

PARISH OF NORTH KNAPDALE.

PRESBYTERY OF INVERARY, SYNOD OF ARGYLE.

THE REV. D. MACLACHLAN, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, &c.—THE whole district of Knapdale formed originally one parish, called *Cil mhic O charmaig*, the burying-ground of the son of O'Carraig. This O'Carraig is said to have been an Irish saint, who founded the first church in Knapdale. In 1734, the district of Knapdale was divided into two parishes, called North and South Knapdale.

Knapdale is compounded of two Gaelic words, *Cnap*, a hill or an eminence, and *Daill*, a dale or field. The name is very descriptive of the local aspect of the parish, which is beautifully diversified by plains and valleys separated by hills, and watered by a multitude of small rivulets.

Extent and Boundaries.—It is about $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length from north-east to south-west, and about 6 miles in breadth, including a narrow arm of the sea, which divides the parish into two nearly equal parts. From the extreme irregularity of its surface, it is difficult to specify its precise extent; but we are not perhaps far from the truth in estimating it at 76 square miles. It is bounded on the south and south-east by the parish of South Knapdale; on the east and north-east, by the Crinan Canal and Loch Crinan; on the west and south-west, by the Sound of Jura, which separates that island from the mainland.

Topographical Appearances.—It is of an oblong form. Its appearance is diversified by an agreeable variety of hill and dale, and thriving plantations, by numerous lakes, and by Lochswen, an inlet from the Atlantic. This arm of the sea is about ten miles in length, bearing north-east from its entrance. Its breadth at the entrance is about a mile, but towards its northern extremity it widens to nearly three miles, and then divides into three parallel

branches, which continue their course in a north-easterly direction two and a-half miles farther. The average depth of the Frith is twelve fathoms. The extent of coast washed by the sea, including all the indentations of Lochswen, cannot be less than fifty miles. The coast from the point of Ardnoe, near the harbour of Crinan, to the promontory of Keills, is bold and rocky, in many places rising precipitously to the height of 300 feet; on the west side of Lochswen it consists principally of low rocky ledges, and on the east side it subsides into a sandy beach. From Castle Swen to Inverlussay the ground rises with a gentle slope from the water, for the distance of nearly half a mile. It is then succeeded by gentle acclivities, forming the slopes of hills of moderate height, which are themselves the flanks of a chain of hills running north-east and south-west. The highest of these hills is called Cruachlusach. It is 2004 feet above the level of the sea. Next to Cruachlusach, the hills of greatest note in the parish are those of Dunardary, Duntaynish, Ervary, and Arichonan; the last of these is about 1200 feet above the level of the sea. From the summit of Cruachlusach, which commands a most extensive prospect, are seen the Cowal and Arran hills, the peninsula of Kintyre, and the north of Ireland; towards the west, the islands of Isla, Jura, Scarba, and Mull; towards the north, Bencruachan, and a large number of rugged and dusky mountains,—altogether presenting a scene unsurpassed perhaps in any other part of the Highlands. But to be seen to advantage, it must be viewed from the rising ground near the southern extremity of Lochanfadh, or from the hill of Ervary. From either of these points, you behold a succession of delightful prospects breaking at intervals on the eye, over sea, and lakes, and dales, and hills. The rocky and towering mountains of Jura in the distance,—the bright green islands of Ellanmore and Danna at the extremity of the parish,—woods scattered here and there decorating the sides of grassy hills and the margin of the shore, and the waters of Lochswen, now hid, now revealed to the eye,—exhibit a scene seldom surpassed in variety, novelty, and grandeur.

In Dr MacCulloch's Letters to Sir Walter Scott the following description is given of the scenery of Lochswen: "Lochswen itself is a very deep, though narrow inlet, utterly different in character from any thing that I have seen in Scotland, and as picturesque as it is singular. The shores are very deeply and remarkably indented in many parts, while, on both sides, they are covered with fine wood; being thus productive of much beauty as well as

unexpected variety. But, towards the upper extremity, the hills become abrupt and rocky, while they are, at the same time, richly wooded even to the water's edge, and high up along their acclivities. In many parts, also, they descend in steep rocky precipices, divided by ravines and enlivened by cascades, the trees springing out of the rocks in a manner as wild and romantic as it is ornamental. The land here is also dispersed in narrow and projecting promontories, separated by deep and equally narrow bays, intermingled in a manner that no words can describe, and productive of the most extraordinary scenery. Loch Katrine may convey a faint idea of this spot; nor is it less romantic than many parts of that beautiful lake."

Winds—Climate.—The prevailing winds are south-west and west; and the climate, though humid, is mild and salubrious. The people now enjoy much better health than formerly, and generally attain a greater age. Since 1840, there have died three individuals, whose united ages amounted to 285 years; and about ten years ago, a female died at the very advanced age of 107 years.

Soil.—There is a great variety of soil in the parish. In several places close to the shore it is sandy, in others it is of a gravelly loam, in others mossy. At the south-western extremity of the parish it is rich and friable, and very productive.

Springs—Lakes.—The parish possesses many excellent springs of water, some of them strongly impregnated with lime. The Dunrostan, Auchnamara, and Kilmichael waters are the streams of most importance in the parish. The last of these is the most considerable. It rises in Kilmichael Moor, about a quarter of a mile to the north-east of Cruachlusach. It runs principally in a north-westerly direction, and pursues a very winding course. About 300 yards before it falls into the sea, it forms a beautiful cascade at the bridge of Kilmichael Inverlussay. The parish contains twenty-one water lakes, all of them abounding in fine trout. The largest of these lakes is about a mile and a quarter in length, and upwards of a quarter of a mile in breadth.

Zoology and Botany.—No rare animals occur in the parish. Roes are found in considerable numbers in the plantations on the Poltalloch and Ross properties. Hares are numerous. We have, besides, foxes, badgers, otters, martens, wild cats, weasels, moles, and rats.

Birds.—The thrush, blackbird, bull-finch, robin red-breast, and other warblers exist in great abundance. The game con-

sists of red-grouse, partridge, snipe, black-cock, wood-cock, wild duck, and the water-hen. Of migratory birds, the wild-geese, the swallow, the land-rail, and the cuckoo pay us an annual visit. During the winter months, immense quantities of wild-geons frequent Lochswen, and in severe winters, swans also visit the parish.

Fishes.—The Sound of Jura abounds with fish of various kinds, such as sea-trout or sea-fish, cod, haddock, mackerel, gurnard, gray mullet, lythe or pollack, skate, and flounder. The shore, from Dunie to Castle Swen, abounds likewise with crabs and lobsters. Oysters of large size and excellent quality are found in abundance on the eastern and western shores of Lochswen, and there is an extensive bed of mussels on the shore of Inverlussay.

Botany.—The botany of this parish has little to distinguish it from that of the neighbouring parishes. Among its rarer plants the following occur :

<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	<i>Convolvulus sepium</i>	<i>Agrimonia Eupatoria</i>
<i>Hypericum elodes</i>	<i>Aster Tripolium</i>	<i>Lycopus europæus</i>
<i>Jasione montana</i>	<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>
<i>Cotyledon Umbilicus</i>	<i>Drosera anglica</i>	<i>Nuphar minima</i>
<i>Lobelia Dortmanna</i>	<i>Alechemilla alpina</i>	<i>Epipactis ensifolia</i>

The following plants exist in great abundance :

<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	<i>Nasturtium amphibium</i>
<i>Fragaria elatior</i>	<i>Lonicera Caprifolium</i>	<i>Ranunculus Flammula</i>
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	<i>Agaricus campestris</i>
<i>Tussilago Farfara</i>	<i>Vaccinium Myrtillus</i>	

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest date of the parochial register of births is 1775; the earliest date of the register of proclamation of marriages is 1784; but both registers are exceedingly defective. From 1816 they have been regularly kept down to the present time.

Eminent Men.—Of persons connected with the parish who attained eminence, is the late Major-General Sir Archibald Campbell, K. B. Sir Archibald, after studying at the universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, where he greatly distinguished himself by his proficiency in the various branches of erudition to which he directed his attention, was sent to the Royal Academy at Woolwich, where his abilities became so conspicuous that he was soon appointed an engineer; and in 1757 he served upon three expeditions on the coast of France; in all of which services he proved himself an able and gallant officer. The India Company having received favourable accounts of Sir Archibald's merits as an engineer, ap-

pointed him their chief engineer to Bengal, where he acquired fresh reputation by the very masterly designs he gave in for the works of Fort-William, and for reducing the expense of erecting that immense fortress to a sum half a million of money less than to what had been originally intended. He was subsequently employed in the American war; and his judicious and gallant conduct in that expedition was duly appreciated by his sovereign, who appointed him Governor of Jamaica. And while he held the governorship of that island, he stood conspicuous for his enlarged and statesmanlike views, the strength and decision of his mind, and courage in the most critical and arduous circumstances. On his return to England, the India Company appointed him their Governor for Madras, and the King honoured him with a red riband. He died in 1791, regretted and admired for his eminent civil and military services to his country. He was possessed of distinguished endowments of mind, inflexible integrity, with every social and amiable virtue.

Antiquities.—At Keills, near the south-western extremity of the parish, stands the ruin of the chapel of St Carmaig. The walls are 40 feet in length by 20 feet in breadth, and 12 feet in height. Close to the chapel stands a cross of remote antiquity: it is 9 feet high, 1 foot broad, and 6 inches thick. On Drimnacreige, near the church of Inverlussay, are seen the ruins of another religious house; and at Kilmahunaig, about a furlong north-west from the banks of the Crinan canal, there was a richly-endowed chapel, of which no vestiges now remain. Near to the site of this chapel, which is indicated by the burying-ground with which it was surrounded, there is a conical eminence 120 yards in circumference at the base, and about 30 feet in height. This mound is called *Dun Domhnul* (Dundonald,) on which, according to tradition, the Lord of the Isles used to hold courts of justice, and inflict severe and summary punishment on those whom he adjudged guilty. A culprit, who was arraigned and condemned to death at this dread tribunal, contrived to effect his escape while the officers of court were making preparations to put the sentence into execution. The Lord of the Isles, who was greatly exasperated at the escape of the criminal, ordered one of his vassals, who was in attendance, and who was remarkable for strength, prowess, and swiftness of foot, to pursue the culprit, and bring him back, either dead or alive. He was hotly pursued, and soon overtaken, and, after a short though desperate struggle, was carried back to

the place of execution, where he suffered a cruel and ignominious death. The Lord of the Isles, to mark his approbation of the promptitude and bravery which his vassal displayed in capturing and carrying back the fugitive from punishment, gave him, as tradition asserts, a charter of the lands of Kilmahunaig in the following words, which indicate that he was no admirer of prolixity in conveyancing :—

“ Mìse Domhnul nan Dombhul
 A'm shuidh air Dùn Domhnul
 'Toirt còir do Mhac Aoidh air Kilmahunaig
 O'n duigh gus am màireach
 'S gu là bhràth mar sin.”

i. e.—I, Donald, chieftain of the Clan-donald, sitting on Dundonald, give a right to Mackay to Kilmahunaig, from this day till to-morrow, and so on for ever.

Forts.—On a small green hill near the mansion-house of Ard-nackaig, there are some remains of a fort or watch-tower. It is about fifty yards in circumference, and the remains of the surrounding wall are twelve feet in thickness. About two miles to the south-east, on the hill of Barmore, there is another watch-tower of the same form and dimensions. And on a hill near the church of Tayvallich, there are the remains of a fortification called *Dùn a bheallich*, or the fort of the pass. This fort was probably intended to secure the pass leading from the bay of Carsaig to the bay of Tayvallich. There are several others in this parish, all in elevated and conspicuous situations. But by far the most interesting monument of antiquity in the parish is Castle Swen, which stands on a rock close to the sea, and commands a very extensive view of the surrounding country. The date of its erection is not known; but it is evidently the work of different ages. The walls display great strength of masonry. They are about 7 feet in thickness, 35 feet in height, and, including Macmillan's tower, 105 feet in length. Probably Macmillan's tower was built much later, as its walls are considerably thinner. In Macmillan's chamber there are traces of windows, and two vents. Immemorial tradition bears that the castle was built by *Suine Mac rìgh Lochlan*,—Swein or Sweno, Prince of Denmark,—towards the beginning of the eleventh century; and if this be correct, it must have been the residence of successive races of warrior chiefs, during the eventful struggles between the Scandinavians and the Scots, and the not less bloody conflicts between the Scottish Kings and the Lords of the Isles. This fortress commanded the entrance to Lochswen, and was re-

garded as the key of the districts of Knapdale and Glassary, and as such it was deemed a position of the greatest importance. "In the end of the thirteenth century, Knapdale appears in the possession of a certain Swenus de Ergadia, known in tradition as *Swen Ruadh*, or 'Swen the red, Thane of Glassary and Knapdale, and from him it is said the castle took its name; and there are strong grounds for thinking that he was ancestor of the Macneills. John his son took an active part with Baliol, and was forfeited by Bruce." Swenus de Ergadia appears to have been a descendant of the house of Lorn, which was intimately connected by marriage with the Comyn and Baliol party, which not only strenuously opposed the claims of Robert I. to the Scottish throne, but, on more than one occasion, was the means of reducing him to great straits. When the Bruce obtained possession of the crown, he found himself threatened by the strength of the descendants of Somerled, as by that of an enemy who had gradually grown up into the possession of a power which frequently defied royal authority, and which had more than once shaken the stability of the Crown under Somerled. He therefore determined to proceed in person into Argyleshire for the purpose of crushing the power of the Lord of Lorn, which he soon effected. After the defeat of the Lord of Lorn at Lochawe, King Robert besieged Alexander of the Isles in Castle Swen, his usual residence. Alexander, for some days, defended himself with the most determined bravery, but was obliged to surrender himself to the King, who forthwith imprisoned him in Dundonald Castle, where he died. "Bruce granted Knapdale to John de Menteth, recorder to the Earl of Menteth, from whom it descended to his eldest son, Sir John Menteth, Lord of Arran and Knapdale. Sir John disposed the greater part of South Knapdale to the Earl of Argyle in 1353, and, on his death in 1360, the rest of Knapdale fell to the Crown, by whom it was granted, in 1372, to John Lord of the Isles, and remained in that family until the forfeiture of the last Lord of the Isles in 1476, when it again came to the Crown, and was granted in 1480, with the keeping of Castle Swen, to the Earl of Argyle. Although Swenus de Ergadia and his descendants were deprived of Knapdale, they seem to have retained actual though not feudal possession; for, in 1472, we find Hector Mactorquil Macneill in possession of the greater part of North Knapdale, and heritable keeper of Castle Swen. This passed, with an heiress, to Mac-

millan of Knap."* The family of Argyle retained possession of Castle Swen from 1480 to 1644, when it was besieged and burnt by Sir Alexander Macdonald, better known in the Highlands by the name of *Alastair MacCholla*, who ravaged the whole district of Knapdale with fire and sword.

III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1755,	-	-	1369
At the date of last Statistical Account,	-	-	1009
By the census of 1801,	-	-	2401
1811,	-	-	2184
1821,	-	-	2654
1831,	-	-	2583
1841,	-	-	2170

From this table it appears that between 1755 and 1792, the population had decreased 360. This decrease seems to have been occasioned by the uniting of several small farms into one. In the last Statistical Account, it is stated that "there are single men who occupy some eight and some ten tenements, upon each of which there is only one herd." The large increase of the population, in 1801, is easily accounted for. The Crinan Canal, which bounds the north-eastern extremity of the parish, was begun in 1793, and completed in 1801. Strangers were attracted from distant parts of the country in quest of employment, and many of these settled in the parish, and were included in the census of 1801. One of the principal causes of the gradual decrease from 1821 to 1841, has been emigration. A large number of families emigrated to Upper Canada, while many others have settled in Glasgow, Greenock, and Paisley.

The number of persons residing in villages is:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Bellanoch village,	50	62	112
In Tayvallich and Kintallin, .	93	97	190
Total in villages,			302
Residing in the country,	925	943	1868
The yearly average of births for the last seven years is			51½
marriages,			15½
The average number of persons under 15 years of age is			804
between 15 and 30,			644
30 and 50,			403
50 and 70,			245
upwards of 70,			74
Total population,			2170

The number of unmarried men above 50 years of age is . . . 23
 females above 45 years of age is . . . 21
 widows, . . . 49

There are no insane, fatuous, blind, deaf, or dumb persons in the parish.

* MS. in possession of Neill Malcolm, Esq. of Poltalloch.

Proprietors, &c.—The proprietors of the parish, with their valued rents, are the following:—

Neill Malcolm, Esq. of Poltalloch,	L.231	3	11
James A. Campbell, Esq. of Inverneill and Ross,	183	3	4
Colonel J. D. B. Elphinstone of Carsaig,	12	2	5
James Ranken, Esq. of Ardnackaig,	7	3	2
The Honourable Mrs Moreton and Miss M'Donald,	5	3	4
Miss M'Kay of Blarintibert,	3	0	3
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	L.441	16	5

Language.—The language of the common people is Gaelic, but almost all the young, and most of the old inhabitants, understand English. The Gaelic is evidently losing ground.

Character and Habits of the People.—The people for the most part are decent, orderly, and industrious in their habits; the greater part of them apply themselves to husbandry, or to a seafaring life. Their ordinary food consists chiefly of potatoes and fish, oatmeal and milk. Poaching in game or salmon is very rare, and the degrading and demoralizing practice of smuggling is totally unknown among them.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The number of standard imperial acres in the parish, which are either cultivated or are occasionally in tillage, is about 3400. The number of acres which have never been cultivated, and which are in pasture, is 22,126. The number of acres under natural or copse wood is 1925, and there are about 256 acres under planted timber. The common indigenous trees are, oak, ash, mountain-ash, willow, birch, alder, hazel, and holly. The trees usually planted are, oak, ash, spruce, larch, Scotch fir, silver fir, elm, and beech. The plantations are skilfully managed, and in a very thriving condition.

Rent of Land, &c.—The average rent of arable land is about 18s. per imperial acre. The average rent of grazing a cow or full-grown ox is L.2 for the year, and of a sheep, 2s. 6d.

Wages.—Labourers engaged by the day receive in summer 1s. 4d. to 1s. 8d., and in winter, from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d. daily, the labourers furnishing their own victuals. Farm-servants are hired at from L.4, 10s. to L.6 in the half-year, with bed and board, and females from L.2, 5s. to L.3, 10s. The common wages for masons, carpenters, and slaters are from 3s. to 3s. 6d. per day, without victuals.

Agriculture, &c.—In a parish having a surface so very varied, and principally pasture, less attention is bestowed on agriculture

than on the management of live-stock. Although the low pasture is much encumbered with brushwood, yet it and the hill grazing are sound and healthy; but both would be much improved by surface drains. The sheep reared are all of the black-faced kind. The cattle are of the pure West Highland breed, and, in point of size and symmetry, are considered equal to the best that are exhibited at the local markets. Many of the farms are let to three or four tenants, and as the land is cultivated according to what is called the runrig system, it is scarcely possible to obtain unity of purpose, or exertion to prosecute those measures by which improvements are effected. There are, however, many instances, where draining, liming, and most approved measures of improvement are prosecuted, and a regular rotation of cropping observed, by which grain and green crops of good quality are raised. The several possessions are generally surrounded by stone dikes; but, although a few of the farms, which are under regular management, have their arable ground properly subdivided with stone fences, yet, in very many cases, these subdivisions are temporary erections to preserve the crops for a single season from trespass.

Raw Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish is estimated as follows:

6,000 bolls oats and bear, at 16s. per boll,	L.4800	0	0
4,500 tons potatoes, at L.1 per ton,	4500	0	0
30,000 stones hay, at 7d. per stone,	875	0	0
Grazing for 940 cows, at L.2 each,	1880	0	0
Do. 1220 head of young stock, at L.1, 5s. each,	1525	0	0
Pasture for 3600 sheep, at 2s. 6d. each,	450	0	0
Wool,	210	0	0
Annual thinning and periodical felling of woods, plantations, and copse,	200	0	0
Fisheries,	100	0	0
Dairy produce,	300	0	0
Miscellaneous,	150	0	0
Total yearly value of raw produce raised,	L.14,990	0	0

Rent of Land.—

The annual value of the real property of this parish, in the year 1815, as assessed for the property tax, was L.4797. 0 0
 The annual rental at present is 5446 0 0
 The number of tenants qualified to vote at the election of a Member of Parliament for the county is 20.

Navigation.—There are five decked vessels, averaging about thirty tons' burden. They are chiefly employed in trading to Greenock, Liverpool, and the coast of Ireland.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—There is no market-town in this parish. The nearest to it is Lochgilphead, which is at the distance of eight and

eleven miles respectively from the churches of Kilmichael Inverlussay and Tayvallich.

Means of Communication.—There is a sub-post-office to Lochgilphead, in the village of Bellanoch, from which letters are despatched and received three times a week. The road between Lochgilphead and Keills, where there is a ferry to the Island of Jura, passes for fifteen miles through the parish, sending off a branch at the farm of Barinluasgan to the church of Kilmichael Inverlussay. There is a new line of road in progress from Inverlussay to Castle Swen, which, when completed, will be of essential benefit to the whole of the east side of the parish, and to the district of Knap in the parish of South Knapdale. The communication with this parish is easy by means of steam-boats, which, in summer, ply daily between Glasgow and Inverness, passing through the Crinan Canal, which bounds the parish at its north-eastern extremity for four miles.

Ecclesiastical State.—The following is a list of the ministers of Knapdale as far back as I have been able to trace them: In 1639, the Rev. Dugald Campbell was minister of Knapdale; in December 1658, the Synod ordered him to transport himself to Lochaber, which was his first charge before he went to Knapdale. In May 1661, he was allowed, at his own request, to return to Knapdale. To him succeeded, in September 1687, the Rev. Duncan Campbell, who died in March 1711. The Rev. John M'Gilchrist was ordained and admitted minister of Knapdale on the 12th April 1715, and, as the parish was so extensive, on the 20th of the same year, the Rev. Patrick Pollick was ordained and admitted second minister of the parish. The former died on the 7th February 1723; the latter was appointed to South Knapdale in 1734. Mr Patrick Campbell was ordained and admitted minister of North Knapdale on the 28th September 1725, and was translated to Inverary on the 27th November 1745. On the 10th June 1746, the Rev. Neill Campbell was presented by Sir James Campbell of Auchnambreck, but was rejected by a majority of the heritors and people. The Rev. Daniel Campbell was admitted on the 14th June 1748, and was translated to Ardnamurchan on the 19th July 1756. He was succeeded by the Rev. Archibald Campbell, senior, who was ordained and admitted on the 3d October 1759, and was translated to Inverary on the 9th June 1774. To him succeeded the Rev.

Archibald Campbell, junior, who was ordained and admitted on the 14th July 1773, and died on the 27th April 1810. The Rev. John Campbell was translated from the parish of Kilfinan, and was admitted on the 9th May 1811, and died on the 7th May 1815. The Rev. Colin Campbell was ordained and admitted on the 2d May 1816, and died on the 27th February 1834. The present incumbent was translated from Berriedale, and admitted minister of this parish on the 27th September 1836.

There are two churches in the parish,—the one at Kilmichael Inverlussay, near the manse; the other at Tayvallich, three miles distant by sea, and ten miles by land. The church of Kilmichael was built in 1820, and is capable of accommodating 450 sitters; the church of Tayvallich was built in 1827, and contains 700 sitters. Both churches are kept in excellent repair. The sittings are all free. The manse was built in 1820, and is in good repair. The garden is very productive. It is well stocked with apple, pear, cherry, plum, and peach trees, and with an abundance of gooseberry and currant bushes. The glebe, which is at the distance of a mile and a half from the manse, contains about ten or twelve acres arable land, with pasture for twelve cows, twelve sheep, and four horses. The amount of the stipend, including L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements, is 223 bolls, $\frac{1}{2}$ peck oatmeal, of 140 lbs. per boll, and 56.9314 imperial quarters of bear; money stipend, L.18, 13s. 4d. The last augmentation took place in the year 1822. The teinds are exhausted.

Education.—There are nine schools,—three of them parochial, and six on the teachers' own adventure. There are about 420 children in attendance upon these schools from the 12th November to the 1st March. The three parochial schools are this year attended by 204, and the six side schools by 215. In the parochial schools the usual branches of education are taught, including Latin, geography, and practical mathematics; in the others, Gaelic and English reading, writing, and arithmetic. The parochial teachers have each a salary of L.17, 2s. 2d.; but, as the maximum salary is given and divided, the heritors are relieved, according to the construction put on the Schoolmasters' Act, from any obligation to provide school-houses or dwellings. The fees for the different branches of instruction are not the same in all the schools, but vary from 1s. 6d. to 5s. per quarter. The school fees are seldom well paid, so that the teachers do not realize more than L.10 each from this source. There is no child above nine years

of age unable to read; above fifteen, there are 113 who cannot read or write.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of paupers receiving regular aid is 42. The sums allowed to each vary from 10s. to L. 2, 5s. per annum. Besides those admitted on the poor's roll, there are other persons to whom occasional aid, during sickness or distress, is administered. The annual amount of collections, from the year 1837, to 1843, averages L.20, 6s.; and the deficiency during the above period has been supplied by the voluntary contributions of the heritors, who cheerfully concur in every measure calculated to increase the comfort, and improvement of the poor in the parish. It is with regret the writer observes that the old Scottish spirit of independence, inducing a reluctance to ask relief from the parish, is fast giving way in this part of the country.

Inns and Alehouses.—There are six of these, of which at least two might, with advantage, be abolished.

Fuel.—The fuel chiefly used is peats, procured at a very great expense from mosses, in some places two or three miles distant. Wood is also not unfrequently used for fuel by the poorer classes; but coals, which can be procured from 12s. 6d. to 13s. 6d. a ton, are now generally used by such as can afford to purchase them.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

There is a striking difference between the present state of the parish and that which existed when the former Statistical Account was drawn up, in respect of population,—the number of the inhabitants since that time having more than doubled. Their houses are generally better built and better furnished, and the comfort of the people has undergone a similar beneficial change. The establishment of schools for the education of youth, the formation of upwards of twenty miles of public roads, the opening of the Crinan Canal, whereby facilities are incalculably increased for exporting or importing produce, have all contributed to excite emulation and industry, to enlighten the minds of the inhabitants, and to render their situation, in many respects, more comfortable.

April 1844.