

PARISH OF KILMARTIN.

PRESBYTERY OF INVERARY, SYNOD OF ARGYLE.

THE REV. DONALD MACCALMAN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name of this parish is derived from Kill, which, in the Gaelic language, signifies a *burial-place*, and Martin, or St Martin, the patron saint to whom it was dedicated.

This parish is situated about the centre of the district of Argyre proper, and is nearly co-extensive with the ancient barony of *Ariskeodnish*,—a name signifying a *shealing and sheltered valley with good pasture*. The river which flows through the valley of Kilmartin, is still named the river of Skeodnish.

In a direct line, Kilmartin is about 18 miles south-west of Inverary. The high road from Lochgilphead to Oban passes through the parish. It is 8 miles north-north-west of the former, and 29 south of the latter place.

Extent and Boundaries, &c.—The form of the parish is oblong, extending in length, from north-east to south-west, about 12 miles, and in breadth, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It is bounded on the south-west by Loch Crinan, the northern entrance into the Crinan Canal; on the north-west, by Loch Craignish and the parish of

Craignish; on the north-east, by the parish of Dalavich; and on the south-east, by Lochawe and the parish of Glassary.

Topographical Appearances.—The upper or north-east end of the parish stretches, for about five miles, along the north bank of Lochawe, and is much diversified by hill and dale. The land rises abruptly from the margin of the lake to the elevation of about 1000 feet, and the descent is equally steep on the other side, where it marches with the parish of Craignish. Along the base of this range of hills, there is a thriving belt of copsewood, consisting of oak, ash, birch, hazel, &c., which, together with the projecting headlands, and rich verdure reaching to the very summit, presents to the eye of the spectator a strikingly bold and beautiful outline, particularly in sailing along Lochawe. The same continuous ridge of hills—bounded by Craignish and Loch Craignish on the one side, and by the valley of Kilmartin on the other—extends westward about seven miles, until it terminates at Duntroon, near the entrance to Loch Crinan.

Most of the higher eminences in this parish command remarkably beautiful and extensive views, particularly *Craiginterave*, or the Bull rock, about a mile west of the Ford of Lochawe—*Benvan*, adjoining the hill of Kilmartin, which is 1200 feet above the level of the sea, commanding a view of Ben Cruachan, Benloi, hills of Glencrow, Cowall, the coasts of Ayr and Kintyre, and the Island of Arran—the Cairn of *Duchara*, on the property of Mr Campbell of Glenmore, which commands a view of the whole western coast, for about sixty miles. But undoubtedly the finest prospect which this district affords, is from the hill above Poltalloch, the ancient seat of the Malcolms of Poltalloch, on the south-eastern shore of Loch Craignish. The view from this point extends from the Island of Islay to the mountains of Mull, Morven, Kingarloch, and Appin. But it is not so much its extent, as the variety and picturesque forms of the objects seen within it, and especially the very happy manner in which they are grouped and placed before the eye, that constitutes the great charm of this splendid panorama. The coast is singularly indented with long peninsular ridges, and islands running in the same north-easterly direction; thus forming a succession of narrow inlets that give a peculiarly picturesque character to the scenery. One of the most remarkable of these, Loch Craignish, lies in all its length, immediately beneath the spectator. Its southern shore is steep and rocky, and for several miles is clothed with luxuriant woods, interspersed with full-grown trees,

and rocky cones, crowding upon each other, and presenting an endless variety of forms. The opposite coast being flatter, exhibits here and there smiling corn fields; and is terminated by the plantations that enclose Craignish Castle, the seat of Mr Campbell of Jura. Parallel with the shores of Loch Craignish, lie several islands, the two principal of which, *Island Rìgh* and *Island Macasken*, both belonging to this parish, are pleasantly diversified with broken knolls and scattered woods, divided by little dells of the richest verdure. Numerous other islands and islet rocks, with creeks between, gleaming in the sun, occupy the centre of the picture; beyond which, in front of the spectator, rises the huge rounded mass of Scarba, separated from the sister island of Jura, by the far-famed gulf or whirlpool of *Coryvreckan*. From this place, too, may be seen, along the extended line of coast, every variety of sea craft, from the stately ship under a cloud of canvass, to the slender skiff, floating like a sea-gull on the surface of the ocean,—each pursuing its devious course, or safely moored in some sheltered bay, as wind and tide, or the will of the mariners, may determine.

Indeed it is hardly possible to fancy a spot more suited to awaken the associations so forcibly expressed by the bard of Hope, who is said to have spent some of his early years in this immediate neighbourhood.—

“ But who is he a dearer land
Remembers, over the hills and far away?
Green Albin, what though he no more survey
Thy ships at anchor on the quiet bay,
Thy *Pellocks** rolling from the mountain bay,
Thy lone sepulchral cairn upon the moor,
And distant isles that hear the loud *Coryvreckan* roar.”
Gertrude of Wyoming, V.

Far to seaward, the low islands of Colonsay and Oransay appear across the gulf, and the view is closed to the left by the lofty and picturesque cones, named the Paps of Jura. To the right, a large portion of the Mull is seen, rising behind a multitude of smaller islands, such as Lunga, Shuna, Luing, Seil, Easdale, Garvallah, and Elachanove. Its very noble and well-shaped mountains form, perhaps, the most striking feature in the scene; and the bold promontory with which its southern coast abruptly terminates, the Ross of Mull, is particularly striking. In the extreme distance to the north, a few blue summits mark the mountains of Morven, Appin and Glencreran.

* The Gaelic appellation for the porpoises.

Such is a meagre detail of the principal objects seen from above Poltalloch ; but it is scarcely possible to convey an adequate idea of the picturesque forms,—the happy combinations and contrasts,—the beautiful play of tints and colours, which this view presents. The atmospheric changes, and the consequent variety of lights and shades over so vast a picture in so changeable a climate, invests it with a new charm, each time it is enjoyed. But at no time, perhaps, does it look more magnificent than in the depth of winter, when the mountains of Mull are covered far down their sides with a dazzlingly brilliant mantle of snow, giving to them an almost Alpine appearance.

Were this view better known, or if it lay more in the usual track of tourists, there can be little doubt it would be classed among the finest panoramas of its kind, that our Scottish Highlands can boast.

The valley of Kilmartin may be traced from Loch Ederline, about a mile from the west end of Lochawe. For the space of three miles westward to the village of Kilmartin, it is confined within a very narrow space, by two side long ranges of hills, rising in some places almost perpendicular from the base ; and, notwithstanding of several windings, maintaining their relative distance and elevation with singular exactness. At Kilmartin, it gradually widens into a level plain of from 5000 to 6000 acres, including the moss of Crinan, a considerable part of which lies in the adjoining parish of Glassary.

The rising ground on both sides of the valley of Kilmartin is tastefully ornamented with thriving plantations intermixed with open glades and green knolls, giving to the whole the appearance as well as the reality of a clothed and cultivated country.

Geology.—The district in which the parish of Kilmartin is situated, belongs geologically to the mica slate formation, and has been usually classed, (according to Dr M'Culloch,) in that division of this extensive and intricate group of rocks, which is named chlorite slate. Chlorite slate is found in considerable abundance ; but associating and alternating with it are a number of rocks of very different texture and hardness, from the softest argillaceous shale to the hardest hornblende slate. Occasionally, mica slate occurs ; but much more frequently the rock has a granular silicious character, and sometimes becomes purely quartzose. In short, the rocks, even within the confined district of this parish, offer examples of most of the varieties common to the mica slate

family, while no order of succession, calculated to throw light on this obscure class of rocks, is apparent. The hard hornblende slate, where found, is easily split into large slabs for building, &c. and no doubt roofing slate might be obtained from the chlorite slate; indeed a similar rock has lately been quarried with success on the banks of the Crinan Canal, just beyond the limits of the parish. As usual in the mica slate formation, limited beds of crystalline limestone are met with in many parts, interstratified somewhat irregularly, within the slaty beds. They afford no trace of organic remains, but frequently seem to bear evidence of igneous action. The rock has sometimes quite a calcined appearance, and fragments of the limestone are often observed lying some distance within the adjoining schist, as also fragments of the slate within the limestone. These calcareous beds occasionally contain more or less silex, but the purer varieties are extensively burned for building and agricultural purposes.

The strata within this district are highly inclined, seldom less than at an angle of 45° , much more frequently nearly vertical, as may be seen along the road near Kilmartin, also on the western shores of Lochawe and elsewhere. The *dip* is generally to the south-east; the *strike*, with little variation, is north-east and south-west, or east-north-east and west-south-west. It may be concluded that this elevation of the strata is due to the action of the trap, which shows itself in many parts of the parish, as well as of the adjoining district. This intrusive rock sometimes appears in the form of vertical dikes twelve or fourteen feet in width, running often at nearly right angles to the strike of the sedimentary beds; at other times, it is found in roundish irregular masses, and not unfrequently is split in horizontal fractures, displaying an imperfectly columnar structure. Whenever the neighbouring rock can be observed, it is almost always found to be much indurated near the trap, while occasionally the traces of stratification are so entirely obliterated, as to require a well-practised eye to decide whether it belongs to hornblende slate, for instance, or basalt. In conclusion, it may be observed, that the rocks in this parish present most of the varieties and phenomena common to the mica slate series elsewhere, while the area is too small to afford much opportunity of elucidating any of the difficulties that confessedly attach to this little known formation, which still requires the attentive study of our best geologists. These rocks, though apparently so hard, seem to decompose readily by the action of the

atmosphere, in consequence, probably, of the oxidation of the iron they so abundantly contain. The result is, that even the highest hills are covered with a deep rich friable soil, affording fine herbage for the cattle and sheep, for which this district is so celebrated. Iron is not only found disseminated through the rocks, but occasionally also in the condition of a rich dark red ore, though not in sufficient quantities to authorize its being worked. The only mine within the parish that is known to have been opened, is one of copper, on the side of a hill, about a mile above Poltalloch. No very certain account of it can be obtained, but it is believed to have been discontinued about a century ago. Several of the shafts, adits, &c. still remain open, and from an examination lately made, it appears that the miners followed a vein of remarkably rich ore, (judging from the specimens picked up on the spot,) until it worked out at no great distance from the surface. Several thread-like veins of copper may still be traced along the walls of the passages, but they are too trifling to encourage the proprietor to incur the certain expense of ascertaining whether they may possibly lead to beds of more productive ore.

There remain two comparatively modern deposits of too considerable interest to be passed over without notice; although one of them (the peat-moss of Crinan) lies partly in the adjoining parish of Kilmichael-Glassary. It is computed to extend over 5000 acres, of which 3000 are in the parish of Kilmartin. This extensive peat-moss has been, for many years, under a course of drainage by its proprietor,—Mr Malcolm of Poltalloch,—so that its depth and composition are pretty well ascertained. It may be reckoned from 2 to 17 feet deep; average about 5 feet. A considerable part of it consists of what is called *flow moss*, and has sunk, by draining, from 3 to 8 feet. Large roots of trees, principally oak, alder, birch, and hazel, are not unfrequently found several feet beneath the surface. Below this mass of vegetable matter is found a bed of usually fine gravel, from 2 feet to 2½ feet in depth; beneath which is a blue tenacious clay, the depth of which has never been ascertained. This clay abounds in beds of large muscles, cockles, &c., which seem to attest the former presence of the sea; and leave little room for doubt that the salt water must have once extended over this wide flat as far at least as Kilmartin, and the entrance of the valley of Kilmichael-Glassary.

The other comparatively modern deposit, before alluded to, is a very remarkable succession of broad and elevated terraces, com-

posed of rounded stones and gravel, and presenting a nearly uniform level, which occupy the upper part of the valley of Kilmartin on both sides, but principally on the western. The village of Kilmartin itself is built on one of them. They may be traced for about seven or eight miles from the Castle of Carnassary down towards the Bay of Crinan; and, though they have here and there been partially washed away by lateral streams from the hills, they exhibit such general proofs of continuity, and uniformity of level, as force the conviction, that they owe their origin and form to the action of a large body of water.

The average height of these singular terraces may be estimated at from 50 to 60 feet above the present level of the valley, towards which they dip at an angle varying from 30 to 45 degrees, with as much regularity almost as if dressed by art. The widest of them, in front of Lergie House, measures about 300 yards, at right angles to the valley. Wherever they have been examined, they are found to be entirely composed of rounded stones and gravel, mixed with a little soil. Many of the boulders are of very considerable size and great hardness; but all are so completely rounded, as to prove they must have been subject to the long-continued action of water. The greater number of them perhaps are identical with the rocks of the neighbouring valley; but others must evidently have been transported from a distance, especially some large blocks of a red syenitic porphyry, which would appear to have come most probably from the neighbourhood of Bencruachan.

An examination of that part of the valley which extends from the ford at the west end of Lochawe to the village of Kilmartin affords very strong evidence, that this fine body of water formerly emptied itself by this passage into the Bay of Crinan. The bed and embankments of a large river may yet be traced in all its windings for several miles; and it is worthy of remark, that, in three different places, where a mass of rock obstructed the direct course of the current, a circuitous course has been scooped out for its passage in the opposite bank; while, on the other hand, the lateral gorge at the foot of Bencruachan, by which Lochawe now discharges its waters into Loch Etive, bears as evident marks of its having been violently disrupted by some subsequent convulsion of nature. No other considerable Scottish lake empties itself by a lateral channel so near its head or principal feeder; whereas, the alteration of a very few feet of level would even now cause Loch-

awe again to escape by its natural channel at the south-western end, after the manner of all other similar bodies of water. The terraces, therefore, above spoken of may surely, with great probability, be attributed to the agency of this lake, during the far-distant period when it passed through this valley into the sea, bringing along with it, and rounding in its course, fragments of the rocks found along its upper shores. The only other solution seems to be, either that these terraces are *raised sea beaches*, which their height above the present sea level and the absence of marine shells seems to refute; or that they may be attributed to the agency of primeval glaciers, which, it is supposed, even the most zealous advocates of that now fashionable theory would hardly assert, were they to examine the condition in which they are found on the spot.

Zoology.—Black game, grouse, partridges, snipes, and woodcocks (in their season) are abundant in the parish. Pheasants have lately been introduced, and are now becoming very numerous. Water-rails, Scotch duck, widgeon, teal, and other ducks, together with a variety of divers, and other sea-fowl, are plentiful along the coast and in Lochawe. Wild geese and swans occasionally visit the coast, during severe winter weather. The landrail is common in summer and harvest. Roes and hares are very plentiful, and have abundance of cover in the plantations. Foxes were formerly very numerous; but, of late, their number has been very much diminished by trapping. Otters and seals are occasionally found along the coast. Badgers, wild cats, martens, polecats, and weasels are sometimes to be met with; but not so frequently as formerly. Rats, mice, and moles are very numerous. Adders and lizards are rarely seen. In the Bay of Crinan and Loch Craignish, herrings are taken both with nets and the fishing-rod, as also all the other kinds of fish common to the west coast. There is a very valuable salmon fishing at Crinan; and the river of Add, which flows into Loch Crinan, affords excellent angling for salmon and trout. In Loch Ederline, char is very plentiful. Lochawe is celebrated for salmon and trout fishing. Oysters, mussels, and crabs, are found in Loch Craignish; but they are now rather scarce. Fresh-water mussels, containing pearls of great value, have also been found in Loch Ederline.

Botany.—Few or no rare plants are found in the parish. The woods and plantations in the parish cover a space of 1189 acres, and consist principally of ash, oak, birch, alder, hazel, Scotch fir,

larch, silver fir, elm, poplar, beech, plane, lime, and holly. The whole is in a very thriving state.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The early history of this parish, like that of many of our Highland districts, is derived in a great measure from fragments of legendary tales, and a few scattered documents, more or less relating to the parish, which tend to illustrate the ancient character and condition of the people. The old proprietors of the parish were the Campbells of Duntroon, the Campbells of Rassly, the Campbells of Kilmartin, the Malcolms of Poltalloch, the Mac-lachans of Craiginterave, the Campbells of Eleanree, the Campbells of Ormaig, the Campbells of Auchanellan, the Campbells of Barbreck, and the Campbells of Inverliver. With three exceptions, (Malcolm of Poltalloch, Maclachlan of Craiginterave, and Campbell of Auchanellan,) all these properties have passed from their original owners,—and very few of their descendants are now to be found in the land of their fathers.

Bishop Carswell, one of the superintendent bishops appointed after the Reformation from Popery, and whose name is associated with the well-known controversy regarding the authenticity of the poems of Ossian, resided at Carnassary Castle, (now in ruins,) which stands on an eminence at the head of the valley of Kilmartin, anciently called Strathmore.* It is said that he was a native of Argyleshire, and educated at the College of St Andrews about the year 1548; that he first obtained a presentation to the Bishoprick of the Western Isles, and the Abbacy of Icolmkill, and that he was afterwards translated to the Bishoprick of Argyle, comprehending Kintyre, Argyle proper, and Lorn, when he established his residence at Carnassary Castle. He is reputed to have been a man of great piety and learning; which, together with his wealth and official power, has made his name familiar throughout the Western Highlands.

When the Highland Society of London were engaged in the controversy regarding the authenticity of the poems of Ossian, they sent their librarian, Mr Donald M'Intosh, to the Western Highlands in quest of evidence to disprove the assertions of Dr Johnson, Mr Hume, Mr Laing, Mr Pinkerton, &c. Mr M'Intosh found in the Island of Arran a religious Gaelic book, published by Bishop Carswell in 1560, dedicated to the Earl of Argyle. In his dedicatory letter in Gaelic, he introduces the names

* See Kennedy's *Tracts on the Reformation*, &c.

of the two leaders who commanded the Fingalian army, *Fionn* and *Goll*. The former commanded the Irish tribes, the latter the Caledonian. In this letter he expresses his sorrow "that his people paid more attention to the idle tales and songs of *Fionn MacCu-thail* and *Goll Mac Moirna* than to the word of God." He died at Carnassary Castle in the year 1575, and ordered his remains to be deposited in the Priory of Ardchattan, about forty miles distant from Carnassary. The day of his interment was marked by a violent storm, which occasioned much distress to the great concourse of people who attended the funeral, carrying the bier on their shoulders, according to the custom of the times; so that to this day, when there is a tempest of more than ordinary violence, there is a common saying among the people, "there has not been the like since Carswell's funeral day."

After the death of Bishop Carswell, Carnassary Castle became the property and occasional residence of the Campbells of Auchinbreck, one of the most powerful families of their day in the whole county. In 1685, Sir Duncan Campbell of Auchinbreck joined the Earl of Argyle in the unsuccessful invasion of the Duke of Monmouth, when he entertained the Earl and his followers for some days at Carnassary Castle. Not long after the failure of that unfortunate undertaking, Auchinbreck's estates in this and the neighbouring parishes were confiscated, and the property belonging to himself, his tenants, friends, and vassals, was plundered by some of the neighbouring clans; as will appear more fully from the subjoined curious document, one of the rescinded Acts of the Scottish Parliament.*

* Unto my Lords Commissioners, his Grace, and the Estates of Parliament, the Petition of Sir Duncan Campbell of Auchinbreck, for himself and his distressed friends, tenants, and vassals in Knapdale, Glassary, and Kelislait; Humbly sheweth,—That your petitioner having, in anno 1685, taken arms with the deceased noble Earl of Argyll in defence of the Protestant religion, and in opposition to Popery and arbitrary power; and your petitioner, by the singular care and providence of Almighty God, having, after a narrow search made for him, escaped the hands of his enemies, he was forfeited of life and fortune, himself and family put to the greatest hardships; all imaginable cruelty, rapine, violence, and oppression committed on his near relations, friends, vassals, and tenants; and after capitulation and assurance given, no faith kept; his friends killed and hanged at his gates; his houses burnt to ashes, all the goods secured by said assurance, robbed and taken away,—all other unparalleled barbarities committed; and more particularly, your petitioner having, from the sense of the justice and necessity of the said Earl, his undertaking, and for the defence of the country, caused man and garrison his castle of Carnassary,—the same was besieged, and in treatie for surrender, being in dependence, the deceased *Lachlan M'Laine of Torlisk*, *Lauchlan M'Laine of Coll*, *M'Laine of Ard-gour*, *M'Laine of Kenlochalin*, *M'Laine of Lochbuy*, *Donald M'Neil of Collachie*, *Archibald M'Lachlan of Craigintarave*, and *M'Kechrnie in Kintyre*, conlic and seally, with their barbarous accomplices, did, in the first place, cause hang Dugald

At the south-west extremity of the parish stands the Castle of Duntroon, the ancient seat of the Campbells of Duntroon. Sir

Mactavish, far of Dunardarie, at the said Castle of Carnassarie, and immediatlie after the surrender thereof, did barbarously murder Alexander Campbell of Strondour, the petitioner's uncle,—and without any regard to any conditions of faith given, they did fall upon and wound about twentie of the soldiers of the garrison, plunder and carrie away out of the said house three-score horse, led by goods and plenishing, and after all their cruelties and robberies, the said deceased Lauchlane M'Laine of Torlisk, with his above-named followers and accomplices, did set fire to the said house of Carnassarie, and burn it to ashes,—and after all, your petitioner's estate being annexed to the Crown, the rents thereof were intromitted with, and uplifted bie William Stewart of Craigtown, as having commission from the Lord of the Shire, since the year 1685 to Martinmas 1689, and the same are yet in his hands; and during this space the saids friends, tenants, and vassals were, by the arbitrary exactions of the deceased Viscount of Strathallan, and Sir John Drummond of Machonie, oppressed, leised, and damified in certain great soums of money. Lykeas the said Donald M'Neil of Callachie and Archibald M'Lauchlan of Craiginterave did intromit with, and take up out of the parochins of Knappdale, Kelislate, Glassrie, and Ariskeodnish,* the number of 2000 kows belonging to the petitioner, his friends and tenants; and the said M'Kechrnie in Kintyre did seize upon the hail goods and plenishing within the petitioner's house of Lochger, wherethrou your petitioner, his said friends, tenants, and vassals, are disabled, leised, and damified in the sums of money and avails following: viz. by the burning of the said house of Carnassary, in the sum of L. 20,000 Scots; by the taking away of his said goods, as will appear by a particular list, in the soum of L. 12,000 money foresaid; by his laying out of his estates, intromitted with bie the said William Stewart, in the soum of L. 24,000 money foresaid; by the said arbitrary exactions of the said Viscount Strathallan and Sir John Drummond of Machonie, in the soum of L. 12,000 money foresaid; and by the said Donald M'Neill and Archibald M'Lauchlan of Craiginterave, their intromitting with and taking up of the said 2000 kows, in the soum of L. 40,000† money foresaid; and bie the said M'Kechrnie, his taking away of the plenishing of the house of Lochger, in the soum of L. 2000 money foresaid; which damages and losses the foresaid persons, acters and committers of the cruelties, robberies, and oppressions above written, and the representatives of such of them as are dead, ought and should repare and restore to your petitioners, and their estates made liabls in payment thereof; and in regard your petitioners are greatly disabled thereby,—necessitie and justice calls for speedie relief.

May it therefore please your Grace and Lordships to grant warrant to cite the foresaid persons, and the representatives of so many of them as are dead, and their tutors and curators, if they any have, to compear before this honourable Court of Parliament at such dytes as your Grace and Lordships shall think fit; and in case of not sitting, to nominate and appoint some of your Lordships' number, who shall cognoce and finallie denounce and determine the said matter, to hear and see the said damages proven; and they decerned to make payment thereof in manner above written; and in regard there is no access to cite them personally, nor at their dwelling-places, to grant warrant to cite them at the mercat-cross of Edinburgh, or the shire in which they lie;—and to cite witnesses,—and your petitioners shall ever pray.

(Signed) DUNCAN CAMPBELL.

Edin., 8th July 1690.

Their Majestie's High Commissioners and the Estates of Parliament having heard this petition, doe grant warrant-order to messengers, massers, messengers-at-arms, to cite the persons condescended on in the petition, and the representatives of such of them as are dead, to compear before them within fifteen days after the charge, with continuation of days, to answer to this petition, in case the Parliament be sitting:—or otherwise, before the Commission appointed by an Act of this Parliament, entitled "Act for rescinding fines and forfeitures," to which Commission they remit, to hear the parties,—to take trials and probation upon the poynts of the complaint,—and to report to the next session of this or other ensuing Parliament—and grant warrant

* Kilmartin.

† From this it would appear that the price of a cow was then estimated at L.1, 13s. 4d. sterling:—the average price may now be valued at L.8 sterling.

Neil Campbell, late governor of Sierra Leone, and son of the last proprietor, was born at Duntroon. A handsome marble tablet is erected to his memory, and another to the memory of his father, in the church of Kilmartin, by his surviving brother, Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Campbell, R. A., late British Consul at Egypt. This castle withstood the ravages of the celebrated Coll Macdonell, *alias Colla Ciotach*, *i. e.* left-handed Coll, and his followers, when he invaded Argyleshire.

The general account given of this desperate and ambitious man is, that either his father or grandfather had carried off a daughter of the Earl of Argyll, whom he married. Payment of her dowry having been refused by Argyll, in consequence of her elopement, and her having married a person below her rank, without consent, Coll applied to his namesake and chief, the Earl of Antrim, for assistance to enforce his claims. Antrim, who bore no good will towards Argyll for joining the Covenanters, and on account of other private quarrels, aided Macdonell by raising 3000 men in Ulster to invade Scotland, but in particular Argyleshire. With this force he landed in Kintyre, and proceeded northward, destroying the residences, and pillaging the property of every Campbell that lay in his way, with the exception of one, *viz.* Campbell of Auchanellan in the parish of Kilmartin, whom he spared on account of his being a minister of the Established Church. From Castle Sween he proceeded by sea with his forces towards the Bay of Crinan, intending to attack and destroy Duntroon Castle. He sent his piper forward by land, in order to procure information. The piper was admitted into the castle, when he found, by the narrowness of the stair-case, that only one person could enter at a time to attack the place, and that it was otherwise sufficiently strong to repel the invaders; and being himself suspected, he was confined to one of the upper turrets of the castle, where, seeing Macdonell's forces approaching, he contrived to warn him of the danger of making the attack, by playing on his bagpipes the well-known pibroch,

to messengers to cite witnesses to the effect foresaid; and in regard there is no *tutus* access for citing the persons complained of personallie, or at their own dwelling-places, it is hereby declared that a citation at the market-cross of the head burgh of the shire, within which their ordinary is—shall be sufficient.

(Signed) CRAWFORD, C.

By a separate list of depredations given in at the same time, it appears that not only the Laird of Auchinbreck, but likewise the families of Inverlivar, Kilmartin, Paltalloch, Rassly, and Duntroon, together with a number of others in the neighbouring districts, were subjected to the same wholesale plunder by the above-named parties.

A cholla mo run seach ain an tur, seach an an tur,
 A cholla mo ghaoil seachan an caol seachan an caol,
 Tha mise an laimh ; the mise an laimh.—i. e.

Dearest Coll, shun the Tower, shun the Tower ;
 My beloved Coll, shun the Sound, shun the Sound ;
 I am in hand, I am in hand, or, I am a prisoner.

This warning was understood by Macdonell, who, finding that Duntroon Castle was impregnable, left his faithful piper to his fate, and with his forces proceeded northward, along the strath of Kilmartin towards *Athnacra*, near the ford of Lochawe, destroying and plundering every thing in his way on the estates of Duntroon, Rassly, and Kilmartin, and carrying away all the cattle, with the exception of one dun cow that happened to escape his notice, being hid in a thicket of birch in a hollow below Kilmartin. This cow is still known by the natives by the name of *Bo-Mhaol othar Achabhean*, i. e. the humel dun cow of Achaven. It was this cow, by her lowing for her calf, which had been carried away with the rest of the cattle of the Strath, that is said to have sounded the first note of lamentation and wailing among the inhabitants, when they ventured from their hiding places in the hills, to behold the destruction of their dwellings, and the devastation of every thing valuable that belonged to them.

Duntroon Castle has been put into a complete state of repair by the proprietor, Mr Malcolm of Poltalloch, so that it is now a comfortable residence, and cannot fail to attract the notice of a stranger in passing through the Crinan Canal.

On the bank immediately to the north of the village of Kilmartin, stand the ruins of the old castle of Kilmartin, anciently the residence of the rectors of Kilmartin. The descendants of one of them, the Campbells of Auchanellan, still retain the hereditary property in the parish, and the ancient *Caibeal* or burial-place of the rectors in the churchyard of Kilmartin ; and the family are sometimes called by the natives *Slioch an Easbuig*, i. e. the descendants of the Church Superintendent.

Land-owners.—There are seven land-owners, viz. Neill Malcolm, Esq. of Poltalloch ; Colin Bell Maclachlan, Esq. of Craiginterave ; Captain Donald Campbell, R. N. of Barbreck ; the Rev. Dugald Campbell of Auchanellan ; John Campbell, Esq. of Glenmore ; Mrs Campbell of Askenish ; Mrs Johnston of Duncholagin.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest date in the kirk-session records is the 25th May 1691. Down to 1751 it is imperfect ; from that date to the present time, it has been regularly kept.

The earliest date in the register of baptisms and marriages is 1747; but the record is very imperfect down to 1774. From the latter date to 1819, there is no record of baptisms and marriages extant. From 1819 to the present time, it has been regularly kept.

Antiquities.—Along the valley of Kilmartin, and in some other parts of the parish, there are a number of large circular cairns of stones. Some of them have been explored and found to contain stone coffins about four feet long by two broad, so that the body must have been doubled up or burned, and the bones and ashes deposited in them. The latter supposition is the more likely, as urns or earthen vases rudely ornamented, and containing a small quantity of red ashes, are generally found at the one end of the coffin, and human bones of a larger size than such as are now commonly met with, are deposited in the centre. A few silver coins, and one in particular, bearing the name of *Ethelred*, has been found in one of those stone coffins; and in another a spear head about ten inches long, composed of a mixture of brass and iron; as also a polished stone shaped somewhat like a battle-axe, which seem to indicate that some of the persons whose remains have been there deposited, were men whose "*trade was war.*" Contiguous to these cairns are occasionally to be found open circles of stones placed on end, and large single pillars of stone standing upright, from nine to twelve, and a few to the height of seventeen or eighteen feet above ground.

Various opinions are entertained regarding the origin of these rude monuments of antiquity, which, like the Egyptian pyramids, have outlived the names and events they were doubtless designed to commemorate. Some think that they have been the work of the Druids; while others, with more probability, believe that this extensive plain must at some distant period have been the scene of a succession of bloody contests between the natives and some invading tribes, and that these monuments were raised by the survivors, to the memory of those who had fallen in battle. The name of the district, too, of which the valley of Kilmartin is nearly the centre, viz. *Aragaidheal*,—i. e., the battle-field, or slaughter of the Gael,—seems to favour the latter supposition.

At Ardafure, near Duntroon, there is a remarkable ancient circular building, enclosing a considerable space of open ground within. The wall is of great thickness, having one narrow entrance, and apparently a covered way in the centre. It is supposed to

have been built as a place of safety for the cattle and other property of the inhabitants, to which they were sent when any danger was at hand.

Modern Buildings.—Kilmartin House, the residence of Neill Malcolm, Esq., of Poltalloch, the principal heritor in the parish, is about half a mile to the north-west of Kilmartin.

The church of Kilmartin was erected in 1835. It is an elegant Gothic building, of an oblong form, having a square tower at the end, with front and side galleries supported by hewn stone pillars, and surmounted with Gothic arches to correspond. The internal arrangements are very complete, and afford comfortable accommodation.

The manse, which is contiguous to the church, was built in 1789. It is now in a very decayed state.

The village of Kilmartin has been entirely rebuilt and remodelled within the last few years. Instead of the rude and ill-assorted thatched cottages, all of which are now removed, the proprietor has put down substantial slated cottages, having garden and shrubbery ground enclosed and railed in for each, the whole having an air of neatness and comfort formerly unknown in this part of the country.

A considerable number of similar slated cottages, and some commodious farm steadings, have been recently built in other parts of the parish, for the accommodation of the tenants, tradespeople, and labourers on the Poltalloch estate.

III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, according to Dr Webster's account, the population amounted to 1150.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	
In 1795,	760	777	1537	
1801,	734	767	1501	
1811,	680	773	1453	
1821,	744	748	1492	
1831,	736	739	1475	
1841,	611	602	1213	
No. of families,				220
Do. under 15 years of age,				507
Do. from 15 to 30,				298
Do. from 30 to 50,				239
Do. from 50 to 70,				130
Do. upwards of 70,				44
Do. of unmarried men, bachelors and widowers, upwards of 50,				20
Do. of unmarried women upwards of 45,				38

Abstract of births and marriages for the last seven years:—

Year.	Births.			Marriages.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1837,	16	19	35	18
1838,	23	29	42	8

Year.	Births.		Total.	Marriages.
	Males.	Females.		
1839,	17	16	33	10
1840,	9	14	23	11
1841,	16	15	31	9
1842,	16	14	30	14
1843,	11	14	25	8
Average,	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$

Number of illegitimate children born in the parish during the last seven years, 7.

The decrease of population has been caused, 1st, By emigration to North America; 2d, The joining of two or more possessions together, and letting the whole to one tenant; 3d, The principal heritor in the parish having taken several large farms into his own hands, for the purpose of improving the same.

There are two blind old women, paupers, belonging to the parish, but not residing in it. There are no insane, fatuous, deaf or dumb persons in the parish, or belonging to it.

The Gaelic language is spoken, and preferred by all the natives as the medium of communication; but from their intermixture with strangers, and the facility of intercourse with the low country, it is fast losing ground, particularly among the young people.

The introduction of new slated cottages, and the prizes given by the Highland Society for the neatest and best kept houses and gardens, have already effected a considerable improvement in promoting a taste for cleanly habits, and shows how much may be done in this respect, if the means and encouragement were afforded. Their clothing is plain, but comfortable; and in general they are intelligent, moral, and religious. Drunkenness and quarrelling is now, comparatively speaking, a matter of rare occurrence. Poaching and smuggling have been entirely, or almost entirely, suppressed.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

No. of males employed in agriculture as farmers,	52
Do. of farm servants and shepherds 20 years and upwards,	43
Do. of do. do. from 15 to 20,	24
Do. of cottars, 40—crofters, 9,	49
Agricultural labourers,	50
Tradesmen, 47—apprentices, 5,	52
Boys employed in herding,	23
Female servants,	39

Agriculture.—Great improvements have been made in the draining, cultivating, and subdividing of the arable and pasture land in the parish, within the last forty years, as well as in the mode of farm management and husbandry, particularly on the Poltalloch estate. Tile draining is now practised by Mr Malcolm

on a large scale; and for that purpose a tile-work has been erected in the valley of Kilmartin, where suitable clay is found in abundance. Under the judicious management of Mr Gow, the superintendent of improvements on the Poltalloch estate, about 1500 acres have already been drained, 700 of which are now under cultivation or pasture, and from 700 to 800 more prepared for the plough, which, from total, or nearly total unproductiveness, is made to yield an average yearly return of L.1, 5s. per acre. The expense of these improvements may be rated at L.8 to L.9 per acre. Two thousand acres more of the same description of waste land yet remain to be reclaimed; but from the systematic and extensive operations carried on by the proprietor, the time may not be very far distant when the whole of this magnificent flat will be prepared for the plough, the sickle, and the scythe.

Potatoes and turnips are extensively cultivated, for both of which the soil and climate seem to be well adapted. Oats, bear, and barley are also grown, but for these the climate is not so favourable.

Live-Stock.—The common breed of cattle is the West Highland, to which much attention is paid. The Ayrshire, Galloway, and Durham breeds have been partially introduced, and seem to thrive, when proper care is bestowed on them.

The black-faced Highland sheep is common in the parish, and is by much the most hardy breed for enduring the inclemencies of the winter, and subsisting on the hill pasture. The Cheviot, Leicester, and South Down breeds have been introduced, and fatten kindly on good pasture. An Association for encouraging the improvement of the different breeds of cattle and sheep, as well as for agricultural and horticultural produce, is established in the district, and has already been productive of much good.

Produce.—

Number of acres arable,	-	3,456	
Do. meadow,	-	396	
Do. pasture,	-	19,488	
Do. woods and plantations,	-	1,189	
Total,	-		24,529

Yearly Gross Returns.—

8600 sheep grazing, valued at 2s. 6d. each,	-	L.1075	0	0
1976 cattle of all ages, averaged at L.2 each,	-	3952	0	0
Horses not valued, being used for agricultural work.	-			
Oats, 17,556 bushels, at 2s. 3d.	-	2194	10	0
Bear, 276 bushels, at 3s.	-	41	8	0
Potatoes, 1897 tons, at L.1, 5s. each,	-	1736	5	0
Turnips, 700 tons, at 10s.	-	350	0	0
Carry over,	-	L.9349	3	0

	Brought over,	L. 9349	3	0
Hay, 26,000 tons, at 7d. per stone,	-	758	6	8
Wool, 1393 stones, at 6s. per stone,	-	417	18	0
	Total,	L. 10,525	7	8
Real rental,	-	L. 5101	0	9
Valued rent,	-	327	0	0

Wages.—The rates of labour are, viz. farm-labourers, from 8s. to 9s. per week in summer, and 7s. in winter; ploughmen, with board, about L.12 a-year; shepherds, with board, from L.10 to L.12; maid servants, with board, for house and farm work, about L.6 a-year; tradesmen, from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There are four yearly markets held in the parish, viz. two at Kilmartin on the first Thursday of March and the fourth Thursday of November, principally for horses, engaging servants, and settling of all country transactions; and two at the Ford on the first Thursday of August and the first Thursday of September, principally for horses; besides which, considerable sales are made of lambs, sheep, and wool, though none are exhibited.

There is a private runner from Kilmartin to the post-office at Lochgilphead, every day, Sunday excepted, where there is a daily arrival and despatch.

There is also a regular steam communication between Lochgilphead and Glasgow, and the intermediate ports, once a-day in winter, and twice every week-day in summer and autumn.

The road from Lochgilphead to Kilmartin is kept in excellent order, a large outlay having been expended on the improvement of it within the last few years.

Locherinan is a good harbour and affords safe anchorage; it is much frequented by vessels in stormy weather.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is situated about four miles from the south-west extremity of the parish, which is the most populous part; and eight miles from the north-east end, where there are only a few sheep farms, which are thinly peopled. Upon the whole, the situation of the church is the most eligible that could be selected. It affords sittings for 520; the accommodation is most comfortable. Gaelic and English are preached every Lord's day, and the people generally attend well when the weather is moderate. All the sittings are free. The average number of communicants for the last seven years is 168.

There are two families Baptists in the parish, and six families Separatists, some of whom occasionally attend the church, but are not members of the congregation.

The first Presbyterian minister settled in the parish was Mr Donald Campbell in 1639. He was one of the Campbells of Auchanellan. He was succeeded by Mr John Duncanson in 1655.—The next incumbent was Mr William M'Lachlan, an Episcopalian, who died about the year 1686. A tablet bearing his name and that of some of his family, together with the fore-mentioned date, is still extant in the churchyard of Kilmartin.—Mr Dugald Campbell was ordained and admitted minister of Kilmartin by the synod of Argyle, on the third of January 1690.—Mr Duncan Campbell, translated from the parish of Kilchrenan, was settled at Kilmartin on the 3d June 1724, and died on the 28th September 1736.—Mr Archibald Lambie, his successor, was ordained and admitted minister of Kilmartin on the 12th July 1738, and died in 1767.—On the 9th August 1768, Mr Hugh Campbell, translated from the parish of South Knapdale, was settled minister of this parish. He was one of the Campbells of Islandree, and died 1st February 1803.—His successor, Mr Hugh Dewar, was admitted minister of the parish on the 17th April 1804, and died 19th April 1836.—The present incumbent was ordained and admitted on the 28th September 1836.

The glebe is four and a half acres arable, with the grazing of four souns on the farm of Kilmartin, in lieu of which, the proprietor gives a piece of land contiguous to the glebe. The whole may be valued at L.15 Sterling yearly rent.

The modified stipend is twelve chalders, half meal, half bear, with L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The teinds are not exhausted.

Education.—The parish school is situated at Kilmartin, near the church. The schoolhouse and schoolmaster's dwelling-house are under one roof, and are very commodious and comfortable. The salary is L. 34, 4s. 5d. Sterling, with L. 2, 15s. 7½d., being the yearly interest of a sum mortified by the late Alexander Campbell, Esq. of Kilmartin, in support of the parish school. The branches usually taught, are English and Gaelic reading, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping. Geography and navigation, as also Latin and Greek, are occasionally taught. There are, besides, two schools, one at each extremity of the parish, for the accommodation of the younger children who are unable, from the distance, to attend the parish school. Both the teachers of these schools receive a yearly allowance from Mr Malcolm of Poltalloch, in addition to the school fees.

A girl school of industry has lately been established by Mr

Malcolm of Poltalloch, within a mile of Kilmartin, for the benefit of the children of the tenants and people on his estate. The children of some of the people from the neighbouring properties are also allowed the benefit of attending. In addition to the ordinary elementary branches of education, the children are instructed in all the useful varieties of needle-work; knitting, laundry work, &c. This school, though only in operation for a few years, has already proved a great boon and blessing to the children of the district; and promises, from the judicious manner in which it is conducted, to afford lasting benefits to the rising generation. The school-house has been erected at an expense of from L. 800 to L. 1000 Sterling; besides which, Mr Malcolm gives from L. 70 to L. 80 a-year for education in the parish, in addition to his legal obligations.

There is a library about to be formed for the use of the people on the Poltalloch estate, in this and the neighbouring parishes.

A savings bank has been established in the parish in connection with the National Security Savings Branch Bank at Lochgilhead.

Poor.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is about 26; and the average sum allotted to each per year, about L.1, 10s. All the poor on the Poltalloch estate are allowed a monthly supply of meal according to their circumstances; and all who apply for work, such as knitting, spinning, &c. are paid therefor.

There is one inn and two change-houses in the parish, viz. the Inn of Kilmartin, which is well kept, and two public houses at the Ford, which are more orderly and better provided than formerly.

The moss of Crinan affords abundance of turf for fuel. Coals are generally used by all who can afford to purchase them, being cheaper and more comfortable than peat, according to the present rate of labour.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

This parish, in common with the surrounding district, has undergone a great change in the way of improvement, within the last fifty years. Instead of the rude-formed wooden plough drawn by four horses all abreast, and the driver with his face to the horses going backwards, as there described, the well-modelled and neatly constructed iron plough, drawn by a pair of horses, and easily managed by one man, performs double the work, and doubly better done, in half the time. Instead of the stated number of days' work exacted by the proprietors from their tenants, crofters, and cottars, as servitude, in addition to the money rent, which was generally perform-

ed in the most slovenly and irregular manner, with implements the most unsuitable, and which was generally called for when they had most to do at home; day's wages are now paid, regular hours for work are kept, and proper implements employed. The old fences, constructed partly of stone and partly of turf, which were kept up in a hanging and standing condition, and required a thorough repair every year, are replaced by substantial stone dikes with stone coping. The practice of letting farms to four or eight tenants in common, the evils of which are well known, is almost entirely discontinued; and the advantages of subdivisions, and a regular rotation of cropping, are fast developing in the improved condition of the land, and stock fed thereon. The absence of middlemen or gentlemen farmers, who would be admissible to the society of the landlord, and, at the same time, share in the sympathies of the people, is sensibly felt in this and the adjoining districts. Wherever this link between the upper and lower classes has been found wanting, throughout the Highlands, jealousy, distrust, and discontent are almost always found to prevail, whatever other means may be used to promote the well-being of the people.

March 1844.