

thinking that method preferable to an assessment. There was one subscription of L. 10 in 1814, and seven since that time of L. 20 each, amounting to L. 150. The sum received was L. 153, 15s. 8d. Another subscription of L. 20 was agreed to in January 1834, but has not yet been required. In 1799 and 1800, when provisions were scarce and dear, the heritors subscribed for the relief of the poorest people : the sum collected was L. 31, 13s. 6d.

April 1839.

PARISH OF ORWELL.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JAMES WEMYSS, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Boundaries, &c.—THIS parish was originally called Urwell, and takes its appellation from a property of the same name on the banks of Loch Leven, and at the south-east extremity of the parish. Whence the word itself is derived is not very apparent; as, however, almost all the names of the farms in the parish are obviously Gaelic, so it may not be too much to suppose that this also may be of similar origin. In this point of view we must have recourse to the Gaelic word *ur*, meaning new or green, and *baile*, a residence or retreat; the whole probably designates a green or fertile retired situation,—an interpretation peculiarly applicable to the property of Orwell, and the old situation of the church, especially previous to the introduction of drainage, and a superior mode of farming, which of late years has converted many wild into fertile districts.

The parish is of a narrow oblong figure, the greatest length being from east to west. From the mouth of the Pow-burn to the summit of Coal-craigie, or from Burnside to Warroch, is about $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles, while its greatest breadth, from north to south, does not exceed $3\frac{1}{2}$; and its surface may be stated in round numbers at 21 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the parishes of Arngask, Forteviot, Forgandenny, and Dunning; by Fossaway on the west; by Kinross parish and Loch Leven on the south; and by

Portmoak and Strathmiglo on the east. A small part of the parish is annexed *quoad sacra* to that of Arngask.

The southern portion of the parish is generally level, diversified with gently swelling heights. North of Milnathort, it rises gradually to the top of the high grounds called the Braes of Orwell, and thence more suddenly to different eminences on the Ochil hills. The highest of these hills, at nearly the north-western extremity of the parish, scarcely exceeds 1000 or 1100 feet above the level of the sea; and the lowest part of the parish on the margin of Lochleven is about 335 feet above the same level. The average height of the cultivated portion may be about 450 feet.

Climate, &c.—The climate, on the whole, is healthy. Formerly ague was very prevalent on some farms, but now, owing to drainage, is scarcely known. The most common diseases are fevers and consumptions. During the early part of winter and spring, the low grounds suffer considerably from hoar-frost. The height of the barometer is at the same station very variable, but may be stated on an average at 29.5. The thermometer has never been observed lower than 7°, and seldom attains 70° in the shade,—the mean temperature being about 46.6°. From the proximity of the Ochil Hills on the north, of the Lomond and Bishop Hills on the east, and Benarty on the south, the quantity of rain that falls in the parish, and throughout the county, is above the average for Scotland. Even when not actually raining, the atmosphere generally may be called moist, as Leslie's hygrometer rarely exceeds 25° in the finest weather, and on an average is not more than 15°. These observations were made at an altitude of 400 feet above the level of the sea, and only apply to it.

Polar lights are frequent during the end of autumn and beginning of winter. The east wind prevails for three or four months during spring and beginning of summer; and its influence is considerably felt, notwithstanding the high barrier interposed by the Lomond and Bishop hills. In the evenings the mist, or, as it is called in the district, the *eastern haar*, is observed slowly crowning their summits, or descending their sides in vast masses, and extending itself far to the west, beyond the boundaries of the county. But the prevailing wind is the south-west, which blows the greater part of the year with considerable violence. This circumstance may be attributed to the funnel-shaped nature of the district; the western portion of which being the low strath which stretches by Dollar to Alloa; the eastern, that by Strathmiglo into Fife.

Hydrography.—The North Queich is the only stream of any size that flows through the parish. There are several others, which, however, are of a trifling nature, except during *speats* occasioned by heavy rains. Almost all of these streams terminate in Loch Leven. The Queich, from its source to its mouth, is from five to six miles long, and its greatest breadth about twenty feet. It forms no cascades of any consequence; although, among the hills in the earlier part of its course, there are several very pretty waterfalls.

The Queich is a clear stream, and only remarkable as being one of the principal sources from which Loch Leven is replenished with trout,—this being the chief breeding stream, although much less so now than formerly, few trouts comparatively ascending from the lake as they did forty years ago. This may be accounted for, either from the straightening and sloping of the banks, which modern improvements have suggested,—thus destroying the shelter of the fish, and giving them a dislike to their former haunts, —or from the over-fishing of the lake, which lessens the number of emigrants; moreover, poaching is still carried on during close-time; and in a late examination into the cause of the deterioration of the fishings, consequent upon the drainage of the lake, it appeared, from the evidence of some noted poachers, that, after a September or October flood, many hundreds were killed during the night by spearing parties. These parties consist of three or four individuals; and their operations are carried on much in the same manner as those by salmon-poachers. One or two with spears take the middle of the stream; one on the bank carries a dark lanthorn, and the third and fourth the fish: the light is thrown upon the *ford* or *shallow*, and the fish, being in the act of spawning, are easily killed. Many fish are also caught at the dam-dikes belonging to the small mills high up the stream; indeed, whole sacks-full are taken out at some of these places in a single night.

There are abundance of springs in the parish, and water may be obtained by sinking wells at very small depths.

Geology and Mineralogy.—This parish is situated on the southern side of the Ochil-hills, and near the middle of the chain. The stratified rock is the same as the old red sandstone on the north border of the Fife coal-field, having its general dip south-east upon Loch Leven; though of course contorted in various places by the intrusion of igneous rocks, of which there is abundance. Near the lake, deposits of lacustrine silt are said to have been ob-

served, including the usual organic remains; and, in the lower grounds, beds of gravel may be seen in many places, all seeming to indicate that Loch Leven was once a much more extensive sheet of water than now. The central part of the parish contains two large masses of trap rock, one of greenstone on the east, varying in its character, and becoming tufaceous on the higher grounds in some places; and on the west, a much larger one of claystone porphyry, of a purple colour, extending for several miles, very hard and compact, where the country is level, but where it rises, becoming softer, amygdaloidal, and in some parts even tufaceous. Between these large masses of trap, there occur, here and there, compact felspar, clinkstone, and such like modifications of it. There is no limestone, nor any rock of the coal formation towards the west of the parish; but near the boundaries on the east, the limestone and grey sandstone are upraised on the western Lomond and Bishop-hill. No transition rocks appear towards the rise of the stratification on the north-west. Large veins of calc-spar and of sulphate of baryta occur in the greenstone. Heulandite, in small nodules, is found in the porphyry, and pretty large specimens of mesotype, where it becomes amygdaloidal. Laumonite and analcime abound in the neighbourhood, and therefore probably exist in the parish, although hitherto not observed. Scales of fish have been detected in the red sandstone. Iserine is occasionally found along the margin of the lake.

Soil.—The soil in the southern or more level part of the parish is a sandy clay, occasionally mixed with till or gravel, and a few fields may be termed loamy or alluvial. Upon the more elevated grounds, called the Braes of Orwell, the soil generally consists of a sharp gravel of good quality, excellently adapted to the culture of potatoes and turnips. Of the former, from 100 to 120 Linlithgow bolls have been raised upon a Scottish acre. Wheat, except upon a few fields of the first quality, has not generally been raised with success; and the more intelligent farmers prefer a crop of oats or barley, as affording a safer, and, upon the whole, a more profitable return. The average produce of oats, per Scotch acre, may be stated at from 6 to 10 Linlithgow bolls, that of barley from 5 to 8; although at times much higher returns are made. The better varieties of oats are generally in use, and the average weight in ordinary years may be stated at from 13 to 14 stones per Linlithgow boll. The quality of the barley has of late years much improved. Formerly it succeeded the oat crop, but it now

generally succeeds potatoes or turnips, and the average weight may be about 18 stones per Linlithgow boll, although often above 19 stones. In a competition in the year 1833, between a gentleman possessing extensive properties in the county of Clackmannan, and an heritor in this parish, as to which of the counties, Clackmannan or Kinross, that year would produce the best barley, it being agreed that each should stand by the produce of his own farm, the bet was decided in favour of Kinross-shire, the weight being 58½ lbs. per imperial bushel. In the same year, some barley was raised in Portmoak, close to this parish, and when sold at Kirkaldy market was found to weigh 60 lbs. But this last was extremely well cleaned.

There are five or six quarries of red sandstone, one of which only, close to Milnathort, is wrought for sale. There are also several of green or whinstone; but these are principally used for furnishing stones for dikes, and metal for the roads.

Zoology.—Game was at one time abundant, but is now almost extirpated, owing to the remissness of the tax-office in not prosecuting and punishing the lower class of poachers. A few roe-deer are occasionally seen, but do not seem to breed in the parish. The other kinds of game are the grouse, blackcock, partridge, woodcock, snipe, wild-duck, hare, and rabbit. The only birds of considerable rarity which have been observed are the kingfisher (*Alcedo Ispida*) and the cross-bill (*Loxia curvirostra*.)

The principal kinds of fish are the common burn trout, Loch Leven trout, (a variety of the former,) eels, pike, and perch. But almost all these belong more properly to Loch Leven, which falls to be noticed under the account of the parish of Kinross.

*Botany.**—Orwell contains few or none of the truly rare plants. The following may be mentioned, either because they are rare in the district, or common in the parish, although not generally diffused throughout Scotland.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hippuris vulgaris | Myosotis palustris | Meum athamanticum |
| Veronica anagallis | ——— repens | Peplis portula |
| Eleocharis acicularis | ——— sylvatica | Luzula congesta |
| Briza media | ——— arvensis | Alisma plantago |
| Dipsacus sylvestris | ——— collina | ——— ranunculoides |
| Scabiosa succisa, var. alba | ——— versicolor | Trientalis Europea (sum- |
| flora | Echium violaceum | mit of Holeton hill) |
| Galium Witheringii | Campanula latifolia | Erica tetralix, var. alba |
| Potamogeton† | Gentiana campestris | Vaccinium vitis Idæa |
| Radiola millegrana | Helosciadium inundatum | ——— Oxycoccus |

* For the botanical department, as also for much other valuable information contained in this account, the compiler is indebted to Dr Walker Arnott of Arlary.

† Nearly all the Scotch species are found in Loch Leven.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Epilobium hirsutum | Subularia aquatica | Senecio viscosus |
| Polygonum minus | Nasturtium terrestre | Chrysanthemum segetum |
| Spergula subulata | Fumaria capreolata | Gymnadenia conopsea |
| Rubus idæus | ————— media | Platanthera bifolia |
| ————— saxatilis, (and no others) | Genista Anglica | ————— chlorantha |
| Helianthemum vulgare | Ornithopus perpusillus | Carex curta |
| Ranunculus reptans | Hypericum humifusum | ————— dioica |
| Mentha piperita | ————— quadrangulum | ————— flava |
| ————— hirsuta | ————— perforatum | ————— Cederi |
| ————— arvensis (and no others) | ————— pulchrum | ————— ampullacea |
| Origanum vulgare | (and no others) | Littorella lacustris |
| Galeopsis versicolor | Apargia hispida | Myriophyllum spicatum |
| Acinos vulgaris | Bidens (both species) | Pilularia globulifera. |
| Lepidium campestre | Gnaphalium (all but mar- garitaceum and luteo-al- bum) | |
| ————— Smithii | Filago germanica | |

The ferns are very few, and, with the exception of *Polypodium phegopteris*, are of the most common kind. Of the rarer mosses may be mentioned, *Orthotrichum Lyellii* and *pulchellum*; *Hypnum dendroides*, as well as *Bartramia recurvata*, occasionally are found in fructification. *Jungermannia exsecta* occurs abundantly in the neighbouring parish of Portmoak, a few yards from the boundary. There are no rare Algæ or Lichens: *Cetraria islandica* is abundant in some moors, but never with *apothecia*. Of the larger fungi, *Amanita muscaria* may be mentioned as abundant, while the common mushroom (*Agaricus campestris*) is rare; and of the smaller, *Puccinia buxi* has been detected in profusion, but only in one locality.

To complete this account, it is necessary to indicate some of those genera common in many places, but not found in this parish: thus there are no species of *Erythræa*; *Hyoscyamus*; *Solanum*; *Samolus*; *Jasione*; *Cuscuta*; *Pyrola*; *Saxifraga*, (except *S. granulata*); *Thalictrum*; *Scutellaria*; *Stachys*, (except *S. pallustris*); *Orobanche*; *Coronopus*; *Draba*, (except *D. verna*); *Corydalis*; *Lathyrus*, (except *L. pratensis*); *Vicia*, (except *V. cracca* and *sepium*); *Astragalus*; *Oxytropis*; *Lactuca*; *Crepis*; *Carduus* (and only the most common species of *Cnicus*); *Erigeron*; *Cineraria*; *Inula*; *Pulicaria*; *Anthemis*; *Listera*; *Epipactis*; *Malaxis*; *Pedicularis*; *Euphorbia*, (except *E. helioscopia* and *Peplus*); *Salix*, (except *S. fusca*, *aurita*, and *aquatica*); *Myrica*, or *Atriplex*, (except *A. patula*): *Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum*, although now in the greatest profusion throughout the parish, was unknown in the district until it was introduced along with the seed-corn, from a distance, forty or fifty years ago.

Within these last thirty years, there have been a great many plantations formed both on the low grounds, and on the southern

exposure of the Ochils. These consist principally of larch, Scots fir, spruce, oak, and ash.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The only account of the parish is that contained in Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account. There is no map of the parish by itself, but there are two very excellent ones of the county. One of these is by John Bell, in 1796; the other, by Sharp, Greenwood, and Fowler, in 1828. The latter, in particular, is remarkable for its minute accuracy.

Burleigh Castle has been the subject of several paintings, especially by Mr Robert Stein.

Eminent Characters.—Dr Coventry, the late Professor of Agriculture in the University of Edinburgh, possessed the property of Shanwell in this parish; and Dr Young of Rosetta, in whose arms Sir Ralph Abercromby breathed his last in Egypt, was a native of it. Balfour, Lord Burleigh, was also from this parish;—see *Douglas's Peerage*.

Land-owners.—There are about 27 heritors possessed of the valuation of L. 100 Scots or upwards, besides 35 others having a smaller valuation,—the smallest being L. 2, 10s. There are nine proprietors at present whose valued rent each is L. 200 or upwards, viz. Dr Walker Arnott of Arlary, L. 619 Scots; John Horn, Esq. of Thomanean, L. 552; Rev. G. Coventry of Shanwell, L. 403; Robert Neilson, Esq. of Hilton, L. 272; Misses Macturk of Craigow, L. 241; Heirs of the late Rev. Dr Belfrage of Colliston, L. 233; Rev. Mr Brown of Finderly, L. 233; Charles Stein, Esq. of Hattonburn, L. 212; and Mr Purves of Warroch, L. 200. The total valued rental is L. 6786, 16s. 8d. Scots. By far the greater proportion of the proprietors farm their own lands, at least in part.

Parochial Registers.—The date of the earliest entry in the parish register is 30th September 1688. It is not voluminous, owing to a great disinclination on the part of the people to come forward and register either births or deaths. This, however, is a little more attended to now than formerly.

Antiquities.—On the farm of Orwell there are two flat standing stones, firmly imbedded in the ground. They are situated east and west of each other, at fifteen yards distance; the one is 6½, the other 8 feet high, and each 3½ feet broad. Considerable mechanical power must have been required to bring them to their present position, no similar rock being nearer than the West Lomond, which is distant two miles, and the ground intervening is

rugged and uneven. No tradition exists in the district regarding their origin, though various conjectures have been formed ;—some supposing that they indicate a Danish battle ; others, that they form the remains of a Druidical circle. It may, however, be observed, that, in the same field, stone coffins have been occasionally turned up by the plough ; and a few years ago, the ground was in many places dug up by a neighbouring proprietor, when quantities of bones, much decomposed and mixed with charcoal, were discovered. The bones were about fifteen inches below the surface of the soil, and generally a layer of small stones above them. A request was once made to the Antiquarian Society of Edinburgh to send a deputation to examine the ground carefully ; but this was never accomplished.

The old church of Orwell, situated on the shore of Loch Leven, and near the south-east boundary of the parish, was only a chapel of ease in the reign of Robert I. ; who, says Sibbald, in his History of Fife and Kinross, gave to the monastery of Dunfermline *in puram et perpetuam eleemosynam, Ecclesiam de Kinross cum Capella de Urwell*. At what period it became the parish church is unknown.

Burleigh Castle, situated about a quarter of a mile to the south-east of the village of Milnathort, seems to be of considerable antiquity. It was at one period a place of great strength, consisting of a square, surrounded by a wall of ten feet in height, a deep ditch filled with water, and a redoubt. The castle itself is entirely in ruins, though part of the square still remains. About twenty years ago, two towers were standing ; one was of considerable height, and must have been very capacious. The south or small tower appears to have been the most modern structure of the whole. The date, 1582, with arms and the initials I. B., and below these M. B., doubtless of some of the possessors, were on the north corner of the west gable. The great tower must have been built at a much more remote period ; but no date or trace can be discovered from which a conjecture as to the time of its erection can be formed. The buildings on the north were probably erected about the same period as the southern tower. The plantations about Burleigh were at one time very extensive and regular ; but almost all the trees have either been cut down, overturned by the wind, or have died of old age. About thirty-five years ago, there was a considerable number quite hollowed out ; and one in particular, an ash, was known to have been so for upwards of a cen-

ture. This tree was noted for sheltering the Master of Burleigh when concealing himself from justice. In 1707, Robert, only son of the fourth Lord Burleigh, learning that Mr Henry Stenhouse, the schoolmaster of Inverkeithing, had married a girl, (for whom he, young Burleigh, had an attachment, and on account of which he had been sent abroad to travel,) and taken her from her father's house in his absence, on his return, went directly to the schoolmaster's house, and shot him through the left shoulder at his own door, in consequence of which Stenhouse died twelve days after. Mr Balfour was apprehended some time afterward, tried 4th August 1709, and sentenced 29th November to be beheaded. He, however, escaped from prison the 1st or 2d of January 1710, by exchanging clothes with his sister, and concealing himself successfully for some years. The hollow of the old ash was often the place of his retreat, and hence received the appellation of *Burleigh's Hole*. He afterwards engaged in the Rebellion of 1715, and was attainted.* This tree was dismantled of its top by the high winds, during the winter 1808-9; and was completely blown down to within a few feet of the root on Old Handsel-Monday 1822. It stood about twenty feet distant from the west wall of the great tower.

Upon the top of the branch of the Ochils which bounds the parish on the north, stands Cairn-a-vain, once an immense collection of stones, though now much reduced in size,—the proprietor, thirty years since, having carried away many hundred cart-loads for the purpose of building dikes. An old rhyme, still remembered, alluded to a treasure supposed to be contained in it,—

In the Dryburn well, beneath a stane,
You'll find the key of Cairn-a-vain,
That will mak' a Scotland rich ane by ane.

However, no treasure was found, although eagerly expected by the workmen. There was a rude stone coffin in the centre of the cairn, containing an urn full of bones and charcoal, and amongst these was found a small ornament of bone about four inches long, very much resembling the figure of a cricket-bat, and notched in the edges; this was in much better preservation than the other bones. Clay urns full of burnt bones have also been found on the farm of Holeton, and in other places along the skirts of the Ochil hills.

III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the population amounted to 1891 persons; and in

* *Maclaurin's Criminal Trials*; and *Douglas' Peerage of Scotland*.

1793, the numbers were, males, 811; females, 933; total, 1744.

The population at each census was as follows:—

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|
| In 1801, males, 920 | females, 1116 | total, 2036 |
| 1811, do. 1005 | do. 1167 | do. 2172 |
| 1821, do. 1170 | do. 1359 | do. 2529 |
| 1831, do. 1512 | do. 1493 | do. 3008 |

The population returns, in 1831, included about 190 males, then employed in making a new line of road from Milnathort to Damhead, nearly all of whom did not previously reside in the parish, and left it when the work was completed. The causes of increase otherwise are supposed to be the improved state of agriculture giving more employment to labourers, and the greater salubrity of the atmosphere consequent on draining, the introduction of vaccination, &c.

The population of Milnathort (the rest of the parish being landward) was,

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|
| In 1801, males, 409 | females, 550 | total, 959 |
| 1811, do. 543 | do. 656 | do. 1199 |
| 1821, do. 656 | do. 821 | do. 1477 |
| 1831, do. 867 | do. 905 | do. 1772 |

The number of births, deaths, and proclamations of marriages for the last seven years is, according to the register, as follows:—

| | Births. | Funerals. | Proclamation of marriages. |
|-------|---------|-----------|----------------------------|
| 1832, | 40 | 66 | 23 |
| 1833, | 33 | 56 | 25 |
| 1834, | 30 | 54 | 21 |
| 1835, | 35 | 52 | 21 |
| 1836, | 40 | 46 | 23 |
| 1837, | 31 | 62 | 21 |
| 1838, | 33 | 35 | 20 |

Many of the inhabitants never make any registration either of births or deaths; and several die in the parish who are buried and registered elsewhere.

No census since 1821 has been taken sufficient to enable us to state the average number of persons of different ages. In that year there were,—

| | | |
|------------------|------------|--------------|
| Under 5 years, | males, 142 | females, 178 |
| From 5 to 10 do. | do. 170 | do. 148 |
| 10 to 15 do. | do. 127 | do. 150 |
| 15 to 20 do. | do. 114 | do. 125 |
| 20 to 30 do. | do. 173 | do. 240 |
| 30 to 40 do. | do. 137 | do. 162 |
| 40 to 50 do. | do. 108 | do. 136 |
| 50 to 60 do. | do. 100 | do. 99 |
| 60 to 70 do. | do. 58 | do. 79 |
| 70 to 80 do. | do. 34 | do. 30 |
| 80 to 90 do. | do. 6 | do. 11 |
| 90 to 100 do. | do. 1 | do. 1 |
| 100 and upwards, | none. | |

There are about 50 proprietors of land, of the yearly value of

L. 50, and upwards. At last census (1831) there were 662 families. The number of each family is about $4\frac{1}{2}$.

In 1831, there were 455 inhabited houses; since then, at least, 15 or 20 additional ones have been built. In 1831, there were 7 uninhabited or building.

By the census of 1831, there were 207 males employed in agriculture; 357 males, retailers; 27 wholesale merchants, &c.; 236 labourers; 52 males not included in the above description; 91 female-servants, but there were no house male-servants.

There is 1 fatuous person, 1 deaf and dumb, and 1 blind.

Character of the People, &c.—The people, generally speaking, are intellectual, moral, and religious. Poaching has prevailed of late years to such an extent that scarcely any gentleman takes out a game certificate. Smuggling is now unknown in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of imperial acres may, in round numbers, be stated at 18,500; * of these about 8000 are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage; and from 600 to 700 in plantations, gardens, &c. The remaining 500 acres are almost in a state of nature, and, from lying principally along the heights and declivities of the Ochils, cannot be cultivated, at least with profit.

Larch, Scotch fir, spruce, ash, and oak, are the principal trees. Little attention is paid to the regular yearly thinning, felling, pruning, &c.

The arable land may average about L. 1, 10s. or L. 1, 12s. per imperial acre. The average rate of grazing is from L. 3, 10s. to L. 4 per annum for a cow, and L. 2, 10s. to L. 3 for an ox.

Wages.—Farm-servants in bothy receive about L. 12 in money, $6\frac{1}{2}$ bolls of oatmeal, and 6 firlots of potatoes per annum, with a pint of milk daily. The married servants generally have cows, but their wages are lessened in proportion. The rate of labour is very various; in summer a stout and good workman will earn 2s. per day (providing his own victuals); or, during the hay harvest, 2s. 6d. In winter 1s. 6d. is a common rate. - Women obtain from 9d. to 1s. 3d.

Live-Stock.—The Fife breed of black cattle is generally preferred, though in its pure state can hardly be obtained.

* The number of Scots acres, as given by the writer of the former Statistical Account, was incorrect; for, if we take his own statement as to the number of miles, viz. 5 or 6 long, and 5 broad, this would give at the utmost 30 square miles, or 15,200 Scots acres. By careful measurement on a map, the number of imperial acres given above will be found tolerably accurate.

Leases.—The larger farms, especially those requiring improvement, are let for fifteen or nineteen years : smaller farms for seven years. Occasionally, single fields are let for three years, and according to a specified rotation of cropping. The farm-steadings formerly were in very bad order, but of late years much improvement has been effected in this particular, and nearly all are now in excellent condition. Thrashing-mills driven by horses are generally used ; two or three are driven by water, but none by steam. Most farms are now enclosed either by dry stone dikes, or beech or thorn hedges.

The principal manufacture was formerly cotton goods by the handloom ; but, owing to the low prices got, a new manufacture, that of tartan shawls and plaiding, has been introduced within the last twelvemonths, which has created a great stimulus. One or other of these gives employment to a great many of the inhabitants. As the new manufacture requires larger looms, and the dwelling-houses being generally unfit for such, one or two individuals have, as a speculation, erected large airy buildings in the village of Milnathort, in which any of the work people can have a stance. This is much more healthy than the old system. The hours for work depend on their own pleasure.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-town.—Milnathort is the only market-town, and indeed there is no other village but itself in the parish. There has been a weekly corn-market (by sample) held here for nearly half a century, to which distillers at considerable distances send agents to purchase grain. It is likewise the only one in the county. About ten or twelve years ago, there was an attempt made to have a butter, cheese, and poultry-market ; but it did not succeed. Milnathort has no regular system of police ; but within these two years, a small constabulary paid force has been appointed for the county, and one of the officers has his residence in Milnathort, and in the day time perambulates the district assigned to him. Owing to the inhabitants of the towns and villages in the county not having hitherto contributed one farthing towards this establishment, but leaving all to be paid by the land-owners, it is not expected to be kept up much longer, unless they come forward and pay a reasonable proportion.

The mail-coaches pass through Milnathort twice a-day, but it is only a penny-post to Kinross. There are ~~about~~ fourteen miles of turnpike roads ; a similar number are kept up by statute labour

They are all in excellent condition. The bridge over the Queich, at the south end of Milnathort, is old, ill constructed, and by no means in good repair. The great north road trustees have not displayed their usual zealous attention by endeavouring to obviate this deformity, while other improvements of minor importance on this line of road have been carried into execution. The fences in the parish are in pretty good order.

The Aberdeen and Inverness mail-coaches, Saxe-Cobourg to Perth, and Defiance to Aberdeen, travel along the great north road from Edinburgh every day, but the Cobourg and Defiance do not run on Sundays. Occasionally, there are other stage-coaches on the road; and some time ago, one passed through Milnathort from Cupar to Stirling, but for some years it has ceased to run.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church, which was built in 1729, is situated half a mile from the nearest, and five miles from the farthest boundary of the parish; yet, as considered with reference to the dwellings of the parishioners, (the village of Milnathort containing half of the whole population,) it could not be more conveniently situated. There is a mortification by Captain Crawford of Pow-mylne for the benefit of the poor, which amounted, in 1722, to L. 100. *

The church affords convenient accommodation for only 646 persons, although there are about 1600 connected with it; of these 599 are communicants. There are no seats unlet, and nearly the whole belong to the heritors, and are filled by themselves, their tenants, or servants. The Dissenting heritors let their seats, when not required by their tenants or servants, for 2s. or 2s. 6d. each. One gallery in the aisle belongs to the patron, who has permitted it to be let, and

* The following extract is from the parish records:—“1722. The said 3d of May the Session met again, and after prayer, Major Henry Balfour of Dunbog deposite in the minister his hands, in name and behalf of Captain William Crawford of Pow-mylne, for the use of the poor in the parish of Orwell, born and living in the parish, virtuously and honestly, the sum of L. 100 Sterling money; the which sum to be lent out upon good security, and the a-rent to be bestowed as it cometh into the managers of the said mortification. The managers appointed by the said Captain Crawford, being Sir Thomas Bruce of Kinross and his heirs, the minister of the parish of Orwell and his successors, ministers, and Captain Crawford and his heirs, Robert Coventry, sewar in Arlary, Robert Balfour in Orwell, William Shaw, sewar in Seggie, and George Arnott of Holeyton, and failing any of these four by death, the survivors to choose others in their room, (a power being reserved by the Captain for himself, or his heirs and successors, to add to the number of managers, as he or they shall find meet.) The managers being likewise convened, and considering this pious, generous, and honourable deed of Captain Crawford, recommended it to the minister to write a letter of thanks, in name of the managers, to the Captain for his singular liberality, and to assure him that all due care shall be taken that the samen be managed and disposed so as it may answer his good and laudable design.”

the proceeds given to the poor. It contains about 90 sittings; the front seats are let at 2s., the others at 6d. each. The poor have seats in this loft *gratis*. The church is by far too small for the congregation, and the demand for more accommodation is rapidly increasing: 150 additional sittings at least are required, and nearly all of these for the working classes. The want of accommodation in the parish church deprives many of the parishioners of the means of public worship, or compels them to attend Dissenting churches. The attendance at church is nearly the same throughout the year; none of the parishioners belonging to the Establishment attend worship out of the parish.

The manse was built in 1788, and, though repaired in 1825, is still very incommodious. The sum of L. 200, judiciously laid out, would render it very comfortable. The amount of stipend is L. 68, 7s. 10¹/₂d. in money; 69 bolls, 2 firloths, 1 peck, 2²/₈ lippies meal; 46 bolls, 2 firloths, 3 pecks, and 2³/₈ lippes barley; and 7 bolls, 2 firloths oats. There is also a glebe worth about L. 30 per annum.

There are two Dissenting places of worship; the one belonging to the Original Burgher Associate Synod: the other to the United Associate Synod. Both these places of worship are in the village of Milnathort; and the number of individuals attending them, as given up to the Church Commission in December 1837, was as follows, viz.—at the former, average attendance, 300; persons in the habit of attending, 450; communicants, little more than 300: the average attendance at the United Secession was about 400; those in the habit of attending, 580; communicants, 485. The actual numbers belonging to these establishments are supposed to be, to the one, 472; to the other, 714; but some of these may reside in other parishes.*

Education.—There are 6 schools in the parish, 1 parochial or endowed school, and 5 not endowed. Of these two are female schools: some of them are at the western extremity of the parish; and, within a few yards of the eastern boundary, there is one situated in the parish of Strathmiglo, so that there are ample means of education.

The parochial school is in Milnathort, and the branches here

* "The primary cause of there being Seceders in this parish, was a Mr Mair, a minister of the Establishment, who, changing his opinions, preached up the erroneous doctrine of universal redemption, and was, in consequence of this, dismissed from his charge; notwithstanding of this, he still continued in the village, preaching this doctrine till the day of his death, to his adherents, who were very numerous, and who built that large chapel presently occupied by the Burghers."—Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account, Vol. xx. p. 184.

generally taught are, English, writing, arithmetic, practical mathematics, geography and Latin, and sometimes Greek and French. In the unendowed schools attention is chiefly paid to the four first branches. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is L. 34, 4s. 4½d., and the school fees average about L. 50. The lowest rate is, for English, 2s. 6d. per quarter; writing and English, 3s. 6d.; arithmetic with the two former, 4s. 6d.; Latin with any of the preceding, 6s.; mathematics, book-keeping, with the addition of any or all of those enumerated, 7s. 6d. The schoolmaster's house was built within the last thirty years. It consists of two stories, and is sufficient to enable him to keep boarders. He has besides all the legal accommodations.

The people in general are alive to the benefits of education. There are almost none between six and fifteen years of age who cannot read or write; and none above fifteen in that situation, so far as is known. There is no part of the parish so distant as to prevent the children attending either the parish school or one of the unendowed seminaries.

The morals of the lowest classes have not improved of late years, but this is not to be attributed to the greater facilities for education. In consequence of the low price of spirits within these last six or eight years, there have been more petty crime and drunkenness than was formerly known.

There is a library in the village, instituted in 1797, called the Milnathort Library. This belongs at present to about forty different individuals, in, or connected with the parish, who contribute 6s. 6d. annually towards it. Any one, however, may read the books by paying 1s. a-month, or 8s. a-year. The annual funds for the purchase of books, after defraying the ordinary expenses, amount, for the average of the last ten years, to L. 13. It is managed by a small committee of seven persons appointed annually, and at present consists of 1270 volumes. Being the oldest library in the county, it received, about four years ago, a donation from the Record Commission Court of London, of all the published acts, returns, and other records of England and Scotland, composing 52 folio volumes. Besides this, there is also a session library, instituted 1st January 1832, attached to the Established Church, and consisting of between 300 and 500 volumes. It is kept up by a collection at the church door on the first Sabbath of each year; and every individual belonging to the congregation is allowed to make use of it, on contributing 1s. annually. The

books are given out to be read every Sabbath, before public worship, by one of the elders; and the poor are allowed to read the books free of expense. It is not confined to religious works, but comprehends others of general information, such as narratives of voyages, travels, &c. There are also two other libraries; the one a subscription library, belonging to the United Secession, instituted in 1833, to which each family using it contributes 2s. annually; the other, conducted on similar principles, is a congregational library, belonging to the Original Burghers.

There are no institutions or societies in the parish; but one gentleman, it may be observed, has an extensive private collection of dried plants, containing upwards of 20,000 species.

Saving Bank.—There was formerly a Saving Bank in the county, but, owing to the stopping of the Stirling Bank, in which much of the money was deposited, the institution was broken up. During last year, another, nearly on the Government plan, was set agoing. The head office is in Kinross, and there are also branches in Milnathort and Cleish. As, however, it has been a few months only in existence, nothing can be stated as to its prospects of success.

Poor.—In the former Statistical Account it is said, “There are few poor on the roll, as the other three places of worship support their own poor,”—a statement totally inapplicable to the present day. Formerly, the poor had a feeling of independence, declining all assistance so long as they could earn a pittance by their own exertions, and their relatives were desirous of aiding them rather than see their names on the poor’s roll. Not so now. The applications for assistance every year are becoming more and more numerous, and nothing is heard but grumbling that they are not getting so much as some of their acquaintances on the roll. Indeed, very near relatives, who, by law, might perhaps be compelled to assist, contribute nothing. Formerly, the money collected at the church-door was sufficient not only to support all the poor, but, by good management, a sum was amassed, which, about forty years ago, was laid out in purchasing a piece of land. Now, owing to the poor belonging to the Secession churches coming to the Orwell kirk-session for relief, from the collections at the church-door not proportionally increasing, (many passing by without bestowing one farthing, alleging that the heritors, and not they, ought to give,) and others contributing far below their means, there is not a sufficiency of funds to support the poor, even with the rent

derived from the purchased land, which at present amounts to L. 56 Sterling. As it is doubtful whether a legal assessment can be laid on, so long as there is property belonging to the poor, an attempt was made about a year ago to lay on a voluntary assessment, in the expectation that those heritors who were either non-resident or did not attend the parish church, and who had hitherto contributed little or nothing, would come forward in a handsome manner. This measure failed; few of those individuals having given more than what by law they could have been compelled to pay, and others gave nothing whatever. A similar attempt is not therefore likely again to be made, and ere long the property must be sold; and when this happens, the few hundred pounds obtained will speedily vanish, demands to be put on the poor's roll will rapidly increase, and a legal assessment be the result.

The average number of paupers on the *permanent* roll, exclusive of lunatics in confinement, and of persons receiving occasional relief, were in 1835, 23 who received L. 78, 9s. 9d.; in 1836, 19 who received L. 83, 1s. 1d.; in 1837, 26 who received L. 81, 8s. 6d. Those who received occasional relief in 1835 were 27, who got L. 9, 3s. 5d.; in 1836, 32 received L. 10, 13s. 6d.; in 1837, 40 received L. 20, 16s. 8½d. In 1837, there was one lunatic in confinement, the cost of which was L. 25, 18s. 2d.

The annual amount of collections at the church-door were as follows:—1835, L. 29, 6s. 8d.; 1836, L. 29, 9s. 9d.; 1837, L. 29, 19s. 3d. During these years, there were also voluntary contributions to the amount of—1835, L. 3, 5s. 1d.; 1836, L. 3, 8s. 8½d.; and 1837, L. 54, 7s. 5d. The mortcloth and other sessional dues and rent of poor's land amounted, in 1835, to L. 62, 15s.; 1836, to L. 62, 6s. 6d.; and in 1837, to L. 63, 14s. 6d. The collections are applied to the relief of the poor of all denominations in the parish; under deduction of a salary of L. 3, 3s. to the session-clerk; L. 3 to the precentor; and to the beadle L. 1, 1s. The books, containing a statement of these funds, are inspected twice a year by a joint committee of the kirk-session and heritors.

The parish is much annoyed by vagrants, such as shipwrecked sailors, and persons disbanded from manufacturing establishments, &c. soliciting relief.

Fairs.—There are six markets or fairs held during the year in the village of Milnathort. Two of these, (one on the Thursday before Christmas, the other on the second Thursday of February), are held for the sale of fat cattle only. The other four are gene-

ral markets for cattle, sheep, and horses, and take place in the beginning of May, July, and November, and end of August.

Inns and Alehouses.—There are no less than 14 spirit licenses granted for this parish. Of these, 5 are issued to inns or public-houses in the village of Milnathort; seven grocers in the village also allow spirits to be consumed on their premises; and there are two public-houses in the landward part of the parish. This facility of obtaining spirituous liquors, not to mention the cheapness of the article, while it has given an effectual check to smuggling, has increased their consumption, and greatly deteriorated the morals of the lower orders; and instances of late have occurred of some abandoned wretches stealing and selling mere trifles to obtain the few pence requisite to purchase a dram.

Fuel.—Almost the only kind of fuel now used is coal, which is obtained in several places in the county of Fife, at no great distance from the borders of Kinross-shire. The distance of the pits from Milnathort is from seven to nine miles. The price is variable, but at present the cost may be stated at 7s. or 7s. 6d. per ton at the pit mouth. A cart load weighs 84 stone Dutch, or 13 cwt. and 14 lbs.; and when contracted for on behalf of the poor, it varies from 7s. to 8s. 6d., including carriage and tolls.

There is no distillery now in the parish. The one belonging to Mr Stein of Hattonburn, noticed in the former Statistical Account, having been converted into a potato-flour or farina manufactory.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the former Statistical Account was written, and, indeed, within the last thirty years, great alterations have taken place owing to an extensive system of draining, and a more skilful method of husbandry. Many fields, which at that period were totally useless, may now be seen to produce excellent crops. The greater part of the parish is dry; yet, from the close-bottomed nature of many fields, improvement still may be expected from wedge-draining, as yet partially introduced; and it is probable that this will be more attended to, as the returns to those farmers who have thoroughly practised it have been satisfactory. The roads are all in excellent order, and lime is to be had at a convenient distance, and at no great expense. Taking these circumstances into view, together with the moderate rate of wages, the agriculturist has every facility to carry on his improvements.

April 1839.