

## PARISH OF DUMBARTON.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMBARTON, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. WILLIAM JAFFRAY, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE word Dumbarton or Dunbarton is a corruption of the old name Dunbriton, a compound word, which signifies the fort or castle of the Britons. When a town was built near the walls of the fort, the same name was given to it. It was afterwards applied to the parish, and lastly to the county.

*Extent, &c.*—The parish is between 7 and 8 miles in length, and from 3 to 4 in breadth. In the Old Statistical Account, the length is stated at from 2 to 3 miles.\* This is quite correct as to the inhabited part; but the author has excluded a large moor belonging to the burgh of Dumbarton, which is quite uninhabited, except by a single family. Mr Chalmers has also fallen into error in regard to the extent; he states the length at 4, and the breadth at 2½ miles.† It is bounded on the north, by the parishes of Bonhill, Kilmaronock, and Killearn; on the north-east and east, by Killearn and West Kilpatrick; on the south, by the river Clyde; and on the west, by the river Leven, which separates it from the parish of Cardross. By a survey made in 1818, by Mr Wood, the parish was found to contain 6522 Scots, or 3155 English acres.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The south part of the parish is flat; but towards the north, about the distance of two miles from the Clyde, it rises rather abruptly, and from that, to the northern extremity, is nearly all moorland. There are a few small hills on the moor, but none of any great height. The most singular object in the parish is the Castle rock, which stands at the southern extremity, on a small peninsula formed by the junction of the River Leven with the Clyde, and is composed of trap of various kinds. In winter, sometimes, when the tides are unusually high, it is entirely surrounded with water. The rock is nearly divided into two equal parts

\* Statistical Account, Vol. iv. page 21.

† Caledonia, Vol. iii. page 914.

The western part is the highest, being about 206 feet above the level of the sea. The eastern peak is not quite so high. There are houses within the walls of the castle, which are capable of containing about 200 men.

*Rivers.*—The only river in the parish is the Leven, a beautiful stream, which takes its rise in Lochlomond, and after a smooth even course of seven miles over a bed

“ With white round polished pebbles spread,”

forming the western boundary of the parish for several miles, it discharges itself into the Clyde at Dumbarton Castle.

*Climate, &c.*—The climate is on the whole moderate, though rather damp and variable. Very heavy showers are frequent in spring and autumn. The winter is generally temperate, frost and snow not continuing for any great length of time. The prevailing winds are from the west and south-west. In spring, easterly winds sometimes continue for a long time, and often do much injury to the early vegetation.

Towards the close of the year, dense fogs for days hang over the south part of the parish. At that time, the influenza is very prevalent, and often proves fatal to infirm and delicate people. Scarlet and typhus fever prevail very much, sometimes, indeed, to a most alarming degree. The small-pox, hooping-cough, and measles, are also very common; but the small-pox is usually very mild, and few deaths occur from it, as vaccination is very generally practised.

The soil of the parish is generally fertile, but rather shallow. On the south side, there are several fields of very rich soil. There are many different kinds of soil; in some parts, it is very clayey, in others full of gravel. There is a very plentiful supply of limestone at a place called Murroch glen; and on the moor of Dumbarton, there are quarries of red freestone. The stone when taken out of the quarry is soft, but it soon hardens when exposed to the air.

*Zoology*—Large flocks of wild ducks (*Anas boschas*), and teal (*Anas crecca*), are common. Besides these, several different kinds of the diver tribe visit the parish. Among the rarer birds are the kingfisher (*Alcedo ispida*), the bittern (*Ardea stellaris*), the black-backed gull (*Larus marinus*), the little auk (*Alca alle*), and the wild swan (*Anas cygnus ferus*). The roebuck is sometimes found, and wild rabbits and hares are tolerably plentiful. Adders are numerous on the high grounds.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

No general account of this parish has ever been drawn up (so far as known), except that in the Old Statistical Account. A very good account of the castle, and some excellent remarks as to the ecclesiastical state of the parish, are to be found in the third volume of Chalmers's Caledonia. There are two works on the agriculture of the county of Dumbarton, which contain some notes on the agriculture of the parish. Both of these are reports which were drawn up for the consideration of the Board of Agriculture: the first drawn up by the Reverend David Ure, and published in 1794: \* the other, the joint performance of the late Reverend Andrew White, minister of the parish of Kilmaronock, and the Reverend Dr Macfarlane, then minister of the parish of Drymen, now Principal of the University of Glasgow, and published about seventeen years after. † A good plan of the town of Dumbarton was published by Mr Wood in 1818, in the map of the county; at the same time, a separate plan of the town was published by him. A very neat and correct plan was drawn in 1830, from surveys, made by the late Mr Henry Reed, one of the masters of the public school; it belongs to the magistrates of Dumbarton.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parish registers consist of three sets; the minutes of sederunt; the register of baptisms and marriages; and the register of deaths. The minutes of sederunt consist of nine volumes, which are generally in good order, but are only complete from 1704. The earliest date is 1667. A volume of minutes bearing date about 1620 had fallen, by some chance, into the hands of an individual in town; the kirk-session, however, think that they will be able to recover it.

There are six volumes of the registers of baptisms and marriages. The earliest date is 1642; and they are complete from 1701.

The register of deaths consists of two volumes, the one from 1691 to 1749, the other from 1783 to 1795.

*Antiquities.*—At a very early period, it appears that there was a town at or near the site of the burgh of Dumbarton, which was called Alclud or Alclud, and was the capital of the kingdom of the Attacotti. The word Alclud signifies the rock of the Clyde, or on the Clyde; it was at first applied to the castle, and afterwards to the town, as the name Dunbriton was applied in the same manner, at a later period. The Romans had a naval station here, which they

\* 4to, London, 1794.

† 8vo, Glasgow, 1811.

called *Theodosia*. This has been disputed, and the mouth of Lochlomond, and Dunglass, in the parish of West Kilpatrick, about two miles higher up the river than Dumbarton, have both been thought to be the situation. It is said that, about two hundred and forty years ago, several remains were found, which evidently showed that the Romans had been masters of the place. On the western peak of the castle rock, there stands a circular heap of stones strongly built together, which is supposed to have been the base of a *pharos* or watch-tower.

The parish, generally, occupies no great space in the page of history; but the castle, from its great strength in former times, and from the strenuous efforts always made to obtain possession of it, is sometimes made mention of. It became a royal fortress at an early period. In 1238, Alexander II. granted a charter to the Earl of Lennox, confirming him in the possession of his earldom; but excepting the castle and certain lands, &c. in the neighbourhood, which had been possessed by his father. \* The castle was delivered over to Edward I. at the commencement of the competition for the crown, and was shortly afterwards put into the hands of John Baliol. Sir John de Menteith, the betrayer of Wallace, was made governor by Edward. Sir John governed the fort till 1309, when Robert Bruce obtained possession of it by stratagem. We are not informed of the way in which it was taken; but Mr Chalmers mentions that one "Oliver, a carpenter," contrived the affair, and that he was afterwards rewarded by a grant of some lands. † For a long series of years after, the castle fell into many different hands.

The castle was formally annexed to the crown in 1485 by the act of Parliament, 11 James II. cap. 41. The statute bears, "Item, the Castell of Dumbertane, with the landes of Cardrosse, Rosneth," &c.

The history of the castle is of little importance till the time of Queen Mary. In the early part of her reign, the fort was possessed by the rebel Earl of Lennox; but afterwards possession was obtained by the Royalists. After the unfortunate Queen was de-throned, the castle was still held for her by a faithful adherent—Lord Fleming. It soon, however, fell into the power of the Regent. In the month of May 1571, on a dark and stormy night, one Captain Thomas Crawford, with a few soldiers under his command, succeeded in taking it by scaling the walls. Hamilton, the Arch-

\* Chart. Lennox.

† Caledonia, Vol. iii. page 873.

bishop of St Andrews, the governor's wife, and several other persons were made prisoners. The Archbishop was taken to Stirling shortly after, and was cruelly put to death. He was hanged on a tree; and the following couplet is said to have been written on the occasion:—

Vive diu, felix arbor, semperque vireto  
Fronibus, ut nobis talia poma feras.

The castle was in the possession of Charles I. at the commencement of the war; but in the early part of the year 1639, the rebels became masters of the place. The King recovered it in the same year. In 1640, it again fell into the hands of the rebels. Shortly after, the Scottish Parliament ordered that the works on the rock should be destroyed. It appears, however, that the command was never obeyed. Oliver Cromwell obtained possession in 1652. At the time of the union, the castle of Dumbarton was one of the forts that was agreed to be kept in repair. The establishment consists of a governor, lieutenant-governor, barrack-master, store-keeper, and surgeon. Lord Lyndoch is the governor at present. The troops usually stationed there, consist of about thirty men, who are generally sent from the *depot* at Glasgow or Paisley; and about twelve men from the Royal Artillery.

The town of Dumbarton was made a royal burgh by Alexander II. in 1222; at the same time, he granted certain lands in the neighbourhood, and the right of fishing in the river Leven, for a considerable distance above the town.

Several other charters were granted in favour of the burgh by succeeding sovereigns, which were all confirmed by a charter of James VI. dated 13th December 1609, and which was ratified in 1612 by Parliament.\* About this period, the town was much damaged by floods, so much so, that application was made to the Parliament to obtain a sum of money to enable the magistrates to do something to prevent the town being entirely destroyed. A commission was appointed to enquire what sum would be necessary; they reported that “na les nor the sowme of threttie thousand pundis Scottis money was abill to beir out and furneis the necessar charges and expenses in pforming these warkies, that are liable to saif the said burgh from vtter destructioun.” † The Parliament accordingly granted the sum of twenty-five thousand merks Scots for that purpose. It appears that that sum was not

\* Acta Parl. Vol. iv. page 483.

† Ibid. Vol. iv. page 376.

sufficient, for King James soon after granted a further sum of twelve thousand merks.

At the Union, Dumbarton was joined with Glasgow, Renfrew, and Rutherglen, in returning a Member to Parliament. By the Reform Act it is joined with Kilmarnock, Port-Glasgow, Renfrew, and Rutherglen. The parish church of Dumbarton existed at an early period. The first notice of it appears in the *Rotuli Scotiæ*, in 1296.\* Mr Chalmers says, that the church, with all its pertinents, was granted to the monks of Kilwinning, and that it belonged to them till the time of the Reformation. †

A grant of the patronage of the "kirk and parochin of Dumbartane, parsonage and vicarage thereof, with the mans and glib, houss, tenements, biggings, teinds, fruits, rentis," &c. "to the Provost, Baillies, Counsell and communitie of the burgh of Dumbartane," was made in 1618. The charter is dated 10th June, and was ratified by Parliament on 26th June 1633. The town-council still enjoy the right of patronage.

Besides the parish church, there was a collegiate church in the parish. It was founded about 1450, by Isabella the Duchess of Albany and Countess of Lennox. A single arch, supposed to be the remains of the church, is still in existence close to the town.

*Eminent Men.*—The parish of Dumbarton has not produced many men of eminence. The only man of historical importance, who was a native of the parish, was Sir James Smollett of Bonhill. This eminent man was born in Dumbarton, but the precise date of his birth is unknown. He was intended for the profession of the law, and was bred as a writer in Edinburgh. He represented the burgh of Dumbarton in the Convention of Estates in 1688; he also represented the same burgh in several subsequent Parliaments. Smollett supported the Revolution of 1688, and when William III. was raised to the throne he received the honour of knighthood, and was made a Judge in the Commissary Court of Edinburgh. Towards the close of the seventeenth century, when the great question of the Union of England and Scotland began to be agitated in Parliament, he came forward as a zealous advocate of the proposed union. In 1707, he was appointed one of the commissioners for framing the Articles of Union, and was the first member who represented the Dumbarton district of burghs in the British Parliament.

Sir James married Jane M'Aulay, a daughter of Sir Aulay

\* *Acta Parl.* Vol. i. page 25.

† *Caledonia*, Vol. iii. page 902.

M'Aulay of Ardincaple, and left several sons and daughters. His youngest son, Archibald Smollett, was the father of the celebrated Dr Tobias Smollett, the author of "Roderick Random." Dr Smollett was not born in the parish of Dumbarton: his birth-place being in the neighbouring parish of Cardross; but it was at the school of Dumbarton, then taught by Mr John Love, that he received his first lessons in classical learning. His biographer, Dr Anderson, thus speaks of him at that period: "The first blossoms of his poetical genius appeared at this early period of his life: They were chiefly satirical verses on his school-fellows, whose character and conduct disgusted him; and were remembered, as they evinced, when a boy, the sensibility of his temper, and his disposition to chastise insolence and expose rudeness."\* When he had received the ordinary course of school education, he went to the University of Glasgow; but does not appear after that to have had any connection with the parish.

Mr John Love, the master of the school of Dumbarton, was a native of the parish of Dumbarton, and born in the year 1695. He received his education at the University of Glasgow, and he was elected about the year 1720, master of the school of Dumbarton. This school had been for a long time prior, a celebrated one for classical education; it is said that George Buchanan the historian, received part of his education here; † this, however, is uncertain. Mr Love, after labouring for fifteen years in Dumbarton, was promoted to the High School of Edinburgh. He continued there about four years, when he was removed to the school of Dalkeith in 1739. Mr Love, along with Mr Robert Hunter, A. M. Professor of Greek in the University of Edinburgh, published an edition of Buchanan's Translation of the Psalms. The book was printed by the Ruddimans, and was published in 1737. ‡ This edition of that beautiful translation is the best which has yet been published. Love was a very great admirer of the writings of George Buchanan, and became engaged in a sharp controversy with one Mr William Lauder, who endeavoured to prove that Johnston's version of the Psalms was superior to that of Buchanan. In 1740, Love wrote a pamphlet entitled Buchanan's and Johnston's paraphrase of the Psalms compared; § and in 1749, he pub-

\* Anderson's Life of Dr Smollett.

† Mackenzie's Lives of Scots Writers, Vol. iii. page 156.

‡ Edinburgh, 1737, 8vo.

§ Do. 1740, 8vo.

lished a book called "A Vindication of Mr George Buchanan."\* Mr Love died at Dalkeith in 1750, aged fifty-five years. He had a most thorough knowledge of the ancient classics, and possessed the happy faculty of being able to convey his knowledge to others. Dr Anderson says that he was "an eminent scholar, an excellent teacher, and a good man."†

The Rev. John Freebairn, a native, and for several years minister of the parish, though not known for any literary production, was a man possessed of considerable talents. In the General Assembly he must have made a good figure, as Henry Mackenzie, in his Life of John Home, describes him thus: He was "a plain country clergyman, but of infinite native humour," &c. "whose talent for enlivening a debate by pleasantry, or turning the laugh against his adversary by sarcasm, not rude, though keen, I have seldom heard equalled by any debater whomsoever."‡

The late Dr Patrick Colquhoun, the author of a "Treatise on the Wealth, Power, and Resources of the British Empire," and for some years one of the police magistrates of London, was a native of Dumbarton. By his will, he left the sum of L. 200 Sterling, to the minister and elders of the parish of Dumbarton, the interest of which was to be divided yearly among poor people of the name of Colquhoun in the parishes of Dumbarton, Cardross, Bonhill, and Old Kilpatrick, not receiving parochial aid.§

### III.—POPULATION.

The first statement of the population of the parish of Dumbarton was taken about the year 1750, for Dr Webster. The population then amounted to about 1480. According to the Old Statistical Account, the number in 1790 amounted to rather more than 2000 souls.

In 1801,	.	2541
1811,	.	3121
1821,	.	3481
1831,	.	3628

In the last mentioned year there were 1697 males, and 1926 females.

About the beginning of 1837, an enumeration of the population of the parish was made, in order to answer the queries proposed by the Commissioners for ascertaining the opportunities of Religious Instruction, &c. The population was then found to have decreased very considerably, the total amount of the inhabitants

\* Edinburgh, 1749, 8vo.

† Life of Smollett, page 12.

‡ Account of the Life of Mr John Home, 8vo, Edinburgh, 1822, Vol. i, p. 62.

§ Dr Colquhoun, previous to his removal to London, was Lord Provost of Glasgow.

only being 3116.\* This decrease can be accounted for thus: In 1831, when the last Parliamentary census was taken, the trade of the town of Dumbarton was in a very flourishing state. A large quantity of crown-glass and bottles was made annually, which employed a considerable number of men. Shortly after the census of 1831, the manufacture was stopped, and the workmen of course were all thrown out of employment. These men were obliged to leave Dumbarton to seek employment elsewhere, chiefly in England. Since that time, no glass has been made at these works. At the time of taking said census, two large ship-building concerns were in full operation. One of them was not situated in the parish, although most of the men there employed lived in the parish of Dumbarton. Like the glass-works, they were unfortunately stopped, and the men were all thrown idle. Subsequently, they resumed work, but not to the same extent as formerly. The number of inhabitants in the landward part of the parish is about 300; the rest live within the town of Dumbarton.

The average number of births in the parish for the last seven years has been about 69, and the number of marriages during the same period about 30. It is impossible to give any thing like a correct statement of the average number of deaths, as no register of deaths has been kept for more than forty years. According to a private note kept in 1837, the number buried in that year was 127; but from this we cannot form a fair estimate, as, during that time, typhus fever prevailed to a most alarming extent, and many of the people buried were strangers.

There are only about five proprietors in the parish possessing lands above the yearly value of L. 50 Sterling,—besides the burgh of Dumbarton, which possesses extensive property within the parish. The annual value of real property, as assessed in 1815, was L. 4695 Sterling.

In 1831, there were 804 families in the parish; 367 inhabited houses, and 6 uninhabited.

The English language is pretty generally spoken. A considerable number of Highlanders reside in the parish; but, with a few exceptions, they are all able to converse in the English language.

A considerable quantity of game is destroyed by poachers; but the salmon-fishings are not much poached, as the tacksmen are almost constantly on the spot. Illicit distillation was, some years

\* All the statements made as to population are according to the census of 1831, unless where specially excepted.

ago, carried on to a considerable extent, but the trade is now quite unknown. A large pawnbroking establishment was carried on a few years ago; in the winter of 1835, the premises were burnt to the ground, and, since that time, the trade has been carried on, on a very small scale.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

In 1831, there were 71 persons employed in agriculture; 12 of these were occupants employing labourers, 13 occupants not employing labourers, and the remaining 46 were labourers. In the same year, there were 81 males employed in manufactures; 405 in retail trade or in handicraft; 56 under the class of wholesale merchants, professional persons, &c.; 130 labourers employed in labour not agricultural.

*Agriculture.*—The system of farming pursued in the parish is in noways different from that pursued in other parts of Scotland. The fair prices for the last seven years were as follows:—

	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.
	L. s. d.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.
Wheat,	2 13 11	2 11 1	2 7 9	1 19 9	1 16 5	2 8 6	2 8 8
Oats,	1 1 1	0 18 7	0 19 1	1 0 3	1 0 9	1 5 3	1 0 9
Bear,	1 10 10	1 7 5	1 5 9	1 3 10	1 3 11	1 7 5	1 7 3
Barley,	1 13 0	1 9 10	1 8 6	1 8 1	1 7 0	1 10 7	1 10 3
Peas & Beans.	1 14 10	1 11 4	1 11 0	1 12 0	1 13 0	2 4 0	1 16 10

*Wages.*—Farm-servants generally get L. 12 Sterling of wages per annum. Agricultural labourers get the following rates of wages:—1s. 6d., 1s. 3d., 1s. 10d., 1s. 11d., 2s., 2s. 2d., and 2s. 4d. Sterling per diem; the average rate is 10s. a-week.

*Rent of Land.*—The farms in this parish are usually let on leases of nineteen years. The usual rent of land is L. 2, 10s. Sterling an acre, and some even is let as low as L. 2. The real rent of the parish is about L. 8400.

*Fisheries.*—The burgh of Dumbarton possesses the right of fishing salmon in the river Leven, and also in the Clyde, from the Castle of Dumbarton to the mouth of Lochlong. The rents vary very much. The right of fishing in the Leven is at present let at L. 281 Sterling a-year. The Clyde fishings in 1836 were let for about L. 58.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The only town in the parish is Dumbarton, a royal burgh, the chief town of the county of Dumbarton, and the seat of presbytery. The town is situated on the west bank of the river Leven, not very far from its junction with the Clyde. It consists of one

tolerably well built street in the shape of a crescent, and several other smaller streets. The houses are generally closely built together, and many of them very ill-aired. The principal street is kept very clean, and well paved, and has for some time been lighted with gas. In 1831, the population was about 3800, but since that time it has decreased considerably. The affairs of the burgh are managed by a provost, two bailies, a dean of Guild, a treasurer, and ten councillors. Before the Reform Act passed, the council was divided into two classes, *merchant* and *trades'* councillors; but since the passing of that act, the distinction has been abolished. The bailies are empowered to hold Courts for the administration of justice, but they do not hold them at any stated period, and they sit when business requires their attendance. The Sheriff of the county holds regular Courts in Session time every Thursday for the Sheriff Court processes, and commissary causes, and on every second Thursday for small debt causes. The business in these courts has fallen off very much of late years.

*Manufactures.*—Previous to the year 1831, a considerable trade was carried on in the town of Dumbarton. A very extensive crown-glass and bottle-work was then in full operation. At the time when the old Statistical Account of the parish was published, there were about 130 individuals employed in these works, and the amount per annum of duties paid to Government was L. 3800 Sterling.\* Some years after that, the number of workmen was about 300, and the quantity of coal consumed per annum was about 17,000 tons. The largest sum of money ever paid by the company to Government for duties was L. 119,000 Sterling: this was in 1818. The duties never afterwards amounted to so large a sum. When these works were in operation, there were about 2000 tons of shipping belonging to Dumbarton. The number of vessels now belonging to the port is about 40,—containing in all about 1212 tons burthen. The glass-works are to be exposed to sale, in a short time, when it is expected that they will be sold, and that trade will again revive.†

At high water, the river Leven is navigable for large vessels up to the quay of Dumbarton; but at very low tides none can come up, unless of a small size. This is partly owing to a bar across the mouth of the river at Dumbarton Castle, and partly owing to seve-

\* Stat. Account, Vol. iv. page 23.

† Since the above was written, the Glass-works have been sold, and are going on in a flourishing manner.

ral sand-banks above that. These, for a small sum, and with no great labour, could be easily removed. There are two shipbuilding yards on the Leven, (one of them in the parish of Cardross), which employ a number of men, and where some beautiful vessels have been built, and are still in progress of building. A small trade in tanning and rope-spinning is carried on; and there is one brick field in the parish.

*Means of Communication.*—The town of Dumbarton is distant from Glasgow about fifteen miles, and from Greenock about seven. There are two steamers belonging to a company in Dumbarton, which sail to and from each of these places twice a day. Letters are sent also twice a day from Dumbarton to Glasgow, and *vice versa*. There is also a daily communication with Helensburgh, Luss, and Drymen. In summer, a coach starts every lawful morning at nine o'clock for Balloch, with passengers for the Lochlomond steam-boat, and returns to town again in the evening, in time for the steamer which goes to Glasgow. An elegant bridge, 300 feet in length, consisting of five arches, was built across the Leven about the year 1765; it was erected at the expense of Government, and cost L. 2500 Sterling; about L. 150 have been expended on repairing it since that time. About eighty-five years prior to the erection of the bridge, an attempt was made to erect one, and a subscription for that purpose was commenced, but to no purpose.

The greater part of the fences consist of thorn hedges, which thrive remarkably well, and are generally neatly and trimly kept.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is very conveniently situated for the great majority of the inhabitants. It stands in the east end of the town of Dumbarton. The nearest boundary of the parish is distant from it about fifty yards, and the farthest from six to eight miles. There are about eight inhabited dwelling-houses, distant from the church more than two miles, and none farther than three miles. There are sittings in the church for 1265 persons; of these sittings about 90 are free. The average number of individuals attending the parish church throughout the year, is 900; with the exception of about 50, who come from some of the neighbouring parishes, they all belong to the parish of Dumbarton. The minister of the parish only got a manse about the end of 1837, but has not yet got a glebe.

There is a missionary in the town, who is supported by a sum raised by subscription; the salary is L. 52 a year. There are two Dissenting places of worship in the parish, the one a Roman Catholic,

the other a United Secession, Chapel. Neither of these are endowed, the clergymen being supported by the seat rents alone. The Roman Catholic clergyman is provided with a house, the other clergyman is not. The Dumbarton Roman Catholic Chapel is within the diocese of the Bishop of Glasgow. The Baptists have a place of meeting,—a small room in the town; they are by no means numerous. The following will give a tolerably correct statement of the religious persuasions of the people of Dumbarton, as ascertained in 1837: Of the Established Church, 2311; Episcopalians, 35; Independents, 8; Roman Catholics, 284; Relief, 262; United Secession, 113; Baptists, 30; Cameronians, 9; Seceders, 26; Unitarians, 5; number of persons of no religious persuasion, 33; total, 3116. There are several Sunday evening schools in the parish. There is also a Society for the Diffusion of Missionary Intelligence, which meets regularly once a month.

*Education.*—There are seven schools in the parish, exclusive of the parochial school. Four of these are taught by male teachers, the others by females. The parochial teacher has a salary of L. 40 Sterling per annum, which is paid by the magistrates of the burgh. The amount of his school fees cannot be ascertained. The other teachers depend on school fees alone. At the half yearly examination of the public school in February 1838, the branches of education taught, and the number of pupils learning each branch, were as follows: Greek, 3; Latin, 12; French, 6; English reading, 161; English grammar, 49; mathematics, 3; geography, 22; arithmetic, 78; writing, 96; drawing, 1. Several years ago, the public school was taught by three masters, one taught the Greek, Latin, and French languages, another taught English grammar, &c. and the third taught writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, &c. Since 1833, one master manages the three departments. It is much to be regretted that classical learning is very much neglected now. Not quite twenty years ago, the master of the classical department was able to live comfortably on his school fees, from the number that attended his classes. Now, there are only three Greek, and twelve Latin scholars, making a total of fifteen!

*Literature*—There is a public library in the parish, which was instituted in 1797: it contains nearly 2000 volumes,—among which are some good standard works. The “Dumbarton Sabbath Evening School” has about 600 volumes, which are lent out to the scholars. The scholars of the public school have also a small

library,—which now consists of nearly 300 volumes. The Conservative and Liberal parties each support a reading-room in Dumbarton.

*Friendly Societies.*—There are four Friendly Societies in the parish, which were instituted for the purpose of assisting the members in time of distress. All members contributing regularly to these societies are entitled to a weekly allowance when unable to work. There is also a Society for the relief of indigent old men and women, which has already done much good.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid, is about 70. The amount of collections at the church door, each Sunday, is generally about L. 1. The proprietors in the parish are assessed for the support of the poor, but only within the last four years. The average amount of the assessment is about L. 300 Sterling. The amount of extraordinary collections in the parish church during the last two years was as follows: in 1837, L. 82, 17s. 9d., and in 1838, L. 59, 0s. 6d. Sterling.

*Fairs.*—There is only one fair held within the parish. It is held annually on the second Tuesday of August, on a common, close to the town; the business transacted there is of no great extent.

*Inns and Ale-houses.*—There are two good inns in Dumbarton, which are well filled, in summer, by travellers going to, and returning from, Lochlomond. The number of ale-houses yearly licensed is from 40 to 50.

*Fuel.*—Coal is almost the only fuel used, and is all brought from Glasgow. A small quantity of peats is used by the poor.

*February 1839.*