

# PARISH OF EASTWOOD OR POLLOCK.

PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. GEORGE LOGAN, MINISTER.

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—EASTWOOD is the name by which this parish has been long known,—a name obviously derived from the woods that exist in it, one of which, of large extent, covering more than 200 acres, has within these twenty-five years been rooted out, and the ground converted into arable land. The parish appears likewise to have had at one time the name of Pollock. This is ascertained by many written documents, in which it is mentioned as formerly called Pollock, but then called Eastwood. The ancestors of Sir John Maxwell have for several centuries been the principal heritors of the parish; and that family has been celebrated for attachment and devotion to the Church of Scotland, in the cause of which they suffered much during the reigns of Charles II. and James VII. There can be no doubt, therefore, of its having got the name of Pollock from that of the lands of which it is chiefly composed; and by that name the family of Pollock wish the parish again to be called.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—The greatest length of this parish from north to south is 4 miles, and its greatest breadth from east to west about 3 miles; but its form is very irregular, so that its dimensions vary greatly in different parts. The medium may be 3 by 2½ miles, comprehending about 7½ square miles. It is bounded on the east by the parishes of Cathcart and Mearns; on the south by the parish of Mearns; on the west by the parish of Neilston; and on the north by the Abbey parish of Paisley and the parish of Govan; while it approaches on the north side within three miles of the city of Glasgow. On the west side, a considerable extent of land, held to be in the Abbey parish of Paisley, projects into and is almost surrounded by the parish of Eastwood. It appears from the records of the Presbytery of Paisley, 24th January 1650, that this land was annexed to Eastwood by decret of the

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Commission for Plantation of Kirks; but that decret has not hitherto taken effect in practice.

*Topographical Appearances.*—There are no mountains in the parish; but it has an undulating surface throughout, with many gentle swells or hills, and flat lands or valleys of various shapes and sizes, and in many places intersected with streams,—so that the whole has a very beautiful and picturesque appearance. At the southern extremity, where the parish joins the Mearns, there is a continued range of hills sloping to the south and north. The acclivities of the hills vary from one in ten to one in twenty: the greatest height is about 300 feet; and the least, about 30 feet above the level of the sea. The general slope is from the south-east to the north-west.

*Hydrography.*—The White Cart is the only water in the parish that can be called a river. It runs about four miles, either through the parish, or as the boundary with Cathcart and the Abbey parish of Paisley. Its source is in Eaglesham moors, and after passing through the parishes of Eaglesham, East Kilbride, Mearns, Carmunnock, Eastwood, Abbey of Paisley, and Inchinnan, it joins the river Clyde about seven miles below Glasgow. No part of it is navigable till it reaches Paisley. The bed of the river has been deepened below that town, and the navigation to the Clyde completed by a short cut or canal. There are, besides the Cart, two smaller streams, Auldhouse Burn and Brock Burn. The former issues from an extensive lake in the parish of Mearns, called the Brother Loch, and joins the river Cart at Pollockshaws. The latter rises also in the Mearns, and joins the water of Levern at the western extremity of the parish; and thence, as well as farther up the stream, the Levern is the boundary between Eastwood and the Abbey parish of Paisley, until it joins the river Cart near Cruickston Castle.—There are no springs in the parish of any note, if we except one in the glebe, which discharges about eleven imperial pints every minute. It is perennial, and seems to be affected neither by drought nor rain. There were several springs of the same kind in the neighbouring fields, but they have all been drained off into the adjoining burn.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The direction or dip of the strata, where they are lying fair, is from the north-west to the south-east. The inclination of the beds varies from one in six to one in ten. No dikes are met with; but frequent derangements of the strata occur, by slips or fissures which displace the beds less or more, and sometimes

to the extent of 100 feet, from their positions. The direction of these slips is generally from dip to rise,—although there is one very distinct instance in the parish of derangements both across and in the line of the strata, whereby a lime rock is thrown up and down, and appears and disappears in a variety of places for the space of nearly two miles along the ordinary line of dip and rise, and for about half a-mile in the opposite direction, or on the ordinary level of the metals. The rock here alluded to is known by the name of Arden lime. It appears on the surface at Davieland, near the eastern extremity of the parish, and also at the western extremity at Darnley Bridge, and Darnley Bleachfield, and at several intermediate places.

The rocks of this parish are sandstone and limestone, with numerous bands of ironstone. The first and last are found everywhere, by sinking pits; and the sandstone makes its appearance on the surface in many places.

In the barony of Eastwood, properly so called, there is a quarry of a very peculiar description. The rock is 50 feet deep, and lies in horizontal strata, the beds varying in thickness from 2 inches to 2 feet. The general dip or inclination is to the south-east. There is betwixt each bed a thin layer of what resembles fire clay; and the face of the rock has very much the appearance of a wall built by the hand of man. The stone is of excellent quality, is easily wrought, and can be cut to any size of length or breadth that may be required. It is used for all parts of house-work, but is peculiarly adapted for pavement, stair steps, and hearths, and can be wrought into cisterns of any dimensions for holding bleaching liquors, &c. It has been discovered only within these four or five years, and is considered by judges to be a great natural curiosity, and one of the finest lying fields of rock in the country. There is another valuable quarry about a quarter of a mile from the former. It is, what is technically termed, a liver rock, and the depth of it is 24 feet. It is of the finest quality, and is used for every purpose of masonry in house-building of the first description in Glasgow and the neighbourhood. It is much admired by sculptors, as well adapted for making fancy figures of any kind or size. There is a third quarry in the neighbourhood of this, in the farm of Gilmock, which is of the same quality with the latter, and for which there has been long a great demand. The number of quarriers employed in the first and second of these is thirty, with twenty labourers. They work ten

hours each day, and six days per week. The wages of the former are, 2s. 6d., and of the latter, 2s. per day.

Limestone has been wrought at Arden and Darnley, and also at Cowglen. It is still wrought at the first mentioned place, though on a limited scale, the lime being of so poor a quality as not to admit of any sand in building. But its physical character is such as that it very soon becomes almost as impenetrable as the solid stone. It is used chiefly for the rough-casting of houses. Its component parts when analyzed have been found to be, 78 per cent. lime, 13 sand, 6 iron, and 3 clay. The thickness is 9 feet 6 inches; but only 3 feet 6 inches at the bottom are burned. The other beds are considered to be of so poor a quality as to be unfit for lime, and are laid aside for roads. The lime at Cowglen resembles that at Arden, but it is not the same stratum. It is five feet thick, and consists of four distinct beds, some of which produce lime of a pure white, and others of a blue colour.

Coal is wrought in the parish at Cowglen, where there is a great number of seams of various thickness; but none exceeding 2 feet 6 inches. The whole are of good quality; and five of them have been wrought, and are still in working in pits varying from 10 to 40 fathoms in depth. The works are carried on in the usual manner, by leaving about one-fourth part of the coal in pillars for supporting the superincumbent strata.

*Soil.*—The soil is various. On the south side and the higher grounds, it is generally a thin earth, with what is called a till bottom,—till being a mixture of stone and heavy clay, hard and retentive of moisture. But there are likewise on the banks of the Cart, and the burns or rivulets, various holms of considerable extent, and very fertile.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

So far as consists with the knowledge of the writer, there is no ancient or modern history of the parish printed or in manuscript; and, though the different proprietors have no doubt plans of their several estates, there are no general maps, plans, or surveys of the parish.

In the possession of the family of Polloc, there are several original papers of considerable antiquity, which deserve attention. Among the chief of these are the following:—A precept from the Lords of Council of King James V. to meet his Queen when she came first to Scotland, dated 1527; a letter from the Regent-Queen

Mary, 1559; a letter from Lord Morton, and others, anent the murder of the King, 1567; a letter from Queen Mary before the battle of Langside; a letter from King James VI. for a hackney to the Queen, 1590; another for provision to the Prince's baptism, 1594; and the original, with the subscriptions, of the first Solemn League, signed by the King and Council, 1587. The letter from King James for provision for the Prince's baptism is a great curiosity, and deserves to be made public, as affording a singular picture of the times. The original of the Solemn League is written with great distinctness and beauty, in a character resembling Italic print, and can be read with as great facility as the most modern writings.

There have been in this parish since the Revolution seven ministers, including the present incumbent. It is singular that two of these, viz. Messrs Crawford and Wodrow, have written histories of the Church of Scotland. The latter was born in Glasgow about the year 1680, and died in 1734.

*Eminent Men.*—Mr Wodrow was a man not only of great worth and usefulness as a minister, but of extraordinary industry and application to researches connected with the antiquities of Scotland. He wrote a great deal, and employed himself, particularly during the last years of his life, in writing the lives of the principal learned men of Scotland who lived previous to the restoration of the Stewarts. Some of his manuscripts are preserved in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates; some, in the repositories of the Church; and some are still in the hands of his descendants. His great work is the History of the Church during the period of the Persecution. It commences with the Restoration and ends with the glorious Revolution, and the accession of William and Mary to the throne of these realms. For many years it lay in a great measure neglected; but Mr Fox having given a high character of it in his history, it was brought into public notice. All the copies were quickly bought up, and a new and elegant edition, in four volumes octavo, has been edited by Dr Burns of Paisley.

Mr Crawford's church history has never been published, but the manuscript is among the records of the church. It consists of two volumes folio, and contains upwards of 1400 pages. It commences with the introduction of Christianity into Scotland, and ends at the year 1680.

Walter Stewart of Pardovan, Esq., the well known author of

the Collections, died while on a visit at the House of Pollok, and was interred in the aisle appropriated to the Pollock family.\*

*Land-owners.*—Sir John Maxwell, Bart. of Pollock; and David Machaffie, Esq. are the chief land-owners.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest date of the parochial register of births is 1687; but it is defective,—as few Dissenters are inclined to register. The earliest date of the register of proclamation of marriages is December 1693; but this is likewise defective, as the parties frequently neglect to return and get the marriage registered.

### III.—POPULATION.

We have no means of exactly ascertaining the ancient state of the population of the parish; but it would appear, that towards the commencement of the last century the population was very small, perhaps not more than a sixth of what it now is. The burgh of Pollokshaws was then a small village; and Thornliebank, which now contains upwards of 1300 inhabitants, had then no existence. The causes of the great increase of the population to its present amount, 6854, were the establishment of several large public works in the parish, and the improvements in trade, manufactures, &c. The amount of the population residing in Pollokshaws is 4627,—of which 2169 are males, and 2458 females. In Thornliebank the population is 1366, of which 700 are males, and 666 females. In the country part, there are 861, of whom 414 are males, and 447 females.

The proprietors of land of the yearly value of £. 50 and upwards are, besides Sir John Maxwell and Mr Machaffie, already mentioned,—the Earl of Glasgow; Neil Thompson, Esq. Camphill; John Maxwell, Esq. M. P., younger of Pollock; Dugald Baanatyne, Esq. Postmaster, Glasgow; Messrs Crum, Thornliebank; ——— Martin,

\* A marble monument, erected to his memory, bears the following inscription:—  
 " Within this aisle lies Walter Stewart of Pardovan, son of Walter Stewart of Pardovan, and grandson to Sir Archibald Stewart of Blackhall, a gentleman well skilled in most parts of useful learning, and in the constitution of his country, and eminent for his unbiassed zeal for its ancient rights and real interests, which he shewed by his very early appearance for the Protestant religion, in accompanying King William from Holland at the glorious Revolution 1688, and afterwards by his services in our Scotch Parliament, where he for many years represented the burgh of Lindsithgow, — of such distinguished piety and zeal for our holy religion, that he mortified 30,000 merks to the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge. He died March 8th 1719, aged 52 years, at the seat of his affectionate kinsman, Sir John Maxwell of Pollok, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, and is interred in the burial place of that honourable family, which, by the permission of the honourable proprietors, is likewise destined for the burial-place of his dear spouse, Katharine Cornwall, daughter of James Cornwall of Bonhard, who has erected this monument to the memory of her dearly beloved husband."

Esq. writer, Paisley; Dr Macarthur, Glasgow. They are all non-resident, with the exception of Sir J. Maxwell and Messrs Crum.

There are in the parish 1 fatuous, 4 blind, and 4 deaf and dumb persons.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The whole parish, excepting what is built upon, or occupied with wood, consists of arable land. There are neither waste lands nor common; and the total number of acres, standard imperial measure, is about 5000. The number of acres under natural or copse-wood is 250, and there are about 100 acres under planted timber. The trees generally planted are, oak, ash, elm, sycamore, beech, larch, Scotch fir, silver fir, and spruce.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of land is about L. 2 per imperial acre. The average rent of grazing is L. 4 per ox or cow. There are no sheep farms in the parish.

*Rate of Wages.*—The wages of day-labourers are from 10s. to 12s. per week. Those of farm-servants are from L. 8 to L. 10 for the half year, with bed, board, and washing. Their food consists principally of preparations of oatmeal and milk, morning and evening, and of broth and beef to dinner; and the custom still generally prevails of the servants sitting at the same table with their masters.

*Live-Stock.*—The cattle in the parish are chiefly of the Cunningham or Ayrshire breed. Considerable attention has been paid of late to its improvement. Still, however, the breeding of cattle is considered but a matter of secondary importance; and, owing both to this circumstance, and to the inferiority of the pasture lands, the cattle are not equal to those reared in some of the neighbouring parishes, particularly those in the west.

*Husbandry.*—The general mode of farming pursued in the parish is by a rotation of crops. Each farm may be pretty accurately described as divided into five parts. One part, after lying in pasture for the period of one season only, is ploughed up and sown with oats. The succeeding year, it is planted with potatoes. The year following, it is sown with wheat, and laid down with grass seeds for a crop of hay.

The farm buildings are of one story in height,—and all, with one or two exceptions, slated,—affording every accommodation which the tenants require. The enclosures contain from five to twenty acres.

The principal improvements that have recently been introduced

are furrow drains. Clauses, as to the mode of management, are seldom inserted in the leases, and are held to be useless, when a proper selection of tenants is made. Indeed, by far the greater part of the parish is held by the tenants, under verbal bargains, for the term of years noted in the proprietor's rental book, or by a memorandum of the agreement. The general duration of leases is ten years, and few of the farms much exceed 100 acres.

The average produce of wheat per acre may be taken at	9 bolls.
oats, do.	8
cultivated hay, do.	200 stones.
potatoes, do.	30 bolls.

There are few or no cabbages or beet raised in the parish for the purpose of feeding cattle. Each farmer cultivates as many turnips as may be sufficient for consumption on his own lands. They are seldom raised for the market.

The quantity of land in the parish under grass may be reckoned at about one-half. This, it must be observed, includes, not only the lands in pasture connected with the various farms, but several large districts of pasture land which Sir John Maxwell retains in his own hand.

The gross amount of coals wrought in the parish may be valued at L. 3500; and of lime at L. 400.

*Manufactures.*—The several branches of manufacture carried on in the parish are cotton-spinning, weaving, bleaching, calico-printing, &c. In the Pollockshaws cotton-work, there are employed in power-loom weaving, 265 persons; in cotton-spinning, 194; total, 459. There are employed in Auldhouse-field in bleaching and finishing, 190; mechanics and labourers, 20; total, 210. In Thornliebank, there are employed in calico-printing, 344; bleaching and finishing, 186; cotton-spinning, 151; power-loom-weaving, 121; hand-loom-weaving 45; total, 847.—At Greenbank, Pollockshaws, there is a considerable dye-work, but I cannot specify exactly the number there employed. There are, besides, in Pollockshaws, several hundred hand-loom weavers employed by the manufacturers of Glasgow and Paisley. These have generally been considered as excelling in that department.

In the manufactories, men, women, and children, work usually twelve hours each day, with the exception of Saturday, when they are engaged only nine hours; and the wages are considered as affording fair remuneration and means of support to the operatives. With respect to their effects on health and morals, a master of one of these public works writes thus, "From all I can learn, the health

and morals of persons employed in well-conducted manufacturing establishments are greatly superior to what they are in other districts of the country. The regular and abundant food, and comparatively comfortable lodging, more than compensate for the less frequent exposure to the open air, and the greater duration of labour; and the means we possess of knowing and checking open vice, have, I believe, a powerful effect in suppressing it." The observation of Dr Macgill, in the former Statistical Account, seems just, "The people of this parish are in general more healthy than those usually are who follow such occupations. This may be owing in part to the fresh currents of air which blow frequently with considerable strength betwixt the surrounding heights, and very much to the tradesman mingling sometimes with his sedentary employment the exhilarating exercises of the garden and the field."

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Pollockshaws is the only town in the parish. It was erected in the year 1814 into a burgh of barony by a charter from the Crown, and has a provost, bailie, and six councillors, with a town-clerk and fiscal. All persons who rent a house of L. 4 and upwards have a right to vote in the election of the magistrates and council. It has no proper market day; but provisions of all kinds may be readily at any time procured. A post-office was some years ago established, which has daily communication with the post-office at Glasgow. The village of Thornliebank is situated a mile to the south-west of Pollockshaws,—the whole of which, with the exception of two or three small houses, belongs to Messrs Crum, and is almost wholly occupied by persons in their employment. The length of the several turnpike roads which pass through the parish is about four miles; and there are stage-coaches which travel daily upon them. The roads are oppressed with toll-dues so much, that in going from the south-west of Pollockshaws to Glasgow, a distance of only three miles, a single horse-gig pays 1s. 4d. We have no canals or railways in the parish. The bridges and fences are generally kept in good repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situated upon the slope of a hill, at the south-west end of Pollockshaws. It is very conveniently situate for the inhabitants of Pollockshaws and Thornliebank, who compose by far the greatest part of the population. Its distance from the most remote part of the parish does not much exceed three miles. The old church, which stood about half a mile to the west, was taken down, and the new one built in 1781: it is

still in a tolerable state of repair. Though, at the time when it was built, it was reckoned one of the neatest churches in the district,—it is far from possessing the elegance of many churches of more recent erection. It affords accommodation only for about 750 persons, so that it is by no means sufficient for the population of the parish. There are no free sittings. Sir John Maxwell, having more seats than are required for the accommodation of his tenantry, lets a few seats annually to such of the parishioners as are not otherwise accommodated.—The manse was rebuilt in 1791 nearly upon the old site, and has undergone from time to time various repairs. Though not equal to some of the new manses, it is still a commodious house, and very pleasantly situated.—The glebe, including the ground occupied by the manse, offices, plantings, roads, and garden, contains about six acres. There are not, however, more than five arable acres; and it cannot be valued above L. 2 per acre. There is no land allotted for pasture: the minister receives in lieu of it only L. 20 Scots. The stipend which, at the date of the former Statistical Account, was 5 chalders of meal, 1 chaldar of bear, and 400 merks of money, including communion elements, has been since augmented three times. The last augmentation was given in 1824; and its amount now is 8 chalders meal, 8 chalders barley, and L. 15 for communion elements.

There are no Chapels of Ease connected with the Established Church. There are two Seceding chapels or churches, furnishing sittings for about 700 each, or 750,—one of which belongs to the United Associate Synod,—and the other is connected with the Synod of Original Seceders. The stipend of the minister of the latter is L. 125, with a manse, garden, and cow's grass, which may be valued at L. 20. The stipend of the minister of the former is L. 130, without either manse or garden. These stipends are raised from the seat rents and collections. We have no Episcopal or Catholic chapels. The Catholics, of whom it is said there are about 700 in the parish, when they attend public worship, go to Glasgow. The parish church and the two Seceding meeting-houses could accommodate only 2200; but, excepting upon sacramental occasions, they are seldom completely filled. The neglect of public worship is a growing evil; and the public works have attracted and brought into the parish a great number of strangers, who are very irregular in attending upon the ordinances of religion. The ordinance of the Lord's supper is dispensed twice a year simultaneously in all the three places of worship. The average

number of communicants in the parish church is only about 360. Many of the rising generation never apply for admission to the Lord's table. The number of families professing to belong to the Established Church is 367; to the Original Burghers, 309; to the United Associate Synod, or New Light Burghers, 219; Roman Catholic families, 124. 162 families acknowledge that they attend no place of worship, and belong to no denomination: and many more are supposed to be in the same predicament who do not own it.

We have no Societies at present in the parish for religious purposes. A Bible, Missionary, and Educational Society has been once and again attempted, and for some time carried on; but it gradually fell off, till at last it has totally disappeared. The parish has been assessed for the support of the poor for a number of years past; and ever since, our church collections have been greatly diminished, and perhaps do not average much above 7s. or 8s. per day.

The minister has a class of young persons who attend him weekly for the purpose of receiving instruction in the principles of religion; and a Fellowship-Meeting, consisting of a considerable number of the rising generation, has lately been formed, which promises a revival of religion among the young.

*Education.*—There are five schools in the parish, in each of which there is only one teacher. The parochial teacher has the maximum salary, and the legal accommodations, of school-room, dwelling-house, and garden. The branches of education usually taught are, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, English grammar, Latin, and occasionally algebra and practical mathematics. The general expense of education per quarter is 2s. for reading; reading and writing, 3s. 6d.; Latin, &c. 5s. The greatest number attending the parish school is 51 males, and 59 females. The probable amount of fees paid to the schoolmaster is £. 36 per annum. The same branches of education are generally taught in the other schools; and the greatest number of males attending is 363, and females 246; in these numbers is included a great proportion of evening scholars, who are connected with the public works, and therefore cannot attend any day-school. The fees are the same as those of the parochial school. It is not easy to state exactly the number of the young between six and fifteen years of age who cannot read or write; but there is reason to fear that it is considerable. There are but too many who seem not alive

to the benefits of education, but there are others, whose poverty only prevents them from giving their children that education which they would wish. A number of the children of the poor are educated at the expense of the parish. Of the other teachers three pay rent for their respective school-rooms. The teacher at Thornliebank has a large and commodious school-room from the proprietors of the public works, together with a comfortable dwelling-house; but he is otherwise wholly dependent upon school fees. There are, besides, in the parish, three Sabbath schools, attended by about 600 males and females; but of these it is believed a considerable proportion attend either day or evening schools through the week. The expense incurred by these is defrayed by occasional collections.

*Literature.*—We have no parochial or circulating libraries at present in the parish. A public reading-room was sometime ago opened in Pollockshaws, but not meeting with sufficient encouragement, it has been discontinued.

*Friendly Societies.*—There are the following friendly societies: 1. The Old Society of Weavers, instituted 1749. The number of members is about 200; contribution, 4s. per annum; bedfast aliment, 3s. per week; and walking aliment, 2s. 1d. To superannuated members, or such as are past working, bedfast aliment 2s. 1d.; walking aliment, 1s. 3d.

2. Ayr and Renfrewshire Friendly Society of Weavers, instituted 1799; members about 200; rate of contribution and aliment the same as in the old society. The average annual expenditure about L. 30.

3. Young Society of Weavers, instituted 1774; rate of contribution and aliment nearly the same as above.

4. Funeral Friendly Society, instituted 1827; rate of contribution, a man with a family, 4s., a single man, 2s. L. 2 are given to defray the funeral charges of a member. The number of members is about 100.

5. Gardeners' Friendly Society, instituted 1830; rate of contribution, 6s. per annum; members, 44; bedfast aliment, 5s. per week; walking aliment, 3s. per week.

6. Cowglen Friendly Society, instituted 1809; 67 members; contributions 5s. per annum; bedfast aliment, 6s. per week; walking aliment, 4s.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of regular paupers upon the roll is 81; and average allowance to each per

year L. 2, 16s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.—exclusive of articles of clothing, which are allowed when necessary. Small sums are sometimes also given for the relief of occasional distress.

The funds for the poor are derived from an assessment imposed annually, (one-half on the heritors, and the other on the rest of the inhabitants, according to their means and circumstances,) and amounting for the current year to L. 335; rent of a small house left to the parish, and church collections, L. 24; total, L. 359.

A disposition to refrain from seeking parochial relief does exist to a considerable degree. Of this, the existence of so many Friendly Societies seems an evident proof. There are, however, many persons who think themselves not at all degraded by application for relief to the parish funds.

*Prison.*—The jail of Pollockshaws, although authorized legally as such, is not fit for the accommodation of prisoners, and is used only as a temporary lock-up-place, where offenders are confined for a few hours, or until they can be transmitted to the county prison.

*Fair.*—We have no fairs,—unless the last Friday of May may be so called, which is observed as a holiday, and when there is a trifling horse-race, which has no other tendency than to assemble a number of idle people, and promote the sale of whisky.

*Inns, Alehouses, &c.*—There are 56 licensed alehouses or whisky shops in the parish. Their number has been greatly increased within these twenty years. They have a very injurious effect upon the morals of the people, and are known from actual observation to be productive of great misery and much crime. Their number, I am informed, is much greater in proportion to the population than in any other part of the county; and the number of cases of assault and other minor offences, arising generally from intoxication, seems nearly in the same proportion.

*Fuel.*—Coal may be said to be the only fuel. Of this there is abundance in the parish and neighbourhood; and the price varies from 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. per cart, 12 cwt.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

There is a striking difference betwixt the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time of the former Statistical Account, in respect of population,—the number of inhabitants since that time being greatly more than doubled. At that time, also, a considerable part of the land was, in a manner, waste,—being covered with heath and bent; whereas now there is hardly an acre of

unproductive land in the parish. Draining, which then was little, if at all, practised, is going forward with great spirit, and will without doubt tend much to improve the quality of the soil, and promote its fertility. It does not appear to the writer that any better system of husbandry can be introduced, or the facilities of internal communication increased,—there being already excellent roads leading to and through every part of the parish. Could ardent spirits be altogether banished, or their consumption diminished tenfold, and those engaged in the public works led more generally to sanctify the Sabbath and attend upon public worship, these things would tend greatly to promote the best interests of the working-classes. It is likewise evident that there is much need for church extension,—the present accommodation being by no means adequate to the population.

January 1836.

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**UNITED PARISHES OF  
HOUSTON AND KILLALLAN.**

PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. JOHN MONTEATH, D. D. MINISTER.

**I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.**

The parishes of Houston and Killallan were united in the year 1760.

*Names.*—Killallan is a corruption of Killfillan, *i. e.* Cella Fillani, the name of the tutelary saint of the parish. *Houston* may be supposed to be a corruption of Hew's town, perhaps from Hugo de Padvian, who is said, by Mr Crawford, in his History of Renfrewshire, to have obtained a grant of the barony of Kelpeter, the ancient name of Houston parish, from Baldwin of Biggar, Sheriff of Lanark in the reign of Malcolm IV.

*Boundaries, extent.*—The united parish is bounded on the west by Kilmacollm; on the south by Kilbarchan; on the north and east by the parish of Erskine, which separates it from the Clyde. It is about 6 miles in length and 3 in breadth.

*Hydrography.*—The only considerable river is Gryfe, which