

PARISH OF CULTS.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. THOMAS J. CRAWFORD, A. M. MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Situation, Boundaries, and Extent.—THIS parish is situated in the heart of the county of Fife. In form, it is nearly oblong, and in superficial extent about $3\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, being $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles long from north to south, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ broad from east to west. It is bounded on the west, by the parishes of Kettle and Collessie; on the north, by Collessie, Monimail, and Cupar; on the east, by Ceres; and on the south by Ceres and Kettle.

Name.—The ancient name of this parish was *Quilts* or *Quilques*. This word is alleged, in the former Statistical Account, to be of Celtic origin, signifying a “*nook*” or “*corner*,” and is supposed to be descriptive of the situation of the parish, which *recedes* towards the south-east from the large strath or valley of the Eden.

Topographical Appearances.—There is nothing very remarkable to be noted under this head. The surface is flat or slightly declining towards the north, but hilly towards the south and east. The eastern district is richly wooded,—the western somewhat bare and uninteresting. Of the hills may be mentioned the Walton hill, which rises at the south-east extremity of the parish,—and the Pitlessie or Cults’ lime hills, which adjoin it on the south. On these, there are many points from which the fine scenery of the neighbourhood, the beautiful valley of Stratheden, and “*mine own blue Lomonds*,” (as Sir D. Wilkie, in a letter to a former clergyman of Cults, enthusiastically calls them,) may be seen to the greatest advantage.

Soil.—There is great variety in the quality of the soil. From the northern boundary to the high road, the soil is a light brownish sand, arid and unproductive, apt to be overrun, if left long

under grass, with bent, broom and furze. Farther southwards to the ascent of the lime hills, a soft black loam prevails, varying from 10 to 20 inches in depth. On the sides and tops of the hills, there is a strong clay, of excellent quality, capable of producing the finest crops.

Climate.—The climate is dry, mild, and salubrious. There are no peculiar diseases incident to the locality. Agues, which were prevalent sixty years ago, have now, owing to the improved cultivation of the country, entirely disappeared, and fevers have of late years been neither so frequent nor so severe as in some of the surrounding parishes. The highest winds are from the south-west; the greatest storms of rain and snow from the east.

Hydrography.—The river Eden divides part of this parish from that of Collessie on the north, and traverses the other part. The breadth of the river is about thirty-four feet. Its bed is level, its course winding, and its current consequently slow and noiseless. From the western to the eastern extremity of the parish, it has a fall of about thirteen feet. It drives six mills, and in these is made available in the summer season to the extent of not less than twenty horse power. The Eden is joined by the Ballomill burn, which, flowing southwards, divides Cults from Collessie on the west. This stream, though only about fifteen feet in width, is, during the summer months, of nearly equal power with the Eden itself. Besides these, there are various streamlets of inconsiderable size. One of them drives two thrashing-mills.

Geology.—The parish of Cults presents a very interesting field of observation to the geologist. Its geognostic appearances are, for the most part, connected with the carboniferous or great independent coal formation. The rocks consist of sandstone, limestone, shale, coal, and trap, and constitute the northern outcrop of the coal metals. We shall begin our brief description with the lowest of the sedimentary deposits, and consider the others in their relative order of superposition,—a method which will conduct us gradually from the northern to the southern extremity of the parish.

The rock which prevails throughout the lower district is a *yellow sandstone*, sections of which may be observed along the banks of the Eden, and at the quarries of Hospital Mill and Bogle Hill. It may likewise be observed cropping out on the Walton Hill, a little to the east of the burying-place of the Crawford family, and

reaching an elevation of about 200 feet above the level of the valley. The deposit may therefore be considered as of enormous thickness. Some of its beds assume a brecciated or conglomerated aspect, containing nodules of quartz, and rounded portions of the primitive rocks; also innumerable quantities of clay nodules, which are soft, unctuous, of a bluish yellow colour, and generally of a globular or semispherical form. In this portion of the deposit, the scales, teeth, and bones of fossil fish are abundant. Some of the scales found at Hospital Mill quarry, measure nearly three inches in length and two inches in breadth. These interesting relics all belong, according to Dr Anderson (Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal, January 1838,) to the *Gyrolepis giganteus* of M. Agassiz; And the discovery of them in this deposit has led him to regard it as belonging to the old red sandstone formation, of which it constitutes the upper member. It is undoubtedly a continuation of the Dura Den, Drumdryan, Wemyss' Hall, and Cupar Muir sandstones, in which several new genera of fossil fishes, as well as insects, have been discovered and described by Dr Anderson in the paper referred to. The direction of this deposit is to the south-east, its dip is at an angle which varies from 7° to 12° , and its range is westerly.

The mountain limestone is the next rock which occurs in the order of superposition. This rock crops out at a considerable elevation above the valley, and like the former ranges in a westerly direction, dipping towards the south-east at an angle of about 10° . It may, therefore, although the junction of the two cannot be observed, be considered as lying perfectly conformable with the yellow sandstone. The main bed is about 14 feet thick, very hard and crystalline in its texture, and of a dark bluish colour. It extends about a mile and a half in length, in the course of which several dislocations occur, which are termed *rums* by the workmen. These portions of the rock differ considerably from the rest, and almost approach the character of a conglomerate, which, along with the arch-like appearance of the *rums*, clearly indicates the nature of the cause by which they have been occasioned, as well as the close proximity of the trap beneath. Besides this main bed of limestone, there are other three, one of which is two, another eight, and the third six feet in thickness. The organic remains in this deposit are encrinurites of several species, *orthocerates*, *terebratulæ*, *productæ*, *spiriferæ*, *corallines*, *madrepores*, and small microscopic shells. It yields

about 90 per cent. of carbonate of lime, and is much esteemed both for agricultural and architectural purposes.

Several alternating beds of coal, shale, and sandstone repose upon the limestone strata. One of the beds of coal is twelve inches thick, and may be considered as the lowest of the whole series, of which the coal-field in the county is composed. From the quarry it may be traced westwards to Front-brae, where it may be seen cropping out along the road which leads to Coal-town. Here the whole series have been thrown down several hundred feet, underlying the Burnturk coal metals, and again emerging at Forthar linework in the parish of Kettle. The other beds of coal vary from a few inches to about a foot in thickness, and are not considered of sufficient value to be wrought.

One of the beds of shale which overlies the main lime bed is composed almost entirely of shells of the genus *Mytilus*, the prevailing species being the *M. Crassus*. These shells appear as fresh and entire as if they were still reposing on the muddy bed of the primitive ocean, in which they were produced. Not only are the external figure and internal texture preserved, but even the colour and original shelly matter seem to have sustained but little alteration. One cannot look on these interesting relics without a feeling of admiration of the wonderful methods devised by Providence, for preserving so entire bodies of so fragile a kind, and out of their remains once deposited on the bottom of the sea, forming the rocks and soil, which now minister to the wants and comforts of man.

Of the sandstones reposing on the lime beds, the thickest, which is about 16 feet, abounds in organic remains. These, however, are wholly vegetable, being the stems and branches of *arundinaceous* plants. Not a trace of animal matter can be detected in any part of this deposit, while in the inferior bed of sandstone before noticed, the organic remains are exclusively animal; a fact, we believe, first observed by Dr Anderson, and serving as the basis of his proposed arrangement of the different sandstones found in Stratheden. The whole of these alternating beds of coal, shale, sandstone and mountain limestone, have been elevated to the height of about 600 feet above the level of the sea, and now constitute what are called the Cults or Pitlessie Hills, being apparently a continuation of the Lomond range.

The whole series of rocks in this parish are capped with masses of overlying trap, consisting partly of *amygdaloid*, and partly of

greenstone. This rock has obviously burst through the stratified deposits, and towards it, as a central nucleus, they all incline.

Botany.—I have been favoured by a proprietor in the neighbourhood* with a very complete view of the botany of the parish of Cults. A brief account of the more notable plants, which have been observed by him, is all that can be here given.

The *Chara vulgaris* grows in one of the rills on the farm of Priestfield; the *Agrostis alba*, var. *stolonifera*, abounds on the lime-hills,—as also the *Briza media* and *Avena flavescens*; and the *Aira aquatica* in Pitrachnie den. The *Scabiosa arvensis*, the smooth variety, a plant which, Sir James Smith says, has not yet been found in England, grows in Cults. The *Galium cinereum* grows close to the mill-dam opposite the Priory garden. The *Potamogeton pusillum*, which does not seem to be found near Edinburgh, grows abundantly in the old bed of the Eden near Pitlessie Bridge. The white-flowered *Campanula rotundifolia* has been found in several places. The *Viola lutea* is common on the hills. The *Solum dulcamara*, supposed by Hooker to be rare in Scotland, grows in many places on the banks of the Eden; while *Cicuta virosa*, the most virulent of our poisons, has been found near Cult mill. The *Triglochin palustre* grows on the lime-hills, and the white-flowering *Epilobium montanum* in the woods near Crawford Priory. The *Sedum Telephium* grows freely on the banks of the Eden, and the *S. villosum* is not uncommon in marshy places on the hills. The *Cerastium aquaticum* grows near Pitlessie mill. The *Agrimonia Eupatoria*, a plant much used in making British teas, is found in Pitrachnie den; and the *Prunus spinosa* grows in considerable quantities among the rocks. As might be expected, there is a great variety of the genus *Rosa*: *R. spinosissima* and *tomentosa* are very common; *R. scabriuscula* abounds on the whole range of hills on the south of Stratheden; the *R. rubiginosa* is not uncommon; the *R. arvensis* is frequently to be met with, as also the *R. canina*, now so much recommended for rose stocks. The *Geum rivale* and the *Comarum palustre* are to be found in the rills and marshes. The *Papaver Rhaas*, so common on the coast, but rare in the interior of Fife, grows near Cult mill; and the *Nephar lutea* near Pitlessie Bridge. *Ranunculus sceleratus*, and *R. hirsutus*, var. β , are found on the banks of the river Eden, while a beautiful variety of the *R. acris* with a single flower abounds

* James Heriot, Esq. of Ramornie.

in Pitrachnie den. The *Caltha radicans* is by no means uncommon on the hills. The *Galeopsis Ladanum*, var. β , Smith, which he had never seen, is found; and also the beautiful *G. versicolor*, called bee-nettle, from a resemblance to that insect. (The day-nettle, by which the reapers are so severely stung, is the *Galeopsis*, including more than one species of it, and not the dead-nettle, or *Lamium*, as stated by Dr Jamieson in his Scottish Dictionary. The severity of the wound is caused by a poisonous liquid contained in the plant.) The dark variety of *Euphrasia officinalis* is found on Hospital Mill farm. The *Thlaspi arvense* grows in the southern part of the parish, on the farm of Skelpie; the *Cardamine hirsuta* on the banks of the Eden; the *Nasturtium officinale* in the ditches; and the *Barbarea officinalis* near Pitlessie. The *Sinapis alba* occurs occasionally; the other two sorts are very common. The beautiful *Geranium pratense* is found in several places, as also the *G. dissectum*. The *Malva moschata*, not uncommon in the county, grows near Crawford Priory. The *Spartium scoparium* and *Ulex europæus*, from the extent of ground they occupy, (there having been till very recently a fox cover of seventy acres on the farm of Skelpie) would lead one to doubt the truth of the statement, that they are of foreign origin, and were introduced by the Scottish kings, who had their hunting seat at the neighbouring palace of Falkland. The *Anthyllis vulneraria* grows on the hills, as also the *Orobus tuberosus*, the roots of which have been recommended as a substitute for coffee. The beautiful *Ornithopus perpusillus* has been found near Clushford bridge; the *Lotus major* near the lime-hills; *Hypericum quadrangulum* and *H. pulchrum*, the latter very common in the marshes, as also the *Leontodon palustre*. The parish is rich in the genus *Hieracium*; the *H. murorum* is found in the rocks and walls, the *H. sylvaticum* in the woods, and the *H. palustre* on the lime hills. *Cichorium Intybus* is found occasionally. The *Cnicus eriophorus* is found near Crawford Priory garden, and in other places. The *Gnaphalium dioicum* is by no means uncommon. The *Inula Helenium* grows near the farm of Bunzeon. The *Centaurea scabiosa*, not uncommon in the east of Fife, does not seem to have reached farther west than the eastern part of the lime-hills. The *Orchis bifolia* and *O. mascula* are not rare on the hills. Pitlessie Mill dam affords the *Sparganium simplex* with leaves from 6 to 8 feet long, very different in appearance from the diminutive plant of the same species of 1 or 2 inches,

growing on the borders of Lindores Loch. The *Alnus glutinosa* grows wild on the banks of the Eden. The *Betula alba*, var. β , or weeping birch, is found apparently wild near Bunzeon. There are many sorts of willows in the parish, but the only sorts probably that are in a wild state are the beautiful species, *Salix pentandra*, *S. malifolia*, *S. repens*, *S. aquatica*, and *S. caprea*. There are many fine trees of *S. alba*, and some good specimens of other kinds. There are no uncommon ferns; the *Aspidium Oreopteris*, and *A. Filix femina* are found; also *Asplenium Trichomanes*, and *Blechnum boreale*; *Ophioglossum vulgatum*; this rare plant is found near the lime quarries; *Equisetum arvense* and *E. palustre* are found in the marshy grounds.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Early Notices of the Parish—These are very scanty. In the taxed roll of the Archbishoprick of St Andrews, drawn up in the year 1547, Cults is included under the title of *Rectoria de Qwilts*. (See Martin's *Reliquiae Divi Andreae*). A still more early notice of it is found in the charters of the College of St Salvador, in the University of St Andrews. In the first foundation charter of that College, dated 1455, there is contained a disposition and mortification for its behoof, by Bishop James Kennedy, of the teinds of the parishes of Qwilts, Kemback, Dunningow, Forteviot, and Kilmany, together with some chaplainries, all formerly belonging to the see.—In the second foundation charter of St Salvador's, dated at the Castle of St Andrews, 5th April 1458, it is ordained that the College shall consist of a Doctor in Theology, who was to be Provost or Principal, a Licentiate of Theology, a Bachelor in Theology, four Masters of Arts, and six poor scholars to be taught the speculative sciences. The Doctor in Theology being Principal, has by this charter the rectory of *Qwilts* assigned to him as his endowment,—the Licentiate, or second master has the rectory of Kemback, and the Bachelor, or third master, the rectory of Denino,—the teinds of the other benefices being assigned to the Masters of Arts and poor scholars. Prior to the Reformation, the Principal of St Salvador's continued to be *ex officio* rector of Cults, serving the cure by a Vicar or Curate. On the establishment of the Reformed Church of Scotland, the surplus or unappropriated teinds of the parish were still allotted to him as *Titular*. And in this capacity, the principal of the then United Colleges of St Salvador and St Leonard opposed the augmentation of stipend sued for by the ministers of Cults, and granted to him in 1756. The pa-

tronage of Cults and of the other parishes above-mentioned is still vested in the Professors of the United College.

Antiquities.—"The Walton-hill," says Mr Wilkie in the former Statistical Account, "has many *fossæ* and ramparts cut along its side, which are supposed to be the remains of a Roman camp, pitched by Agricola, who, when invading Scotland, encamped one part of his army here, and the other at Newtyle in Angus." The truth of this supposition is very doubtful. The Romans usually encamped in the *plain*, not like the Danes and Britons on the hill or hill-side. Mr Wilkie adds, "that many urns and bones have been dug up on and near this hill." Of what description these urns were he omits to mention. Probably they were of the same kind with those Celtic urns of rudely moulded earthenware, which have been, at a more recent period, found in great numbers, on the adjoining lands of Edenwood, in the parish of Ceres. Urns exactly similar to these last have been discovered near Maiden Castle, in Collessie, and are described in the New Statistical Account of that parish.

Parochial Registers.—These parish records commence in the year 1693, and are continued downwards with little interruption to the present day. Prior to 1748, however, the entries are made in a very confused and slovenly manner,—the notices of births, marriages, and deaths being huddled together with the minutes of the kirk-session, and the accounts of the collections and disbursements for the poor. The older minutes of the Session exhibit some curious traits of the characters and manners of the times to which they refer. From the account of the collections, it appears that these were sometimes made in former times, not only for the maintenance of the poor, and for missionary purposes, but for the repairing of roads, bridges, and harbours. And it more than once occurs that the recusant members of the congregation, who fail to give their mite to these occasional contributions, have their names reported to a subsequent meeting of the kirk-session and recorded in the minute.

Eminent Men.—This parish has the honour of being the birth-place of Sir David Wilkie, the celebrated painter, who was born in the manse on the 18th of November 1785. His father, the Rev. David Wilkie, for thirty-eight years minister of Cults, was of a respectable family in Mid-Lothian, and was nephew to the famous Dr Wilkie, Professor of Logic in the University of St Andrews, and author of the "*Epigoniad*." His mother, Miss Isa-

bel Lister, was the daughter of Mr James Lister, a most respectable elder in the parish, and a man of singular sagacity and natural talents. The young painter shewed at an early period of life a strong predilection for that art, in which he has now acquired so high and so well merited celebrity. Even the taunts of his brothers and companions did not deter him from embracing every opportunity, when yet on the very verge of infancy, of exhibiting his natural tastes and prepossessions. And all the aversion, at first shewn by both his father and grandfather, to his following, what they conceived to be an idle and unprofitable pursuit, only served to verify the adage of Horace, "*Naturam expelles furcâ, tamen usque recurret.*" His father's successor in the ministry has informed me, that when he first came to Cults, he found the walls of the nursery completely covered with eyes, noses, hands, and other parts of the human body, boldly executed, not with crayon, but with the charred end of a stick,—but that subsequently, on his return after a temporary absence, while the manse was undergoing repairs, he was shocked to find these interesting memorials obliterated, by the painter's brush no doubt, but by a very different one from that, which the young Artist was destined afterwards to make use of! Some of Wilkie's earliest performances still exist, in the shape of portraits, which are admirable likenesses, and valued of course very highly by their fortunate possessors. The oldest of his unproductive paintings that I have heard of, is an exquisite representation of a poor family, the father sitting in tattered clothes, smoking a pipe by the fire-side, and his daughter, a buxom girl, bringing water from the well in an earthen vessel. It is now in the possession of a widow lady in St Andrews. In one person's possession, there are, among several others of Wilkie's earlier efforts, two very exquisite likenesses of his brother's children, painted long before he reached the acmé of his fame,—and a domestic scene, his father and mother at family worship, painted in his youth, and not unworthy of being compared with his recent treatment of a kindred subject, "*The Cottar's Saturday Night.*" A report and belief is very general that the "*Saracen's head,*" a sign board in the village of Pitlessie, was painted by Wilkie. This we have reason to know is a mistake. There is, however, in the possession of Robert Methven, Esq. procurator fiscal for the County of Fife, a sign-board representing a boy watering a horse, which was really painted by Wilkie when a mere boy for a small alehouse in the parish of Kettle-

"*Pitlessie Fair*,"* which was his first regular effort as an artist, is now in the possession of a proprietor in an adjoining parish, Charles Kinnear, Esq. of Kinloch. It is a fine picture, containing upwards of 150 figures graphically delineated and admirably grouped, including portraits of Wilkie himself, his father, brothers and sisters, and of many other characters well known in the parish and neighbourhood, during the painter's earlier years. This picture is by competent judges considered equal in merit to some of the most admired productions of its distinguished artist, although, having never been engraved, it is less generally known.

To mention or characterize any of his more recent performances, would be quite superfluous. These are well known, and have been justly appreciated. As an artist he may be well accounted the boast not merely of a parish, or of a county, or even of a kingdom,—but of the art in general, wherever it is cultivated; while in private life, as is well known, there is no man more justly esteemed for his simple and unaffected manners, and his amiable and friendly disposition.—Sir David Wilkie was appointed by King George IV. Limner to his Majesty for Scotland, and in 1836 he received the honour of knighthood from King William IV.

The Rev. David Wilkie, father of this celebrated artist, merits a special notice in this place, as the author of a valuable "Treatise on the Theory of Interest and Annuities; with an illustration of the widow's scheme in the Church of Scotland:" as also Dr Thomas Gillespie, the present learned and able Professor of Humanity in the University of St Andrews, who succeeded Mr Wilkie in the ministry of the parish of Cults, and held that office for fifteen years. Dr Gillespie, besides numerous other literary productions, has published a volume of beautiful sermons on "The Seasons contemplated in the Spirit of the Gospel."

Land-owners and Rental.—There are three land-owners in this parish, none of them permanently resident, viz. The Right Honourable the Earl of Glasgow, George Heggie, Esq. of Pitlessie, and George Hope, Esq. of Upper Rankeillor and Hospital Mill.

The valued rent of the parish is as follows:

| | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|---|---|--------|
| The Earl of Glasgow, | L. 1442 | 0 | 0 | Scots. |
| George Heggie, Esq. | 490 | 0 | 0 | |
| George Hope, Esq. | 137 | 6 | 8 | |
| Total valued rental, | L. 2069 | 6 | 8 | |

* In the eighth vol. of Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, there is an admirable series of poetical sketches, entitled "*Sketches of Village Character*," the subjects of which were in a great measure furnished from the parish of Cults. No. iv. of these sketches is professedly and accurately descriptive of some of the principal features of Wilkie's "*Pitlessie Fair*."

The real rental of the parish (including feu-duties, and the rent of lime-quarries) may be stated at L. 3000 Sterling.

Mansion Houses.—Crawfurd Castle and Priory is the only modern mansion which merits particular notice under this head. It is a magnificent castellated building in the Gothic style of architecture. It was erected in 1812-13, by the late proprietor, Lady Mary Lindsay Crawfurd. The old seat of the Earls of Crawfurd and Lindsay was Struthers House, now in ruins, in the adjacent parish of Ceres. The old mansion house of Bunzeon, on the estate of that name, was formerly the seat of the Bruces of Bunzeon. Since the junction of this property with the Crawfurd estate, it has been converted into a farm-house. Bruce of Bunzeon represented the burgh of Cupar in the Scottish Parliament of 1703, before the Union.

Monuments.—There are no ancient monuments of any note in the church-yard of Cults. On the Walton hill, there is the mausoleum of the Crawford family, a handsome Grecian building, erected by the father of the late Earl. And Sir David Wilkie has adorned the interior of the church with a noble piece of sculpture to the memory of his parents. It is executed by Chantrey in the best style of that distinguished sculptor. The medallion likenesses which it presents of Mr and Mrs Wilkie, from portraits by Sir David, are considered very striking.

III.—POPULATION.

The following is a statement of the population of Cults at various periods downwards since 1751 :

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Number of inhabitants according to Session records in the year | 1751, | 464 |
| Number as returned to Dr Webster in | 1755, | 449 |
| Number according to last Statistical Account in | 1791, | 594 |
| Number by Government census in | 1801, | 699 |
| | 1811, | 766 |
| | 1821, | 853 |
| | in 1831, males 435, females 468, | total 903 |
| Number in January 1838, | | 914 |
| Increase since 1751, | | 450 |
| since 1791, | | 380 |

This progressive increase in the population is to be ascribed to the steadily advancing prosperity of trade and manufactures.

Of the 914 present inhabitants of this parish, 516 reside in the village of Pitlessie, and 398 in the country.

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|--|-------|
| The yearly average for the last seven years of births is | 20 |
| marriages, | 6.57 |
| deaths. | 16.14 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Of the 914 inhabitants of this parish there are under 15 years of age, | 329 |
| betwixt 15 and 30, | 254 |
| 30 and 50, | 163 |
| 50 and 70, | 136 |
| upwards of 70, | 39 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| The number of families is at present | 204 |
| By census 1831, the number of families is | 211 |
| The number of unmarried men, bachelors, or widowers upwards of 50 years of age, | 24 |
| unmarried women upwards of 45, | 38 |
| inhabited houses, by census 1831, | 174 |

Since that period, there have been ten additional dwelling-houses built, and nearly as many of the former houses converted into loom-shops. There are seven dwelling-houses at present uninhabited or building.

There are three proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards; one of them, the Earl of Glasgow, is occasionally resident.

Character and Habits of the People.—There is nothing remarkable in the character or habits of the people to distinguish them from those of the surrounding district. They are for the most part healthy and vigorous; and, on the whole, enjoy, in a reasonable measure, the comforts and advantages of society.

Thirty-five years ago, smuggling prevailed to a great extent in the village of Pitlessie. It has since been entirely abandoned.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Employments of Male Adults.—The Government census of 1831 gives the following return of the occupations of the males upwards of twenty years old:

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|---|-----|
| Number employed in agriculture, as farmers, cottars, and farm-servants, | 48 |
| manufactures, | 49 |
| retail trade and handicraft, | 68 |
| Merchants, professional persons, and other educated men, | 4 |
| Labourers employed in mines, roads, &c. | 37 |
| By the same census it appears that in 1831 there were | |
| Families chiefly employed in agriculture, | 30 |
| in trade, manufactures, and handicraft, | 151 |
| Other families not included in these classes, | 21 |
| Male servants upwards of twenty years old, | 4 |
| Female servants of all ages, | 18 |

Agricultural State.—The number of standard imperial acres in the parish is nearly 2250; of which there are,

| | |
|---|------|
| Under cultivation, | 1900 |
| Constantly waste or in pasture, (but all capable of being rendered arable,) | 140 |
| Under wood, (Scotch firs, larches, spruces, and hard-wood,) | 115 |
| Roads, fences, water, and quarries, about | 60 |
| Houses and gardens, | 35 |

There is no part of the land in a state of undivided common.

Husbandry.—The system of husbandry adopted varies according to the qualities of the different soils. A rotation of five years is generally observed. The farm-buildings are, with a few exceptions, good and commodious. A great part of the land in this parish stands in much need of draining and enclosures.

Rent of Land.—The rent of land varies, according to the qua-

lity of the soil, from 10s. to L. 3, 5s. per imperial acre. The average rent may be stated at L. 1, 5s. The duration of leases is usually nineteen years, and the rents are paid partly in fixed sums of money, and partly according to the fiars' prices of the county.

Rate of Grazing.—The average rate of grazing is L. 2, 10s. for an ox or cow, and 7s. for a ewe or full-grown sheep.

Live-Stock.—The cattle reared or fed in this parish are chiefly of the Fifeshire breed, to the improvement of which the farmers are most attentive. Few sheep are pastured, and these for the most part are of the black-faced and Cheviot breeds.

Rate of Wages.—The wages of a ploughman (all perquisites included) vary from L. 16 to L. 26. Female house-servants receive from L. 4, 10s. to L. 6, 10s. per annum. The wages of male day-labourers are from 8s. to 10s. per week; of female day-labourers from 4s. to 5s. per week. A mason's wages per day are 2s. 3d.; a carpenter's are 2s.

Lime-Quarries.—There are extensive lime-quarries in this parish, along the brow of the Pitlessie or Cults hill. The main stratum of limestone, which is 14 feet in thickness, is of a bluish colour, and when burnt affords an abundant supply of white lime of the finest quality. About 13 feet above it, there is another stratum, 2 feet in thickness, of a darker blue colour, which, when burnt, yields a bluish lime. Both of these strata are regularly quarried to a great extent, the open face of the rock being about a mile and a half in length.

Farther down the hill, about 120 yards to the north, another stratum may be observed cropping out in several places. This consists of what is called *boulder* limestone, and is 8 feet 6 inches in thickness. It has been quarried at the eastern and western extremities of the parish for road metal, but never, so far as I can ascertain, for supplying lime-shells.

About the same distance (120 yards) up the hill, to the southwards of the main quarry, is seen the outcrop of a fourth stratum, 6 feet in thickness, of superior quality to the lowest bed, but inferior to the two middle ones. It has been sometimes quarried, but not regularly. These different beds of limestone are separated from one another by strata of coal, shale, sandstone, and a kind of bastard limestone, which the miners call "sklut."

The limestone is obtained for the most part by "tiring," or removing the superincumbent strata. Mining is permitted by the terms of the leases, where the tiring would exceed 30 feet. And

some of the under-ground quarries extend 120 yards inwards from the face of the rock.

The quantity of lime sold annually exceeds 25,000 bolls, three of which bolls are equivalent to 16 cwt. About one-third of this quantity is shipped at Newburgh for Dundee and Perth, whence it is conveyed to Dunkeld, Crieff, Methven, Cupar Angus, and many other places in Forfarshire and Perthshire. The lime is of excellent quality, averaging upwards of ninety per cent. and some of it being entirely pure. The demand for it is great, and constantly increasing, insomuch that a far greater quantity might be disposed of annually, were it not for the difficulty that has been recently felt in procuring, at a reasonable distance, an adequate supply of coals for burning it. The rent paid annually by the tacksman is regulated by the extent of rock quarried, and averages L. 365.

The price of the lime when sold at the hill is 2s. 8d. per boll. The expense of tiring (or mining) and burning the lime, averages 10d. per boll; the expense of shipping a one horse cart-load (of three bolls) at Newburgh, including carriage, tolls, and shore-dues, is 4s., or 1s. 4d. per boll; the number of workmen (mostly belonging to the parish) engaged at the quarries is 43; and their wages per week are from 9s. to 10s.

Besides these workmen, the lime-quarries of Cults afford employment to a number of carters in conveying coals to the kilns, and lime to the port of Newburgh. In the summer season, there are upwards of a hundred carters from the parishes of Cults, Ceres, Collessie, Largo, Kennoway, Cupar, Kettle, and Cameron, regularly engaged in this occupation. The greater proportion of these are tenants of small farms, which, but for the carting of coal and lime, would not afford sufficient work for their horses. The coals for burning the lime are brought principally from Teasses, in the parish of Ceres, a small quantity from Burnturk, in Kettle, and from Kilmux, in Leven parish.

Coal Mines.—There were coal mines wrought, about fifty years ago, on the southern declivity of the Cults hill. These, however, have ever since been neglected, it being doubtful whether they could be wrought to any advantage. There are several beds of coal reposing on the lime strata. One of these is 12 inches in thickness, and the coal is obtained from it in the process of tiring for the limestone. I have just learned, while engaged with this Statistical Account, that a bed of parrot coal has been dis-

covered, from 1 to 2 feet in thickness, cropping out between the two uppermost of the four strata of limestone. Of what extent this seam of coal may be, has not yet been ascertained.

Sandstone Quarries.—There are a number of freestone quarries in different parts of the parish. The supply of stones is abundant, and easily obtained, and the quality of them is, in some cases, much esteemed.

Amount of Raw Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce raised annually in this parish is as under :

| | | | |
|--|---------|----|---|
| Grain of all kinds, 3400 quarters, with the straw, | L. 5100 | 0 | 0 |
| Potatoes and turnips, 6000 tons, | 5000 | 0 | 0 |
| Hay, 1200 tons, | 3000 | 0 | 0 |
| 600 acres, laid down in pasture at L. 1, 5s. per acre, | 750 | 0 | 0 |
| Produce of gardens, | 180 | 0 | 0 |
| Thinning and felling of plantations, | 140 | 0 | 0 |
| 25,000 bolls of lime at 2s. 8d. per boll, | 3333 | 6 | 8 |
| Quarrying of freestone, road metal, coal, &c. about | 36 | 13 | 4 |

Gross annual amount of raw produce, L. 17,540 0 0

Linen Weaving.—This branch of manufactures gives employment to a large proportion of the parishioners. The kind of cloth woven is Dowlas. The webs are usually 140 yards long, and 30 inches wide, containing at an average 35 spindles of yarn. The materials are supplied by manufacturers in Newburgh, Leslie, and Kettle, who have agents in the parish. The number of weavers is 85 males and 65 females, in all 150. Of these nearly one-half are boys or young women under twenty years of age; while more than a fifth of the whole number are regularly employed at the loom only during the winter, the remainder being exclusively weavers, and following, except in harvest, no other occupation. The average gross wages per web are 17s., or, deducting 2s. 6d. for winding, dressing, &c. the clear wages per web may be stated at 14s. 6d. The average rent of a loom stance is 9s. per annum. The number of webs usually wrought in the course of a year cannot be precisely ascertained; 1700 may be taken as a fair estimate. Their value when wrought, at an average of L. 5 per web, is L. 8500, the gross sum paid for weaving them at 17s. is L. 1445, of which the weavers receive, as their clear wages at 14s. 6d.; L. 1232, 10s. As to wages per week, few even of the best weavers, working steadily twelve or fourteen hours a day, will, after clearing all expenses, realize a greater sum weekly than 7s. The clear average wages earned per week may be stated at not more than 5s. for a man or woman, and 3s. for a boy or girl. The weaving of linens,

therefore, cannot be considered as at present affording by any means an adequate remuneration for the labour employed in it.

Some of the webs being warped in the parish, there are twenty-four old women regularly employed in winding the larger bobbins for the warp,—at which they may earn at an average 2s. 1d. per week. While in winding the smaller bobbins for the woof, the weavers usually employ their wives or children. At this latter employment, if done for hire, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. may be made per week.

Tow Spinning.—At Hospital Mill, there were formerly a corn and a flax-mill, which, in 1821, were converted into a mill for spinning tow, at a cost of about L. 4000. The wheel when fully supplied with water, (as it always is except for a few weeks in summer,) works with fourteen horse power. The mill has six carding engines, with the other necessary preparing machinery, and ten spinning frames, containing 368 spindles. The size of yarn spun varies from four to fourteen pounds imperial per spindle. The quantity spun annually is from 160 to 180 tons, and its average value is L. 7000. The principal market to which it is sent is Dundee.

In this factory, there are employed 50 persons, viz. 7 men at wages from 15s. to L. 1 per week; 31 women, 5s. 6d. to 6s.; 12 children, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d.

There is another factory (Russell Mill) in the parish of Cupar, a few hundred yards beyond the boundary, which also gives employment to some of the inhabitants of Cults. These two establishments are under the same management. In both of them, a most laudable attention is paid to the comfort, morals, and education of the working people, who are distinguished at once by their intelligence and their morality.

Mills.—Besides the spinning-mill, there are in the parish of Cults 3 mills for flour, barley, malt, and oatmeal; 1 for cleaning yarn; 1 saw-mill driven by water; 1 saw-mill to be driven by steam in the course of being erected; 3 thrashing machines driven by water; and 6 thrashing machines wrought by horses.

Tradesmen.—The different tradesmen in Cults are as follows, (masters, journeymen, and apprentices being all included): 7 wrights, 14 masons, 9 shoemakers, 4 tailors, 2 turners, 7 blacksmiths, 2 bakers, 2 brewers, and 5 grocers.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market and Post-Town.—The nearest market and post-town

is Cupar, about four miles to the eastward, where there is a weekly market held every Thursday.

Means of Communication.—The high road from Dundee to Edinburgh traverses the parish, and three coaches, one of them the mail-coach, pass along it daily in each direction. There is a carrier from Pitlessie to Cupar, every Thursday, and the Cupar and Edinburgh carriers pass that village thrice a week going to Edinburgh, and thrice a week returning. Letters are brought from the post-office at Cupar, by a messenger who goes thither with letters and parcels usually every day.

Roads.—There are two miles of turnpike-road in the parish, and six miles 1615 yards of statute labour roads.

Villages.—The only village that can be properly so called is Pitlessie, containing 516 inhabitants. There are also four small hamlets or groups of houses; Crossgates, Walton, Cults Mill, and Hospital Mill, containing from 22 to 70 inhabitants.

Ecclesiastical State.—The church is situated in the centre of the parish, but is nearly a mile distant from the village of Pitlessie, where the mass of the population are congregated. It was built in 1798, and is in good repair. It was seated originally for 360 persons, but a want of seat-room having been recently felt, the kirk-session, in July 1835, requested the heritors to supply it, by affording additional accommodation. The heritors, with commendable liberality, acceded to our request, so that there is now ample seat-room for 480 persons; and the church, it may be added, is as well filled, now that it is enlarged, as it was before the addition was made.

The manse, which adjoins the church, was built in 1795, and is in good repair. The glebe consists of four acres of good arable land, and is at present let at a rent of L. 9. There is no foggage or grass glebe,—the late Mr Wilkie having, with the concurrence of the Presbytery of Cupar, agreed to accept of L. 2 Sterling in lieu of it.

The stipend, exclusive of vicarage and communion elements, averages L. 150. It is as follows: barley, 41 bolls, 3 firloths, 3 pecks, $2\frac{1}{2}$ lippies; meal, 16 bolls, 3 pecks, $2\frac{1}{2}$ lippies; oats, 40 bolls, 1 peck, $2\frac{1}{2}$ lippies; money stipend (including L. 3, 6s. 8d. for communion elements), L. 12, 7s. 2d.; sum allowed from the Exchequer to augment the stipend, L. 60, 2s.; vicarage, L. 2, 11s. 8d.

Religious Denominations.—The number of families and individuals of all ages belonging to the different religious denominations, will appear from the following table:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Established Church, | 150 families. | 678 persons. |
| United Associate Synod, | 29 | 136 |
| Relief Synod, | 13 | 57 |
| Original Burgher Synod, | 2 | 8 |
| Independents, | 8 | 8 |

Besides these, there are two or three families that are not attached to any religious denomination.

There is a Dissenting chapel in Pitlessie, in connection with the United Associate Synod. Twenty-five years ago, there was in the same village an Independent chapel, which has since been converted into a dwelling-house, the congregation attaching themselves, for the most part, either to the Established Church, or to some other Dissenting communion. The number of communicants of the Established Church is 348.

Education.—The parish school is in the village of Pitlessie. The teacher has a comfortable house, a spacious school-room, the legal extent of garden ground, and the *maximum* salary of L. 34, 4s. 4½d. The branches of education taught by him are, Latin, French, English grammar, writing, bookkeeping, arithmetic, algebra, navigation, and land-surveying. The school-fees for the different branches are, 2s. per quarter for reading; 3s. for reading, and writing; 3s. 6d. when arithmetic is added; and 5s. for Latin. Taking the average of the last seven years, the number of scholars is 60, the amount of school-fees L. 30 per annum, and the emoluments of the teacher derived from other sources, as the session clerkship and registration, are L. 6. There is a private school taught in Pitlessie at present, and attended by 45 scholars. The branches taught in it are, reading, writing and arithmetic; and the school fees are, for reading, 2s.; for writing and arithmetic, 2s. 6d. There is also, in a remote district of the parish, a third school taught by a female, and attended by 20 young children at an average, who pay some of them 1d. and others 2d. per week. A Sabbath school is taught in the church, attended by from 30 to 40 young people, according to the season of the year.

Poor.—The average number of paupers receiving regular aid is 12. The sums allowed to them vary from 4s. to 10s. per month, exclusive of house-rent, and coals in winter, with which they are also supplied. Besides these, there are some other persons to whom occasional assistance is given. The whole expenses of the kirk-session, for the last seven years, average L. 50 per annum. The annual amount of collections at the church-door (exclusive of those for religious purposes) averages only L. 12; and the deficiency has of late years been supplied partly by the voluntary con-

tributions of the heritors, and partly by a gift of L. 100 made to the kirk-session by the Honourable Lord Lindsay, as legatee of the late Lady Mary Lindsay Crawford, of which there are still L. 40 remaining. Little delicacy is shewn in applying for parochial aid,—the independent spirit of the Scottish peasantry having, in a great measure, died away in this quarter. In the course of one or two years, a legal assessment for the support of the poor will be inevitable.

Alehouses.—There are 8 licensed ale and spirit-dealers, seven in Pitlessie, and one in Crossgates.

Fuel.—The fuel principally used is coal, brought for the most part from Balbirnie, in the parish of Markinch, about six miles on the road to Kirkcaldy. Its cost at the pit is 1s. 3d. per load of 18 stone.

Fairs.—There were formerly two annual fairs in Pitlessie, for the sale of agricultural stock, chiefly cattle, the one held on the second Tuesday of May, old style, and the other on the third Wednesday of October, old style. The latter has for some years been discontinued; the former is still kept, and is very generally resorted to. It is one of the best attended fairs in the county of Fife.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In comparing the state of the parish now, with what it appears to have been in 1791, when the last Statistical Account was written, little occurs as worthy of remark. Great improvements have, as might have been expected, taken place in agriculture. Instead of 900 Scots, equal to 1184 imperial acres, the whole extent of arable land in 1791, there are now 1900 imperial acres under regular cultivation. The extent of woodland has greatly diminished, there being now only 115 imperial acres of wood, instead of 400 Scots, equal to 504 imperial acres. The population was then 584; it is now 914. The wages of a day-labourer were then 10d. per day; they are now from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 8d. Houses for labourers were then let at from 4s. to L. 1 a year; they are let now at from L. 1 to L. 3. There were then only two thrashing-machines, there are now nine. The old Statistical Account makes no mention of manufactures, from which it may be concluded that they did not then form, by any means, so important a source as they now do, of employment and subsistence to the parishioners. Since 1791, the following buildings have been erected: a spinning-mill, a saw-mill, a yarn-mill, a stone bridge across the Eden at Clushford, the present Church, the manse, and Crawford priory.

June 1838.

ADDENDUM.

While these pages have been passing through the press, I have been informed by Dr Anderson of Newburgh, to whom I am indebted for the geology of the parish, that an omission occurs in the series of deposits, as described by him, and that, immediately after the second paragraph in which the yellow sandstone is noticed, several other beds should be stated as following in the order of superposition. Immediately above the yellow sandstone, a series of alternating beds of sandstone, coal, ironstone, and shale occur. There are two thin seams of coal, the lowest of which may be observed cropping out at the farm steading of Cults-Dam, and the other beds have been quarried about a mile to the westward. The thickness of the whole appears to be about 200 feet.

For "orthocerates," in the next paragraph, read "orthoceratites."

PARISH OF BALMERINO.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

REV. JOHN THOMSON, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, &c.—THE name of this parish, according to the most ancient orthography, is *Balmurynach*, *Balmerinoch*, and more recently *Balmerino*,—terms obviously of Gothic origin, and compounded of two words signifying "Sailor's Town." It would appear that the name was first applied to a small village of remote antiquity, pleasantly situated on the banks of the estuary of the Tay, and which, so early as the thirteenth century, attracted the notice of the court as an eligible summer residence,—Queen Emergarde having frequently visited the place for the benefit of her health; and close to which, in testimony of her gratitude, she founded an abbey. Naughton, the residence of the principal heritor in the parish, is likewise a term of Gothic origin, which according to the manuscript register of the priory of St Andrews, was anciently written *Doldanha*, afterwards *Chondrohedalion*, *Hydrat-nachten*, *Hadnachten*, all now smoothed down into the short, and to modern ears less dissonant, epithet of Naughton. The Picts, according to the best authorities, had sole possession of the whole of this district of the

FIFE.

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