

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.

PARISH OF WEMYSS.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JOHN M'LACHLAN, MINISTER.

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.

Topographical Appearances.—The ground immediately above the sea-shore is, in some places, considerably elevated, and rises with a gentle slope to the north, and also to the west. Along the sea-shore, there is a line of rocks which extends a good way into the sea, even at low water-mark. The whole beach is very rocky, and may well be designated iron bound.

Climate.—The climate, upon the whole, may be said to be good. The air, as might be expected, is, during the winter months especially, keen and bracing, and at all times the temperature of the atmosphere is sensibly felt to be colder than that of districts five or six miles up the country.

Mineralogy.—This parish rests upon rocks which belong wholly to the coal formation. From the river Leven, even as far west as Wemyss Castle, the strata are composed of dark red sandstone of various degrees of hardness, colour, and durability. From Wemyss Castle, along the shore and western boundary, there are twelve workable seams of coal, of the aggregate thickness of 89 feet 5 inches. The rocks between these seams of coal are, shale, sandstone, slate clay, and argillaceous iron-stone, in bands and balls. These rocks alternate in beds of very various thickness. There is also a seam of yellow ochre, but not a particle of limestone; neither is there any greenstone (or whin) belonging to the strata. The shore, however, is thickly strewn with boulders of it, and the soil when pierced to any depth abounds with them.

The quantity of fossil organic remains belonging to the vegetable kingdom, is immense. Whole forests of fossil trees have been discovered in the beds of shale immediately above some of the coals, many of them of the most perfect form. The bodies of the trees are always composed of sandstone, (although found in shale,) while the bark, and sometimes the cellular tissue, round the pith, is composed of clear cherry coals; and they are found in every variety of size, form, and position. And with regard to the soils, they are as various as the rocks on which they rest, being in some places only a few feet thick, and consisting of decomposed sandstone, while in others they extend to a depth of from 30 to 40 feet, consisting of a strong matrix of dark-coloured clay, which is quite impervious to water.

Wood.—The appearance of the parish within the last forty years has been greatly improved, in consequence of the great number of trees that have been planted in various quarters of it, and which

are in a very thriving condition, and which shelter and benefit the crops. In the neighbourhood of Wemyss Castle, there is a number of very old trees of various kinds, and which have grown to a large size, clearly showing that when trees are properly attended to, they will grow and prosper even near the sea-shore.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Plan.—There is in the possession of the family of Wemyss an excellent map or survey of the whole of the parish.

Land-owner.—The sole land-owner of the whole parish is Captain James Erskine Wemyss, R. N., and Member of Parliament for the county of Fife.

Eminent Men.—Under this article may be mentioned Sir Michael Wemyss of Wemyss, who, along with Sir Michael Scott of Balweary, in the parish of Abbotshall, were sent as ambassadors to Norway by the Estates of the kingdom in the year 1290, on the death of King Alexander III. to bring home Princess Margaret, grand-daughter of the late King, and undoubted heiress of the crown of Scotland. They went to Norway as directed, but the Princess died at Orkney, on her passage to Scotland.

There is in the Castle of Wemyss, as a memorial of this embassy, a large silver basin, which was given by the King of Norway to Sir Michael Wemyss, and which is now used to hold the water on baptismal occasions.

The Rev. George Gillespie also was connected with this parish, and was ordained minister of it in April 26, 1618. He was the son of Mr John Gillespie, who was sometime minister of the gospel at Kirkcaldy. He was called by way of distinction, "The renowned Gillespie;" and was the first who was admitted by a presbytery in that period, without an acknowledgment of the bishops. He was one of the four ministers who were sent as commissioners from the Church of Scotland to the Westminster Assembly, in the year 1643. In that capacity we are told he distinguished himself greatly, and showed that he was a man of great talent and learning, so much so, indeed, that few could equal, and none surpass him. On his return from Westminster, he was engaged in most of the public affairs of the church, until 1648, when he was chosen Moderator of the General Assembly. During his whole life, he was most firmly attached to the great work of the Reformation, and continued so till his death.

Parochial Registers.—The register of the records of Session commences 1645, and is regularly kept from 9th March 1692,

down to the present time. From 26th August 1689 to 9th March 1692, there is a deficiency, the reason for which is thus noticed in one of the records: "The reason why the public register in this parish is lame for that period, is, that there was no settled minister after Mr Ker was deposed by the secret counsell in the foresaid month of August 1689 untill Mr Archibald Riddell was settled in October 1691;" and that during this interval, "the register was kept by the Countess of Wemyss, and not delivered to the session:" It is farther added "that Mr Ker, student of Divinity and Professor in St Leonard's College, St Andrews, was admitted minister of Wemyss September 8, 1686, and deposed 26th August 1689, for not reading the 'proclamation and not praying publicly for King William and Queen Mary.'" The oldest register of baptisms begins in 1660, and that of contracts and marriages in 1662. With the exception already noticed, they are all regularly and accurately kept from their commencement. The number of the whole is fourteen volumes.

Antiquities.—Under this article, we may notice the remains of two Popish Chapels, the one at Methil-mill; and the other, a little beyond West Wemyss. There are also the ruins of an old castle, usually called Macduff's Castle, situated a little to the east of East Wemyss. It is said to have been built by Macduff, who was created Earl of Fife about the year 1057, and on whom King Malcolm Canmore bestowed some peculiar marks of regard. It must have been once a place of great strength, judging from the two square towers, and a part of the wall, that still remain. It is built on an eminence near the sea shore, having a very commanding view; and there are few strangers who come to this part of the country, without paying a visit to the old castle.

The Castle of Wemyss, too, the seat of the family of Wemyss, deserves notice. It is a large and magnificent building. It is situated a little to the east of West Wemyss, on a cliff between 30 and 40 feet above the level of the sea. Beyond West Wemyss, is the Chapel Garden, so denominated from the circumstance of a Roman Catholic Chapel having been built there, some of the remains of which, as already noticed, are still standing. Beside it, is the residence of Thomas Bywater, Esq. factor on the estate. The whole forms a most delightful romantic spot, the sight of which could not but amply compensate the admirer of the picturesque, even although he had gone a journey of twenty or thirty miles, for the sole purpose of visiting this terrestrial paradise.

have great pleasure in being enabled to remark, that over the length and breadth of this large and populous parish, education and knowledge have spread themselves among all ranks and classes. The people as a body have long been distinguished for their quietness and general good conduct; and may justly be said to be an industrious, contented, decent, and church-going population.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Rent of Land.—The rent of land varies from L. 1, 10s. to L. 4 per acre. Some farms are let wholly in money, some at a grain rent, and some partly grain and partly money, according to the fiars of the county. The grazing of a cow for the season is L. 3, 10s.; and for two year olds and one year olds, in the same proportion.

Real Rent.—The real rent of this parish is L. 6000.

Agriculture.—

The number of Scots acres may be about	4000
Under tillage,	2845½
Uncultivated,	1154½, of
which there are in wood	500 acres, and
	<hr/>
the remaining	654½ acres are in links, roads,
villages, &c.	

Mines.—There are four coal-pits in this parish, one ironstone pit, and one ochre pit. The Wemyss coal-pit employs 140 men, 24 boys, and 42 girls. The yearly produce is about 40,000 tons. The selling price of the splint is 8s. 6d. per ton. This pit is sunk upon the main seam, which is 9 feet thick, and has been wrought to the depth of 100 yards below sea level, through the whole length of the parish, and has been working constantly for the last two centuries. The next working is the parrot or gas coal, which is wrought level free, no machinery being necessary. It employs about 20 men, and is sold for 10s. per ton. The other two pits are wrought exclusively for land sale; they employ about 50 men, 20 boys, and 7 girls. The ironstone working employs about 35 men and 3 girls. The ochre pit is but newly commenced. The whole number of people employed in mining and mining operations may amount to 300 men, (170 of whom are colliers,) 44 boys, and 52 girls. Their operations, however, require the employment of many other hands, such as smiths, wrights, masons, &c. They all receive their wages every two weeks, the payment of which is upwards of L. 400.

There are several very powerful engines employed in this very extensive coal establishment. And it is but justice to add, that

all the recent improvements in mining machinery have been here very successfully and advantageously introduced and applied, and are all under the very active and efficient management and direction of Mr David Landale, mining engineer.

Fisheries.—This branch of industry deserves notice. The fishing station at Buckhaven is well known, and of late years has greatly increased. There are 170 men employed in this trade, and all belong to, and reside in Buckhaven. They have no fewer than 144 fishing boats of various dimensions. Generally about the beginning of July, they set out to the north, to Helmsdale, Fraserburgh, and Wick, the great herring-fishing stations, where they stay for about two months. It may well be said, that they are a most industrious and hard-working class of men, and are truly entitled, not only to protection, but to every countenance and encouragement.

Value of boats and nets belonging to Buckhaven.

	Value of each boat.	Value of nets belonging to each boat.	Total value.
First class, 60 boats,	L. 75 0 0	L. 110 0 0	L. 11,100 0 0
Second do. 44 do.	40 0 0	120 0 0	7,040 0 0
Third do. 40 do.	14 0 0	20 0 0	1,360 0 0
144		Value of nets and boats.	L. 19,500 0 0

It will be seen by the above statement, that the value of the nets belonging to the second class of boats is greater than that of the first class, because three sets of nets are necessary to the second class, while only two are required for the first and third.

Produce.—The following contains a pretty correct statement of the yearly raw produce of this parish.

	Scots acres.	
Grain of all kinds, including peas and beans,	1545½	L. 10,545 0 0
Potatoes and turnips,	416	3,161 0 0
Hay and pasture,	706½	3,329 0 0
Flax,	38	304 0 0
Gardens,	20	400 0 0
Fallow,	2725½	L. 17,749 0 0
	119½	
Under cultivation,	2845½	
Thinning of woods,		
60 boats employed in the north herring fishery, }		500 0 0
44 do Frith of Forth do. }		4500 0 0

* About twenty years ago, the Frith of Forth herring fishing was very extensive, and paid well; but of late years, it has fallen much off, and for two or three years back, it has been a total failure.

40 boats employed throughout the year in fishing haddock, cod, and all other kinds of white fish caught in the Frith of Forth, -	L. 4160	0	0
	L. 26,909	0	0
Salt, - - - - -	470	0	0
Coal and ironstone, - - - - -	20,000	0	0
Total yearly value of raw produce, -	L. 47,379	0	0

Manufactures.—The principal manufacture is that of hand-loom weaving, in which both men and women are employed. In the large manufacturing establishment at Kirkland, under the firm of Neilson and Company, there are 109 persons engaged in flax-dressing; 283 employed at the spinning-mill; 48 in the bleaching department; and 241 in the cloth manufactory; in all, 681, including men and women, boys and girls. This large and extensive work is lighted with gas, and is, for plan, and order and regularity, a model for any similar erection. As far as the health and morals of the people are concerned, it is conducted in the best possible manner. It is not only the wish of the proprietors that the work people's children should be properly educated, but they are really and truly so, in all the common branches; and particular attention is also paid to their instruction in the great principles of Christianity, by a well-qualified and efficient teacher. And fewer applications for parochial relief have come from the people employed at this work, than from any other quarter of the parish.

The extensive works now noticed consume annually 1000 tons flax and hemp, from which is spun 280,000 spindles of flax, tow, and hemp yarns, two-thirds of which are made into canvas, sheeting, dowlas, ducks, sacking, and other fabrics; and about one-third of the yarn is sold. The yearly amount of wages may be about L. 17,000.

There are four considerable manufacturers in East Wemyss, and one in Buckhaven, who, it is computed, consume annually 242,320 spindles, which are made into ducks, dowlas, and sheeting, amounting to 1,202,625 yards of cloth for the home and foreign market. Weavers' wages, including winding, may amount to L. 10,000 annually.

East Wemyss was long distinguished for the manufacture of linen, which has, for some time past, been superseded by those above-mentioned.

Salt.—Since the tax on salt was taken off, the number of salt pans has been greatly reduced. At Methil, where there were formerly

nine, there are now none ; and at West Wemyss, where there were formerly seven, there are only two, and at present one of them is not working. 6200 bushels may be about the annual average of salt made for the last three years, the average annual value of which may be about L. 470. This forms at once a very striking contrast to the quantity of salt made in this parish, previous to the abolition of the salt duties ;—for in 1818, 1819, and 1820, the annual average sales of salt made at west Wemyss and Methil, was 50,400 bushels. The salt made here is excellent, and obtains a ready market.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Towns.—There are no market-towns, properly so called, in the parish. The nearest is Kirkcaldy, which is about six miles from the parish church.

Villages.—There are seven villages, which are named as under : 1. East Wemyss, in which is the parish church ; 2. West Wemyss ; 3. Buckhaven ; 4. Methil ; 5. Kirkland ; 6. West Coaltown ; 7. East Coaltown. The four first are built on the sea-shore, and are rather more than a mile from each other. West Wemyss is a burgh of barony, having for its management two bailies, one treasurer, and a number of councillors. Buckhaven is a large and extensive fishing station. Kirkland is an extensive manufacturing establishment, under the firm of Neilson and Company ; and East and West Coaltowns are inhabited by colliers, and who are all in the employ of Captain Wemyss.

Means of Communication.—The turnpike road from Kirkcaldy to Cupar by Kennoway runs through the north part of the parish, and is very good. The other roads, which are kept in repair by means of the statute labour money, have been much improved of late, although they are not by any means so good as they should be.

Although there is no post-office, yet we have every facility for communication, as there is a runner or post-boy from Kirkcaldy to Leven every morning, and again from Leven to Kirkcaldy in the afternoon. There are two carriers in Buckhaven, who go to Kirkcaldy every week, the one on Tuesday and the other on Friday. There is also a carrier in East Wemyss, who goes to Kirkcaldy twice every week, Tuesday and Friday. And there is a woman, who goes every lawful day, carries parcels, and transacts any-business with which she may be intrusted.

Harbours.—There is a good harbour at Methil. The pier was

considerably injured a good many years ago, by a very violent storm. There is also a good harbour at West Wemyss, for the accommodation of vessels engaged in the coal trade. The erection of a new pier and harbour to be set down at the west end of Buckhaven, was agitated some two or three years ago. Several engineers inspected the ground, and were employed in making a plan of the undertaking; but nothing has, as yet, been done. Could it be carried into effect, it would be of great utility to the fishermen of Buckhaven; and from the eligibility of the site, it could not fail to be a place of resort for boats and ships in distress.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is in East Wemyss, and is as conveniently situated for the great body of the people as it could well be. It is an old building in the form of a cross. The date of its erection cannot be ascertained. It has undergone several repairs; and, although the construction is bad, yet, upon the whole, it is a decent and comfortable place of worship. It has sittings for about 1000 persons. It is by far too small for the parish. From 900 to 1000 communicate annually. The people are very attentive to the ordinances of religion.

The manse was built in 1791, and is a good and commodious house. The offices are also good, and there is a large garden. The glebe consists of 7 acres and 15 falls, Scots measure, and is as excellent land as any in the parish. The stipend is 17 chalders, half meal and half barley, converted at the rate of the highest fiars in the county, with L. 10 for communion elements. There are some rocks and sea-weed or ware, that belong to the cure. Captain James Wemyss is sole heritor. The presentation is in the gift of the Town-Council of Edinburgh.

There is a Dissenting meeting-house in connection with the United Associate Synod, situated on the links of Buckhaven, about two miles from the parish church. The clergyman's stipend is L. 110 per annum, with manse and garden. The present minister is the Rev. Robert Pollock. The congregation is respectable, and divine service is well attended.

The following persons have been ministers of this parish since the Revolution: Archibald Riddell, 1691 to 1697; Thomas Black, 1697 to 1698; James Grierson, 1698 to 1710; John Cleghorn, 1711 to 1744; Harry Spens, 1744 to 1780; William Greenfield, 1781 to 1784; George Gib, 1785 to 1818.

The present incumbent was ordained minister of Alva, presby-

tery of Stirling, 22d April 1813, and translated to Wemyss, 4th February 1819.

Catechist.—In 1705, the Earl of Cromarty, out of regard to the memory of Margaret, heiress and Countess of Wemyss, and Countess of Cromarty, mortified a small sum of money for founding a salary to a catechist, for catechising and instructing the colliers and salters and others in the parish of Wemyss. The gift of presentation is in the family of Wemyss; and the presentee is tried and admitted by the minister and kirk-session. The present catechist is the second who has ever been appointed; his salary is L. 50, 16s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a year.

The following table contains the census of this parish taken in January and February 1836.

	Population.							Communi- cants.		Sittings held of right.			
	Total.	Under 12.	Under 7.	Establishment	Other denomi- nations.	Not known to belong to any denomination.	Having right to sittings	Establishment.	Other denomi- nations.	Rented.	In virtue of te- nancy.	Private proper- ty.	By express gra- ntious grant.
E. Wemyss,	837	227	146	809	26	2	352	372	19	66	3	243	40
Buckhaven,	1475	487	368	550	910	15	551	182	425	466	0	78	7
Methil,	508	166	114	298	178	32	86	123	76	68	0	18	0
Kirkland,	543	146	96	216	316	11	191	84	142	166	0	14	11
W. Wemyss,	939	352	233	865	48	26	156	340	27	39	0	89	28
W. Coaltown,	299	102	61	297	2	0	77	145	2	9	0	46	22
E. Coaltown,	162	64	41	123	39	0	27	50	9	8	8	11	0
Country p.	452	152	112	322	130	0	182	144	59	75	67	25	15
	5215	1696	1171	3480	1649	86	1622	1440	759	897	78	524	123

Education.—The parochial school is in East Wemyss. The teacher, who is a licentiate of the church, has the maximum salary, viz. L. 34, 4s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and L. 1, 15s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., for the want of the legal quantity of garden ground. He is also session-clerk, the perquisites of which may average L. 20 a year. The school fees may amount to L. 25 per annum. All the common branches are taught here, as also Latin, French, and mathematics. There are six other schools in the parish, all unendowed, except the school at Kirkland, which is partially endowed, as the company, besides the school fees, give L. 30 a year by way of salary. Nearly 800 young persons are receiving instruction in various branches of education, at the different schools. And if there are any in the parish above fifteen years of age, or even above ten, who cannot read, the fault lies with the parents. There is an educational machinery in motion that is not surpassed in any parish; and all the teachers, seven

in number, are distinguished for their zeal, and efficiency, and diligence and success, and all, except one, belong to the Established Church.

Under this head, we have to remark that the late Mr Archibald Cook, Kirkcaldy, who died in the beginning of 1832, and who was a native of this parish, left property to a very considerable amount. His widow is liferented in the whole of it, which, after her decease, comes to this parish, and is to be applied solely to educational purposes. During the lifetime of Mrs Cook, the ministers of Dysart, Kirkcaldy, Abbotshall, Leslie, and Wemyss, act as trustees, and have already entered on their office. After her death, the trust devolves on the presbytery of Kirkcaldy.

Libraries.—A subscription library was instituted in East Wemyss in 1817, and contains upwards of 300 volumes, consisting of divinity, history, voyages, travels, &c. exclusive of reviews and magazines. There are, besides, three other libraries in the parish. There is one in Buckhaven, one in West Wemyss, and a tradesman's library was lately instituted in East Wemyss.

Sabbath Schools.—There are Sabbath evening schools in all the villages, and the young people attending them are accommodated with books, chiefly religious, according to their age and capacity.

Inns.—There is no want of inns or alehouses in the parish. Their increase has kept pace with the increase of the population. Men cannot be compelled to be religious; but such a tax can and ought to be put on strong liquor, as would necessarily oblige them to be sober and temperate.

Friendly Societies.—There is in this parish the Generous Society, which was instituted in 1793 for sick and aged members. Each member pays 3s. of entry money, and 1s. a quarter, and is not entitled to receive any benefit till he has been six years a member, and paid his quarterly accounts for that period. A member when sick or unable to work at his lawful employment, receives 4s. a week for a limited time. Those on the superannuated list receive 2s. a week for life. This Society has been the means of doing much good to the members, and of preventing pauperism. There is an annual procession of its members. It is modelled or based upon the plan recommended by the Highland Society of Scotland. Its funds are in a flourishing condition, which is a strong evidence of the correctness of the principles on which it is founded.

Savings Banks.—A savings bank was established in East Wemyss about thirty years ago. The yearly investment may be about L. 210,

being 30 shares among 66 members, at L. 2, 12s. each. For the last three or four years, about L. 100 per annum have been withdrawn. The investments are made chiefly by the working-classes. The sum on hand is L. 1944. There is also a savings bank at West Wemyss; one at Buckhaven; and one lately established at West Coaltown.

Poor's Funds.—Captain Wemyss, the sole heritor of this parish, some years ago wisely agreed to give L. 40 a-year in aid of the funds, in order to avoid a legal assessment. His annual payments, however, have hitherto considerably exceeded that sum.

In 1833 they amounted to	L. 60	0	0
Amount of church collections,	44	19	4½
proclamations,	12	2	3
mortcloths,	1	11	2
finer,	1	5	0
burying-ground and seat rents,	0	16	6
	<hr/>		
	L. 120	14	3½
Of the above sum, there was paid for house rents and occasional charities,	L. 13	7	10
In monthly pensions,	88	1	2
	<hr/>		
	101	9	0
	<hr/>		
	L. 19	5	3½

This sum was applied to the payment of salaries to synod clerk, presbytery clerk, session-clerk, kirk treasurer, and precentor, and incidental expenses. Number of poor on the roll, 40; average allowance to each, L. 2, 10s. 8½d.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The enlightened and liberal views that have taken place, in all departments of industry, have extended themselves to the cultivation of the soil; and since the publication of the last Statistical Report of this parish, the most approved methods of agriculture have been introduced. The farmers are industrious, intelligent, and persevering, and possess a comprehensive knowledge of husbandry in all its departments. They have spared no expense, and grudged no labour, in order to draw forth, in rich abundance, the capabilities of the ground. They have, accordingly, attended to draining, which has been well and wisely denominated the basis and foundation of all agricultural improvement; and they are more and more impressed with the indispensable necessity of a proper and regular rotation of green cropping, in order that the land may be properly cleaned and prepared for a white or grain crop. There is, therefore, less fallow than formerly, and a greater quantity of potatoes are planted. More live-stock are kept and reared, and a greater quantity of turnips raised. More attention is also paid to liming, which had been hitherto too much ne-

glected, and which never fails to give a new stimulus to soils that had begun to lose their vegetative and productive powers. The great wish and study, in fact, just now is, to have as great a breadth of wheat sown down as possible, because this has been found, for a considerable time past, the best remunerating crop. Great care, however, must be taken not to carry this wish too far, because if it were, it could not fail to have an effect the very reverse of what was intended.

I have only farther to remark, that I know no obstacle or discouragement even to the still greater improvement of the farms in this parish, except one, and that is the great quantity of game that abounds, such as hares, and pheasants, and rabbits, &c. No doubt this great evil has been gradually diminishing for some years past; but still there is plenty of room for farther improvement, which, it is hoped, will not be lost sight of. In every district where game is carefully preserved, and allowed to multiply and increase, no greater bar or obstacle to agricultural improvement can be named.

N. B.—Since the above report was written, and given in upwards of a year ago, I have to notice that a post-office has been established in the village of East Wemyss. The new pier and harbour, to which allusion is made in the body of this report, in reference to Buckhaven, are in a state of great forwardness. The expense of this very important undertaking is to be about L. 4200, of which the Board of Fisheries, with that liberality that has always characterized their transactions, are to give about L. 3000, and the fishermen of Buckhaven are to implement the rest. The contractors are the Messrs Mathieson, builders, Glasgow, who, as far as they have gone, have executed the work in a most substantial and efficient manner.

I have also to record, that on the 6th of June last, the foundation stone of a church, in connexion with the Establishment, was laid in the village of Methil, the expense of which is to be L. 1030. It is now far advanced; so much so, that it will be open for public worship about the beginning of March. This new erection is to contain upwards of 800 sittings, and will accommodate the inhabitants of Methil, Kirkland, Methil-hill, Links of Buckhaven, and those of Inverleven, a remote and detached portion of the parish of Markinch, the whole including a population of upwards of 1700.

The pier at Methil is also begun to be repaired, the expense of which is to be upwards of L. 1800.

January 1838.