

# PARISH OF MARKINCH.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. J. SIEVERIGHT, MINISTER.

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Boundaries.*—MARKINCH is bounded on the north, by the parishes of Falkland and Kettle; on the south, by Dysart and Wemyss; and on the east, by Kennoway and Leven. The general form of the parish is quadrilateral, the lines of boundary being pretty regular, except on the eastern side, which is deeply indented by the parish of Kennoway.\*

*Name.*—The church and village of Markinch are situated on the summit and declivity of a gentle eminence, which, at a remote period, has, doubtless, been surrounded by water, but in more recent times, by a deep morass, which, though now drained, and in many parts covered with buildings, may still be distinctly traced throughout its original extent. If it is considered, then, that, at the commencement of the present era, the whole country was covered with a dense and impenetrable forest,—the appropriateness of the name will be sufficiently apparent, *Mark* or *Mærk*, in the language of Scandinavia, signifying a *forest*, and *Ynys* or *Insch*, in ancient Celtic, an *island*.—hence the Celto-Pictish name Markinch or “Island of the Forest.”†

Within the insular limits we have thus described, are included the knoll or eminence on which the church stands, towards the south; and Markinch hill, towards the north;—the two being connected by a sloping ridge, along the summit and sides of which, the primitive habitations were necessarily constructed; but since the

\* There has lately been published a well executed map of the parish by Mr James Frazer, land-surveyor in Markinch.

† The more ancient orthography is *Merkinch*. In West Goth. *Marka* signifies a *limit* or *boundary*—the Anglo-Saxon, *Mearc*, the same,—thus, *Mearc-land*, confinium, *finis terræ*—but both, we apprehend, are derived from *Mark*, *synon*, as the literal word—forests in ancient times often forming the principal boundaries between different countries and states, and their minor territorial subdivisions. This is one of the few words, which, with little variation in sound or orthography, are found in most languages, ancient and modern. West Goth. *Mark*, *Marke*, *synon*, *nota*, *Amex*. Fin. Merki; Ang. Sax. *Mearc*; Isl. *Mark*, *Mörk*; Ger. *Marck*; Engl. *Mark*; Belg. *Mark*; Welsh, *Marc*; Armor. *Marc*; Fr. *Marque*; Sp. and Ital. *Marca*; Pers. *Marz*.

drainage of the marshy ground in the neighbourhood, the village has extended itself on all sides, and now contains a population of 1300 inhabitants. Being neither a royal burgh, however, nor burgh of barony, its annually chosen magistracy is but a nominal thing; while want of funds, and much more of the authority necessary to levy an assessment, has hitherto prevented the adoption of those measures of internal police and embellishment, which are really indispensable to the health and comfort of a crowded and increasing population.

*Extent.*—The extent of the parish is about 6 miles in length by 5 in breadth. Its superficial area may be estimated at 10,200 imperial acres.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The general aspect of the country is varied and picturesque. From the Lomond Hills, as a background on the north, it slopes gently toward the south and east. The parish is intersected by four fertile valleys, watered by as many streams, which unite towards the eastern extremity. The valleys are separated by corresponding ridges of low hills; each chain rising gradually above the other in the direction of the summit level. Nor are thriving and extensive plantations wanting to heighten the natural beauties of the landscape,—and the varied succession of hill and dale. The proportion of wood is considerable, and being principally of the ornamental kind, and in the vicinity of gentlemen's seats and villas, it is so disposed as to produce the most favourable effect.

*Geology.*—In this department we shall confine ourselves to a plain statement of facts, abstaining as much as possible from speculative conclusions, and avoiding all reference to conflicting theories.

We first notice the remarkable range of low hills, composed of fine sand and water-worn stones, skirting the northern side of the valley of the Leven. These hills vary in height, generally according to their distance from the course of the stream, or lowest level. Those of them that are isolated and detached, form an acute angle with the axis of the valley; that is, supposing the valley of the Leven to run in a south-easterly direction, the eminences in question extend lengthways, almost due east and west. The southern slope will be found to be in almost all instances very gradual, while the declivity towards the north is as invariably bold and abrupt. Hence, if our observations are correct, we think

the conclusion obvious, that these elevations have been generated by the action of a tidal wave, ascending in the direction of Loch Leven, and having a lateral action diverging from the Frith of Forth, as the central line of direction of the great tidal stream. Hazarding the opinion, that these hills were formed by the action of an ebbing and flowing current, we find undeniable proofs of marine agency in the marl beds which lie within a few feet of the surface, at the distance of less than a mile from the parish church. These beds vary in thickness from 3 to 4 feet, and consist entirely of marine shells, among which the *Mytilus*, *Buccinum*, and *Cardium aculeatum* predominate. In connection with this fact, we have to notice the incredible numbers of water worn-boulders, of all sizes and dimensions, found upon and near the surface, or imbedded in the diluvial clay of which the subsoil is composed. These rolled masses comprehend most varieties of the primitive rocks, among which, basalt, greenstone, and porphyry predominate. Granite, gneiss, and micaceous schist are next in the order of abundance. None of these rocks are found *in situ* for many miles, and then only in a westerly direction. The clay in which these boulders are imbedded, is nearly, if not altogether, devoid of organic remains, while their appearance clearly betrays long exposure to the action of a powerful current. Whence, and in what manner, these boulders were brought into their present position, and in such incredible numbers, it is difficult to conjecture; unless we may suppose that they have been transported thither by a powerful current flowing from the westward, continuous in duration, rather than of the nature of a sudden and transient eruption. This conjecture derives countenance from the fact, that the boulders are imbedded in the clay at various depths, and that those of them that belong to the trap family, differ very materially in their character, from the great trap vein or dike by which the parish is intersected from east to west, and which is of the porphyritic kind, spotted with nodules of sulphuret of iron, and with micaceous laminae. This remarkable dike is traceable from the Leven, about a mile south of the village, intersecting the Balgownie coal-field, in a straight line to Kingsdale, near Kennoway, where it is protruded. At the point where it crosses the Balbirnie coal basin, near Plasterer's Inn, it is said to form a solid compact mass, 30 feet in thickness. In approaching the trap, the coal is thrown up in a remarkable manner, till at last it is cut off altogether. A bore carried down to the depth of 100 yards

on the south side of the dike, traversed successive beds of clay, sand, and gravel, but no indications of coal or of rock of any kind were discovered. The trap is projected through the great bed of sandstone, on which the whole of this part of the country reposes.

*Sandstone.*—The consistency of this rock varies from a minute breccia to the utmost degree of fineness and hardness; the colour from a deep yellow to the purest white. The colouring matter is derived from iron in a state of chromate, with which the superincumbent soil is strongly impregnated. The dip of the sandstone beds seems to depend almost entirely on accidental circumstances. The strata are found in all positions from the horizontal to the vertical. In many instances, it is found in what the quarrymen term *lunearts*, that is, in solid cone-shaped masses of immense dimensions, unstratified, and without cleavage in any direction. In this state, on being broken up, the surfaces often present a blistered or *sintry* appearance. But this is peculiar to the fine-grained and harder qualities of the sandstone. The coarser sort is regularly stratified in layers of uniform thickness, easily separated by means of the wedge and lever. It is in this kind that organic remains are almost exclusively found. These remains consist of cacti, and trunks of trees protruded perpendicularly; the roots reposing sometimes on the coal beds below, but for the most part without trace of branches or leaves. Impressions, however, of the bark, branches, and leaves of trees are not unfrequent on the surface of the strata.

*Organic Remains.*—With regard to fossils, we may state that vegetable remains are found in the greatest abundance and variety in the softer bituminous and harder shales, and in the slate clays. They comprehend principally impressions of the leaves and stems of plants, and are common, we believe, to the whole coal-field on the eastern shores of Fife.

*Mineralogy.*—Besides the concrete and stratified rocks already briefly enumerated, the department of mineralogy supplies specimens of rock crystal containing various extraneous substances. Crystals of quartz of great beauty are occasionally found in the sandstone and trap rocks; to these may be added, though more rarely, nodules of agate, carnelian, chalcedony, and jasper.\*

*Ironstone.*—Ironstone is found in the parish in great abundance.

\* For more minute details on the Geology and Mineralogy of this part of the country, the reader is referred to Mr Landale's excellent Prize Essay on the Geology of the East Coast of Fife. Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, Vol. xi. 1837.

Soon after the publication of the last Statistical Report, a company from Newcastle, projected an iron-work on the Balgonie estate. Much expense was incurred, and the scheme had a sufficient trial, but ultimately proved unsuccessful, and the enterprising individuals engaged in it suffered considerable loss. It has long since been abandoned. The stone, however, containing in some portions as much as 80 per cent. ore, has frequently been exported to the Tyne for smelting. At present the working of it interferes with a seam of coal, and is entirely suspended.

*Balbirnie Coal.*—The coal so denominated lies on both banks of the Leven, principally on the estate of Balbirnie, but partly in the lands of Rothes and Coull, in one continuous seam. A portion of the field belonging to the Earl of Rothes has at different times been leased to the proprietor of Balbirnie, who possesses peculiar advantages for working it, as the greater portion of the coal that is level free, and also more than half the under level, are in the Balbirnie estate. This coal was wrought at a very remote period, but not extensively, previously to the year 1730,—when the nature of the field was more accurately ascertained by means of bores,—proceeding from the old wastes in the direction of the river, from whence a mine carried across the metals, rendered the field level free to a very considerable extent. In fact, no other means of drainage seems to have been resorted to for a period of forty years, during which time upwards of 365,000 tons of coals are computed to have been raised and sold. The Balbirnie coal is now drained by means of water-engines on the Leven; that on Coull by a steam-engine.

The field is somewhat irregular in shape, but approaches most nearly the figure of an ellipse or horse-shoe. It is what is called a *Trough Coal*. The dip of the Balbirnie seams is very irregular. On the east side it is sometimes 45°, on the west 12°. The seams are three in number, and in thickness as follows:—1st, Upper coal, a soft cherry, 1 foot 6 inches; 2d, Main seam, cherry and splint, 4 feet 6 inches; 3d, Under coal, cherry, 2 feet.

The following is a section of the strata passed through in sinking a bore on the south crop, near Newton Bridge, about half a mile from the village of Markinch:

	Fath.	Ft.	In.		Fath.	Ft.	In.
1. Surface,	0	1	6	4. Gravel bed,	0	4	6
2. Sand, mixed with gravel,	1	0	4	5. Dark blue blaes,	0	1	0
3. Brown clay, mixed with whinstone,	7	3	8	6. Whitish fire clay,	0	2	6
				7. White freestone with partings,	2	3	6

	Fath.	Ft.	In.		Fath.	Ft.	In.
8. White soft till,	0	2	7	15. Bleas, with gray free-			
9. Bleas, with gray free-				stone bands,	1	0	0
stone bands,	2	1	1	16. Blue-coloured bleas,	0	3	6½
10. Grayish freestone, with				17. Coal,	0	1	0
partings,	1	4	8	18. Brownish freestone,	0	1	2
11. Dark-coloured parting,	0	0	3	19. Coal splint,	0	1	11
12. Gray freestone, with				20. Soft blea parting,	0	0	4
parting,	0	3	10	21. Coal,	0	3	3½
13. Coal,	0	1	10				
14. Black coloured till,	0	0	5½				
				Fathoms,	21	1	1½

But the strata vary in thickness, as well as the coal seams, at different points in the field. In general the depths from the surface to the different seams may be set down as follows:—From surface to upper seam, 17½ fathoms; to main coal, 23 do.; to under coal, 30 do.

At Balbirnie the engine is erected on the main seam, with a draft of 25 fathoms, two fathoms being cut below the coal for what is called a *sump* or well, so that there are no shafts 30 fathoms deep. Cuts are carried right and left from the bottom of the shaft to the upper and under seams, the depth being 25 fathoms, or 50 yards, as noted above. This engine stands on the lowest part of the seam, the coal rising on either side of it. The whole field is thus rendered accessible to the miner, if we except about twenty acres of the lower seam, which can only be drained by an addition of power to the water-engine, and by sinking the shaft seven fathoms deeper. Various bores have been made with a view to the discovery of new seams of coal, but without success. One in particular, from the pavement of the main coal, near the centre of the coal-field, was carried down to the depth of 67 feet 4 inches, till interrupted by a bed of stone, so hard, that in a whole week only six inches were bored through, and the attempt was, therefore, relinquished.

The average price of Balbirnie coal may be stated at 8s. per ton; but the price varies according to the quality.

The colliers, in addition to their daily earnings, are allowed a free house and garden. Coals for their own use are charged to them at the hewing rate. The following table will give a comparative view of the rate of wages for the years specified. We premise that a single collier is reckoned to hew at an average ten loads per diem.

Years.	1770 to 1779	1780 to 1789	1790 to 1799	1800 to 1809	1810 to 1819	1820 to 1829	1830 to 1839
Price per load,	2s. 1d.	2s. 1d.	2s. 1d.	2s. 1d.	2s. 1d.	2s. 1d.	2s. 1d.
Wages per diem,	1s. 8d.	2s. 1d.	2s. 3½d.	2s. 11d.	3s. 1½d.	3s. 1½d.	3s. 1½d.

*Dislocations and Obstructions.*—The trap dike by which the Balbirnie coal-field is intersected, has already been noticed under the section of Geology, as well as its effects in throwing up and cutting off the coal seams. A similar vein of trap cuts off the coal to the north of Coull engine. Occasional hitches are met with in all parts of the field, raising or depressing the strata, but without offering any very serious obstacles to the operations of the miner. The upper coal being only 18 inches in thickness, and the difficulty of sufficiently enlarging the galleries, from the nature of the strata in immediate contact with it, being very considerable, the men suffer severely from a confined and hampered position, and from bad air, so that their general health and appearance are thereby, in process of time, sensibly affected. Asthma and consumption are the complaints to which they are most liable, and at the age of thirty many of them look old men. Formerly, when engaged on the main seam, many reached the ages of sixty, seventy, and eighty. Now, what with the thin seams, bad air, and an unguarded use of ardent spirits, it is rare to find an old man among them.

*Balgonie Coal*, the property of James Balfour, Esq. of Whittingham, has been worked for centuries. In the old valuation of the county in the year 1517, Coaltoun is mentioned as one of "the pertinents" of Balgonie. The waste may be traced for several miles along the line of bearing, and the coals have been exhausted in the same direction to a depth of 14 fathoms, as far as the free level admitted. In 1731, a water engine was erected, which drained the coal to the depth of 30 fathoms, but in succeeding years, this engine was overpowered by the increased accumulation of water from hitches, and the tacksman to whom the field had been leased substituted a windmill farther on the crop. Operations were carried on in this way till the year 1743, when it was found impossible any longer to compete in the market with the Balbirnie coals, and the working was consequently relinquished. This suspension continued for more than forty years, till at last, in 1785, more powerful engines were erected, and the coal throughout the whole field rendered accessible to the former depth of 30 fathoms, but still only reaching to the 9 feet or upper seam. This coal is presently worked at Thornton, near the bridge of Orr, by steam power. The Balgonie is known to be a continuation of the Dy-sart coal. The strata dip towards the south-east, and consequently crop out in north-westerly direction, at an angle of from 25° to

21°, or a rise of 1 in 2½ or 3; but the angle varies at different points; in the field at Thornton, for instance, the rise is only 7½° or about 1 in 8.

There are two seams of coal along the whole line of bearing; the depth on the level is from 25 to 35 fathoms to the first, or what is commonly called the 9 feet seam, which consists of

	Ft.	In.	
1. Splint coal,	2	0	
2. White Daulk stone,	0	6	Hard at first, but falls when exposed to weather.
3. Spar coal,	1	3	
4. Same as second	0	4	
5. Head coal,	3	4	
6. Stone as second	0	8	} not wrought.
7. Bottom coal,	4	4	

	12	5
Deduct 2, 4, 6 stone,	1	6

Thickness of coal, Feet 10 11

But a material alteration takes place in the thickness of the Balgonie upper seam after crossing the hitch at Thornton. On the south or Dysart side of that point the total thickness increases to 13 feet 10 inches as follows:

	Ft.	In.	
1. Splint coal,	2	0	
2. Daulk stone,	0	6	} Roof.
3. Spar coal,	1	3	
4. Stone,	0	4	
5. Head coal,	3	10	
6. Mid stone,	0	8	
7. Bottom coal,	5	2	
8. Ground stone,	0	8	} Pavement.
9. Ground coal,	1	7	

	Feet 16	0
Deduct stone, Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8,	2	2

Thickness of coal, Feet 13 10

The second seam, commonly called the seven feet coal, lies 10 fathoms below the nine feet coal above-mentioned, or to a depth of 35 to 45 fathoms on the level. It consists of

	Ft.	In.
1. Head coal,	1	2
2. Head stone,	0	6
3. Bottom coal,	1	10
4. Stone,	0	10
5. Road coal,	1	0
6. Stone,	0	6
7. Rough coal,	1	2

	Feet 7	0
Deduct stone, Nos. 2, 4, 6,	1	10

Thickness of coal, Feet 5 2

The common mode of working the coal at Thornton is what is

technically termed "stoop and througher." The working rooms are 13 feet wide, and the pillars 15 feet; the width of the rooms contracting on nearing the crop, or where the roof is insecure.

The average number of colliers employed may be stated at 30. They are paid at the rate of 2½d. per load of 20 stones Dutch, for large coal, which sells at 1s. per load. The small coal costs 1½d. per load for hewing, and sells at 6d. The sale was originally confined to the country demand, but latterly the manufactories on the Leven and Orr waters, and in Kirkaldy, have drawn their supplies from hence. With more powerful engines for drawing off the water, the coal seams on Balgonie may be regarded as inexhaustible, as they dip to the east, and are never found to rise to the surface in a direction opposite to the line of bearing.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities.—Marhinch Hill.*—This remarkable hill, on the southern slope of which the village is partly built, is an object alike interesting to the geologist and the antiquary. It is composed of a fine sand, intermixed with water-worn stones, and rises to the height of about 100 feet above the level ground in the vicinity, extending in a continuous ridge from east to west about 300 yards. At either extremity it sinks abruptly, and is flanked by two smaller eminences, that to the west terminating in the marshy ground along the line of Balbirnie Park wall, while that on the east is separated from Dalginch Law by a deep and narrow ravine, through which Balbirnie burn flows. The southern slope of the hill is sufficiently gradual, but on the northern side it is naturally precipitous, and has been rendered more so by the labours of art. The whole of this side of the hill from the base upwards is cut into terraces, which seem to have been continued round its extremities. On that towards the east, indeed, they may be still distinctly traced, but towards the west they are obliterated, the hill having been cut down, partly to allow a passage for the road, and partly for the purpose of obtaining sand and gravel. These terraces, six in number, are of an average breadth of 20 feet, and rise each above the other in regular gradation from 10 to 12 feet. They overlook a level field of about twelve acres, which, before being drained, must have formed an impassable morass. There is no very definite tradition why or when these terraces were formed. The most probable conclusion is, that they are the work of the Roman invaders, who, under Agricola, overran this part of the country, covering it with entrenchments and fortifications, as a

basis for more distant operations. For advancing this opinion in preference to any other, our reasons are briefly these:—*1st*, In a military point of view, and according to the modes of warfare then in use, the position is one of the strongest which the whole country affords. The natural advantages of its situation, indeed, must have rendered it nearly impregnable with but a handful of defenders, while, as a fortified camp, it was capable of receiving several legions. *2dly*, It forms one of a chain of similar fastnesses, most advantageously situated for commanding the surrounding country, for mutual support, and for keeping up a direct communication with the coast and with the interior. *3dly*, The extent of the works above described, the great amount of labour and industry required for their completion, and, above all, their form and regularity, so little in unison with the rude and desultory habits of the aboriginal inhabitants, and so unsuited to their savage modes of warfare; while in all these respects they very exactly characterize the enterprise and skill of their invaders, and their superior advancement in the art of defensive warfare.

*Maiden Castle.*—At the eastern extremity of the parish, and in the immediate vicinity of the village of Kennoway, are to be seen the vestiges of ancient fortifications, running along a narrow but somewhat elevated ridge of sand-hills, commanding the surrounding plain. In the case of an invasion from seaward this would naturally have been regarded as the first defensible position, being scarcely two miles from the mouth of the Leven, and forming the key to the interior of the country towards the north and west. Whether the Scots, Romans, or Danes were its first occupants it is now impossible to determine. That it has been the scene of some bloody conflict is evident from the number of stone-coffins containing human bones, that have been dug up in the immediate neighbourhood. Farther westward, in the direction of Markinch, weapons of war, peculiar to the Romans, have from time to time been found. The highest point of the ridge in question rises to the height of perhaps 80 feet above the small stream which runs at the foot of it. On this knoll, the Pretorium or citadel, known by the name of the Maiden Castle, has stood. Its form has been that of a square, and it measures about 30 paces across. According to Boethius, this was a castle of Macduff, Thane of Fife. His description of it is sufficiently precise, and is valuable as the only plausible record concerning a spot, that has once evidently been of some importance. “Supersunt inter Divi Kenethi templum et

Levenam amnem, eadem in regione, arcis septemvallis olim septas totidemque fossis uti nunc est videre, vestigia ; ubi hujus clarissimi viri post eum vitâ functum posteritas longa secula habitavit.\*

Dalginch, which lies to the east of the village of Markinch, at the distance of a quarter of a mile, is the reputed site of another of Macduff's castles. Its more modern name is Brunton,† and a subterraneous opening from the present house, but which has long been closed, is said, in popular tradition, to communicate with the Maiden Castle above-mentioned, which is distant in a straight line between two and three miles. The supposition is too absurd to admit of being reasoned upon. However, that, at a comparatively recent period, Dalginch was a place of considerable note, will appear by the following extract from the Ancient Digest of Scottish Laws, known by the name of *Regiam Majestatem*, ascribed, we believe, to the usurper Macbeth.

“ Ad quæ loca tenentur Warranti venire.”

C.XX.

“ Hæc sunt loca ad quæ warranti debent venire ut res calumniatas legitime warrantereat. In Gowrie, apud *Sconam*. In Star-month, apud *Chuny*, &c. In Fife, apud *Dalginche*. Hæc sunt loca capitalia Scotia comitatatum per totum regnum.”‡

*Family Seats.*—The most ancient residence of note in the parish is the Castle of Balfour or Bal-orr, so designated from its situation near the confluence of the Orr and the Leven. It was originally the seat of the family of Balfour, who thence derive their name,—one of the most ancient and respectable in Fife. About the year 1360, John de Bethune, described as “familiaris regis Roberti,” married the daughter and heiress of Sir Michael de Balfour of that ilk, and with her obtained the estate of Balfour. The Bethunes are undoubtedly of French extraction, and are reputed to derive their name from Bethune, a considerable town in French Flanders. They came into England with William the Conqueror. One of them was the companion of Richard Cœur

\* Boeth. Hist. Lib. x. fol. 206.

† Now called Barnslee, the seat of Mrs Colonel Paston.

‡ In the edition of the *Regiam Majestatem*, anno 1606, the following note is inscribed in the margin:—“ N. B. Terræ de Dalginche pertinebant olim Jacobo Cockburn, tempore Jacobi II. Regis, nunc dicuntur terræ de Brunton, et per Wardlaw dominum de Torrie possidentur et sunt contiguae terris de Markinche.”—How long Dalginche continued a principal seat of justice we have no means of ascertaining; probably as long as the Thanes of Fife maintained an independent jurisdiction. Markinche must have been a place of some note as late as 1296, in which year it was visited by Edward I. in his progress from St Andrews to Stirling, as we learn from the Diary of his expedition, (Gott. Coll. in old French, quoted apud Tysler, Hist. of Scotland, Vol. i.) his first stage being Markinch, and his next Dundurn.

de Lion during his return from the Holy Land, and was made prisoner along with him by the Duke of Austria. Duchesne in his "Histoire de la Maison de Bethune," derives the Scotch branch from a certain Jacobin de Bethune, who, he says, came to Scotland about 1448; but there are authentic documents to prove that the family were settled in this country as far back as 1165. Those of them whose names are most distinguished in history are James Beaton, Archbishop, first of Glasgow, and afterwards of St Andrews, and Chancellor of the kingdom. St Mary's or New College, founded in 1537, remains a monument of this prelate's munificence and zeal for learning. He died in 1538, and was succeeded by his nephew, David Beaton, Cardinal, Legatus à latere, and Chancellor, assassinated by Norman Lesley and his associates, May 3d 1546. A nephew of the Cardinal, James Beaton, was elevated to the see of Glasgow. Our limits do not permit us to enter at greater length into the annals of this ancient and honourable house. It may not, however, be deemed superfluous to remark, that the estate of Balfour has been transmitted, in the direct line of hereditary succession, for the space of 480 years, and in the direct male line for upwards of four centuries.

Westward from Balfour, and on a steep bank overhanging the Leven, stands the ancient baronial Castle of Balgonie. The most ancient part of this venerable structure consists of a *donjon* or keep, 80 feet in height, and 45 feet by 36 over walls. The basement story, dimly lighted by a single narrow slit in the massive thickness of the walls, seems to have served as a prison. It is vaulted, as well as the storey above. The summit is surrounded by slightly projecting battlements, with circular *tourelles* at the angles. The roof is flat, and paved with square slabs of freestone. On the terrace thus formed, and several feet within the external battlements, on three of the sides is erected a lodge of an oblong form, with chimneys and sloping roof, serving probably in former times as a *corps de garde* for the garrison. Along the bank, looking northward, the first Earl of Leven erected a house of three stories, communicating with the tower, and a wing fronting east was added by one of his successors, but, from the unusual solidity of the substructions, and from the range of cellars which they comprehend, in structure evidently far from modern, it is to be conjectured, that buildings equal in extent originally occupied the site of the present edifice, constituting, as now, two sides of a quadrangle; the other two sides being formed by a strong wall of ma-

sonry. The space thus enclosed forms an oblong area of 108 feet by 65. The main entrance into the court is by an arched gateway, flanked on each side by towers, which bear marks of having been at one time provided with battlements and machieoulis. Over the arch are the remains of a chamber, communicating with the tower by a narrow passage conducted in the thickness of the wall. The castle has once been surrounded on three sides by a deep fosse, and a strong rampart of earth. On the side of the river no defence was needed other than the inaccessible nature of its position. With all these stern appliances and means to provoke assault and to resist aggression, history records no tale of siege sustained, nor doughty feats of arms performed under its walls, or within the fair and ample domain by which it is surrounded,—nor are its precincts stained by any of those deeds of blood or torture which throw an interesting gloom over so many similar monuments of feudal times. The earliest proprietors of Balgony, of whom there is any record, are the Sibbalds. It afterwards passed by intermarriage to a cadet of the family of Lundin. In the reign of Charles I. the lands of Balgonie were purchased by General Alexander Leslie, who was created Earl of Leven by that hapless monarch, with succession to heirs-general of his body, lawfully begotten. Owing to the failure of male heirs in the person of Alexander, third Earl of Leven, the title and estates devolved to his sister, Lady Catherine Leslie, who was married to the second son of the then Earl of Melville, and became Countess of Leven in her own right. By the death of his elder brother, the Lord Raith, her husband succeeded to his paternal title and inheritance, thus uniting the two earldoms in one family. In 1823, the beautiful and extensive estate of Balgonie was purchased for the sum of L. 104,000, by James Balfour, Esq. of Whittingham, brother of the late General Balfour of Balbirnie, who, it is understood, designs to rebuild the castle, at present fast hastening to decay, on a scale answerable to his ample fortune, and the ancient grandeur of the pile.

The principal seat of the Balfours was the castle of that name, as already mentioned. They reckon their descent from the time of King Duncan, and their names appear as sheriffs of Fife, and as present at successive Parliaments, down to the reign of Robert II. The ancestor of the Balbirnie branch was a cadet of Balfour of that ilk; who, having married a daughter of Thomas Sibbald of Balgonie, obtained with her a grant of the lands of Dovan, in

the reign of Robert III. One of his descendants having obtained a charter of the lands of Lalethan from Lundin of that ilk in 1576, was designed of Lalethan, and afterwards of Balbirnie, acquired by purchase from a family of the same name.

Balbirnie House, now the property of John Balfour, Esq., is situated about a mile to the west of the parish church. The house is an elegant modern structure, erected by the late General Balfour. The principal entrance, which is on the south front, is by a handsome portico, formed by columns of the Ionic order, with corresponding pilasters. The whole materials were drawn from freestone quarries on the estate. The house is pleasantly situated in a romantic hollow, sheltered from every wind that blows by those detached and gently undulating eminences, which form so remarkable a feature in the scenery of the vale of Leven. These heights, clothed with some of the finest trees in the country, are rendered accessible on all sides by means of walks and alleys, so contrived, as to command at every turn varied and picturesque views of the surrounding country, from the Lomonds to the shores of the Frith of Forth, and the coast beyond. The shrubberies around the house, and along a small brook which meanders through the grounds on the east, are laid out with exquisite taste and effect, and contain, in great variety and profusion, such plants and shrubs, native and exotic, as are hardy enough to withstand the rigors of the winter. The park, including garden and shrubberies, extends over a surface of 200 acres. As a complete and elegant residence, Balbirnie is surpassed by few north of the Tweed.

The only other residence in the parish which deserves particular mention on account of its antiquity is Kirkforthar, the seat of George Johnstone Lindsay, Esq. a cadet of the noble and ancient family of Crawford. Kirkforthar formed part of the Lord Lindsay's ancient estate of Struthers, and became a separate branch in the following manner: David, Lord Lindsay of Byres, espoused the cause of King James III. in opposition to the views of his son, James IV., who was stirred up by the confederated nobles to become their leader in a foul and unnatural rebellion. Lord Lindsay commanded the father's adherents. The two hostile armies having met at Sauchieburn, a battle took place, which issued in the defeat and death of the unfortunate James III. Immediately after, Lord Lindsay was arraigned of high treason. Although he was an excellent soldier, and had great experience in the service of foreign states, yet he was but little gifted with court phraseology.

or versed in judicial procedure, and in his defence made a cutting and sarcastic speech, which drew down upon him the displeasure of the king and of his judges. But Patrick Lindsay, his brother-german, who was bred a lawyer, on hearing his brother's speech, and witnessing its effects, craved permission to plead his cause, which he did with so much address, that Lord Lindsay was acquitted. The old Baron, touched with a piece of service so reasonable and important, immediately exclaimed, "Well spoke, Pat; for your pyot tongue tak' ye the mains of Kirkforthar."\*

Besides the above, several families of note once made part of the parish aristocracy, but are now extinct, and scarce a vestige of their dwellings remains.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish has increased at a rapid rate during the last century. Within the last seventy years it has considerably more than doubled. As population and means of subsistence are intimately connected, this great local increase may be attributed, in a great measure, to the introduction of new branches of productive industry, which, by supplying regular employment, both retained the native population, and attracted influx from less favoured districts—emigration even of individuals being very rare.

Years,	1755,	1790,	1801,	1821,	1838,
Population,	2188.	2790.	3130.	4661.	5396.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The number of acres under cultivation amounts to about 8500, 350 of which are let in small lots, varying from 1 to 10 acres, and on leases varying from one to seven years. The remainder is let in about forty-three farms of various sizes. There are about 400 acres in feus or small holdings in perpetuity, for an annual payment, varying from a merely nominal acknowledgment to L.16 per imperial acre. These feus are chiefly in the villages, and extend from a few poles to several acres each. There are about 800 acres under plantations, and a moss, the only one in the parish from which peats are dug for fuel, may contain 100 more. The quantity of land held by proprietors of bleachfields and of

\* Lindsay or Lindessay was originally an Anglo-Saxon resident in the county of Lincoln; and one of the great divisions of that county bears the name of Lindsay to this day. The son of the Earl of Lindsay, after the fatal field of Hastings, accompanied Edward Atheling into Scotland to the court of Malcolm Canmore. The two principal branches or stems of this once potent family were represented—the one by the Earls of Crawford, the other by Lord Lindsay of the Byres, until the reign of Charles I. when the whole honours of the family were vested in the person of John tenth Lord Lindsay of the Byres, fourteenth Earl of Crawford, and first Earl of Lindsey. The family of Kirkforthar, bear the arms of Lord Lindsay of the Byres, Earl of Lindsey, and of Mure, Lord of Abercorn.

other public works, may extend to 100 acres; the remainder, say 300 acres, may be regarded as taken up by roads, water-courses, &c.

In order to insure greater accuracy in this important branch of statistical inquiry, we have divided the parish into three sections, each of which will be found to differ from the other in various respects:—

1st. That part which lies on the north bank of the Leven, embracing the highest cultivated land in the parish. In this quarter the soil consists of loam, gravel, or clay, resting upon a porous subsoil of sand and gravel; here drainage is for the most part easy, so that the land is in general dry and fertile.

2d. District lying between the Leven and the Orr. Soil, wet loam, sand and clay, upon a retentive subsoil, consisting of blue till, patches of sand, silt and stones.

3d. District between the Orr and the boundary of the parish to the south and east. Soil, a thin wet loam, clay and sand, part moorish. Subsoil retentive stiff clay or till.

In some parts of the second and third districts the subsoil is partially impregnated with iron immediately below the soil, forming a pan or crust nearly impervious to water. Where this is the case, the soil must be considered decidedly bad; indeed, where it exists in any considerable degree, heath is the natural production. These soils also contain boulders in extraordinary quantities, principally trap, some of which are several tons in weight. In many fields of the same districts, and within fourteen inches of the surface, a sufficient quantity of these boulders can be obtained for filling drains at so small an interval as nine feet asunder.

*Drainage.*—The prevailing mode of draining is that of furrow-drains from two and a half to three feet deep, filled with stones turned out in working the soil. When the materials are found in this way properly broken, built and packed in the drain, this method will be found both economical and efficient, when the drains are on a hard bottom. Tiles are preferable where the bottom is soft or where stones are not plentiful, and where the water contains ochre or deposits a sediment.

*Products of the Soil.*—The system generally adopted is that of raising grain and rearing and feeding cattle of the Fifeshire breed.

Rotation of crops from four to seven years :

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Fallow or potatoes.	Wheat or barley.	Grass.	Oats.		
Do.	Wheat.	Pease, beans, tares, turnips.	Barley.	Grass.	Oats.
Do.	Do.	Barley.	Grass.	Oats.	
Do.	Oats.	Grass.	Do.	Do.	Oats.

The first year's grass is often cut for hay. It is then sometimes pastured for one or more years, according to the promise of grass or the wants of the farmer. Supposing the lands in the parish divided into ten equal parts, the proportions of the various kinds of crop may be estimated as under :

Fallow or green crop, 2. Wheat, 1. Barley, 1. Grass, 3. Oats, 3.

Pease, beans, or flax are but little cultivated. The above estimate is exclusive of the space allotted to roads, fences, water-courses, and pleasure grounds.

*Manures.*—Bone manure is used in dry land ; rape cake has been tried successfully in clay and wet lands. The principal extraneous stimulant applied is lime, from Forthar, Chapel, Pitlessie, or Inverteil lime-works. Besides the farm-yard manure, a considerable quantity is obtained from the neighbouring villages.

*Amount of Produce.*—Adhering to the sectional divisions already referred to, the following estimate is offered of the average produce per Scotch acre : First district, wheat,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  quarters ; barley,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  do. ; oats,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  do. Second district, wheat, 4 quarters ; barley,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  do. ; oats,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  do. Third district. In the western part of this district, little wheat is sown ; the same is the case with regard to barley. Oats may be estimated at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  quarters per acre.

*Leases.*—The usual endurance of leases is for nineteen years. Farms are let by private offers,—a mode which, while it obviates the injurious tendency of public competition, enables the landlord to exercise his judgment in the selection of the tenant, with a just regard to the interests of both. A fixed sum of money is now almost universally substituted for the antiquated, though perhaps more equitable, mode of rent in kind.

*Rent and Value of Land.*—In consequence of the increased demand for all sorts of agricultural produce on the breaking out of the French Revolution, the rentals of many estates were doubled. At the close of the war, however, the value of farms fell from 15 to 20 per cent. Since the practice of furrow-draining was introduced, wet-bottomed lands, such as we have described above, have risen considerably in value.

*Wages.*—Men-servants are hired by the year from Martinmas to Martinmas. Married men receive of wages L. 11 Sterling in money ;  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls oatmeal ; coals, carriage free ; and from one Scotch pint of milk to two imperial quarts daily. They are also allowed a free house, with eight falls of garden ground, besides

twenty-four falls for planting potatoes. Unmarried men receive L. 12 Sterling per annum, lodgings, potatoes for six or seven months, with meal and milk as above. Female servants get from L. 5 to L. 6, 10s. with board and washing.

*Manufactures.*—Local facilities for the establishment of all those branches of productive industry which require the aid of machinery, are peculiar and numerous. The most remote part of the parish is but an inconsiderable distance from the coast. It is traversed by excellent roads in all directions, rendering communication with the great manufacturing town of Dundee, through the shipping ports of Newburgh and Newport, on the one hand, and with Edinburgh, by Kirkcaldy and Pettycur on the other, neither difficult nor expensive. The water power supplied by two considerable streams, the Leven and the Orr, is unlimited and inexhaustible. Coals are abundant and cheap, and excellent stone for building is found in all directions, and at a trifling depth below the surface; while seven populous villages furnish an abundance of hands for all those operations where manual labour is required. At the period of Dr Thomson's statistical return, there existed in the parish no machinery save what was used in corn and flax mills, of which there are at present in use of the former, 1, and of the latter, 4. Since that time a class of public works has sprung up, which have been greatly beneficial to the industrious classes. The following statement is made up from the proprietors' returns, which have been obligingly furnished.

*Paper-Mills.*—*Roths Paper-Mill* was erected in 1806 by Mr William Keith, and worked as a two-vat mill. Some years after, it became the property of Mr David Lindsay, who enlarged it considerably, and latterly erected a paper machine. In 1836, it was purchased by Messrs R. Tullis and Co. Brown and gray wrapping-papers are the sorts now manufactured here, for which about 25cwt. of flax waste, coarse bagging, or ropes, are used daily. Employment is here afforded to about 20 men and 10 women.

*Auchmuty Paper-Mill* was erected by Robert Tullis and Co. as a four vat mill, and began working in May 1810. The vats are now all thrown aside, the paper being made by a Fourdrinier machine, such as is generally used. Above a ton of fine rags is consumed here daily in making cartridge, coloured, printing, and writing papers. There are upwards of 50 women employed in sorting and cutting the rags, who are paid at the rate of 10d. per

day of ten hours. About the same number of men are required to attend the machinery, and manage the different processes, or engaged as wrights, carters, labourers, &c. The wages of these latter vary from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per day. The hands at the Rothes Mill are remunerated at the same rate. The annual amount of excise duty paid by the two mills is about L. 6500 Sterling, and, as the duty is 1½d. on each pound of paper, this gives a total of 1,040,000 lbs., or 465 tons of paper manufactured annually.

*Balbirnie Paper-Mill* was erected in the year 1816, by the late Mr Alexander Grieve, and was continued with two vats and one engine, until 1834, when J. Grieve and Co. introduced a machine and four engines. The papers made here are principally for the London market, and consist chiefly of two kinds, the one very strong, such as is principally used by grocers; and the other very thin and transparent, for the use of drapers and silk-mercens. The raw materials employed are, damaged yarn, flax waste, bagging and ropes, of which, when making light papers, 24 cwt., and when making heavy papers, 37 cwt. are consumed daily. The quantity of paper manufactured yearly averages 44,000 reams, weighing about 560,000 lbs., or 250 tons, and contributing to the public revenue the sum of L. 3500 per annum. The number of hands employed on the works are 30, of whom 16 are men, and 14 women; the former earn from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 8d., and the latter from 10d. to 1s. 1d. per day.

*Woolen Manufactory—Balbirnie Bridge Factory*, established by Mr Drysdale, 1835. The stuffs manufactured here are plaidings, blankets, and shawls. The wool employed is chiefly of British growth. The carding and spinning processes are carried on, on the premises, by means of two roving-machines and two double sets of jennies of 144 and 168 spindles respectively. There are 10 power-looms and 4 hand-looms employed, producing 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10 qrs. widths. The average daily consumption of raw material is 8 stones of 24 lbs. each. The hands employed are 27, of whom 10 are men, 11 boys, and the remainder women and girls. The men earn from 10s. to 16s. per week, and the others from 3s. 6d. to 6s. The power-loom weavers, 6 boys and 4 girls, earn as much as 1s. each per day of twelve hours. The articles manufactured are principally for the Glasgow market. The wholesale prices are, of blankets, from 7s. to 17s. each, and of plaidings, from 10d. to 1s. 3d. per yard.

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*Linen Manufactory.*—Previous to the year 1810, the brown linen manufactory of this parish was limited to some 50 or 60 operatives, who sold their Silesias and window-blind Hollands to the merchants at Auchtermuchty and Kettle, from whom the yarns were generally purchased. The yarns chiefly used were hand-spun, the produce of Scotland and Ireland, with some German yarns imported from Hamburgh; but in a few years this branch of the linen trade very much declined, and was at last almost entirely relinquished. About the year 1804, the manufacture of Dowlas, sheetings, and various kinds of towellings, was introduced from bleached, mill, and spun flax, and tow yarns, and this branch of the trade has continued to increase, till it now employs from 800 to 900 individuals, including winders, warpers, weavers, and lappers. The hands thus employed do not all belong to Markinch. The work is given out to be performed at their own homes, and many of them reside in the adjoining parishes. During the summer months, nearly a third part of the weavers go to out-door work, and return to the loom when winter sets in. Steady workmen, at the present rates, will earn at Dowlas weaving about 7s.; at sheetings, 8s.; and at towellings, 9s. per week. The winders are chiefly old and infirm persons, or married females who have time to spare from their domestic duties; they earn from 1s. to 4s.; warpers and lappers, 10s. per week. The whole of this branch is in the hands of Mr Robert Inglis.

*Flax Spinning-Mill.*—Balgonie mills, the property of Messrs Baxter and Stewart, for spinning flax and tow. The works command the entire use of the Leven, and the machinery is driven by two water-wheels of fifty-five horse-power. 1. For flax spinning, dry or long staple, there are twenty frames, containing 1000 spindles, with a full system of screw-gill preparation to correspond. The size of the yarn spun is from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 pounds per spindle, or, in other words, from 30 to 16 lea yarn. 2. For flax spinning, wet or broken staple, there are eighteen frames, containing 1170 spindles, with full system of circular-gill preparation for the same. The size of the yarn spun is from 12 ounces to half a pound per spindle, or from 30 to 60 lea yarn. 3. For tow spinning, there are three systems of spinning, each with suitable preparation, including twelve 6 feet carding engines, viz. five frames, 206 spindles, for spinning yarn from 2 to 3 pounds per spindle,

or 24 to 16 lea; ten frames, 400 spindles, for spinning yarn from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 pounds per spindle, 14 to 8 lea; four frames, 160 spindles, for spinning yarn from 10 pounds to 24 pounds per spindle, 5 to 2 lea. The principal buildings of which the mills are composed form three sides of a rectangle, 160 feet by 140. Two of the sides are occupied by machinery, and the third is occupied by three spacious warehouses, with heckling rooms above. There is a large store warehouse detached, capable of holding 200 tons of flax, as well as large conveniences in the way of stabling, smithy, and gas-work. There are about 265 individuals employed at the mills, of whom about 95 are full grown men, 120 women, and 46 of both sexes under seventeen years of age. The wages paid each fortnight are about L.200, averaging say 12s. per week for each man, and 5s. per week for each woman and for the younger hands. The quantity of flax manufactured in the year 1838 was 475 tons, of which 340 tons was Baltic flax, 65 tons Archangel, and the remaining 70 tons Dutch, French, and Irish. Besides the tows from these flaxes, about 100 tons of imported tow were used. The total cost of the whole material was above L.25,000.

The yarns spun are, with the exception of the heavier tow yarns, either sold in the district adjoining, or exported to France. The heavier tow yarns are manufactured by the proprietors into canvas, sacking, &c. chiefly for the London market. This branch of the business is carried on in Dundee, and at present employs from 60 to 100 looms; but arrangements are at present making for transferring it to Balgonie; and when this is effected, it will cause an addition to the number of persons already employed of about 100 men, and 50 women and children.

The village of Milntown, adjoining the mills, has, since the enlargement and extension of the works in 1836-37, nearly doubled its population. The present population is 580. The houses are, in general, neat, substantial, and fully beyond the average of the country as to comfort. The rent of a house of two rooms, with a few falls of garden ground and a pig-stye, is from L.2 to L.2, 10s. per annum.

*Haugh Spinning-Mill* was erected in the year 1794, for the purpose of spinning chiefly canvas yarns from flax and tow, which was carried on by various companies up to 1832, when the present proprietor sold all the old machinery, and introduced a complete set of new, for spinning fine yarns adapted for home made llinens. Half the machinery works upon the long staple, and half upon

the short staple principle. An addition was made to the work in 1835, and the mill now contains upwards of 2000 spindles, capable of turning off about 600 spindles of yarns per day. The machinery is propelled by two water-wheels of about 40 horse-power. The mill consumes from 25 to 30 tons of flax per month, consisting chiefly of the finer qualities imported from Holland, Belgium, and France, and also from Archangel, Riga, and St Petersburg. The yarns are for the most part wove in the county of Fife, into almost all descriptions of family linens.

*Haugh Bleachfield.*—In 1836, there was added to the mills a bleachfield, capable of bleaching about two tons of linen yarn daily. The work-people employed at the mill and bleachfield are in number 183, of whom two-thirds are females from fourteen years of age and upwards, earning from 4s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per week. The men earn from 9s. to L.1 weekly. Most of the hands are accommodated with dwelling-houses on the premises. Upwards of twenty families are thus accommodated, besides a good many boarders; the whole may be estimated at an average of 280 to 320 souls. Their moral and religious character is generally good, and their attendance at church very respectable, both in point of numbers and of outward deportment.

*Lochty Bleachfield*, on the water of Lochty, in the vicinity of the new and thriving village of Thornton, is the property of David Landale, Esq. Kirkaldy. About two tons and a-half of linen yarn are bleached at this field per day, the greater part of which is manufactured into cloth in the county; but part is exported to France, and some sent to Ireland. At this field the residuum of the chlorine stills is converted by the usual process into carbonate of soda, and mixed with potash, as a detergent for the yarns. From 80 to 100 hands, mostly women, are employed at this bleachfield. The women are paid 5s. 6d., and the men 10s. to 12s. per week.

*Balgonie Bleachfield*, the property of Messrs William Russell and Co. was established in 1824, for bleaching linen yarns. About 480 tons of flax and tow yarns are bleached here annually. The number of hands employed is 70, who are paid at the same rate as at the other bleachfields. The machinery is worked by water-power supplied by the Leven, on the banks of which the works are situated.

*Rothies Bleachfield*, the property of Mr D. Donaldson, was erected in 1800. The quantity of yarn bleached on an average

is as follows: From December to March, inclusive, 292 tons; from April to November, inclusive, 390 tons. The number of hands employed is—of men, 30; women and girls, 80. The men earn from 10s. to 11s. per week; women and girls, 3s. 6d., 4s. 6d., 5s. 6d., according to age and capability.

Besides the above public works, there is a very extensive grain distillery at Caméron Bridge; and there has lately been established at Thornton a vitriol manufactory, for supplying with that article the surrounding districts, which, previous to this erection, were subjected to the expense of carriage from Glasgow. The works at Thornton are a branch of a Glasgow firm extensively engaged in the vitriol manufacture.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—According to an entry in the “Great Register Book” of the Priory of St Andrews, the church of Markinch was given to the Culdees by Malduinus, the son of Gillander, seventh Bishop of that See, who flourished in the early part of the tenth century. “Malduinus Episcopus St Andreæ dedit eis ecclesiam de Markinch cum totâ terra.” It seems to be a fact sufficiently well authenticated, both by records and histories of the period, that the first Bishops were themselves Culdees, and elected from among the general body of pastors by a majority of votes. But as the influence of these holy men became gradually undermined by the emissaries of Rome, and the insidious abettors of Papal domination, they were stript, one by one, of their privileges and possessions, and finally ceased to exist as a distinct and influential body in the church. At what time they ceased to hold possession of the cure and lands of Markinch, we have no means of ascertaining very precisely; but, by a deed of Eugenius, son of Hugo, a second son of Gillemichael M'Duff, fourth Earl of Fife, we find it was mortified to the Priory of St Andrews, towards the close of the twelfth century. This deed was confirmed by a charter of King William. From this period the patronage of the parish continued vested in the Priory of St Andrews, till, on the suppression of religious houses at the Reformation, it was resumed by the Crown. The names of the earliest incumbents after the downfall of Popery are not preserved,—the session records reaching no farther back than the month of July 1626, at which period they began to be kept with an exactness and detail long since discontinued, exhibiting an interesting picture of the manners and opinions of the time, and shewing with what vigilance and vigour the discipline of

the church was carried into effect, and its government maintained throughout the most trying and stormy periods of its history.

From these records it appears, that collections for the poor were regularly made on Sundays, and on occasions of baptisms and marriages. The sums thus collected were statedly distributed to the regular poor on the roll, while incidental cases of want or of more urgent distress were liberally relieved on the application of the necessitous. The names of the principal proprietors in the parish appear as the collectors and the distributors of the poor's funds, as patrolling in turn the streets of the village during the hours of Divine service, delating offences against social order and good morals, and enforcing the salutary discipline of the church\* against graver delinquencies. Among other respectable members of the kirk-session up to the Reformation, we find the names of Sir David Achmuttie of that Ilk, and of the Lairds of Balbirnie, Bandon, Bruntoun, Coul, Carristoun, and Kirkforthar,—names related to the first families in the kingdom, and who disdained not to exert the influence which their rank and wealth conferred in promoting the interests of religion and morality. In addition to the usual immoralities cognizable by the session, and which were then punished by fine and by rebuke in the face of the congregation, we find not a few delated for pursuing their ordinary avocations on the Sabbath, for absenting themselves from church and from the administration of ordinances, for slandering neighbours, for profane swearing, for drunkenness, and frequenting houses of public entertainment during the hours of Divine service. In 1643, Mr Frederick Carmichael is admitted minister of the parish, the "ministrie of the Presbyterie" having met at the kirk of Markinch for that effect. His predecessor would seem to have been deposed as "aneemie to ye Covenant," notwithstanding the testimony borne in face of the kirk-session by the Laird of Bruntoun in his behalf, that "he was als honest a minister, als faithful a minister, and als conscientious a minister as any minister in Fyffe." It appears, however, that the great majority of the elders and people were heartily engaged on the side of the common cause. Numbers of the parishioners flocked to the national standard, with arms in their hands, while contributions in money were not wanting to attest the gene-

\* Besides the objects for which the liberality of the congregation was appealed to, as stated in the text, it appears from the records that collections were occasionally made for suffering churches abroad; and at home, for building bridges, and for similar public improvements locally distant, and which nothing but enlarged views of national utility could have prompted at a time when money was so sparingly held, and the means of acquiring it so few and unproductive in this inland parish.

ral zeal for the cause of the kirk and the Covenant. Several instances occur in which "the session thought it meit yt the voluntarie contribution should be carried to ye armie by ye minister, and to be delyvered ther." That the incumbent during these years was a zealous promoter of the popular cause is manifest from the above extract, if, indeed, he was not one of the council of ministers appointed to attend the General in the field; for not only do the weekly entries show that his pulpit was at frequent intervals supplied by one of his brethren of the Presbytery, but we also find such intimations as the following:—"The qlk day our awin minister taught (Ps. xxxiv. 19,) being returned for ane space from the armie," and again, "13th July 1645, Our awin minister returned from England." We refer to one other entry to show that the victims of war were not forgotten by such of their brethren as tarried at home; for under the date of August 24th, 1645, we find it noted, that a messenger was dispatched by the session "to Montrose, his ligure, to try if any prisoneris of this parochie be thaire." Nor were demonstrations of piety, of which the times furnished such signal examples, wanting to second the efforts of a generous patriotism. The adverse vicissitudes of those troublous times are duly marked by days of public humiliation and fasting, for which the reasons are recorded at length, while the successes of the national leaders are as duly celebrated by public acts of thanksgiving. Days of thanksgiving were ordained "for ye victorie obtained be our armie at York against Prince Rupert his armie,"—for "the victorie our armie obtained at Newcastle,"—for "the happie victorie obtained be Leivtenant Generall David Lesslie, against James Graham, sometyme Earle of Montros, and his rebellis, at Philip Haugh, neir Jedburgh, upon ye 13th of September 1645." In this manner the principal events in this most eventful period of Scottish history are noticed up to the Restoration. Such was the political education of our fathers. Their guides and instructors were their ministers and elders, the former, for the most part, men of large minds, as well as of an ardent piety; deeply versed in the principles of civil not less than of ecclesiastical polity; while the latter, were, by their birth, education, and moral worth, entitled to the respect and esteem of those over whom they were called to rule, of whom moreover, they were the local and legitimate protectors. The principles and the proceedings of those days have been sometimes wittily ridiculed, and sometimes gravely denounced as hostile to monarchy, and subversive of liberty of con-

science; nor have they wanted able vindicators. But discussion were here out of place. Suffice it to remark, that so fixed and firm was the attachment of our forefathers to the revered institution of monarchy in the State, and presbyterial order in the Church, that neither the example, nor the caresses, nor the menaces of the "English sectaries" availed to repress, much less to vanquish them.

A system grounded on principles so holy, and aiming at results so salutary,—a system so deeply rooted in the habits and affections of a whole people,—none but the most licentious monarch, and the most unprincipled administration that ever swayed the destinies of the British empire, would have wished, or ventured to assail. After the re-establishment of Episcopacy the altered state of matters is lamentably manifest. The meetings of session are no longer stated and regular,—no fasts are ordained but those which precede the communion—no days of thanksgiving set apart, but the 29th of May "for his Majestie's happie returne." Yet the Sabbath-day ministrations never seem to have suffered any serious interruption during the long and troubled night of Episcopal domination; nor is the most distant allusion made in the Minutes of Session to any change of form, under the new order of things, unless the following may be so interpreted: "30th November 1662, reading befor and after sermones did begin again." In the course of the succeeding year, the names of those elders who were landed proprietors are no longer found, as present at, or concurring in, the deliberations of the session; they devolved on meaner men those duties which the arbitrary temper of the times rendered it dangerous for them any longer to discharge.\* The acts of their successors are no longer bowed to with deference and submission; threats are held out of making "applicatiōne to my Lord St Andrews for purchasing of a warrand" in "mitigatiōne" of the required "satisfactiōne." "My Lord St Andrews, through his commissary, enjoins the "mitigatiōne" prayed. But our limits do not permit to enter more minutely into details. If similar instances of arbitrary interference served to weaken the bonds of discipline, and to lessen the respect due to the immediate pastors and rulers of the church, they served to prepare the minds of all good men and true patriots for welcoming the glorious dawn of civil and religious liberty ushered in by the Revolution of 1688.

After the Revolution-settlement, when civil and religious liberty

\* The fines imposed on parishioners of Markinch for nonconformity at this period amounted to L. 5000. See Wadrow's History, author's preface.

were placed on a secure basis, the church, if not a faultless, at least exhibited a fair and well-proportioned institution, as efficient an instrument for publishing the Gospel, and instructing the people, divested of religious pageantry and superfluous appendages as latter ages have witnessed. From that happier period, the parish seems to have enjoyed a succession of not only sound, but able ministers—all of them faithful, and some of them eminently successful in their day. The patronage, which is vested in the Crown, was exercised judiciously, chiefly by means of the Earls of Leven, who till lately held the rank of principal heritor, and long diffused a salutary influence over the parish. No unpopular settlement, I believe, ever took place, and those who advocate the advantage of such management, will no doubt be anxious to ascertain the result.

Now, though every minister in his day has had sufficient reason to deplore the limited success of his ministry, it is due to truth to make the statement I now do, that, after twenty years connection with the parish, I have found among its ancient families, as compared with new-comers, transplanted from fields placed under a different system of spiritual husbandry, an order, decency, and moral bearing, obviously superior, even where much might be lacking as to the full standard of wished-for piety. This general statement admits many exceptions on the one side and on the other; but enough remains to warrant the assertion, that a sound Christian agency is the best calculated to induce moral order, and did, in fact, in this place, largely prove its adequacy to that effect.

As to literary distinction, few of the pastors referred to had leisure, or inclination, it is presumed, to enter the lists with competitors for fame. One or two of them were deemed fit to be transferred to St Andrews, to occupy in that University the place of principal. Another, who furnished the former Statistical report, published an agricultural survey of the county, about the time of his translation to a city charge; of the rest, nothing remains beyond a few sermons, mostly of an occasional and ephemeral sort. Their works, however, we doubt not, will bear a last-day review without shame, as they are without pretension.

Owing to the rapid increase of population, the parish field soon became unmanageable for a single labourer, especially as secular business increases on the hands of the Established clergy in proportion to the census. Household ministrations necessarily became rare, and the effects of one visit had vanished before another could

be given to confirm the impression. Church accommodation, too, was unrighteously straitened; for a place of worship built for a population of 2000 or 3000, left many among 5000 or 6000 unprovided for. Neither had there been any Dissenting place of worship erected here, previous to 1834, owing, no doubt, to the popular settlements that had so long prevailed. In that year, a chapel in connection with the United Secession body, and seated for 380, was opened, though so placed as to afford little aid for unaccommodated parishioners in the remote villages; for it was put down in close neighbourhood to the parish church, while several considerable villages, at from two to four miles distance, were overlooked.

It was then, however, the Church Extension scheme came into action, and here it was speedily and efficiently applied, first at Thornton, a village four miles off, with more than 500 inhabitants; and next at Milton of Balgonie, having nearly 600 indwellers, besides a populous district lying beyond it. The church at Thornton is seated for upwards of 400, and that at Milton for 650; while a new erection at Methill, on the border of Weymss parish, has supplied accommodation for a large village of 400 inhabitants, situated on the coast, and more than six miles distant from the church at Markinch. In the latter village, Inverleven, a small Dissenting chapel had long existed, and nearly one-half the inhabitants, who adhered to the Established Church, were obliged to cross the Leven to attend public worship at the church of Scoonie, the minister of which, indeed, had taken the virtual charge of them for many years.

The church at Thornton was built by general subscription, that of Milton solely by the heritors and people of the district to be benefited by the erection;\* and it is due to the respectable heritors of the parish to record their liberality on that occasion, in grateful terms. Both churches have now ordained pastors; and seats being furnished at a low rate, Sabbath privileges are accessible to all. But after these erections have so greatly relieved the pressure on the parish minister, a body of about 3500 remain, among which to exert his still inadequate pastoral superintendence, though he has done what he could to remedy the deficiency, by calling a qualified assistant to aid him in the work. It were much to be desired that his unendowed fellow-labourers in the new parishes were on an equal footing as to stipendiary compensation.†

\* In both is included the aid given in such cases by the Church Extension Committee in Edinburgh.

† The Rev. Mr Murray, the first minister of Milton, was after six months, trans-

The present stipend, augmented in 1822, is 18 chalders, half barley, half meal, paid at the rates of the county fiars, the fluctuation of which is very considerable, ranging betwixt the highest and the lowest in the proportion of one to five-eighths, within the period of the writer's incumbency. The glebe contains nearly 9 acres, which may be valued at £.32 per annum. The manse is of very ancient construction, by much the oldest in the presbytery. It has undergone repairs and alterations so numerous, as greatly to affect its apparent identity. The site has been long regarded by incumbents as very insalubrious, and more has been expended to obviate dilapidation, than would have built a wholesome and commodious dwelling. The church is in excellent repair.

According to a census taken in 1836, the whole population of Markinch amounted to 5328, or 1189 families. Of these, 150 families are Dissenters from the Established Church; 51 families are of a mixed composition; 30 of them having one Dissenting member; and 14 having two in each; the rest three or more; 25 of the first class (159) reside in the far off village of Inverleven. Making these deductions, there remain within the bounds of the civil parish about 1079 families, exclusive of those of a mixed profession, in connection with the Established Church, or owning no other connection. Since last census, the population has increased, but without materially affecting the above proportions. No marvel that the class of non-attenders at any place of worship should have increased, when church accommodation, till recently, was so disproportionate, and more especially, that, to supply the public works, strangers, not always of settled principles, or church going habits, are often attracted to the parish.

*Education.*—This has always been a prominent object in our parochial system. No other country has ever exhibited so close an alliance betwixt religion and education, or shewn a parish church and parish school in such harmonious and undivided neighbourhood. Of this conjunction, the beneficial effects have been incalculably great, both as to intellectual improvement and intelligent piety. The earliest records of the kirk-session evince the attention paid to means of education; for, besides the parochial school, we find order taken to have the remoter localities supplied. Thus, in 1702, the following entry was made: "The minister having acquainted the session, that he had found, on his going throw

lated to the parish of Dunbog, and was succeeded by the Rev. Mr M'Ewan, the present incumbent. The first minister of Thornton, the Rev. Mr Adamson, is still there. In both churches the seats are well let and occupied.

that part of the parish, that the people of Coltoun stand in great need of an English school for teaching their children,—the session, taking the case to their consideration, not only what is represented, but further, that there is a dangerous water betwixt this and Coltoun; and that many poor things of that toun must be lost entirely as to instruction, if there be not a school there, and that parents who have substance of the world, and are obliged to send their children abroad out of the paroch, will be hereby encouraged to keep them at home, and that the doing of this is an necessary and Christian duty, and for the special benefit of that corner of the paroch, and not in the least lyable to any reasonable exception, did unanimously agree that there be a school in Coltoun, and offered to the minister their ready concurrence with his project to that effect.”\*

Equal interest, however, was not shown by the people at all times in availing themselves of school-training, for on the “20 Martii 1643,” this minute occurs: “The said day, George Robertson did give over his office of ye school and ye kirk, and ye session, and yat because his deutie was small and ewil payed,” &c. Probably, George Robertson might have set down the people’s indifference to his own remissness or want of skill. In the present day, at least, the desire for good education pervades all classes in the parish, nor are the means for accomplishing it sparingly enjoyed,—nine schools, besides the parish one, being in active operation. Of these nine, two only, on the Balgonie estate, have any shadow of endowment; the one at Balgonie Square, enjoying an annual allowance of L. 10, with dwelling-house annexed, the other, at Thornton, having L. 5 simply. These sums had been allowed by the former proprietor, and are continued by the present, with a becoming liberality. Another school, at Balbirnie coal-hill, merely provides the teacher with a house. Of the rest, none have any other means of support for the teacher, save school-fees,—a very precarious and inadequate source of remuneration for a class of men whose meritorious labours are of so much importance to the community. A female school in the village derives pecuniary aid from the private subscription of a few ladies connected with the place, chiefly of the Balgonie, Balbirnie, and Barnslee families.

The parish school may be held up as a model, so admirably is it conducted by Mr Duncan Stewart. Previous to his appointment six years ago, little could have been said in favour of its management; but it is now efficient in the highest degree, and, in point

\* This school has continued to the present time.

of system, will bear a comparison with seminaries of the first class. After this, it need not be said that it is well attended. Indeed, want of room is the chief impediment it labours under, and though the heritors have already done much in the way of affording accommodation, more is needed for the due working of the important institution. When Dr Thomson gave his Statistical Report, the salary of the schoolmaster was L. 10, the dwelling-house also being old and incommodious. Mr Stewart's salary is L. 34, 4s. 4½d.; school-fees, L. 70; other emoluments, L. 17, 10s.; total income per annum, L. 121, 14s. 4½d. The dwelling-house is of late erection, and affords accommodation considerably beyond the statutory amount, though by no means beyond the station of the occupants.

Besides week-day means of instruction, the Sabbath school system is diligently worked under the efficient direction of the assistant minister, aided by a number of gratuitous teachers, who devote a portion of the Sabbath to this excellent purpose. Oral instruction is aided by the gratuitous use of a small, but gradually increasing collection of appropriate books, which convey to many houses, ill-provided with such furniture, means of information and materials for thought, on subjects of momentous importance. The Dissenting chapel has also its collection of books in useful circulation.

*Benefit Societies.*—There are several Associations that belong to this department, the strength and resources of which are shewn in the subjoined table:

Name.	No. of Members.	State of Funds.	Entry.	Quart. Payt.
Friendly Society,	224	L. 1000 0 0	L 0 2 6	L. 0 1 6
Brotherly do.	107	300 0 0	...	...
Apron do.	160	400 0 0	...	...
Equitable do.	180	never exceeds 30 0 0	weekly payment,	0 1 0

The last is of recent origin, and for the time, the most popular, as requiring a moderate payment of 1s. weekly, till the collective sum amounts to L. 30; each in his turn, which is determined by lot, is put in possession of that sum, continuing the weekly contribution, nevertheless, till his payments shall have replaced the amount drawn, with interest. Thus, each has his contributions realized to him, and a mutual accommodation results to the whole.

The object of the other three Societies is to make provision for widows and superannuated members, and to help when disabled by sickness or incidental casualty. The widow's allowance from the Friendly Society is L. 1, 4s. per annum; sick members receive for a

time 4s., and, if permanent aid is required, 2s. per week. Some of the others allow less.

There is, however, less alacrity now than in time past among young men to enrol themselves in these Societies, and as their success and stability depend on new accessions to supply the vacancies made by death, there is reason to apprehend a less permanent existence to some of them than their benevolent projectors contemplated.

There has not been shewn any strong disposition to make use of savings banks, nor has any branch of those institutions been here established, though, doubtless, an investment in them would possess many advantages in the way of encouraging economy and counteracting improvidence. A branch of the Commercial Bank, Edinburgh, has been recently introduced, which will afford new facilities to the business part of the community.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*— Though this class must have increased with an increasing population, yet it has done so by no means in the same ratio. In 1621, the ordinary poor were 21; in 1645, 23; the intermediate years exhibiting little fluctuation. At present, and for the last twenty years, the ordinary poor average 50 on the roll for stated supply. In few cases, is full maintenance afforded, the weekly pension being chiefly given to persons disabled by sickness or age from industrial employments, and wanting relations in a condition to relieve them fully, though, with a little assistance, well disposed to contribute to the utmost of their power. The rate of allowance varies with the circumstances of the individual's case, there being as many under 1s. 6d. per week, as there are above that moderate sum. A heavy charge, however, occasionally occurs by having whole families devolved on parish support, either by the death of parents, or by their desertion. Cases in the latter predicament have, of late, become more frequent, and will necessarily multiply in proportion as moral principle is undermined, by the insidious fallacies of opinion, which of late have been industriously propagated on the questions of property and the marriage contract.

Besides the ordinary poor, occasional relief is administered, to a considerable extent, to persons not claiming regular supply, though incidentally requiring assistance. It is always an object to keep this class distinct from the others, as far as the principle of public charity will allow. In general, there is no indisposition to receive eleemosynary aid, though far less among recent settlers, than the ancient residents. When cases of lunacy occur among the working classes, the parish, for the most part, is called on to defray the

expense of their admission into a public asylum. At present, there is one individual so maintained at Perth. In general, recovery is by no means hopeless, when the case is not too long neglected.

To meet these charges, the permanent funds of the parish are very inadequate. These funds comprise church door-collections, dues on marriages and mortcloths, and interest on money in bank deposit. The first named class of revenue is variable, and it is to be regretted that the younger portion of church-goers are less exemplary in the Sabbath offering than their fathers. Injurious opinions, indeed, are by some inculcated, to the effect that such contributions, going only to exonerate the proprietors of the soil, who are legally bound to support the poor, form an act of gratuitous generosity on the part of the unlanded community, as if charity were the business of a class, and not the general concern of a virtuous community.

Other causes operating unfavourably on church-door collections might be mentioned, did the nature of this report allow more than general views. It must, moreover, be taken into the account in stating an average, that the *quoad sacra* parishes, having their own collections, must cause a diminution at the parish church. By the terms of their constitution, they are allowed to apply their collections for their own objects, provided they collect twice annually for the parish funds. It is a remarkable fact, that, in one of those new erections, that at Thornton, not a single pauper has claimed to be relieved. Since these disjunctions took place, the average collection at the parish church is under L. 1. Thrice annually, (at two sacramental occasions, and first Sabbath of the year,) extraordinary collections are made, \* the proceeds of which are distributed in addition to the ordinary supplies, and chiefly to persons not on the stated roll. Collections for objects not eleemosynary are also occasionally made, averaging from L. 30 to L. 40 per annum. These include the General Assembly's Schemes, books for Sabbath school library, &c.

The return for mortcloths has of late years greatly declined, the right of the kirk-session to exact a fee being occasionally disputed, and not by Dissenters alone, though it was first challenged on that side. The payment is undoubtedly legal, but can rarely be enforced without violating the decencies due to interment of the dead.

There is a deposit fund of L. 400 belonging to the parish, the interest of which only is at the disposal of the kirk-session. A Female Society for aged women in destitute circumstances lays out about

\* These are always liberal.

L.50 annually, and is so conducted as to prove an excellent auxiliary to the kirk-session. The principal ladies connected with the parish patronize it.

It must not be omitted, that a great deal of private charity is unobtrusively distributed by the families of the principal heritors, whether resident or otherwise. It is pleasant also to state, that among the humbler classes, many instances occur of an habitual, though little noticed readiness to communicate of their little to a neighbour having less. The finest charities of life are thus produced.

The two great coal proprietors, Mr Balfour of Whittingham and Balgonie, and Mr Balfour of Balbirnie, make liberal donations of coals each winter. The former not being resident, places his coal bounty at the disposal of the kirk-session, and never reduces the list of expectants made up by the elders. The Barnslee family also do much in the way of private distribution to the deserving poor. In the eastern part of the parish, the family of Balfour has been long distinguished in this respect.

With all these accessories, the parish funds present a large deficit, which the heritors have hitherto met by voluntary assessment. This is gradually becoming more onerous, and the kirk-session experience augmenting difficulties in their management. Indeed, in so far as relieving the poor ceases to be regarded as a branch of charity, and passes into the predicament of an absolute legal claim, it becomes the more difficult for a kirk-session to administer beneficially. Their position is pressed on the one side by applicants, on the other by heritors, who have to provide for deficiencies. In this conflict, their moral influence is exposed to damage, and as it perishes, their usefulness suffers in proportion. Yet the substitution of a machinery divested of all church associations, and worked by legal power only, destroys one of the healthiest agencies ever introduced into the parochial economy.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

On minor branches of parish statistics, it is not necessary to dilate. It may be mentioned that the public health is under the care of three active and well-qualified medical practitioners; whereas, long after Dr Thomson wrote his Report, not one was resident in the parish. These three reside in the village of Markinch. There is nothing that requires special notice in the department of disease; here, as in other parts of the island, cases of pulmonary consumption forming the largest class. The mortality of the last forty years shows an average of 69, the

greatest amount (in 1834) being 130; the lowest (in 1802) 53. Several instances of a longevity exceeding ninety years have occurred during the last twenty years; and one, a few months ago, who had gone beyond ninety-six. The ardour of politics had carried him, two years before, to a polling-place six miles from his habitation.

As to the general morals of the community, it were indelicate to go into specialities of detail. Crime, as the term is usually understood, is exceedingly unfrequent. Petty breaches of the peace occasionally occur, but will become rare, as the cause of temperance gains ground,—and happily it does gain on the opposite vice,—solicited as that vice is by a too promiscuous system of licensing public-houses, the number of which is still excessive, and ought to be reduced. The class of immorality that most falls under the cognizance of the kirk-session has sensibly diminished; and, upon the whole, the community has an improved moral aspect. This is much aided by the excellent regulations maintained at the leading public works, whose proprietors insist on moral conduct as an indispensable condition of being retained in their employment. Several of them, too, have provided libraries for the use of their work people, which operates in many ways in producing a beneficial result. And, in proportion as the popular mind is well-informed, it will cease to lend a facile ear to the propagators of opinions subversive of virtuous order and religious obligation. The parochial system, not less than other institutions of the land, has of late years been exposed to unsparing aggression, and nothing less than its ruin will satisfy assailants. We wish its downfall averted, in the persuasion that it is a righteous instrument for promoting an host of objects, each of which, we cannot help thinking, is worth more than the most exaggerated cost of the *whole*!

## ADDENDUM.

*List of Heritors.*—\* James Balfour of Balgonie; John Balfour of Balbirnie; Drinkwater Bethune of Balfour; \* J. E. Wemyss of Wemyss Castle; \* Earl of Rothes; Mrs Col. Paston of Barnslee; \* United College of St Andrews; G. J. Lindsay of Kirkforthar; John Landale of Man; \* J. Johnston of Little Lun; John Lawson of Carieston; George Greig of Little Balcurvie; \* Wardlaw Ramsay of Balcurvie; \* C. M. Christie of Durie; J. Simpson

\* Those marked with an asterisk \* are non-resident.

FIFE,

X X

of Durie Vale; \* D. Millie of Cameron Bridge; A. Mitchel of Coul; J. Balfour of Ashgrove; \* G. Ballingall of Carieston Easter.

June 1840.

## PARISH OF CARNOCK.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. WILLIAM GILSTON, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name*—In the former Account of the parish, it is stated, that the words *cair* or *cairn*, and *knock*, (of which Carnock is supposed to be a compound,) signify “a village, or collection of houses adjoining to a small hill.” Another etymology has been given, which makes the name signify “a cairn, or barrows on a hill,” and this, probably, is the true derivation.

*Extent and Boundaries*.—This parish lies very compact, being about 3 miles from east to west, and about the same from north to south, though narrowing considerably in the latter direction. Its whole extent is about 9 square miles, or 2260 square acres. It is bounded on the extreme west by the parish of Culross, in the county of Perth; on the north-west, by the parish of Saline; on the north-east and east, by that of Dunfermline; and on the south and south-west, by that of Torryburn.

*Topographical Appearances*.—The surface is pleasingly undulating and varied; and being well wooded, presents, from several points of view, landscapes of considerable beauty and richness. There is no eminence deserving of the name of a mountain; but the Camp's Bank and Carneil Hill, which form a continuous range of rising ground, are of considerable elevation, and command extensive views of the Frith of Forth and the adjacent country, from Stirling on the west, to Edinburgh on the east. Luscar Knolls, or Knows, also the Clune of Newbigging, and part of the Clune farm, which lie further north, and are somewhat more elevated, command rich and varied prospects; and from most of them are seen in the distance, the Ochils, Benlomond,