

PARISH OF DRYMEN.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMBARTON, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND Ayr.

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I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries.—THE name Drymen, or, as formerly written, *Drumen*, is obviously derived from the Celtic word *Druim*, a ridge or knoll. The name is peculiarly descriptive of a considerable part of the parish,—the face of the country being much diversified by such knolls. This parish is bounded on the north, by Aberfoil and Port; on the east, by Kippen, Balfron, and Killearn; on the south, by Killearn, Kilmarnock, and Dumbarton; on the west, by Buchanan and Kilmarnock. Its extreme length is 15 miles, and its breadth 10. It contains about 50 square miles, and 32,200 imperial acres.

Topographical Appearances.—The outlines of the parish are very irregular, its figure approaching to that of an isosceles triangle, the base of which runs east and west, while the apex points towards the south. A mountainous, moorland track pervades it from east to north-west, and divides the parish into two parts,—the northern part is contained within the general basin of the Forth; the southern is included within that of the Clyde. The bog of Ballat, situated between these two portions, is the lowest summit level between the east and west coasts of Scotland, with the exception of the Dullater Bog, on the Forth and Clyde Canal. According to Smeaton's report, the former is 222 feet, the latter 156 above the level of the sea. Towards the western verge the moor rises into a lofty ridge, which separates this parish from

that of Buchanan. The most conspicuous points of this ridge are, Benvraick (the spotted hill,) and Guallan (the shoulder,)—the former of which may be 1600 feet above the sea level,—the latter 1300 or 1400. But, from the circumstance of their standing on a broad and elevated base, the appearance they present is not striking.*

A second muirish track, of considerable extent, and forming part of the Stockiemuir, occupies a great proportion of the south angle of the parish. The largest portion of arable land is situated between these two elevated muirs, within the picturesque and well-sheltered vale of the Endrick. The rest lies to the east of the Bog of Ballat, before-mentioned, and has a northern exposure towards the Forth. There is also some cultivated land along the banks of the Duchray and Keltie waters: but the breadth of this is inconsiderable.

The scenery of some parts of Strath Endrick is very beautiful; and it is rendered not the less interesting from its being in contrast with the wide and desolate muirland, from which you descend on either side. From an eminence not far from the manse, there is a prospect that is much admired. In the fore-ground, you look down upon the rich and extensive lawn of Buchanan, studded with innumerable trees; beyond which, is the wide expanse of Lochlomond, with the mountains of Ben-Leven† and Argyleshire in the back ground.

In the north-east of the parish, there is the commencement of the low, flat, moss lands which extend all the way to Stirling—sixteen miles. This is called the *Flanders Moss*. It is generally supposed to have had its origin from the overthrow of a vast forest, (part of the *horrida sylva Caledoniæ*,) which was cut down by the Roman soldiers in the time of Severus, to prevent the molestations of the natives, who had their fastnesses within it. Trees of an immense size are frequently dug out, having the marks of the axe upon them; and they are found lying in every direction, indicating that they were not overturned by a tempest, but by the hand of man.

* The haughs on the banks of the Endrick, in the western extremity of the parish, are about 40 feet above the level of the sea, twelve miles distant. The land on the Forth, though still further from the coast, is rather lower. The greater part of the arable land in the parish may be at an elevation of from 100 to 250 feet. The highest cultivated land is about 450.

† Ben-Leven is the peninsula which stretches from Dumbarton to Arrochar,—bounded on the one side by the Leven and Lochlomond, on the other by the Frith of Clyde, the Gareloch, and Loch-Long,—called the Isle of Ben-Leven.

Climate and Diseases.—The climate is moist and variable, as might be expected, in consequence of much of the country being elevated, marshy, and uncultivated. The prevailing wind is south-west. In spring we have cold easterly. The writer of this sketch kept a register of the quantity of rain that fell in the years 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837. The instrument employed was constructed by Mr Thom of Rothsay, and is similar to many which are now in use in the west country. The following are the monthly registrations, by which it will be seen that this parish has fully its own share of rain:—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
1834,	10.40	3.20	3.60	.25	2.25	3.55	2.05	3.65	4.25	5.25	6.25	1.0	45.70
1835,	4.20	5.60	5.30	1.75	5.90	1.55	3.30	4.	7.40	3.20	6.60	3.90	52.70
1836,	6.80	3.20	4.	3.20	.30	4.10	6.40	4.70	6.70	3.90	5.90	3.40	52.60
1837,	5.10	5.60	1.	1.20	2.65	2.50	3.30	3.25	2.55	6.90	6.25	2.30	42.50

The diseases most prevalent in the parish are, rheumatism, continued fever, and inflammatory complaints. Typhus fever has increased greatly, of late years. Cholera did not visit us in its destructive course in 1834; but scarcely a family escaped the influenza of 1837, though there were comparatively few deaths.

Hydrography.—There are no lakes in the parish. The principal rivers are the Duchray, the Forth, and the Endrick. The Duchray, which is the southern and most considerable branch of the Forth, rises near the summit of Benlomond, and forms the northern boundary of the parish for some miles. It then leaves it to the south, and after joining the branch from Loch Ard, and acquiring the name of Forth, it approaches and again skirts the parish as far as its eastern extremity. The Forth, in this part of its course, is an uninteresting stream, its dark waters winding with a sluggish current between deep banks of moss, without any object that contributes to picturesque beauty. The Endrick intersects the parish for nearly two miles, and bounds it for about two more. It has its source among the Gargunnoch Hills, to the north-east of Fintry, and, after a course of eighteen miles in nearly a direct line, empties itself into Lochlomond, being the largest river which that lake receives. It is a clear rapid stream, and (as its Celtic name* is said to imply) very subject to sudden floods, which often do considerable damage. In September 1836, it rose fearfully in the course of one night, and swept twenty score of lambs from the lawn of Buchanan into Lochlomond. On this river, at Gartness,

* *Awon-ciric*, "river that rises." The old spelling is *Anericke*.

about two miles east of the village of Drymen, there are considerable falls. For a quarter of a mile, the channel is scooped out of the solid rock, and the vexed water forces its way over a series of precipices.

There are many fine springs of water to be found in this parish. St Vildrin's* well, on the farm of Finnich-Drummond, may be mentioned as remarkable for the large quantity of water which it discharges. In Roman Catholic times, and even within a hundred years, many a pilgrim drank of or bathed in its streams. An image of the patron saint, carved in stone, still presides over it. The world has either grown wiser, or these waters have lost their virtues, since not a knee bows now before the stony saint.

Botany.—In the higher parts of the parish, there are not found any of the rare Scottish plants. The *Erica vulgaris* and *cinerea* prevail; and where the heath does not grow, the *Aira flexuosa*, *Festuca ovina* and *vivipara* are the principal grasses. In many parts of the muirland, are found the *Empetrum nigrum*, and the *Vaccinium Vitis Idæa* and *Oxycoccus*. In the low marshy parts, the *Myrica gale* abounds; also *Tofieldia palustris*, *Carex*, *Juncus*, and *Parnassia palustris*. It is worthy of remark, that, where these last-mentioned plants prevail, the soil is most congenial to the growth of oak coppice, producing bark of the best quality. Upon such ground, however, hard-wood will not grow to a large size; nor does the *Pinus* there outlive forty or fifty years. *Pinus larix*, e. g. begins to fail or rot in the heart.

Wood.—There is no lack of wood in the parish, more especially in the vale of Endrick. But, with the exception of the plantations belonging to His Grace the Duke of Montrose, there is no great quantity in any one place. At the Park of Drumquhassle, Dalnair, and near the manse, there are some magnificent oaks and beeches; and at the churchyard-gate, there is a noble ash, once the *bell-tree*, which has weathered at least 200 years.†

At the Castle of Duchray, and clustering round its walls, is some remarkably fine ivy, next, in age and strength, to that at Kenilworth. In the old orchard at Duchray, there are some aged

* The writer cannot find this saint in the Calendar. The above is the name current in the country.

† This tree is mentioned in the Agricultural Report of Stirlingshire, published in 1812, and it may be interesting to compare its measurement at that date and the present. Its girth is there stated at 15 feet at one foot from the ground, and 13 feet 8 inches at the middle of the trunk. It now measures 16 feet 7 inches in circumference at one foot from the ground, and 16 feet 1 inch at the middle of the stem, about five feet from the ground.

filbert trees, which produce a nut of a larger size and higher flavour than the common nut of the wood. They were brought originally from the Monastery of Inchmahome, in the Isle of Menteith, to which they had been conveyed from foreign parts.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The only accounts of the history and statistics of the parish which the author of this sketch knows of are, "Description of Drymmen paroch, by Alexander Graham of Duchray, 1724," to be found in M'Farlan of M'Farlan's Geographical Collections, in the Advocates' Library, Vol. ii. p. 439, * and the old Statistical Account.

Family of Drummond.—The parish gives name to the Drummond or Perth family. According to tradition, the founder of that ancient and noble house was a Hungarian, named Maurice, who came over from Hungary in the train of Margaret, Queen of Malcolm Canmore, and obtained, in reward of his services, a grant of certain lands, and, among others, of Drymen in Stirlingshire. It is not certainly known in what part of the parish the Drummonds had their residence. Mr Nimmo, in his History of Stirlingshire, says, that it was probably somewhere near the Endrick. The northern part of the parish, however, still goes by the name of the barony of Drummond; and we are inclined to think, from this circumstance, that it was there they had their original seat, though neither history nor tradition now indicates the spot.

It is uncertain how or at what time, the Drummonds ceased to be connected with Stirlingshire. In the year 1360, in consequence of a feud which had long subsisted between them and the Earls of Menteith, a compact was entered into at a meeting on the banks of the Forth, in presence of the justiciaries of Scotland, by which Sir John Drummond resigned certain lands in the Lennox, and obtained in lieu of them others of greater value in Perthshire. Shortly after this, and probably in consequence of it, their residence seems to have been transferred to Stobhall in Perthshire, which, along with other extensive estates in that county, had some years before come into possession of the family by marriage. Previously to this change of residence, however, Anabella, daughter

* This description is rather curious as to its computation of distances, and gives us a pretty good idea of "the lang Scotch miles" of our forefathers. "The church of Drymmen," *c. g.* is said to be "fifteen miles west of Stirling;" whereas it is now twenty-two, and these miles long enough. "A large half mile from the church, on the south side of the Enrick, is the house of Edward Buchanan of Spittal." We would now reckon it distant a tolerably large whole mile.

of Sir John Drummond, married Robert, Earl of Carrick, High Steward of Scotland, who afterwards succeeded to the throne by the title of Robert III. The fruit of this marriage was two sons, one of whom afterwards became James I. Thus the parish may lay claim to the honour of having produced a lady from whom descended the Royal House of Stuart; and who was not more distinguished for rank and station, than for the many virtues which adorned her character.

Eminent Men.—The Napiers of Merchiston had, at one time, considerable possessions of land in this parish. On the 22d February 1494–95, Archibald Napier got a charter under the Great Seal, “of the lands and mill of Gartness, the lands of Dolnare, Blareour, Gartharne, the two Bollatis, Douchlass, Edinballie,” &c. with the woods and forests thereof, and the fishings of the waters of Anerich and Altquhore, in the Earldom of Levenax and shire of Stirling. The whole, with some other lands in adjoining parishes, was incorporated into a free barony, and called the barony of Edinbellie Napier.*

The great grandson of this Archibald Napier was John Napier, the famous Inventor of Logarithms. According to some authorities, he was born at Gartness, in this parish, in the year 1550. At all events, he is known to have resided there, at various periods of his life. Upon his return from his travels on the continent, he betook himself to those studies and pursuits which have immortalized his name. The seclusion of Gartness, an isolated corner, far from the haunts of men, was congenial to a mind devoted to the mysteries of theological and mathematical science. In that sequestered spot, living like a hermit, and engaged in studies, which few, if any, in these parts could comprehend, it is not to be wondered at, that he was looked upon by the common people as a wizard, and was consulted as one who had insight into futurity, and intercourse with invisible beings. The retirement of Gartness was not without its annoyances. It is told of him that the noise of the waterfall and of the mill in the immediate neighbourhood of his residence, tried his temper not a little by disturbing him in his studies. The former he could not prevent; but often, when engaged in abstruse calculations, he was in the habit of ordering the miller to stop the constant *clack-clack* of his wheel.

* A miserable cottage on the farm of Finnich-Drummond, in this parish, is the last vestige, by name, of this once splendid barony. In the farm of Craigievairn, there is a large field which still goes by the name of “Lady Napier’s Field.”

There are still visible some fragments of the ruins of the castle in which he lived, overhanging the falls of Gartness. A stone, with the date 1574, taken from these ruins, is seen built into the gable of the mill. The present proprietor, Mr Govane of Park, (into whose family the estate of Gartness came, about a century and a half ago,) has in his possession some globular stones, with the circles of the sphere and constellations engraved on them—and concave stones, with engravings of a similar character, which are understood to have been made by Napier. There is also a stone of this kind to be seen, forming one of the *rybats* of a window of the mill. It is very probably to some such handiworks of Napier, that Butler in his *Hudibras* (Part ii. Canto 3,) refers, when he speaks of

“ A moon-dial, with Napier's bones,
And several constellation stones,
Engraved in planetary hour,
That over mortals had strange power.”

As connected by birth, and as formerly minister of this parish, may be recorded under this head, the name of the Rev. Principal Macfarlan, who so ably presides over the University of Glasgow; as also that of his father, who was minister of this parish from 1743 to 1791. The latter is still remembered by the old people as a man of great shrewdness and vigour of mind—and of bold intrepid character.

Land-owners.—These are, His Grace the Duke of Montrose; William C. C. Graham, Esq. of Gartmore; Robert Govane, Esq. of Park of Drumquhassle; Mrs M. Buchanan, of Drumakiln; James Macfarlane, Esq. of Ballwill; John Buchanan, Esq. of Carbeth; General Graham Stirling of Duchray; John Todd, Esq. of Finnich Malice; Miss M'Goune of Mains; William Lennie, Esq. of Ballochneck; William A. Maclachlan, Esq. of Auchentroig; Rev. Dr Graham, of Balsfunning; and James M'Nair, Esq. of Balvie.

The only family of independent fortune residing in the parish is, that of Robert Govane, Esq. of Park. The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards is, 29. There are nine resident, who farm their own properties.

Parochial Registers.—There are five volumes of session-records,

* “Napier's Bones.” This has reference to an invention of Napier, whereby he contrived, by means of some small rods with the digits inscribed on them, to perform certain operations of multiplication and division. A tract was published in London, 1684, containing “An Account of the Numbering Rods of the Right Honourable John, Lord Neaper; enlarged. Printed for Joseph Moxon, at the sign of the Atlas, in Ludgate Street; where also these numbering rods (commonly called Neaper's Bones) are made and sold.”

the two oldest of which are now in a very decayed and imperfect condition. The earliest date is 1676. The record from 1677 to 1721 is wanting. After that period, with the exception of a gap from 1740 to 1743, they seem fully and accurately kept. The earliest date of the minutes of session is 1723. The oldest date in the church-yard is 1618.

Antiquities.—On the farm of Garfarran, and within the barony of Drummond, are the remains of a Roman fort called the Peel of Garfarran, (castle of vexation.) It is at the western extremity of the Flanders moss,—and was erected by the Romans, probably to protect them from the assaults of the natives, who had betaken themselves to the forest. This fort is nearly square.

The outer and inner rampart are still quite discernible—as also the fosse surrounding it, with the opening through which it might be filled from the rivulet which runs near.

The names of two places in the parish indicate the sites of religious houses, viz. Chapel-Laroch, (site of a church or chapel) near Gartmore;—the ruins of this chapel, which existed in 1724, when the laird of Duchray wrote his account of the parish, have now completely disappeared. And Knockinbaglish, (hill or knoll of the church,) on the lands of Finnich Drummond, not far from the sainted well already spoken of.

At a short distance from this, on the farm of E. Cameron, a large cairn was broken up, about twenty years ago,—in which a number of stone coffins were discovered, and human bones found therein; but there is no tradition as to the origin of the cairn, or the occupants of these *kist-vaens*.

III.—POPULATION.

By the returns made to Dr Webster in 1755, the population was	2789
By census of	1791, 1607
Do.	1811, 1500
Do.	1821, 1652
Do.	1881, 1690

The great decrease which took place from 1755 to 1791, was mainly owing to the union of small farms—the breaking up of the system of cotteries—and the inducements held out to the rural population to settle in manufacturing towns. The vestiges of such depopulations are very visible. The desert walls and ruins of many a cottage, with the solitary trees overhanging them in the different districts of this parish, show the change, somewhat melancholy, that has come over it. And the many unclaimed *lairds* in the church-yard, tell of many families having passed away, who once lived here in simplicity and peace. It is for the moralist and the philanthro-

pist to say, if such changes in the state of society have been for the better.

The present population may be classified as follows, viz.

Number of families in the parish,	-	-	312
employed in agriculture,	-	-	150
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	64
Number of males,	-	-	863
of females,	-	-	827
of males above 20,	-	-	458
of persons residing in the village,	-	-	404
in the other parts of the parish,	-	-	1266
above, 70,	-	-	52

There are only two persons above 90. In one family, there are four persons, whose united ages make 317, viz.—83, 84, 80, 70.

It is difficult to give a correct estimate of the number of births and marriages,—the registration of births being much neglected, especially by Dissenters; and the mere proclamation of banns being no rule as to the number of marriages, as the solemnization of the marriage often does not take place in the parish of the proclamation. No regular record of the deaths has been kept. Some legislative enactment is much wanted to regulate and enforce these registrations.

There is one deaf and dumb man. There are two fatuous; none insane.

Character of the People.—It may be said of the people generally, that they are intelligent, industrious, and frugal, exemplary in their habits, and, with few exceptions, attentive to the public ordinances of religion. With respect to the enjoyment of the comforts of life, they are not behind their neighbours. They are generally well-lodged and well-fed; and at marriages, burials, and in church on Sabbath, show, by their style of decent dressing, that they are in comfortable circumstances. It cannot be concealed that the prevailing vice is drunkenness; encouraged greatly, without doubt, by the too frequent sign-boards in the country, announcing “porter, ale, and British spirits.”* About twenty-five years ago, smuggling was carried on to a great extent in this parish. A seizure is now a very uncommon occurrence. There is still occasionally some *blazing* in the burns; as much, it is believed, for a winter-night’s amusement, as for the spoil that is obtained. There is in this country great temptation to poaching; the game being very plentiful. The proprietors generally keep a strict look-out after delinquents. But, upon

* Vide Macniell’s Scotland’s Skaith.

the whole, whether from principle or restraint, few concern themselves in such illicit practices.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—It has been already stated, that the parish consists of about 32,200 acres. The number of acres which are cultivated and occasionally in tillage, is about 7000. It is not easy to say how much is arable. There are large tracts in the muirland, and along the lower parts of the mountains, which are quite susceptible of cultivation. In many districts where sheep and black-cattle are now wandering without inclosure, there are traces of cultivation by a former generation. But, from the modern notions of farming, and the distance from lime and from markets, it is considered better to let such land lie in a state of nature. There may be about 21,700 acres of hill and muirland. The land under wood may be stated at about 180 acres of natural coppice, and 376 planted.

Soil.—In a parish of such extent, it is to be expected that there will be much diversity of soil; hence, we find every variety, from the most barren to the most productive. Along the Forth, there are nearly 3000 acres of deep moss, under which there is a rich clayey soil, capable of producing the most abundant crops. The prevailing soil of the lands on the Endrick, is rich brown loam. As you ascend from these low grounds, the soil is light sandy dryfield. But the most common soil of the parish is poor and tilly, with a retentive cold subsoil.

Rent, Rate of Wages, &c.—The average rent, per acre, of the inferior arable land, may be stated at, from 10s. to 15s.; and that of better quality, chiefly in the lower parts of Strath Endrick, at L.2, 10s. The rent of a cow's grazing on the best land is L.3, 10s.; of hill-fed sheep, from 5s. to 6s. The rate of wages for ploughmen and men farm-servants is from L.12 to L.16 a-year, exclusive of board and lodging; for women, from L.5 to L.9. Labourers receive from 1s. 8d. to 2s. a-day during three-fourths of the year, and 1s. 6d. during the winter months. Masons and wrights, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d.; and tailors, when employed in the houses, 1s. 6d. with victuals.

Stock, &c.—The Ayrshire breed of cattle are generally and successfully reared in the south and west ends of the parish. The north and east districts are much behind in this respect, partly from carelessness, and partly from attachment to the old or mongrel breed. The sheep with which the muirlands are pastured, are of the

black-faced kind. For the improvement of the stock, Linton and Lammermoor rams are occasionally introduced. On the better farms, a few of the finer species, such as the Leicester, are kept, but chiefly for supplying the "gude-wife" with some better wool for her domestic purposes.

Within the last twenty years, there has been a very great improvement on the stock of this part of the country. This has been mainly owing to the exertions of the Strath-Endrick Club. By instituting an annual competition, and offering high premiums for the introduction of superior animals,—the former breed, which was a mixture of all kinds of inferior stock, has in a great measure disappeared. And the district can now challenge a comparison with any part of the country. This club was instituted in 1816, and holds its annual meeting in Drymen in the month of August. Its funds are raised by yearly subscription of the members, consisting of the principal proprietors, clergy, and respectable farmers in the district. His Grace the Duke of Montrose is patron of the Club. The late Duke, whose memory will be long cherished in this quarter, as an enlightened improver, and a kind and generous landlord, contributed greatly, by his influence and exertions, to its success.

Husbandry.—The improvement in agriculture, in this parish, has been keeping pace with the improvement in the stock. There is, with many of the farmers, a laudable desire of adopting the new and approved processes in farming. We have still, however, in the remote quarters of the parish, an obstinate adherence, on the part of many, to the old system of "their fathers before them!" They are contented to "dodge on" in the antique fashion, without troubling themselves with the modern novelties.

In the more fertile districts, the five-shift rotation of crops is adopted. On many farms, a great deal is now going on in furrow or parallel draining; one of the greatest improvements for a country like this, in farming. The expense, however, is so great, that, without the landlord's bearing a large proportion of the outlay, the tenant cannot carry it on to any great extent. Not a few of our landlords, aware of this, are encouraging their tenants to drain to any extent, paying the half of the expense.

On the estate of Finnich Malice, the late George Buchanan, Esq. drained in this way to the extent of 60 acres.* The present

* The present proprietor, John Todd, Esq. is carrying on similar farming operations to a very great extent.—1841.

enterprising tenant of Finnich Drummond, John Buchanan, Esq. of Ballat, brother of the above-mentioned gentleman, is carrying on much of this work, assisted by his landlord, the Duke of Montrose. James M'Nair, Esq., of Balvie, has most successfully brought into culture about 90 acres of black heathy ground. And now his farm of Auchineck, which, nine years ago, was of dismal and forbidding aspect, looks as smiling, and is as productive as any in the parish.

Leases, Farm-houses, &c.—The duration of leases is generally nineteen years. On the Duke of Montrose's estate it is eighteen, and for grass farms, nine. It would be a great benefit both to landlord and tenant, if more attention were paid, in the case of renewing leases, to grant the renewal within three or four years of the expiry of them. This would prevent the farm being exhausted, and, likewise, much anxiety of mind to the occupant in the prospect of removal.

The farm-houses and steadings on the larger farms are, in general, good and commodious,—but, on the smaller, in many cases, both are unworthy of the style of farming and of living of the present day.

Much attention is now paid to fencing with thorn-hedges. The trim dressed hedges in the western districts are much admired. In many places, however, the hedges have been planted too low; the consequence is, that the thorns getting hold of the cold damp subsoil, canker and die.

The rental of the parish is about L. 9000; the valued rent L. 5069, 10s.

There are three corn-mills in the parish, and a mill at Gartness for carding, spinning, dyeing, and weaving woollen goods, which are chiefly used in the country.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Village—Markets—Means of Communication, &c.—Drymen, the only village in the parish, contains a population of 404. With the exception of the ordinary trades-people, the inhabitants are chiefly employed in country labour. There used to be a fair, almost every month held here: but of late years, in consequence of the improved means of communication, and the increased facilities of obtaining commodities from other quarters, they are reduced to four; chiefly for the hiring of servants. The people of this parish mostly avail themselves of the Glasgow markets, eighteen miles distant. In the populous districts of the Leven, about seven miles to the west of Drymen, and of Duntocher, about twelve

miles to the south, the farmers find a convenient outlet for their produce.

There are ten miles of turnpike road in the parish, viz. the great road leading from Glasgow and Dumbarton, by Drymen, to Stirling. And thirty-five miles of parish roads. The latter are kept in repair (not the best) by converted statute labour money; the annual amount of which is L. 120.

There is a very handsome bridge over the Endrick, within a mile of the village, connecting this parish with that of Kilmarnock. This bridge was built in 1765. There is another called the Finnich bridge, (recently widened and improved,) stretching over a deep romantic ravine, through which the burn is seen struggling far below. There is a stage-coach three times a week to Glasgow; starting at 7 A. M. and returning same day by 8 P. M. There is a weekly carrier, and a daily post.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is situated near the village of Drymen—but set down most inconveniently for more than half of the inhabitants of the parish. It is within half a-mile of the west extremity of the parish; and there is a population to the north and east of it, of upwards of 700, from six to twelve miles from the church. This inconvenient state of things has been somewhat remedied, of late, to the inhabitants of the east parts of the parish, by the erection of a church in the village of Buchlyvie, within the parish of Kippen. To this church a population of 400 belonging to this parish, have been attached *quoad sacra*; and now many, who, from their distance from the house of God, could seldom be there, have a church so conveniently placed for them that they can enjoy the ordinances every Lord's day:—one of the good fruits of church extension.

The inhabitants of the north of the parish, (about 300), being separated from the church and its ordinances by a wide and desolate muir,—seldom, excepting on sacramental occasions, come across. The minister has been in the habit of officiating among them twice a-year. But they generally avail themselves of the benefit of public worship in the churches of Aberfoil and Gartmore; with which, however, they have no privileged connection.

The parish church is a plain substantial building, erected in 1771, and is at present in good repair. It affords accommodation for about 400, and is sufficiently large for all who *can* attend. The seats are parcelled out among the heritors, according to their valuations.

And their tenantry, servants, and poor, occupy their respective allotments.

The sacrament of the Lord's supper is dispensed twice a-year, in June and November. 444 communicants are at present on the roll, of whom 145 are male heads of families.

The manse was built in 1748, and has, from time to time, received repairs and additions. It is a substantial and commodious house; delightfully situated on a bank overlooking the Endrick, and is perhaps not surpassed, in the beauty of the situation, by any manse in Scotland. The extent of the glebe, including garden and policy attached to the manse, is about seven acres. Its yearly value in rent may be about L.20. There is no grass glebe; but the minister has an allowance of L.1, 13s. 4d. in lieu thereof. The stipend, by decree of the Teind Court in 1831, is 17 chalders, half meal, half barley. But the heritors having since surrendered their teinds, it is now 319 bolls, 2 pecks of meal, and L.7, 3s. 9d. of vicarage.

By the statements laid before Her Majesty's Commissioners, when they visited Drymen in 1837, there are 340 Dissenters in the parish, belonging chiefly to the United Secession and Relief. The remaining 1350 belong to the Established Church. In the village of Drymen, there is a United Secession Chapel, built in 1819, at an expense of L.370. The minister's stipend is L.85, and a house valued at L.15 per annum, raised from the seat rents, by ordinary and extraordinary collections, and by occasional aid from the synod fund. Those of the parish who are connected with the Relief dissent attend the Relief chapels in Balfron and Kilmaronock.

Education.—The parish school is within half a mile of the village of Drymen; but, like the parish church, is inaccessible to more than half of the population. The teacher has L.31 of salary, and an excellent school and dwelling-house, together with the legal quantity of ground for a garden.

There is in general a laudable desire on the part of the parents to give their children a good, useful education. But classical learning appears to be fast on the decline in this quarter, there being only two Latin scholars in the parish school, and only one college student resident in the parish.

With the exception of about half a dozen, and these incomers into the parish, there are none above fifteen years of age who cannot read.

There are two schools in the northern and eastern districts of

the parish, in which the ordinary branches are taught; the former having, in addition to the school fees, L. 5, 11s. of salary, granted from the rents of the bishoprick of Dunkeld; the latter having the interest of L. 88, left by the late Miss M'Lachlan of Auchintroig. There is also, in the village of Drymen, an infant school, taught by a female; the building and ground granted by His Grace the Duke of Montrose; and, in addition to the school fees of 2d. a-week, a few pounds are raised by contribution by the friends of the institution.

There are two Sabbath schools; the one taught by the minister of the parish, the other by the Dissenting minister.

The number of scholars in the parish is as follows, viz.—

Parish school,	111
Do. evening,	36
Infant school,	30
Dalmary,	36
Auchintroig,	28
Taught privately,	12
	259

Being rather more than one-seventh of the population.

Library.—A Parish Library was instituted in 1829. It consists of nearly 400 volumes, well selected, and consisting chiefly of books of history, travels, and religion. It is in a flourishing condition, and has tended not a little to diffuse a taste for reading.

Savings' Bank.—A Savings' Bank was begun here in 1829, and has proved most beneficial to many of the contributors, both in the habits of economy they have been thus led to practise, and in the means it has put in their power of improving their condition in life. There are at present forty depositors; two-thirds of whom are servants. The following statement will show its progress for the last seven years:

Deposits in 1831,	L. 104	Due at the year's end,	L. 256
1832,	91		311
1833,	49		246
1834,	74		305
1835,	45		336
1836,	129		416
1837,	67		413

Besides this, a considerable sum in small bills, belonging to some of the depositors, is lodged in the regular bank; so that there may be in all about L. 700.*

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There is no assessment for the poor in this parish. The funds available for their support, and

* The funds of this savings' bank have been transferred lately to the National Savings' Bank, Glasgow—the minister still acting as receiver.—1841.

at the disposal of the kirk-session, are such as arise from the church collections, mortcloth money, donations, and the interest of L. 185, which has been realized from mortifications, and savings from church collections. The collections, on an average of the last seven years, amount to L. 35, 9s. 3½d. There are at present on the roll 17, who receive, according to their circumstances, from 7s. 6d. to L. 1, 12s. 6d. per quarter, besides occasionally coals, cordials, and extra help, when in sickness or destitution.

There is still much of the good old Scottish feeling among the people, of reluctance to receive parochial aid. The fact, that, at the period when the last Statistical Account was written, there were 38 poor on the roll and now only 17, is a proof that the people are either in better circumstances, or that they are, if possible, more unwilling to receive such help. It is no uncommon occurrence for the parishioners to raise by subscription, a sum of money in aid of some individual or family who have been thrown into destitute circumstances, by affliction or bereavement, rather than that they should be subjected to the humiliation of becoming parish paupers. An instance has just occurred. A poor, industrious family had their eldest son (a promising young man, a student,) brought home to them in fever;—and he died. The father and mother were seized. The father died; their means were exhausted, and there were eight young children to provide for: and the poor, widowed, disconsolate mother, from her sick-bed, entreated of the minister who offered her relief, that whatever he bestowed should not be from the parish funds. The people's sympathy and prompt liberality have done for her what the parish funds could ill afford. Such a spirit, while it may be characterized as that of honest pride, it is to be hoped, has respect to the promise, "Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive—let thy widows trust in me." Such a spirit, there is no doubt, will lead to industry, and will raise up friends to help, and so will God fulfil his promise.

Police, Prison, &c.—There is not a justice of peace, nor magistrate of any kind resident within the bounds of this parish; neither is there a jail or lock-up house from the most westerly verge of the county onward to Stirling,—a distance of nearly fifty miles. The consequence is, that crime and misdemeanour frequently go unpunished, the arm of the law not being long enough nor strong enough to reach so far; and parties who have been injured, preferring to suffer damage rather than be put to the trouble and ex-

pense of seeking redress at a distance. This is the cause of much complaint.*

Inns, &c.—There are 12 inns or public-houses in the parish; of these, there are 7 in the village, certainly by far too many for any good or salutary purpose. Their influence on the morals and circumstances of the people is exceedingly injurious. There is but one opinion among all well-thinking people in the community here, as to the necessity of something being done towards the reduction of the number of licenses.

Fuel, &c.—In consequence of the distance and expense of coal, its use is limited among the lower orders here. Their chief fuel is peat, which is to be had in abundance in the moors in the neighbourhood. The nearest good coal is to be had at Garscube, thirteen miles from Drymen. The price of a cart of 14 cwt., including carriage and tolls, is from 13s. to 14s.

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