

PARISH OF GLASSARY.

PRESBYTERY OF INVERARY, SYNOD OF ARGYLE.

THE REV. DUGALD CAMPBELL, MINISTER.*

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—GLASSARY has been said† to be “evidently derived from *Glastra*,” or rather *Glas-strath*, a greyish strath, as being “descriptive of the lower end of the parish.” It may be so; but *Glas-airidh*, or the *Grey Pasturage or Shealing*, seems a less forced and still more descriptive etymology, characteristic alike of the pastoral habits of the past ages, and of the general appearance of the whole parish, whose surface of rugged uplands rather than of lofty mountains, renders it naturally more fitted for pasturage than for tillage.

Boundaries, &c.—It is bounded by Lochfyne on the south and south-east; by Lochawe and part of the parish of Kilmartin on the north-west and north; by the parishes of Inverary and Dalavich on the east and north-east; and by those of Kilmartin, North Knapdale, and South Knapdale on the west and south-west. It varies from 8 to 10 miles in breadth, and from 12 to 16 miles in length. It is said‡ to consist of 150 square miles, or 75,000 Scotch acres; and it is divided into 225½ merk lands. It stretches along Lochfyne for 16 miles, from the stream called Leachdan at the Furnace, which divides it from the parish of Inverary, to the stream south of and close to the village of Lochgilphead, which separates it from South Knapdale on the one side; and on the other it extends along the banks of Lochawe for 8 miles, from the stream on the east side of the farm of Brabhealaich to the Ford. On the west the valley of Glassary extends nearly from side to side of the parish. This valley varies in height from 200 to near 600 feet above the level of the sea; also in breadth and in fertility, having its acclivities on either side partially wooded, and a

* Drawn up by the Rev. Colin Smith, Inverary.

† Vide Old Stat. Account.

‡ Smith's Agricultural Survey of Argyleshire.

small lake, called Lochan Leamhan, near its centre. It also varies the character of the parish scenery, by terminating or interrupting the extensive tract of hill and moss which reaches from the shores of Lochfyne to those of Lochawe.

Meteorology.—The weather in this parish is of that changeable character which its geographical situation indicates. The prevailing winds are from south-west to west and north-west, and coming from the Atlantic charged with vapour, which is formed into clouds by contact with the mountains, they fail not to supply rain abundantly. It is remarked, however, that when a south-west wind continues for some time, it is accompanied by the finest and most settled weather. When the wind is north-east, the weather is almost always dry, though often cloudy and cold. A daily register of the temperature and pressure of the atmosphere is kept at Kilmory, the residence of Sir John P. Orde, Bart. From observations made for several years with the rain-gauge in that place, the quantity which falls annually may be considered to be from 60 to 70 inches.

Quantity of rain, as ascertained by the Rain-Gauge on the leads of Kilmory House,* in the parish of Glassary, for the years 1835–6–7.

	1835.	1836.	1837.	Average.
January, .	3.20	12.30	4.20	6.56‡
February, .	6.60	3.35	6.30	5.41‡
March, .	4.	8.75	2.65	5.13‡
April, .	2.50	4.85	3.20	3.79‡
May, .	8.90	0.06	2.15	3.89‡
June, .	2.30	4.50	2.20	3.
July, .	3.80	9.15	2.10	5.01‡
August, .	5.40	4.50	5.	4.96‡
September, .	5.90	7.85	3.75	5.83‡
October, .	4.10	5.20	8.30	5.86‡
November, .	9.	8.95	5.10†	7.68‡
December, .	5.30	6.80	6.13‡	6.07‡
Total, .	61.	76.26	51.06	62.78

* Communicated by Sir John P. Orde, Bart.

† November 1837 is taken to 7th December.

‡ December only to the 27th in 1837.

Thermometer, as noted at Kilmory House.*

1837.	Morning.				Night.			
	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	No. Obs.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	No. Obs.
Feb.	46	30	38	18	48	30	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	18
March,	42	28	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	26	43	27	34 $\frac{3}{4}$	27
April,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
June,	63	46	55.2	20	60	41	51 $\frac{5}{8}$	19
July,	61	52	58	26	59	42	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	27
Aug.	62	39	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	60	42	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	24
Sept.	54	42	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	52	42	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	17
Oct.	54	35	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	56	36	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	14
Nov.	50	30	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	24	51	32	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	28
Dec.	47	33	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	50	30	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	30
Jan. 1838	46	36	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	46	40	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	6
	63	30			60	30		

Barometer, as noted at Kilmory House.†

1837.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	No.	Sun.	Rain.	Fine.	Snow.	Hail.	Windy or Storm.
February, ‡	30.03	28.92	29.223	55	...	11	4	3	5	...
March,	30.14	28.77	29.732	70	11	6	18	5	...	...
April,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
June,	30.01	29.07	29.63	62	...	7	16	...	...	...
July,	30.06	28.88	29.6264	72	...	14	16	...	...	...
August,	30.06	29.06	29.59	73	...	13	18	...	...	...
September, ¶	29.98	28.90	29.53	49	...	12	18	...	1	5
October, ¶	30.31	28.54	29.52	44	...	13	4	...	5	5
November,	29.91	28.45	29.35 $\frac{1}{2}$	87	4	18	6	1	4	8
December,	30.15	28.68	29.49 $\frac{1}{2}$	110	8	20	11	...	...	6
Jan. 1838,	30.	28.69	29.45 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	...	5	1	5	2	1
Total	30.31	28.32	29.509465	643	...	...	...	...	...	...

Hydrography.—Two sides of this parish, as has been seen, are bounded by water, and it contains numberless fresh-water lakes, the principal of which is Loch-Ederlin, situated beautifully about a quarter of a mile from the north-west end of Lochawe, and only a few feet higher, embosomed in mountains, and adorned with plantations, whose lights and shades are enshrined in and reflected by its calm unruffled surface. There are also many others in the

* Communicated by Sir John P. Orde, Bart.

† Ibid.

‡ From the 11th to the 28th only.

¶ 1 Thunder.

|| 7, 8, 9, 10, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, not observed.

¶¶ 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 31, not observed.

moors, as Lochglaissean and Lochshineach, from which the Ad, the principal stream in the parish, flows. This stream runs to the south-west through the valley of Glassary, and is liable, during heavy rains, to overflow its banks, and do much injury to the surrounding fields. It discharges itself at Crinan, and there is a salmon fishery on it, which is under the management of the proprietor.

The depth of the lakes generally is unknown. That of Lochfine is ascertained, however, and while many variations must be supposed to occur in the land under as above the level of its waters, it may serve every useful purpose merely to state, that at Camladden its depth is 35 fathoms; between Minard and the opposite side at Castle-Lachlane, 12 to 15; opposite Lochgair, 40, and at Airds Point, 15 to 50 fathoms. Lochgilp and Lochgair are two small branches off Lochfyne, about six miles distant, the latter being little more than a well-protected bay, while the former is about a mile and a-half in length, but so shallow as not to be navigable for boats of any burden during low water.

“The springs with me,* at least those which are perennial, rise mostly from the veins of hard siliceous limestone. They are very clear, but contain a good deal of lime and a little iron. I have tested them all roughly, and discover little difference in them; nor do they contain a notable portion of any other ingredient. I have never found the temperature of those near my house to vary sensibly from 48°.

“*Tides.*—The current of flood and ebb set strongly up and down Lochfyne, on the Argyle shore. From Silvercraigs, the ebb sets across to Caoldhu, along which line there is a bank of rock, on many parts of which there is very shoal water, particularly at a point called *An Sgor Mhór*, opposite to Inverniel. In Lochgilp, the tide is much less strong. A great change has taken place in the ebb at the head of Lochgilp during the last twenty or thirty years. From being a firm sand, it has become soft and muddy, and is seldom or never dry. I had to extend my slip or landing causeway several times, in consequence of the bank always growing out at the end of it; but this might possibly be caused by the slip itself.”

Geology.—The rocks are slaty. On the north-east end of the parish they are micaceous, becoming harder and less ragged in

* I have been indebted to the kindness of Sir John P. Orde, Bart., Kilmory, for this and much valuable information throughout this report.

the fracture towards the tops of the hills. They are often speckled with red, in consequence of partial decomposition. Masses of porphyry, several miles in extent, jut through the prevailing rock to a height of 700 or 800 feet at Camladden, and at the points of junction the slate appears redder in colour and friable.

Towards the west and south-west part of Glassary, the slate becomes less micaceous by degrees, the porphyry disappears, and the hills soften down both in form and height. Clay slate and chlorite slate, of a dark green colour, and abounding in pyrites, form the rocks of this district, frequently interstratified with grey felspar of varying thickness, containing oxide of iron, and traversed at different angles by veins of greenstone.

On the shores of Lochawe, sections of the rock have been laid open in forming the road, which exposes at some points the junction of the slate with the granitic rocks on which it is superincumbent. These sections are also important in an economical point of view, showing that, from the slate of this district, flags of any size and suitable for any purpose may be found with the least possible trouble; while the antiquarian may also learn from them how easily the stones which formed the Druidical circles, the flags which roofed ancient castles, and formed the stone-coffins of the dead, might have been obtained.

The strata extend in the direction of south-east and north-west, with occasional contortions, such as are generally found in schistose rocks, and they dip south-west.

Limestone is found abundantly interspersed through the schistus in many parts of the parish; and a copper-mine was opened by the present Duke of Argyle on the farm of Brainchaoille, which, though the ore was excellent in quality, was not found to occur in such quantity as to remunerate the working, and was therefore abandoned.

Boulder stones of various sizes are met with, of a rounded form received by attrition, and consisting of the granite and porphyry, &c. of the neighbouring hills.

The soil varies with the character of the subjacent rocks. Along the banks of Lochfyne, towards the south-east part of the parish, it is gravelly, reposing on rock or clay, or sometimes mingled with peat; while on the south-west end, and along the banks of Lochawe, the soil is a deep and dark loam for the most part, and of a fertile quality. Peat occurs at all elevations, and in all parts of the parish.

Zoology.—This parish is favoured zoologically by having the sea for its boundary on the one side, and Lochawe, one of the largest of the Scottish lakes, on the other. Its hills are lofty enough to be the habitation of the snow-bunting (*Emberiza nivalis*), and the ptarmigan (*Tetrao Lagopus*), and its woods warm enough to shelter the wren and the thrush (*Turdus musicus*). The teal (*Anas crecca*), and the widgeon (*A. Penelope*), with the water-hen (*Fulica chloropus*), and coot (*F. atra* and *F. aterrima*), are found on its lakes; and varieties of the gull (*Larus*), and diver (*Mergus*), on its shores; while Lochfyne, on the one side, supplies herrings, and Lochawe, on the other, trout such as cannot be surpassed.

It is not known that any rare species of animals are to be found in this parish. It is said that the wolf was, till a late period in the British history of that animal, an inhabitant of these houseless wilds, and that it was usual to fortify the roofs of the solitary huts and shealings against his depredations by wattlings of strong brush-wood. It is told that the last of them which was seen in this parish followed in the track of a female who was crossing the country from Lochawe to Lochfyneside. She was seen ascending the hill above Braveallaich with confidence, and, after passing through the moor, had almost obtained the road which leads to Inverary, at the mill of Craleckan, but was found close by it, on the Glassary side of the stream, a corpse. Her right arm was protected by an apron which she had rolled around it, and her hand grasped a knife which she had lodged deep in the heart of a wolf that lay dead beside her. It was supposed that when she discovered the animal on her track, she had fled in the hope of reaching the houses that were nigh at hand; but that being unable to escape, she had assumed the defensive in despair, and died terrified and exhausted by the effort which left her nothing to fear.

“ We have a considerable herd of the small zebu, or humped Indian cattle, both of the long and short-horned breeds. The crosses between these and Ayrshire or Highland cows have proved very hardy, and most remarkable for their disposition to fatten, and also for the juiciness and flavour of the meat. One bullock weighed 960 lbs., but they are not often much above a-half or two-thirds of that weight. The crosses are so wild, that it is difficult to do any thing with them. We have also a few of the larger or Guzorat breed of humped cattle, and I got some years ago, a white bull of the aboriginal Scotch breed, which, I understand, came from the Duke of Atholl's stock, and having selected

white or dun Highland cows to breed with him, he has left many with the characters of the wild race. These, however, have not the whole ear black as the Hamilton, or red as the Chillingham cattle, but only edged with black hairs.

“ I tried two or three pairs of alpacas and llamas ; but the former died, and the latter met with accidents, and I gave them up. I do not think them suited to our climate, or likely to be profitable. Mr Stevenson at Oban had the llama for many years, and they did well with him ; but their fleece is not to be compared with that of the alpaca, which, I fear, is a much more tender animal, and which certainly has no more disposition to fatten than a goat.”

Fishes.—“ Lobsters have lately been caught, and some lobster pots have been introduced from Guernsey and elsewhere. Pearls are often found in the oysters and mussels, but small and of no value. If the oysters and mussels could be protected, they might become valuable.”

Botany—Trees.—“ The ash grows very fast when young, but the trees are apt to decline, or even canker and die, when twenty-five or thirty years old. The Scotch fir, too, often fails when it has become a large tree. The Balm of Gilead fir invariably does so. The silver fir succeeds better than any other tree ; but the larch and all hard-woods, except the ash in some cases, thrive well and grow rapidly. Larch may be removed and transplanted after ten years' growth, with a loss of no more than 1 in 100, and at an expense of about L.11, 10s. per acre.”*

We know of no rare plants found in this parish. Its hills are not sufficiently lofty for the habitats of the rarer alpine plants, and the plains do not afford a variety. The botanist may form an estimate of what is generally met with, when it is stated that the heaths abound with *Azalea procumbens*, *Epilobium montanum*, *Tormentilla officinalis*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Thymus Serpyllum*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Hypericum montanum*, &c.; the bogs with *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Eriophorum vaginatum*, *Scirpi*, *Junci*, &c.; the sides of the rills with *Saxifraga stellaris*, *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*, *Nasturtium officinale*, &c.; the lakes with *Potamogeton natans*, *Nymphæa alba*, *Nuphar lutea*, *Ranunculus aquatilis*, &c.; the woods with *Frimula vulgaris*, *Lonicera Periclymenum*, *Ribes alpinum*, *Allium ursinum*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Geum urbanum*, *G. rivale*, *Trollius Europæus*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Geranium phæum*, *Hypericum calycinum*, &c.; the gra-

* Communication from Sir John Orde, Bart.

velly fields and shores with *Erythræa centaurium*, *Eryngium maritimum*, *Statice Armeria*, *Arenaria peploides*, *Sedum anglicum*, &c.; and the meadows with *Lychnis dioica*, *L. Flos Cuculi*, *Ranunculi*, *Caltha palustris*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Orchis maculata*, *O. albida*, &c. The plague of the cultivated fields is various species of *Rumex* or dock, which grow everywhere as if the seeds had been sown with care.

There are plantations of oak, fir, &c., of various extent, throughout the parish, though it cannot by any means be said to be wooded. On the estates of Camlodden and Minard, Kilmory and Auchandaroch, and with few exceptions throughout the whole district, they are well fenced, are kept clean, and thrive well. There is also a considerable portion of natural wood, as oak, hazel, birch, &c., along Lochaweside.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is no written account of the history of the parish known to us, by which we can learn any thing of its ancient condition. Neither are there documents, papers, or pictures known to be in the possession of any one, illustrative of its past history. Much must, therefore, be left to conjecture; but it is probable that the south-west portion of the parish must have been of importance, when the Scots held their seat of government in Argyleshire, and when the frequent feuds between the two branches of the regal family, living the one in Kintyre and the other in Lorne, rendered this their pathway in their mutual incursions, and probably their battle-field.*

In the eleventh, twelfth, and early portion of the thirteenth century, it is probable that the inhabitants of this district were kept in continual alarm by the near proximity of the Danes, who had possession of all the western coast, and had settled in great numbers in the neighbouring parish of North Knapdale. The remains of ancient buildings, intended, as their form and sites evidently indicate, as watch-towers, built in order to convey the most rapid intelligence of the movements of any party on the coast to the internal parts of the country, give countenance to this opinion. These are still three in number. One is called Tor a Bhlarain, on the top of a hill called Barnafuar, near Kilmichael, and it

* Early in the eighth century, a division was made of lands lying between Lorne and Kintyre, whereby the portion of the King of Dal-ruadh was separated from that of Lorne. There is in this parish a farm called *Ruadh-dal*, contracted *Ru-dal*. Can it be the limit of the part of *Ruadh*, the *Reuda* of Bede, according to the above division?

commands a view of the hills of Knapdale, the coast, and Loch-Crinan. Another is called Tunnan, and is placed upon a rock called Creag na'n Tun in Glenaireidh, and within sight of Dunchuaich, another watch-tower in the parish, and above the Castle of Inverary. The third is on Gortain Rainich, by the side of Lochglaissean, and it commands a view of the two former, being in the centre between them: The whole thus forming one line of communication, by which any tidings might be intimated from either district to the other.

Tradition states that a great portion of the parish was in possession of the MacDonalDs, and that the chief who held the surrounding district in subjection lived on Lochaweside. There is a ruin on the northern banks of that lake, called Fionn-chairn Castle, which is pointed out as the residence of Mac Mhic Jain. It stands upon a rock, which rises up from the waters of the lake on one side, and is all around steep and rugged, without a pathway, so that it is entered by climbing with some difficulty. It is a square building, of small dimensions, having an area in the centre, surrounded by what appears to have been rooms, or rather cells, one tier above another, and the uppermost of them roofed in by flags of a large size.

Tradition says it was destroyed by fire, and the account given of its fall is illustrative of the times. Mac Mhic Jain was acknowledged by all around as the chief, and he demanded the services and submission which were supposed due to him in that capacity. The fair Una was the daughter of a powerful vassal in the neighbourhood, who was about to give her in marriage to a youth who was worthy of, and who had won her heart. The marriage day was fixed, and only one bitterness was mixed in the cup of their ardent expectations. The chieftain, by custom, possessed privileges which he exacted, but which God and nature teach to be the right of the husband alone. Una pleaded and wept; her lover remonstrated with the chief to spare them the pain and disgrace; but he was inexorable. The marriage party assembled; the knot was tied; and the supper was spread in the hall. Mac Mhic Jain had arrived, as was usual, to share in the feast. One, however, was absent from the board, and he was the bridegroom. No sooner was he missed than the alarm was raised that Fionn-chairn Castle was on fire. The truth flashed on the mind of the chief, and he rushed forth the first to have vengeance. This happened as the youth expected, who had avail-

ed himself of the prevailing mirth to go forth unperceived to apply the burning torch, and who was now hastening back. The two met, not unwilling foes, in an intervening wood. They fought. The chieftain fell, and Castle Fionn-chairn was not built again, nor the sway of the Mac Mhic Jain any more submitted to.

The Knights of Lochawe in all probability obtained the influence in this district which the MacDonalDs had lost. For they lived at Ard-chonnail Castle, in the parish of Dalavich, and only a few miles distant. There is, however, no relation known to us of the time in which they became possessors of the land, though the fact is certain that their clansmen were long, and till lately continued to be, nearly the sole proprietors.

Several powerful families of that race were resident in the parish. Campbell of Achnabreck was only second to Argyle in the county. This family lived at Lochgair in a mansion of great size,—but which was cast to the ground when the property went to other hands. They held their baron bailie courts at Kilmichail, then a populous village, and a place of considerable importance, not only in the parish but also in the county. The Campbells of Ederline also held large possessions in this parish. But now Kilmory alone remains to the descendants of the former, and Achaneilain to those of the latter.* Among the old heritors also, were the Campbells of Kirnan, who appear by the records of the Presbytery of Inverary to have been, for one generation after another, supporters of the Reformation and elders in the Church. Their valued rent was L.37, 1s. nearly one-nineteenth of the whole. From them Thomas Campbell the poet was descended. And it is said that it was in the old manse of Kilmichail, after visiting the old house and garden of Kirnan, which are about a mile and a half distant in the valley of Glassary, that he wrote the beautiful lines, “On visiting a scene in Argyleshire.” The two first stanzas are descriptive of many such other places in this parish, to which descendants may look with similar feelings.*

* The Rev. Dugald Campbell, minister of Glassary, is this descendant.

† At the silence of twilight's contemplative hour,
I have mused in a sorrowful mood,
On the wind-shaken weeds that embosom the bower,
Where the home of my forefathers stood.
All ruin'd and wild is their roofless abode,
And lonely the dark raven's sheltering tree;
And travell'd by few is the grass-covered road,
Where the hunter of deer and the warrior trode,
To his hills that encircle the sea.

A century ago the number of heritors in this parish was twenty, of whom thirteen were Campbells and three were MacLachlanes. There was one MacKellar, one Lamont, one MacTavish, and one MacCallum. Now there are fourteen heritors, seven of whom are Campbells. There is neither a MacLachlane, a MacKellar, nor a MacTavish among them, and the descendants of MacCallum having assumed the name of Malcolm, their heir is now the principal heritor, manifesting their hereditary enterprise, judgment, and prudence.

The ancient ecclesiastical condition of this parish is made known to the present generation, only by the ruins of chapels or churches scattered over it. There are Kilbride in the west-end, Killèvin, near Crarae on Lochfyneside, and Kilmory near Lochgilphead. There is also a fine ruin of a church, with an oratory close by it, at Kil-neuair on Lochaweside. This seems to have been an important station, as is indicated by the beauty of the workmanship and the traditions connected with the church. The date of the building cannot be given; but it is related that, as in building the temple in Jerusalem, so in the erection of this church, —not a hammer was laid on a stone at the site of it; that the stones were found in and dressed at a quarry close to Killèvin, on Lochfyneside; that on a particular day duly appointed, people attended in such numbers as to form one close rank from Killèvin to Kil-neuair, a distance of twelve miles, and that each stone, as raised at the quarry or hewing station, was handed from one man to another along the whole rank until it was fixed by the last of them in its place in the building.

This church was held in superstitious veneration long after it ceased to be used as a place of worship, and it was imagined that the spirits, either of the saints or of the dead unemancipated from purgatory, haunted its walls.* A village once was ranged round

Yet wandering, I found on my ruinous walk,
By the dial-stone aged and green,
One rose of the wilderness left on its stalk,
To mark where a garden had been.
Like a brotherless hermit, the last of its race,
All wild in the silence of nature, it drew
From each wandering sun-beam, a lonely embrace;
For the night-weed and thorn overshadow'd the place
Where the flower of my forefathers grew.

Sweet bud of the wilderness! emblem of all
That remains in this desolate heart!

&c. &c.

* It is of this church that a story is told, to which we have often listened with wonder and awe in childhood, and which has obtained a wide circulation. The tra-

it, and it was the station in which a market called A'margadh Dhu was held; but now the ruins stand alone by the side of a road which few travellers frequent.

"The foundations* of the old chapel or cell at Kilmory were visible till within the last few years, and I still possess a stone which has formed part of a very handsome moulding, probably that of the door architrave. I have been told, that, according to tradition, Kilmory and Kildusclan, which is on the opposite side of Lochgilp, were served by one priest.

"The precincts of the Kilmory chapel are still used by the country people as a burying ground; the most rigid Presbyterians having a most uncalvinistic prejudice in favour of the old papistically consecrated ground.

"When the Parliamentary church was built at Lochgilphead, it was wished that people should be buried in the ground round it, but it was many years before any one could be induced to patronise it. A vagrant having been found dead in the neighbourhood, it was proposed to break the charm by interring him there; but even the authors of the proposition relented before it was actually carried into execution, saying it was too hard to put him there, because he had no relations.

"Somehow or other a beginning has since been made, and many are now buried round their place of worship.

"A very neat monument, an obelisk of Ardantallin stone, is there erected to the memory of their first pastor, the late Mr M'Kichan, a man universally beloved and regretted by his flock."

Heritors.—The resident heritors in the parish are four, and all of them living in commodious mansions. The principal of these is Kilmory. "It is† said to have been a mausion-house for 500 years; but, in those days, this distinction was more easy

ditionary tale is, that a tailor who was sceptical on the subject of apparitions, ventured to bet that he would make a pair of trews, (the dress of the time,) within the walls of the church during the midnight hours. He went with his torch bravely to redeem his pledge; but he had not sewn much when a sepulchral voice directed his attention to a hand of gigantic size arising from some of the graves in the area of the church, and he heard the words, "Am faic thu a chròg mhòr liath so a thàilleir?" (Seest thou this huge hoary hand, tailor?) "Chì mi sin 's fuaighidh mi so, thubhairt an tàillair." (I see that, but will sew this, said the tailor.) The voice again uttered, "Am faic thu an ceann mòr liath so a thàilleir?" (Seest thou this large grey head, tailor?) "Chì mi sin 's fuaighidh mi so thubhairt an tàillair." (I see that, but will sew this, said the tailor.) Thus the conversation proceeded until all the members of the skeleton appeared. Then the tailor fled; and it was time, for the bony hand that was stretched out to seize him, struck and left its impression on the wall.

* Communication by Sir John Orde, Bart.

† Ibid.

of attainment. It was thatched within the memory of man, and, when I first knew it, the corner stone of the oldest part, projecting considerably from the wall, had a hollow in the top for grinding or pounding barley in. This I was unwillingly obliged to blast away, as it projected considerably into the new addition. Peter Campbell, Esq., the late proprietor, added to it in 1816 or 1820. Since 1828, when I came into the possession of it, further additions have been from time to time made to it, and the old part is incorporated, so as not to be distinguished from the new.

“ The principal feature of the house is a large octagon tower of blue stone ashler, which forms the south-west angle, containing a dining-room 15 feet high, and an octagon drawing-room, 21 feet high, and having, besides three windows at the usual height, a window in each of the eight sides. These rooms are 29 feet in diameter. An anteroom, about 12 feet square, connects the octagon with another, the Chinese drawing-room, which is 57 feet long by 27 wide, and 16 high. This room extends over the entrance-hall and the kitchen, between which is an archway or covered entrance, 40 feet long by 15 wide, which admits a carriage and four to drive into it. It is closed by sliding gates at either side, and is a perfect protection in this stormy climate. The principal staircase, which is much admired, is circular, with the steps all alike, while the walls are octagon, and it is lighted by a circular sky-light. A great portion of the house is flat roofed, covered with lead, and surmounted by a flagstaff 48 feet high. Most of the house is built of the blue flag found on the property, either rough or hewn; but most of the chimney cornices and copes are freestone, from the Garscube and other quarries. The floors in the public rooms are of polished oak, as are also the doors, and in some cases the wainscoting. The furniture of these rooms is all antique, and a good deal of it was taken from the Palace of Belew, in Portugal. The damask coverings and the paper-hangings were manufactured expressly for us in China.

“ The view from the tower is most picturesque, extending from Ben-ghoil, in Arran, to the mountains of Mull, and commanding a great part of Lochfyne, with the opposite hills of Cowal.”

III.—POPULATION.

The oldest account which we have of the population of this parish is dated in 1755, when the number of souls in it was

2751. In 1792, it had diminished to 2568. In 1831, it had increased to 4054, and, in 1841, to 5369. The number (in 1841) residing in the original parish of Glassary, was, males, 1355, and females, 1295; total, 2650. Families, 504. Attached to the Government church of Lochgilphead, were, males, 1345, females, 1394; total, 2739. Families, 562. Making in all, males, 2690, females, 2689; total, 5369. Families, 1066.

The increase in the population shown by the above returns has taken place entirely in the village of Lochgilphead, which has increased rapidly within the last thirty years, and is still increasing. The rural population, there is reason to believe, has been diminishing rather than increasing, as not only have emigration and the enlargement of farms so operated, in this as in other parts of the Highlands; but the principal proprietor has taken upon himself the management of a great portion of his lands, placing workmen and managers in them instead of tenants and cottars; an experiment which may require to be watched, lest it give rise to a population which may eventually be as poor, and not more easily maintained or more beneficial to the community, than that which has been dispensed with. The cottar and the crofter systems are liable to much abuse, and where unrestrained must ever bring down the character of the peasantry to the lowest level; but it is difficult for the farmer to carry on work where he can find no extra labourer of whose aid he can avail himself at a busy season; and it might therefore conduce to the interests of all, if the building of a cottage or the allotment of a piece of ground to a poor man were carefully considered rather than altogether prevented.

Very often the cottars who leave the rural districts here take up their abode in the village.

The average* number of baptisms registered annually in Glassary for the three years ending January 1844, was 103; and of marriages for the same period, 26 annually. It is believed that these returns are not strictly accordant with the actual number, especially of births, because there is an impression that the registers are purely ecclesiastical documents, kept by order of the ecclesiastical and not of the civil authorities,—and that if the officiating ministers insist not upon it, the interests of the parties do not render the expense necessary.

* Return made by Mr John Campbell, teacher and session-clerk.

The number* of proprietors having a rental above L.2000, is one; having above L.1000, and not L.2000, two; having above L.500, and not L.1000, four; having above L.100, and not L.500, six. In Lochgilphead, again, the number of proprietors having an annual income from houses of L.100 and upwards, is three; from L.50 to L.100, three; from L.20 to L.50, nineteen; from L.10 to L.20, thirty-two; under L.10, twelve.

There are several persons in the parish, of independent though not of large means.

The style of house-building in Lochgilphead has been greatly improved of late, but this is principally owing to the proprietor, Alexander Campbell, Esq. of Achandaroch, who will not now give feu or lease unless the plans are submitted to his own approval.

Illicit distillation scarcely exists in this parish; at least it is not brought to light.

The character of the people varies in different districts of the parish, which are so far separated that they have not much intercourse together. Along the banks of Lochfyne, they are an active hardy race, of fishermen principally, who are capable of enduring much wet and cold; but more rude than the inhabitants of the less frequented Lochaweside.

We† have ever been led to question the benefit of herring-fishing, as carried on in Lochfyne, to the community either in a moral or economical point of view, by observing its effects upon the habits of the people that pursue it. Habits of excitement are not favourable to the mind or body, and unfit men for the steady and common avocations of life. "The almost universal‡ connection between herring-fishing and whisky-drinking makes it rather a curse than a boon to the people, and the pursuit is so uncertain, and partakes so much of the nature of gambling, that it is believed, in most instances, the money is not more 'hardly got' than 'lightly gone.'"

The Gaelic language is generally spoken, but is gradually disappearing. Upon the whole, the people may be said to enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society,—though truth requires it to be said, that more self-respect and more brotherly love would greatly elevate them above their present condition.

* According to the assessment made for roads in March 1844, and returned by Mr George MacCombie.

† See MS. of Statistical Account of Inverary.

‡ Communication by Sir John Orde, Bart.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The parish has not been so surveyed that the number of acres cultivated and uncultivated can be stated. Much, however, remains waste that might be profitably improved for occasional tillage or permanent pasture. There are several properties on which great improvements have been made, and consequently the rate of rent per acre varies exceedingly. Generally speaking, the rent may be considered to range from L.3 to L.5 for a cow, and from 2s. 4d. to 3s. 6d. for a sheep, for a year, according to the quality of the soil and local circumstances.

The close or furrow draining system is that which is ordinarily pursued in reclaiming or improving the land. Drill husbandry is usually practised, and leases are generally from year to year, though there are several exceptions to this. The farm-buildings are generally of an inferior description, and there is a great want of enclosures, though much has been done in these respects also, or is now being done by Alexander Campbell, Esq. of Achan-daroch, N. Malcolm, Esq. of Poltalloch, Sir John Orde, Bart. Kilmory, William Campbell, Esq. of Ederline, and Colonel MacNiell of Achnaba, on their respective properties.

“The breed of cattle generally raised is the Argyleshire or West Highland, and of sheep, the black-faced. There is at Kilmory a considerable* flock of South Down sheep, which do well on the low grounds, and make excellent winter mutton. They are much more hardy than the Leicesters, and make also a good cross with the black-faced. An Agricultural and an Horticultural Society have been established here in connection with the parishes of Kilmartin, Craignish, and North and South Knapdale. They have been* very successful, and there has been considerable improvement in the cattle and sheep. That of horses is more questionable, and any great improvement of them is out of the question till we have, or will use, improved means of keeping them. Some years ago I brought a large stallion ass, near 15 hands high, from Malta, and have several good mules, which do very well, and some superior half-bred asses from him.”

While some progress is thus making, and some facilities for improvement given, the want of capital is felt by many of the tenantry, and must be considered as the principal obstacle to improvement in this as probably in every other country. The Highland farmer is not without enterprise, neither is he always indolent; but

* Communication from Sir J. Orde.

the generally short leases are not calculated to awaken confidence; the frequently mean accommodation for the families increases, if it engenders not slovenly habits; defective fences, which expose expensively raised crops to the nightly depredations of cattle, discourage, if they do not disgust him; and insufficient office-houses, giving neither security to the crop nor comfort to the stock, leave him little in a climate changeable beyond calculation, that he can rejoice in as the fruits of his labours.

It must also be said, that too much is often expected of the farmer in this quarter. It appears that, so far back as 1792,* the tenants paid seven and a half per cent. for money expended in improvements; and it is understood that, on some properties at least, they do so still. The proprietor has a right to expect that the possessors of his lands shall render them better rather than worse, going on with the spirit of the times; but he has not a right to expect that that class of men who have no permanent interest in the lands shall improve them for his perpetual benefit. Reason, religion, and justice, teach that he who is able and rich, and whose property receives the advantage, should make some sacrifice for the benefit of the tenant, rather than that the resources of the latter should be exhausted to penury in increasing his stores. The slightest consideration shows that the advancement of money at seven and a half per cent., if legal, is, to say the least, an exaction which is intolerable; for at this rate, on an eighteen years' lease, the proprietor who advances L.100 receives, first, compound interest at five per cent. for his money; he then receives his whole capital advanced, and somewhat more; and he lastly receives his farm improved to his hands for nothing. Or, in other words, the farmer gives him five per cent. for his money, pays it to him all back, and improves his land for him,—conferring every obligation, and receiving nothing.

Fisheries.—The principal fishery in Lochfyne is that of herrings, and it is carried on with varying success. Much may probably be yet done in advancing the knowledge, facilitating the labours, diminishing the casual losses, and improving the condition, pecuniary and moral, of the fishermen. As it is, some advances are making. Their boats are becoming larger and better; and the Ayrshire fishermen have brought in a good style of skiff, with a single lug-sail. A few years ago they were all wherry or schooner-rigged. They change the colour of the paint frequently, the men

* Last Statistical Account.

of one place generally painting alike. All of them have abandoned bark for tanning their nets, and use catechu. It is worthy of notice, that, a few years ago, a train of 50 or 60 nets was considered long; now they often have trains of 300 nets. The number of boats employed in this parish "in the herring fishing, and in the cod and ling fishing, is 108, manned by 326 men and boys; 167 persons are employed in gutting, packing, &c.; and there are 7 coopers and 4 curers."*

Manufactures.—The only branches of manufacture carried on are, a distillery at Lochgilphead, which makes about 19,000 gallons† of whisky, quarterly; and a powder-mill, erected lately on the confines of the parish, adjoining Inverary, but of which the returns are not known.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—Lochgilphead is the principal, indeed the only market-town in the parish, as Kilmichael, though once populous, cannot now be called a village. The trade of Lochgilphead depends entirely on the surrounding district, and it has great facilities alike for its imports and exports by steam-boats, which daily arrive at and depart from Ardrisaig, which is nearly two miles distant, and the sea-port of this town, though in the parish of South Knapdale. The benefit conferred on this country by steam navigation is indeed incalculable, and only in the course of being developed. From Lochgilphead, the traveller may go southward to Glasgow; north, to Mull or Inverness by the Crinan Canal, which forms part of the boundary of this parish, on the south-west, at some points; or to Inverary, up Lochfyne, by steam-boats; and they convey sheep and cattle to market at a small expense of time, labour, and money. There are daily posts to Inverary, Glasgow, and Campbelton, and three times a-week to Kilmartin.

The means of communication are extending and improving in every respect. There are no turnpikes, and the roads are both made and repaired by assessment within the county; yet they are very good, and 21 miles in length. They also require to be much more extended, in order that the north portion of the parish may have easier access to market, &c. There are now several roads which scarcely deserve that name, also maintained at the public expense, over and above that mentioned above, *i. e.* one through the valley of Glassary, another across the moor from the ford to

* Return by Mr Sutherland, Fishery Officer, Ardrisaig.

† Stated on the authority of Mr Borthwick, Supervisor of Excise.

Inverary, and a third from Bravealaich to Inverary. The fine road along the banks of Lochawe, extending from Eritinn, in the parish of Dalavich, to Fionchairn, in this parish, eight miles, was completed last year at an expense of L.1500; and, it is understood, was offered gratuitously to the road-trustees by the proprietor of the lands in that district.*

“The bridges† are not remarkable, but they are in good order, and that over the Ad, having four arches, is the largest. Notwithstanding that it has been enlarged and repaired at different times, it is still very narrow, steep, inconvenient, and almost dangerous. A new bridge lower down would require a mile of new road; but would shorten the distance to Kilmartin considerably, and ought to be built. One of the swing bridges over the Crinan Canal, that at Carn-ban, is in this parish; but none of them is quite trustworthy, and when vessels are passing there is a long detention.

“Of harbours there are Lochgilp, which has good anchorage, but not much shelter from the south: the two bays of Silvercraigs, in one or other of which boats find shelter except from the south: Lochgair and Minard Bays; these are in the state of nature, but there is a small pier built by the road trustees at North Otter Ferry, and I have a small pier for my own use below the house, with a causeway or ‘hard,’ 300 yards long down to the lowest low water mark. I have also rather a larger pier at the village for the accommodation of herring wherries, coal smacks, &c. from whom I take a small toll. These are only accessible at high water. The tide rises here from 8 to 10 feet. The high water at full moon and change is at about 12 o’clock in Lochgilp.”

Ecclesiastical State.—Neither this parish nor any other in this county has the ecclesiastical advantages of church accommodation and frequent ministerial services possessed in papistical times before the Reformation. The destitution of this and other portions of the Highlands arose rather from circumstances than from neglect, and has been perpetuated by custom or untoward events. During the early period of the Reformation, no good result would be considered to arise from the multiplication of places of worship, as the paucity of ministers was such, that the people were seldom called together for worship. There were only a few ministers scattered over the extensive bounds now constituting the two

* Niel Malcolm, Esq. Poltalloch.

† Communication by Sir John Orde, Bart.

Synods of Argyle and Glenelg, the two being then comprehended under the name of the Synod of Argyle; and much of the business of the members constituting their meetings consisted in hearing applications from destitute parishes for the means of grace, and in appointing supplies, which were necessarily few and inadequate. From 1638 to 1660, notwithstanding the troubles of the times, the extension of the church attracted the attention of the ministers and of the Marquis of Argyle, that stedfast friend of Scotland and its church, whose patriotic acts and efforts are exhibited not more in the annals of the country than in the more obscure records of our synods, our presbyteries, and our kirk-sessions. In 1650 and 1651, a private commission of Parliament, of which he was the chairman, was appointed for the plantation of kirks within the province of Argyle, whose acts, in dividing the united parishes and constituting them into separate parishes, anticipated what it is now the warmest wish of the friends of the Church of Scotland to see accomplished. This parish was also under their consideration, and there is now among the MS. papers of the Synod of Argyle,* an act extracted under the hand of John Zuill, clerk to the Commission, dated 17th October 1650, continuing the summons raised before them for the planting, dividing, and dismembering of "Kilmichael and Glassary," having on the back of it the execution of its due intimation. The events which occurred soon after this prevented the accomplishment of the object contemplated in these proceedings. After the restoration of Presbytery, in 1690, the ministers and elders of the Synod of Argyle, with the concurrence of the General Assembly, applied to the Commission of Parliament for plantation of kirks and valuation of teinds for an order on their clerk to give extracts† of the "hail decreets." In the same year, dated 4th August, the Synod of Argyle received a letter from Sir Duncan Campbell of Achnabreck, proposing‡ the convenience of planting a church at Lochgair, where he designs the residence of his family, and promising for the advancement thereof to dedicate the tithes that he hath about that place for the use foresaid, as a part of the stipend of the minister to be there, and offering himself ready to build a church fit for the place upon his own expenses." And the Synod

* These MSS., among the papers of the Synod of Argyle, were found in Darleith with Mary Crawford, relict to the deceased Alexander Zuill of Darleith.—Synod Records, Vol. ii. p. 97.

† MSS. among the papers of the Synod.

‡ Records of Synod, dated 6th August 1690, Sess. 10, Vol. ii. p. 58.

answer that they have "appointed the Presbytery of Argyle, after they have considered the decreets of plantation for disuniting the said parish of Kilmichael from the lands about Lochgair, to observe what rectification these new erections would require, in order to the erecting and planting of the said new church, and this with concurrence of the said Sir Duncan Campbell and other gentlemen in the parish."

In 1696, the Synod, "considering they now have in their custody the principal minutes of the decreets of plantation," recommend means to petition the Lords of Commission and Plantation to sustain and approve these; which petition they seem to have formally made at a later period.* In 1697, the people of Glassary petitioned the Synod to recommend† to the Lords of Plantation to make the decret of plantation, passed in the year 1650, effectual; by which decret the parish of Glassary, as it now stands, was divided into three distinct charges, viz. the parish of Kilineuair, parish of Lochgair, and the new parish of Kilmichael; and the Synod unanimously concurred in the prayer of the petition, and agreed to recommend accordingly. It thus appears that provision was made for improving the ecclesiastical condition of this parish; and, in 1707, the ninth act of the Parliament of Scotland, held in that year anent plantation of kirks and valuation of teinds, enacted, that any authentic extracts from the records and other proceedings of former commissions, brought in and presented to their Lordships, should be recorded in a particular register, and be reputed as valid and authentic as if the principal warrants themselves were extant. Yet, for reasons unknown to us, the parish of Glassary was not divided.

In 1828 a Government church was erected in a corner of the parish where the village of Lochgilphead had arisen; and in 1841 a church was built by the Committee of the General Assembly for church extension, aided by the Duke of Argyle and Sir Archibald Campbell, Bart. at Camlodden, for the benefit of that portion of the parish, and the adjoining district of the parish of Inverary, wherein a probationer officiated for some time. The parish church is well situated for the district in which it is placed, but is too large. It was built in 1827, was struck by lightning, and much injured in the winter of 1829-30, and was afterwards well repaired and improved. The Government church at Lochgilp-

* MSS. among the papers of the Synod.

† Records of the Synod of Argyle, Vol. ii. p. 287.

head is seated for 480, having one-third of the seats free; and the new erection at Camlodden for 300, the seats being all free. The Committee of the General Assembly on the royal bounty employed a missionary, who preached alternately at Lochaweside and Lochfyneside in this parish; but at present the mission and the new erection at Camlodden are vacant. The manse of Glassary was built in 1841, and cost L.1200.

The glebe is very good, consisting of more than twelve acres, situated close to the church and manse, descending from them by a gentle declivity to the river Ad, which forms the boundary. In 1691, when a minister had been settled in it, in connection with restored Presbytery, the following minute is in a separate register of the Presbytery of Inverary; and records the history of this and many other glebes.

“According to the appointment of the last Presbytery, the heritors in Kilmichael in Glassary have taken the following method in settling the minister’s manse, yard and glebe, viz. they have stented themselves in 800 merks, the half thereof to be paid at Candlemas next, and the other half at Whitsunday thereafter, to Mr Daniel Campbell. Of the which 800 merks, 300 to be given to Achanbreck, (Sir Duncan Campbell) for the stance of the manse and yard; and the same Sir Duncan Campbell hath sequestrate the piece of ground called Gortain na Kirk, for the stance of said house and yard; the other 500 is allowed for Mr Daniel Campbell for building the manse. And in regard the parish, by reason of the late troubles and vastations, is not put in capacity to buy a sufficient glebe, they have therefore stented themselves in fourtie pounds each merk land to be paid yearly into the small books to the said Mr Daniel Campbell, in lieu of his glebe, aye and until they be able to buy the same, the which money so payable out of the parish, the said Mr Daniel is to pay to Achanbreck yearly for the acre of old called John Damsone’s acre, adjoining to his yard and house, betwixt the east end of the church and the water, the which acre the foresaid heritors have obliged themselves to buy within four years of the date of their putt to be a glebe to their minister. Of the which acre Achanbreck lately granted a tack to the said Mr Daniel, and put him in actual possession thereof, aye and until the parish buy the same by paying the rent thereof as aforesaid.”

The ministers of Kilmichael* Glassary, were Mr Daniel Camp-

* This and the preceding extract were supplied to me by the Rev. Duncan Campbell, clerk of Presbytery.

bell,* admitted on the 1st day of December 1691, and died 28th March 1722. Mr Robert Fullerton, admitted 5th of July 1727, and died 20th July 1762. Mr Peter Campbell, admitted 26th July 1764, and died day of February 1779. Mr Dugald Campbell, admitted on the 28th September 1779, and died 5th December 1826. Mr Dugald Campbell, the present incumbent, who is now also patron of the parish, was admitted September 9, 1830.

There is an Independent meeting-house in Lochgilphead of several years' standing. Another was erected by the new secession in 1843. A minister of the Scotch Episcopal Church officiated here for some time, but he left it at Whitsunday last.

At present it is impossible to state with any accuracy the numbers who attend the various churches; but a vast majority of the communicants belong to the Established Church, and in the remote portions of the parish, it is understood that there are few Dissenters, if any.

Education.—The schools of this parish are not in a prosperous condition. The parochial salary is divided, and consequently there is one teacher, who, though appointed to a school, can neither obtain school room nor house at the station which was assigned to him, and is living at Lochgilphead doing no parochial duty. There are several private schools, none of which can be held as worthy of much approval,† and there are several stations to which teachers might be profitably appointed. There is also a charity school. “We employ ‡ a female teacher ourselves for a girls' school in the village of Lochgilphead, where, besides reading, writing, &c. they learn needle-work and the like. They used to be twenty-five, but we are increasing the number. It has, I hope, already done good, more particularly as to work, and improvement in their manner and habits.”

In the Camloden district there is a school supported by the General Assembly with a salary of L.25 per annum, exclusive of the accommodations of house, garden, and a cow's grass, given by Sir Archibald Campbell, Bart. the proprietor, and it is no more

* He was the author of several excellent works on doctrinal and practical theology.

† It is due to the proprietor of Lochgilphead, Alexander Campbell, Esq. of Achandarroch, to say, that he has shown the most laudable earnestness for the advancement of education, that he gives a school-house and school-room, rent free, to the principal teacher, and that it is considered to be owing to the rejection of a most liberal proposal on his part by the villagers, that Lochgilphead is not provided with a very qualified teacher.

‡ Communication by Sir John P. Orde, Bart.

than justice to its teacher* to say that it is judiciously and successfully conducted. The respect of the people for the advantages of education varies in different portions of the parish, as it must ever vary according to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the means of instruction. This, like all things else, is measured by some standard; and in those districts, where there is no person of superior attainments with whom they can compare themselves, they cannot be much alive to the benefits of education. The qualifications of the teacher are generally the measure of the ambition of the young; as they generally are also of the attainments of the old; and few arguments can be adduced for the necessity of well-instructed teachers stronger than the fact, that, whether owing to a desire on their part to communicate what has cost them much to acquire, or to a wish on the part of the pupils to imitate and equal them whom they respect or admire, or to both combined, there are in every well-peopled district children found who are, or soon become, willing to learn whatever branch the master can teach.

Some years ago a reading-room was set up, but it did not flourish.

There are two branch-banks, and a savings bank which has done much good.

Charitable Institutions.—We know of none such in the parish; but last winter a clothing society, chiefly supported by ladies, and conducted by Mrs Campbell of Achandaroch at great personal trouble and considerable personal expense, did much good, and contributed largely to the comforts of the poor.†

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The poor are relieved partly by collections at the church doors and partly by voluntary contributions on the part of the heritors. The sums collected at the church of Kilmichael and at Camloden are inconsiderable, and given in these localities to such poor as are able partially to support themselves.‡ The sum collected at the church of Lochgilphead for the benefit of the poor, during the last year, was L.103, 10s. 0½d.§ These sums collectively do not meet the necessities of the poor, and instead of an assessment, the heritors, for various reasons, prefer contributing to this purpose in proportion to their valued rents,—a mode to which all of them have agreed except one, and he undertakes to relieve all the poor on

* Mr Morrison.

† Stated on the authority of the Rev. D. Jackson, late minister of Lochgilphead.

‡ Stated on the authority of John Hunter, Esq. surgeon, Lochgilphead, who distributes the contributions of the heritors.

§ On the authority of the Rev. D. Jackson.

his own property. Thus relief is given to all who are not provided for out of the church door collections. The amount contributed is L.150 yearly, and the number of poor thus relieved are 52.

Fairs.—There are four fairs held annually in the parish. In May there is a cattle fair at Kilmichael, and another on the next day at Lochgilphead. In October the same take place; and, in both May and October, these and the Inverary markets at the same periods are so regulated that the cattle not sold at either of the former may be driven to the latter. These fairs are not correctly inserted in the almanacks.

Inns and Alehouses.—The number* of these in the parish is 30, of which 23 are in the village of Lochgilphead. About 1400 gallons of whisky are sold in them quarterly; or about 5600 gallons yearly. The number of licensed houses is mischievously great, and it is a most difficult matter to diminish them. For though the justices are not unwilling to make abstract regulations, yet, when it is a question whether they ought to be enforced in any particular instance, difficulties in some way occur and exceptions are made. There is, however, an improvement; for, some years ago, when all the houses in Lochgilphead were only 90, 32 or 34 of them were licensed to sell spirits, &c., while now, though more houses have been built, the number licensed is only 23. This is still too great a proportion; and it is, moreover, feared that the number selling without license is considerable. Probably nine-tenths of the criminal business here has its origin in whisky.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The valued rent of the parish, according to which the land-tax, minister's stipend, &c. were imposed, was made in the year 1751, and was then half the real rent after deducting all public burdens. It was then L.711; 19s. 1d.† In 1793‡ the real rent was L.5700. It is now L.8002, 11s. 7d.;§ and the rent of houses in Lochgilphead is L.1698, 19s., making together a gross rental of L.9701, 10s. 7d.

In 1793,|| a male servant fed by his employer had from L. 5, 15s. to L.6, 6s. yearly; now he has from L.10, 10s. to L.12, 12s. Then

* Stated on the authority of Mr Borthwick, Supervisor of Excise, Lochgilphead.

† Dr Smith's Agricultural Survey of Argyleshire.

‡ The former Statistical Account.

§ Return by Mr MacCombie, Lochgilphead, of the amount of rental of Glassary, as assessed under the Road Act in March 1844.

|| The former Statistical Account.

a female servant had from L.3 to L.3, 10s. yearly, and now from L.5, 10s. to L.6, 10s. Then a married workman, with house, garden, peats, two cows' grass, and potatoe-land, had L.1 of money; now he gets from L.7 to L.8. Common labourers had from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d., and tradesmen from 2s. to 2s. 4d. per day; now the former have from 1s. 6d. to 2s., and the latter from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per day.

The improvements of which the parish is susceptible cannot be here stated, even in the most general way. Much of it is in a state of nature, and requires draining, enclosing, &c. The cottages are often deficient in every comfort, and farm-houses and steadings ill constructed and difficult to maintain. Lochgilp ought to be dredged, so as to permit steam-boats and other vessels of burden to go to the village. These and other improvements may safely be entrusted to the self-interest of parties. There is a remarkable bank, formed of sand and debris from the hills on each side of Lochfyne at Ottar. This bank, with the other depositions by which the bed of Lochfyne must necessarily be raised in its level from year to year, by the disintegration of rocks, the carrying away of banks, &c., may possibly effect great changes upon the character of the loch above Ottar on some future day, by obstructing the ingress of the tide, and converting that upper portion into a fresh water lake with its river entering the sea; and would it not be worthy of the heritors to take some measure of making such observations on each side of the Ottar, as may be necessary to ascertain the rate of increase of this bank, if any; whether there be a tendency to the formation of a similar bank down on the north side, &c. &c.?

November 1844.