

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Perhaps there is no town in the kingdom of equal magnitude which has undergone less change in its character and circumstances since the former Statistical Account of Scotland appeared than that of Port-Glasgow. Had the improvements now going on upon the harbour been effected twenty years ago, the place would undoubtedly have advanced much more rapidly than it has done, in extent and importance. What shall be the effect of these improvements, whether, as may reasonably be anticipated, they shall attract a larger portion of foreign trade, and at the same time give an additional impulse to the spirit of domestic enterprise, time alone will determine.

January 1836.

PARISH OF LOCHWINNOCH.

PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. ROBERT SMITH, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name seems to refer to the large loch in the neighbourhood of the village, and to the principal island which it contains,—Innich being the genitive case of the Celtic word *Innis*, which signifies a small island. This etymology is confirmed by the fact, that a number of names of places in the parish are of Celtic derivation; and it agrees nearly with the manner in which its name is pronounced by its present inhabitants, as well as with some of the ways in which it was anciently spelled.*

Extent, Boundaries.—This parish is said by Robertson to be 12 miles long from east to west, and where broadest about 6 miles from north to south,—which is very near the truth. It contains about 19250 English acres. Its figure, though irregular, is not unlike the head section of a fish or serpent. It is bounded on the south by Beith; on the west by Kilbirnie and Kilmalcolm; on the

* I have seen almost forty different ways of spelling Lochwinnoch taken by Dr A. Crawford, a native of the parish, from books and MSS. from 1504 down to the present day, of which the following are a few examples, Lochvinyoch, Lochqubinyoch, Lochwhinoch, Lochineach, Lochwinioch, Lochwinnoch.

† Description of the shire of Renfrew, &c. p. 348.

north by Kilbarchan ; and on the east by the Abbey parish of Paisley and Neilston.

Topographical Appearances.—Its surface is very irregular and hilly. The highest hills in the county are situated in its western extremity. There is a range of hills stretching along the west coast from Greenock to Ardrossan. The highest of these are the Misty Law and the hill of Staik, the former of which is in this parish, and the latter forms its western boundary. The Misty Law is said, in the former Statistical Account, to be 1246 feet above the level of the sea, and the hill of Staik, it is now ascertained, is somewhat more. Their heights were taken some time ago by order of Government. The prospect from the Misty Law is said, in the Account just now referred to, “to be extensive and varied over twelve counties, including the Frith of Clyde, and the islands of Arran, Bute, Ailsa, &c. This hill is surrounded by the moorland part of the parish, which abounds with game, and affords tolerable pasture for sheep.” There is another range of high land passing through the eastern part of the parish, which stretches from beyond Paisley towards the western coast. This has been justly called table-land, and almost the whole of it within this parish is arable. Amongst the western hills, there are many small, and some beautiful and romantic valleys ; but the principal valley lies between the two ranges of elevated land, on the north and south sides of the loch. It stretches from beyond Dalry, through Kilbirnie, Lochwinnoch, and Kilbarchan, and terminates in the eastern part of the great vale of Renfrewshire or Strathgryfe, which lies on the west of Paisley, and contains many thousands of acres of rich and valuable land. In the long and expansive valley which passes through Lochwinnoch, there were originally three large lochs,—Kilbirnie, Barr, and Castle-Semple lochs, the two last of which are within this parish. At an earlier period, when the land was not so well drained and cultivated as it is at present, these three lochs were sometimes, during a great fall of rain in winter, united, and formed an extensive sheet of water, stretching several miles along this beautiful valley. This never happens now. Castle-Semple and Kilbirnie lochs always contain a considerable expanse of water ; but they are now far separated by cultivated land ; and Barr Loch, which lies between them, and near the former, is so well drained, that it has the appearance of a loch only during a heavy fall of rain in winter. In summer, it waves with the most

luxuriant crops of oats and hay, which would not disgrace a more genial clime and southern latitude.

Robertson's description of the appearance of the parish is as follows: "Lochwinnoch is greatly diversified in its general aspect. Part of it consists of high and bleak hills in the back ground; part of it is a low winding valley, in general of a very fertile soil; and in the heart of it, is the largest loch or lake in the county. This valley, with the shelving country towards it on both sides, contains nearly the whole population. It is also ornamented with plantations, whilst the houses of its numerous small proprietors are each set down under the shade of a few old trees in the midst of well cultivated spots of ground. The whole strath has a warm and cheerful appearance. It is the very vale of Tempe of Renfrewshire."

This "vale of Tempe," however, merits a more particular description. If you view it from the west at any elevated spot on the road to Kilbirnie, the prospect is varied and beautiful. You have the well-cultivated lands around you, and the rising ground on each side, particularly on the west, where the hills rise gradually above one another till they terminate in the Misty Law and hill of Staik. Immediately in front, are seen the remains of Barr Castle, long the residence of the successive families who possessed the neighbouring lands, and near it Barr House, the residence of William Macdowall of Garthland, Esq. the present proprietor, surrounded by thriving plantations and well-cultivated fields. Beyond both of these, is the large and regular, sheltered and flourishing village of Lochwinnoch. But by far the most remarkable feature of the prospect is Castle-Semple Loch, the ruins of the Peel, and the adjacent scenery. On the south side of the Loch are seen Lochside, Beltrees, and, in the distance, Bowfield, with a shelving country, bestudded with houses, and ornamented with plantations. On the north side of the Loch, appears the whole policy of Castle-Semple, the most beautiful and extensive in this part of the country. But from this point the view of it is imperfect. You have a general prospect of the woods and grounds of Castle-Semple, and of the hill of Kenmure in the back ground, surmounted by the Temple, like an observatory, erected on an eminence which rises abruptly out of the valley. In order to see the scenery of Castle-Semple to advantage, it must be viewed from the rising ground on the south side of the loch. There you have another and striking view of Castle-Semple and Barr lochs, the village, and Barr Castle,

but more especially of the whole policy of Castle-Semple. This, which is surrounded on the north by a high wall, three or four miles long, is laid out with the greatest skill. It contains about 900 acres, subdivided into a great number of enclosures, and pervaded by above twelve miles of roads and walks; and, above all, it is ornamented with many large plantations and scattered trees. The eminences are crowned with woods, which in some places descend into the valleys, and exhibit a delightful variety of elevation, as well as of shade. In some places there are rows of trees, and solitary trees are here and there scattered over the lawns. Even the back ground and distant scenery add to the beauty of the policy. The heights are covered with plantations, which are disposed with the greatest skill and the best effect. The scene is as varied as it is at every point beautiful. In moving along the face of the elevated ground, on the south side of the loch, the prospect is constantly varying under the eye, and is everywhere delightful. The House of Castle-Semple, the residence of Colonel Harvey, the present proprietor, being built in 1735, is not equal to the situation which it occupies, though a neat small mansion. But the gardens on the rising ground a little to the north of the house are one of the best features of the landscape. These gardens were lately formed at very great expense. They contain two large enclosures, surrounded and subdivided by high walls, covered with fruit trees. Along the cross walls in the centre there is a great extent of glass-house; containing not merely vines, peach trees, &c. but a variety of flowers and shrubs. On the north side of the garden there is a large pinery, and behind it a stove house for propagating tropical plants and shrubs. On the south side there is a large green-house; and in the fore-ground an extensive flower-garden, surrounded with shrubbery, and subdivided into plots of different forms, and planted with shrubs and flowers of every name and hue, encircled by grassy borders, and pervaded by gravel walks, "shaven with the scythe and levelled with the roller." In the north-east side of this fine garden there is an extensive rockery, covered with rock-plants, and encircling a pond, in whose waters a multitude of gold and silver fish play, and from whose centre a beautiful jetteau rises. I understand that, though there are some gardens more extensive, and others more remarkable in one or another department, yet there are few formed on a better plan, and in all respects more complete and excellent.

Meteorology.—At the gardens of Castle-Semple, there has been

for years past, carefully marked every day, the height of the thermometer and barometer morning and evening; and the water received by two rain-gauges; the direction in which the wind blows, and the state of the weather. From this meteorological journal I subjoin the following extracts and calculations:

1829.	
Thermometer, average height throughout the year at 8 A. M.	- 47.98
do. do. at 8 P. M.	- 46.7
greatest height in the course of that year,	73.
lowest range,	12.
average height in the month of June at 8 A. M.	- 61.7
do. do. at 8 P. M.	- 58.966
do. in the month of December at 8 A. M.	37.355
do. do. at 8 P. M.	- 35.839
Barometer, average height throughout the year at 8 A. M.	- 29.682
1830.	
Thermometer, average height throughout the year at 8 A. M.	- 48.773
do. do. at 8 P. M.	- 46.9
greatest height in the course of that year,	68.
lowest range,	12.
average height in the month of June at 8 A. M.	58.2
do. do. at 8 P. M.	54.166
do. in the month of December at 8 A. M.	37.451
do. do. at 8 P. M.	37.354
Barometer, average height throughout the year at 8 A. M.	- 29.545

*Isle of Man.**

Year.	Ther.		Med.	No. of Days.			Weather.			Rain. Inches
	A. M.	P. M.		N.	Wind.			No. of days		
				S.	E.	W.	Rain.	Snow.	Fair.	
1829,	48°	46°	102	91	110	62	135	13	217	33.89
1830,	48.8	46.9	83	104	84	94	167	15	183	38.55

Aberdeen.

1829,	46.62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28.66
1830,	46.81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30.60

From the two rain-gauges already mentioned, very different results are obtained. I have made my calculations from the one which stands nearest the surface of the earth, and which receives more rain than the other, which, by its elevation, is more exposed to the wind, and, therefore, I apprehend, does not give so fair a result.

In 1827, there fell during the whole year,	46.86 inches.
1828,	54.94
1829,	39.85
1830,	55.51

To mark the difference of the two gauges, and to shew the attention which should be paid to the situation of such instruments, I may mention, that the quantity of rain received by the other in 1830 was only 43.95. I believe this is also an inferior instrument to the other. It is obvious, therefore, that, if I had made my cal-

* I have seen similar statements made in the Isle of Man and at Aberdeen, during these two years, which it may be interesting and useful to contrast with the one just now given.

culations from this guage, it would not have appeared that such an immense quantity of rain falls in this neighbourhood: still it is not to be denied that the quantity is great. It will immediately appear that it is very much the same with that which falls at Largs, where observations of this kind were long made by Sir Thomas Brisbane, at Brisbane House. We are separated from that parish by the high-land about Misty Law and Staik, which attract the vapour rising out of the great Atlantic Ocean, and condense it into rain, and send it down with impartial favour, upon us, and the inhabitants of Largs. Though a great quantity, however, falls in the neighbourhood of our high hills; yet it appears from a statement in Wilson's Account of Renfrewshire, that the whole west part of Scotland is not deluged with so much rain. The following is his report for 1809 and 1810, at the four following places:

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Dalkeith.</i>	<i>Bothwell Castle.</i>	<i>Glasgow.</i>	<i>Largs.</i>
1809	28.552	24.440	25.132	38.624
1810	25.636	25.010	21.493	38.714

From this statement it will be seen that more rain falls at Dalkeith than at either Glasgow or Bothwell Castle. Mr Wilson himself remarks, that, "although it thus appears that the quantity of rain in the west of Renfrewshire is considerable, it is certainly far short of that which falls annually at Lancaster, Manchester, Kendal, and Keswick, which is 40.3, 43.1, 61.2, 70.6 inches respectively. The quantity of rain is not so much to be dreaded as its frequency."

The direction in which the wind blows morning and evening at eight o'clock, and the state of the weather, morning, noon, and evening, as cloudy, wet, or fair, are noted in the journal from which I have already quoted. This last record impressed me more than ever with the idea of the lowering aspect of our sky. There is a succession of cloudy, hazy, showery, and wet, but comparatively little sunshine and fair weather. In 1827, the wind was westerly seven months, southerly three, and northerly two. And there fell 46.86 inches of rain, so that the westerly wind does not bring such a quantity of rain as it produces frequent showers. Little comes from the north, and an east rain usually continues two or three days.

In 1828, the wind was southerly six months, westerly four, north-east one, and east one, and there fell 54.94 inches of rain, so that the prevailing south wind produced more rain than the prevailing west wind of the former year.

In 1829, the wind was northerly four months, westerly four, southerly 2, and north-west two, and there fell 39.85 inches of

rain,—the north wind bringing less rain than fell in either the preceding or following year.

In 1830, which might be emphatically called the wet year, the wind was remarkably variable, but it secured for us a large quantity of rain, by blowing from the south five months, from the west two, south-west one, north-west two, north one, and north-east one, and there fell 55.51 inches of rain.

After what has been said, it is scarcely necessary to remark, that the climate here is moist, but it does not seem to affect materially the health of the inhabitants. It is a curious fact, that they were remarkably healthy during the wet year, 1830. There were only 60 deaths in the course of that year out of a population of 4500, which was considerably less than had occurred for many years; but they habitually enjoy good health. The water gathered in the high-land is fully impregnated with moss, which is strongly antiseptic, and destroys the marsh miasmata which rise out of the loch and neighbouring valley. This is supposed to be our security against agues and other diseases, which elsewhere prevail in similar situations, and the reason why our people enjoy so much health. The inhabitants of the high-lands enjoy sunshine and fresh air when the valley is often covered with a dense fog. But, on the other hand, those of the valley sustain little injury from a fog which is not loaded with marsh miasmata,—are protected on all hands by the neighbouring hills,—and usually enjoy a remarkably mild climate. So much is this the case, that Lochwinnoch has often been resorted to with advantage by delicate persons during summer, for whom the sea air was too keen. Many instances of longevity occur here.*

I have been furnished with an account of the patients and diseases which came under the care of the surgeon here, who had the greater part of the practice in this place. It extended from the beginning of January 1817 to the 22d. October 1819. It must be

* In the former Statistical Account, the following case is mentioned: "Margaret Paton, who was born in this parish, is mentioned by Lynch on Health as a remarkable instance of longevity. Her picture, and a print from it, which the writer of this account has seen, were done from the life by J. Cooper in 1739, with the following inscription: "Margaret Paton, born in the parish of Loganburgh, near Paisley, in Scotland, living in the workhouse of St Margaret's, Westminster, aged 188 years."

Margaret was born in the Cottar Row at Risk, and it may be noticed, that John King died at Risk, about twelve years ago, aged ninety-three years: His brother James died at Beltrees a few years after, about the same age; and Robert Sempill, the last of the Sempills of Beltrees, died in 1789, aged 108 years. Elizabeth Jamieson, who died about the end of 1830 at Hurthills, was almost ninety-nine years of age; and one Ruthven, an old soldier, died at Glasshill in 1812, aged 111.

remembered, however, that there was then not merely a population of about 4000 in this place, but he had many patients in neighbouring parishes. He had altogether 785 cases, and the following were the diseases that most frequently occurred: *Fever*.—Continued fever, 84; typhus or nervous, 20; inflammatory, 18; biliary, 12; total, 134.—*Peripneumony*, 85; *catarrhs*, 33; *colics*, 21; *consumption*, 19; *rose*, 18; *headach*, 18; *enteritis*, 17; *rheumatism*, 16; *children's complaints*, 114.

It may help to elucidate the subject still farther, to give the following statement: There were in 1828 ninety-five deaths, the greatest number I have known in one year, though the summer was warm and genial; still-born, 6; below 10 years of age, 35; from 10 to 20, 5; from 20 to 30, 4; from 30 to 60, 11; from 60 to 70, 17; above 70, 17; total, 95. In January, 3 deaths; February, 8; March, 10; April, 8; May, 10; June, 8; July, 13; August, 11; September, 11; October, 7; November, 3; December, 3.

It will thus be seen that there were more deaths during the fine summer of this year than during the winter; but this fact, and the health of the inhabitants during the wet year, 1830, I should think rather anomalies than fair specimens of the effects of wet and warm weather.

Hydrography.—Springs are numerous throughout the parish, but none are of a remarkable character. The village is at all seasons well supplied in this manner with good water, which rises out of the sandy soil upon which it is built. In other places they flow from almost every kind of rock. Springs impregnated with carbonate of iron are found in the Misty Law moor and elsewhere. There is a spouting spring strongly impregnated with this substance in a bank a little west from Barr Castle. It rises from an opening made in the earth when mining for coal, and at one time spouted two or three feet above the ground. Now it is covered with a pump, and used as a well by a family in the neighbourhood, who are very sensible of the peculiarity of its taste, and the excellence of its qualities.

The only large lake in the parish is Castle-Semple Loch, which was once much larger than at present, but it still covers about 200 acres of ground. Its length is much greater than its breadth. It contains three small wooded islets, and is surrounded by the beautiful scenery of Castle-Semple, already described. The mansion-house stands on its north side, near its eastern extremity. It is fur-

nished with swans, Cape and Canadian geese in vast numbers, ducks, teals, and other kinds of water-fowl, and contains pike, perches, and other kinds of fish. "Queenside Loch is situated on the moors, and contains about 21 acres; it forms an excellent reservoir for supplying two large cotton mills in the village of Lochwinnoch."* Waws Loch is in the opposite extremity of the parish. It is small, and remarkable only for its situation and the quantity of water lilies (*Nymphæa alba*) which it produces.

The only river that runs wholly within the parish is the Calder, which rises on the borders of Ayrshire, amongst the high-lands so often mentioned. It runs principally in a south-eastern direction, and pursues a very winding course. Owing to the height of its source, it descends over various elevations, and forms in different places beautiful waterfalls. Its banks, as it approaches the village, are exceedingly picturesque, and are adorned with wood, both natural and planted. After passing through these beautiful banks, which are celebrated by Wilson, the American ornithologist, it winds round the west and southern extremities of the village of Lochwinnoch, and, turning to the east, falls into Castle-Semple Loch, keeping up a constant current through it, and maintaining its salubrity. When it issues from this loch it obtains the name of Black Cart, which is a dark, level and slow-running stream. It forms the boundary between Lochwinnoch and Kilbarchan from its source, till it leaves the parish. The Dubbs flows through level meadow land from Kilbirnie Loch to Castle-Semple, and though it be not much elevated above the level of the sea, yet it is the summit from which the adjacent streams pursue different courses to the sea. Those upon its west side proceed directly westward to the coast, but those upon its east side fall into the Black Cart, which flows in a north-easterly direction, till it join the White Cart at Inchinnan, whose united waters proceed in a north-west direction, till they fall into the Clyde a little below Renfrew.

Geology.—There is no very remarkable feature in the geology of this parish. The rocks are generally of secondary trap, affording almost innumerable varieties of greenstone, basalt, amygdaloid, porphyry, &c. which run into each other by endless gradations. There are neither primitive nor transition rocks in it. Greenstone stratified with claystone, and with freestone overlying coal, is found at Hallhill, where there is also crystallized freestone. The crystals are cubical, contained in the freestone, and form an integral

* Former Statistical Account.

part of it, with many petrifications of what seem to have been arborescent ferns. Their stems are now sandstone, and their bark is converted into carbon. This freestone overlies the coal and stratified greenstone. The range of hills, of which the Misty Law and Hill of Staik are the highest, is mostly formed of porphyry toward the top, which is capped with greenstone, intersecting the porphyry in innumerable dikes. Carbonate of copper is found in small quantities in nests at Kame, contained in whinstone; and veins of sulphate of barytes are common in the secondary trap rocks. These veins are from 6 inches to 14 or 16 feet thick. Their directions are various. Trap tuffa is found in a few instances among the porphyry, in which it seems imbedded, but its relation to it is not easily traced. It is composed of the fragments of the surrounding porphyry and greenstone, cemented together by a paste apparently composed of these rocks and oxide of iron.

Overlying the secondary trap in the lower part of the parish is the coal formation, consisting of the usual series of freestone, ironstone, shale, &c. dipping generally to the south-west. This formation partly surrounds the beautiful loch of Castle-Semple, and continues without interruption into Ayrshire, around Kilbirnie Loch, and onward to Ardrossan. This formation, however, is limited within the parish to a very small compass, and the working of coal has not been found a very profitable speculation, as it is intersected with many dikes and troubles. The thickest bed known is at Hallhill, where it varies from 6 to 10 feet; the other beds are from a few inches to 2 or 3 feet thick. It may be remarked, that the coal strata which dip towards the south-west, crop out in an opposite direction near the foot of Castle-Semple Loch; but the stratified rocks on the northern side of the loch scarcely reach this point, being cut off by the insulated rock of the Hill of Kenmure, which does not belong to the coal formation, but is composed of secondary trap.

Limestone, which abounds in organic remains, is wrought by mining at Howwood, and a similar limestone was formerly wrought at Midtown. The organic remains found in it consist chiefly of bivalve shells, some of which are very rare species, Coralloids, *Bu-trochi*, *Encrini*, &c. Although limestone has been wrought on a small scale in several instances, yet the quantity known to exist is very limited in extent; and at two places, *Garpel* and *Midtown*, has been fairly wrought out.

The minerals found in this parish are numerous, and a good many

belong to the Zeolite family. Some of them, as white prehnite, are very beautiful. I have been furnished with the following list, which comprehends the greater number of them.

- | <i>Species.</i> | <i>Localities.</i> |
|--|--|
| Agate, (var. fortification agate,) | Edge, Glenward, Misty Law moor, &c. |
| Amethyst, | Misty Law moor and Glenward. |
| Amygdaloid, | common. |
| Analcimé, crystallized at | Linthills and in Calderbank. |
| Arragonite, in small crystals at | Linthills. |
| Augite, common, plentiful in | trap rocks of secondary formation. |
| Barytes, sulphate of, (lamellar,) | Raith-water, Kame, Knows, and near Cruckhill. |
| Bitumen, | Garpal lime quarry. |
| Carbonized wood, | Hallhill, Garpal, &c. in sandstone. |
| Carburetted hydrogen gas, | Hallhill coal-work. |
| Chabasie, | Maich water. |
| Chalcedony, common, | Misty Law moor. |
| —————var. carnelian, | Glenward, Misty Law moor. |
| Clay, variegated, | Camphill-burn. |
| Claystone, | common. |
| Clinkstone, | Ruch-burn, &c. common. |
| Coal, cannel, (var. splent-coal,) | Hallhill. |
| ————slaty, | Hallhill. |
| ————coarse, | How-wood, &c. |
| Copper, pyritous, | near Cloak. |
| ————green carbonate of, | Kame, Tandlemoor. |
| Felspar, common, red, | Misty Law moor. |
| Green earth, | Edge, Calderbank, &c. |
| Greenstone, common. | |
| ————porphyritic, | not uncommon. |
| Hornblende, basaltic, | Misty Law moor. |
| Hornstone, | Misty Law moor, in small quantities. |
| Iron, common sulphuret of, | Hallhill. |
| ————red oxide of, (var. red hematite,) | Berrieglen, |
| ————argillaceous oxide of, (var. bog ore,) | common. |
| Ironstone, compact brown, | Loch Banks. |
| ————(var. lenticular,) | Loch Banks. |
| Jasper, common, | Dunshill, Langyard, Tandlemoor, &c. |
| ————striped, | Misty Law moor, rare. |
| Laumonite, | Edge-brae, Calderbank, &c. |
| Lime, carbonate of, (subsp. crystallized calcareous spar, of the form commonly called Dog-tooth spar,) | Netherhouses, Berrieglen, How-wood, &c. |
| ————(subsp. laminated calcareous spar,) | not uncommon, as at the How-wood, &c. |
| ————(subsp. fibrous limestone,) | in very small quantities in Calderbank. |
| ————(subsp. compact limestone,) | How-wood, Langyard, &c. |
| ————(subsp. concreted, var. calcareous incrustations,) | not uncommon, on some rocks. |
| ————(subsp. brown spar,) | crystallized in the Misty Law moor. |
| Manganese, oxide of, (earthy,) | common in small quantities in whin rocks. |
| ————(crystallized,) | Ruch-burn. |
| Mica, lamellar, | Barr quarry, &c. in freestone. |
| Porcellanite, road from the village to the | Langyard. |
| Porphyry, | Misty Law moor, Auchinhane, &c. |
| Quartz, common crystallised, | Misty Law moor, Calderbank, &c. |
| ————(var. rock-crystals,) | in small crystals in the Misty Law moor, the Glenward, and at the Cruckhill. |
| Slate, argillaceous, (var. shale,) | Loch Banks, Millbankburn. |
| ————(var. novaculite,) | Loch-head. |
| Seacite, common, | Loch-head, Calderbank. |
| Scilbite, red foliated, | Calderbank, large specimens. |
| Trap-tuffa, above the mouth of Raith-water in | Calder-water, also at the foot of the Ruch-burn. |

Species. *Localities.*
 Wacke, Misty Law moor, abundant.
 Zeolite, common, High Barnaich.
 ——— needle, High Barnaich, &c.

Besides the minerals and rocks which exist in their natural situations, there are others of which only fragments are found. These are chiefly of the primitive rocks, and the most numerous are granite, syenite, mica slate, and quartz rock; and of the transition rocks; greywacke.*

Botany.—This parish the botanist will find interesting. The following list enumerates our rarer plants:

Hippuris vulgaris.	Alisma Plantago and lanceolata.
Ligustrum vulgare.	Epilobium angustifolium and palustre.
Pinguicula vulgaris.	Vaccinium Oxycoccus.
Circæa Lutetiana.	Polygonum amphibium, var. aquaticum.
Veronica scutellata.	Paris quadrifolia.
Scirpus lacustris and pauciflorus.	Adoxa moschatellina.
Arundo Phragmites.	Saxifraga hypnoides.
Aira flexuosa.	Stellaria nemora and glauca.
Aira præcox.	Sedum Telephium, villosum, and Anglicum.
Holeus avenaceus.	Arenaria rubra.
Nardus stricta.	Spergula nodosa.
Briza media.	Lythrum Salicaria.
Scabiosa arvensis and succisa.	Sempervivum tectorum.
Galium boreale.	Prunus Padus and Cerasus.
Lysimachia nemorum and vulgare.	Spiræa salicifolia.
Campanula latifolia.	Rubus idæus, fruticosus, corylifolius, and saxatilis.
Potamogeton lanceolatum and crispum.	Tormentilla repens.
Lithospermum officinale.	Comarum palustre.
Echium vulgare.	Nymphaea alba and lutea.
Convolvulus sepium.	Chelidonium majus.
Jasione montana.	Papaver Argemone and Rhæas.
Solanum Dulcamara.	Stachys ambigua.
Sanicula Europea.	Lamium amplexicaule.
Ligusticum Meum.	Scutallaria galericulata.
Cenanthe crocata.	Melampyrum pratense.
Sison inundatum and verticillatum.	Camelina sativa.
Imperatoria Ostruthium.	Cardamine amara.
Viburnum opulus.	
Triglochin palustre.	

* The following description is given of a magnetic rock in the former Statistical Account of the parish.

"A very singular magnetic rock has been discovered two miles from Castle-Semple. The compass was sensibly affected all round the rock to the distance of 150 yards. The effect was most remarkable on the east and west side of it, and in every direction it was greater as the compass was nearer to the rock itself. In its immediate vicinity, or nearly in a perpendicular direction above it, the position of the needle was very unsteady and irregular, and as the compass was gradually brought nearer the ground, the deviation from the magnetic meridian was more remarkable, and the vibrations more rapid. When the compass was set on the ground, the north pole of the needle invariably directed itself to one small space of the rock, on whatever side of it the needle was placed."

This, I presume, furnishes another to the many examples that exist to prove that "rocks impregnated with iron ore affect the magnetic needle, not only from the iron which they contain, but also from the portion of the natural magnet imbedded in the mass." In the New Philosophical Journal for July—October 1831, there is an article on this subject. After noticing that the rock on which Dumbarton Castle is built possesses this property, a particular account is given of rocks on the top of Arthur's Seat, and a table drawn up of experiments made by Mr W. Galbraith, A. M. and Mr James Trotter, to which it is sufficient to refer in illustration of this subject.

Fumatoria claviculata.
Lepidium campestre.
Nasturtium sylvestris.
Barbarea vulgaris.
Geranium sylvaticum.
Trifolium medium, and arvense.
Ervum hirsutum.
Cnicus heterophyllus.
Gnaphalium sylvaticum.
Tussilago Petasites.
Senecio saracenicus and sylvaticus.
Solidago Virgaurea.
Gymnadenia conopsea.
Habenaria albida.
Listera cordata and ovata.
Epipactis latifolia.
Typha latifolia.
Sparganium natans and ramosum.

Myriophyllum spicatum.
Carex hirta,
Selix cinerea.
Empetrum nigrum.
Peltidea aphthosa and canina.
Cenomyce pyxidata, fimbriata, furcata,
and rangiferina.
Marchantia polymorpha.
Jungermannia Blasia.
Sphagnum obtusifolium and acutifolium.
Dicranum bryoides, adiantoides, and
taxifolium.
Polypodium Phegopteris and Dryopteris.
Asplenium Trichomanes, Ruta muraria,
and Adiantum nigrum.
Pteris crispa.
Lycopodium selago and alpinum.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Parochial Registers.—These are three in number. 1st, A register of proclamations of marriage, which is complete from 1718 to the present time; 2d, a register of births and baptisms, which was begun in 1706 and continued to 1714. There is a blank till 1718, after which it is complete to the present time. 3d, The minutes of the kirk-session from September 1691, when Mr John Paisley was ordained, till June 1700. The minutes are wanting from this date till August 1709, from which they extend to 1760, after which there is another chasm till 1777. From 1777 they are complete to the present day. In looking into the earlier period of these records, one is struck with the quantity of business that came before the session, when he considers the smallness of the population, the primitive, and, as we are accustomed to think, purer state of society. The strictness of discipline, however, and the fact, that almost every offence came before the kirk-session, may account for the number of cases on record, without denying that “the former times were better than these.”

Historical Events.—The battle of Muirdykes, fought on a farm of the same name in the eastern part of the parish, June 18, 1685, is noticed by a number of historians, such as Wodrow, Sir Patrick Hume of Polwart, and Dr M'Crie in his *Memoirs of Bryson*. The Duke of Argyle collected in Holland an army of 1500 refugees from Scotland, with whom he landed at Kintyre and proceeded towards Glasgow. When they reached Kilpatrick his followers began to desert him. With a few of them he crossed the Clyde and came to Inchinnan, where he was taken prisoner, carried to Edinburgh, and executed. A remnant of his followers, under the command of Sir John Cochran, came to Muirdykes,

where they were attacked by the forces of King James VII., whom they defeated, and remained on the field behind a natural entrenchment till it was dark. Afraid of the enemy being reinforced, they retired during night, and proceeded southwards to the parish of Beith. The King's forces made a similar retreat under the shade of night, and so the field was found next morning deserted of both parties.

Though Renfrewshire was never visited by the "Bloody Claverhouse," nor laid waste by the Highland host, and seems to have suffered less than some other parts of the country during the unnatural wars of the Stewarts against their own best subjects, yet it did not escape the rage of persecution, and the names and residences of many individuals belonging to this parish are preserved in Wodrow's History, who were seized and tried, imprisoned and fined, robbed and tortured, banished and enslaved. The persecuted ministers, followed by the afflicted people, met in the moors among the hills, preached the Gospel, and baptized the forefathers of some who are still alive in the parish. The celebrated Renwick preached in different places here and in the neighbourhood.*

Amongst the eminent characters connected with this parish, we are entitled to number Sir William Wallace, the celebrated defender of Scotland. There is a barony of land in the south-eastern extremity of the parish, called Auchinbathie Wallace, upon which there are still the remains of an old castle, which belonged to his progenitors. Near it, on the farm of Lighthouse, there is a small eminence in the midst of a morass, which is a meadow in summer but a loch in winter, called Wallace's Knowe, where, according to tradition, Wallace defended himself against a party of Englishmen. There is no doubt of his possessing property here; and we are willing to believe he resided sometimes in the Castle of Auchinbathie Wallace, and performed exploits in the neighbourhood.

* I cannot help mentioning one anecdote, out of many, not recorded in Wodrow's History, of James Glen of Gillsyard, who was great-grandfather of William Glen, at present the oldest efficient member of the kirk-session, and an heritor in the parish, and the same relation to John Glen, another small proprietor: he had a child baptized one day among the hills. In the evening of the day following, when he was proceeding towards Bridge-end, he saw two horsemen, who immediately pursued him. Whilst he was flying before them he perceived a horse-shoe, which he picked up and deliberately placed under his cap. He was overtaken at the old mill of Bridge-end, where he tried to escape amongst the brambles on the side of the road, but one of the soldiers succeeded in striking him a violent blow with his sword on the head, and perhaps thought he had killed him, and left him dead among the brushwood. The horse-shoe, however, placed under his cap protected his head, and as it was in the dusk of the evening he was allowed to remain unharmed in his lurking-place.

Family of Sempill.—But by far the most remarkable family in the ancient history of this parish was that of the Sempills, of whom a pretty full account is given by Semple and Crawford, continued by Robertson. I have seen a fuller and more accurate account of the family in MS., by Dr A. Crawford, but I cannot enter so fully into the subject as even the printed record, and shall only notice some of the most important circumstances scattered over the whole history of this family. They seem to have been vassals of the Stewarts, who at one time possessed the whole barony of Renfrew, and were progenitors of a long race of kings. In this manner, they were brought into notice at court, and made a figure in the history of the country. Walter High Steward of Scotland married Marjory, daughter of the most illustrious of Scotland's kings, Robert the Bruce, whose son, Robert Stewart, succeeded his uncle, David II., in 1371. The barony of Renfrew was called the principality, and was afterwards conferred as a separate maintenance upon the prince who was heir-apparent to the throne; and for this reason one of his titles still is, "Baron of Renfrew."

Robert, the first of the Sempill family, of whom any record remains, lived in the reign of Alexander II., who ascended the throne in 1214. His sons, Robert and Thomas, were great patriots, and friends of Robert the Bruce. John Sempill, the seventh of the family, was a man of great talents and distinction. Amongst other public transactions in which he was engaged, he was one of the Scottish commissioners appointed to negotiate with the Court of England for the liberation of James I., whom he met and congratulated at Durham when he was returning home. He was made a knight by James II. about 1430. Renfrewshire was disjoined from Lanarkshire in 1406, and Sir William Sempill, the second baronet of the family, was made Sheriff of this county, and obtained from James III. the baronies of Ellistown, Castletown, afterwards called Castle-Sempill, now Castle-Semple. Sir Thomas Sempill was killed in 1486 at Bannockburn, in the service of his sovereign, James III., who, after a fall from his horse, was treacherously put to death in the manner minutely and graphically described by Sir Walter Scott in his *Tales of a Grandfather*. His son, Sir John Sempill, was created Lord Sempill by James IV. in 1486. It was this Lord Sempill who built the Collegiate-Kirk of Lochnynoch to the honour of God, and of the blessed Virgin Mary, for the prosperity of his sovereign James IV., and Margaret his Queen, for the soul of Margaret Colville, his former

spouse, and also for the salvation of his own soul; and that of Margaret Crichton, his present wife, and of all his predecessors and successors, and of all the faithful deceased." This wise and pious Lord, having fully appointed and richly endowed the Collegiate Kirk, died on the celebrated field of Floudon; on the 9th September 1513. The walls of the old kirk are still standing. Its whole length is 71 feet 6 inches; its breadth 24 feet 3 inches; and the height of the side walls 15 feet 6 inches. The east end of it is separated from the west by a partition, is enclosed, and still used as a burying-place by the family of Castle-Semple.

Robert Lord Sempill was called the great Lord Sempill. The family estates had been vastly increased by his father, Lord William, and he being a person of a martial spirit, was engaged in many of the wars of his age. He was present at the battle of Pinkie in 1547. He adhered strictly to the interests of Queen Mary, till the murder of Darnley, after which he entered into a bond of association with other noblemen to defend the young King James. He was present with the Regent Murray at the battle of Langside, and, in consideration of his many and valuable services to the King and government, obtained from him a charter of the abbey of Paisley in 1569, upon the forfeiture of Lord Claud Hamilton. He engaged in the great feuds between the houses of Eglinton and Glencairn, or the Montgomeries and Cuninghames, with the former of which the Sempills had formed various marriage connections. These feuds lasted from 1488 till 1586. There were so many families involved in them, and so many lives lost, that it was more like a civil war, than a family quarrel. During these perilous times, Lord Sempill built the Peel on a small islet in Castle-Semple Loch. Being surrounded on all sides by water and well defended, it must have been a very safe and impregnable retreat. The foundation and a portion of the dilapidated walls still remain surrounded by a few trees and shrubs. In consequence of the extent to which the loch has been drained, the Peel now stands upon its southern margin, in the line of a high embankment, by which the land beyond it is kept comparatively dry during the summer, but which alters and hurts the appearance of this ancient place. The great Lord Sempill had three sons, Robert, who died in his lifetime, Andrew, who was the head of the Sempills of Breucheills or Bruntshills and Millbank, and John, head of the Sempills of Bektrees. Francis Lord Sempill was the first of the family who renounced the errors of the church

of Rome, to which the members of this family were long and zealously attached. Hew Lord Sempill was a Colonel in the army, and commanded the left wing of the King's forces in the battle of Culloden in 1746. He had sold Castle-Semple to Colonel Macdowall in 1727, and bought North Barr in 1741. His grandson Lord Hew Sempill was the last of the family. He had four children, of whom two are still alive; the Honourable Maria Janet Sempill, and the Honourable Sarah Sempill.

This family was the head of the clan of Sempills, and at one time possessed an extent of property, which at the present day would have produced an annual income of from L. 20,000 to L. 25,000, and therefore were properly styled "a potent and powerful family." Now the whole of that property has passed into other hands.

The Sempills of Beltrees were, in an intellectual and literary point of view, more celebrated than the great Sempill family, from which they were descended. John, the first of this family and son of the great Lord Sempill, married Mary, sister of Lord Livingstone, who was one of the maids of honour to Mary Queen of Scots. Both she and her husband were great favourites with the beautiful Queen, which was the means of promoting their wealth and worldly prosperity. His highest honour, however, was that he was the father of Sir James Sempill, his successor. Sir James was an intimate and faithful friend of Mr Andrew Melville, and therefore various important circumstances are mentioned concerning him in Dr M'Crie's Life of that celebrated individual. This intimacy is said to have occasioned the publication of the famous Basilicon Doron by James VI. Sir James Sempill, who was a friend and favourite of the King, being employed to transcribe this treatise, sent it to Mr Andrew Melville to peruse. Melville taking offence at some passages which it contained, brought the subject before the synod of St Andrews, which obliged the King in self-defence, as he thought, to publish the whole work; and this step answered the purpose at least of procuring for him much admiration in England. After Melville had been decoyed to London, and cruelly and unjustly committed to the Tower by his faithless sovereign, Sir James was enabled to render him important services. He first procured for him a relaxation of his confinement and rigorous treatment, and then permission to retire to France, where he became a professor of divinity in the Protestant College of Sedan. Daniel Tilenius, a man of talent, but of Arminian prin-

ciples, was his colleague, and it is supposed that, at the suggestion, and perhaps with the assistance of Melville, Sir James engaged in a controversy with him, which had the effect of preventing the spread of his opinions among the students. Provoked at this, Tilesius endeavoured to ingratiate himself with King James, by publishing a defence of the late proceedings in Scotland, and filled it with unmerited and unmeasured abuse of the Scotch Presbyterians. This was answered by Beltrees in 1622, in a book written with great ability. The style is nervous, and the satire keen, but more chastened than was necessary in answering the coarse attack of Tilesius. As intimated in the conclusion of this work, the controversy was continued, in which Sir James perhaps obtained secret assistance from Melville, and, at any rate, public and effectual aid from Calderwood, who published an elaborate work entitled "*Altare Damascenum.*" The other works of Beltrees were, an Answer to Tilesius's Defence of the Bishops, and the Five Articles, *Cassandra Scotiana to Cassander Anglicanus*, published in 1616; "*Sacrilege sacredly considered,*" published 1619; the Packman's *Pater Noster*, a satirical poem against the Church of Rome, and probably the following production. When King James visited his native kingdom of Scotland in 1617, an oration, in the form of an allegory, welcoming his Majesty, was pronounced in the great hall of the Earl of Abercorn by a very pretty boy of nine years of age. This was William, the youngest son of the Sheriff, Sir James Sempill of Beltrees. He died in his house at the Cross of Paisley in February 1625.

His descendants seem to have retained chiefly his poetical talents, but degenerated from grave and serious subjects, to the composition of merry songs and satirical poems. His son Robert was the author of the epitaph of Habbie Simpson, the piper of Kilbarchan, and perhaps other similar productions. Francis, the next proprietor, was still more fertile in works of this kind, but, as will easily be believed, he squandered away his property, which he treated as lightly as every other subject. These light-hearted descendants of the grave and literary Sir James, when they could not rise to the composition of a poem, showed their spirit in a different way. Robert, the sixth of the family, was present at the last burning of witches in Paisley, in 1697, though to prevent this his parents had concealed his shoes, and he was obliged to go without them. It was he who died at Kilbarchan in 1780, aged 100 years. His son Robert made a little money, and retrieved the

circumstances of the family, but left it all to Mr Hamilton Collins, who married his youngest sister. Mrs Campbell, his eldest sister, was entirely overlooked; but her daughter married Mr Stewart, a respectable merchant in Greenock, and their son, Mr Stewart, I believe, still takes the title of Beltrees.

Family of Glen of Barr.—The second largest property in the parish is Barr, with regard to which I shall only say, it was possessed by the family of Glens above 300 years. John Glen, the first of the family, swore fealty to Edward I., King of England, in 1296, during the wars of the celebrated Sir William Wallace; and the family became extinct in the person of Alexander Glen, in 1616.

There are, however, a few families here of the name of Glen, who are supposed to be cadets of the Glens of Barr.

The property was next possessed by the family of Hamiltons, who also sold it about half a century ago, and the only surviving branch of the family is an old maiden lady residing in the village, about eighty years of age.

Family of M'Dowall of Garthland.—The present proprietor is William M'Dowall of Garthland, Esq. whose progenitors bought Castle-Semple from Lord Hew Sempill in 1727, and ever since that period, this has been one of the most distinguished families in the county of Renfrew. The late William M'Dowall of Garthland, Esq. was frequently Member of Parliament both for the county and the Clyde district of burghs, and a very influential person at court. His memory is not merely revered in the parish, but he enjoyed so entirely the esteem of all the gentlemen of the county, that after his death they erected an elegant monument to his memory in the old Abbey Kirk of Paisley.

Land-owners.—Two of the chief land-owners in the parish have already been mentioned, Colonel Harvey of Castle-Semple, and William M'Dowall, Esq. of Garthland. The rest in the order of their valuations are, Mrs Barr; Colonel Fulton of Hartfield; Ladvic Houston of Johnstone, Esq.; William Cochran of Ladyland, Esq.; and William Patrick, Esq. W. S. The first three are resident, the following non-resident. The rest of the parish is broken down amongst a multitude of small proprietors, amounting altogether to almost 130.

Eminent Men.—Most of the persons hitherto mentioned were distinguished chiefly by their property, and their political or warlike character, but there are at least two worthy of notice on account of

their talents and literature:—James Latta, Surgeon in Edinburgh, was born in 1754. He was son of James Latta, an extensive farmer, and grandson of Michael Nasmyth, long parochial schoolmaster in this parish. He published a practical system of surgery in 3 volumes 8vo, the second edition of which appeared in 1790, and is quoted by Cooper, in his Dictionary of Surgery, as a respectable work. Latta died young and unmarried.

Alexander Wilson, the Scots poet, and celebrated American ornithologist, was not a native of this parish, but he was connected with it by residence. His father removed from Paisley, the place of his nativity, to Auchinbathie, in 1784, and his son was employed as a weaver in Lochwinnoch till 1790. In consequence of this, many of his poems are founded on the scenery and incidents of the parish:—such as Calder Banks, Address to Mr M'Dowall of Garthland, Fauldhead's Elegy, &c. His most remarkable poem, Wattie and Meg, is supposed to refer to two individuals who were well known here; but the inhabitants of Paisley dispute this honour with us. In consequence of a satirical poem written against a respectable manufacturer in Paisley, an action was raised against him before the Sheriff, and though the sentence was mild, he took it amiss, and went to America in 1794. He lived at Philadelphia, and having abandoned politics, which had provoked his muse to satire, he betook himself to the study of natural history. There he published a splendid work entitled American Ornithology, in 9 volumes, with plates.*

* It may not be improper to subjoin a notice of the parochial ministers since the Reformation. It so happens, that almost all the former Presbyterian ministers of Lochwinnoch have been not merely exemplary in their characters, and diligent in the discharge of their duty, but acceptable to their parishioners. This circumstance has kept the people united, promoted their improvement, and maintained the Established Church here in a state of uninterrupted prosperity. This is a fact worthy of the attention of patrons. 1. The first person who officiated in this place in sacred things, after the Reformation, was Ninian Sempill, in 1576. He was only a "reader,"—a class of public teachers still of inferior repute in the country. His stipend was L. 16 Scots, with the kirk-lands. 2. Mr Andrew Knox, son of Mr John Knox of Ramforlie in Kilbarchan, was ordained about 1580, and translated to Paisley in 1585. He helped to defeat an attempt of Mr Hew Barclay of Leaskland, to overturn the Protestant faith, by the assistance of the court of Spais, but was not equally zealous against Episcopacy, which shews he had lost something of the spirit of his relative the great John Knox of a former generation. He was James VI. restored Episcopacy in 1606, he was made Bishop of the Isles. In 1622, he was promoted to the Bishoprick of Raphoe in Ireland, where he died in 1633. Crawford represents him as a person of considerable learning, but of gentle dispositions, and averse to persecution for conscience sake. He therefore shewed great kindness to his Presbyterian countrymen who fled from Scotland on account of their aversion to the church which the government were trying to establish in the country. 3. Mr Patrick Hamilton was minister of this parish in 1602, and was translated to Paisley in 1607. 4. Mr Alexander Hamilton in 1617. I have found no record how the parish was supplied during the long vacancies of this early period. 5. Mr Hew

Antiquities.—I have already mentioned the Peel and Collegiate Kirk, and shall now notice the remains of other ancient buildings.

The Barr Castle is the most remarkable of these. It is entire, but without a roof. It is a high oblong tower, must have been a place of considerable strength, and is a respectable piece of architecture for the time in which it was built, which seems to have been in the fifteenth century. It has both slits for arrows and ports for

Peebles in 1647. He was a pious and able man, and one of the many Presbyterian ministers who suffered during the reign of Charles II. Of the 400 ministers who refused to conform to Prelacy, there were 14 in the presbytery of Paisley, and Mr Hew Peebles was one of them who was deposed in 1663. For teaching in his own family on Sabbath evening, he was brought before the High Commission, where he pled his cause with great freedom as well as force of reasoning. Notwithstanding of this he was required to remove to Forfar, and to confine himself to that town. He was again brought before the council in 1670, and required to confine himself to Dumbarton and a mile around it. When the act of indulgence was passed at Glasgow in 1672, Mr Peebles at first refused to avail himself of it, but afterwards complied, and was restored to his charge about 1676. With some interruption he continued his labours till the Revolution in 1688, when he was fully restored to his office and emoluments, and died in 1691. His receipts for stipend from 1660 to 1665, are still in the possession of an inhabitant of the parish.

During the suspension of Mr Peebles, there were at least two Episcopalian ministers or curates here:—Mr Robert Aird in 1666, and Mr William Cunningham in 1683. One of them was very strict in requiring the parishioners to conform to Episcopacy, and in reporting against those who were irregular and refractory, but the other was easy and indulgent, and if they appeared to answer to their names at the commencement of public worship, he connived at their retiring, without requiring them to remain and join in the service:—and therefore he has left a favourable impression behind him in the parish. 6. Mr John Paisley was ordained 15th September 1691, refused a call to Foveran in Aberdeenshire, in 1693, and died in 1728. There is still evidence of his fidelity and diligence in the records of session during his incumbency. 7. Mr John Pinkerton was ordained 15th December 1728, and died 3d January 1750. The impression of his worth and fidelity still remain with the inhabitants of the parish. 8. Mr John Couper is said to have been licensed at the same time with his predecessor, and after a long probation was ordained at Lochwinnoch in September 1750, and died in September 1787, at the age of 81, after an incumbency of 37 years. He was the only minister of this parish who belonged to what is called the moderate party in church politics. I mention this, simply as a fact of which neither he, nor any of his family, would have been ashamed, and have much pleasure in being able to add, he was an excellent scholar, and an irreproachable character,—was most attentive to his parochial duty, and the education of his family, of which they have reaped the benefit in the prosperity which it has helped to secure for them in the world, and for which they have evinced their gratitude in their high respect for the memory of their father, and peculiar attachment to the place of their nativity. After the death of Mr Couper, the patron, Mr M'Dowall of Castle-Semple gave the people of this parish a choice of their own ministers. The first chosen was, 9. Mr James Steven, who was translated from a chapel in Albion Street, Glasgow, to Lochwinnoch, 15th August 1788, and died 21st June 1801. He was a very popular preacher. 10. Mr James Crawford was translated from Port-Glasgow chapel, 15th December 1801, and died 7th May 1814. He was an excellent man, as well as an acceptable preacher. Immediately before the death of Mr Crawford, the patronage of this parish was sold by the trustees of the late William M'Dowall of Garthland, Esq., and purchased by a number of the heritors. None but heritors were permitted to have a share, and no one heritor could hold more than five shares. The patronage being bought for L. 1550, was soon disposed of amongst seventy-seven heritors, holding more or less shares from one to five, and having votes proportioned to the number of their shares. Each share cost L. 10. These patrons chose, 11. Mr Robert Smith, in October 1814, who was ordained 2d March 1816, and is the present incumbent.

guns. Great guns were used by the English in the siege of Berwick in 1405, but for some time after this, our forefathers, especially in Scotland, retained an attachment to their ancient mode of warfare with bows and arrows. This castle, then with both its slits and gun-ports, seems to have been built in the fifteenth century, when they were passing from the one mode of warfare to the other. It consists of four stories. The first or ground-floor is arched to secure horses and other cattle in times of danger. The second contains the great hall, and the other stories different apartments for different purposes. It has a rampart or battlement at the top, and a turret at each corner. The large door is thick, and studded with strong spikes, having broad heads. It was lighted with 16 windows, and is about 35 feet long, and 26 broad, and the walls are about 4 feet thick. This castle is delightfully situated on a head-land a little west from the village, and commands a view of Barr House, the village, Crook Hill, the loch, Peel, and much of the adjacent scenery already described.

Elliston Castle is a small square building. It was the residence of the Sempill family before 1500, and stands on the opposite side of the loch from the present mansion-house. It must have been built before the use of gunpowder, but when repairs were made in later times, gun-ports were formed in its walls. Its length is 42 feet over the walls, its breadth 33 feet, and its height from 20 to 30 feet, being higher in some places than others. The end walls are from 8 to 9 feet thick, and the side walls about $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet. In the east and west walls there is an opening opposite to one another, and arched over the top, which might have been doors, but which from their elevation in the walls, appear like large windows. Auchinbathie tower stands on the side of the public road leading to Dunlop, Stewarton, &c. It is surrounded by some old trees, and cultivated land,—memorials of the wealthy inhabitants by whom it must have been occupied. We have said it was no doubt the mansion-house of the progenitors of Sir William Wallace. It is not so large as either of the castles already mentioned, though less dilapidated than the second. It is 29 feet long, from 10 to 12 broad, but it is probable that only a portion of the side walls remain, and its greatest height is about 17 feet. There is a small building embosomed within these ancient walls, and, therefore, instead of being the mansion-house of a distinguished family, they are now an out-house for cattle.

Besides these, there were other ancient castles, of which little

visible trace remains. The castle of Castle Tower gave place to the present mansion-house of Castle-Semple. Its foundations were this year laid bare in forming some drains about the latter house. Bel-trees is mentioned as one of the stone-houses or castles in Renfrewshire in 1612, by Monypennie in his *Chronicles of Scotland*. The celebrated and literary Sir James Sempill was then proprietor of Beltrees. Cloak Castle stood a little to the north-west of the present mansion-house. The foundations of Lorabank Castle were dug up by Mr Robert Orr, late proprietor of Langyard and Lorabank.

There are visible the remains of a camp or fort on the farm of Castlewaws, in the eastern part of the parish, not far from the scene of the battle of Muirdykes. It is on the top of one of the highest hills on the south side of the loch, which, on account of its elevation, is visited by strangers for the sake of the extensive and delightful prospect which it commands, as well as for the sake of examining the camp. Towards the west the eye lights on the sombre Misty Law and adjacent hills, from whence it turns southwards towards the beautiful country of Cuninghame, the Frith of Clyde, the Island of Arran, and the Craig of Ailsa. The entrenched hill is a superficies of about 80 fathoms in length, and about 25 in breadth. It consists of a mass of trap rock, precipitous on both sides; it is highest on the east side, which is 40 feet high. The precipice had no need of a wall for defence, but some parts of the eminence are sloping in the ascent, and are defended by a rampart of turf and stones, something like a feal-dike. The north and south sides are somewhat departing from the form of a precipice, and therefore are fortified. On the south end, there are still the remains of an entrenchment, which is 5 feet high. Within the entrenchment there is a circular wall or intervallum of the same rude materials, about 60 feet in diameter toward the west.

This fort has been supposed to be the remains of a camp formed by Sir William Wallace in his wars with the English; but more probably it was one of the hill-forts formed by the ancient Britons, of which there are many remains in the country.

The bridge of Bridgend across the Calder, a little to the north-west of the village, is worthy of notice, chiefly on account of its antiquity. It is mentioned by Montgomery of Westlands in 1650. The adjacent property is called Bridgend, probably from this bridge, and this property is mentioned by this name in a charter of Lordship of Paisley, by James VI. in 1626, and in the rental of the

abbey of Paisley in 1525. The arch of the bridge is very fine, and the mason-work far more elegant than is now employed about bridges. Originally it was very narrow, and barely allowed one cart to pass at once, but was repaired and widened in 1814. We have nothing but conjecture concerning the origin of this bridge.

In the former Statistical Account it is mentioned that a brass cannon and various canoes were found in the lake,—which evidently prove the large forests that must have existed in this part of the country. Many canoes have been found since that period. There is a person still alive who saw twenty-one buried in the mud between the old Peel and north side of the loch. A canoe taken out of the loch is still preserved in the garden of Allan Pinkerton of Mossend.*

Modern Buildings.—These require little description, for though the village be large, it contains few houses worthy of particular notice. The following general and accurate account of it is given by Robertson. “Lochwinnoch is a very thriving village, built on a regular plan of one main street (which is half a-mile long) with some streets crossing it at right angles. The houses are generally of two stories in height, and covered with slates. The situation is indeed very pleasant, as it is exposed only to the south-east, being under shelter in all other directions, either by rising grounds or thick plantations.” This description is strictly applicable to the new town; the old, which is only a small portion of the village on the north, is meaner and more irregular in its appearance. The churches and mills will be noticed afterwards; and besides these, there are about eleven superior houses belonging to the wealthier inhabitants, such as professional men and the proprietors of cotton-mills.

III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1695 was 290 families, and of course about 1450

1755	1590
1791	2618
1801	2958
1811	3514
1821	4130
1861	6515

From the above statement it will be seen that the population has increased rapidly since 1791. The chief reason of which was the erection of cotton-mills about that time, and the stimulus which these gave to every other kind of business. I have found the increase regular for the last seventy years, with the exception of the years 1810 and 1820, when, in consequence of distress and discontent, there was a considerable emigration to America.

* Some other minor antiquities are noticed in the MS., consisting of gold and silver coins, a ladle of Corinthian brass, querns, &c. found in the parish.

The present state of the population is as follows :

Village of Lochwinnoch,	2645
Hollowood,	209
Glenhead,	58
	<hr/>
	2907
In the country,	1608
	<hr/>
	Total, 4515
Average number of births for the last seven years,	98
of deaths,	77
of marriages,	31

Neither the register of births nor deaths is quite accurate. They are both a little below the truth.

Average number of persons below 15 years of age,	1750
betwixt 15 and 30,	1325
30 and 50,	857
50 and 70,	434
above 70,	149

There are many of the last list above 80, and two of them, both males, are about 97.

The average number of children in each family is	2½
Unmarried men, both bachelors and widowers, above 50,	70
Women above 45,	53
Number of insane, fatuous, blind, deaf and dumb,	33

There are no nobility in the parish, and the principal land-owners have been already mentioned. There are from 50 to 60 proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards.

The kingdom of Strathclyde comprehended the shires of Dumbarton, Renfrew, Lanark, Ayr, &c. and consisted of an independent British or Celtic people. It was conquered by the Saxons about the year 1000 or 1100, two hundred years after the conquest of the other provinces in the lowlands. Hence the language of the west of Scotland, and the Renfrewshire dialect, contains far more words derived from the Gaelic than that of many other counties. The inhabitants of this parish spoke this kind of Scotch dialect exclusively till the public works introduced people from all parts of Scotland, and even from Ireland, which has modified it somewhat.

There is no game or amusement by which the inhabitants of this parish are so much distinguished as curling,—which they have the best opportunities of enjoying on the fine sheet of ice on the loch of Castle-Semple.

The young men and women employed in the cotton-mills can afford both to live and dress well, and their example tells upon the rest of the inhabitants. The numerous small proprietors, too, are generally in better circumstances than ordinary farmers, and therefore the appearance of the congregation is much gayer than might be expected in a country parish. Those who endure the

heat, fatigue, and long confinement of the mills require a generous diet, and use it. They have generally butcher-meat at dinner, and sometimes at breakfast. This occasions an excellent market in the village. Many of the other inhabitants live in a plainer style, both in the town and country. The peasantry, I believe, generally eat porridge, and bread and cheese or milk to breakfast; broth and butcher-meat to dinner; and porridge again, or potatoes, or some other lighter food, to supper. Tea is not used in the country on ordinary occasions, except by some heads of families; but, with solitary exceptions, they live well.

In a manufacturing place like this, a great deal of ignorance and immorality may be expected. But the managers of the public works have always, much to their credit, been very careful about the character of the persons whom they employ; and the inhabitants enjoy all private as well as public means of instruction and improvement. The young are not merely educated at public schools, but many of them attend classes for religious instruction; and as soon as they approach the years of maturity they in general apply for admission into full communion with the church. They are in a remarkable manner a church-going people. There is hardly any such thing as infidelity, or even heresy, in the parish; and those who are suspected of bad principles are regarded with such feelings as to prevent them from doing much injury to those around them.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Extent of Lochwinnoch parish in English acres,	-	19219
Cultivated, or capable of cultivation,	-	9000
Wood,	-	700
Water,	-	300
Gardens and orchards,	-	100
Pasture of all sorts,	-	9119
		19219

Such a large extent of land planted contains an immense variety of wood; and upon the estates of Colonel Harvey and Mr M'Dowall it is managed in the best possible manner. The former keeps a skilful forester, and the plantations of the latter are managed with similar skill and attention. Where the soil is deep enough, all sorts of forest trees can be grown. On Castle-Semple estate there are many fine old trees,—beech, oak, Scotch and English elms, and large variegated planes; larch firs, silver firs of remarkable size, and the largest tree of the cedar of Lebanon, except one, that exists in Scotland. Besides these old trees, the forester has lately planted a large assortment of the finest trees of the forest which could be collected, and which are thriving well. I have re-

ceived a similar report of the variety of trees on the estate of Mr M'Dowall, but some of the plantations are younger than the woods within the policy of Castle-Semple, which were managed with great skill by the late proprietor, Mr M'Dowall of Garthland.

Rent of Land, &c.—The rent of land varies from L. 1 to L. 4 per acre in grass, and from L. 3 to L. 8 or L. 9 in crop, according to situation and circumstances. These are so various that it would be very difficult to find a fair average.

A cow's grass during summer varies from L. 3 to L. 5, exclusive of the expense of keeping it during winter. A sheep may be pastured for 8s. or 10s. on good land, but for less on the moor land.

Rye-grass hay, with the seed, is sold at from L. 3 to L. 5 per 100 stones; meadow-hay from L. 1, 10s. to L. 3, 10s. ditto; flax from 12s. to 15s. per stone; wool, from 5s. to L. 1 per stone; cheese, from 7s. to 9s. per stone; butter, 13s. per stone; and beef, 6s. 4d. per stone. (I always speak of the local weights and measures, never imperial.)

Live Stock.—The best breed of cattle and sheep are reared in the parish. All the farmers have the finest Ayrshire cows.

Husbandry, &c.—Leases generally extend to nineteen years, though some lands are let occasionally from year to year. This is an injurious system, because the lands are not improved when a tenant has not the certain prospect of holding it so long as to enjoy the benefit of his improvements. The farm-buildings are in general substantial, comfortable, and slated. Those on Castle-Semple estate, and the houses of some of the wealthier small proprietors, are elegant, and superior to what is required for farm-houses. To contrast with these there are one or two old buildings to remind us of the state of things in a former century, and which would not seem out of place in the Highlands. Most of the enclosures are thorn hedges, but some are stone dikes.

Much has been done in improving land during the last forty years. Enclosures have become general—roads are formed throughout the parish—the land has been drained and limed,—and the rotation of crops improved. The embankments which separate Barr Loch and Aird Meadow from Castle-Semple Loch, formed by the late proprietor, James Adam, Esq. W. S. and by which upwards of 200 acres of ground have been made to produce most luxuriant crops of oats or hay, are the most extensive improvements that have taken place in one quarter. * The late Andrew Moody,

* Barr Loch is now the property of William M'Dowall, Esq., and Aird Meadow of Colonel Harvey of Castle-Semple.

Esq. improved at great expense his property of Heathfield, forming part of the high lands in the north-western part of the parish, now the property of James Watt, Esq. in Greenock, and John Millar, Esq. Glasgow; and improvements upon a smaller scale have been carried on throughout the whole parish. Still there are individuals, especially among the small proprietors, who, from want of skill, or energy, or money, have not made the most of their properties.

Produce.—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, may be as follows :

2025 acres may produce at the rate of four bolls per acre, or 8100 bolls, at 15s. per boll,	L. 6075	0	0
225 acres in potatoes, &c. may be worth L. 11 per acre, or in all	2475	0	0
There may be in hay of different sorts one-fourth the quantity of land under grain crop, 506 acres worth L. 3 per acre, or	1518	0	0
6950 acres of moors, &c. may be rated at about 10d. per acre,	L. 288	0	0
2169 of better pasture at L. 1, 5s.,	2711	0	0
100 acres of gardens and orchards, worth L. 6 per acre, or	600	0	0
The thinning of plantations, &c.,	800	0	0
Miscellaneous produce,	100	0	0
		9999	0
			0
Total,		L. 14,067	0

Quarries, &c.—There are quarries of various kinds in the parish. There is a small lime quarry which is wrought at present, and lime exists in other places where no present use is made of it. There is abundance of freestone and other kinds of stone for building, and quarries are opened when they are required. There are two coal pits, the one at Hallhill on the eastern, and the other at Nerverlstone, in the western extremity of the parish. The former is worth about L. 300 a-year after expenses are paid. The latter is less valuable, and the working of it has lately been discontinued.

Manufactures.—The first manufacture in which the inhabitants of this parish were engaged to any considerable extent was that of linen. About the time of the Union in 1707, this manufactory was introduced into Paisley, and the farmers in this as in other places began to grow flax, and their female domestics were employed in making yarn for this manufactory. In the progress of the trade a company was formed here, who built a small factory about 1740, and a larger one about 1752 for linen and cambrick.

Mr Humphry Fulton, who was connected with this parish, introduced the manufacture of silk into Paisley after the model of the Spittalfield weavers in 1759; and before 1780, the elegant gauze trade was the chief manufacture in Renfrewshire; but it gave place to the cotton muslins about 1785 or 1790.

Thread-making was introduced about 1722, and at one time there were about 20 thread mills in this parish ; but now the business has been nearly discontinued.

A bleachfield belonging to the Factory Company was begun about 1740, which consumed all the butter-milk of the parish, till Dr Home of Edinburgh rescued it out of the hands of the bleachers, and restored it to the use of the inhabitants, by teaching them about 1756 to use sulphuric acid in its place. The second bleachfield was begun at Loanhead ; the third at Burnfoot by Mr Hamilton Adam. The Fultons and Co. began bleaching near their large mill about 1793. All these bleached chiefly their own goods, but there are other bleachfields which depend upon the manufacturers of Glasgow and Paisley. The bleachfield of the late Henry Wilson of Bowfield, Esq. is particularly mentioned in the former Statistical Account, and it has been continued with little interruption, though by different persons, to the present day. The business was never carried on with more skill, spirit, and success than by Mr John Campbell, who at present occupies the house and field of Bowfield. Mr Peter Cameron has a field at Midtown, where a great deal has been done. He is a person of an active and enterprising spirit, and has connected with the field a beetling-mill on the banks of the Calder, in which he finishes the goods and prepares them for the market.*

There are 15 weavers in the parish occupied in coarse work for the use of the farmers and other inhabitants, and about 203 employed by the manufacturers of Glasgow and Paisley. From 1780 and downwards, they were engaged with various kinds of muslins : but a remarkable change took place in the trade about 1820. The present weavers are employed in Canton crapes, Angola shawls, silk cypresses, silk harnishes, cotton harnishes, and a mixture of both. This is a complex manufacture,—requires the assistance of a draw-boy,—and sometimes expensive harnishes, but they make great wages when the trade is flourishing. When this business was introduced, some weavers made a great deal of money ; and others would have found it equally profitable if they had been equally careful. About a fourth part of our weavers are still employed in working muslins, but very little can now be made by this kind of work. There is one mill in the parish, which contains six looms employed in power-loom weaving.

Tanning was introduced into the parish about the beginning of last century, but it did not succeed.

* Cameron has failed and left the parish since the above account was written. But the business of the bleachfield is carried on by John M'Nab and Co.

Candlemaking was carried on for some time by Mr James Connel of Calderhaugh, but it was discontinued about 1828.

Mr Crawford and his brother have a mill for carding and spinning wool, in which they employ 22 workers. It is in the third story of a very fine mill near the Calder. This elegant building was erected in 1814, and the under part of it is one of the largest, and most complete corn-mills in the country. After the dried oats are put into the happer, they go through the whole process of shelling, winnowing, grinding, and sifting, and are prepared for the bags and the market without any other manual labour than that of superintending the process, which is carried on wholly by machinery.

But the cotton-mills mentioned in the former Statistical Account have for the last forty years been by far the most conspicuous manufactory in the parish.

The old mill was erected by Messrs G. Houston, Burns, and Co. about 1788, and is now the property of W. Wright and Co. It is situated on the rising ground on the north-west side of the village, and is driven wholly by the waters of the Calder and reservoirs connected with it. The building consists of five stories with garrets, lighted by 152 windows and 40 sky-lights. It contains 8140 spindles, and the yarn varies in size from No. 60 to 80, and the water-twist from 24 to 30. It employs altogether 170 workers, old and young, who receive about L. 148 of wages a-fortnight.

The new mill was erected by Messrs Fulton and Co. in 1789, and is now the property of Messrs Fulton and Buchanan. This large and elegant building stands upon the level ground near the foot of the High Street. It is not, however, in the line of the street, but placed so far back as to form a large and fine area in front of the mill, enclosed by a parapet wall, surmounted in the centre by an iron railing, which is in the line of the street. It stands near the banks of the Calder, by the waters of which it was wholly driven till a large addition was built to it in 1825, when a steam-engine was erected, which is now used along with the water in driving this mill. It consists of five stories with garrets, and is lighted by 360 windows and 60 sky-lights. It contains 25,224 spindles, which work 12,000 lbs. of cotton every fortnight. The yarn varies in size, from No. 36 to 84, averaging 60. It employs 345 workers, who receive about L. 260 of wages a-fortnight.

About 1788, a small cotton-factory was commenced by a num-

ber of persons in the parish, in which the jennies were moved by the hand; but it did not succeed, and was soon given up.

Messrs William Caldwell and Co. built a small mill at Boghead, a quarter of a mile north from the village, soon after the former. It consisted of three stories, besides garrets, and employed about 80 workers; but being accidentally burnt down about 1813, it has ever since remained in a ruinous state.

The persons employed in the cotton-mills work twelve hours five days in the week, and nine hours on Saturday. They have one hour and forty minutes for both breakfast and dinner. The confinement and high temperature of the mills must enfeeble the frame, and ultimately tell upon the health of the workers, especially when they do not enter them in early life; but they are not immediately broken down, and are not in general very sickly, so long as they continue to work, though paler, and sometimes thinner than those who are employed in the open air. The morals of the workers are still less affected, for the reasons already assigned,—the care with which unworthy persons are excluded, and means employed to improve workers. There are many as excellent persons in the mills as amongst any other class of the inhabitants. The workers make very high wages, and these mills would in this respect add greatly to the comfort of the inhabitants, were it not that they tend to increase the population, with its attendant evils, and more especially to bring a number of large and poor families into the parish, in the hope of finding employment easily for their numerous children. Notwithstanding of this, I am satisfied that the inhabitants of the village of Lochwinnoch have for a considerable time past been more comfortably provided for, than those of places where there are no mills and a great many weavers, who have repeatedly suffered more of late than persons employed in such mills. Cotton-spinning is not now so profitable as it once was to the proprietors; but the spirit and extent to which it is carried on is, I should think, the best proof that it is not yet an unprofitable concern.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages.—There is no market-town in the parish, and Beith, which is the nearest, is almost four miles distant; but everything that is needed can be got in the village of Lochwinnoch. The only other two villages are Hollowood and Glenhead, and they are both very small.

Means of Communication.—There is a post-office in Lochwinnoch; and there are carriers both to Glasgow and Paisley more

than once a-week, besides carriers passing through the parish weekly to Greenock, Port-Glasgow, &c. For facilitating this intercourse, there are excellent turnpike roads and bridges in all directions. Fences are raised everywhere, and there are private roads, generally good, to every part of the parish that is inhabited. A stage coach passes twice a-day along the road between Beith and Paisley, about a mile south from the village of Lochwinnoch. It leaves Saltcoats at 6 A. M., passes this a little after 8, and reaches Glasgow at half-past 10 o'clock. It leaves Glasgow about 4 P. M., and passes this a little after 6 o'clock. The course of a canal between Glasgow and Ardrossan, passing along the side of Castle-Semple Loch, was marked off about thirty years ago, and the canal was actually made as far as Johnstone; but it has never been carried farther, and the original design is now, I believe, abandoned. But an act of Parliament has been obtained to form a rail-road throughout the same line of country, and it has been executed from the harbour of Ardrossan as far as the coal-works in the neighbourhood of Eglington; but, I suspect, it will not soon be carried through to Glasgow.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church was built in 1806 on a new site opposite to the elegant west gates of Castle-Semple, and on the west of Harvey's Square. It is a large building, which ought to have been square, but its corners are rounded off so as to make it an irregular-sided octagon. It is well finished and painted within, and lets to about 1150 sitters; but when packed it will hold 200 or 300 more. It has a neat spire, though rather short. Beneath this spire, there is a paved area enclosed with elegant columns, having three large and high-arched openings between them corresponding to the three large doors in the front of the church. It stands in a field where no person has hitherto been buried, surrounded on three sides with a high wall; and on the front of the church there is a parapet wall, surmounted by an iron railing and two handsome gates, one at each end of the wall. The field is ornamented with trees and flowering shrubs. The situation of the church is sufficiently convenient for the inhabitants of the village and those on the north side of the loch; but it is far from those in the eastern extremity of the parish, and, in consequence of this, some of them do not attend it, but go to Johnstone chapel. There are no free sittings in the church, except part of two table-seats; and the other seats are let so dear as to be a very heavy burden upon poor persons. They vary from

4s. to 12s. a seat ; and if a family be large their sittings in church are almost equal to their rent, if they have as many as they require. The reason of this is,—that even with us where there is a village population of about 3000 souls, and altogether 3730 persons who profess to belong to the Establishment, there is a melancholy want of church accommodation.

The present manse, (though not the offices,) was built in 1815, and is a good house. The glebe contains from 6 to 7 Scotch acres, and affords very good pasture. The stipend is 8 chalders of meal and 8½ of barley, with L. 15 Sterling for communion elements. There is no chapel nor any other place of worship connected with the Established Church within the parish.*

The only other place of worship is one belonging to the United Secession body. It was built in 1792, in the form of an octagon, and stands near the parish church. It has a small tower in front, which improves its appearance. There have been three different incumbents in this place of worship, all of them still alive, and excellent men,—the Rev. Mr Schaw, now in Ayr; the Rev. Mr Robson, now in Halifax, America; and the Rev. Mr Shoolbraid, the present incumbent. A neat house was built for him in 1825, which, with a garden in front of it, is situated near the church. His stipend is L. 100, which is raised from the seat rents, the regular and extraordinary collections, and, I believe, other occasional contributions.

The inhabitants of this parish are in a remarkable manner a church-going people. 3730 of them profess to belong to the Establishment; 1509 have been admitted into full communion with it; and there are about 1100 regular communicants, leaving about 400 aged, careless or scandalous persons, who do not regularly communicate,—after deducting, however, a number in the eastern part of the parish who are admitted to sealing ordinances in the chapel at Johnstone. There are 789 Dissenters of all denominations.

Religious Societies.—There are two societies in this place for promoting religious purposes, a parochial and a female society. Their funds have dwindled down to a very small sum for some years past. The former, at its institution in 1815, raised almost L. 100; and now its annual income is generally below L. 20. The latter, which was instituted a year or two earlier, then raised above L. 40; and now it does not raise L. 10. Our Sabbath evening schools have become more numerous, amounting to 7, and attended by

* A missionary station was opened in the end of 1834.

about 600 children. We have a Tract Society, a Temperance Society, a Society for the reformation of morals, and various collections for religious and charitable purposes, in the course of every year.

The Tract Society is constituted and managed in such a manner, that every family in the village is furnished with a new tract upon some religious subject every week in the year; the distributors going through their respective quarters for this purpose every Monday.

Education.—There are altogether ten schools in this parish,—two or three of which are very small, and others are not large; but there are about 400 children attending all these schools.

The parochial schoolmaster has the legal accommodations of a house and garden, and the maximum salary of L. 34, 4s.; but hitherto the teacher has paid L. 5 of this sum to a teacher at Glenhead, a village on the south side of the loch, who has, besides this, a school-house, a dwelling-house, and a small garden. The teacher at Hollowood, the other village on that side of the loch, has the same accommodations, and sometimes a sum raised by voluntary subscription; but there is no regular salary attached to this school. There is in the village of Lochwinnoch a school supported by the proprietors of the New mill. They have, very much to their honour, provided an excellent school-room, giving the teacher a salary of L. 36 a-year, and requiring him to teach 60 scholars through the day, 30 under twelve years of age, who leave the mill before the others, and meet in school at six o'clock, and 60 who meet at eight o'clock in the evening. These children pay only 9d. a quarter to defray the expense of paper, slates, &c. which are provided for them. But the teacher is permitted to take in more than 60 scholars if they apply, exacting of these additional scholars the ordinary rate of wages. All the other schools are wholly unendowed. In about one-half of the schools there is nothing taught but reading, and perhaps a little English grammar, writing, and arithmetic. The other five or six teachers are acquainted with Latin, and some of them know Greek, French, and other branches of education. I am not aware there are any children growing up among us without education, and if this were discovered, provision would be made for their instruction. There may be one or two, but there are not many, adults who cannot read. The state of education seems to have been very different, only a little more than a century ago. So far from employing ten teachers here, the parochial schoolmaster seems to have

been obliged to move from place to place, and even when he returned to Lochwinnoch, got little encouragement. In an old MSS. book belonging to Barr, there are the following records, "school taken up 4th January, 19 waens, including 4 lassies;" "school taken up October 27th, 1697, 6 callans, no lassies." "Ye school taken up 22d June 1697, 13 weans, including 3 lassies."

Female education seems at this early period to have been very much neglected, and former generations, perhaps, were still worse instructed. This might be one reason for a resolution still to be found in the minutes of session during the incumbency of Mr John Paisley, dated October 13th 1691. "William Glen, school-master, is required to take care that all his scholars get the Catechism *so perquier*, that by turns they may repeat the same before the congregation every Lord's day, one standing on the east end of the church inquiring the question, and the other in the west answering."

Libraries.—There is a parochial library, which was instituted in 1823, and therefore is not yet large. Special care is taken to exclude from it all books hostile either to religion or government. Another parochial library, exclusively religious, was established in 1833. But many persons disliking this exclusive character, another was formed in 1834, called the Working-Man's Library; into which all kinds of books upon every subject are admitted, though containing the most conflicting opinions, except such as are hostile to evangelical religion. Long before the existence of any of these libraries there were book-clubs, which interfere with the prosperity of the parochial institutions. Some persons prefer these clubs not merely from their dislike of public libraries, but because, after they have existed for some time, the books are sold, and divided amongst the members, which enlarge and improve their private libraries. There is likewise a small library of select books upon religious subjects, and adapted to the capacities of young persons attached to the Sabbath evening schools. This library is divided into seven portions, one of which is given to each of the schools for a year; after which, they are exchanged like the circulating libraries in East Lothian, and every school has an opportunity of using the whole library in the course of seven years.

Friendly Societies.—The oldest of these societies was the Farmers' Box, which has been broken up; but there is still one at Hollowood, connected with the landward part of the parish, whose existence is also endangered, not by poverty, but by injudicious

interference. This society is large, and very rich, but in consequence of some legislative regulations, the members threaten to dissolve it. One would think that "the powers that be" have enough to do, though they do not interfere with those who are managing their own affairs peaceably and prosperously. There were once eight Friendly Societies in the village of Lochwinnoch, but at least three have become extinct. There is also a Female Provident Society, formed upon the same principles. There is a Female Benevolent Society, supported and conducted by the ladies of the parish, which contributes essentially to the comfort of the poor. The village is divided into districts, and visitors are appointed for each. The ladies visit all the poor in their respective districts, and after careful investigation, distribute clothing, fuel, &c., according to exigencies,—so that no person can remain in a state of wretchedness and want.

Poor and Parochial Funds, &c.—The average number of persons on the poors' roll for the last seven years has been 50 $\frac{1}{2}$. A pauper receives from 9d. to 5s. a week. Besides regular paupers, however, there are a great many who receive donations and occasional assistance in various ways. A large sum is expended in this way, because it keeps persons for sometime from becoming regular paupers, and is intended to encourage a spirit of independence, which is fast giving way in this part of the country. In order to form some idea of this matter, it may be stated, that in the course of the year 1832, the sum expended in the regular allowances to those on the poors' roll was L. 203; and the occasional donations amounted to L. 135, 6s. 2d. It is but fair to remark, however, that the greater part of these donations were given to those who were likewise receiving regular parochial aid. Many rents are paid when extraordinary assistance is wanted in peculiar circumstances, &c.

The whole average expenditure for a year, both in occasional donations, and for the regular poor, during the last seven years, has been L. 321, 17s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. This sum is raised in the following manner: Average annual amount of parochial collections for the last seven years, L. 98, 17s. 4d.; hearse and mortcloth ditto, L. 6, 10s. 5d.; proclamation of banns of marriage, do., L. 14, 4s. The remaining part of the funds was once raised by a regular annual assessment upon the heritors, feuars, and householders; but for some time past it has been raised by occasional voluntary contributions as they are required, in the same proportions, every

person contributing as formerly according to his property, which is intended to retard the increase of expenditure. Of this sum, the heritors contribute by far the greater part; the feuars and householders paying only L. 35, when the heritors pay L. 166. *

There is no prison in this place, though it is much wanted, and has often been talked of; but there is a very active fiscal, and a bench of Magistrates or Justices of Peace, who hold a court on the first Saturday of every month.

Fairs.—There are three fairs held in this parish in the course of the year. The oldest is called the fair of Hill, from the place where it originally met, viz. on the Market Hill. It has been held from time immemorial, on the first Tuesday of November, old style, but has met for a long time past in the village of Lochwinnoch. Originally, a great variety of clothes, shoes, &c. were sold at this fair,—at present it is only a market for cattle, and a time for meeting and settling Martinmas and other accounts.

The May fair or trades' race, is held on the second Tuesday of May, old style. It was begun about the year 1745 or 1750. The trades had originally a parade, which has long been discontinued; but there is still sometimes a race of one kind or another. There are some cattle in the market in the course of the day, and many meet in the afternoon to settle their Whitsunday accounts.

The farmers' parade or race is held on the first Tuesday of July. It is of a still later date than the former. At one time, the farmers from all parts of the parish mustered at this parade; but for some time those on the south side of the loch have withdrawn, and there is some prospect of its being discontinued altogether. Still, however, a number of those on the north side of the loch have hitherto appeared at the parade. The horses used to be arranged according to their colours, with a captain at the head of each company, and the whole marched under the command of a colonel. The hats of the riders are adorned with ribbons, flowers, and new-shot oats, and some of them have showy sashes and other ornaments. The trappings of the horses are equally showy. One of them carries a large flag, and they are accompanied by a piper, and sometimes a band of instrumental music. Some of those who ride the fleetest steeds, after the parade is over, try their speed in a horse race. There are a few cattle at this fair likewise.

* William Brown, Esq. who died in Antigua in October 1836, has left L. 4000, which is to be invested, and the interest to be given over to the kirk-session of this parish for behoof of the poor. This sum, it is hoped, will soon go far to supersede the need of an assessment.

Inns.—There are 24 inns in this parish, which are too many, and do an incalculable amount of mischief without being balanced by almost any good. The institution of temperance societies led to an inquiry into the quantity of ardent spirits and other liquors used here, and the melancholy and astounding fact was forced upon us, that in this, as in the neighbouring parishes, three or four times more money is expended in this manner than is required to support both our churches and schools, and all our charitable and religious institutions.

Fuel.—It has already been remarked that there are two coal-pits in the parish,—one in its eastern, and the other in its western extremity. There was one lately in its centre, near the village of Lochwinnoch, and there are beds of coal in various other places. Quarrelton is only a mile or two beyond our eastern boundary, where there is one of the most remarkable beds of coal in Great Britain, if not in Europe; and there are coal-pits equally numerous and valuable in the opposite direction, beyond our western boundary. A load of coals is sold at 7d., eight of which make an ordinary cart. The proprietors and farmers in the eastern, and more especially the western, extremity of the parish burn turf, but coal is most generally used throughout the parish.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The changes in this parish since the last Statistical Account was written, have been rather progressive than sudden or remarkable. There has been a departure, if it be not an advancement, from a simple and more primitive state of society. The population is almost doubled, and though this increase has been chiefly in the manufacturing population, yet the country part of the parish is much changed. The farm-houses and lands are much improved. They are enclosed with hedges, and have every advantage from roads. There is more wealth and external comfort; but I fear there is also more vanity and luxury, and perhaps immorality and crime. At the same time, while one class of a larger population tempt to the commission of evil, another class “provokes to love and good works.” There are now far more exertions made to promote the intellectual and spiritual improvement of the inhabitants, and therefore there is more intelligence and zeal than was forty years ago.

I do not pretend to understand the best system of husbandry, but have received the following hints from an intelligent person, a native of the parish, who has the management of an extensive district.

The old-fashioned practice still generally prevails, of taking two white crops, and then usually, though not always, sowing down the ground with rye-grass seed. There are exceptions to this mode of farming, and it were of great importance for others to improve the rotation and kind of crops grown.

The clay soils have been drained to a great extent of late years; but the practice should be carried still farther; and then the following rotation of crops would be profitable if the situation be not too elevated: beans, wheat, turnips, followed by a white crop, and sown down with perennial rye-grass. Light soils are most general, and on them the best rotation is oats, potatoes, and oats again, or barley sown down with perennial rye-grass and clover. The culture of wheat was introduced here within the last twenty or twenty-five years, but has never been carried to any great extent. A large proportion of the parish is ill adapted to this crop. Indeed, a great deal of it is fitter for pasture than any kind of crop. There is a fine breed of Ayrshire cows; and the butter and cheese derived from the dairy,—the rearing of young cattle, and fattening of others for the neighbouring markets of Paisley and Glasgow, are the best sources of emolument to the farmers on the more elevated districts. This kind of farming might in many places be improved by irrigating whinstone soils, and converting them into highly productive meadows. This was practised with great success by the late Andrew Moody of Heathfield, Esq.

Though these hints may be of some use, yet the grand means of improvement are to aim at the moral and religious culture of the people. Mere intellectual culture and liberal acquirement, if not brought under the influence of religion, are not enough. There are hosts of politicians among the mechanics and workmen in every manufacturing district, who, in intellectual acumen and one kind of information, are elevated above their station; and yet, from a want of regard to religion, and the industry and tranquillity which flow from it, are some of them indigent and unhappy, and neither amiable nor useful members of society. Religion ought to be the governing principle, not merely of individuals and families, but of magistrates and governments. Upon the latter it is incumbent to promote religion and good morals, just in the same manner as it belongs to them to do whatever may promote the peace and welfare of society.

Revised January 1836.