

PARISH OF NEILSTON.

PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.
THE REV. ALEXANDER FLEMING, D. D., MINISTER.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.*

Name.—TRADITION has handed down various accounts of the origin of the name. By one of these, it is derived from one of *Haco's* generals, called *Neill*, who, with his routed division, flying from the battle of Largs, was overtaken, in a field near Kirkton, by the Scotch army, and slain. A *tumulus*, according to the fashion of the times, was raised over his grave, and a stone set up to mark the spot, which was called Neilstone;—and hence the origin of the name. Another account is, that, in the reign of Malcolm III., Donald, Lord of the Isles, having raised an insurrection against his sovereign, was met by Malcolm, and, after a severe conflict, was routed at a place called *Hairlaw*, on the borders, or, as some say, in the parish;—that Neil, one of the clansmen of Donald, fled with the remnant of his islanders from the plain to the hills, whither he was pursued and slain, and a stone, set up near the village to mark the spot where he fell, was called *Neilstone*, which gave the name to the surrounding district.

Both these accounts are pure fiction. We find the name of Neilstoun given to the district, 103 years before the battle of the Largs, and 251 years before the days of Malcolm III. The battle of the Largs was fought in 1260; and the battle of Hairlaw in 1411: but, in the *chartulary* of the Abbey of Paisley, we find, that, in the year 1160, Robert de Croc of Crocstoun, assigns over the patronage of "NEILSTOUN" to the monks of the Abbey of "Paisley," on consideration that mass be regularly said there,

* In the former Statistical Account, the parish of Neilston is made to hold a conspicuous place. It was selected by Sir John Sinclair as one of the *three* parishes which he had translated into French, and transmitted to the French Chamber of Commerce, in order to shew the progress which manufactures had made in some of our landward parishes. Whether Neilston—from its vast population, its large and numerous manufactories, its copious springs of purest water, its streams, rivulets, and waterfalls—holds still, amongst the landward parishes of Scotland, the same high rank it held in 1792, is now to be seen.

“*pro salute animæ suæ.*” The orthography of the name, in this *chartulary*, leads to the conclusion, that Neilston took its origin from a person called “Neil,” its first inhabitant; and the termination “*tun*”—now pronounced *town*—denoting the dwelling of the proprietor,—naturally enough gave to his place the name of “Neil’s*tun*,” or “Neilstoun—the town of Neill.

Situation, Extent, &c.—Neilston lies in Latitude $55^{\circ} 47' 15''$ north; and in Longitude $4^{\circ} 21' 35''$ west. Its form is that of a wedge or dovetail expanded, its narrowest part being to the east, and its broadest to the south and south-west. Its length, by measurement is, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and its breadth $4\frac{1}{4}$ fully; it contains 36 square miles, or 24,320 imperial acres. There is nothing in which those who have written about this parish differ more than in its length and breadth. Some make it 9 miles long from east to west; and three miles broad on an average. Others make it 7 miles from S. E. to N. W., and nearly half as much in breadth, in a cross direction. Some make it to contain 18,570 Scotch acres; others only 12,500 English acres. One copies the errors of another, and makes it “7 and 8 miles in length; and, across, its averages, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles; containing 19.56 square miles, or 12,500 acres;”—whilst others make it $10\frac{1}{2}$ in length, and $5\frac{1}{4}$ in breadth.

All these computations seem to be mere guesses. The last of them does not refer to Neilston, as it now is, but as it was in ancient times. In this view, the last measurement, $10\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{4}$, is nearly correct. Neilston proper, in olden times, included the baronies of Knockmade and Shutterflat, which, though now disjoined from Neilston, and annexed to Beith and Dunlop parishes, in Ayrshire, are, nevertheless, still in Renfrewshire, and pay into that county all their public burdens of cess, &c. Though disjoined from Neilston, their *civilia* still belong to it, being a disjunction “*quoad sacra tantum.*” From the eastern extremity of the parish, at Robert Young’s of Parkhouse, to the Bridge of Coldstream, or Shutterflat, which separates the old parish from that of Beith, the distance, by measurement, is $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles fully; and taking its average breadth from the Long Loch to Cawpla’-Dam, it will be fully 5 miles. But the accurate length and breadth of Neilston, as it is at present, is that noted above.

Boundaries.—On the east, Neilston is bounded by Eastwood parish; on the south by Mearns; on the S. W. by Stewarton and

Dunlop; on the W. by Beith and Lochwinnoch; and on the N. by the Abbey Parish of Paisley, which runs parallel to it for about eight miles.

Topographical Appearances.—Properly speaking, there are no mountain ranges in this parish, though it has quite a Highland scenery to the west. The surface is exceedingly irregular and uneven. On its eastern boundary, the land is flat; in the south and west parts, it is hilly, having an elevation from 400 to nearly 900 feet above the level of the Clyde, at the Broomielaw. Here and there, the ground rises into small hills of considerable height. The highest hills are the *PAD*, and *Corkindale-law*, which rise from 820 to about 900 feet above the sea. These are separated by a narrow valley, or ravine, through which the great turnpike road from Glasgow and Paisley runs till it enters Ayrshire. The *Pad* range of hills extends for about two and a-half miles; and the *Corkindale-law* range, with those of the *Fereneze*, stretch from east to west, fully four miles. The *Pad* range gradually slope to the valley or ravine, and has a northern exposure, as does also that of *Corkindale-law*, whose declivities have a southern exposure of very great beauty. Through this valley, the water of *Levern* flows for miles to the east. To the west, the valley leads along the lovely banks of *Loch-Libo*, which, in our opinion, excels in picturesque scenery, *Ryfdal* water in Cumberland!

From the *Pad*, the view to the east is as grand as it is extensive. But it is from *Corkindale-law* where a view presents itself, unrivalled in beauty and extent by any in the west of Scotland, from a similar elevation. It commands, in a fine clear day, the half of the counties of Scotland. The spot on which you stand is a small piece of table-land, not more than forty yards square. From this, the hill slopes in all directions. On looking north, you have *Dumbarton* rock; the vale of the *Leven*; *Smollet's* monument; *Loch Lomond*, and some of its islets, and *Benlomon*d in the back ground, with the whole range of the *Grampians*! Looking east, the city of *Glasgow* and its suburbs; and the whole vale of the *Clyde*, from *Hamilton* to *Kilpatrick*, with the hills of *Kilpatrick*, *Campsie*, and top of *Dunmayock*; the western *Lomonds* of *Fife*, *Bathgate*, and *Pentland* hills, and *Tinto* from his base to the top. From thence you have the tract of the whole run of the *Clyde*, from its source till it joins the *Atlantic* ocean. On looking south, you have the *Lead*, *Cumnock*,

and Sanquhar hills, with others in Kirkcudbrightshire; whilst far in the distance you have, on a very clear day and in a humid atmosphere, the tops of Skiddaw and Saddleback in Cumberland. These are distinctly seen in this state of the atmosphere, through the ravine which stretches onwards between Tinto and the Cumnock hills.

Turning to the south-west, a rich and variegated prospect meets the eye: The pleasure grounds of Eglintoun; the extended plain of Ayrshire, with its many noblemen's seats, and princely lawns, Irvine spire, the Troon and the mouth of Ayr harbour, with the lands around it; Brown Carrick hill, Lochryan, some of the hills in Galloway; the mountains of Morn and Newry, in Ireland, and the beautiful rock of Ailsa standing like a sugar-loaf, in the midst of the ocean, with the whole sweep of the waters from Donaghadee to Irvine harbour.

In a fine, bright, calm, summer, or autumnal evening, nothing can surpass the splendour of the scene; especially when there is added the multitude of fishing-boats plying on its waters and about its harbours; the stately steamers going to and returning from Liverpool, Dublin, and Belfast; and at times the West India fleets, with all canvas set, hastening to their destined ports. These, with the romantic island of Arran, and its lofty *Goatfield* as a skreen to it, on the west south-west, form a scene, unparalleled by any with which we are acquainted, or have ever beheld in Scotland, England, or Ireland.

Meteorology.—The temperature of the atmosphere here is, at all times, very various. In the parish, there are three distinct climates, and, therefore, to have an exact account of the weather in it, an observatory would be necessary in each of them.

But though we have no public *artificial* observatory, with its thermometers, to mark the various degrees of heat in the parish, we have a *natural* one, which never deceives, viz. the leaf of the poplar tree. In the neighbourhood of Barrhead, and all the level district around it on the east, which is the *first* climate, the weather is much milder. There, the leaf of the poplar appears ten days before it is seen in the *second* district, which begins at the parting of the roads to Neilston and Irvine, a little above Mr Cunningham's reservoir, and stretches on to about a mile to the west of Neilston village; and in the *third* district, the leaf of the poplar is not seen for a fortnight after it is out at Neilston. In all these three districts, the change of climate is remarkable. No one ever came

to the separation of the two roads above-mentioned, who did not feel immediately a sensible difference, let the weather be what it may. The consequences are, the farmer, in the first district, has his operations finished three weeks earlier in spring than those in the third, and the same interval, nearly, takes place in harvest.

Owing to its geographical position, the rain that falls here, with the high winds, storms, and tempests, which accompany it, is greater than in most of the parishes around. The parish stands, as it were, on an isthmus, between the Friths of Forth and Clyde. From its great elevation, it has the whole sweep of the east winds from the Frith of Forth to the Atlantic Ocean; and which, in April and May, frequently traverse it with great violence. But it is from the S.W. and W. whence our storms and tempests, and deluges of rain, generally come. From these quarters, the wind prevails nearly three parts of the year. At times, especially in winter, its power is tremendous, and strikes with such force as if it would overturn by its fury, not only trees and houses, but mountains from their base. It seems, on such occasions, to be the land of storms.

The cause of these storms and tempests here is very obvious. The parish lies, as already noticed, between the two Friths, or rather between the Atlantic and German Oceans. The temperature of the German Ocean, owing to its shallowness and narrowness, gets sooner cooled and sooner heated than the Atlantic, with its great breadth and depth of water. Hence the cold winds, rushing from Mount Caucasus in spring, along the Baltic, cool the German Ocean with great rapidity, and, hurrying to the Atlantic, to keep up the equilibrium of the temperature there, give us those cold, chilly eastern blasts in April and May, which, with their hoar, are so unhealthy.

The converse of this takes place, so soon as the German Ocean and Continent get heated, to a higher temperature, than the Atlantic. The colder winds of the Atlantic, rushing to the east, where the atmosphere has become rarified, create the storms and tempests so common in the higher districts of this parish. Rushing from the S. S. W., there is not a single *obstacle* to break their sweep from Donaghadee to the Neilston-hills. Hence it happens that no extremity of weather continues for more than twelve hours, without modification.

Possessing such a variety of climate, it is natural to suppose that the parish must be very unhealthy. That it is not more so than

the parishes around, the following tables, constructed in 1828, by Charles Ritchie, M.D., will demonstrate. Whilst the state of the parish remains the same, as then, they may be considered as applicable to its population, and must be valuable, to the statist and actuaries of Life Insurance offices.

It is true that the state of disease will be modified, increased, or diminished, by the nature of the seasons; by the different kinds of food, clothing and lodging; by moral, or immoral habits, and by the affections, or temperament of mind which are cherished or indulged in. Making allowance for all these, the amount of sickness and deaths may be pretty accurately ascertained from the following tables.

No. I.

Abstract of amount of Sickness in Friendly Societies.

	Number of Members.	Number of Sick.		Yearly Average Number.			Rate per cent. per annum.		Average.	
		Number of Sick.	Number died.	Number.	Sick.	Died.	Sick.	Died.	Sick in the Societies.	Died in the Societies.
1. A Male Society of 30 years' standing,	3930	414	45	131	13.80	1.50	10.53	1.14		
2. A Male Society 27 years' standing,	1943	181	18	72	6.70	0.66	9.30	0.92		
3. A Male Society 26 years' standing,	3141	360	39	120.80	13.84	1.50	11.46	1.24		
4. A Male Society 20 years' standing,	1605	147	9	80.25	7.35	0.45	9.15	0.56		
Total of Males,				404.	41.69	4.11	40.44	3.66	10.11	.96
5. A Female Society 6 years' standing,	328	16	2	54.66	2.66	0.33	4.86	0.60		
6. A Female Society 6 years' standing,	564	66	9	94.	11.	1.50	11.70	1.59		
Total of Females,				148.66	13.66	1.83	16.56	2.19	8.28	1.9

No. II.

Comparative Sickness in different Trades in Neilston Parish.

Trades.	Number in societies.	Number sick.	Proportion.
Wrights,	468	25	1 in 18.52
Calico-printers,	852	49	1 in 17.4
Farmers,	354	27	1 in 13.11
Cotton-spinners,	754	59	1 in 12.7
Labourers,	1629	170	1 in 9.58
Smiths,	132	15	1 in 8.8
Bleachers,	825	94	1 in 8.77
Weavers,	3325	377	1 in 8.77
Tailors,	254	42	1 in 6.2

No. III.

Comparative Numbers of Adults and Children treated in General Practice during Two Years.

1825.

1826.

	Males.		Females.		Children.			Males.		Females.		Children.	
	Sick.	Died	Sick.	Died	Sick.	Died		Sick.	Died	Sick.	Died	Sick.	Died
January,	13	2	28	1	9	1		8	0	12	1	5	0
February,	9	0	24	0	25	4		5	0	3	0	10	1
March,	11	1	13	0	18	2		18	1	11	0	10	1
April,	15	2	15	0	8	0		12	0	8	0	15	1
May,	14	2	19	0	13	0		4	0	13	0	25	1
June,	16	3	29	1	13	2		9	0	12	0	8	0
July,	9	1	23	2	12	0		10	0	8	0	16	0
August,	17	0	16	2	24	2		10	1	20	0	20	1
September,	11	0	14	1	15	1		10	1	11	0	18	0
October,	12	1	10	1	14	3		15	0	10	1	15	1
November,	10	0	16	0	11	2		11	1	4	1	15	2
December,	12	1	9	0	7	0		12	0	13	1	12	1
								273	17	341	12	338	26

No. IV.

Abstract of Burials in Neilston for Four Years.

	1823.			1824.			1825.			1826.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
January,	5	3	8	4	7	11	4	9	13	4	10	14
February,	2	2	4	5	3	8	6	7	13	7	6	13
March,	3	5	8	4	6	10	9	10	19	3	7	10
April,	8	8	16	4	3	7	4	6	10	2	7	9
May,	3	1	4	4	3	7	6	4	10	2	11	13
June,	3	3	6	4	3	7	2	2	4	3	4	7
July,	3	0	3	2	1	3	6	2	8	3	2	5
August,	4	3	7	5	2	7	5	5	10	2	4	6
September,	5	6	11	3	4	7	7	4	11	1	7	8
October,	5	8	13	0	5	5	4	6	10	2	1	3
November,	6	4	10	7	4	11	9	1	10	2	6	8
December,	7	8	15	0	2	2	5	7	12	3	8	11
	54	51	105	42	43	85	67	63	130	34	73	107

Of these there Died.

	1823.			1824.			1825.			1826.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year,	0	0	0				5	5	10	6	5	11
1 and under	2	10	12				8	8	16	5	8	13
2	5	9	14				5	3	8	5	8	13
5	10	2	12				4	3	7	2	4	6
10	20	4	24				4	6	10	3	5	8
20	30	6	36				3	4	7	2	7	9
30	40	3	43				2	10	12	0	4	4
40	50	3	53				6	4	10	0	6	6
50	60	5	65				5	2	7	2	4	6
60	70	4	74				11	8	19	3	6	9
70	75	1	76				2	2	4	3	6	9
75	80	2	82				5	3	8	1	3	4
80	85	0	85				2	2	4	0	0	0
85	90	4	94				4	2	6	2	4	6
90	95	1	96				0	1	1	0	1	1
95	100	0	100				1	0	1	0	2	2
		54	51	105			67	63	130	34	73	107

From these tables, the following remarks are warranted: In 1823, the number of funerals amounted, in a population of 7000, exclusive of still-born children, to 129; giving a mortality of one in 54.26 persons annually. In 1824, it was 110, being one in 63.64. In 1825, it stood at 130, or one in 53.84; and in 1826, it fell to 107, being one death to 65.42.

In 1825, the number of still-born children was 14, being as one in 9.28. In 1826, to 6, or one in 17.83. These included, the real bill of mortality of this parish will amount, during these two years, so high as one death in every 54.47 persons per annum.

It appears from the registers, that a most important difference obtains in the relative mortality of the upper and lower districts of the parish. In the former, it amounted in 1825 to 50, and in 1826 to 37 deaths, or to one death only in 66.11 persons per annum; while in the latter (the lower district,) the deaths were 74 in 1825, and 76 in 1826, or as high as one in 48.51 persons per annum.

The facts which account for this mighty difference, are the greater density of the population in the lower than in the upper district; the greater poverty of the inhabitants, a greater proportion of them being Irish, and almost exclusively occupied at public works, in trade, or as common labourers. These will perhaps sufficiently account for this striking contrast in the rate of mortality,

without obliging us to seek for its causes in those differences of climate which are peculiar to each district in this extensive parish.

“ The inequality between the males and females is no less striking. In the former, the deaths during four years were 197; in the latter, 230, exclusive of children still-born. In the three years previous to 1826, the number of female deaths, according to the lists, was 157, or six less to the corresponding number of the other sex; while in that year, in reality, they amounted to 73, or 39 more than the males. Of these, one-third took place below 10 years of age, and one-half below 30. This difference arises perhaps from registration being neglected.

“ The proportion of deaths under 10 years of age in 1825 and 1826 in the parish, was, exclusive of 20 still-born, as 104 to 257, or 1 in 2.47, or about 40 per cent. of the whole deaths. From all these facts, it is obvious that the probability of human life here is not great, seeing that two-thirds of the whole population are cut off below thirty years of age. The average of all the persons dying here in 1825 and 1826, exclusive of still-born children, was as high as 34.79.

“ Important differences also appear in the different classes of which the population is composed;—the average ages of the persons belonging to the agricultural population dying in 1825 and 1826 being 60.05; the Scotch manufacturing population being 33.67, whilst the Irish population was so low as 30.19.” Yet in the upper wards, many attain to a great age.*

Hydrography.—This parish, being inland, has no friths intersecting it; but it abounds with streams and springs of the purest water. Some of these bubble up from the soil, others from the solid rock. They are almost all perennial, though, in the end of very dry summers, there is, in a few of them, a less abundant supply. At Neilston there are three wells on the glebe, one at the Kirkhill, and one at the Butter Well, which have withstood the most prolonged droughts, and are of the finest water.

The largest spring in the parish is that one “*Aboon the Brae,*” which issues from the solid rock, discharging no less than 42 imperial gallons every minute, 2520 in the hour, or 60,480 a-day, or 22,146,200 imperial gallons per annum. It is the chief spring which supplies the Waterside Bleachfield, belonging to Andrew

* For a tabular view of the prevalent distempers connected with the district, see the *Glasgow Medical Journal*, Vol. i.

Chalmers, Esq. who himself carries on the work, and who has a long lease of it.

Streams and rivulets abound in the parish; but the chief of them are the Lavern, Kirkton-burn, the Brock, and Cawpla Rill.

The lochs are three,—the Long-Loch, Loch-Libo, and Cawpla-Loch. The extent of the first is about a mile in length and half a mile in breadth, with an average depth of from 16 to 18 feet. Loch-Libo, in figure nearly an oval, contains about 16 acres in length and 14 in breadth. Its depth is unknown; but it is very considerable in the centre. It is the source of Lugton-water, which runs west, and, after beautifying the country and extensive pleasure-grounds of Eglinton, it falls into the Garnock, a little way below Kilwinning. The Cawpla-Loch is tolerably large in winter, but small in summer. Neither about it nor the Long-Loch is there any scenery; but Loch-Libo presents a scene of unparalleled beauty. Its lofty hills, on both sides, are wooded with fine old trees to the water's edge. Its oblong or oval figure pleases the eye, while its smooth and glassy surface, disturbed only by the heron, wild and teal-duck, swimming and fishing upon it, give it animation. Standing at the turn of the road, as you ascend northward, above the Shillford toll-bar, and looking west, when the sun, in a fine summer evening, is pouring his rays upon it, its effect is enchanting.

Besides these lochs, there are other large artificial collections of water called reservoirs. The Hairlaw reservoir covers 72 acres of flow-moss, and is 16 feet deep. Comore reservoir covers 16 acres, and is about 24 feet in depth. The reservoir to the north of the Pad covers 14 acres, and is 16 feet deep. To these we add the Kirkton and Walton dams, each of which contains a considerable body of water.

The source or feeder of Hairlaw and Comore is the Long-Loch; the source of the Pad is a small stream to the west of it. The Kirkton-dam rises to the south of the Pad, and is fed by the streamlets that descend from that hill, and the moors to the south-west. The Walton-dam has its origin from a small rill that takes its rise between the Snyes farm and Upper Walton.

The chief stream, however, is the LEVERN, which has its source in the Long-Loch, and which divides the parish for nearly four miles into two parts. Its direction is first to the north, then to the north-east, and, finally, from Crofthead to the east, till it enters the Abbey parish, west of the Hurlet. It passes Neilston and Barrhead on the north, the Hurlet on the south, and falls into the White

Cart near Cruikston Castle, so famed from Mary Queen of Scotland having fled from it after the battle of Langside. The banks of this stream, from Waterside Field to the Dovecotehall, is thick set with population and public works. On its banks, are three large bleachfields, four printfields, a corn and chipping mill, and six large cotton-mills, giving employment to a vast number of men, women, and children,—all active and industrious.

On the stream flowing from the Kirkton dam, there are four bleachfields, two of them amongst the largest in the county,—one printfield for Turkey red dyeing and calico printing—containing 112 tables, and employing, in all, 500 hands; two coal-pits, one mill for net working, which is now enlarging to double its former size, one corn-mill, and one iron-foundery. On the banks of the Walton stream, called the Brock, after leaving Walton dam, there is one bleachfield, and two extensive printfields for calicoes of all kinds, garments, silk shawls, &c. &c. Both these streams join the Lavern. The Kirkton, at Cross Arthurlie, after a run north-east of about two miles, the Brock, after a run north-east, falls into the Lavern, about six or seven miles from its source. The velocity of all the three streams till they reach the level ground is very considerable. Being shallow, their temperature is at times as high as from 40° to 45°.

Owing to the height of their sources from the plane, there are on them some fine cascades. Above Midgehole, on the Lavern, there are two splendid ones. There is another above South Arthurlie field, and a third at Brownside. But the loveliest of them all are those at the Killock-Glen. There, in perfect miniature, are seen the three falls on the Clyde, Bonnyton, Corra, and Stonebyres.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The minerals are the same here in general as in the parishes around. Lime and ironstone are found in great abundance, both in the east and west extremities of the parish. Ores of no kind save ironstone are found here.

In truth, beyond the usual appearances of trap-rocks, this parish affords nothing new or interesting to the geologist. But, if it contains nothing peculiar, it has long been known as a rich field to the collectors of mineralogical specimens.

The most numerous and interesting of these belong to the *zeolite* family. They are to be seen in various parts of the parish, but are more especially found in the greatest plenty and variety near Hartfield.

Prehnite is the most common of all these minerals to be met

with near Hartfield. It is there found beautifully crystallized, having a broad, rectangular, four-sided prism, rather flatly foiled in the extremities.

The first specimen, examined by Werner, was brought from the Cape of Good Hope, by Colonel Prehn; hence the name of Prehnite, by which it is distinguished. It was then not supposed to be found in Great Britain, but some time afterwards it was found near Dumbarton by Mr Grotche;* and since, abundance of it has been picked up in the Hartfield moss. That the specimen picked up by Grotche at Dumbarton was carried down, with others, by the Cawpla stream into the Clyde, and by the Clyde, rolled down to Dumbarton, is extremely probable, as prehnite is not found in any other parish in the West of Scotland, known to us. It is curious, indeed, that its formation should be in the middle of moss. We have found large specimens of it so imbedded,—and not very many years ago, sent a most splendid specimen of it, picked up by us, to the late amiable and talented Professor of Natural History in the University of Glasgow, Mr Lockhart Muirhead. The celebrated Brochant, it is said, could not rest satisfied till he visited the place of its formation, Hartfield Moss, and took away with him some of the finest specimens he could find. †

Analcime, or Hexahedral zeolite, is the most common of all those minerals found at the same spot. That it has also been carried down by the waters from Hartfield, though picked up at Dumbarton, is probable. In general, this crystal presents only one modification, viz. the twenty-four-sided crystal with trapezoidal faces of greater or less regularity. The primitive form of its crystal is a cube; sometimes it is found crystallized in cubes, in which each solid angle is acuminated by three faces. It is often found somewhat transparent. One beautiful crystal of this primitive form was found by Lord Greenock in a quarry near Caldwell. This crystal, though at times seen transparent, is generally opaque. A few specimens occur of a red flesh-colour, but these are very rare.

Chabasite, or Rhombohedral zeolite, is found in the same situation, but it also is comparatively of rare occurrence. The primitive rhombohedral crystal is by much the most common. The most frequent modification consists in the truncation of one, two, or three angles; the truncation itself being often very deep. It is usually found *white*, and somewhat transparent, with a streak of green running through it, which renders it very pretty.

Red Stilbite, or Heulandite, is of frequent occurrence.

* Vide Ann. de Chim. i. 213.

† Brochant, i 295.

Thomsonite, or Orthotomous zeolite, occurs in great abundance at the same fertile spot. It presents the usual radiated structure, with occasionally beautiful terminations.

Laumonite, or Diatomous zeolite, one of the least common of the zeolite family, is found at the same place.

Ores imbedded in the *trap* rocks which abound here, are scarcely ever found. Assuredly no veins of manganese, lead, or copper, are known to us. When examining some stone dikes built of olden time, with the late lamented and talented Walter Moody, Esq. of Glasgow, we found stones in which were imbedded rich specimens of copper ore. In none of the rocks we have examined have animals, shells, or plants been found imbedded or buried. The only thing found, deeply imbedded in some of our coal mines and mosses, are trunks of large trees, in the transition state to coal.

Soils.—These are as diversified as the climate. There are three marked and distinct soils in the parish. That on the eastern division (which is flat land,) is of a dry loamy nature, mixed occasionally with gravel, and resting here and there upon freestone, but generally upon a substratum of stiff till or clay. It is fit for all kinds of crops. The middle district, which is hilly, has for its sub-soil chiefly rotten rock, or porphyry. Hence its surface is commonly dry, and free of wet standing on it. It is fitter, however, for pasture than cropping; and hence the dairy is the first and greatest care of the farmers there, as by its produce they chiefly pay their rents. The soil is of the same nature as that of the Mearns, and produces the finest butter. Its pasturage is excellent. The third district is composed of bent moor and deep black moss; much of which is capable of great improvement, under a proper system of draining and planting. The sides of the hills afford good grazing, and produce as fine cattle for the shambles as any in the country, whilst the table-lands on the hill tops with the moors are excellent for rearing young cattle. A very few sheep are kept in the parish. Many swine are reared, but goats are unknown.

The improvements made on the Hartfield estate show what can be done on our mosses, moors, and hill-sides. From a few hundred pounds of rent, when Robert Fulton, Esq. of Maxwellton, the late highly respected proprietor of Hartfield, purchased it from the Milliken family, its rent is now raised, by his improvements and other means, to about L. 2000 yearly.*

* Five hundred acres of the moss and moor of Hartfield, formerly rented at L. 30,

By dividing these mosses and moors into fields of fifty acres broad, and 60 or 70 long,—throwing around each field a strong, broad belt of planting; by draining it till it is perfectly dry, and then laying upon it from 110 to 130 bolls of lime per acre, to lie two or three years on the sward, before the ground is broken up, and when it is broken up, (which should be done in November at the latest, that so the frosts and thaws of winter may operate upon it;)—by such or similar means, much of it may, by seed-time, be brought into mould. By this management, crops of corn, barley, rye, potatoes, carrots, cabbages, turnips and cole-seed, may be plentifully obtained; and, under judicious and well conducted improvement, a return had, not of 10, but of 30 or 40 per cent. per annum. More than this has been frequently realized from the outlay; whilst from such improvements, many advantages are derived, such as enlarging the rent-roll; beautifying and ornamenting the estates, and increasing their value; exciting industry among their tenantry; multiplying the means of human food, and thereby producing cheaper markets. If he was deemed a *patriot* who made two stalks of grass to grow, where only one grew before, he certainly has a better title to the name, who makes abundant crops for human food to rise from the barren heath. We bid Colonel Mure and Mr Speirs look to what has been done by the late and present worthy and respectable proprietors of Hartfield and Fereneze. They have done much; but they, too, have still much to do, ere their moors be reclaimed and made productive.

Mines.—Saving those of coal, free and whinstone, there are no other mines in this parish. Freestone is wrought at Upla-moor,—it is a fine pillar, and of great depth. Whinstone is wrought at *Brownside* to a considerable extent. More than 6000 yards are taken out of it yearly.

Zoology.—In this department, there is nothing that is rare. We have all the domestic animals, and of the best kinds. The undomesticated *quadrupeds* are, the fox, the polecat, the weasel, and the hedgehog. The otter and badger make their appearance but rarely. *Grouse* abounds in the higher district of the parish. The blackcock is to be met with, as also pheasants; and in the middle and lower districts, partridges are often abundant. Snipes, wild teal ducks, plovers, and herons frequent all our mosses, and

are now, in consequence of these improvements, says Mr Wilson, 1812, “let at L. 495.” Mr Fulton persevered, “and out of 675 acres of very deep and soft m.c.s.s, 450 acres have been reclaimed.” Hence the rise of the rental, as above.

moors, and lochs. The common migratory birds make their annual appearance at their proper seasons. The cuckoo and swallow, the curlew, lapwing, and stonechat in spring; and in the end of autumn and beginning of winter, the woodcock and fieldfare. The *Birds* are, the sparrow, sparrow hawk; the thrush and blackbird; the lark, grey and green linnet; the bullfinch and yellow-hammer; the golden-crested wren; the blue titmouse, the chaffinch, and starling; which last, though rare for many years, has again appeared in considerable numbers.

The water-crow and stonechat are disappearing; and the long-eared, brown, and barn owl is found only inhabiting some lonely tower. The raven, crow, jackdaw, and magpie abound. The last is the most ferocious and destructive of all the other birds; and, though rewards have been offered for every one of them that is shot, they cannot be rooted out.

This parish is not famous for the breed of any species of cattle. The only thing in which it is remarkable is its breed of milch-cows. Every thing has been attempted for their improvement. The Ayrshire cow was crossed for a time with the Alderney and Guernsey breed. This produced more butter, but less milk, and the breed was given up. Now the chief attention of farmers here, in the middle district, is to improve, as much as possible, the Ayrshire cows in all their varieties.*

The fishes in our lochs are perch, pike, and trout. Trout is found in abundance in the Long-loch: pike and perch, large, and very fine and abundant, in Hairlaw reservoir and Loch-Libo; and trout is found also in Cawpla-Loch. In the streams, trout of a particular kind are found, equal in all respects to the char in the lakes of Cumberland. Great abundance of these, and of the common species of trout, with uncommonly large and fine eels, are found in the small reservoirs attached to the mill-lades of cotton-mills, and other large bleaching manufactories. When these reservoirs are drained for cleaning, trout are taken in great numbers; some of them from 12 to 16 inches long, and thick in proportion. For a time after the printfields were set down the fish

* The writer of this article sold one of the mixed Alderney, or Guernsey breed, to the late William Finlay, Esq. Senior, of Trees, in this parish. She produced, per week, for the three flush months, eleven pounds of butter! but comparatively little milk in proportion. At the same time, the present minister of Dunlop had a large fine cow, of the pure Ayrshire breed, which gave, during the three flush months, twenty-one Scotch pints of milk in the day, as taken from the cow. These facts are well ascertained, and mark the peculiar difference between the cross and the pure Ayrshire breed.

deserted the Levern. The *first* emptying of their dye-stuffs and other *debris* into the stream poisoned them; they were found dead next morning on its margin in great numbers. They have, however, long ago returned, though not feeding in that part of the Levern wherein the *debris* is thrown. The salmon left it entirely, and have never, so far as known, made their appearance since the water was thus polluted, though *before* they came in numbers to spawn at the season.

All the insects injurious to vegetation in general, and to fruit-trees, and to currant and gooseberry bushes, in particular, are as abundant here as in the parishes around. Every method has been employed for their destruction, but all in vain. Last year, the grub and the wire-worm produced dreadful ravages.

Botany.—All the plants used for culinary purposes are grown with us, and need not here be specified. Those for medicinal purposes are, foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*,) valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*,) hemlock (*Conium maculatum*,) tormentil (*Tormentilla erecta*.) The first is found growing on a bare and rocky soil, small and stunted in its form and appearance, but most powerful in its application as a medicine. The second is commonly the inhabitant of the low and marshy grounds about Barrhead. The third delights, like the foxglove, in a bare and rocky situation, or loves the shelter of an old dry dike, where it rises into great vigour; and the fourth, like the moorfowl, loves the heather, and is found flourishing amongst the heath in great plenty and luxuriance.

The plantations are few and scanty. The timber which grows to the greatest size is the beech, the plane, the ash, and the spruce. Some of these latter kind are found about Caldwell and Glanderton, both of considerable age and size. It is much to be regretted that plantations at once so profitable and so ornamental, are so few in this parish.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

In this department the parish is rich. From one of its ancient proprietors the present reigning family has sprung. In the twelfth century, Stewart of Darnly married the sole heiress of Robert de Croc, who at that time held the Lordship of Neilston, Darnly, and Crocston. These he made over to his daughter, from whom sprang the Earls and Dukes of Lennox, and of whom was Darnly, the husband of Mary, father of James VI. of Scotland, and first of England.

For long, it was a parish of *gentlemen*, noted for their prowess and *amenity* of manners. Crawford, in his "History of Renfrew-

shire," published in 1710, gives a very full account of the families in or belonging to it in *olden* times. Passing from the house of Stewart, the Lordship of Neilston, he says, came by marriage into that of Cunningham of Craighends. It soon went from them, and was, in the course of years, divided, as now, amongst a number of proprietors.

A cadet of the noble family of Darnly held Arthurlie; Glanderston was possessed by the ancient and highly respectable family of the Mures of Caldwell; Neilston-side was held by a descendant of Sir William Wallace's family of Elderslie; the barony of Side belonged to a cadet of the honourable house of Skelmurlie; Cowdon-hall was long possessed by the distinguished family of the Spreulls, and by Sir William Cochrane, afterwards first Earl of Dundonald. Not one of all these have now a house in the parish, nor an acre of land in it, saving Lord Glasgow and Colonel Mure. All has changed hands. What a striking lesson! "*Sic transit gloria mundi.*" One remarkable trait of character in the inhabitants of Neilston from its earliest history is their ardent love of civil and religious liberty. In the Reformation they took an active interest. The persecution of the Presbyterians by the infamous and profligate Charles II., roused Colonel Wallace, a descendant of Neilston-Side, to march with his followers to Pentland. William Mure, then of Caldwell, felt his spirit stirred within him at Charles's cruelty, and, placing himself as captain of a company of horsemen, who met at Shutterflat, resolved to march forward to join the army of the Covenanters at Pentland. The traitorous conduct of Maxwell of Blackston broke up this meeting; each returned to his home, and though not near Pentland, all who attended it were either driven into exile, or had their estates forfeited.

The large estates of Caldwell were given to General Dalziel. Sentence was passed in absence, and this good and worthy person died in exile, leaving his pious lady and four orphans, destitute of all visible means of subsistence.*

Rising in 1819.—With this affair of Shutterflat, we connect

* Of the sufferings of this eminently devout lady and her family after the exile and death of her husband,—of their retiring to Glasgow, and supporting themselves by their own industry,—of their being transported to Blackness Castle, and kept in close confinement for years, under a *false* accusation of keeping conventicles,—of the harsh treatment they met with there,—of the Council refusing liberty to Lady Caldwell to go to Mr Sandilands of Hilderston to see her dying daughter,—of her offer to take a guard with her, yea, to maintain the *whole* garrison as a guard if they pleased, while she was doing her last sad duty to her child; of all these facts, we leave Wodrow to tell, only remarking on the tyranny and cruelty which could refuse so humane and so reasonable a request to a mother.

the modern history of an event, the results of which should afford a lesson of useful and awful import to those who fear not God, nor honour the King, but meddle with them who are given to change.

The 1st day of April 1819 was on a Sunday. Associations for reform had, on that and the preceding years, been frequent in England, and Ireland, and Scotland. A regular system was formed, and an active correspondence carried on amongst them all. The wildest theories about *liberty* and *equality* were broached and promulgated, with ardour and unwearied diligence. The different Associations had their times and places of meeting regularly fixed. In these, the *Spencean* doctrines found willing, and resolute advocates. This Spencean plan was to divide the whole lands in the nation among the people; perfect equality in the division being the rule of distribution, so that no one should have more than another. In the meantime, rumours of a general rising of the people throughout the empire to obtain this end, were circulated with great industry by the radical reformers. Whether the director of the movement intended only a hoax, according to the custom of foolery on this day of the year, is best known to himself; but this is certain, that during the night, or early on the Sunday morning, a flaming proclamation, announcing the rising, was placarded upon all the church doors in town and country, stating that the insurrection was to begin that day in London, and in the chief towns of England and Ireland, and calling upon the reformers here to be ready to join them, threatening instant death to all who opposed them.

On that Sunday morning, the writer of this could not understand what attraction was about the church gate. He saw the chiefs of reform in motion, hastening to the gate, and looking mighty big when turning away from it. Understanding that the cause of this excitement was the proclamation referred to, the minister preached a sermon from the following text: "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men." This produced the happiest consequences in the parish. Except by the musical band, and a few wrong-headed men like themselves, the operatives resolved to attend their work as usual. To their honour and credit be it told, they did so; and it was very remarkable, that whilst the whole works of the same kind in Lanarkshire, Dumbartonshire, Renfrewshire, and Ayrshire stood still that week, not one of all the twenty-two large public works stood idle for a

moment in Neilston parish. The events of that week will long be remembered by many. The whole of the west of Scotland was in agitation and alarm, save Neilston, which was comparatively quiet, peaceable, and orderly.

This effect we mention with exultation, as an instance of the influence of the pulpit, and the necessity of having not only an active and Gospel ministry, but also an Established Church sufficiently large to admit a considerable number of the parishioners for hearing divine service.

Eminent Men.—The eminent men connected with this parish in ancient times have already been noticed. Those in recent times are scanty; yet a few have arisen who have done honour to themselves and their native place. The whole of the talented family of the Mures of Caldwell have their family *crypt* or vault here. The late Baron Mure, who was eminent in his day, was a Baron of Exchequer, Member of Parliament for Renfrewshire, a profound lawyer, and an eloquent man, long the Melville for Scotland, was born and buried here. His grandson, the present Colonel Mure of Caldwell, promises to be his superior in literary fame. His “Disertation on the Calendar and Zodiac of Ancient Egypt,” exhibits profound research and extensive reading, and places him high as an astronomer, and eminent as a scholar. His worth, talents, and literary acquirements must soon raise him high in his country’s estimation, and give him a name and a place in society to which his birth and accomplishments deservedly entitle him.

The late George Monteath, M. D., son of Dr Monteath, formerly of Neilston, now of Houston, is another individual of whom the parish has reason to be proud. His attainments in science were considerable; but it was in his profession where his great powers were seen and appreciated. His knowledge of the structure of the eye and its diseases, was minute and extensive, and his many operations upon it eminently successful. His quick perception and discrimination of disease was the admiration of his brethren in the profession, and gained for him a well-earned reputation. He died early in life, in the midst of extensive practice, honoured, respected, and regretted by all who knew him.

We might say all this of his *great rival*, Dr William Young, who was born in the same village, and about the same time, and started with him in the same professional race. This very distinguished individual is now enjoying in Glasgow the most extensive

patronage, admired for his skill and ability by his brethren, as an anatomist and pathologist, and highly esteemed by all. *

Not a few ingenious men, skilled in the combination of the mechanical powers, have appeared in this parish. Some of these had heads to contrive, but wanted hands to execute. The late James Dunlop, Esq. of Linwood, united both in himself. He was allowed by all who knew him to be a man of great ingenuity, skill and contrivance, and of admirable taste in mechanism, and success crowned his well merited reputation. His son, William, promised fair to equal if not excel his late father; but ill health, for a time only we trust, has stopt his career. Should health again return, we doubt not to have from him some of those splendid and useful combinations which have immortalized a Roberts and an Arkwright.

But one of the greatest of those ingenious artisans and mechanics to which this parish has given birth, was the late Mr John Robertson, foreman to James Orr, Esq. of Crofthead. A self-acting mule had long been a *desideratum* in cotton-spinning for more than half a century. What neither Crompton of Bolton; nor Kelly of Glasgow; nor Buchanan of Catrine; nor Eaton of Derby; nor M. de Jonge, an ingenious Frenchman; nor Roberts of Manchester; nor even the talented Mr Smith of Deanston works, could do with all their skill,—Mr Robertson, single-handed and alone, accomplished. The process of *backing off*, which is one of the most difficult to accomplish in “the self-acting mule,” Mr Robertson contrived and finished. Mr Smith of Deanston had, in 1833, renewed his mechanical labours, resolved, if possible, to contrive and finish a self-actor. He had failed in 1792, with Mr Buchanan of Catrine, to perfect the self-acting mule which they had then contrived; and though, in 1826, he succeeded to contrive an effective machine for spinning low numbers, yet he found it could not be applied to mules of various descriptions in the trade, as they then were and still are in general use. He therefore applied his vigorous powers to contrive one, and was making rapid progress when he came to hear of Mr Robertson’s contrivance respecting

* Since the above was written, this eminent physician has fallen a victim to his profession. As physician in the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow, he had been in the *Fever Ward* for about two hours, examining about seventy fever patients, when he caught *concentrated typhus*, and in a few days thereafter was no more. Thus fell this skilful practitioner in his 47th year, lamented by a city which had long known and appreciated his worth. His funeral was one of the largest almost ever seen in Glasgow. To his worth and abilities all the Glasgow papers of the day bore ample testimony.

the great facility of his machine in the backing-off motion. On seeing the simplicity and efficacy of the contrivance, and the facility of Robertson's "self-actor," Mr Smith was struck with admiration,—what all his ingenuity had not contrived was there. A proposal for combining the powers of the two machines was made, and a copartnership entered into by Messrs Smith and Orr for that purpose. Hence, by the ingenuity of Mr Smith combining the two, he has made a perfect self-acting mule, which will, in that trade, carry his name with that of Robertson's down to posterity. Great advantages will be derived from this machine, by the trade. By it, the full-grown operative is dispensed with, and only children required for piecing up the threads, who are now paid one-half more than formerly. Another advantage is obtained, by the mule producing about one-fifth more yarn, whilst the saving upon the wages will be about two-thirds. A third advantage it gives is, that it brings the workers more under the control of the master. The vexation given to the masters by the union of the workers was great. By these unions, under the plea of protecting their trade, they annoyed and distressed their employers time after time, with insolent and unwarranted interferences and restrictions. It was to get rid of this annoyance, by a "self-actor," that the masters were led to make so many attempts to dispense with their services altogether. This they have now accomplished,—the service of children only is required. This is generally the result of all combinations; they ultimately injure themselves. Another important result of this "self-actor" is, that by diminishing the wages *two-thirds*, it will enable the spinners of Great Britain to compete successfully in the foreign market with the cheap labour of the continent. These advantages must commend this machine to the trade, which, from its simplicity, is not liable to breakage, nor to much tear and wear, nor to much expense in the repair.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are, Alexander Spiers, Esq. of Elderslie; Colonel Mure, of Caldwell; The Right Honourable the Earl of Glasgow; Sir Robert Pollock of that ilk; Colonel Fulton; John Graham, Esq. of Craigallian and Fereneze; James Dunlop, Esq. of Arthurlie; William Craig, Esq. of Kirkton; Peter Sawers, Esq. of Craingingal; and Captain Anderson of Broadlie.

TABLE OF PROPERTY of the whole Heritors of Neilston,
great and small, with their *valued* rents respectively.

Glanderston and Neilston side; Caldwell part of Neilston side; Neilston side; four different parts of Comore; Glanderston dike; part

RENFREW.

Y

of the L. 17 land of Arthurlie; ditto, ditto, ditto—Alexander Speirs, Esq. of Elderslie,	L. 1729 19 4
Easter Caldwell; Wester Caldwell; Cowdon Common—Col. Mure of Caldwell,	1096 13 6
Hartfield—Col. Fulton,	633 6 8
Auchinback, Duba, Park and Boghall, Laigh Lyon Cross—Earl of Glasgow,	551 13 4
Maxwell's Lyon Cross—Sir Robert Pollock,	120 6 8
Fereneze—Messrs Grahams,	440 0 0
Pollock's Arthurlie; part of Airstan's do.; part of L. 17 land of do.—James Dunlop, Esq. of Arthurlie,	190 13 4
Part of the L. 17 land of do.—William Craig, Esq. of Kirkton,	109 0 0
Do. do.—Mr Wylie of Carsewells,	108 5 0
Do. do.—Mr Stewart of Carsewells,	47 6 8
Do. do.—Peter Sawers, Esq. of Netherkirk, &c. &c.	44 0 0
Do. do.—Formerly Andrew Spreuls, Esq.—John Gemmel, Esq.	34 0 0
Do. do.—Captain Anderson of Broadlie,	30 0 0
Anderson's part of Caldwell—Heirs of Wood,	30 0 0
Part of the L. 17 land of Arthurlie—Mr Young of Snypes,	25 0 0
Do. do.—John Cuthbertson, Esq. of Carsewells,	23 15 0
High Lyon Cross—Heirs of Mr Cuthbertson,	20 0 0
Kirkland's part of Arthurlie—John Craig of Foreside,	13 6 8
Do. do.—John Pollock, Esq. of Greenhill,	6 13 4
Part of Pollock's Arthurlie in possession of William Lowndes, Esq.	69 13 4
Total of the valuation of Neilston Parish, as it now is,	L. 4823 6 8
Add the Annexations from it to the Parishes of Beith and Dunlop.	
In Beith Parish; Shutterflatts—Mr Stevenson,	59 6 0
Do.—Feuars,	103 7 8
In Dunlop parish, also Knockmade Barony—Col. Mure of Caldwell,	662 16 8
Amount of valuation in Neilston before annexation,	L. 5486 3 4

Parochial Registers.—Our oldest register is one of births and baptisms. It commences in 1689, and is continued on to 1735. It is in very bad condition, and two years are wholly wanting. The second register of births and baptisms, begins 15th May 1737, and ends June 6, 1784. The third register of births and baptisms begins 8th June 1784, and ends 14th March 1813. The fourth register of births and baptisms commences 21st March 1813, and is now being filled up. The first register of proclamation of banns begins 29th January 1737, and ends 10th December 1791. The second begins 5th January 1792, and ends 21st September 1833. The third begins 27th September 1833, and is being filled up. There is no register of deaths, on which any kind of reliance can be placed. There is great backwardness to registration here of any kind. Regularity never will be attained, till a Parliamentary enactment enforce it under penalties.

Antiquities.—In this parish, there are none. Tradition has transmitted an account of other two religious houses, before the Reformation, besides the parochial kirk. One of these had been placed at the "chappell,"—and another, at the sequestered spot called "*Boon the Brae*," near Waterside bleachfield. The springs

at both places are exceedingly fine. They were the *holy* wells of the Papists in former times, and, if purity of water could confer holiness, that name they deserved. The spring, "Boon the Brae," issues from the solid rock, and is one of the finest and most copious in the parish. It is perennial. Of these chappells no traces remain. Even the walls and foundations of them cannot be discovered.

Tradition speaks also of a curiously carved *Danish* stone; of tumuli on the *Fereneze Braes*; of battles lost and won; of human bones dug up, enclosed in square freestone urns; of petrified shells, and impressions of trees and animals, especially shell fishes; but all these have now vanished. Large trees, imbedded deep in the mosses or mines, are occasionally found, passing into the coal formation; but than this no other kind of *fossil* is dug up. That these have been found in the parish, in ancient times, is most likely; but if ever they existed, they are now among the things that were.

Modern Buildings.—There is abundance of building going on in the parish; but there has been none of late of any consequence, saving Crofthead House, the property of James Orr, Esq. and Company; and James Dunlop's, Esq. of Arthurlie; both of which are handsome and elegant buildings.

There are a few other good houses in the parish; such as Mr Lowndes's, the Chappell, and Trees. None of the castles of the old and ancient Nobility remain. Lord Glasgow, Sir Robert Pollock of that ilk, Col. Mure, Col. Fulton, and Mr Speirs are non-residents; and, with the exception of a few of the smaller heritors, the parish is inhabited chiefly by the proprietors or owners of large manufactories, their foremen and operatives.

Additions have been made to different mills and public works in the parish, some of which have been increased to nearly *double* their original size. A new printfield, for all kinds of calicoes, was erected in 1835 at South Arthurlie at great expense. At Cross Arthurlie field, another large print-shop was built; and additions have been made to others. But the most splendid addition is that of the Levern mill in 1834,—which consists of five storeys, 10 feet high, a sunk flat, and a garret, and is 113 feet long, and 46 feet wide, and which, joined to the *old* mill, makes an immense pile of building. The materials used in these buildings are generally *freestone*, though sometimes *whinstone*, both of which are at hand in great abundance.

of the parish, assisted by Roman Catholics and sectarians. Then the whole population was, as stated, 9187, making an increase in five years of 1141 souls.

The average of births for the last seven years, is	1534
of deaths,	1554
of marriages,	774
number of persons under 15 years,	2607
of individuals, or families of independent fortune not known; many appearing to have independent fortunes, who, in reality have less than nothing, though making a great show.	
The number of the proprietors of land above the yearly value of L. 50 are,	16
families in 1831,	1518
Average number of children in each family,	5
Number of inhabited houses in 1837,	935
of uninhabited houses and others now building,	27
The number of insane 11, fatuous 5, blind 8, deaf and dumb 9; total	33

The strength, size, and complexion of the *original* inhabitants have long been remarkable; and *some* of their descendants, as the Spreulls, Craigs, Andersons, Cochrans, Gilmours, Muirs, Stewarts, &c. still possess these qualities in a great degree. They are, many of them, tall, stout, able-bodied men; some with fair, and others with dark complexions, but intelligent features. "It was asserted," says the writer of the former Statistical Account, "by a late military gentleman of this neighbourhood, who was well informed, accurate in his observations, and who had opportunity during many years of his life, whilst in his Majesty's service, to see the subjects of most of the different powers, and some of the finest troops in Europe, that John Stewart of Moyne was, for stature, strength, and exact proportion, and good looks, the completest figure of a man he had ever seen."

In the hilly part of the country, the offspring of the original inhabitants are still robust, strong, healthy, and intelligent, often living to a great age. In a kirk-session of thirteen members, there are seven whose present ages are 495; of these, two are 81 each, two from 76 to 78. Two persons not in the session died at the advanced age of 104 and 105. The latter was father to Mr James Fulton, one of the elders, who is now 81 years old.

The habits of the people in general are sober and industrious; one class, that of the sober, intellectual, and moral, is exceedingly cleanly; the immoral and irreligious just the reverse. The clothing of the men is warm and comfortable, and every way bespeaking good conduct; whilst the style and manner of dress of the virtuous and well-behaved females, is not only in good taste, but, owing to the purity of the muslins they wear, peculiarly clean and neat.

Considering the wages which the people receive, they can, ac-

according to their condition in society, enjoy, in a reasonable degree, all the ordinary comforts of life, with many of its luxuries. A great number of the operatives have from 16s. to L. 1, and from L. 1 to L. 1, 10s.; and some from L. 1, 10s. to L. 1, 15s. and L. 2 per week. Yet true it is, though strange, that those who have only from 16s. to L. 1 are more independent, and infinitely more comfortable in their clothing, furniture, and supply of the table, than those who have from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2, aye L. 2, 10s. a-week. The one class is generally frugal, sober, and contented with their situation and circumstances. The other is dissipated, prodigal, literally wretched and poor; ill fed and ill clad, discontented with their condition, and with every thing and every body around them. Those of the one class give themselves to the duties of religion, the other to politics. The latter would reform every thing, yet refuse to reform themselves. Amongst a people given to politics, the moral and religious character is lost. The one absorbs the other, and the magnitude of eternity is lost in the littleness of time. The squabbles of factions are preferred to the peace of God, and the party howlings of this world's policy to the songs of Zion.

In a parish abounding with cotton-mills, printfields, and bleach-fields, where men, women, and children are cooped up together from five in the morning till seven at night; where indecent language is often heard, and evil example often set before them; where no opportunity is afforded the children to acquire solid knowledge, and where time is wanting for the adults to improve their minds by reading and reflection, how is it possible that such a population can in general be intellectual, moral, and religious? If we are to enjoy a healthy state of morals, the present and future generations must be trained up in the fear of the Lord, and obedience to his commandments. If these are neglected, every generation will grow worse and worse, till society become wholly corrupted and debased, and we sink, as a moral and religious people, from among the nations of the earth. Indeed a radical change of system must take place throughout all the branches of the cotton trade, where, at present, children are employed, if ever we are to become an intellectual, moral, and religious people. Government must interfere,—our old religious system of education must return,—children must be taught, and none permitted to enter into any of these works below the age of twelve or fourteen years, and until they have learned to read their *Bible* and say their *catechism*.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—

The number of acres, standard imperial measure, in the parish, which are either cultivated, or occasionally in tillage,	16602	2	9
The number of acres which have never been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste, or in pasture,	4240	3	30
The number of acres that might, with profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, whether that land were afterwards to be kept in occasional tillage, or in permanent pasture, mosses, &c.	3478	0	0
Number of acres under wood, natural or planted, &c.	865	0	0

The kinds of trees planted are in general indigenous, saving the larch and spruce, and a few others. The management of them is very much approved. Periodical thinning and pruning, &c. is general.

Rent of Land.—The average rent of all arable lands in the parish is L. 1, 10s.; the average rent of grazing, is at the rate of L. 4, 10s. per ox or cow grazed, and at the rate of 9s. per ewe or full-grown sheep, pastured for a year.

Rate of Wages.—The rate of labour, winter and summer, for different kinds of farm-labourers and country artisans—is,—for farm-labourers, 10s. per week, in winter,—in summer 12s.; for country artisans, masons in winter, 2s. 6d.,—in summer 3s. 6d.; carpenters from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per day; tailors, from 9s. to 10s. with their meat per day; shoemakers, 12s. per week; hand-weavers from 8s. to 10s. per week; smiths from L. 1, 1s. to L. 1, 10s.

The price of the raw material, March 1837.—Meal per peck, 1s. 4d. and L. 2, 6s. per quarter; oats per boll, L. 1, 2s.; barley per boll, L. 1, 9s.; wheat, imperial quarter, L. 1, 13s.; potatoes, L. 1 a boll, Renfrewshire measure; turnips, L. 2 per ton; rye-grass, L. 5 per 100 stones; meadow hay, L. 4 per 100 stones; manure from 4s. to 5s. a ton; lime, 16s. per chaldar.

Live-stock.—The Highland or black-faced sheep and the Leicester are the only ones bred here. In the whole parish, there are only about 100 of the one, and 50 of the other. No attention is given to their improvement, as the farmer depends nothing upon them for his rent.

Husbandry.—The same kind of husbandry is here pursued as in Lanarkshire and Ayrshire. The chief thing attended to is the dairy; and for the improvement of it, ingenuity, skill, and exertions, are perseveringly directed. There is little land in the parish which is not susceptible of great improvement. Accordingly a Society, in 1826, was instituted, called the "*Neilston and neighbourhood Agricultural Society*," of which Captain Anderson of

Broadley is treasurer, and who is setting a noble example on his own farm of what skill and capital can do with industry, and perseverance. Formerly, it was the garden of the sluggard; since he began his improvements, it has become a fertile field, delightful to look on.

By draining the waste land, where it is wet and spongy, as also the moss and moors, and throwing broad belts of planting, as noticed already, around them at the distance of fifty acres, and planting clumps upon the knolls and sides of the hills, making the surface of the mosses and moors level, and then throwing on them, after being thoroughly drained, from eight to nine chalders of lime, and letting them rest in this state for two or three years, and at the end of the third, in October or November, turning them up with the spade, so that the frosts and snows of winter may form a soil on them, and then in spring sowing your seeds,—a crop of oats, or potatoes, or turnip, &c. would amply, in two years, repay the outlay, with profit. Where it is *dry bent moor*, this is not necessary. In this case, irrigation, clumps, and belts of planting, with six or seven chalders, would, after the heather has been burnt, and the surface cleaned, and roots of heath rooted out, be all that was necessary to secure an ample return for expenditure.

The general term of leases here is nineteen years.

The farm-buildings and enclosures here are generally good.

Coal Mines.—Coal is found at various depths, and of very different quality and value. In one of them there was found, 1st, a coal of 7 inches, 7 fathoms from the surface; 2d, coal of 12 inches, 10 fathoms farther down; 3d, coal of 6 inches, 19 fathoms farther down; 4th, coal of from 3 feet 8 inches, to above 5 feet at 21 fathoms, which is the main coal. There is also great variety in the quality of the coal. In a coal of 2½ feet thick, the following varieties were found: 8 inches of it gas coal, 8 inches smithy coal; and 8 inches of fine coal; the remaining 6 inches were bad, indeed.

The dips are also various. The level dip is first due E.; then turns to the S. E.; then takes another turn, and dips to the N. The dip to the S. W. gives the best coal, where it lies generally in troughs; but the splint- or hard coal is that which is most sought after by the public.

The thickness of the coal in the one pit is 4½ feet, and in the other about from 3 feet 8 inches to 5 feet. No veins, or dikes, or

troubles have yet been met with in the working of the coal; nevertheless, all of them to the east seem to be a troubled field, where the metals are found in all directions.

The quantity of coals put out per week by the three pits may be above 1200 tons, at 7s. 6d. per ton. The wages of the colliers are all equalized. The worst as well as the best pitmen receive 5s. per day, or L. 1, 10s. a week, or L. 78 Sterling per annum!

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:—

Produce of grain of all kinds, cultivated for the food of man or the domestic animals is	L. 58,211	7	4
Potatoes, turnips, cabbages, beet, and other plants cultivated in the fields for food,	12,757	0	0
Hay, whether meadow or cultivated,	9640	0	0
Land in pasture, rated at L. 4 per cow, or full-grown ox, grazed for the season, and 9s. per ewe or full grown sheep pastured for the year,	95	0	0
Cows 1088, average milking seven pints a day for eight months, at 8d. per pint,	21,288	1	0
Coals per year, and quarries, &c.	24,960	0	0
Miscellaneous produce not enumerated under any of the foregoing heads,	412	10	0

Total yearly value of raw produce raised from lands, sheep and cows, L. 127,358 18 4

Manufactures.—These form the chief distinction of this parish. About the year 1767 or 1768, the idea was entertained of making the parish a manufacturing one. The Rev. Mr Henry Miller, a man of great spirit and enterprise, having succeeded to the fine fortune of his late brother, the celebrated bookseller in the Strand, London, projected an *inkle* factory, and established it, with some of the influential heritors, as copartners.

Shortly after that, about 1773, the printing of calicoes was begun at Fereneze, on the banks of the Lovern. It was at that time deemed a great work. Its extent may be easily conceived from the excise duty paid, and its yearly expenditure. The first was about L. 3000 Sterling, and the second about L. 2000 yearly. It continued long the only printfield in the parish. Bleachfields became the rage, and these in their turn,—many of them, at least,—have become printfields, so that now the bleachfields and printfields, as seen above, are equal in number.

Bleachfields.—The first bleachfield was formed about 1773, by the late Peter Adair, Esq. of Cross Arthurlie. He had been bleacher at some of the Lismore fields in Ireland, his native country. Desirous of change of place, he came to Scotland. In sailing up the Clyde, nothing struck him so much as not to see a single bleachfield on its banks. To set down one, he thought, would be a good specu-

lation; and, looking out for a suitable spot, he pitched upon that one at Cross Arthurlie, which is still in the family. The site proved at once his discernment, taste, and sound judgment. He was soon followed by an host of imitators.

Cotton-spinning.—Cotton-spinning began here in 1780. The first mill was set down at *Dovecothall*, on the banks of the Levern, on the site of the old corn-mill there. It is a small building, (still standing,) containing three storeys, 8 feet each in length; is 54 long within, by 24 broad. This mill was the *second* cotton-mill in Scotland, and was built by Stewart, Dunlop, and Co.

The success of this mill induced the building of others. *Gate-side* mill followed in 1786; Broadlie in 1790; Arthurlie in the same year; Crofthead in 1792: and Mr Graham's in 1801.

These mills were originally of considerable size; but since their first erection, some of them have been built anew, and others have had large additions made to them. By these additions, most of them are twice as large as before. Take an instance; the *old Levern* mill, the *second* in Scotland, was built, as said, in 1780, and, according to Mr Wilson, was 78 feet long and 28 broad. To this there was added another mill in 1800, of 123 feet long by 32½ broad, having five storeys in it, and to this there was, in 1834, added another addition, of 113 feet long by 40 broad,—the whole forming now an immense pile of building.

But an idea of their extent, and the value of the produce put out by them, will be best seen from the following statement, furnished partly by James Orr, Esq. of Crofthead, William Craig, Esq. of Kirkton, and others, spinners on the water.

Number of mule spindles in all these six mills,	77,828
throistle spindles,	1344
looms,	230
Annual value of produce.	
Mule yarns, 1,583,556 lbs. No. 46, at 1s. 5d. per lb.	L. 112,168 11 0
Throistle do. 69,888 24, 1s. 2½d.	4,222 8 0
1,653,444	
Produce of 230 looms per year. 1,447,160 yards at 3¼d. is,	L. 116,390 19 0
	22,611 17 6
Total average produce annually of mules and looms,	L. 139,002 16 6

The number of hands, men, women, and children, employed in the several branches of cotton-spinning, bleaching, and calico-printing, with their respective ages, will be clearly seen from the following table:—

TABLE I.

Shewing the men, women, and children, employed at the cotton mills, power-loom, printfields, and bleachfields.

	Under 12 yrs.		Under 16 yrs.		Above 20 yrs.		Total of all ages.
	Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.	Males.	Fem.	
Cotton-spinners and power loom weavers,	87	39	220	445	296	622	1659
Printers, &c.	290	139	195	122	511	86	1943
Bleachers,	17	29	49	232	126	259	712
Amount of each age,	344	207	464	799	933	967	3714

TABLE II.

Abstract of the whole capital of the different works, with their rents, amount of wages paid per annum.

	Capital.		Rental.		Wages.	
Of Printfields,	£ 28,650	0 0	£ 1961	0 0	£ 30,569	0 0
Bleachers,	39,000	0 0	1925	0 0	14,118	9 6
Spinners and power-loom,	96,570	0 0	3500	0 0	51,575	12 0
Amount,	£ 164,220	0 0	£ 7386	0 0	£ 96,263	1 6

Since these tables were framed, the only two returns which had been delayed, have been handed in. The one is from a small, the other a large printfield. From their being single, a pretty correct idea may be formed of the immense capital sunk, the wages paid, and the amount of rent and expenditure. In the one, the capital sunk is not given, but the average wages weekly are:—to pattern drawers, L. 1, 15s.; to block-cutters, L. 1, 4s.; to printers, L. 1, 1s.; to tirers, 2s. 3d.; to labourers, 12s.; to women, 6s.

The amount of wages paid monthly is about L. 160, = L. 1920 0 0 per annum.
The rent paid yearly is 150 0 0

Paid per annum, L. 2070 0 0

The amount of the other kinds of expenditure must be proportionably large, yet this is amongst one of the smallest printfields in the parish. The other, which is one of the largest, will give an idea of the expenditure of those like itself.

After describing the kinds of work that is done there, the report states that "500 hands" are employed in it.

That the capital employed in erecting it was	L. 12,000	0	0
That the yearly expenditure in carrying it on is about	20,000	0	0
And its rent about	500	0	0

Sum total, L. 32,500 0 0

To the sunk capital of the bleachfields is to be added that of one whose return had not been made when the table was drawn up.

Sunk capital, from L. 4000 to L. 5000, average,	L. 4500	0	0
Rent,	250	0	0
Wages, about	2360	10	0

L. 7410 10 0

In the returns from one of these works, it is stated, that "the management of them has been found a much more difficult task for two or three years past than it wont to be; and that a spirit of insubordination and dissatisfaction seems to be spreading rapidly amongst the working classes." The multitude of combinations formed, and the baneful effects of them, upon themselves, their families, and society, strongly corroborate this statement.

The number of working days in the cotton-mills are six,—and the number of hours in the week, sixty-nine. Those of the printers, in summer, are from six in the morning till six in the evening, while those of the bleachers are from eleven to twelve hours per day, or seventy-two hours per week. In all the works, the children work the same hours as the men. That the wages afford a fair remuneration and support to those engaged in these works must appear evident from the high wages that are paid them, and the vast sums they spend in drinking. However much it may be disguised or denied, these works have a powerful tendency to affect both health and morals. Among them, you rarely find an individual of the strength, size, and fresh complexion, which distinguished the ancient inhabitants. They are comparatively small, sickly-complexioned, and are old men, apparently, at forty-five years. Few see threescore and ten.

Of their *morals*, in general, we cannot say much that is favourable. Nevertheless, we gladly bear witness that there are, in these works, many exceptions, of persons who are as intellectual, moral, and religious, as any of the same class in the community. Shortening the hours of the children's labour, and giving them, before they go into these works, a thorough Christian education and Christian example, with a strict, but kind surveillance of the masters and overseers, appear to us to be the only means of correcting and improving the system.

The above details of the state of our manufactures and agriculture, with their produce and wealth, will give some general idea of its resources. But a better idea of these will be attained by collecting them together.

Taking the land as sunk stock at twenty years' purchase, 24,320 imperial acres,	=	L. 486,400	0	0
House and leaseholders' and farmers' property, at twelve years' purchase, make, sunk capital of L. 164,220 in public works included,		248,750	1	6
Wages paid by the public works per annum,		93,263	1	6
Sunk capital in farming-stock of horses and cows, queys and colts, mares and their foals, sheep and lambs,		19,189	0	0
Produce of pasture for cattle of all kinds and sheep,		1421	15	0

Sunk stock for lime and manure,	-	-	L. 6040	8	0
Produce from all kinds of grain raised in 1836,	-	-	58,211	7	4
from potatoes, turnips, and hay of all kinds,	-	-	12,757	0	0
of the dairy, 1088 cows,	-	-	21,283	1	0
of mines and quarries, &c. &c.	-	-	24,960	0	0
Miscellaneous produce not enumerated,	-	-	412	0	0
Rent-roll of the parish or landed income per annum,	-	-	16,475	5	9
Rental of 815 double or divided houses, average rent, L. 4 for a room and a kitchen = 1630 houses,	-	-	6520	0	0
Sunk capital on the public works, viz. on the six cotton mills, which originally cost about L. 112,000, but now taken at	-	-	60,000	0	0
Sunk capital on printfields,	-	-	28,650	0	0
on bleachfields,	-	-	39,000	0	0
Amount of wages paid masons, wrights, blacksmiths, shoemakers, weavers, tailors, saddlers, and daily labourers in the parish,	-	-	33,433	12	0
Sunk capital on mines,	-	-	3500	0	0
Tons output per week, 1000, at 8s. per ton.	-	-	20,800	0	0
Wages per annum to the colliers, &c.	-	-	6462	10	0

Such is the wealth of this parish, as nearly as can be stated from the returns made by the masters of public works, by the master artisans of the different trades, and by the active and *personal* survey of an intelligent and skilful farmer, with respect to the produce of the land and dairy, and amount of stock.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There are no towns in the parish; but the villages of Neilston and Barrhead may be considered as approaching to that character. Though there is now a population of 9187 in the parish, there is neither a magistrate, nor police, nor jail in it. The whole is kept in order by active Justices of the Peace, with a constabulary at their command. There is a small-debt court held in Neilston and Barrhead, alternately, once every month, by the Justices. On these occasions, they have their legal assessor and clerk. Neilston is not a market-town. The nearest market-town is Paisley, but there is no occasion to go thither for any thing almost that is needed. Every article and convenience of life is to be had in the parish.

Means of Communication.—In consequence of the new turnpike roads that run through the parish, and three daily coaches, communication, internally and externally, is enjoyed to the fullest extent, —to Paisley and Glasgow and Edinburgh on the east, and to Kilmarnock, Ayr, Irvine, and Saltcoats or Ardrossan on the west. One of the roads from Glasgow to Irvine runs through the whole length of the parish, as does that from Paisley, through Neilston village, to Stewarton, Kilmaurs, Kilmarnock, and Ayr. The length of these two turnpike roads in the parish is fully nine miles.

The road that leads to Irvine from Glasgow by the Hurlet, Barrhead, north of Neilston and Uplay Moor, is a most splendid one. Formerly, there was no road from Paisley to Kilmarnock but

the old mountainous one by the south of the village, which cost little; but this new one cost the trustees, in taking it up the Levern to Loch-Libo, about L. 18,000. This road is almost a complete level, and passes through a very pleasant country. The bridges are in number 22, and are all kept in excellent repair by the diligent and faithful surveyor of them, Mr Thomas Anderson, post-master of Neilston.

Though the cess-money amounts to L. 500 a-year, yet the debt on the parish roads is L. 130. This arises from the excellent state in which they are kept. So late as the year 1770, there was scarcely a road in this parish. Every kind of raw material, such as grain of all sorts, lime, coal, or the produce of the dairy, had to be carried on horses' backs. In taking the produce of farms to Glasgow, two days were occupied, one in going and the other in returning. Except in the drought of summer, or the hard frosts of winter, the people in the moorland districts got neither to kirk nor market; for the parish roads were impassable, and then there were no turnpikes. Indeed, till about the year 1790, there were only three turnpike roads in all this county; and these, by being carried over hilly and rough courses, were very tedious and unpleasant, and often unsafe to travel on. All this, however, has happily been done away with; and Renfrewshire can now boast of roads and foot-paths equal to any in the kingdom.

As yet, there are neither canals nor railways in the parish; but if the present *mania* for railways go on, we shall probably have one from Ayr, Troon, Kilmarnock, and Irvine, running through the whole length of the parish. Nature has pointed it out, and come it must some day, instead of the proposed circuitous route by Dalry, Lochwinnoch and Paisley. From Irvine to Glasgow, it is almost as straight as the crow flies, and without a hill; and from the Troon to Irvine, it is a dead level. Nothing can be more direct, if it be wished to unite Glasgow with the west coast. Before travellers from Ayr, Troon, Kilmarnock, or Irvine could be at Lochwinnoch by the proposed railway, they would be in Glasgow.

To facilitate communication, there are two post-offices, one in Neilston, and the other at Barrhead, yielding annually to the revenue about L. 160, independently of the twopenny-post letters. When the post-office was first established in Neilston, its arrivals and departures were only thrice a-week, on the Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Now it is an every-day post here, as well as in Barrhead.

Considering the population, the revenue L. 160, may appear small; but when it is observed, that all the twenty-three masters of public works lift, every lawful day, their letters at the Glasgow and Paisley post-offices, it will appear a great sum, as coming almost wholly from operatives and servants. But what farther proves the growing greatness and wealth of the parish is, that last year, a branch of the Glasgow Union Bank was established in Neilston.

Ecclesiastical State.—The ecclesiastical state of the parish of Neilston is altogether peculiar; and unlike that of any other landward parish in Scotland. Though having only one church it has two congregations; one of the congregations has free sittings, and so might the other, if they chose. But some of them, fond of giving away their money, or seeking favour with the heritors, or from some other cause best known to themselves, pay seat rent, though now, comparatively, a very trifle.

The situation of the parish church is perfectly convenient for the greater part of the population, though the distance of its extremities from the church is considerable. The western extremity is $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and the eastern 3. But the western is thinly inhabited, in comparison with the eastern, which abounds with villages and a dense population.

The church by the former Statistical Report of 1791, is said to have been built in 1762. But this, like many things in that report, is inaccurate.* Instead of being built then, it must have only been repaired. The window on the north wall, which is a specimen of the finest Gothic architecture, must, in the opinion of an eminent architect, be 400 years old at least. It was repaired, and had an addition made to it in 1797–8, and got a thorough repair in 1827. Its present state is deemed good by many; but its walls, being without band, and its roof heavy, render it unsafe when the storm rages, or when the church is crowded, as it often is.

In olden times, some important benefactions were made to the poor, and the names of the benefactors put on boards, which hung on the walls on the right and left side of the pulpit. But these were removed when the church was repaired in 1797–8, and have never been restored. Nor is there any need; the whole of these benefactions having long ago been taken *in toto*, and applied to the poor, and to the enlargement of the church in 1798.

* As an instance of the inaccuracy of this Report, it may be observed, that the church is there stated to contain 1000, whereas, after an addition to it of 291, or thereby, it only holds 830.

The number of persons to whom the church affords accommodation is 830. By filling the passages and stairs, and cramming it choke-full, it may hold about 940 persons of ordinary size. This is the whole accommodation for a population of 9187 souls, the great proportion of which is warmly attached to the Establishment.

As to the mode in which the sittings are held, some explanation is necessary. In one sense they are *all* free, in another, none of them are free. The heritors hold all the seats as theirs, and claim a right to admit or keep out of them all and sundry, just as they please!

The parishioners, on the other hand, maintain that they have no right to the seats; that, legally, heritors have only room for themselves and their families; that the church is not built solely for their use, but for the use of, at least, two-thirds of the examinable persons above twelve years of age in the parish; that when a new church is to be built, they must build it of the proper dimension, furnish a minister to it, pay his stipend, and the officers of the church; provide a precentor, Bible and Psalm Book for the minister, communion elements and cups, and salvers, and tablecloths, and a laver for baptism; in short, that every thing is to be provided by the heritors for the celebration of divine ordinances in the church, *free of all expense to the parishioners*; not out of the private funds of heritors, but out of the church's patrimony in their hands, appointed by law to be appropriated to that purpose.

By what right, then, or by what law, it is asked, have heritors a claim to charge seat rents in landward parishes? If, by law, they may be compelled to build a church free of expense to the parishioners, that all may enjoy the benefit of divine worship, where is their right to charge seat rents? Is not the doing of it *illegal and unjust*?

These views of the question led the parishioners of Neilston ultimately to oppose such a demand. From 1798, seat rents were demanded. In that year, a system of setting them up by public auction in the church commenced. As it proceeded, heart-burnings and animosities were the results. The demand being great, and the supply small, some of the seats rose to L. 1, 11s. 6d. per eighteen inches, so that the average rent, for at least twenty years, was 12s. 4d. a sitter!

This produced murmuring and complaints. But what could they do? They could not save themselves. They had no other choice, but either to submit to this illegality, or to leave the church, and, with their families, to be deprived of divine ordi-

nances in the parish. At last, they laid their heads together in 1826, a year of bad trade, when most of them had nothing to live upon, and no money to pay for seat rents,—and resolved, that none of them would take one another's seats; and that next Sabbath, the day after the public roup, they would go to their seats as usual. Hearing of this determination of the seat-holders, the heritors procured an *interdict* from Sheriff Dunlop, “against all and sundry from entering the seats of the church without the heritors' authority,”—which could only be obtained by paying seat-rent.

On this, the church was deserted, and the minister, unwilling to preach to bare walls and empty benches, went to the tent in the church-yard, and there, in the open air, summer and winter, for eight years, preached unto his people. Litigation, oppressive and keen, in the church courts, commenced against him. But he never ceased to defend himself and his claim for free sitting, till he obtained a triumph by the subjoined judgment of the General Assembly in 1830, drawn up by that eminent lawyer, John Hope, Esq. Advocate, then Solicitor-General.*

In the face of this declaration, which is sufficiently plain and explicit, the heritors of Neilston continued the interdict, and let the seats as usual by public roup, to whomsoever would take them.

By the Act of Assembly 1828, the minister was ordered back to the church to give sermon. This he did. In the forenoon he preached to the heritors, their families, and tenants, and in the af-

* “Parties being fully heard, were removed. After reasoning, the General Assembly, without a vote, pronounced the following deliverance:—The General Assembly having had this petition under consideration, feel bound and called upon, as the guardians of the spiritual interests and ecclesiastical rights and privileges of the people of Scotland, solemnly and firmly to assert the right of parishioners respecting church accommodation, to the full extent to which they are entitled to the same, under the established constitution of the Church of Scotland. The General Assembly do assert and maintain, as one of the undoubted rights and privileges of the church, that accommodation in parish churches cannot be made the subject of profit or income of any sort by the heritors, to whatever purpose they may be applied: and the General Assembly do distinctly assert, in vindication of the privileges of the people, that in parish churches, regularly built by heritors in country parishes, in implement of those legal obligations imposed on the possession and enjoyment of their property, the surplus area allotted to heritors, after accommodating themselves, their tenants, and others residing on their estates who have a right to accommodation in the same, is destined for the accommodation of other parishioners, and ought to be so appropriated, subject to the fair allotment and distribution to such parishioners as may be preferred by the heritors; and the General Assembly do solemnly protest against any claim or pretension of right on the part of heritors to let such surplus area, or any part of the area of the church, in such cases, or to draw any income from the same, to whatever objects the same may be applied; and do assert and maintain, that such pretension is contrary to the principles of our ecclesiastical constitution, and inconsistent with the rights and privileges of the people of Scotland, as originally intended and secured for their instruction.”

ternoon to the *operatives*, and all others who were interdicted, and would not pay rent.

In the Court of Session, the people's claim for an ample and extended enlargement of the church, sufficient for two-thirds of the parishioners, was refused, and the minister cast, with costs. Availing himself of the support of the General Assembly, and recommendation, in 1831, by their Procurator, to try the case in the House of Lords, the question was carried thither, and lost as to the enlargement of the church. But, in affirming the judgment of the Court of Session, the Chancellor threw out, incidentally, some strong *condemnatory* expressions about letting seats in landward parishes for rent, and especially the indecency and illegality of having the auction in the church. On this, and on the deliverance of the General Assembly, the minister and his interdicted flock returned to the church,—took quiet possession of its seats in the afternoon, and have continued ever since to do so, without paying, or being called upon to pay, a penny of rent.

Such are the steps, the minister and parishioners of Neilston took to get quit of such an enormous, grievous, and illegal impost: and every landward parish should imitate their example.

From 1826 to April 1833, they were in the civil courts at immense expense. The church and the nation were alive to their plea. Multitudes of parishes were in the same state of destitution as to accommodation with that of Neilston. Had we succeeded, they were all ready to claim additions. At losing our cause, not merely disappointment, but despondency, was felt and expressed. The General Assembly, at its first meeting, took up the cause. The minister received the thanks of the Assembly for his zeal, and labours, and great exertions in the cause. The Assembly ordered all his expenses in carrying on the suit before the Lord Chancellor, to be paid; and Dr Chalmers, fired with a noble patriotism and Christian zeal, took up, and is now carrying on "church extension" with a spirit and success worthy of him, and of the people of Scotland, who have answered *his* call, and are generously contributing for the erection of new churches.

The only difference betwixt Dr Chalmers' plan and Dr Fleming's lies in this. As to church accommodation, or church extension, their views are nearly the same. But not so, in the other parts. Dr Fleming's plan included and would have secured endowments, and parochial schools for the new parishes. In this, his object was not to call upon any one to put his hand in his

pocket for a penny. He pointed out as a *fund*, the *bishops' rents*, the *surplus teinds*, and the sinecure *salaries* of the chaplains and deans of the Chapel-Royal. Not the half of these sums were conceived to be necessary in order to build and endow all the churches and parochial schools which might be needed. Let these be taken and properly appropriated, and Dissenters, voluntaries, and enemies to the Church of Scotland, will have no reason to complain, as not a farthing of the funds required will come out of their *private* purse.

The manse was built in 1766. It was deemed a splendid building, with one of the finest landscapes from it, in the west of Scotland. It has been frequently repaired. In 1809, the repairs on it, which were the last, cost betwixt L. 600 and L. 700. The extent of the glebe is scarcely 8 acres, including house and garden. Its value is not more than L. 20 a-year.

The amount of stipend is 16 chalders, one-half meal and one-half barley, according to the highest *fiar* prices of the county. But the barley is paid not by the county, but by the Linlithgow boll, which reduces that half of the stipend six and a-half per cent. below the county boll, a thing which is held unwarranted and unwarrantable by the Act of Parliament, and in the doing of which the Court of Session, as the writer conceives, became legislators, and not the executors of the law. By this modifying of stipends, ministers are paid neither by the *fiars* of their county nor Linlithgow. They get the *fiars* of the one and the *measure* of the other, which, in practice, is a grievous hardship to the clergy: making a loss, in Renfrewshire, of six and a-quarter per cent. even when the *fiars* in both counties are the same; but it is still more grievous when the Linlithgow *fiars* are equal to, or higher than those in Renfrewshire. But still more:—The court, in modifying stipends according to the Linlithgow *firlot* or boll, is conceived to be setting at nought the act of Queen Anne, 1707,—called the Act of Union,—which abrogates the Linlithgow *firlot*, and every other measure for grain but the *Winchester bushel*. Its words are, chap. xvii.—“That from and after the Union, the *same* weights and measures shall be used throughout the United Kingdom as are now established in *England*,” &c.

There is only one Seceding chapel in the parish, belonging to the United Associate Synod of the Secession Church. The minister is paid from the seat-rents and collections chiefly. Salary about L. 150. There are neither Episcopalian nor Roman Ca-

tholic chapels in the parish, nor any other dissenting or sectarian meeting-houses.

The number of families, also the number of persons of all ages above twelve, attending the Established Church, the chapels of Dissenters and Seceders, Episcopalians and Catholics, with the number of their sittings, and communicants in their several churches and chapels where they attend, will be found in the following table:—

Denomination	Fam.	Indiv.	Sittings	Com.	Above 12	Prop. of Sits.
Established Church,	1226	6395	582	1638	4492	9.1 in 100.
Dissenters belonging to Associat Synod,	171	849	215	225	599	25.3 do.
All other Dissenters,	128	688	96	182	427	13.9 do.
Roman Catholics,	206	1091	168	345	762	15.4 do.
Belong to no church,	34	164			99	
	1764	9187	1061	2390	6379	11.5 in 100
Farmers, &c.	98	639	381	270	518	59.6 in 100
Tradesmen, &c.	342	1890	680	717	1249	35.9
Total having sittings,	440	2529	1061	987	1767	41.9 in 100
Total having no sittings,	1324	6658		1403	4612	
Total population,	1764	9187	1061	2390	6379	11.5 in 100

Abstract of the whole: Established, 6395; Roman Catholics, 1091; Burghers, 1032; Episcopalians, 236; Relievers, 154; Independents, 36; Methodist, 30; Reformed Presbyterians, 29; Universal, 15; Jews, 5; no church, 164; total 9187.

Religious Societies.—There are six societies for charitable and religious purposes, two of which are Sabbath-school associations; besides a number of Friendly Societies.

Such is a minute but accurate account of the ecclesiastical state of this parish, with its struggles, successes, and defeats, for free seats and ample accommodation. In the mighty exertions that are going on for church extension, they took the lead, for at least *twenty* years, and therefore hope to form one of the *gems* in that crown of glory which is preparing for Dr Chalmers.

Education.—The number of schools in this parish is 13. There is only one parochial school. All the others are private or unendowed. There is none supported by individual subscriptions. In the parochial school, are taught English, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, geography, Latin, Greek, and French. There are three others where Latin is taught with the common branches of education. Besides these, there are five schools attached to five of the public works, where the children are taught reading, writing, and

arithmetic, and there are four female schools where the common branches of education, with needle-work are taught. The number of scholars at all of these schools amounts to about 1000.

The parochial teacher has the maximum salary, but his garden ground is deficient. When the present school and school-house are finished, he will have one of the finest school-houses in the county, and double the amount of accommodation which the law allows him.

Though education is cheap, there are numbers of the young between six and fifteen years of age who cannot read or write, and not a few upwards of fifteen years of age who are in the same situation. Their number cannot be ascertained precisely, as they are often unwilling to acknowledge their ignorance. They are chiefly Irish. These persons bitterly lament their want, and, with the great body of the people, are keenly alive to the benefits of education, and anxious to have their children taught. The number of schools and scholars in the parish is the best evidence of this.

What is wanting in such a wealthy parish as this is an academy placed in a central locality between Neilston and Barrhead, Grahamston and Newton Ralston, where the higher branches of education would be taught by well qualified and approved teachers. This is a *desideratum* which the present minister has long pointed out as well worthy of attention.

Notwithstanding the prevalence of education, it must be affirmed that among the lower orders of the people, dissipation, the profanation of the Lord's day, and uncleanness, are as common as ever. The Sabbath schools have not made the youth more observant than before of the fifth commandment. Respect for superiors is seemingly laid aside; and the conduct of boys, adults and men, at the elections for a member of Parliament, has only to be witnessed, to convince any one that education has not *purified* their hearts, bettered their dispositions, humanized their feelings, or rendered their manners more courteous. Politics, faction, and party spirit, at such times, seem to take Christianity out of their hearts, if it ever was in it. Kindness is only preserved for friends; and the most rancorous and savage dispositions are cherished for enemies. Their cry is liberty; yet the liberty they take to themselves they will not allow to others. Indeed, education never has, and never will have, any real permanent effect on the mind and manners of mankind, unless it be a Christian education, which alone can bring forth the fruits of righteousness,—“Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, and good will to the children of men.”

The manners and morality of the better classes have, in general, been ameliorated, and the decencies and proprieties of life are better observed. Cursing, swearing, drinking to excess, were, thirty or forty years ago, very common in these classes. The profanation of the Lord's day was carried often to a great length,—it was a day of feasting to friends from the city. At such feasts debauchery reigned; and nothing was more common than to see the guests of some returning home drunk, singing and roaring, blaspheming, and disturbing all the neighbourhood. Now scarcely anything of all this is either seen or heard. But the evil habits they have parted with, are taken up by multitudes of the working classes, who glory in their shame, and whose vices appear still more frightful, by wanting the amenity of their superiors. We speak of the irreligious and ungodly which abound here, as in all manufacturing parishes; but, as said already, the externally decent, and apparently pious and church-going population, equal in intelligence, intellectual improvement, and moral and religious habits, any classes of the same rank found in the country.

Literature.—There are no parochial or other circulating libraries in the parish. Through the influence of the present minister one was got up, and continued for many years. It was pretty extensive, but, owing to circumstances unnecessary to be detailed, the library was sold, and the proceeds distributed amongst the subscribers. The "Levern's Mechanics' Institution" has, to a certain extent, supplied its place. It has a library, in which some of the best publications are to be found, relative to science and the arts, and especially to mechanics.

Charitable Institutions.—There are in the parish one Society for charity, and seven Friendly Societies, whose object is the relief of their members when sick, or reduced to poverty. Some of them have been in existence since 1797; others were instituted in 1799, 1805, 1806, 1819, and 1821. Hitherto, their happy tendency has been to promote industry, and excite the desire of independence, whilst they remove the humbling idea arising from parochial or eleemosynary charity.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid from the poor's fund, from February 1836 to February 1837, was 168, out of a population of 9187 souls. The gross expenditure in 1836 was L. 595, 12s. 2½d., giving upon an average nearly L. 3, 10s. 11d. to each per annum. This sum of L. 595, 12s. 2½d. was raised as follows:—By collections at

the church doors, L. 16, 15s. 8d. ; proclamation dues, L. 13, 18s. ; hearse and mortcloth hires, L. 5, 0s. 2d. ; effects of a pauper deceased, L. 41, 13s. 4½d. ; assessment, L. 518, 15s. 0½d.

There is no disposition among the poor restraining them from seeking parochial relief. Those that are born and bred in the parish, and whose relatives and friends are in comfortable circumstances, feel backward to ask relief from the funds, counting it degrading ; but the English and Irish poor have no such feeling, and often make clamorous solicitation to be put upon the roll.

Fairs.—These are in number 5. Four of them are held at Neilston ; three of them for cattle, on the third Tuesday of February, May, and October, old style ; and the fourth for horse-racing, &c. on the fourth Tuesday of July, new style. At Barrhead, there is a fifth fair held for horse-racing ; and a cattle-market on the last Friday and Saturday of June, new style.

Inns.—The inns and alehouses are in number 58, and the quantity of spirits sold in them will be the best answer to the query, “ what are their effects on the morals of the people ? ” That quantity for eleven months only was 19,403 gallons, most of which is consumed on the Saturday evenings, and on the Lord’s days ; *five hundred* gallons more, the excise officer supposes, are used, though not in his ledger, and which he is unable to detect, making in all, 19,903 gallons, at 8s. 6d. on an average ; and the amount on this average for the eleven months is L. 8458, 15s. 0½d. This expenditure proves the high wages which the people receive ; and the demoralizing effects which such a quantity of spirituous liquors must have upon their morals and habits, may easily be supposed.

Fuel.—The fuel used is coal of various descriptions,—one kind for domestic use, another for the furnaces of the public works, and a third for making gas. Some of the first is obtained at the Nitshill pits, and Paisley collieries, about the distance of three miles from some, and four or four and a-half miles from others. Most of the latter is got at Hurlet, and the other pits in the parish, and the splint or hard coal for the gas is obtained from Muirkirk, a distance of thirty miles.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The variations betwixt the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account, are as numerous as they are striking. Save its situation and extent, its hills and crags, nothing almost is the same now as in 1790. Every

thing has undergone a change. The soil has been improved and fertilized, and the climate rendered milder and more genial, by draining and drying the land, and by sheltering belts and clumps of planting. In 1790, there were only two small cotton-mills, one printfield, and two bleachfields. In 1837, there are six large cotton-mills, eight printfields, and eight bleachfields, besides a variety of other works. In 1790, the population was 2330 souls, in 1836 it was 9187. In 1790, there were only one Episcopalian, one Roman Catholic, and six Dissenters in the parish; in 1836 there were, Episcopalians, 236; Roman Catholics, 1091; Dissenters, 1296; total, 2623. In 1790, there were 429 sittings for a population of 2330 souls; in 1836, there were only 830 sittings for a population of 9187. In 1790, there were only three schools in the parish; now there are thirteen, besides five at mills, and four female schools for reading and sewing. In 1790, the schoolmaster's salary was only L. 8, 6s. 8d.; now it is about L. 36, with an excellent school-house and small garden. In 1790, there were no Justices of the Peace, save one; now there are nine, five of whom are residents. In 1790, there was no Justice of Peace Court; in 1837, there is one held the first Monday of every month, alternately at Neilston and at Barrhead. In 1790, there were annually killed from thirty to forty cows; in 1836, there were slain 380. In 1790, the killing of a lamb was a rare thing, and the flesher went round amongst the better sort, as he called them, to inquire who would take a leg of it; in 1836, there were slain in the parish 168 lambs, 778 sheep, 654 veals, and 20 swine. In 1790, the roads were scarcely passable, but in the droughts of summer, and hard frosts in winter; but now, owing to the conversion of the statute labour, the country roads are excellent. In 1790, there was only one public road through the parish to Dunlop, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, and the whole of the west country. It was exceedingly hilly and steep, in many places, and kept in bad condition. In 1837, there is a splendid turnpike road, which leads through the whole length of the parish to Irvine and the western coast. This road, which runs up the course of the Levern, and along the beautiful banks of Loch-Libo, is almost a dead level from Glasgow to Irvine. The making and alteration of this line of road from the old one, cost, it is said, the trustees about L. 18,000. There are on it and the other turnpike roads in the parish, in all, twenty-two bridges, great and small.

Another great advantage would accrue to the inhabitants of Neil-

ston and the coal-masters of the east, especially to Mr Dickson of the fire-work, were a railway to be carried from the canal at Rochil to the west of Barrhead, or Mr Cunningham's field. Such a railway would pay well, from the immense quantity of coal used at the numerous public works in this parish, and by its inhabitants.

In 1790, there were no stage coaches running from the parish to Glasgow, or Paisley, or Irvine. In 1836, there were four, viz. the Lavern Trader, the Perseverance, the Sons of Commerce, and the Union stage-coach from Irvine to Glasgow, by Loch-Libo. All these started in the morning about nine o'clock, and returned in the evening. On Thursdays, two started, one from Neilston and Barrhead, and returned in the afternoon.

Thus easy and ample means of conveyance are afforded to the east and west, and north. Still, a very great advantage would be conferred upon the manufacturers and masters of public works, if the tolls were lowered. About twenty-six carts from the public works and carriers of Barrhead and Neilston, besides others, pass four tolls a day, the rates of which are very high. In 1790, there were only about five or six publicans; in 1836, there were fifty-eight.

But the greatest of all the changes made on the parish, is in its rental,—which in 1790 was little more than L. 3000,—while now it amounts to L. 16,475, 5s. 9d. In 1790, the value of the whole land in the parish at thirty years' purchase was L. 90,000; it is now at the same rate L. 494,250.*

The improvements required here are,—that our *town* should be created a burgh of barony, with its magistrates and police, and a good, strong, and efficient jail. Next, the parish church should be enlarged, or another built at Barrhead; for how can it be expected that a man excluded from religious instruction and divine ordinances, can be a good moral man? Yet here are 9187 all excluded, save 830. Can this state of things lead men to “fear God, honour the King, and meddle not with them that are given to change?”

Excepting the flow mosses, it appears that at one time or other this parish had been all under cultivation; and by proper draining,

* We omitted above to advert to the management of *dunghills*, which is susceptible of an improvement of the highest importance. This improvement would be, to build them in the form of a hay stack, and square,—and to have a trench around them, and a well at the bottom of it, where the drippings of the cows in the byre may fall. The dung to be spread evenly on the “*midden*,” then watered with the drippings from the well; and with the straw covered from the sun and wind. Let this be done daily, and in spring the “*midden*” will cut like a piece of new cheese, and be doubly valuable.

the moss is capable of being improved. There are great facilities to this from the ready means of external communication, and the abundant command of manure, lime, and coal. But lime or manure are of no use till the mosses are drained and levelled, and cleared of bent. The lime, to the amount of eight or nine chalders per acre, will, after two or three years rest, call its productive powers into action; and, by judicious management and cropping, the improver will not only have the delightful feeling of making a new creation to spring up on his property, but of adding to his wealth, and increasing the comforts and happiness of the labouring classes.

The success of Colonel Fulton, (though there were no other example in the parish,) is animating and encouraging to the rest of the heritors, who have abundance of moss to cultivate, which is as susceptible of improvement as either Colonel Fulton's, or Mr Graham's hills of Fereneze. A word to the wise is enough. Let those who are fearful of the expense, and the doubtfulness of an ample return for their outlay, ponder well the following extract, taken from the Ayrshire Agricultural Report, drawn by that talented and skilful improver, William Aiton, Esq. late of Strathaven.

"If," says he, "the noble families of Loudon and Dumfries, and other proprietors of the soil, would pay attention to that species of improvement—bent-moss—in any degree suitable to its importance, their revenues might be greatly augmented, the industry of their tenants amply rewarded, and the food of man, from these quarters, greatly multiplied. I know no way in which so great a return can be obtained with so little advance, and so great certainty, as in the improvement of the bent-moss. When purchases of land are made, the proprietor is contented with a return of $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 per cent. of the price he has paid; but by a judicious and well-conducted improvement of bent-moss, 20, 50, and in many instances 100 per cent. per annum, may be obtained for all the money advanced on that species of improvement,—a profit so great, the satisfaction of enlarging their own estates, and increasing their rent-roll, without diminishing that of any other person; exciting industry among their tenantry; multiplying the food of man, and the resources of the nation; will, I sincerely hope, rouse all who have bent-moss on their estates, instantly to set about the reclaiming of it. It is by far the most profitable, and at the same time the most patriotic species of improvement that can be pursued."

March 1837.