

PARISH OF KILSYTH.

PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW, AND SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. WILLIAM BURNS, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—**ANCIENTLY**, *Monaebrugh* was the name of this parish, supposed to be a compound of *Monaugh*, hilly, and *Ebrugh*, streams; and the name is very descriptive of the eastern district of this parish, which, till 1649, constituted the whole parish. At that period, what is called the West Barony was disjoined from Campsie, and added to *Moniabrugh*,* or the East Barony, which continued to be the name of the parish till about a hundred years ago, when the whole parish was more usually designated Kilsyth. The Rev. James Robe, who was ordained minister of Kilsyth in the year 1713, and wrote his “Narrative” in 1743, speaks of the parish “Kilsyth, till lately called Moniabroch.” The oldest set of tokens, so late as the year 1755, have MK stamped upon them, doubtless “Moniabrugh Kirk;” and the communion cups, 1731, are marked “For the Kirk of Monaebrugh.” Thus, in solemn affairs, the older name was longer retained than in common usage. The estate of Livingstone, Viscount of Kilsyth, the great proprietor of the district, when the West and East Baronies were both included in the same parish, naturally gave name to the parish. I conjecture that the name

* The spelling in the records is always *Moniabrugh*.

Monibrough, originally applied to the kirk, which was anciently on a part of the Barwood, where the burn of Abroch rises, and which well corresponds to the description implied by the name; and having been used to designate the kirk, would very naturally be applied to the whole parish, till the addition from Campsie of a valuable part of the estate of Kilsyth, gave occasion to the new name.

With regard to the etymology of Kilsyth, the first syllable is familiar to all; the second, *syth*, is somewhat uncertain. It is either the name of one of the saints of the Romish calendar, or derived from *sythin*,* which signifies peace. In the West Barony, near a place called Chapel-green, there was a tumulus, in which an urn and ashes were found; and there is a tradition, that this cairn was erected over the dead slain in a battle betwixt the natives and the Romans, which was the forerunner of a peace.

Extent and Boundaries.—In form, the parish approaches to an irregular oblong; running in length along the north high-road from Edinburgh to Glasgow 7 miles. The mean breadth is fully one-half of its length. It contains nearly 24 miles square. The rivers Carron on the north; and Kelvin running west, and Bonnyburn running east, on the south; Inchwood burn on the west; and the Bushburn, on the east,—form the natural boundaries of the parish. It lies contiguous to St Ninians and Fintray, on the north; to Cumbernauld and Kirkintilloch, on the south; to Denny, on the east; and Campsie, on the west. The Kelvin, which rises at Kelvinhead, near Ruchill, three miles east from the town of Kilsyth, and which runs, or rather creeps, nearly parallel to the great canal, and very near it, divides the parish from Cumbernauld and Kirkintilloch, and from the county of Dumbarton. The whole of Kilsyth parish is situated north of the Kelvin, with the exception of the two houses at the jetty to the south of Kelvinhead, which, though beyond Kelvin as it now runs, are considered as in Cumbernauld, as to payment of road money, &c. but not ecclesiastically. The houses at Craigmarloch are in Cumbernauld, although the westernmost house is situated where the Kelvin previously flowed. With the above exception, the parish of Kilsyth does not touch the canal, although very near in its approaches to it.

Topographical Appearances.—The greater part, excepting the hill and moorland district to the north, exhibits very strikingly the

* See Nimmo's History of Stirlingshire.

appearance of a considerably extended but narrow strath, which might be named Strath Kelvin; insomuch that (as Dr Rennie described in the last Statistical Account), "at one point it seems to be part of a great ditch intersecting the kingdom, terminating at the Frith of Forth on the east, and at the Clyde on the west, being nearly equidistant from either." About two miles from the east end of the parish, is Rugh-hill, the highest part of the strath whence the Kelvin runs west, and the Auchincloch Burn and Bonny Water run east. The Dullatur Bog is almost on a level with the canal, which cuts it into almost equal parts, about 160 feet above the level of the Forth at Grangemouth. The names of places, in the direction westward, clearly indicate their former state of partial immersion; *e. g.* Bog-side, Bog-house, Gaval, Inch-wood, Netherinch, Inchteriff, Inchbelly, Auchinvoll. The north-eastern part of the parish abounds in small knolls of a very picturesque description, the soil generally light and gravelly; whereas that of the western is of a deep moss and loamy description, till it rises towards the north, which presents a southerly exposure, affording excellent green pasturage. The Kilsyth hills form part of that moderately elevated ridge which begins at Greenock, running through Kilpatrick, Baldernock, Campsie, Kilsyth, and Denny, and thus intersects the kingdom from west to east betwixt the two friths of Clyde and Forth. None of these hills rise to a height which can be termed majestic; yet the Meikleben, which seems to unite the Campsie and Kilsyth hills, is 1500 feet above the sea,—a noble-looking hill, the top of which is seen from a great distance in the direction of Lanark, and forms a striking land-mark from the Frith of Forth. The Garrel Hill and Tomtain, or Lairdhill, in this parish, are 1300 feet in height. From the summit of the latter, a quarter of a mile to the west of Bardowie, on the Takmadoon road (Touchmadam, supposed), there is one of the most extensive and varied views in the kingdom. Part of at least fourteen counties can be seen from it. To the south, an extensive plain stretches out to the naked eye to Broadlawhill, in the parish of Tweedsmuir, Peebles-shire; to the west, as far as Goatsfell, in Arran; to the east, to the Pentland and Lammermuir Hills; to the north-east, the Lomonds, in Fife, are seen; while the prospect to the north presents an endless succession of hills upon hills. The southern side of the strath is a more gentle rising ground, in the direction of Graham's Dike, by Cal-

lendar woods, Cumbernauld, Dykehead, Craigmarloch, Croyhill, Bar, and Strowanhill.

Meteorology.—As the parish lies along the line of hills which reaches the Atlantic to the west, showers come chiefly from that quarter, especially when the winds are westerly, which they are a considerable part of the year. The air is generally pure and salubrious. The inhabitants of the country part of the parish, with the exception of the miners, are generally healthy, and arrive at considerable longevity. One man, Robert Miller, died two years ago, at the age of 101, and had lived for the most part in this parish, and in the married state, (his wife dying at the age of 86,) for sixty-four years. There are several persons of both sexes fourscore and upwards. The town of Kilsyth is favourably situated for health, yet few of the inhabitants, (chiefly weavers,) arrive at old age.

Mr Robe (Narrative) records, that, in the year 1733, on the 27th of June, a very remarkable thunder storm took place. The morning was fair, the sky clear, the sun bright. About eleven A. M. a gleamy kind of darkness overspread the sky; a water-spout seems to have fallen; numberless torrents poured from the hills, sweeping houses, bridges, corn, and cattle all before them. Several acres in the valley were covered with stones of all sizes, from 20 tons to small gravel; in some places, from 4 to 6 feet deep. In the year 1832, June 14th, we were visited with a similar water-spout and thunder storm, with hail, and torrents of rain. For two hours, the storm was truly terrific, and threatened awful devastation.

Geology—Soil.—The East Barony and the West, into which divisions the parish has been distinguished since 1649, are remarkably unlike each other. The former consists, for the most part, of a great number of rising grounds in the strath, of a gravelly description. Although the soil is, for the most part, light, it is productive, and easily cultivated. Immediately around Kelvinhead, east and south, the soil is of considerable depth, of a black loam, bearing excellent crops. Proceeding westerly by Gateside, Shawend, Woodend, Barr, and the glebe, it is much shallower, a light sharp soil lying generally upon blue whin. The valley west of the town, comprising also about half-a-mile to the east of it, is the richest soil in the parish, particularly the fields along the Garrel-burn to the north of the church, and the farm of Boghouse, and part of Gaval along Kelvinside, which yield abundant crops of all de-

scriptions, being much of the nature of carse land. On the whole, the light gravelly soil prevails, and, consequently, it is much better adapted to the production of barley and green crop, than for wheat or beans, &c.

In the East Barony, there is a considerable line of ironstone, consisting of strata from four to fourteen inches thick, separated from each other by seams of clay or dalk, and subdivided by perpendicular fissures into small square wedges from six inches to two feet, which has been worked by the Carron Company for a considerable time, and to whom the estate of Tomrawer, to the east of the village of Banton, belongs, containing two tolerably good arable farms. In the northern hilly part of both baronies, there are seams of excellent coal at no great depth, the western approaching to the nature of the best Newcastle coal, the eastern of a harder quality, but also valuable, and now more difficult to work.

The Garrel glen freestone quarry is of excellent quality, easily wrought, of a fine whitish colour, and durable; not much inferior to the famous Possil quarry near Glasgow. The water which flows through this romantic glen, possesses the remarkable quality of forming curious vegetable impressions upon the surface of freestone pillars, vulgarly called coal-stalks, rising from the seam of coal like trees from the surface of the earth. They have a close resemblance to petrifications; and yet the substance is just freestone similar to that of the surrounding rock. They, in some instances, branch out into regular ramifications at top, as they almost always do at bottom; and these do most strikingly resemble trees of the hawthorn, or elm species. Specimens are very easily met with. In the garden of Colzium, and in the garden belonging to the manse, there are to be seen, brought from the Garrel glen, remarkably good specimens of this curious incrustation or formation: nay, so commonly are they to be met with, that, in several gardens about the village, we find them set up by way of ornament.

For the following very particular and accurate account of the soil, and of the lime and ironstone of the parish, I am indebted to the late Mr John Rennie, farmer at Currymire.

The best of the soil is alluvial, which has been carried down by the mountain stream, (particularly in 1733, as before noticed;) it is incumbent upon moss, mud, or clay; it has been much improved, and is capable of still greater improvement by drainage, which, being encouraged by the proprietor, will make the Vale of Kilsyth

equal to the richest in Scotland. Draining is still in its infancy : its advantages, however, are already seen.

The soil of the parish should be classed into three kinds, besides the hill pasture, viz. 1. The rich alluvial soil lying in the lower part of the strath, interspersed with the moss of Dullatur bog ; red moss and Inchterff moss, which form but a very minute portion of the strath, not exceeding 100 acres, while the rich alluvial part of the strath in the parish is about from 1200 to 1500 acres, or nearly one-third of the arable lands of the parish. 2. The gravelly and sandy strath, running the whole length of the parish, along the edge of the above described rich alluvial soil, and, betwixt that and the higher arable land ; this gravelly sandy strath is bounded on its north edge, by a large dike or break in the strata. 3. The tilly or clayey strath, running along the northern boundary of the gravelly and sandy, and between that and the hill pasture. This is the coal district of the parish, and, of course, the worst and most unproductive land of the parish, comprehending perhaps three-fifths of the arable lands of the whole parish : the soil is tilly, close-bottomed, and not alluminous, consequently very inferior. 4. The hill pasture and grass farms are covered with fine rich pasturage for cattle and sheep, to the summit of the hills.

Lime.—The lime at the west side in the West Barony, deserves the encomium bestowed on it in the last Account. About 1806, the late Mr Neilson became the tenant of all the coal and lime on the estate of Kilsyth, belonging to Sir Charles, now Sir Archibald Edmonston. He extended and improved the lime-workings, and sold during his lifetime, at an average, nearly to the amount of L.2000 yearly, to the surrounding country. At his death (1819), the work began to fall off. At present, there is not one-twentieth part of the quantity sold at these works. The chief reason is, that the present tenant, Mr James Marshall, directs his capital to the coal trade, which is still more important and profitable. The working of lime at Berryhill is entirely abandoned.

There are other posts of limestone in the same line, which have never been wrought, except a small quantity by Mr Bow of Auchinriboch, for his own use. There is another known post of good lime, farther down the hill at Riskend, dipping towards the above lands, never yet wrought. In 1825, the present proprietor of Kilsyth estate caused the mines at Corrie to be opened. As far as could be discovered, the veins had been exhausted. Every mine and shaft was cleared out, which had formerly been opened. From the

analysis made, there is no doubt that copper exists in these veins, but only in small quantity. The heavy spar veins seem to be superficial; and, until more expensive operations are made, it remains uncertain whether there exist any metal of value in this range of hills. It is, however, certain that veins of heavy spar exist, seen at the surface, in various parts of these hills. The blocks of jasper in the Hailstone Burn, above Corrie, are still found, as mentioned in last Account; but nothing has been done to turn them to account.

Ironstone.—The Carron Company have continued to work the ironstone at Banton, to much the same extent as stated in the last Account (about 5000 tons per annum; number of miners betwixt 50 and 60.) The ironstone on Mr Cadell's lands has been almost wrought out. The operations of the Company are now chiefly on their own lands, where they have fourteen different seams or bands of ironstone, wrought at various depths. Some of these seams are not of good quality, and, therefore, are not wrought; others are excellent. They vary in thickness from six to eighteen inches. Besides these, there is a band about thirty fathoms, called the fine stone, which is of superior quality and thickness; little of it, however, can be reached, as it is under water. The same seam of ironstone extends to the lands of Tomphin, where it has never been wrought. Large fields of ironstone are known to exist over the West Barony; but, excepting a partial working of a band or two at West-side, underlying the limestone a few fathoms, none have ever been wrought.

Coals.—Great part of the parish is a coal-field: but it is not of so much value as might be anticipated, from the broken nature of the strata, by dikes and hitches, which are everywhere met with. The principal dike is known to run into the River Forth near Airth, and commences in this parish at Tomphin. This dike varies both in material and thickness. It is, at some places, thirty feet thick, at others double that number of yards. At some places, it consists of the hardest basalts, at others the softest blaes, and at others a mass of freestone debris, or solid freestone, or rotten whinstone, interspersed with round balls, &c. &c. It sends off, and receives many branches in its course within the parish. The seams are various, and of very different quality. The Balcastle coal is admirable, much of the nature of the best English coal. In some pits lately opened near to Chapel-green, the coal was at first of a very inferior quality, but now it is good. The coal in the east is,

though harder, yet valuable, and adapted for the oven and smith's furnace or forge. A great proportion of the coal at Balcastle and in the West Barony generally, is charred, and carried away for furnaces.

Hydrography.—The two rivers which form the boundaries of the parish on the north and south, are the Carron and the Kelvin. The former, as its name imports, is a winding stream, especially so far as it bounds this parish. The bonny links of Carron water are celebrated. For three miles, it runs in a somewhat slow and serpentine course, through an extensive meadow. It is a delightful troutting stream, and is much frequented by anglers, for many miles round.

The Kelvin, taking its rise near the House of Kelvinhead, on the land of Ruchill, in a kind of marsh, descends in a very small rill to the low ground on the south, near to the great canal, where it soon receives an accession from a part of Shawend burn, and, farther west, from the Garrel and Ebroch. It moves slowly through the valley westward, upwards of four miles in this parish. At Inchbelly, where it leaves us, it becomes a beautiful stream; its banks green, smooth, and wooded. Till the year 1792, it was choked up with flags, rushes, and water-lilies, frequently overflowing the adjacent valley, and giving it the appearance of a great lake. The late Sir Archibald Edmonstone, Bart. of Duntreath, grandfather to the present proprietor of the same name, who purchased the estate of Kilsyth in 1784, proprietor of the lands to the north of the Kelvin for about four miles, projected and carried into effect a great improvement, under the inspection, and according to the plan, of Robert Whitworth, engineer,—by straightening, deepening, and embanking, as described in the former Account. The sloping green bank, with its skirting of wood near Inchterff and Inchbelly, was formed under the eye, and at the expense of the late Captain Lennox of Woodhead. It must be acknowledged that the river, so far as this parish can claim it, is the reverse of picturesque, having the appearance of a small canal; but the useful must here be regarded as the beautiful, or, at any rate, as more than an equivalent. As the Kelvin proceeds and approaches Glasgow, it becomes a fine stream; the aqueduct over it, and the dock where the canal branches off to Bowling Bay, have given it a celebrity, of which, at its rise, and while it bounds this parish, it gave no promise. Both our rivers, Carron and Kelvin, are known to song.

STIRLING.

X

but still better known to commerce. Who has not heard of Carron Works and Kelvin Dock?

There are several rivulets and burns in this parish. The most remarkable is the Garrel, as its name denotes, a rough, brawling stream. It rises on the Garrel Hill, one of the Kilsyth range; its whole course, till it runs into the Kelvin, is above three miles. In a mile and a-half it falls 1000 feet, having a great number of cataracts in its course. The narrow chasms worn by its rapid and powerful stream in winter, are singularly romantic, and well repay the fatigue and occasional wetting of the curious visitor. The course or bed of the Garrel burn, below the Garrel Mill, is, for the most part, dry, its waters being carried off to the Townhead Loch, to the east of Colzium, excepting in a spate, when it comes down with great fury. When it arrives at the Burn Green, near the town of Kilsyth, it is joined and replenished by the small burn of Ebroch, which rises at the foot of the Barwood, about one mile east, and then joins the Kelvin, after flowing half a mile in the valley westward.

The whole of the low ground was, at one period, a loch or morass; but now, we have only one, the Townhead Loch, which is chiefly artificial, and a reservoir for supplying the canal. It is of an oval form, full three-quarters of a mile long, and from one-quarter to half a mile broad. It covers seventy-five acres imperial. The country round it, especially on the north, is very rugged and barren. A few firs are planted at the east end, and of late, a considerable plantation of trees has been formed at the west end. The old trees near the house of Mr Marshall of Townhead, with the island near the south-west end, give the whole the semblance of a natural sheet of water of great beauty. The banks have been raised, and the sluices, formerly of mason-work, are now of cast or malleable iron. A couple of swans were, a few years ago, brought to this loch; but they soon became tired of their situation. It abounds in excellent trout. It was originally an extensive hollow, as if scooped out for the purpose. At one place only, was there a deep opening, by filling up which to the height of twenty-five feet, the work was at once completed; and, by leaving a sluice in the centre, it can be filled or emptied at pleasure. The expense was remarkably moderate, in proportion to the extent of surface, and the quantity of water it contains. The whole is finished in an ingenious manner. There are two other mountain-streams worthy of notice in the West Barony, viz. the Quinzie and Nether-

inch burns, which flow from the same fountain at Burnhead, on West-side farm, to the south of the Corrie-hill.

Springs.—There is no district, where there is a greater abundance of springs of wholesome water. Wellshot, opposite Auchinvolle, St Mirron's well, south of Woodend, and Kitty-fristy well, on the hill-road to Stirling, known to all foot-passengers, are powerful springs, of most delicious water. The town is chiefly supplied by conductors from the Barwood, south-east of the town. The mineral spring at Dovecot wood is now scarcely perceptible. There is one in the glen near Garrel mill.

Botany.—Our romantic glens of Garrel, Colzium, Old Place, &c. have not, so far as I know, been minutely explored by the professed botanist. The Campsie glens have been more frequented, being nearer Glasgow, and more easy of access. The sloe, hawthorn, hyacinth, wild-rasp, the elder, the bramble, and the hazel prevail. The scented woodruff is to be found in our rocky glens. Much has been done, of late years, in the planting of trees, which, with inclosures and neat farm-houses, has given quite a new aspect to this parish.

There are a few fine specimens of aged yew trees at Townhead, near the loch, and a very few oaks of no great size. * The plantations at Ruchhill in the East Barony, and in the West Barony near Corrie, Lossit, Old Place, &c. are thriving and beautiful. We cannot boast of fruit trees. It is the early and successful cultivation of the most useful *Solanum tuberosum* (potato,) on which the fame of this parish, in so far as botany is concerned, chiefly depends. “It not only gave birth to the gentleman who first introduced the culture of potatoes into this country, but it was the scene of his earliest experiments.” The gentleman referred to was Robert Graham, Esq. of Tamrawer, in the East Barony. It was in the year 1739, that he commenced this work of utility. Before that period, he and others had raised the potato in the garden; but there was a prejudice against raising it in the field. He planted half an acre of ground on the croft of Neilstone, to the north of the town of Kilsyth, where he at that time resided as factor on the estate of Kilsyth. This excited the attention of

* What has been regarded as a great curiosity in natural history, may be here noticed. An ivy of considerable size, growing without support of wall or wood extraneous to itself, doubling, over and over, with a large shrubby head waving in the wind, and braving all weathers, stands near the front of the manse. The solution is, that the offices stood there till 1816, on one end of which the ivy clung. The wall being removed, the ivy supported itself, till last winter, or early in spring, when the high winds were too powerful, and it is now no more.

the neighbourhood, and the practice spread extensively. Some noblemen, as well as farmers and agriculturists, came from a distance, among others the unfortunate Earl of Perth,—to observe the mode of culture, and the success of the experiments. Mr Graham rented lands in the vicinity of Renfrew, Perth, Dundee, Glasgow, and Edinburgh, and for many years obtained premiums for cultivating the potato.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Historical Events.—The most memorable event in the civil history of this parish, doubtless, is the battle of Kilsyth, fought in 1645, betwixt General Baillie and Montrose, and which proved so disastrous to the Covenanters. The site of the battle is not very visible to the eye. It is in the valley, rough and stony, below Riskend farm-house, the greater part covered with the water of the reservoir already described. Every little hill adjacent records something connected with the events of that day, *e. g.* the Bullet-knowe, the Baggage-knowe, the Drum-burn, the Slaughter-howe, &c. On the land of Wester Auchincloach, north-east of Kelvinhead, human bones have been frequently dug up. About twelve years ago, a quantity of human bones, mostly of a small size, were found in a corner of a field, north of Wester Auchincloach. The tradition that the drummers and fifers were buried there, was thus confirmed. In the Dullatur bog, many skeletons and bones have been discovered. The hilt of a sword and part of a saddle, and various coins, have been found in different places.

Livingston, Viscount of Kilsyth, a branch of the Linlithgow family, was at that time, and till the year 1715, the chief proprietor of this parish. There are the ruins of three mansion-houses which were occupied by the chief, or by branches of the family: at Colzium (copper hill) where, in a modern house, near the ruins of the old castle, the present proprietor, Sir Archibald Edmonstone of Duntreath, Bart. resides; at Dovecotwood, where there is a fragment of a very strong castle in a commanding situation, overlooking the town of Kilsyth; and in the town of Kilsyth, where there is the latest inhabited of the castles, of date 1655, which is still pretty entire: it was formerly surrounded with gardens and lofty trees, but is now inhabited by many poor families. William Livingstone, Lord Kilsyth, joined the rebels in 1715, and lost at once his property and home. The room and bed-closet are still shown, in which Charles Edward spent a night. The unfortu-

nate laird, after the failure of the Chevalier's enterprize, fled into Flanders, whence he never returned, unless, as is said, in disguise.*

Revivals.—The most interesting event in the religious history of this parish is the Revival of Religion, which took place in the years 1742 and 1743, under the ministry of the Rev. James Robe, A.M. and of which he gives a full and authentic account in his “Narrative.” The notice of this event in the former Statistical Account is very full, and, upon the whole, judicious. The writer of this has examined the subject as impartially and fully as he could, and must agree in the views expressed in that article, and also in the observations made regarding it by the late celebrated Sir H. Moncreiff, in his Life of Dr John Erskine.†

* Jean, daughter of William, Lord Cochran, son and heir of William Earl of Dun-donald, married first to John Viscount of Dundee, then to the Viscount of Kilsyth, was, with her infant son, smothered or killed in Holland, (1717), by the falling of a roof, either by accident or design,—only two of the whole company escaping, by being seated in a window. (See Dalrymple's Memoirs.) The wound which Lady Kilsyth received was on the right temple. The child seems to have been smothered in the arms of its mother. The bodies were sent over to Scotland, after being embalmed, and were committed to the family vault, in this parish. The space betwixt the leaden and the wooden coffin was filled with a white matter, of the consistency of putty, but of a rich aromatic odour. A few weeks previous to the drawing up of last Statistical Account, some visitors of the vault, students from Glasgow, (the writer of this has a lively remembrance of the scene,) upon lifting the leaden covering, after removing a board of fir, to their great surprise, found the bodies of Lady Kilsyth and her child as entire as at the hour they were entombed. “Every feature,” writes Dr Rennie, “and every limb is as full—nay, the very shroud is as clean and fresh, and the ribbons as bright as the day they were lodged in the tomb. The body of her son and only child, the natural heir of the title and estate of Kilsyth, lies at her knee. His features are as composed as if he was only asleep, his colour as fresh, and his flesh as full as if in the perfect glow of health. He seems to have been an infant of three months old. The body of Lady Kilsyth is equally well preserved, and it would not be easy for a stranger to distinguish with his eye, whether she is dead or alive, &c.” (Statistical Account.) The coffin was soon closed, and the access to the tomb shut. The bodies soon mouldered away,—showing the vanity of all attempts to arrest the tendency of dust to dust.

In Dr Rennie's account the wound is said to be quite visible in the right temple. A sketch in the writer's possession marks it as on the right cheek. Of this discrepancy, he can give no explanation. A parishioner, who has a distinct recollection of seeing the body, says the wound was quite visible on the right temple, and does not recollect any mark on the cheek.

William, third and last Viscount Kilsyth was attainted after the Rebellion in 1715. The Lady Kilsyth, whose body was found in the church, was his first wife. He was afterwards married to Miss M'Dougal of Mackerston, and died at Rome 1733.—See Douglas's Peerage.

† At the end of the record, ending March 19, 1751, we find the following notice: “The minister read unto them the names of above an hundred persons who were most of them brought under notour spiritual concern in the years 1742 and 1743, and concerning whom he had ground to entertain good hopes. The under subscribing members of the session, elders, and deacons, hereby testify and declare, that all of them who are now alive have been, from year to year, admitted by the kirk-session to the Lord's table since their first admission, either in these fore-mentioned years, or since; and in as far as is known to them, they have had their conversation such as becometh the Gospel; as also, that four or five of the said list, who are now removed by death, behaved, until their said removal, as became good Christians. The

Eminent Men.—Sir William Livingston of Kilsyth was, for his eminence in the knowledge of law, appointed one of the Senators of the College of Justice in 1609, and afterwards chosen

above testimony, written by Ebenezer Paterson, session-clerk, is subscribed, day and date foresaid, by (signed) Elders, Joseph Lapsly, Alex. Patrick, Henry Ewan, James Millar, Deacou, J. Rankine."

March 24, 1751. Soderunt, &c. "The which day the session being met, the list read and subscribed on the 19th current was read before the members present, and the said members then absent did now subscribe the foresaid testimony; viz. Elders, Rob. Graham, Aw. Provan, Henry Marshall, Jas. Zuill; Deacons, D. Auchenvoll, Walter Kirkwood, Wm. and Dav. Shaws, James Ranken, Mark Scot."

In Mr Robe's Narrative, p. 110, there is an important attestation by heritors, elders, and the Bailie of Kilsyth to the very remarkable reformation which had taken place in the lives of the people of this parish, in the year 1742. The venerated MacLaurin, Willison, Hamilton, Bonar, &c. were witnesses of, and sharers in this work; and they gave their solemn approval of the account which was drawn up soon after.

Since this Account was first written, another work of the Spirit of God has occurred among the people of this parish, similar in its nature and results to that which took place in 1742. For some time previous to the period when this work began, there had been a growing solemnity in the minds of the people, and cases of deep concern about salvation occurred from time to time. It was not, however, until Tuesday the 23d July 1839, that that remarkable anxiety showed itself, which soon came to attract universal notice. The sacrament had been dispensed on the 21st of July; and on Tuesday morning, Mr William C. Burns addressed an immense crowd of the people in their working clothes, in the parish church. The text was Psalm ex. 3, "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power." The audience were unusually solemnized from the beginning of the service. As it proceeded, many wept silently; and at last, when the preacher, in the view of parting with the people, was exhorting them with unusual solemnity and earnestness to an immediate acceptance of Christ as a saviour, their feelings became so intense, that almost the whole multitude burst simultaneously into a flood of tears, and many began to cry aloud to God for mercy. In consequence of the deep spiritual concern which settled down upon the people from this time, the word of God continued to be preached to crowded audiences, by various ministers, almost every night, for about three months; and, as on occasion of the former revival of religion here, the sacrament was a second time observed in September, when a great many ministers were present, and probably not fewer than 10,000 people assembled, some of them from a great distance, to hear the word of God, which was preached in the church, and in a field near the town. A remarkable degree of the Divine presence was enjoyed by many on this occasion; and, vast as was the multitude congregated, hardly a person could be seen the worse of liquor. This remarkable anxiety gradually subsided, and has not since returned in the same wonderful degree. When I now look back, after the lapse of nearly two years, upon these marvellous scenes, and solemnly consider what has taken place in the light of God's word, I cannot entertain the least doubt that the Lord has been indeed among us, and has left many precious tokens of his presence. It is true that some who once promised well, have sadly disappointed our hopes; and that many who shared for a time in the general anxiety about salvation, have sunk back into their former deadness and impenitence. Still, however, there are, we have reason to hope, not a few who have been savingly turned from sin unto God, while, in other respects, the religious and moral state of the people at large is much improved. The places of worship are better attended, and there is more general seriousness during divine service, than formerly; many family altars have been erected; there is a greater degree of zeal among us for missionary objects; and there are about thirty weekly prayer meetings of a private kind among the people, not including those which are connected with the Dissenting bodies.

I should add, that the new parish at Banton shared largely in this gracious visitation, and that the fruits of it there are not less abundant, in proportion, than among us. Nor has this awakening been at all confined to those who attend the Established Church, in which it first occurred. The work of God has been, I believe, going on in various degrees, from time to time, among all the other denominations,—*Itelie*, *Methodists*, and *Independents*.

one of his Majesty's Privy-Council and Vice-Chancellor of Scotland. He died about 1627.

The Rev. Mr John Livingston, justly celebrated for his remarkable success in a sermon preached at Shotts, on Monday after the communion there, about the year 1628, and which gave rise to the practice in the Church of Scotland of observing a day of thanksgiving after the dispensation of the Lord's Supper, was a native of this parish. He was born in 1603, and nearly related to the Viscount of Kilsyth. Livingston was among the most learned and laborious of the brethren, who are justly described as "the band of faithful ministers, who, about the year 1643, were encouraged to take their lot in Ulster in Ireland, and whose labours were remarkably blessed to the converting of many."* They were the founders of the Presbyterian Church in that province, which is now recognized as in communion with the Church of Scotland. Livingston was one of the five eminent men who went to Ireland to aid "the seven brethren, constituting the first band of ministers who laboured with apostolic earnestness to remove the ignorance, formality, and profaneness which characterized the greater part of the early colonists." He was settled at Killinchin, within the diocese of Down, ordained by Rev. William Cunningham of Tullaghfernán, (now Tully), and two or three other ministers,—Mr Andrew Knox, Bishop of Rapho, being present. He was afterwards minister successively of Stranraer, and of Ancrum, in Scotland, and was obliged to flee, in persecuting times, to Holland, where he died. He suffered more than any of the other brethren of that period, for his unshaken attachment and adherence to the Presbyterian cause. His Life was originally printed in 4to, in 1727; reprinted in 18mo, 1754.

Sir Archibald Edmonstone of Duntreath, Bart. the chief proprietor here, is the author of a well-written and interesting account of his travels in Egypt.

W. A. Cadell, Esq. of Banton, second proprietor, is the author of two very accurate volumes of travels in Italy.

The present venerable and eminent Professor of Anatomy in the University of Glasgow, Dr James Jeffray, is a native of this parish, and has published a valuable medical work.

Henry Marshall, Esq., Inspector of Hospitals, a native of this parish, is the author of several interesting publications.

* Reid's History of Presbyterianism in Ireland, Vol. i. p. 98.

The Rev. James Robe, A. M., a native of Cumbernauld, and minister here from 1613 to 1755, is the author of the interesting narrative already referred to, and several volumes of sermons.

The Rev. Dr R. Rennie, the author of several essays on Peat-Moss, and possessed of much general information, was a native of this parish, and its minister from 1789 to 1820.

Robert Graham, of Tomrawer, has already been mentioned as an eminent agriculturist.

Hugh Baird, Esq., an eminent civil-engineer, resided at Kelvinhead, till his death in 1827. He projected and finished the Union Canal.

Antiquities.—There are remains in this parish, of two Pictish forts, corresponding to the two more conspicuous Roman forts at Westerwood and Bar-hill, viz. Conneypark and Balcastle; the latter very distinct and interesting, being one of the most regular of such forts in Scotland, and rising regularly on all sides at an angle of 45 degrees. The Bar-hill or Castle-hill opposite to it, seems to have been one of the most important forts on the line of the Roman wall, having a commanding view of nearly half its whole length, and overlooking the whole of Strath-Kelvin. It is, besides, at the narrowest part of the valley, so as to prevent the forcing of a passage.

The ruined walls of Colzium Castle remain on a fine elevation above the glen of Colzium. A smaller remnant of another mansion of the Livingstone family, was burnt by Cromwell's soldiers, as they passed to Stirling. There is an old house in the hamlet of Arnbrae, a mile to the westward of Kilsyth, on the north side of the turnpike to Glasgow, in which a room is still shown, where Cromwell slept a night; and part of the table he used, is preserved in the adjoining farm-house.

Lady Kilsyth's vault is now in the open church-yard, covered with three flat stones. On a late occasion of opening the vault, there was found a ring, with the initials, J. C. supposed to signify Jean Cochran, Lady Kilsyth, and a smoking-pipe of earthen-ware.

On the east side of the romantic glen (Garrel), before noticed, there is the Covenanters' Cave, having the date 1669 inscribed on the stone, or arch over it. Nearly adjoining, tradition says the Covenanters had their encampment. The tent of the Marquis of Montrose, on a rising ground above Colzium, mentioned in the former Account as quite visible, is now scarcely discernible.

Landholders.—Sir Archibald Edmonstone of Duntreath, Bart. is by far the largest proprietor. His grandfather, Sir Archibald, purchased the Kilsyth estate in 1784 from the York-Building Company,—Campbell of Shawfield being the tacksman since the forfeiture. He found it in a most neglected state. Few parishes in Scotland have been more remarkably changed to the better, by judicious and spirited improvement. Everywhere, it is now divided with hedge-rows, and provided with excellent farm-steadings. There is still apparent, after all that has been done in the way of plantation, a want of clothing; but, in fact, the hills are too valuable, as sweet pasturage for sheep, to be generally planted.

The valuation of Kilsyth as at present.

	L.	2548	6	7	Scots.
1. Sir Archibald Edmonstone, Bart.		311	15	10	
2. William A. Cadell, Banton and Ruchill,		210	0	0	
3. James Marshall, Esq. of Cunnypark,		170	0	0	
4. Alexander and John Wilsons, Auchinrivoch,		120	15	10	
5. Carron Company of Tomrawer,		117	13	5	
6. Thomas Walters of Inchterff,		80	10	7	
7. Dundaff lands, His Grace Duke of Montrose, &c. f.		75	0	0	
8. John Marshall, Esq. Townhead,		75	0	0	
9. Old Town of Kilsyth,		70	0	0	
10. Walter Duncan, Esq. Gateside,		40	5	8	
11. J. Corbet, Esq. Auchincloch (Wester),		39	5	3	
12. John Miller, Esq. of Orchard of Auchincloch,		24	3	3	
13. William Rankine, Esq. of Bogside,		20	0	0	
14. John Bow, Esq. of Auchinrivoch (Wester),		14	1	4	
15. Archibald Graham, Esq. of Auchincloch Mill,					
	L.	3916	17	9	

Real rental and present value.

Sir A. Edmonstone's land,	L 6130	0	0	Mr Wilson,	-	L 347	0	0
Mr Cadell,	800	0	0	Mr A. Graham,	-	50	0	0
Duke of Montrose,	500	0	0	Mr John Bow,	-	40	0	0
Mr James Marshall,	450	0	0	Mr R. Goodwin,	-	50	0	0
Mr Walters,	220	0	0	Mr A. Walker,	-	80	0	0
Mr John Marshall,	200	0	0	Mr Smart,	-	30	0	0
Mr Duncan,	150	0	0	Motherwell's Heirs,	-	20	0	0
Mr Corbet,	100	0	0	Kilsyth Feuars,	-	200	0	0
Mr Millar,	100	0	0	Carron Co.'s farms,	-	200	0	0

State of the valued rent of the estate of Kilsyth, subtracting the valued rent of the lands sold, with entry to the purchasers of numbers 1 and 2, at Martinmas 1834, and of numbers 3 and 4 at Martinmas 1835:

* Under Mr Cadell's of Ruchill is included a small part belonging to R. Wilson, being about a fourth of Ruchill, the whole of which is valued at L.80 Scots, so that there are in all, twenty heritors,—the Kilsyth feuars being as one.

† A. Walker of Bentend; J. Smart, Waterside; Robert Goodwin, Slafarquhar; D. Motherwell of Spittle, (his heirs;) rank as heritors, their valuation being included in Dundaff.

East and West Baronies, as before the sales,	Deduct,	L.3116 0 0
1. Inchsterf, sold to Mr Walters,	L.117 13 5	
2. Gateside, sold to Mr Duncan,	70 0 0	
3. Cunnypark and Tomphin, Mr Marshall,	210 0 0	
4. Auchinrivoch, &c. Messrs Wilson,	170 0 0	
	567 13 5	
Remaining valued rent in 1836,	L.2548 6 7	

Kilsyth Estate.

Scotch acres of arable land from L.1 to L.8 Sterling,	4140
Do. pasture and hill ground about 4s. 6d. per acre,	1850
Do. in plantation,	170
Real rental, L.6130,	
Acres of moss cultivated lately, about	20

The second heritor in extent is William Archibald Cadell, Esq. of Banton. The total extent of the estate of Banton is 655 Scots acres.

Arable land, the rent of which varies from 15s. to L.2, 10s. per acre,	445 Scots acres.
Pasture and hill land,	198
rent of which is from 5s. to L.1,	12
	665
The real land rent is	L.665
Also feu-duties of ground feued,	27
Rent of Sickle-mill and water-power,	28
Minerals and ironstone, about	30
Yearly rental about	L.800

It is impossible to state the quantity of moss ground brought into cultivation, as the system of draining has been going on for a great number of years, and the moss ground so drained has been inclosed along with other ground, without any particular notice.

The ironstone has been, and is still wrought by the Carron Company.

There is also coal on the estate, which is wrought to a very trifling extent, for the purpose of making sickles at the sickle-mill.

The above rents are on an average of two or three years, (date 1837.)

The third heritor is James Marshall of Cunnypark and Tomphin, (who is also tacksman of all the coal and limestone on the Kilsyth estate.) These lands contain about 400 acres. Cunnypark, the most easterly farm, and adjoining to Holland's bush, Denny parish, is a good farm of arable, light land, suitable for barley and green

crop. Tomphin rises above it pretty steep, and is more adapted for grazing than for the plough. The best land lets at about L.2 per acre; the inferior, from 5s. to L.1. Mr Marshall pays L.313 for all the coal and lime on the estate of Sir A. Edmonstone, including the colliery on Cunnypark, called the Steel colliery. Cunnypark and Tomphin are worth about L.450 per annum; and at present are rather highly rented.

The fourth heritor is Alexander Wilson, Esq. residing at Bannockburn, who lately purchased Auchinrivoch, Auchinvalley, and Berryhill, lying north-west of the village of Banton, which contain

Arable.	Wood.	Houses & Yards.			Roads.			Total.		
		A.	R.	F.	A.	R.	F.	A.	R.	F.
Auchinvalley,	69 1 4	0	0	0	0	2	16	0	1	30
Auchinrivoch,	81 0 33	1	0	0	0	2	22	0	2	10
Berryhill,	135 2 36	3	3	0	1	0	10	0	0	0
								70	1	10
								89	1	25
								140	2	6
									294	1 1

The rental of the existing tacks, as stated by Sir Archibald Edmonstone, in the advertisement of sale is, deducting proportion of public burdens,

Auchinvalley,	L. 78 10 0
Auchinrivoch and Berryhill,	278 10 0
	1.347 0 0

The fifth heritor is the Carron Company, which holds the estate of Tamrawer, anciently Graham's, two farms of good arable land, lying east of Lower Banton, to the north of Kelvinhead and the great canal.

The sixth is Mr Watters, who lately bought Inchterff, the most westerly land in the parish, upon the banks of the Kelvin, bounded by that river on the south, and by Auchinreoch, in Campsie, on the north. This beautiful small property amounts to about 150 acres, all of good ground, with the exception of a portion of the red moss formerly referred to, which is quite worthless, lying in a dead level, and upon a bad kind of clay. Inchterff is almost insulated, as regards the other lands of Kilsyth parish, being within a mile and a half of Kirkintilloch town. Annual rent, L.220.

The seventh heritor is His Grace the Duke of Montrose, who has two excellent grazing farms on the south side of the Carron, being the chief part of Dundaff lands, Burnhouse, and Claharry and Slachristock. Value L. 460 per annum. The first, let to David Ure at L. 150, may keep 15 score of ewes, and 60 black-cattle. The second, let to James Ewing at L. 310, may keep 15 score ewes, and 150 black-cattle.

The eighth heritor is Mr John Marshall, possessor of Townhead, which was bought by the grandfather of the present proprietor, from the Viscount Kilsyth, in 1715. It is finely wooded, and forms a good grass and arable farm. Value L. 200 per annum.

The ninth is the Kilsyth feuars. Value nearly L. 200 per annum.

The tenth is Mr Walter Duncan, possessing Gateside, a farm of 70 acres, lying west of Kelvinhead, and rising gently to the north of the great canal; good dry ground, yielding good and early crops of barley, &c. Rent L. 120; worth more, say L. 150.

The eleventh heritor is Mr Corbet of Wester Auchincloch; a fine farm, with a southern exposure, west of Kelvinhead, and south of the great road from Falkirk to Glasgow. Value L. 100 per annum.

The next is Mr John Miller of Orchard; lying west of, and adjoining to Wester Auchincloch, and of a similar description. Value L. 100.

Besides these, there are the following smaller properties: Auchincloch mill, Mr Archibald Graham; Auchinrivoch, (Wester), Mr J. Bow; and Bogside, Mr William Ranken, lying near the town of Kilsyth, north of the old church, and the present manse. Mr Robert Wilson, tacksman of the Bannock colliery, is proprietor of north Ruchill, being the fourth part of Ruchill, formerly valued at L. 30 per annum; the other three parts being now added to Banton estate. There are also three very small heritors, Smart and Motherwell, Waterside of Carron, and R. Goodwin Slafarquhar, in the same locality. Value L. 95 per annum.

The residing heritors, are, Sir A. Edmonstone, Bart. of Duntreath, who resides at Colzium; Messrs Miller, Bow, Rankin, Corbet, A. Graham, and John Marshall. James Marshall lives at Auchinsterrie, which ecclesiastically, or by use and wont, is considered as in the parish of Kilsyth.

III.—POPULATION.

Population, as by census 1801,	1762
1811,	3206
1821,	4260
1831,	4297
No. of families in the parish in 1831,	834
chiefly employed in agriculture,	100
trade, manufactures, and handicraft,	560

Character of the People.—There is among us, as in the generality of such parishes, occasional excess in drinking, and instances of uncleanliness and imprudent marriages. We have been also far-famed

for Radicalism; yet there is a strong Conservative spirit, which has been lately increasing. Neglect of religious ordinances, with which too many are chargeable, is generally excused by the alleged and often real want of clothing,—the effect, no doubt, often-times of previous improvidence, and the habit of using tobacco and ardent spirits. The want of church accommodation is also complained of. The church attendance, however, is much better now than it was, about sixteen years ago.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The agricultural population of the parish are a most industrious, frugal, sober class of people. By far the largest produce of the parish is that of the dairy, to which the rest is subsidiary; and, consequently, the husbandry is what is called the mixed; indeed, no other would suit the soil and the climate. Besides, the large manufacturing village affords abundant consumpt for the produce of the dairy. Butter and butter-milk are the chief produce sold from the dairy. Very little cheese is made beyond what is necessary for the farmer's family use. The dairy cows are all of the Ayrshire breed, and are, through the whole year, very highly kept by turnips, and other produce of the land; sometimes with distillery refuse, draff, &c. all the year round, but chiefly in the winter months. The produce from each cow may average L. 8 per annum.

The stock reared is principally for the purpose of maintaining the stock in the byre, the oldest and least valuable being yearly replaced from the young stock, while those turned out are either already fat, or are sold to be put on grass for that purpose.

At the time of the last Statistical Account, scarcely a single boll of wheat had ever been raised in the parish; but the extraordinary agricultural improvements which soon after took place, introduced very extensively the cultivation of wheat. It was found, however, that wheat was not the crop most productive and profitable; and oats, barley, and green crop are adhered to, as far more profitable in the long run.

Live-Stock.—The following is a state of the stock, and annual value thereof, in the parish of Kilsyth,* at October 1838.

550 milk cows, at L.8 each,	L.4400	0	0
583 young cattle reared, at L.1, 10s. each,	774	10	0
1618 sheep, at 12s. a head,	964	6	0
200 fat cattle, at L.3 per head.†	600	0	0

* Furnished by Mr John Rennie, at Currymire.

† In the last Statistical Account, 750 is given as the probable number of fat cattle.

30 horses, reared at L.5,	L.150	0	0
80 swine, at L.1 per head,	80	0	0
159 work horses.			
30 acres wheat, at L.8 per acre,	240	0	0
156½ acres barley, at L.8 per do.	1252	0	0
1059 acres oats, at L.6 per do.	6354	0	0
248 acres potatoes, at L.20 per do.	4960	0	0
190½ acres turnips, at L.16 per do.	2092	0	0
256½ ryegrass and clover hay, at L.6 per do.	1587	10	0
246 acres meadow and other hay, at L.3 per do.	738	0	0
	L.24,127	10	0

The above is calculated rather *under* the real value.

Much has been done by the proprietors of the chief estate, in the way of improvement, since the time of last Account. The parish was then comparatively a desert. There were no trees, with the exception of a few about Colzium and Townhead. Now, there are many beautiful belts of planting. The fields are all neatly subdivided into commodious parks, surrounded with hawthorn hedges.

In the year 1803, the proprietor of the Kilsyth estate laid out a very large sum in improvements, farm-houses, &c. The buildings were, in several instances, by far too large and expensive, for the size and value of the farm, so that a great part of the enormous outlay never has, and never will be, returned. The farm of Gaval alone, in the West Barony, had dwelling-house and steadings erected at an expense of L. 4,500. It was then designated Kilsyth Farm, now Gaval House, where the factor resides. Many of the houses now stand in need of considerable repairs.

Liberal encouragement is given to the tenants, in the way of improvements. A tile and brick-work, upon the estate at Currymire, in the East Barony, furnishes the means of drain-making. The tiles are allowed, at a small cost, to the tenants,—besides allowance for liming, when the soil requires it.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

This parish may be said to comprise three of a moderate size and population, viz. the town and suburbs, containing 2900; the East Barony and moorlands, nearly 1000; and the West Barony, about 350. The Railway work is said to have added nearly 500; but these are again departing. The census about to be taken will probably show the population to be still about 4300.

The town lies on the most northerly road from Edinburgh to

This, however, must have been a mistake, as at no period could this parish have furnished the means of feeding to that extent; especially at a time when turnip was scarcely known.

Glasgow, and is nearly equidistant from Glasgow, Stirling, (by the hill road), Falkirk, and Hamilton. It does not seem to be very ancient, yet it has been a post-town ever since the institution of the post establishment. About half a century ago, it was the great thoroughfare betwixt the metropolis and Glasgow. Now, it is rare to see any vehicle on the streets, superior to a cart or the post gig. There is not even one post-chaise, but very comfortable accommodation in the chief inn, for families travelling in their own vehicles.

There are two villages in the East Barony, Banton and Auchinmully, (or Banton Lower,) containing 600 inhabitants, miners, colliers, sickle-makers, &c.

The town of Kilsyth, holding of Sir Archibald Edmonstone, Bart. was erected into a burgh of barony about twelve years ago, having a bailie and four councillors, elected annually, who hold monthly courts for small debts, and petty offences. All the inhabitants and proprietors of houses to the extent of L. 5 rental, who chose to furnish themselves with a burgess-ticket, have a vote in the election.

The trade of Kilsyth is almost entirely hand-loom-weaving, to the order of the Glasgow manufacturers. Two factories have lately been commenced; in the new town of Kilsyth, by Messrs Wilson, and at Quinzie mill, in the West Barony, by Messrs Ross. The latter is a Waulking factory; the articles made are whip and lappets, the former used in weaving, the latter for the foreign market. The number of hands at present 23; 16 looms going; the quantity of cloth thrown off about 160 pieces, ten yards in each piece. The work is now enlarged, and eleven more looms fitted up. For six months past, the company have employed a young man, although there is an excellent school at Chapel Green, to teach the children connected with this work, and a few others who choose to avail themselves of the benefit. They employ about 50 hands in town also. Messrs Wilson's factory employs at present 50 weavers, all working coarse lappets, with the exception of nine who are working umbrella-cloth and checked ginghams. Out-door weavers in the town are working fine lappets; they are 66 in number. There are six out-of-door pollicot weavers, which makes in all 122 in this parish. These two companies, though small compared with those in Glasgow, Airdrie, &c. are yet of some importance here; as before their erection, nothing of the kind had been, at least for a long time, attempted,

and the community generally were operatives depending on the great houses in Glasgow.

Our tambourers are, upon the whole, in the most depressed condition at present.

At Upper Banton, in the East Barony, there is a small sickle-work ; a paper-mill at Townhead, Mr Lusk's; and a brick and tile-work at Currysire ; the two latter are of recent origin.

We have no regular weekly market-day ; nor are our two annual fairs of any moment ;* yet, almost at all seasons, good butcher-meat can be obtained (with the exception of veal), almost as good as in Glasgow or Falkirk, and somewhat cheaper. In this article there has been a very perceptible improvement, during the last fifteen years.

For several years past, there has been a Farmers' Association in this and the neighbouring parishes ; and a large cattle-show, near the chief inn, takes place in the month of June, and is encouraged by the chief proprietor and his factor, James Maclaren, Esq. and by other friends to agricultural improvement, when premiums are awarded for the best specimens of horses, cows, &c. This show has been attended with perceptible benefit.

Forth and Clyde.—The canal is our principal mode of communication with other parts of the country. We have also cheap coaches, three times a-day to Stirling, in connection with the canal barges. The mail-coach was removed from us about ten years ago, and the intercourse with Glasgow and Falkirk is now carried on by a post-gig, carrying one passenger.

Ecclesiastical State.—The present parish church, erected in 1816, is elegant and well-finished. The site of the former church was in the church-yard ; but that of the present is at the west end of the town, adjoining the old house of Kilsyth. It is by far too small for the population, holding only 860. The younger part of families are thus, in a manner, precluded from attending with their parents, and remain at home, or roam through the fields ; and there is afforded too ready an apology to many, for neglecting religious ordinances.

Now, however, a very neat church has been erected at Banton, on the ground of Ruchill, a little to the north of Kelvinhead, which will accommodate upwards of 400, and when a gallery is needed, nearly 600. The means of erecting this church were obtained by subscrip-

* This year the fair has been held on Friday the 9th April, and the change promises to be favourable, as it is a good time for selling milk cows.

tion,* and a grant from the General Assembly's Church Extension Committee. The population adjacent amounts to about 900. A new school and master's house have been erected at the same time. A missionary has been employed since Christmas 1837, who labours during the week among the families of the district. The new church is nearly three miles east from the parish church of Kilsyth, and nearly as far distant from any other place of worship. Yet the population is not such as to afford any reasonable prospect of a sufficient support to a minister. An endowment is, therefore, imperatively called for.†

The manse was built in 1786, for Mr John Telfer, the minister. An addition was made to it, in an early part of Dr Rennie's ministry, of one large room, besides other conveniences; and new and excellent offices were added at a later period (1816). Two years ago, the heritors erected two rooms above the large room referred to, put the whole in a pretty good state of repair, built a handsome porch of freestone, so that it is now a respectable-looking, and commodious dwelling for a family, although the narrowness of the original construction and the steepness of the staircase could not be corrected. The glebe consists of about 10 acres of the best light land in the parish. A great part of it is a very few inches deep, upon a blue whinstone.‡ Till 1800, the glebe was in parcels amounting together to 14 acres, but not lying contiguous. Excambion has improved the benefice. The only inconvenience is, that there is no perennial spring on the glebe. The well, though good water, fails in a sultry season.

The greater part of the teinds was exhausted at the last augmentation in 1822, the stipend was raised to 17 chalders, half meal, half barley, at the highest fairs, with L. 15 communion elements, being about L. 250 a-year at an average. Most of the smaller heritors have surrendered their teinds; which frees them of all trouble from any future augmentation.

* Four subscribers of fifty guineas each to the new church of Banton were, Sir A. Edmonstone, Bart.; W. A. Cadell, Esq. of Banton; Daniel Lusk, Esq. of the paper-mill, Townhead; and William Campbell, Esq. Glasgow.

Since the above was written, Mr J. Lyon was ordained minister of Banton on the 18th February 1840.

† The late Sir Charles Edmonstone, Bart. presented an excellent bell from London to the church of Kilsyth, which unfortunately was broken in the year 1823, it is supposed, from the bellman having made an undue addition to the tongue, with the ambitious design of outpealing the neighbouring bell of Kirkintilloch. The new bell, the production of S. Miller and Co., Glasgow, is a fine silver-toned one.

‡ The greater part of the glebe was lately let at L.2, 15s. per acre. The park to the south of the manse is the best, and is still retained as pasture by the minister.

Since the year 1768, when the Relief church was built, there have been a considerable number of Dissenters in this parish, chiefly of the Relief persuasion, and of Original Burghers,* and the United Associate Synod: the two last-named going for worship to Cumbernauld. A small body of Methodists have now a chapel; and a small body of Independents occupy the New Mason Lodge. The proportion of Dissenters to those in connection with the church, is nearly a fifth; but there are occasional transitions from the Church to the Relief, and *vice versa*, from various causes, such as discipline, marriages, seats, &c. The Relief church holds about 600; and, as usual, the hearers are from parishes adjacent, as well as from this.

So early as the year 1586 Mr Alexander Livingston, of the family of Callendar, was parson of the original parish of Monaebrugh. He was succeeded, in 1599, by his son, William Livingston,---a considerable heritor in the parish. In 1604, he used all his influence to oppose the restoration of the bishops, for which cause, and for his non-submission to the canons and ceremonies, he was deposed, and, by his Majesty's authority, deprived of his ministry. After this, there seems to have been a vacancy for some years. In the year 1615, Mr Archibald Graham was admitted minister. In the year 1636, he was called before the High Commission Court, for neglecting to practise the canons and constitutions; and for this he was deposed. The following year Mr Gabriel Cunningham was admitted, who conformed to Episcopacy after the Restoration. Till about this period, it would seem that the Lord's Supper had not been administered, for it is recorded, that, in the year 1665, communion table-cloths, cups, and tickets were obtained, and a basin for baptism, but no flagons, nor even a church Bible. The people repeated the creed, said the Lord's Prayer, and sung the doxology after the psalms. In the year 1666, Mr James Gartshore was admitted to the charge. He was translated to Cardross in 1673. Two years after, Mr Walter M'Gill, the last Episcopal clergyman here, was admitted minister, being translated from Wigton. He was a man of uncommon meekness and moderation, and a great favourite of all ranks and denominations of people in the parish; insomuch, that, when it was declared vacant by the Presbytery, in the year 1690, an uproar ensued. The patron and his lady, with a powerful

* Since the union of the Original Burgher congregation with the Establishment, the bearers who used to go out of this parish come to the churches of Kilsyth and of Banton.—1841.

party in the parish, espoused his cause; and, when the Presbytery met at the church, the patron sent down his chamberlain to refuse them admittance, and lock up the doors. The populace even offered violence to the Presbyterian clergyman who was to officiate. A scuffle ensued, in which many were wounded, and one killed. Mr M'Gill's partizans at last prevailed, and the Presbytery were at a loss what steps next to take; but, in February 1691, Mr M'Gill formally gave in his demission. A vacancy ensued for some time; during which period, the Presbytery visited, and ordered repairs on the church, manse, and offices to the amount of £.212, 1s. 4d. Scots.

On the 29th December 1692, Mr James Hay, the first Presbyterian minister, was translated from Kilmalcolm to this parish. During his incumbency, the church received considerable repairs. The roof was renewed, and the north aisle, with the vault or burying-ground under it, was repaired in the year 1697, the parish being assessed £.1266, 18s. 4d. Scots. Mr Hay was fifty-two years of age when he was admitted. In 1710, Mr James Stewart was elected, by unanimous consent of the minister, session, and congregation, to be assistant. In that capacity he officiated till Mr Hay's death, in July following. A vacancy again ensued, the Presbytery for nearly three years supplying the charge once in the fortnight.

The famous Mr J. Robe, son of the Rev. Mr Michael Robe, minister at Cumbernauld, was admitted minister on 24th April 1713.* He received a presentation from the Viscount of Kilsyth, who was so tenacious of his right, that neither he nor his lady would allow a call to be moderated in his favour. The Presbytery, being assured that the presentee was acceptable to the parish, dispensed with the form of a call, and ordained and admitted him. Patronage had been very recently restored by Queen Anne's ministry. It was under Mr Robe's ministry, as already noticed, that the remarkable religious revival took place.

On the 21st March 1754, Mr John Telfer was ordained minister; and he continued so till his death, in March 1789. It was during his ministry, that the Relief secession took place. Mr Telfer had given offence to his session, and many of his people, by countenancing, by his presence, the unpopular settlement of a minister.

* It is not at all likely that any formal deed of presentation was either offered or accepted; but the fact only is certain, that, after a three years vacancy, Mr Robe was amicably settled.

at Eaglesham. He was frequently assisted, in his latter days, by Mr William Bow, a probationer in the neighbourhood. In September 1789, Robert Rennie, D. D., a native of the parish, was ordained and admitted minister. He died on the 10th of July 1820. The present incumbent (ordained by the Presbytery of Brechin as minister of Dun, on the 4th December 1800,) was admitted here on the 19th April 1821.

The Crown has been patron since the forfeiture in 1716; and the settlements have always been harmonious.

Eldership.—The parish has long been divided into sixteen parts, over each of which an elder, who is at the same time deacon, presides. Most of the elders are attentive to the spiritual as well as the temporal affairs of their district or quarter, and are often found praying with the afflicted.

Schools.—There are three parochial schools, one in the town; another at Chapel-green, in the West Barony; the third at Banton, in the east. The teacher in the town, considered as properly the parochial schoolmaster, has a salary of L. 30, and acts as session-clerk. The East Barony teacher has L. 12, 6s. 3d.; the west L. 9. This last, commonly called Chapel-green school, has the benefit of a mortification by Mr John Patrick, (a native), merchant in London, whose legacy of L. 60, placed under the management of the session and Presbytery, in the year 1723, having been invested in land, now yields L. 22 per annum to the teacher, who is bound to teach poor scholars in the barony.* Few, however, come under that description. There is also a good house and school-room, built by the liberality of the late Sir Charles Edmonstone, Bart. of Duntreath, and some others. Sabbath-schools have been established for a quarter of a century, and have been highly useful. One great deduction from their efficiency, doubtless, is their not being on the local system; the consequence of which is, that many of those children who stand most in need of being instructed, are not found in attendance. Of late, several pious individuals are using their endeavours to collect neglected children round their own doors, and give them instructions along with their own children, in numbers from eight to twelve each.

* In 1745, this sum of L. 60, with part of the money belonging to the session, which had been lent to the Laird of Gartshore at five per cent. was laid out on the small *mealen* of Culmuir, being part of the said Gartshore lands; and in the year 1823, a century after the mortification, Culmuir was sold to the present proprietor of said lands, the part belonging to the school having increased in value to L. 550, which at present yields L. 22 per annum. As to the portion appertaining to the session, it was soon spent for the good of the poor parishioners.

The small collections at the evening exercise, lately begun in the winter season in church, are applied towards furnishing such children with Bibles or Testaments. At Banton the school and schoolmaster's house have been rebuilt by subscription. They are very substantial and commodious. In the immediate vicinity of the town of Kilsyth, a new school and schoolmaster's house have been erected, on a handsome and commodious plan,—Sir Archibald Edmonstone, Bart. having liberally given the ground, and the rest of the heritors paying their proportion of the expense of the building. A good many children are taught gratis, the heritors and session, at the recommendation of the minister and session, paying the teacher a modified payment for a considerable number of children of poor or dissipated parents. Notwithstanding of this liberality, too many are very imperfectly taught; the poverty, or shameful recklessness of the parents tempting them to apprentice the poor children at the early ages of eight, nine, and ten! In this case, the children are apt to lose soon the little they have learnt. In some cases, they attend an evening school by way of redeeming time; but this is a very partial remedy, and often not improved.

The intellectual system of mental and moral tuition has been practised here, for eight or ten years past, with considerable spirit and success.

There are usually, in the town, two schools on the teachers' own adventure. One of these, in connection with the Relief, has, for two years, had a kind of endowment from a wealthy member of that body,—the teacher being bound to give schooling to the poor of the Relief persuasion, either gratis, or for a small payment. In the East Barony, there is a female teacher, who has generally about forty scholars, whom she is very assiduous and successful in instructing.

Nearly 500 scholars are in regular course of instruction at the schools of this parish. The week-day evening classes succeed well. In the parochial school in the town, there are 11 Latin scholars, 2 Greek, and 5 French.

Savings Bank.—A savings bank was opened in September 1829: and the following statement will show what measure of success has attended it.

Received to 11th August 1830,	.	L.	128	14	10	and disbursed	L.	19	1	7
Do.	do.	1831,	.	183	16	8	do.	84	15	8
Do.	do.	1832,	.	180	16	8½	do.	89	13	0
Do.	do.	1833,	.	268	16	5	do.	236	14	4
Do.	do.	1834,	.	476	5	10	do.	216	14	7
Do.	do.	1835,	.	683	4	8	do.	221	18	6
Do.	do.	1836,	.	665	1	10	do.	371	18	11½
Do.	do.	1837,	.	645	1	5	do.	457	1	1

There are, of female depositors in the savings' bank, 85 consisting of servants, weavers, and tambourers; and a few who come under no particular designation, &c. There are, of male depositors, 65, consisting of weavers, (about 30), servants, labourers, masons, wrights, and other trades. The remainder is composed of retired and professional men. There are 39 boys and girls.

The number of sums below £.4 Sterling is, by the balance sheet of August 1837, 55; above £.4 and below £.7, 37; and from £.7 to £.10, 96. The stock at 31st January 1838, was £.1621, 11s. 3d. Sterling.

Friendly Societies.—Friendly societies have long been known here, and, with the exception of one or two failures from wrong calculation, have done much good. The Benevolent Society was instituted in 1796. The number of members has, for many years, varied from 100 to 130. The highest rate of aliment is 5s. per week; and £.3 is paid to the widow of a member deceased. The annual contribution is 6s. The funds of the society amount to above £.260. The average sum paid to members for the last eight years, is about £. 40 per annum. Upwards of £.600 have been expended in supporting the members, since its commencement. The Benefit Union has been for nine years in a prosperous state. It was instituted in the year 1828, and its laws brought under the Acts of Parliament in 1834. The number of its members is at present, 200. The funds, £. 170. At the age of twenty-one years, the payment of 5s. annually entitles the members to receive 5s. weekly, when confined to bed; and 3s. weekly, when laid aside from work, but not bedfast. These are valuable societies; and it must be confessed that our people seem to be more fully alive to their utility than to that of the savings' bank, which has not realized the amount of good anticipated. There is one society among the miners in Banton, which has not done so well, from the bad custom of the members meeting in a public-house, and indulging in spirituous liquors. This practice, however, has now been corrected.

Libraries.—A reading Society has long been in existence. The Sabbath School Society has a library adapted to the young. In the two Baronies, two years ago, libraries were formed, the Irish Cheap Library, commonly called the Kildare Library, of 79 volumes, forming the nucleus. They are supported by donations and subscriptions of small sums and regular contributions of 3d. per quarter. A considerable collection of excellent books has been lately presented to the parish.

Temperance Societies.—The writer of this article, after much deliberation, saw it to be his duty to form one of these associations in 1829, at the same time with the savings bank, to which it was well fitted to be, and to which it has been, a useful auxiliary. Much good has been done. But the lamentable fact, that there are not fewer than 22 houses or shops licensed to sell ale and spirits, to a population of less than 3000, shows that the vice of intemperance still prevails to a woful extent. The quarriers and colliers, with a few very honourable exceptions, continue fearfully addicted to drinking spirits, especially on pay-nights, and when there is any cessation from working. Females as well as men are much addicted to this ruinous vice.

Poor and Parochial Provision.—Until the year 1811, the interest of a fund of nearly L. 300, and the weekly collections and small dues, as mortcloth, &c. were found, in ordinary times, sufficient to supply the necessities of the poor; but since that period, it has been found necessary to combine the system of partial assessment with weekly collections. The landed proprietors meet regularly twice a year with the session, and, after examining the lists of the poor, and correcting the lists as circumstances require, agree to stent themselves for such sum as may be necessary to meet the expenditure of the coming season. The tenants and householders are not assessed, but are encouraged to give their contributions at the church door. Besides this systematic plan of supplying the weekly and occasional poor, private beneficence is exercised, and it is pleasant to notice, that, in cases of extreme and unexpected distress, it is usual for kind neighbours to go round, and to collect for the relief of the sufferers.

The weekly list of poor contains about 60, chiefly aged widows; the occasional poor are about the same number. The heritors very liberally allow surgical aid in certain cases; and this is a regular item of their annual accounts. This parish has been more than usually burdened with cases of poor lunatics, deaf and dumb, and orphans. An accumulation of such cases in 1811, with the low state of trade, caused the introduction of the mode of partial assessment: nor does there seem any possibility of avoiding it. Were all the proprietors residing constantly, and attending the ordinances of religion in the Established Church, the assessment could at once be dispensed with; but otherwise, the thing is quite out of the question. Neither do we find that the mode we follow, has the effect of bringing into desuetude private benevolence. Had we

no such regular mode of supply, our elders and deacons would have to become beggars general for the poor of their respective quarters. The collection, exclusive of extraordinary days, brings from 12s. to 15s. weekly. The Banton church has a collection every six weeks, for the poor of the district, by consent of the managers, without any order from the heritors.

Collections and subscriptions for religious purposes are made regularly for the schemes of the General Assembly,—besides occasional collections for the Scottish Missionary, the Glasgow Bible Society, &c. The average amount of such collections is from L. 4 to L. 5. It is but justice to record, that the contributions to the new church and school of Banton, and the liberal donation of the chief proprietor to the building of the new school in the town, will amount in all to nearly L. 1000. In the two former of these works, we have no doubt been indebted to the kindness of various friends at a distance, who also aid us in supporting the minister, who was ordained in 1840, and has a bond for L. 80. The want of an endowment is much felt.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the date of the last Account, several of the disadvantages therein referred to have been removed. 1. The principal heritor now generally resides in the parish, though he has been two years absent in England: and the residence of such a landlord is a mighty blessing to the poor. 2. The parish has now, what it had not then, Justices of the Peace,—Sir A. Edmonstone, and his factor; also a bailie and council. 3. The communication with Glasgow, and Falkirk, and Stirling is now very cheap and easy, at all seasons when the canal is open. Ere long, the proposed railway betwixt Glasgow and Edinburgh, may come within one mile of this parish. Gas has been introduced into our shops and places of worship. The church has been heated with stoves. The streets have been very much improved of late by levelling, removal of out-stairs, and nuisances. With such a command of water as we possess, and other advantages, it is rather surprising that we have no great public work of any kind. The consolation here is, that morals might not be improved by such erections and the consequent immigration.

Revised and completed April 1841.