasgow. Mr M^cDiarmid of Ayr was now presented by the Crown, but rejected by a majority of qualified parishioners. This case went the round of the church courts, and at last, after a vacancy of nearly two years, the Crown presented Mr Robert Paton, minister of Haddington. In 1731, he was translated thither from Haddington, and died in 1768. In 1769, Mr Colin Campbell, son of the above Mr Neil Campbell, was translated from Kilmarnock, and died in 1788. In 1790, Mr Thomas Burns was translated from Inchinan, and died in May 1830; and the compiler of this account was translated from Anderston Chapel, Glasgow, and inducted here on the 30th of November 1880. There is no regular place of worship in the parish, except the Established church, to which the great body of the parishioners profess to adhere.

Religious Societies, &c.— There are not many religious and philanthropic societies in the parish; but the ends which these usually contemplate are not wholly neglected. As we have no assessment for the poor, considerable exertions have to be made on their behalf. There is also a Female Benevolent Society, the members of which endeavour to aid special cases of distress. A Bible

Society also exists, for the supply of the parish, and which has hitherto done well. The leading principle of the society is to afford facilities for the purchase of Bibles. This is accomplished by having on hand an assortment of Bibles at different prices, bound in the most efficient and tasteful manner, and offered unreservedly to all, while the price may be advanced by instalments. This removes entirely the idea of pauper terms and pauper Bibles, and yet allows to the poor, as well as the rich, full access to the Word of God. And they have hitherto justified the confidence put in them; few, indeed, having expressed any unwillingness to pay for what they were to receive. The consequence is, almost every child who can read has either a Bible or Testament.—A considerable sum is also raised for purposes of education and for libraries. There are particularly two schools of industry dependent in part on subscriptions, one of which from its extent, as well as proper management, has proved a very great blessing to many. Our Sabbath schools are numerous, and are furnished with juvenile libraries, the expenses of which are met by collections and donations. We have also a parish library; partly dependent on similar resources. But beyond these and other parochial institutions, we have no organized associations; and we assist other objects only by collections and individual subscriptions.

Education.—There are six week-day schools in this parish, and these are attended by about 327 day scholars, and 90 evening scholars; thus leaving little more than one-ninth of the population at school during day, and somewhat more than one-seventh when evening scholars are included. The burgh grammar-school is endowed to the extent of L. 36, 18s. 4d. a-year. The teacher of a district school has a limited allowance; but this is by private arrangement, and the expense is met chiefly by an individual heritor. One of the teachers in the burgh has the school-room free, but even this is, we believe, by subscription, and another is wholly unaided. In addition to these, there are, as already noticed, two schools of industry for girls. The teacher of one of these has a salary without fees; but this is made up out of subscriptions and the produce of the school; and the other has a few pounds from the town-council, and the produce of her school. — The branches taught in these different schools are numerous, embracing all the usual departments of school education, and they are on the whole well taught. In all of them the children are made acquainted with the Scriptures and the Shorter Catechism; and in most of them they are well

instructed in the meaning of what they read. In several, but especially the grammar-school, they are trained to a degree of expertness in processes of *mental* arithmetic which usually astonishes observers; and in this, as well as most of the others, they are taught to read intelligently and accurately. There are nevertheless several manifest defects in our school education. The schools are all in a great measure promiscuous. Each teacher has too many classes to attend to, and too many branches to be taught successfully. Then the teachers themselves are miserably paid, and are thus forced to multiply their classes as a means of living. The same number of teachers would, with properly assorted classes, do double the work; and promote education to the same extent. But it is morally impossible that teachers, mainly dependent on fees, can ever in such a place as this attain to a due division of labour. Then the early removal of the children to work is continually thwarting and discouraging them. Should it ever happen that the proper means shall be allowed for raising our grammar-school to the proper rank of a grammar-school, three teachers ought to be appointed—one for English grammar, French, Latin, and Greek—another for writing, arithmetic, mathematics, geography, &c. and a third for English reading alone. This would do much for the interests of the burgh, and of the parish at large, and is perhaps not more than might be expected, seeing there is no parochial school in the parish, and that something of the kind was originally contemplated in the charters granted to the burgh. School wages are so low as from 2s. to 3s. a quarter for reading, something being added for extra branches. Only a few who are natives of the parish, and above six years of age, are wholly unable to read; and such as are known to be in these circumstances are in the course of being instructed. As in other parishes, the children of the destitute poor are instructed at the expense of the session. The number of children attending Sabbath schools is about 390, besides a class of young adults, instructed by the minister of the parish, and amounting to about 60. The Sabbath schools are taught by about 40 teachers,—the boys being chiefly taught by males, and the girls by females. Most of the children attending Sabbath schools within burgh attend religious worship during the morning and forenoon services, and part of them also in the afternoon. They are for the most part taught according to a uniform system, which embraces the morning service as an exercise.

Literature.—There is a parish library, from which parishioners are allowed to read, at the rate of 2s. per annum, for one volume

at a time; and there is another subscription library in the burgh, which has long existed. There is no school of arts or mechanics' institution; but an association is in progress of being formed for the cultivation of natural history and the useful arts. A news-room is also maintained for the convenience of burgesses and strangers.

Benefit Societies.—These are numerous, amounting to at least seven in the burgh. Some of them provide for widows; but they are chiefly for cases of personal inability to work; they have frequently failed to implement their conditions, the aliments fixed being generally too high for the subscriptions. Some of them, however, are, we understand, doing well. One of these, the "Sailors' Society," is said to have existed in the fourteenth century, and is possessed of considerable property; but its income has been dependent on other sources than subscriptions. Several societies also exist for furnishing mortcloths, mort-safes, &c. It is at present a matter of consideration, in the parish, whether to attempt establishing a savings bank; the chief hinderance being the pre-existence of so many benefit societies, that would probably suffer by the withdrawal of funds.

Poor's funds.—A considerable sum of money was long held by the kirk-session for behoof of the poor. But for many years, the expenditure has so exceeded the income as greatly to reduce the stock; and for the last two years a voluntary assessment has been agreed to among the heritors, for the annual deficiency. In addition to the collections, there is only one mortification, amounting to about L. 60,—the interest of which is available, and only a few pounds of interest from the remaining stock; there are no dues connected with mortcloths or ecclesiastical observances paid into the poor's funds. In addition to the ordinary and sacramental collections, there is a special collection every year, to which non-resident heritors also contribute. The amount thus raised in 1834, including interest, as above stated, was about L. 147, and the expenditure L. 212; leaving a deficiency of L. 65. The number of poor regularly alimanted is about 50, and the number who receive occasional aid about as many more. The most common aliment to aged persons able to do a little, and without children, is 4s. per month. But in addition to this, even the alimanted poor receive a few shillings on sacramental occasions, and at the beginning of winter. What is desirable under this head is enlarged church accommodation, and the moral cultivation of the parish, which are alone adequate, fairly to meet the wants, and promote the happiness of the poor.

Prison.—The number of prisoners confined here, and connected with this district, does not amount to half a dozen in a year, and they are nearly all debtors. A few others come here from other places. The apartments are well aired, and by no means unhealthy; and, with regard to religious instruction, the period of incarceration is usually too short, to make this any matter of anxiety.

Fairs, Public Houses, &c.—There are three fairs held in the burgh annually, chiefly for the sale of cattle; and an attempt has lately been made, to get up a cattle show, which is likely to succeed. The number of public houses in the parish has been for several years about 30. They are, especially in this place, productive of evil, from the immense number who frequent them on the Lord's day, chiefly from Glasgow and Paisley, particularly the latter. Some of those who sell spirits are, with credit to themselves, particularly attentive in preventing abuse; a few of them shutting their houses entirely on Sabbath. And the present magistrates have very laudably enforced the observance of the licensing act, on Saturday night and during divine service on the Lord's day. But still, abuses connected with public houses, and especially on the Lord's day, are among the chief hinderances to the moral and religious improvement of the parish. And there can be no reasonable doubt, that the use of ardent spirits over the country is at present one of the greatest prevailing evils, economically, morally, and religiously. It is difficult to say by what single means the evil may be remedied. But if the nation at large were only in earnest, perhaps few of the means which have been proposed would either remain untried, or prove uninfluential.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

On comparing the present state of the parish with that which existed when the last Statistical Account was drawn up, forty years ago, the following results appear:

Population in 1791, 1628; in 1835, 2833.

Looms in 1791, 120; in 1835, 257.

Labourers' wages in 1791, 1s. 6d. per day; in 1835, 2s.

Man-servant's fees in 1791, L. 5 in the half year; in 1835, L. 7 to L. 11.

Manure per ton in 1791, 2s. 6d.; in 1835, 5s.

Peck of meal in 1791, 1s.; in 1835, 1s. to 1s. 3d.

Peck of potatoes in 1791, 8d.; in 1835, 7d. to 8d.

Land per acre in 1791, generally L. 2; in 1835, L. 2, 10s. or L. 2, 15s.

Chief crops in 1791, oats, barley, wheat, and potatoes; in 1835, Potatoes and turnips, wheat, beans, hay and clover.

January 1836.