

## PARISH OF KINROSS.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name was formerly written *Kynross* or *Kynrosse*. The word is of Gaelic origin, signifying *the head of the promontory*, and referring to the position of the parish at the extremity of a point of land running into the lake. This seems to be a better explanation of the name of the town and parish than that assigned in the former Statistical Account, viz. that it stands at the head of that tract lying betwixt the Friths of Forth and Tay, which had the appellation of *Ross* or the *Peninsula*. The etymology now given has the sanction of Christopher Irvine, whose work, entitled *Historiæ Scoticæ Nomenclatura*, contains these words: "*Kinrossium*. The town of Kinross, lying at the beginning or head of a point of land that runneth into the west side of Lochleven, and this is the reason of its name in the old language." (See his work, p. 117, Edinburgh, 1683.)

*Extent, &c.*—The parish of Kinross hardly extends 4 miles in length from east to west, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  from south to north, and contains about 14 square miles. It is bounded on the east by the lake, (which leaves only a small portion of land betwixt it and the town,) and part of the parish of Orwell; on the south, by an angle of the parish of Portmoak and by the parish of Cleish; on the west, by the united parish of Tullibole and Fossaway; and on the north, by that of Orwell. It forms a sort of trapezium.

There are no eminences within the parish to which the appellation of mountains, or even of hills, can in strict propriety be applied, and hence its area is often called the *laigh* or level of Kinross, presenting, in this respect, a striking contrast to the heights of the four adjoining parishes. The surface of Lochleven is 360 feet and odds above the level of the sea; but the most elevated portion of the parish is not 100 feet above the surface of the lake.

*Meteorology.*—The altitude of the parish, the range of the Cleish and Ochil hills skirting it both on the south and north, and

the evaporation of the waters of the lake, all concur in rendering the climate of Kinross parish, moist, cold, and variable. So far as this climate depends on evaporation, a great improvement has been accomplished, and will go on, by means of the recent operations upon Lochleven, and the increasing exertions of cultivators of the soil to convert wet land into dry; of which, more particular mention will be made in a subsequent part of this account.

About sixty years ago, agues were very prevalent, in consequence of the marshes and stagnant water which then abounded. Now, a case of ague is seldom to be met with. Rheumatism, often proceeding from the same causes as ague, or at least very much aggravated by them, is both of rare occurrence and less severe than before.

It is also not unworthy of remark, that our harvest frosts, which some years ago left the potato stems in the lower grounds altogether black, while in the upper they remained fresh and green,—are now far less frequently attended with these effects. And to what is this so much to be attributed as to a less copious exhalation?

*Hydrography.*—Throughout this parish, there lie scattered many perennial springs, “as clear as crystal, and as cold as ice,” arising from a sandy or gravelly bottom. They yield water of excellent quality. But there is none to which recourse is had for any medicinal or chemical purposes.

Among the different objects connected with the parish of Kinross, there is none which imparts to it so much celebrity, interest, attraction, and value, as the magnificent sheet of water which forms its eastern boundary. The pen and the pencil have been so often employed in the description of this lake, and have been employed so well, that nothing of the kind is required or will be looked for in this Account.

Yet it may not be unnecessary to observe, that while the operations which the lake has given rise to within these few years, have certainly taken from its general impressiveness, as well as from its extent, it still presents an appearance on which the admirer of nature delights to dwell. The appearance referred to, in calm weather, and under an unclouded sky, is that of mild beauty, rather than of picturesque grandeur. Under moonlight, and when “all the air a solemn stillness holds,” the views from the road leading to the old church-yard are in no ordinary degree sweet and soothing.

Now that Lochleven has been subjected to a considerable drain-

age, its extent or circuit is 12 miles, being 3 less than in its original state, its depth 14 feet at its medium height, being  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet less than formerly.

“The surface of the loch,” says Dr Fleming of Aberdeen, in his Interim Report on its Fishings, “previous to the late partial drainage, extended to 4638 imperial acres. It is now diminished from the high-water flood to the top of the spill-water 1095 acres, thus leaving its maximum state at 3543 acres, according to the testimony of the Commissioners. By this mode of estimating the change, the loch would appear to have been diminished about one-fourth of its extent. But the water is seldom if ever allowed to rise to the height of the spill-water. Hence it appears expedient to increase by one-third, 365 acres, the recognized diminution of 1095 acres, thus making in all the diminution of the area of the loch, and its consequent value, as it may be viewed as a fish-pond, of 1460 acres, as equal to one-third of its former dimensions.”

Within the circuit of Lochleven there are several islands, but all inconsiderable and insignificant, with the exception of two, one of which is the island of St Serf or Servanus, or the Inch, which the parish of Portmoak claims as its own, and which, as such, has been described in the old Statistical Account of that parish. The other, although considerably smaller, being only five acres in extent, is commonly called the Castle Island or Castle, in consequence of an ancient fort and buildings being connected with it, which cover a great part of its surface. The oldest and largest building, (and for the particulars of which the last Statistical Account may be consulted,) is ascribed to a king of the Picts. In the absence of any thing like historical certainty on this point, it seems more reasonable to believe that many additions and alterations have taken place in the course of centuries, than to suppose, as Dr Walker (in his *Essays on Natural History and Rural Economy*, under the head *Lochleven*,) has done, that, from its form, it appears to have been built in the time of James II. of Scotland, who began to reign in 1436. Indeed, the facts to be afterwards mentioned render such an opinion altogether untenable.

When, in the progress of arts and manufacturing industry, a very considerable number of mills and bleachfields, requiring a large and permanent supply of water, had been erected on the Leven, which runs out of the lake, and when in a dry season that supply was often quite inadequate for the purpose,—it became an object of no small moment to the owners of these works, to render the basin of Lochleven:

a reservoir on which they could depend throughout the year. But the means to be employed for this object, were the very same which made it for the interest of the landed proprietors around the lake, and of none so much as the proprietor of Kinross estate, to unite with the owners of the mills and bleachfields in taking steps to diminish the extent of the lake,—a work which, by lessening its evaporation, gave a more equable and steady supply to its outlet, while it added to the arable acres of the district. Accordingly, George Graham, Esq. of Kinross, first moved in the scheme, and after him Thomas Graham, Esq. with still more activity. It was not, however, until after the decease of this gentleman, and during the minority of his grandson, Graham Montgomery, Esq. son of Sir James Montgomery, Bart. that all opposition and difficulty were surmounted.

*Geology.*—The rocks are sandstone, limestone, and trap or whinstone. The sandstone consists of two varieties, one of which belongs to the old red sandstone formation, and the other to the under carboniferous group. No good section of either occurs within the parish, and our knowledge of the existence of the former is chiefly obtained from an examination of the geognosy and structure of the surrounding district. The old red prevails throughout the entire extent of Stratheden, flanking the southern slope of the Ochils from Strathmiglo westwards, and cropping out at various places in the neighbouring parish of Orwell, whence it ranges in a south-westerly direction through the basin of which Kinross occupies the centre. It consists of two beds, the lower of which is an extremely coarse conglomerate, containing fragments of quartz, granite, slate, hornblende, felspar, and several members of the trap family, varying from the size of a garden pea to three or four inches in diameter: the upper bed is fine-grained, hard and compact, and forms an excellent building stone. The dip varies from an angle of  $8^{\circ}$  to  $12^{\circ}$ . No organic remains have been detected in this deposit in any of the quarries in the vicinity. Binnarty hill rests upon a yellow sandstone, which differs in its mineralogical character from the sandstone of the coal-field, and which is supposed to be more nearly allied to the old red. But the intervention of the loch and other obstructions prevent any satisfactory researches being made into the nature of this interesting deposit, so far as its range is connected with the parish of Kinross.

The carboniferous sandstone occurs in the western division of the parish on the farm of the property of Mr Spowart. It is said to contain beds of coal, but to what extent this valuable combusti-

ble exists in the locality is still matter of conjecture only. The position of this rock is sufficiently indicated by its relation to a similar deposit in the adjacent parish of Cleish, where it underlies the mountain limestone: and to the westward a few miles, near the Crook of Devon, the old red again emerges. If such be its true position, as we have every reason to believe that it is, any beds of coal that may be found in it will be such as are characteristic of the group with which it is connected, amounting, as in other places, to two or three in number, and of inconsiderable thickness. Limestone accompanies this sandstone, but of what quality and extent, whether it belongs to the carboniferous limestone, or to the cornstone of the old red sandstone series, we have not the means of determining. No section of these rocks is exposed to view; a thick covering of aluminous earth overlies the surface; but the intelligent proprietor, from his excavations and drainings, as well as great practical knowledge of the minerals of the district, has been enabled to ascertain the existence of a calcareous deposit beneath.

Whinstone, or rather porphyry, is no less sparingly distributed in this parish. Two varieties only occur, namely, compact felspar, and claystone porphyry. The former is quarried towards the south side of the parish at Calcarnie, and occupies the ridge to the westwards. This rock is extremely close and compact in texture, and is much used as a road metal. It has a reddish ash-grey colour, and contains minute crystals of hornblende and carbonate of lime. The claystone porphyry, which is of a mixed iron-red and ochreous colour, may be observed behind the farm-steading of Calcarnie, and seems to run in the form of a vein in a north-easterly and south-westerly direction. It is traversed by veins of carbonate of lime, and also contains large masses of the same, along with crystals of glassy felspar and augite. It is stained in various places with dark-green spots, which would seem to indicate the presence in small quantities, of copper, and which arise in all probability from the oxidation of that metal. Boulders of the primitive rocks are abundantly distributed, consisting of granite, quartz, mica slate, hornblende and greenstone. None of these are of very large dimensions, but all are much water-worn, and bear sufficient marks of attrition to which they have been subjected in the course of their transportation. Masses of diluvium, of considerable depth, may be observed in several localities, and which consists chiefly of the debris of the old red sandstone.

If Mr Spowart, who is well acquainted, and is still connected, with working of coal at Dunfermline, on an extensive scale, shall fail in discovering, as he once hoped to do, that mineral in his lands in this parish, none need make a subsequent attempt.

*Zoology.*—Passing from a subject of inquiry, in which, so far as this parish is concerned, little is to be added to the general stock of mineralogical information, the next branch of natural history, viz. zoology, is one in which there is much more variety, and the materials are much more interesting.

It is much to be feared that one of the effects of the late partial drainage of the lake, has been the destruction of some of the species of the fish, together with the diminution of the number and deterioration of the quality of others. Certain of the sorts of which Dr Walker has written, seem now to be extinct, and the char, *Salmo alpinus*, one of the finest fishes of the loch, has almost disappeared; in so much that Dr Fleming, so well known as a zoologist, and who has been appointed a valuator of the damage done to the fishing of Lochleven by the above-mentioned partial drainage, estimates it at L. 73, 6s. 8d. per annum. The three circumstances to which the learned Doctor ascribes this permanent injury are, *first*, the curtailment of the area of the loch, *secondly*, the continued abstraction of the fish by the currents at the new sluices, and *lastly*, the barrenness of the new margin of the lake. The weight of some of the trout has been  $6\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of 22 oz. to the pound; nay, one was caught nearly 18 lb. Pike has been caught in 1822, wanting only half-a-pound of two stones, or 42 lb. Dutch weight.

The trouts of Lochleven feed on insects of every description, and very much on red earthworms, and insects from the side of the loch. According to Mr James M'Gill, who has spent the greater part of his life at Kinross, and who is uncommonly well acquainted with the natural history of the district, many of the fishes in Lochleven devour others. There are some that prey on minnows, and some on shell-fish of every description; but these last are trouts of inferior quality. That which seems to give the high colour to the fish of the lake, is the animalculæ they feed on, imperceptible to the naked eye. These minute insects are very abundant, and trouts in full season are always gorged with them. They resemble jelly after they have remained a little while in the stomach of the fish. When the contents of their stomach are not dried, the colour is of a light pink; when dried, red.

The fishing of Lochleven, which begins on the first of January

and ends on the first of September, is at present let for seven years, at L. 204 per annum. The price of trout, which thirty years ago was 4d. is now 1s. a-pound at Kinross, although often lower at Edinburgh, Glasgow, and even at Manchester, where there has been of late a regular market for it. Pikes are sold at 2d. a-pound, and perches, which are most plentiful during the heat of summer, at 2d. a-dozen. There is now no stated fishing of eels, as formerly, from August till December. Two boats and four boatmen are employed during one part of the fishing season. The two men employed throughout the whole of it have 11s. a-week; the other two, whose labours are confined to the summer months only, 10s. With regard to the fishes, it is further to be noticed, that they ascend the tributary streams of the lake, ready to spawn by the middle of August, and continue to do so nearly the whole month of February.

We here add an extract from an article in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh for 1839, entitled "Account of a new species of British Bream, and of an undescribed species of Skate: to which is added a List of the Fishes of the Frith of Forth, and its tributary streams, with observations, by Richard Parnell, M.D., F.R.S., E., &c.

"*Salmo cœcifer*, Parnell, (bearing cœca,—the cœca being more numerous than in any of its congeners;) *Salmo Levenensis*, Walker, Lochleven trout, common in Lochleven. This species of trout, which is well known to many persons as a delicious article of food, is considered by most naturalists as a variety of the *Salmo fario* or common fresh water trout, the redness of its flesh depending on the nature of its food. I consider it, however, not only as distinct from the *Salmo fario*, but as one of the best defined and most constant in its characters of all the species hitherto described. It is at once distinguished from the common fresh water trout by the number of its cœcal appendages, which vary from seventy to eighty, whereas in the *Salmo fario* they are never more than forty-five or forty-six in number. Its tail is crescent-shaped at all ages, and its body has never a vestige of a red spot. The tail of the *common trout* is sinuous, and at length even at the end, and its body is almost always marked with red spots, besides its flesh being always of a white appearance.

"I have no doubt that more than two species of trout are to be met with in our fresh water streams, which at present receive the name of *Salmo fario*."—P. 154.

Referring to the birds that repair to Lochleven, it is deserving of notice, that a new one made its appearance about thirty years ago. It became very tame, and was called the Swedish crossbill. It comes in autumn, and its coming was thought to prognosticate bad weather. It feeds on buds and cones of fir. It frequents the plantings at the churchyard. Its colour is red, resembling that of a parrot. The bill crosses, and hence the name of *cross-bill*.

*Botany.*—There are three plants found in the parish of Kinross, which that eminent botanist, Dr Arnott of Arlary, has not yet observed elsewhere in the county. The one is *Cheiranthus cheiri*, var. *fruticulosus*, (or wallflower), growing on Lochleven Castle; the other is *Cerastium arvense*, found at Lathro, nearly opposite to the gate at Lethangie, east approach; the third is *Bromus sterilis*, on the roadside to the church-yard.

There were some trees of a stunted appearance betwixt the lands of Lethangie and Kinross, or Lochleven, by report and appearance, several centuries old, which were lately cut down. There are trees in the avenue that attract, by their size and form, the attention of the stranger. There is a beautiful walnut in front of the mansion house; and a remarkable ash in the Castle island, which was split by lightning, and part of which rests on the western wall of the castle.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Of this parish, as such, there are no accounts, so far as the writer of these pages has either seen or heard, nor any maps, plans, or surveys. Of the county of Kinross, there has been a very correct map by Rennie. Of the counties of Kinross and Fife, a very handsome as well as accurate one was published by an English company a few years ago.

In *Gough's British Topography*, Vol. ii. 1780, it is stated that Andrew Rutherford drew a view of the beautiful thorn tree, near Kinross, and of Lochleven Castle. In Pont's Maps of Scotland in the Advocates' Library, folio xvii., there is one of Kinross-shire, described 28th October 1642, by James Gordon of "Keanross," with the loch and adjacent countries, sixteen inches and a half by thirteen and a half. This is the oldest map of the county, and a great curiosity.

*Eminent Characters.*—One of the first of these is Sir William Bruce, who built the mansion-house of Kinross. He was architect to Charles II. The Palace of Holyrood was his design, as were also Hopetoun and Moncreiff Houses. Kinross House was

originally intended for the residence of James, Duke of York, afterwards James VII. of Scotland, in the event of his being prevented by the Exclusion Bill from succeeding to his brother.

It must be added, that Dr John Thomson, the present distinguished Professor of General Pathology in the University of Edinburgh, is a native of this parish.

*Ministers of the Parish.*—Clergymen within and without the Establishment, who were born or carried on their ministerial labours in this parish, were respected and esteemed in their day, and have left behind them memorials, shewing that, for their contemporaries and posterity, they did not live in vain. The Rev. Robert Stark, although his settlement in 1732, was nearly coeval with the rise of the Secession Church, and was the occasion of much division and strife, was a superior preacher, and, in particular, the author of an essay on the Ethiopian of the Acts of the Apostles, which has been much admired both by Churchmen and Dissenters. The Rev. John Swanston, ordained minister of the Associate congregation of Kinross, 23d January 1748, was appointed to the office of Professor of Divinity in May 1764. This office, along with that of Minister of the Gospel, he held at Kinross, until his death at Perth on the 12th of June 1767. His biographer, Mr Fraser, minister at Kennoway, speaks of him as equally distinguished by the eminence of his piety and the depth of his theological attainments. A volume of his discourses, rich in the grace and truth of the gospel, has been long in the hands of the Christian public. The incumbent of Kinross parish immediately preceding the present, preached before the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr a sermon, afterwards published, on the subject and manner of apostolical preaching.

The ministers of Kinross parish since the Reformation, as far as the writer can ascertain, are as follows:—James Dolby, or Dobie, or Dowie, first-mentioned, A. D. 1567;—had under his superintendence the kirks of Orwell and Ballingry, while Mr Walter Balfour and Mr Alexander Wardlaw were readers and exhorters; Robert Rait, 1590; John Colden, 1607,—conformed to presbytery in 1638, and died in 1640; Mr George Colden, probably a son of the former, admitted 1641, and died in 1665. Of George Colden it is reported that he died at St Andrews, whither he had gone to have an interview with Archbishop Sharp on some of the rights and interests of his benefice, but where he met with no redress or satisfaction. Such was the attachment borne to this minister, that a number of his people went to St Andrews, and bore his mortal remains to Kinross as his place of interment. Mr James Forsyth

was translated from Moonzie to Kinross, 23d November 1665; Mr Henry Christie was settled in 1682, and ejected for not praying for William and Mary in 1689; he was, afterwards, in 1709, consecrated as a nonjuring bishop, and died in Kinross, in 1718, with the respect and affection of all who knew him. In Kinross churchyard, there is still to be seen the tombstone of Mr Christie, having a brass plate and a Latin epitaph in verse. Mr William Spence, next in order, was admitted 1689; Mr Robert Macgill, 1699; Mr Robert Stark, 1732; Mr Archibald Smith, 1784; the present incumbent, 1804.

Speaking of religious persons connected with Lochleven, it may not be improper to mention that, at the dissolution of the monasteries, Robert Pitcairn, commendator of the Abbey of Dunfermline, and Secretary of State to James VI. in the regency of Lennox, died in the castle of Lochleven, 1584, aged sixty-four. He was one of those engaged in the *Raid of Ruthven*, and as such, was carried prisoner to Lochleven. He was Royal Legate as well as Secretary to James VI. His tomb is in Dunfermline churchyard; and on the lintel of a house occupied by him in the Maygate there is this couplet:

Sin word is thral and thocht is fre  
Keep weil thy tongue I counsel the.

*Chief Land-owners.*—The chief land owners are, Graham Montgomery, Esq., eldest son of Sir James Montgomery, of Stanhope, Bart. by the younger daughter of the late Thomas Graham of Kinross and Burleigh, Esq; and the Earl of Kinnoul, who lately purchased the lands of Colden, &c. once the property of Charles Stein, Esq. of Hattonburn.

*Parochial Registers.*—The Session records extant contain the acts of that court from 8th October 1665 until 13th May 1683. There is also at the end of these records, a register of baptisms, from April 1676 to March 1684. There is a second series from the 20th of May 1683 to the 29th September 1689, with a register of baptisms from the 24th July 1684 to the 23d of August 1689, when the minister, Mr Christie, was removed. The third begins the 29th May 1699, and ends 9th November 1718. The fourth begins 29th January 1719, and ends 24th July 1741. The fifth is from 28th September 1741, to 26th March 1753. The sixth, from 17th April 1753 to 24th July 1754. There is a register of baptisms in a quarto volume from 30th April 1699, and ending 2d April 1727, together with a register of proclamations from the 23d of May 1699, to the 6th of January 1727. Another similar, from 9th April 1727 till 16th April

1770. A register of burying-grounds; and a register of deaths from 1733 to 1735. Loose minutes beginning the 4th of July 1754, and ending 6th March 1771. From 1772 the session records are complete; and now every minute is subscribed by the moderator.

From the Session records, it appears to have been the practice more than a century ago, of a part of the kirk-session visiting the town during the time of public worship, and making a report to their brethren.

*Antiquities, &c.*—In the month of June 1820, a number of silver coins were discovered on the lands of Coldon, to the south of Kinross, having been turned up by workmen in one of the fields. When found, they were quite covered with a black coating darker than the earth from which they were dug. The number might amount from 300 to 400, and were found to consist chiefly of the coinage of Edward the First and Edward the Second of England. They were of the denomination commonly called *silver pennies*, and seem to have come from various mints, *e. g.* London, Canterbury, York, Durham, Lincoln, and Dublin. Some of them, instead of having the place of coinage, had on the reverse the name *Robert de Hadeleir* surrounding the  $\times$ . Along with these English coins, a few Scotch were found of Alexander III. and John Baliol. They very much resembled the English in size and appearance. If they differed in any thing, it was that they were rather more handsome:—the King's head was a profile with a crown and sceptre surrounded by *Alexander Dei Gra.* and *Joannes Dei Gra.* The reverse had a  $\times$  with four stars, surrounded by *Rex Scotorum*. When and how these coins came to be deposited in the place where they were discovered, is a matter of conjecture. Most probably, they had been lost by some person attached to one of the English armies, who, in the period of the sovereigns referred to, and thereafter, so frequently occupied the country in the vicinity of Kinross, for the purpose of getting possession of the Castle of Lochleven, or of overawing that fortress, then a place of considerable strength and importance.

In the month of April 1829, some labourers employed by John W. Williamson, Esq. Banker, Kinross, in examining his grounds at West Green, found, about two feet below the surface, imbedded in what appeared to be travelled earth, an ancient seal of pure gold, of a circular shape, eight-tenths of an inch in diameter, and two-tenths of an inch in thickness. It has two small wings also of gold joined in the centre by a neat hinge, which folds flat on the upper side of the seal, and when raised serves for a handle. This very curious piece of

workmanship, weighing four sovereigns, appears from its flat shape to have been intended for the pocket; and as it has engraved on it the royal arms of Scotland impaled on the dexter side, with those of England on the sinister, it was at once considered, according to the laws of heraldry, as the private seal or signet of a Scottish King, who had married an English princess. The seal was shewn to several Edinburgh antiquaries; and among others, to the late Sir Walter Scott, the late Sir Patrick Walker, Mr Auriol Hay, and Mr William Clerk, all of whom were decidedly of opinion, that it was the personal seal of the unfortunate James IV., who fell on the fatal field of Flodden. James, it is well known, married Margaret, daughter of Henry VII. of England.

The seal is in perfect preservation, and affords a favourable view of the art of engraving in Scotland more than three centuries ago. How this relic of the olden time found its way to Kinross, must be mere conjecture; yet is it no great stretch of imagination, that the ill-fated Mary had possession of this memorial of her grandfather, and may have dropt it in making her escape from the Castle of Lochleven? A more probable opinion may be hazarded, which is, that James himself may have lost this seal while hunting or travelling from his palace of Falkland to Stirling, Kinross being in the direct line betwixt these two royal residences. This view is strengthened by the fact, that there was found at the same time with the seal, and within a few yards of it, the corroded fragment of a horse's shoe,—a circumstance which would lead us to suppose, that the royal charger, in losing a shoe, had stumbled, and thrown his rider, when the seal dropt from his person.

In 1822, the proprietor of Lathro, on trenching some of his grounds which had been planted sixty or seventy years before, came upon thirteen graves, which did not appear to contain any coffins; but in one of them were two bodies, and a skull filled with undecayed teeth. This burying-ground was on an eminence beside the ground trenched, and called the *Gallows Know*, and hence it is naturally supposed to have been the place of public execution. This burying-ground must have been used before the abolition of heritable jurisdictions, and when the proprietors of the estate of Kinross had the power of pit and gallows. With regard to the bodies discovered, they were again committed to the earth, and the spot where they were found has been planted anew.

The Castle of Lochleven, so far back as 1257, was a royal residence. We read that, in that year, Alexander III. and his youth-

ful queen were forcibly laid hold upon in this place, and carried off to Stirling. In Balfour's Annals, we have mention made of Sir John Comyn in 1301 raising the siege of Lochleven, then besieged by the English. In 1335, as has been related by Buchanan, Abercromby, Sir David Dalrymple, (and for a particular account of which transaction see *Forduni Scotichronicon*, Vol. ii. p. 313, Edinburgh, 1759, folio,) Sir John Strevelyn invested Lochleven, at that time held by Alan Vypont, in the interest of David II. and was compelled to raise the siege with great loss. In 1429, Archibald Earl of Douglas, on account of some inconsiderate speeches against his sovereign James I., was committed a prisoner to the same castle; and in 1477, Patrick Graham, an eminent dignitary of the Scottish Church, and Archbishop of St Andrews, was, by a sentence of deprivation and imprisonment pronounced by Pope Sextus VI. (1484), and a college of cardinals, committed first to a cell in Inchcolm, removed thence to the monastery of Dunfermline, and lastly, for greater security, to Lochleven, where he died, and whence his mortal remains were carried to the island of St Serf. The Earl of Northumberland, who had taken refuge in Scotland to avoid the effects of Queen Elizabeth's displeasure, was also consigned to Lochleven Castle in 1569. The then ruling party placed and kept him there for three years, when he was removed to England, and there put to death by his sovereign.

But all these are unimportant events in comparison of those that befel a Queen of Scotland, the most illustrious and most interesting, perhaps, that ever swayed a sceptre, by her beauty and personal qualities, as well as the lengthened train of calamities to which she was subjected, and the termination of a captivity of twenty years, on a scaffold, by the hands of the public executioner. It appears from a deed printed in Laing's "Dissertation on the Murder of Darnley," and entitled "Act for sequestrating the Quenis Majesties person, and detening the same in the hous and place of Lochlevin, 16 June 1567;" that the unfortunate Mary was in Lochleven on the 16th June 1567. None acquainted with her eventful and tragical story can be ignorant of the manner of her escape, on Sunday the 2d of May 1568. We are informed, in the history of Mary's escape from Lochleven, that when her deliverer had opened the gates of the castle and shut them again, he threw the keys into the lake. Now, it is not undeserving of record, that, at the close of the very dry autumn of 1805, when the lake was uncommonly low, a boy, who

had been sauntering along its brink, picked up a bunch of keys, which he carried immediately to the parish schoolmaster, the late Mr John Taylor,—in whose possession the writer of this account has frequently had occasion to see them. They were very rusty, and fastened by an iron ring, which mouldered away on being rubbed by the hand. Mr Taylor sent them to the late Earl of Morton, heritable keeper of Lochleven, from whom he received a suitable gratuity to the finder, L. 5 to the poor, and a handsome silver inkholder to himself.

*Modern Buildings.*—The latest of these, and the most conspicuous from whatever quarter it is viewed, is the parish church, first employed for public worship on the 11th of March 1832. Before 1742 the parish church stood within the old burying-ground, immediately beside the lake. It was then removed from this situation to another at the west of the town, which, gradually extending its dimensions, came at length to place the church in its centre, as well as in the very front of the most frequented inn.

The situation of this second church being very inconvenient, at the same time that it was also inadequate in size for the growing population, a handsome edifice of the Gothic kind has been erected on a rising ground adjoining the manse, and altogether removed from the noise and bustle of the town thoroughfare. It cost L. 1537, 11s. 6d.

The *County Hall*, which is also the public gaol, is a still finer building. It was finished in 1826, and cost L. 2000, of which L. 750 formed a grant from Government, and the remainder was raised by a voluntary assessment from the heritors of the county, according to the old valued rent. It consists of a course of apartments, of which there are 2 for the sheriff-clerk, 1 record room and safe, 1 court room, 1 witnesses room, 3 debtors rooms, 2 cells, and a guard-room.

There are three mills within the parish, the first and most important of which goes by the name of Kinross mill, and is for all manner of grain; the second, within a quarter of a mile of the town, is Balleave, once for grain, but now employed in the new tartan manufactory; the third, at West Tillyochie, about three miles from Kinross, once also occupied in grinding corn, but within these few months, taken in lease by one of the three tartan manufacturing companies here for the purposes of carding and spinning of wool on an extended scale; the first attempt of the kind in this quarter, but only, it is to be hoped, the commencement of a new era of our manufacturing industry.

## III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish has been on the increase ever since it was examined into.

In 1755, it was	1310
1792,	1839
1801,	2124
1811,	2214
and in 1831,	2927

Among the more usual causes of the increase of population may be noticed a *mortification*, as it is termed, of land to the value of from L. 80 to L. 100 of yearly rent, which, on the death of a female of eighty years of age, who receives an annuity of L. 50, will come to be divided among the domiciled poor. Such bequest, it is greatly to be feared, may prove a premium to idleness, and a strong inducement to vagrants to terminate their wanderings here. The neighbourhood of coal, and the cheapness of living, may also contribute to the growing population of the parish.

The number of the inhabitants of Kinross, is about 2200, and of the rest of the parish 727.

The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, (including two properties, one of which belongs to the British Linen Company, and the other is disposed in trust to the heritors of this parish,) is 25.

From a census made for this work, the number of inhabited houses in Kinross appears to be 566; of these unlet, 26; in ruins, 5.

There are 3 persons in the parish more or less insane or fatuous, but not requiring confinement; 4 blind, 4 deaf and dumb, and 1 in the Deaf and Dumb Institution, Edinburgh.

*Character of the People.*—The general character of the people as to intellect, morals, and religion, is not inferior to that of the people of many parishes in like circumstances. There is not in their number one professed infidel; and there exists among them a general external reverence for the Sabbath and its public ordinances; not a few of them being of exemplary Christian character, and of eminent Christian qualifications. Affability, hospitality, and a readiness to serve and oblige to the utmost of their power,—nay, sometimes beyond what a regard to their own private and family interests would dictate,—are peculiarities in the habits of many of this place and vicinity, which, to strangers who have come to fix their residence here, have been the subject of pleasing observation and of grateful experience.

*Poaching*, it must be confessed, is still too much practised both in the fields and in the tributary streams of Loch Leven. In

the first case, it receives no check from any public association, and next to none from any individual whatsoever. In the last case, it is not unfrequent, at certain seasons, even on Sabbath, nay, particularly on that day, especially among the young. It is gratifying to think that smuggling has almost disappeared.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—In consequence of a very large proportion of the lands of this parish being in the occupation of proprietors, it is not easy to arrive at a correct state of the number and value of its acres. But, from repeated surveys and examinations of the parish minister, followed up by those of five of his parishioners peculiarly well qualified to obtain and to communicate the wished-for information, the following results, although not mathematically exact, may be considered as no distant approximation to the truth:—

The whole of the arable acres may be	-	-	5240
Those still in their natural state, but susceptible of improvement,	-	-	121
Those under planting,	-	-	215
Those under buildings, fences, &c.	-	-	24
			5600

The kinds of trees generally planted are, larch, Scotch fir, and spruce. Those of the oldest standing are round the mansion-house, while those recently planted on the trust-estate of Kinross, and on the lands of Lethangie, Lathro, Easter Balado, &c. are both hard wood and fir. The whole seem well attended to and thriving.

*Rent.*—The old valued rent of the parish is L. 4006, 6s. 8d. Scotch. The real rent is L. 9175 Sterling: the minimum rent per acre is 17s. the maximum L. 5, the average rent L. 1, 12s. 10½d. The average rent of grazing an ox or cow is from L. 3, 10s. to L. 4, and one-third of that for a ewe or full-grown sheep.

The gross rental of land in the parish is,	-	-	L. 9175	0	0
House property in town of Kinross,	-	-	3478	9	6
Garden ground, do.	-	-	195	8	½
			L. 12,848	17	¾

#### *Average of Annual Produce.*—

70½ acres wheat, average produce 4 quarters per acre,	282 qrs.	0 bush.
483 do. barley, do. 5 do.	2415	0
1191 do. oats, do. 5 do. 3 bush. do.	6401	5
200 do. potatoes, do. 8½ tons per acre,	1750	tons.
280 do. turnip, do. 23½ do.	6580	do.
280 do. summer fallow.		
722 do. sown grass hay produce 1½ ton per acre,	1083	do.

#### *Average value of Raw Produce.*—

282 quarters wheat, at L. 2, 6s. per quarter,	-	-	L. 648	12	0
2415 do. barley, at L. 1, 6s. do.	-	-	3861	0	0
6401 do. 5 bush. oats, at L. 1 do.	-	-	6401	12	6

1750 tons potatoes, at L. 1, 7s. per ton,	-	-	-	L. 2362	10	0
6580 do. turnip, at 4s. per do.	-	-	-	1316	0	0
1083 do. sown grass hay, at L. 3 do.	-	-	-	3249	0	0
2004 acres pasture, at L. 1, 12s. per acre,	-	-	-	3206	8	0
Loch fishing,	-	-	-	204	0	0
Market customs,	-	-	-	66	0	0

L. 20,835 2 6

The whole is calculated by the Scotch acre.

Feu-duty paid to Kinross estate from this parish,	-	-	-	L. 313	17	0
do. to Aldie do.	-	-	-	13	8	6

L. 327 5 6

Number of families of proprietors, farmers, &c. in the country,	150
male servants,	94
female servants,	47
cottars,	339
horses in the parish,	274
colts,	52
bulls,	9
cows,	332
calves,	329
other cattle,	646
sheep,	367
swine,	146
carts,	138
ploughs,	76
harrows,	77 pairs.
quarries,	9

There are 22 thrashing-machines in the parish, one of which is impelled by steam, one by water, and the others by horses.

*Soils.*—Extent of surface about 5600 acres:

Whereof 2000 acres are a deep black alluvial soil incumbent on sand or gravel, the substrata of part of which is whin-rock;

1000 acres light sandy soil (thin) incumbent on sand or dry till;

1400 acres black thin loam, on a cold retentive clay or till;

200 acres cold thin clay, subsoil, barren clay mixed with weeping sand;

100 acres moss, on a cold weeping sand and clay mixed;

700 acres light black moorish soil, on a moorband sterile subsoil;

200 acres uncultivated and under wood, the soil and subsoil of such a texture as that of the preceding 700 acres.

The various cattle-shows which are frequently held here and in the adjoining districts, have contributed not a little to the improvement of farm stock. It is humbly suggested, that the greatest advantages would follow if prizes, whether as medals or sums of money, were distributed, not only to such as rear the best horses, bulls, and cows, &c. but to such as, in the judgment of competent arbiters, had most distinguished themselves by draining, irrigating, embanking, destroying weeds and vermin,—by the condition of their enclosures,—by the nature of their management and crops,—by the neatness and cleanliness with which they surrounded their dwellings, and the order as well as comfort which prevailed within them.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years. The state of farm-buildings, enclosures, &c. has of late undergone a very striking change to the better: and the same improvement is observable in the roads, fences, husbandry, &c. throughout the parish. Rents of several properties have, within the last thirty years, been more than doubled. An estate in the parish which was sold forty years ago for L. 10,000, was purchased last year for L. 35,500.

*Fisheries.*—There is but one fishery, that of Loch Leven, which commences, if frost permit, on the first of January, and closes on the first of September. It was lately let at the yearly rent of L. 204. The former rent was L. 230, and this diminution has arisen from the partial drainage of Loch Leven being regarded as unfavourable to the lake, viewed as a fishing-pond.

*Manufactures.*—Kinross was, of old, famous for its cutlery; but now, there is not one individual in the parish employed in that occupation. The manufacture, also, of Silesia linens, of which we read in the last Statistical Account, has ceased. Instead of these, there are gingham, pulicates, checks, &c. the materials of which are sent from Glasgow. But, of late, tartan shawls, plaids, and other articles of dress have begun to be wrought by three companies residing in Kinross, on their own account, with every prospect of a good return, besides a rise of the wages of the operative, and an increase of employment to our female population.

There is, in addition to the two kinds of work mentioned, a manufacture of damasks from Dunfermline.

The number of weavers of the first description,	384
second do.	48
third do.	14
Making the weaving population in all,	396

The average wages of an industrious cotton weaver are, per week, 5s. 6d.; of a tartan ditto, 14s. The condition of the former is very fluctuating. Sometimes their wages are very low; nor is it at all an uncommon occurrence for a greater or less number of them, for days and weeks together, to have no webs from Glasgow at all. For the removal, or at least the alleviation, of this distressing situation, heritors and others, whose circumstances permitted, have occasionally come forward to purchase materials of industry, or to provide out-of-door occupation.

It is the practice with our weavers, and others of the labouring classes, to apply to proprietors and farmers for as much land as will be sufficient for planting a certain quantity of potatoes, which

they obtain on condition merely of their giving manure, and hoeing the drills of the young plants, when necessary. This practice deserves to be encouraged, for to those accustomed to sit for hours at the loom, it affords health and relaxation in the open air, besides supplying, at an expense which none of them feels, an article of food most nutritious and valuable.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Town.*—The town of Kinross, though not a Royal burgh, has long enjoyed a species of *municipal* institution, which has been particularly useful for certain public purposes; the principal of which are, lighting of the streets, supporting a bell and clock, a fire engine, steelyard, &c. Having no public funds, the inhabitants have long had recourse to an annual voluntary contribution, which is placed under the management and control of a preses, treasurer, and clerk, who, with eight or sometimes ten members of committee, constitute a sort of town-council, so far as the above matters go: they are annually chosen at a public meeting, having, in the first instance, the trouble of collecting the contributions, of which, for the ensuing year, they have the sole charge; but for the management of which they are at all times subject to be called to account at a public meeting of the inhabitants.

This useful institution, designed "THE STEEPLE COMMITTEE," commenced in 1742, when at a public meeting of the inhabitants, the Rev. Robert Stark, minister of the parish, chairman, it was agreed, "That, considering it was in contemplation to build a new church, a steeple might with great propriety be added thereto." This after much care and assiduity was completed in 1751, when Sir John Bruce presented the town with a clock. At a meeting during the same year, the following appears on the record: "that the bell shall be rung at five in the morning; eight and ten at night; and on Sundays, at eight, nine, and ten in the forenoon, and that the last bell for divine service shall continue ringing a quarter of an hour."—17th July 1758. "The principal *Lord of the Chapmen*" compeared, and gave half a crown for carrying on the finishing of the steeple," which seems to have been the addition of a vane or weathercock. In 1793 the streets were first lighted by lamps. At present (1839) the number of lamps is about 42; all lighted with gas.

The annual collections vary from L. 20 to L. 25, which, with an annual donation of L. 5 from the road trustees, constitute the only funds for the purposes above referred to.

In connection with the town, it may be noticed that the Curling Club of Kinross is of very ancient date. In 1818, a committee of this club reported, that they had ascertained beyond a doubt that "curling" had been practised, and the adjuncts, of a "court," regular mysteries and ceremonies, preserved entire, for at least 150 years previous to that period.

Kinross, which is the only town in the parish, had once a weekly market on Tuesday; but now it seems to be transferred to Milnathort, in the parish of Orwell, which is not two miles distant, and holds every Wednesday. It is a post-town, where letters from the south arrive every evening about 9, and every morning at the same hour: and from the north at 2 A. M. and 4 P. M.

For the gratuitous delivery of letters, for a branch of the British Linen Bank, and for other conveniences and advantages, Kinross stands indebted to the active and kind interference of Sir James Montgomery.

*Turnpike Roads.*—These, and particularly the great north road, are in excellent order. They extend to sixteen miles.

Public carriages running in the parish are three in number; one of them is the Royal Mail from Edinburgh to Aberdeen; another is the Defiance stage-coach, which has been employed for some months past as a conveyer of letters from Edinburgh to the north; the third coach is the Saxe Cobourg from Edinburgh for Perth. Ere a second mail or a substitute for one was started, which was only some months ago, the old one passing in the Sabbath morning betwixt two and three, and in the evening betwixt seven and eight, gave little annoyance to the serious part of our community. But the new mail, in its journeyings north and south, is viewed and felt in a very different light. The Presbytery of Dunfermline, to which Kinross parish belongs, has attempted, along with that of Edinburgh and others, but hitherto without success, to remove this Sabbath desecration. The consequence of no stop being put to the running on the Lord's day has been melancholy. At first, the new mail coach was, on Sabbath, generally empty. Now, there is little, if any, difference in the number of its passengers on Sabbath, and the number on any other day.

The bridges which connect Kinross parish with the parishes of Orwell, Cleish, and Fossaway, together with those within itself, of any considerable size, are 13 in number, all of stone, chiefly white freestone, and in good condition. The fences are chiefly of dry stone, something like the old Galloway dikes. There are

also, throughout the parish, quickset thorn hedges, sometimes interspersed with beeches. These, when planted in a good soil, and duly attended to, become a complete protection to the fields they enclose, and an ornament to the country. But, from the poverty and shallowness of the land in which young plants are often set, and still more from leaving them almost entirely to themselves, and driving stakes through the heart of them, and neither preserving them from the inroads of cattle, nor being at any pains to fill up gaps,—they become worse than useless, and an eye-sore.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Of the parish church,\* as one of the new buildings of Kinross, some mention has already been made. It may be added, that it is not four miles distant from the extremity of the parish. It is in the Gothic style. Its architect, Mr George Angus, built subsequently, and much after the same design, the churches of Tulliallan and Kettle.

Connected with this new church, the only benefaction was from an individual, who mentions it entirely from the wish and hope that it may contribute to a great public good, and lead others, as it has already done in one instance, to follow his example. The example which is now referred to, is a donation of L. 100 to make sure that this new church should be built. There was also subscribed by the same person, as much more for pews to himself, and to others who might require them, and from whom he has never once applied for seat rents or any thing in the shape of such; although, it must be added, that some who are most accustomed to earn their daily bread with the sweat of their brow, are the most unwilling to permit themselves to lie under what they regard a pecuniary obligation.

On the 11th of March 1832, the new church was opened for public worship; and it is worthy of notice, that, within a year thereafter, nearly 200 names were added to the minister's visitation roll; and that since the above day, there has not been a single Sab-

\* The bell was got from London after the building of the new church, and was substituted for the bell which belonged to the old church, and which was permitted to remain in the old steeple once connected with the old church, but now standing by itself in the centre of the town. A still older bell of the same church, and which was rendered useless on some days of public rejoicing had this legend:

“*Voco ad verbum, verbum ad Christum.*”

How much in sense and in sound does the legend of our tower bell suffer in comparison,

“*Invito ad verbum, verbum ad Christum!*”

And to whom, acquainted with the writings of Pope, does it not suggest the well-known lines:

“To ease the cushion and soft Dean invite,  
Who never mentions Hell to ease polite!”

bath without public worship in the new building. It is still in good repair.

The *old* manse, inhabited by the Rev. Robert Stark, who was ordained minister here more than one hundred years ago, still exists near the inlet of the loch, at the south of the town, into which it is said the boat was rowed which carried Mary from the island. The new manse was built in 1784, after the admission to the charge of this parish, of the last incumbent, the Rev. Archibald Smith. In 1812, and subsequently, additions and improvements have been made to it, both by heritors and the present minister. L. 600 have not sufficed for the outlay of the latter on the house, the offices, and the grounds around them.

The glebe, at the admission of the present incumbent, consisted of about six acres, including the stance of manse and garden. After a process at law commenced by him in 1811, and not finally concluded until 1825, he ultimately succeeded in establishing his claim to grass for a horse and two cows. About five acres, in the near vicinity of the manse, have been added to his former glebe, all of good quality, and worth more than L. 40 per annum.

*Stipend.*—The stipend of the parish consists of the following items, viz. : barley, 31 bolls, 6 pecks ; oatmeal, 94 bolls,  $\frac{4}{5}$  peck ; money, L. 94, 6s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ; amounting, *communibus annis*, according to the Third Report of the Commissioners for Religious Instruction, to L. 184, 16s. 4d.

The first and last augmentation obtained during the present incumbency, was on the 8th of December 1806 ; and the present incumbent has not made another effort to add to the comparatively inferior stipend he possesses, although, according to the above-mentioned *Report of the Commissioners for Religious Instruction*, there are in this parish unappropriated teinds to the amount of L. 116, 16s. 9d.

*Dissenting and Seceding Chapels.*—There are two places of worship in this parish pertaining to the *United Secession Church*, formerly the *Burgher* and *Antiburgher* communions. Their ministers are paid by seat rents. The amount of the stipend of the one minister is L. 120, and of the other L. 80, besides a house and garden.

The number of persons of all ages belonging to the Established Church is 1240. Seceding and Dissenting ministers having no parochial territory, the range of their spiritual labours is uncircumscribed, and accordingly their Sabbath and week day-ministra-

tions extend to individuals within every parish of this county and even beyond it.

The average amount of the ordinary collections in the parish church is about L. 36 a-year.

During 1838, collections were made for the four schemes of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, in addition to one for the Auchterarder case, when more than L. 18 was collected or subscribed. There are also different other collections for local purposes, on which occasions there is, on the part of the congregation in general, no want of liberality. The amount of the sums thus received, and which are independent of the weekly collections for the poor, was L. 61, 16s. 8d. for 1838.

*Societies for Religious Purposes.*—In 1812, a Religious Society was instituted under the designation of the Fife and Kinross-shire Bible Society. Soon after its institution, the union of counties was found to be attended with inconveniences. Accordingly, a Kinross-shire Bible Society was formed, which had its yearly and penny a-week subscribers, its quarterly committee and its annual general meetings, the last alternately at Kinross and Milnathort. The Apocryphal controversy led to the sending of that part of its funds which remained, after certain distributions agreed upon by its members, to the Edinburgh Bible Society. Peace and charity, and active co-operation were the distinguishing features of this association. But of late, different communions of Christians, with those who take the deepest interest in their public proceedings, have such different, and alas! often such conflicting views and measures which they consider of paramount importance, that it is not to be wondered there should be a striking diminution of the members and funds of the Society.

There are in Kinross parish three *Religious Tract Societies* connected with the three congregations, and in which pious and benevolent ladies take a most efficient part, employing their stated visitings for the distribution of these tracts, as occasions for acquainting themselves with the bodily as well as the spiritual wants and distresses of the individuals whom they call on.

*Ladies' Society.*—There is a Society of considerable standing here, and which is not undeserving of being classed in the number of Religious Societies. This is the Ladies' or Female Society. The members of it meet together monthly, when they distribute a certain quantity of oatmeal to each of those destitute women, whom they shall determine upon as the most suitable objects of re-

lief. Their funds arise from a small subscription from each member of 5s. on her entrance; and of a penny a-week or 4s. 4d. a year; from occasional public collections; from the donations of individuals, &c. No small addition was made, two years ago, by the proceeds of a musical festival in Kinross mansion-house.

The two congregations of the United Secession Church contribute to the sending out a missionary to Jamaica, and maintaining him while there.

There are three prayer-meetings here, one connected with the parish church congregation, and the other two with those of the United Secession.

*Temperance and Abstinence Societies.*—One Society, the laws of which bound its members to refrain from all ardent spirits, excepting when medicinally required, was formed some years ago, and for a little while was highly popular; but dissension springing up, a split took place, and it became extinct. Within the present year, 1839, another Society has been constituted, called a *Teetotal*, the object of which is to put an end to the use as well as abuse, not only of ardent spirits, but of malt liquor, and whatever contains in it any portion of alcohol. It is, at present, in high repute, already numbering among the subscribers to its obligations, of men, women, boys, and girls, more than 430 names.

*Education.*—Of public schools, exclusive of the labours of instructors in one or two families belonging to the country part of the parish, there are, parochial and endowed, 1; not parochial, and unendowed, 7; taught by females, 4. The branches of instruction in these schools are such as we expect and are accustomed to meet with in similar situations. Latin, the first elements of Greek, geography, the use of the terrestrial globe, are confined to the parish school. The salary of the master of this school is L. 34, 4s. 4½d. The amount of his fees annually is about L. 55. The payment of the greater proportion of pupils is weekly.

There are not above 12 from six to fifteen years of age who can neither write nor read. To the benefits of education the people at large are not insensible. If there be any exception, it is with the very ignorant, and still more with the dissipated and depraved. No part of the parish is so distant as to prevent school attendance at Kinross, on the part of such, at least, as are above seven or eight years of age. At the examination of schools this spring, by the presbytery, more than one-seventh of the whole population were found to be in attendance.

The facilities of education are such, that there is not a single individual in the parish whom destitute circumstances prevent from obtaining access to the parish school, and all the common branches of instruction. The late Mr James Beveridge of Middle Balado left a small legacy for this purpose. The kirk-session and heritors are very attentive to the case of poor children who require to be sent to school; and the schoolmaster himself is very liberal of his gratuitous services.

*Libraries.*—There are two public subscription libraries here. The first is more general, and under the management of a committee, of which the three clergymen are members, along with others. The second is the Tradesmen's Library, chiefly for artisans and operatives.

There are, besides, three juvenile libraries, or rather small selections of books, chiefly of such as are suited to the years and capacities of the scholars of the Sabbath classes, and almost all of a strictly religious character. These are purchased by public collections at the church doors, or by individual bounty.

A public reading-room is in contemplation. It is proposed to place it in a vacant space in the centre of the town, and to set about building it immediately.

*Friendly Societies.*—These, four in number, are, according to the dates of their institution, as follows:—1. The Weavers', instituted 25th November 1756; 2. The Hammermen, 15th June 1783; 3. The Friendly, 2d September 1799; 4. The Brotherly, 4th January 1819.

*Savings Bank.*—In May 1815, such a provident institution was established at Kinross, under the designation of *Kinross-shire Bank for Savings*, and although at its commencement it had to encounter suspicion and misapprehension on the part of many, for whose benefit it was intended, all such prejudices were so completely surmounted, that nearly L. 3000 of deposits, not exceeding L. 4 each, were realized. To its extensive and increasing usefulness, the writer of this article can bear his clear and decided testimony, having been actuary from its beginning till its dissolution on the 1st of January 1833, a period of nearly eighteen years. Into the particulars that led to an event equally unfortunate and unexpected, it would be altogether improper to enter. Suffice it to say, that its directors and other office-bearers, who gave their time and trouble gratuitously, and the members who along with them contributed to an auxiliary fund of upwards of L. 100, were the only individuals

connected with it, subjected to any pecuniary loss. The depositors received every farthing they had lodged in the bank, and that, too, with bank interest.

Notwithstanding the fate of the Savings Bank, and the trouble which it occasioned to its managers, a new one has of late been set afoot, and promises to do well. A new provident institution has been in operation since May 1837. It transacts with the branch of the British Linen at Kinross, receiving three instead of two per cent., the common bank interest, and handing over deposits to the British Linen, or to their owners, as soon as they amount to L. 5. There is in this, as in the former savings establishment, an auxiliary fund.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons who at present receive parochial aid under the joint management of the heritors and kirk-session is 36; add for occasional paupers 4; total 40. The average sum allotted to each per week is from 1s. to 1s. 6d. The church collections in the support of the poor are from L. 30 to L. 36.

These collections, together with mortcloth dues, (which dues of late have been much diminished,) are not sufficient to prevent an assessment, which it is no wonder that heritors should dislike, seeing it falls entirely on them. But such a mode of provision ought to be an object of aversion to every friend of the best interests of the poor and the parish at large. It is most earnestly to be wished, that what is termed the *Voluntary principle*, and which many, besides Churchmen, think has nothing to recommend it in religion, should have the fullest scope, and be more than ever acted on, in the maintenance and management of the poor.

A very common and commendable mode of occasional relief, in cases of want and distress, unforeseen and urgent, is for two or more respectable individuals to go about with a subscription paper, in which they insert the names of subscribers, and the sums which have been subscribed and paid.

There are here neither alms nor poor-houses, and long may it be so; but there is a sum of L. 100 Scots (L. 8, 6s. 8d. Sterling,) distributed annually by the kirk-session among 17 females selected by them, and whose chief recommendations are age, destitution, and bodily infirmity. Each receives 10s. with the exception of the last chosen, who gets only 6s. 8d. These females are said to be on the *hospital list*, because the distribution made to them is in lieu of an hospital, which Sir William Bruce intended to

build on the side of the road to the old church-yard. Of this intended building, which was never executed, a particular account will be found in the Acts of the Scottish Parliament in the reign of James VII. under the title Sir William Bruce.

It may be noticed farther, that a sum of L. 100 was mortgaged to the poor of the parish by the deceased George Graham, Esq. of Kinross. This sum has been lent to the heritors of the parish, and the interest of it, L. 5, is distributed by the minister of the parish, at the sight of the proprietor of the estate of Kinross.

*Prison.*—There is one jail in Kinross parish, in which, during the last year, there were 3 civil and 36 criminal prisoners. This jail, although newly built, is not so secure as to prevent, from time to time, the escape of the worst of its inmates. Those confined are allowed two hours of open air abroad every day. No provision is made for ministerial visitation or religious instruction to prisoners; but free access is always to be had for both purposes.

*Police.*—There is also a police at Kinross. The officer, whose salary is 14s. per week, is maintained by a voluntary assessment on the part of the landed proprietors. His duty is to check and prevent all disturbances of the public peace, and all attacks on the persons or properties of the lieges; also to seize upon and to send off from the parish the host of vagrants and sturdy beggars from all quarters, who were once a far greater nuisance than now.

*Fairs.*—There are four yearly fairs or markets; the first on the third Wednesday of March, old style; the second on the first day of June, old style; the third on the third Wednesday of July, old style; and the fourth on St Luke's day, or the 18th of October, old style. These fairs are chiefly for cattle; but they serve likewise for various other purposes of human intercourse and transacting together.

There can be no doubt that these public occasions are, in a pecuniary view, very advantageous to Kinross.

*Inns, Alehouses, &c.*—There are two principal inns here, which, in respect of the accommodation and comfort afforded by them to the traveller, will yield to none from Edinburgh to Inverness. The inn to the south (Kirkland's) keeps 3 post-chaises, 1 landau, 1 hearse, 34 post-horses, 4 post-boys, 6 strappers, 1 hostler, 1 head waiter, 1 under waiter, 4 female servants, one of whom is a cook. That to the north (Kinross Green Inn, or Macgregor's,) has 3 post chaises, a drosky and gig, 5 horses, and a donkey; 7 stables; 4 post-boys, 7 strappers, 1 hostler, 1 head waiter, 1 under

ditto, 3 female servants. An inferior, but respectable inn, called the Salutation, near the middle of the town, has 3 horses and 2 gigs. There are 12 other public-houses, without any carriage or horse, and of which 2 only have stables. Besides the beer and spirits sold in these places of public entertainment, a great deal is sold and drunk in back rooms of spirit shops and elsewhere.

*Fuel.*—This article, of prime necessity, is here cheap and good. Coal is brought from Kelty, at the distance of five miles from Kinross, and from Lumphinnan, Lochgelly, where it is thought superior, at the distance of eight miles. The coal called great is, at Kelty, at the rate of 3½d. the cwt., 1s. 2d. 4 cwt., 4s. 8d. 16 cwt. or 4 loads, which is the usual draught of a single cart, although at some coal hills (Lumphinnan) not less than 18 cwt. are given for 4 loads. The toll exigible for a single cart is 9d.; the carriage from Kelty paid to a carter is 2s. 6d.; ditto from Lochgelly, 3s. Small coal or *chews*, as they are called, are 1s. 2d. per cart-load cheaper than great coal. Peat is got in the parishes of Portmoak and Cleish, but is not used except for some special purposes.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The division which, at one time, so much prevailed of land into what was termed infield and outfield, the former only being in a state of regular cultivation, and called mucked or dunged land, the latter being in a state of nature or just breaking up, under no rotation, has disappeared; and where there is no insuperable obstacle, every spot is brought under the plough, or will be so immediately.\*

The value of manure is now completely appreciated. With the exception of ashes, it finds a ready market at 5s. a ton.

At the period of the former Statistical Account, there was no banking establishment in Kinross; now, it has all this accommodation from a branch of the British Linen, where business is conducted with an attention, correctness, courtesy, and liberality, worthy of that highly respectable house.

*Gas Establishment.*—On the 23d of March 1835, a company was formed here, called the Gas Light Company of Kinross and Milnathort. The number of its shares is 500, and they are held by 134 individuals. Each share is L. 5, and the capital of the Company amounts to L. 2500. The gas works have been set down

\* "Little or no wheat," says the writer of the former Statistical Account, in its very last sentence, "was raised till of late, but it is now sown in different parts of the parish." It may now (April 1839) be as correctly said, that wheat is not sown here to the same extent as it was twenty years ago. The farmer finds it more advantageous to sow barley; the thinness of the soil in general and our severe springs render wheat both a very precarious, and an exhausting crop.

about a mile to the north of the centre of Kinross, at an equal distance from it and Milnathort, serving as a reservoir to each, both for houses and shops. The streets of Kinross and its immediate vicinity are lighted with gas by public voluntary subscription.

The profits of the Gas Company must very much depend on the price of coals, and still more on the prosperous state of trade at Kinross and Milnathort. The dividend to shareholders has not yet exceeded 2½ per cent., but is expected soon to be much higher. The charge for 1000 cubic feet of gas is about 11s. The coal for the work is got at Capeldrae, about seven miles south-east from Kinross, and is of the kind called parrot or cannel, and is sold at about 14s. per ton at the pit, and costs about L.1 when laid down at the gas-works.

The parish of Kinross, as stated in the title of this Account, is within the bounds of the presbytery of Dunfermline; and from the town of Dunfermline, by the best carriage road, it is nearly fifteen miles distant. Much convenience and many advantages, both of a temporal and spiritual kind, would arise to the minister and parish of Kinross, as well as to several ministers and parishes around, were Kinross made the seat of a new presbytery, comprehending within its jurisdiction the parishes of Arngask, Orwell, Muckhart, Fossaway, and Tullibole, Cleish, Beath, Ballingry, Portmoak, and Strathmiglo. Such a new arrangement has not only been seriously thought of, but has been submitted to the consideration of all the ministers of the parishes above-mentioned, and to two of their respective presbyteries. Objections not anticipated, and some of them of a private and personal, and therefore not of a permanent nature, have hitherto opposed themselves to an object for many reasons most desirable. The presbytery of Dunfermline, in order to lessen the inconveniences and other evils of their Kinross-shire members being so far removed from their presbytery seat, came to a resolution, inserted in their minutes, of having two meetings at Kinross every year. This is so far well, but it is not a sufficient remedy for what the northern brethren complain of. This remedy the present incumbent of the parish of Kinross may never experience, but another will, when the views and feelings of individuals shall no longer be unfriendly, or allowed by the General Assembly to be so, to a new arrangement of public and general advantage.

*April 1839.*