

## PARISH OF KENNOWAY.

• PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. DAVID BELL, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, &c.*—THE village of Kennoway, which in all probability gave its name originally to the parish so called, is built along the top of a ridge which forms the head of a very sweet little glen, or den, as it is commonly called. Of this situation, the name Kennoway, as derived from the Gaelic language, is said to be exactly descriptive: *Kean-nan-uaigh*, signifying “the head of the den.”

The parish of Kennoway is, in figure, nearly an oblong; extending about 3 miles from east to west; and upwards of 2 from south to north. It is bounded on the south and west, by the parish of Markinch; on the north, by that of Kettle; and on the east, by that of Scoonie.

*Topographical Appearances.*—In its general aspect, the parish of Kennoway is a sloping bank, ascending from south to north: having the surface abundantly and beautifully diversified, however, by irregular and gently rising heights, and corresponding declivities. “The prospect from almost every part,” as is accurately remarked in the former Statistical Account of the parish, “is extensive and beautiful; commanding a distinct view of the Island of May, of the Bass Rock, of Inchkeith, of the shipping on the Forth, of the coast south of the Forth, from Dunbar to the west of Edinburgh, including the Lammermoor hills,” and part of the Pentlands. “From the north part of the parish, which reaches the top of the bank, there is one of the most extensive views imaginable, taking in not only the fore-mentioned prospect to the south, but comprehending almost all Fife, and a great part of the counties of Angus, Perth, and Stirling, and of the Grampian mountains.” In the cottage of Lalathan, situated on nearly the most elevated point of the ridge, is said to be the highest hearth-stone in the county.

*Meteorology.*—The mean temperature of the atmosphere, taken at ten o'clock, A. M. for six successive years, is as under:—

1831, mean temperature	53° 6	1834, mean temperature,	55° 3
1832,	52 .9	1835,	54 .5
1833,	53 .1	1836,	53 .3

*Climate.*—The climate is, on the whole, far from being unpropitious. The atmosphere is, for the most part, mild and dry; the harvests are earlier than the general average of the county; and the healthiness of the situation has been long noted and abundantly experienced.

*Hydrography.*—A few small rivulets or burns, some of which intersect the parish in different directions, while others form considerable portions of its boundaries, are the only water scenery of which it can boast. None of them are of any note:—but that which entering the parish on the north, near Balnkirk, and following a circuitous course, till it meets another little stream on the south-east boundary, at the hamlet of Kennoway-burns,—whence thus augmented, it proceeds about a mile to the southward, to fall into the Leven,—is worthy of special mention. It is so, from this circumstance, that, passing close to the village of Kennoway, its banks there are high, winding, and beautifully diversified; in some places steep and rocky, jutting out into rugged points, which bring the opposite sides into near contact; in other places, more sloping, and of course leaving a wider space between; and everywhere, finely covered with wood. The channel of the stream at this place, with the enclosure formed by its elevated banks, receives the name of the *den*, which, though not on a large scale, is certainly a piece of scenery possessing many features of great beauty.

*Mineralogy.*—The south part of the parish is incumbent upon freestone rock of a soft quality, which dips towards the south-east. Upon the high ground, on the north part of the parish, the soil is incumbent on a ridge of whinstone, which lies in the direction nearly east and west.

The soil is of various qualities, and mostly all arable. On the south and east, it is principally light fertile land; in the centre, it is loam and clay, upon a retentive subsoil; and on the north, upon the rising ground, there is a small proportion of dry loam, incumbent upon the whinstone rock.

This whinstone, at various points, has been quarried and used for building; but more commonly for road-metal. Freestone to a trifling extent is wrought in the den, also for the purposes of building; but it is coarse and soft, and apt to moulder down, when exposed to the weather.

There are some beds of red *keel* found in the den; and they

have been occasionally worked ; but, being only two inches thick, and not affording an adequate remuneration, nothing has been done in them for a number of years past.

On the western boundary of the parish, there is a patch of peat-moss ; and towards the eastern boundary, beds of coal at various depths are found, some of which have been wrought, with scarcely any intermission, for nearly fifty years past. The line of dip of the strata lies in the form of a crescent. Towards the east of the coal-field, it dips to the south-east, and towards the west, it approaches to south-west. The dip of the strata is about one foot in twelve. Slips or fissures, generally running in a straight direction from east to west, are found frequently to interrupt the seams of coal, throwing them up or down to a distance, varying from a few inches to eight feet.

The following journal shows the metals with their depths respectively, which have been gone through to reach the seams of coal at present wrought, lying upwards of fifty-four fathoms from the surface.

	Fath.	Feet.	In.		Fath.	Feet.	In.
Surface and clay,	1	5	0	Coal VI.	0	1	4
Bands,	1	4	0	Blaes,	0	1	2
Freestone,	0	3	0	Bands,	0	2	2
Bands,	0	3	0	Grey freestone,	2	0	0
Blaes with coal,	1	5	0	Hard bands,	0	2	11
Dark stone,	1	0	0	Dark blaes,	1	0	5
Coal I.	0	0	6	Bands,	0	0	6
Bands,	0	2	6	Hard gray freestone,	0	3	10
Coal II.	0	2	2	White freestone,	9	2	8
Bands,	0	2	4	Black bands,	0	0	4
Freestone,	3	0	0	White bands,	3	0	5
{ Coal III.	0	0	6	Blue blaes,	0	3	5
{ Black stone,	0	0	8	Blaes and bands,	2	2	4
{ Coal IV.	0	1	4	Blaes,	1	1	2
Bands,	1	0	6	Bands,	0	5	3
Coal V.	0	0	5	Hard white bands,	0	0	3
White bands,	0	1	0	Dark bands,	0	2	1
White freestone,	0	3	9	Soft blaes,	0	2	6
Blaes,	0	1	0	Dark bands,	0	1	2
Dark freestone,	2	0	8	White bands,	1	1	5
White freestone,	1	1	1	Gray bands,	0	1	9
Bands,	0	4	1	Soft blaes with coal,	0	1	10
Blaes with bands,	0	4	0	Freestone,	2	3	10
Dark blaes,	0	2	6	Bands,	0	2	5
Bands,	1	1	4	Hard blaes,	0	1	6
Freestone,	1	0	4	{ Coal VII.	0	4	2
Bands,	0	2	1	{ Grey stone,	0	0	9
Blaes,	0	1	0	{ Coal VIII.	0	1	0
White freestone,	3	0	0				

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Literary Production.*—A rare and very curious work, "Comprehending a Chronicle of the most remarkable events in Scotland, particularly in Fife, from 1649 to 1671, and containing va-

luable genealogical notices of almost every family of note in this part of the country," has been generally ascribed to a Mr John Lamont, proprietor of Easter Newton in this parish. The work was first published in 1810, by the late Mr Constable, under the title of "The Chronicle of Fife." Another edition was printed at Edinburgh in 1830, under the title of "The Diary of Mr John Lamont of Newton." In the prefatory notice to this second edition, doubts are expressed as to whether the author of the Diary "possessed the small property of Newton, in the parish of Kennoway," as Mr Constable had stated, and as has generally been supposed: and we are sorry to say, as detracting from the little literary fame, to which the parish, through this channel, might be conceived to be entitled, that, on instituting an inquiry into the matter, by a careful perusal of the kirk-session records, and by reference to the inventory of the titles of Easter Newton, now the property of Miss Balfour of Kingsdale, the doubts that have been entertained are too well founded.\*

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, Mrs D. Bethune, of Balfour, who is proprietor of the lands of Kennoway and Treanton; Miss Lundin, proprietor of Auchtermairnie and Gallowhill; General Balfour of Balbirnie, proprietor of Lalathan and Dalguinch; Miss Balfour, proprietor of Kingsdale; C. M. Christie, Esq. of Durie, proprietor of Drummaird; Miss Wallace, proprietor of Newton Hall; J. B. Fernie, Esq. proprietor of Kilmux; Mrs Paston of Barnslee, proprietor of the lands of Brunton; Mr

\* Through the kindness of Messrs Stevenson and Yule, W. S. Edinburgh, a friend to whom we applied was permitted to inspect the inventory of the titles of Easter Newton; and we learn from him, that the first writ in this inventory is a charter of Adjudication and Novodamus, by James Law of Brunton (the superior of Easter Newton) of those lands, to John Lamont, skipper in Largo, who took infestment thereon, and recorded the same in the general Record, 1st October and 26th November 1695. This was evidently the first proprietor of Easter Newton of the name of Lamont, as the former owner of the lands was Euphemia Durie, widow of the Rev. Robert Mercer, minister of Kennoway. The next proprietor after the said John Lamont, in the course of the progress, is James Lamont, his eldest son.

Now that John Lamont, who thus first became proprietor of Easter Newton in 1695, and was succeeded in the property by his son, James Lamont, could not be the author of a Diary which had commenced, if not earlier, at least in 1649, is evident from the particulars which follow. In the register of marriages and births of this parish, the marriage of John Lamont of Newton to Mary Lundin is recorded in 1697; and again the marriage of John Lamont of Newton Easter to Margaret Watson, is recorded in 1698; subsequently, the baptisms of eight children, the fruit of this second marriage, are recorded, the youngest named Robert being baptised on the 10th January 1715; and so late as in 1733, a silver communion cup, as the inscription on it bears, was presented to the parish of Scoonie, by Mr John Lamont of Newton.

A comparison of the dates must satisfy every one that John Lamont, author of the Diary, could not be the person of the same name who was proprietor of Easter Newton in this parish.

Ballingall, proprietor of Balnkirk ; Patrick Wright, Esq. proprietor of Halfields ; George Forbes, Esq. proprietor of Balgrie ; John Lawson, Esq. of Carriston, &c.

*Parochial Register.*—The date of the earliest entry in the parochial register, is supposed to be in 1634. The figures after *anno* at the top of the page have been removed through decay of the paper ; but an entry, about half way down the same page, bearing the date 1635, is perfectly distinct. After this, on a subsequent page, comes July 1638 ; and though the book in which these dates are found, is not in a state of very good preservation, yet the details of the transactions of the kirk-session, given with great minuteness, and often showing an extreme degree of vigilance and rigour in the exercise of authority, may be gathered from the last-mentioned date, with few, if any exceptions, continuously down to December 1675. From this time, however, to 1690, a period of about fifteen years, there is an entire blank ; and the same thing occurs between 1755 and 1761. From this last date, up to the present time, the records are entire.

What could have occasioned the blanks above referred to, it is impossible to say determinately : but the probability is, that the minutes had been originally kept, and that the books which contained them have been lost : for the volumes preserved are filled with minutes of transactions in regular succession, and the blanks occur in both cases between the conclusion of one volume and the commencement of another.

*Mansion-Houses.*—The only mansion houses in the parish are those of Auchtermairnie, Kingsdale, and Newton Hall ; of which the two last-mentioned are modern buildings ; and the materials employed in their construction were brought from neighbouring parishes.

### III.—POPULATION.

In the former Statistical Account of the parish, written in 1793, it is remarked, that the number of the people and houses seems to have been nearly the same for centuries ; and in regard to the village of Kennoway, containing about one-half of the whole inhabitants, it is observed, that “ very few houses were known to have been built on a new foundation.” The population of the parish at that time, seems to have amounted to nearly 1300.

Within the last forty years, however, the village and parish, retaining nearly the same relative proportion in point of numbers, have made a very considerable increase of their population. In the

village many new feus on ninety-nine years leases have been obtained and built on, principally along a new section of the line of road leading this way from Kirkcaldy to Cupar :—and in other parts of the parish, the number of dwelling-houses has been gradually enlarged, chiefly in the same way.

The increase of population adverted to has been owing principally, it is presumed, to the gradually improving condition of this part of the country in general; and may, perhaps, be in some measure assigned to the establishment and growing prosperity of several manufactories in the near neighbourhood. A number of individuals find constant work at Cameron Distillery, and the Haugh Spinning-mill, which are both in Markinch parish; and the extensive manufacture of linens carried on, by wealthy individuals and companies, in most of the surrounding district, supplies the weavers, of whom there are a great many here, with regular employment.

The amount of population at each census, taken at different periods under the direction of Parliament, is as follows :

In the year 1801,	1466
1811,	1517
1821,	1649
1831,	1721 *

It is worthy of notice that, at the time of this last census, the number of males exceeded that of females by 9; there being of the former 865, and of the latter 856.

Of the population residing in villages, there were at the same time in that of Kennoway, 862; in that of Star, 232; and in that of Baneton, 125; making in all 1219; and in the country there were 502.

The average of baptisms for these last five years may be stated at	45
deaths,	29
marriages,	14
The number of families in the parish at last census was,	409
The average number of individuals in each family was,	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Number of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	110
trade, manufactures, or handieraft,	158
All others,	141
Number of professional or other educated men is,	7

The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, is 10, of whom only three are at present resident in the parish.

\* This number of 1721, ought to have been increased, we presume to think, by 284, the amount of population on the lands of Dalguinch, &c., in the west end of the parish, which are an annexation *quoad sacra* to Markinch. The census of population by order of Government is unquestionably a purely civil matter; and, therefore, the whole of the inhabitants of the parish *quoad civilia*, ought to have been stated:—the more especially as the population on the lands of Duniface, in Markinch parish, which are an annexation *quoad sacra* to Kennoway, was also included in the Markinch lists.

Of fatuous individuals there are 4 ; of blind, 2 ; and of deaf and dumb, 7. Of the last mentioned class, 5 belong to the same family, viz. two sons and three daughters. The family, in all, consists of three sons and four daughters, all of whom are of adult age.

Illegitimate births in the course of the last three years, 13.

*Character of the People.*—The people, in their general habits, are industrious, cleanly, and economical ; and their circumstances are, for the most part, comfortable. In behaviour, the great bulk of them are worthy of commendation, as being sober, peaceable, decorous, and upright. Some few exceptions have, no doubt, always existed ; and these have of late years, it is to be feared, been very considerably increased. Drunken brawls, and acts of wanton mischief, committed during the night by persons under the excitement of spirituous liquors, have, for a few years past, been frequent and outrageous beyond all former precedent in the history of the place ; and at this moment, a general movement is making by the respectable part of the community, to put an end, if possible, to such things, by having the perpetrators of them uniformly prosecuted and punished ;—to take steps towards which, individuals who have been aggrieved have hitherto felt a great reluctance. The grand remedy, if it could be applied, would be to lay a restriction on the improper use of ardent spirits. Drunkenness is certainly the prevailing vice amongst us ; and is the originator, or at least inciting cause, to almost every mischief. Imprisonment for violent assault under its influence has of late been in two instances inflicted.

“ A considerable proportion of the inhabitants of this parish,” says a discerning and impartial observer, who has lived long amongst them, the Rev. Dr Fraser, “ appear to me to discover their own share of Scottish acuteness and intelligence. I have often seen evidence also of their readiness to assist each other ; particularly by personal service, in times of affliction.”

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The number of acres in the parish, standard imperial measure, may be stated at 3750. Of these, 3470 are under the plough ; 30 have never been cultivated, remaining constantly waste or in pasture ; and 250 are under wood. Larch and Scotch firs are the kinds of trees that have generally been planted ; but enough of hard-wood of various kinds has been here and there interspersed, to prove by its healthy and vigorous growth that the soil is congenial to its produce.

*Rent of Land.*—The rent of land varies from 15s. to L. 3. The average may amount to L. 1, 10s. per imperial acre. The average rent of grazing an ox or cow is about L. 3. Till of late, there were few or no sheep in the parish; but Mr Robert Ballingall, an intelligent and enterprising farmer, who is tenant both of Wester Treaton and of Newton of Kingsdale, has, within these two years, introduced them, and has at present a flock of between 13 and 14 scores.

*Wages.*—The wages of the best day-labourers, until about six months ago, when they were considerably raised, had continued for eight or ten years past, both in winter and summer, at 1s. 4d. a day. Masons' and wrights' wages, during the same period, varied from 12s. to 14s. a week, in summer, and from 10s. to 11s. in winter. The wages of farm-servants have continued, for a long time, very stationary. Married men of this description receive from L. 9 to L. 10 in money, 6½ bolls of meal, a pint of milk a day, as it comes from the cow, 8 bolls of potatoes, a free house and garden, and coals driven. Young or unmarried men receive from L. 9 to L. 11 in money; and get their meals in the farm-house. When these latter are in a bothie, they receive 6½ bolls of meal, and a pint of sweet milk a day. Women employed in farm-work receive from 7d. to 8d. per day of nine hours.

The cattle reared in the parish are generally the native breed of the county. The chief characteristics of the Fife breed are their being mostly all black, with white horns, rather long in the legs, long and straight in the back, with broad hooks; their having a fine silky skin, and prominent eyes. They are generally kindly feeders; and are much esteemed by the butcher for the excellent quality of the beef, as well as for the great quantity of tallow to the size of the carcass. The cows are for the most part profitable milkers; producing a great quantity of butter from the milk.

Some attempts have been made to improve the Fife breed by crossing the cow with a Teeswater bull. The offspring of this cross are nearly as valuable at three years old, as the pure Fife breed is at four. They are more easily fattened, and when kept till five years old, they are as heavy as the pure Teeswater breed at the same age.

The crops generally cultivated are wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, and turnip, with a small proportion of beans. The rotations com-

monly observed vary according to the nature of the soil. Upon the stronger soils, the following are practised: Summer fallow, wheat, beans, barley, hay, oats. Summer fallow or potatoes, wheat, hay, pasture, oats. Summer fallow, wheat, barley, hay, oats.

Upon the lighter soils, the following are in use: viz. turnips or potatoes, barley or wheat, hay, pasture, oats. Turnips or potatoes, barley or wheat, pasture, pasture, oats.

The high prices during the late war gave a stimulus to the improvement of the soil; and at this day, the exertions of the tenantry have by no means slackened. Although suffering much, as they have done for a number of years past, from the very low state of the market, yet it appears as if their utmost efforts have been used to raise an increased quantity of produce, so as to indemnify themselves for the depression of price. By the improvements that have been thus introduced, the fertility of the soil has been much increased. It can safely be averred, that now a fourth more produce is raised from the soil than was obtained twenty years ago. This has been chiefly brought about by improved rotations of cropping, by draining and liming, and by the use of artificial manures, such as ground bones and rape dust.

The drainage of the soil, hitherto, has been accomplished in most cases by deep drains cut across the field at the top of the spring; but a new system has now been put into practice, which, if properly executed upon that portion of the parish which lies on a retentive sub-soil, will very much increase its value, and render it fit to carry all kinds of green crops. This new system, which is called the frequent-drain system, has been borrowed from Mr Smith of Deanston. It is executed by cutting small drains up every six or every twelve ell furrow, as occasion requires, from two and a-half to three feet deep, with small spades used for the purpose. At the top, the drains are of the width of a common spade; and at the bottom, the small spade is used to cut them out four inches wide; and a scoop finishes the process, by clearing out the loose earth at the bottom. The drains are, after this, filled to within eighteen inches of the surface, with stones broken to the size of road-metal; and these stones are then covered with a turf. After the field has been gone over with these drains, it is ploughed by a trenching skeleton plough, sixteen inches deep,—which opens the hard sub-soil below, and allows the water to percolate to the drains, so that the land is rendered perfectly dry.

Farms are generally let on lease for a period of nineteen years. The farm-buildings, with few exceptions, are by no means commodious. In too many instances, the occupier is fettered for want of sufficient accommodation for his bestial. Most of the land in the parish is inclosed, but many of the fences are by no means substantial. A very excellent and commodious steading was built in 1832, by Miss Balfour on her farm of Newton of Kingsdale. It is built of freestone, and covered with slate. The thrashing-machine is propelled by a high-pressure steam-engine of six horse power. There is another thrashing-machine propelled by steam power in the parish, on the farm of Wester Treaton, the property of Mrs D. Bethune of Balfour.

The greatest improvement which has recently been made in the parish, in agricultural matters, was executed by the late Captain Lundin on his estate of Auchtermairnie. By cutting ditches and planting hedges,—by draining and liming,—by removing embankments and levelling,—by planting and transplanting trees,—by building steadings and making roads, he nearly doubled the value of his property in the course of sixteen years. The appearance, also, of his estate in this time, was improved, perhaps, more than any other part of the county of a similar extent.

This gentleman, whose many virtues, both private and public, will render his memory long dear, died in the prime of life, after an illness of only a few days, in the month of November 1832.

*Coal Mine.*—It has been mentioned, that, in the eastern part of the parish, coal at different depths is found, and that it has been wrought with little intermission, for nearly fifty years past. The seams which have hitherto been chiefly dug are those marked No. III. and IV. in the journal before given. These seams were latterly wrought on what is called the long-wall method. After leaving sufficient pillars at the pit-bottom, every inch of coal, with the interjacent bed of black stone, was cut out progressively forward, and the whole superincumbent strata allowed to crush towards the stone or rubbish taken from the coal, which was used for gobbing the excavation. This coal was laid dry by a day-level of 350 fathoms in length.

The seams above-specified having been nearly wrought out, the proprietor of the mine, J. B. Fernie, Esq. of Kilmux, a gentleman of great enterprise, well known, especially, as an eminent agriculturist, and to whom the writer of this account is indebted for the information he supplies, both in regard to coal and agricultural

matters,—has lately sunk a pit to a depth of more than 54 fathoms, where coal, marked VII. and VIII. in the journal, is found to the thickness of 5 feet 2 inches, with an interjacent bed of grey-stone 9 inches thick. To draw the water from this pit, an engine of forty-seven horse power has been erected. The coal, which has now been wrought for several months, is found to be of good quality, and it is believed that the field is extensive. There are at present between 40 and 50 colliers employed.

*Raw Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish may be stated as under:

Produce of grain of all kinds, for food of man and beast,	L. 9000	0	0
potatoes and turnips,	1000	0	0
hay cultivated,	700	0	0
land in pasture,	1200	0	0
mines and quarries, chiefly coal,	2500	0	0
Total yearly value of raw produce,	L. 14,400	0	0

*Manufactures.*—Besides two grinding-mills for oats and barley in the parish, there is also a lint-mill for scutching flax, a plash-mill for washing yarn, and a spinning-mill for spinning tow. The three last-mentioned are on a very small scale, employing together not more than 18 or 20 hands. All the mills are driven by water.

At the time when the former Statistical Account was written, it is remarked, that there was then, “a considerable quantity of coarse linen made in the parish, which was sold brown; and some also of a better quality, which was bleached and sold at the summer markets in the neighbourhood.” This species of goods was commonly known by the name of *Silesias*, and there were not a few individuals in this place who, in a small way, were engaged in the manufacture of them. The trade was for a long time brisk and profitable, but it entirely failed on the introduction of mill-spinning, through the consequent great reduction on the price of manufactured goods.

There are still a great many weavers in the parish, not fewer than 300 male and female, connected with whom, at least 150 hands more, find employment as winders. But the business now is all transacted by agencies, on account of wealthy manufacturing companies or individuals in the surrounding district. There are none in this parish.

The species of goods now manufactured are dowlas sheetings of various widths, from three yards and under, Tweels, and a few diapers and Darlingtones. The quality varies from 700 to 1000 dowlas. The number of spindles woven in a year may be stated

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at 68,000 ; and the average wage of each weaver at 7s. a week :— but a good and diligent worker will, without difficulty, make twice that sum.

There are not fewer than 69 hands employed as shoemakers in the parish. The produce of their joint labour is of course much more than is requisite for meeting the wants of the neighbourhood ; and the surplus is, for the most part, carried to the adjacent market-towns, chiefly to Dundee, to supply the shoe-shops. A small proportion is also disposed of at the principal fairs in the neighbourhood.

*Reed Society.*—The operative weavers of Kennoway, or at least the great majority of them, sensible of the advantages that might be derived from having the use of an extensive and proper assortment of reeds ; after having been, for a number of years, members of a society in the neighbourhood, instituted for promoting this object—about three years ago formed themselves into an association for the same purpose, denominated the “ Kennoway Reed Society.” The sole object of this society is to serve its members with reeds of any given order and breadth. It is open at all times for the admission of workmen properly qualified and recommended, who are of good character, and living within two miles of the village of Kennoway. The entry-money is 3s. 6d. for one share, and a member may hold as many shares as he pleases. A certain rate is paid for the use of each reed, according to the description it is of, and according to the amount of spindles it is employed in the weaving of.

This society is found to be of great benefit to its members. Of these, there are 122, holding in all 199 shares. The number of reeds which the society is possessed of, is 560 ; the average price of each of which, when new, might be 5s.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—There are no market-towns in the parish, but the access to Kirkcaldy and Cupar is easy, each being about nine miles distant ; the former in a south-westerly, and the latter in a north-easterly direction. The means of communication, in every part of the parish, are easy, the roads being in general good. Of these, there are about two miles of turnpike.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The situation of the parish church, in the village of Kennoway, renders it convenient for by far the greater part of the population ; there being in that village, and within the compass of about half a mile around it, upwards of 1100 inhabi-

tants. The distance of the church from the most remote extremities of the parish is between two and three miles.

The age of the church must, from its structure, and the height to which the surrounding burying-ground has accumulated above its foundation, be very great; but there are no means of ascertaining the exact period at which it was built. The lintel of a door, which is supposed to be of the same date with an addition that had been made to the original edifice, has 1619 inscribed on it. The present state of repair of the church, however, notwithstanding its great age, is exceedingly good. Perhaps it is to be regretted, considering its size, as compared with the population, that it is so good; and that such a sum as nearly L. 200 was expended in putting it into its present comfortable state, so lately as in the summer of 1832. The number of sittings in it is 463; while the number of families belonging to the Establishment in the parish is 238; and that of individuals of all ages 1027. The number of names on the communion roll at present is 507, from which, if 28 be deducted for the old and infirm, who cannot attend church, there is left still the number 479. This exceeds the number of sittings in the church by 16. There are no free sittings.

An excellent and commodious new manse, with offices and garden wall, was built in 1833, on a new and very eligible site, about five minutes walk from the church. The glebe consists of about 7 acres, and may be valued at L. 20 yearly. The stipend, which was augmented in 1832, amounts to 16 chalders, with L. 10 for communion elements.

There are two Seceding congregations in the parish, the places of worship of which are both also in the village of Kennoway. An unpopular settlement about the middle of last century gave occasion to the erection of the elder of these two congregations, which is connected with the United Associate Secession Synod. The present minister of this congregation, who was ordained to his charge upwards of forty-two years ago, is the learned and pious Rev. Donald Fraser, D. D., well known as the biographer of the Erskines, two of the fathers of the Secession, and as the author of other popular works. In his congregation, by particulars which he kindly furnished for this account, the number of members is 428; besides whom, there are of the young with a few other hearers about 290. It is to be noticed, however, that about one-third of the whole reside within the bounds of other parishes. The

amount of stipend is L. 120, with a comfortable dwelling-house and garden.

The other Seceding congregation in the parish, which is in connexion with the Original Burgher Synod, has been in existence since 1800. The number of its members is under 200, of whom about one-half reside within the parish. This congregation is at present without a minister; but the stipend of the one who lately left them for another situation was L. 75, with a dwelling-house and small garden.

There are, besides those attached to these two congregations of Seceders, a very few individuals within the parish, belonging to the Relief and Independent denominations. The proportion which the whole number of Seceders and Dissenters taken together, bears to the number of those attached to the Established Church, is very nearly as 19 to 23. Among all denominations, the places of worship are in general well attended.

*Societies for Religious Purposes.*—A society, denominated the Kennoway Female Bible and Missionary Association, was formed here in 1814; and another, styled the Kennoway Bible and Missionary Association, was instituted in 1819. Their annual proceeds average together rather more than L. 30. All denominations concur in these institutions.

*Education.*—Besides the Parochial School, which is attended on an average by 120 scholars, and is most efficiently taught, there are two unendowed schools in the parish, one of which is a female one:—and the children in the village of Star, in the West end of the parish, enjoy the benefit of a school which is taught just beyond the boundary. There are thus very few who can be said to be inconveniently situated with respect to the means of education. The parochial teacher has the maximum salary, with the legal accommodations. The amount of his school fees may be between L. 30 and L. 40.

The list of fees for the parochial school is as under: English reading, 2s. 6d. per quarter; reading and writing, 3s. per do.; arithmetic, 4s.; Latin and other branches, 5s.

*Library.*—The only circulating library in the parish, is a juvenile one connected with the Sabbath schools. It contains about 400 volumes, which are mostly very small.

*Savings Bank.*—A savings bank was instituted for the parish and its vicinity in September 1834; the business of which has ever since been conducted principally by the writer of this Ac-

count. The amount of sums under L. 10, deposited up till this date, is L. 420; and the number of depositors at present is 83. Since the bank was opened, sixteen sums of L. 10 each, amounting in all to L. 160, have been removed at various times; and the most, if not the whole of them, lodged in other banks. The National Bank of Scotland, at whose office in Kirkcaldy the money belonging to our savings' bank collectively is lodged, most generously allows L. 4 per cent. interest on it; and the same rate is allowed to the depositors in the savings' bank individually; the interest in this latter case being calculated for pounds only, omitting odd shillings; and for months, omitting odd days.

*Equitable Deposit Society.*—A society was begun in May 1835, entitled the Kennoway Equitable Weekly Deposit Society, each member of which pays 1s. weekly. When a sufficient sum has in this way been collected, four shares of L. 30 each are drawn by ballot, and those receiving them give security that they will pay 4 per cent. interest thereon, in addition to continuing their weekly payments, until such time as all the members shall have drawn their shares respectively. The sum collected from the commencement of the association to the 26th December 1836, amounted to L. 882, 18s. 2d.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 22; and the sum allotted to each per calendar month varies from 2s. 6d. to 8s. 8d. The average annual amount of contributions, for the last five years, for the relief of the poor, has been L. 77; of which, L. 34 have been collected at the church door; L. 5 have come from mortcloth and marriage dues; and the remainder has been obtained by voluntary assessment of the heritors.

For a considerable number of years past, a sum of between L. 30 and L. 40 has been raised in addition to the above, by extraordinary collections at the doors of the church and meeting-houses, and by donations from non-resident heritors, for the purpose of distributing about new-year time, amongst individuals and families of the poorer class, but who are not generally on the poor's roll, a quantity of coals and meal, and occasionally some other little necessary. By help of this fund also, for several years past, the spinning of flax has been obtained for some of the old people, who can find no other employment. Dressed flax is at present kindly supplied, as needed, by a mill-spinner in the neighbourhood, who allows 6d. per spindle for spinning it. To this

the fund adds another 6d., so that the spinner receives 1s. for her work, while the fund loses 6d. on each spindle. The sum earned in this way, by even a good spinner, is very small; but whatever it may amount to, it is the fruit of labour, and it is prized as such.

*Fairs.*—Two annual fairs are held in the village of Kennoway, the one in April, and the other in October. No business has for a long time been done at them.

*Inns and Alehouses.*—There are no less than 13 houses in the parish licensed to sell spirituous liquors and ales. If so many can make profits by such a traffic, there is great reason to fear, that by far too much money is spent in them, and that an increase of intemperance must be the result. The unnecessary multiplication of such places of resort is much to be deprecated; for, besides affording facilities to those who are already addicted to drinking, it sets additional and powerful temptation to the worst of all vices, in the way of those who are sober and industrious.

*Fuel.*—Coal abounds in all the neighbourhood, and after what has been already said in regard to its being found of good quality, and wrought in the parish, it is scarcely necessary to add, that this is the fuel universally used. At Balgrie colliery, in the parish, from which the great majority of the inhabitants are supplied, it is sold at present at 8s. 4d. per ton.

January 1838.

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## PARISH OF WEMYSS.

PREBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JOHN M'LACHLAN, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name and Boundaries.*—THE name of this parish is of Gaelic origin, the word *Weem* or *Wemyss* signifying a cave, manifestly in allusion to the number of caves on the sea-shore. It is bounded by the parish of Dysart, on the west; by Markinch, on the north and east; and by the Frith of Forth, on the south. Its length from south-west to north-east is about 6 miles; and its breadth about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ : in whole, it contains about 9 square miles.