

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 *knoch*, (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,

and other western mountains, together with the Pentland hills, and the rising grounds to the east.

Hydrography.—There are but few streams in the parish, and all of them unimportant, except as watering the localities through which they flow. They run from east to west, and after joining other rivulets, fall into the Frith of Forth, beyond the bounds of the parish. From external appearances, there seem to be a few mineral springs, chiefly of the chalybeate kind; but they are little attended to. Of other springs, there are several, which are all perennial, and which furnish an abundant supply of excellent water for the use of the inhabitants. Under this head, also, should perhaps be mentioned the Ink Craig, in the neighbourhood of the village of Carnock, which is so called from its producing a liquid resembling ink. “A chemical analysis,” says the former Account of the parish, “was made of this liquid by the ingenious Dr Black, when it was found to contain a mixture of coal, flinty earth, and clay.” Its appearance to the eye is simply that of water oozing through a black substance resembling coal, with which it has become impregnated. The liquid forms a very tolerable ink, and might, for ordinary purposes, be used as such.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The rocks of this parish are chiefly sandstone, limestone, and different varieties of trap. The strata dip in all directions; but in the north side of the parish, the dip is generally to the north-west, north, or north-east; while in the south, the dip is to the south and south-west. Sandstone is the most extensively diffused of all the rocks, being met with in almost every part of the parish; and in one part, where it presents a continuous bed of many acres extent, and of great thickness, lying so near the surface as to be entirely exposed, or only partially covered with a thin coating of moss and heath. In some places, the freestone beds seem to have been raised by an under-movement; and hence the rock is frequently found in a shivered state, and sometimes forming knolls above the more compact beds below.

Trap or whinstone, also, is of frequent occurrence, and many of the elevations of the parish are formed of it. Where the masses are exposed, they are usually found to rest upon sandstone or limestone. Different varieties of it are met with; but nowhere does it assume the columnar form. Greenstone is not uncommon. Carniel Hill presents us with loose sand and freestone raised to a considerable elevation, as if by some under-movement, and with

masses of trap overlying these like a cap. On the top of the hill, there is a hollow of some depth, which is always more or less filled with water, and which, without a stretch of imagination, may be supposed to have been the aperture through which the igneous matter forced itself. Indeed, the appearance of the trap, as seen distinctly overcapping the sandstone, and forming precipitous masses on one side of the hill, strongly countenances the idea of its having partially upheaved, and at last forced its way, when in a liquid state, through the strata on which it now rests.

In the neighbourhood of the village of Carnock, there is a bed of white indurated clay, apparently of considerable depth and extent, which is usually denominated *caum*, and is much sought after for domestic purposes. It dips towards the south, and lies immediately under a stratum of rich soil and clay of considerable depth. The layers are very regular and compact; but the joints are numerous, and extend in all directions, so that no piece of any great magnitude is ever dug out. This stone receives a fine polish; and being so soft as to be turned on an ordinary lathe, it is frequently manufactured into small articles. The bed seems gradually to pass into the strata of slaty and shaly substances that lie to the east of it. It is not found in any other part of the parish, nor, so far as we can learn, in any great quantity in any of the neighbouring parishes; and hence, as it is in some request, it is carried to considerable distances for sale.

Ironstone is frequently met with in the parish, especially on the lands of Pitdinnies and Blair. The quality is considered rich, particularly of that which is found on the Pitdinnies; but on neither estate has the ore been wrought.

Coal is diffused generally throughout the parish, and was at no distant period wrought in five different places. The only mine at present in operation, is on the estate of Blair, in the west of the parish. It has been wrought for a long time past, but with greater spirit of late years than formerly. It consists of four different seams of coal. The uppermost, a three feet seam, is a *blind* coal, used by brewers and maltsters. The others are house-coal of different qualities, and are 6, 4, and 2½ feet in thickness respectively. Part of all these seams have been wrought, and are at present working. The produce, which is about 2000 tons annually, is almost wholly used in home consumption. The entire depth of the pit, which is at present wrought, is twenty-three fathoms. A dike cuts one of the seams near to the pit, causing a

considerable derangement in the strata, and changing altogether the quality of the coal. The coals were, till of late, drawn up by a horse gin; but a small engine, upon the high pressure principle, which was set up for keeping the pit clear of water, now draws up the coals also.

The coal in other parts of the parish, though not wrought, is not exhausted. On the north-east, most of the upper seams, branching off from Lord Elgin's coal-works, in the parish of Dunfermline, and cropping out in Carnock, have been wrought out. The lower seams, however, have not, it is understood, been yet touched.

Limestone was formerly quarried in considerable quantities on the lands of Luscar; but though it still exists there and in some other spots, none is at present wrought in any part of the parish. In the neighbourhood of the places where it is known to exist, there sometimes is found what the workmen call *bastard* limestone, or a mixture of whin and limestone.

Freestone is quarried in several places. The principal quarry, however, in the parish, is on the estate of Carnock, where the rock is of great extent and considerable thickness, and may be wrought without almost any tiring. The stone of this quarry, though somewhat softer than the freestone in the south part of the parish, is more easily quarried, and may be cut out of almost any length. Owing to the distance from water carriage, and the abundance of excellent freestone in the neighbouring districts, the demand for stones at this quarry is not great, except in the immediate locality. There are three kinds of stone in the bed which composes this quarry: the first being white and soft when dug, and gradually hardening when exposed to the weather; the second being of a somewhat darker colour, and harder quality; and the third being of a bluish-black colour, and capable of receiving a fine polish. This last lies alongside of the others throughout the whole extent of the bed, and seems to form part of the same rock. The direction and dip of the strata appear, so far as they can be traced, to be uniform throughout; and the fissures, though numerous, scarcely occasion any derangement in the component parts of the rock. Yet the stone passes from the one colour to the other frequently in the smallest discernible space. The colouring substance of the black stone is evidently of a bituminous nature; but how it should have impregnated one part of the bed and not the other is not easily accounted for. The outer portion of the black rock,

which is more exposed than the rest of the quarry, is, in some places, broken into large masses, and assumes a cliff-like form. But whether the mass may have been, at any former period, submerged under any fluid which could have given it its dark hue, can only be matter of conjecture. It is certain, that the substances, which at present are thinly spread over its surface, could not have produced this effect; for they are the same as those which partially cover the face of the white portion of the rock. In the former Statistical Account of the parish, the writer, speaking of the black rock, says, "This stone will stand the fire, and the longer it is exposed to it, it becomes the more durable, and contracts the blacker hue." This, however, is a mistake; for the fact is, that this stone, when subjected to the heat of an ordinary fire, soon becomes red-hot; loses entirely its black colour, exhibits to the eye a coarser texture than before, and is more friable.

No fossil organic remains belonging to the animal kingdom have been, so far as is known, found at any time in the rocks of this parish. A few belonging to the vegetable kingdom have been met with, which were chiefly lepidodendrons. And, as marking the action of the watery element, it may be mentioned, that some of the slabs which have been dug out of the freestone quarry on the Carnock estate show very distinctly the ripple of the wave upon them.

The chief alluvial deposits are sand, gravel, loam, clay, and moss. In the last mentioned of these, trees in a considerable state of preservation are found imbedded. The soil varies much, and often within a small space. In the southern division of the parish it is more fertile; yet in some of the northern parts it is scarcely inferior. But the difference of exposure gives a considerable advantage to the former in point of climate. In some places, the soils have much depth; but generally they are the reverse,—resting principally on sandstone, whinstone, and a hard clayey subsoil, rather wet than otherwise, and consisting chiefly of loam, clay, and gravel. Boulders are frequently met with near the surface; but none of them have been found of any great size. They consist chiefly of whin. Moles are frequent in the loamy soils. But the farmers seem not to consider them hurtful, as no mole-catchers are employed in the parish.

Zoology.—The birds are those ordinarily met with in the district. The very rare visitant, the greater butcher-bird, was seen in the parish in the spring of 1838. The whinchat, a bird rather uncommon in the district, is occasionally found here. Snowflakes

appear in large flights during severe winters. Attempts have been made to introduce the pheasant; but the want of proper covers and the depredations of the poacher have prevented their success. An individual of the species, however, is occasionally seen.

Botany.—Of the rarer plants, the following, kindly pointed out to me by Andrew Dewar, Esq. surgeon, Dunfermline, may be mentioned. Their localities are added:—

Eleocharis multicaulis, Carnock Moor	Mentha viridis, Carneil
Melica nutans, Blair Dean	----- variety crispa, Do.
Galium uliginosum, Do.	Lamium maculatum, of Reichenbach, Do.
Potamogeton heterophyllum, Carnock M.	Nasturtium sylvestre, Benhard
Primula elatior, Pitdinnies	Corydalis claviculata, Carnock Moor
Trientalis Europæa, Clune	Senecio saracenicus, Do.
Saxifraga tridactylites, Carneil	Ophioglossum vulgatum, Carneil.
Chelidonium majus, Carnock village	

The rein-deer moss is found in considerable profusion in Carnock Moor.

Wood.—The plantations in this parish cover several hundred acres of ground; and, being laid out with considerable taste and skill, they serve both to beautify and shelter the lands. They consist chiefly of the different kinds of fir, intermixed with oaks, elms, planes, &c. On the lands of Clune there is, besides several belts and hedge-rows of trees, a considerable plantation of Scotch firs, of nearly a hundred years growth, and of superior quality. And on the same estate, there is a large clump of aged beeches, which both shelter and ornament the surrounding grounds. In Luscar Dean, which is all planted, and where a few trees of considerable age and height are found, there was a venerable beech, of which mention is made in the former Account of the parish, evidently of great antiquity, but the age of which was unknown. It was dignified by the name of the "Queen of the Dean." Growing on the slope of a confined glen, and closely surrounded with other trees, it was not seen to advantage. But even near at hand it appeared a magnificent tree. Its girth at the ground was 16 feet, and at seven feet above that point, 13 feet 8 inches. Of the two large limbs into which it separated, the one was 9 feet thick, and the other nearly the same. Its height was upwards of 100 feet. This tree, however, was blown down one stormy night in the spring of last year.

Of late years, a large number of trees, which must have been planted above a hundred years ago by Colonel Erskine, and which had attained their full growth, or were partially going into decay, have been cut down on the estate of Carnock. A considerable number, however, evidently planted by the same spirited gentle-

man, and disposed chiefly in rows, still remain. They consist principally of oak, plane, ash, and beech. One of the beeches, which grows near the village, is worthy of notice, both for its size, being 11 feet 10 inches in circumference at the ground, and 11 feet 3 inches at seven feet from the ground; and especially for its long, pendulous, and limber branches, which, when the tree is in full flourish, give it an appearance of singular beauty. Upwards of a hundred acres of this estate lying together were planted nearly forty years ago, besides patches of considerable extent at different periods since.

On the lands of Blair, the plantations cover about 120 acres; some of them upwards of seventy, and others of them thirty, and fifteen years old. They are all in a thriving state, and profitable. Those which are near the mansion-house are tastefully disposed and ornamental. The southern part of the parish, comprehending Whinny hill, and the Pitdinnies, shews also several belts of planting judiciously placed, and these, together with an extensive plantation on the immediately neighbouring grounds, skirting along the whole eastern boundary of the above named farms, and lying partly within the parish, give this district also the appearance of being well wooded.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The principal notices regarding this parish are to be found in its session records, and in the records of the Presbytery of Dunfermline. From these, it appears to have been formerly of much smaller extent than it is at present:—comprehending only the barony of Carnock, which included the present estate of Carnock, together with the lands of Blair, and Easter and Wester Camps. The Pitdinnies, the lands of Luscar, and those of Clune, originally belonged to the parish of Dunfermline, and were disjoined from it, and annexed to Carnock in the commencement of the year 1650. The following entry is found in the Presbytery record, August 19, 1649. “The Presbytery having considered the report of Mr John Dunn and James Sibbald, appointed to perambulate and consider the distance of Pitdinnies, Easter and Wester Luscar, and the Clune, from the kirk of Dunfermline and the kirk of Carnock, they find it necessary that the said landis be disjoined from the kirk of Dunfermline, and annexed to the kirk of Carnock; and recommend the same to the commissione for the plantation-of kirks, to be ratified by their authoritie.” And from a subsequent entry, it appears that this recommendation was car-

ried into effect in the following year. Sibbald, in his History of Fife says, that "the Lord Lyndsay of Byres got this parish by marriage of a brother-daughter of Dalhousie; and they kept it till King Jame VI.'s time, that Sir George Bruce, the predecessor of the Earls of Kincardine, got it." The Acts of the Parliament of Scotland 1609, inform us that the lands of Pitdiannies were conveyed to Edward Bruce of Kinloss, and his wife, along with the patronage of the kirk and parish of Torrie. The charter conveying the barony of Carnock, with the patronage of the kirk thereof, to Sir George Bruce, is dated, as appears from the same Acts of Parliament, the 4th May 1602. From the same writing we learn, that the church of Carnock belonged originally to the ministry of Scotland-well, and was disjoined from it when Sir George Bruce received investment of the barony.

Chalmers in his Caledonia says, that "in the year eighty-three of the Christian era, Agricola the Roman general, in endeavouring to conquer the northern parts of Scotland, passed the Forth, and encamped his army in the now parish of Carnock." And the circumstance that the name Camps is given to one of the localities in the parish, and that several Roman urns were dug up some years ago on Carneil hill, renders his statement probable. He says again, "Upon Carneil hill, near Carnock, the Horestii appear to have had a strength, as we might learn from the prefix of the name; the caer of the British signifying a fort."*

Eminent Men.—The connection of the Bruces with this parish appears, from what has been already mentioned, to have commenced in the year 1602. Edward Bruce, the first Lord Kinloss, "was a man of superior talents, learning, and integrity," and was eminently instrumental in the peaceable accession of James VI. to the throne of England. His second son, Thomas, third Lord

* The people of Carnock were formerly staunch Covenanters. The following notice regarding the first swearing of the Solemn League and Covenant is worthy of being recorded. It is extracted from the earliest of the session records, and is in the handwriting of John Row. "The 5 of November 1643. The covenant of thir three kingdoms, Scotland, England, and Ireland, was solemnlie sworne to, and subscribit be the parishioners of Carnock, and all that cude wreat subscribit their names in the book qrin the printed covenant was, and the rest of the parishioners yt culd not subscribe themselves subscribit be Jhone Anderson, Notar pvblik Dunferlyne, be touching their hands as the use is, at the communion table in the kirk of Carnok, as the book qik is in my possession will testifie. Qik action was done verrie solemnlie after I had taught the historie of Joshua's covenant, Josh. 24 cap. fra the 14 verse to the 29." Again, during the ministry of Mr Belfrage, we find the following entry. "Dec. 17, 1648, The quhilk day the Solemne League and Covenant was renewit and sworne, and the public confession of sins was read over againe. The fast was lykewise solemnlie kept this day."

Kinloss, was created Earl of Elgin, by patent, dated 21st June 1663. Sir George Bruce of Carnock appears to have been a person of ability and sagacity. He settled at Culross, where he established extensive and flourishing coal-works. He was representative for the burgh of Culross in the Scottish Parliament, and appears to have been frequently on the commission for the plantation of kirks. Edward, his grandson, was created Earl of Kincardine, and Lord Bruce of Torrie, in 1647; and dying without issue, was succeeded in his title and estates by his brother Alexander. The character of Alexander, as drawn by Bishop Burnet, shews him to have been no ordinary man. He died in 1680, and was succeeded by his son Alexander, third Earl of Kincardine, in whose time the estate of Carnock was brought to a judicial sale, and came into the possession of Lieutenant-Colonel John Erskine.

From statements made in the session records, it appears that the Earls of Kincardine occasionally held baronial courts at Carnock, and sometimes assumed the power of expelling the refractory from the parish.

Among other individuals who have resided in the parish, or who have been connected with it by birth or office, there are a few whose names deserve to be mentioned as having honourably distinguished themselves, either by the influence which their counsel and example exercised, or by the active part which they took in questions of public interest. Of these, not the least distinguished was the above-mentioned Colonel Erskine, who became proprietor of the barony of Carnock in the year 1700. He was son of David, second Lord Cardross, and of Mary, sister to the first Earl of Kincardine. Being a zealous Presbyterian, he was a determined opponent of whatever measures tended to injure the Presbyterian cause. He was frequently returned as elder from the Presbytery of Dunfermline to the General Assembly, and was one of the three commissioners whom the Assembly of 1735 sent to London for the purpose of endeavouring to effect a repeal of the Act of the 10th of Queen Anne, restoring patronage. He is spoken of also as a zealous and successful agriculturist, and the estate of Carnock still bears marks of the attention which he paid to planting.

The colonel was succeeded in his estate of Carnock by his eldest son John, who became a distinguished member of the Scotch Bar, and was, for a long period of his life, Professor of Scotch Law in

the University of Edinburgh. The well known Institutes of the Professor were composed, it is said, in his house of Newbigging, in this parish, where he usually resided during the summer months. He resided latterly at Cardross, in Monteith, where he died in the year 1767.

The property belonging to the family in this parish descended to his eldest son, the late Dr John Erskine of Edinburgh. The doctor, who was an eminent minister of the Church of Scotland, and whose worth and talents were well known and highly appreciated both at home and abroad, was first settled at Kirkintilloch, afterwards at Culross, in the Presbytery of Dunfermline, and finally was translated to the Old Greyfriars, Edinburgh, where he had for his colleague the celebrated Principal Robertson. During the period of his residence in Edinburgh, he took an active part in church affairs; and as to much energy of character, and great industry, he joined an ardent piety and an enlightened zeal, he contributed not a little to maintain the purity and the efficiency of the Scottish Kirk. Like several of his ancestors, he was a warm friend both of religious and civil liberty. His thirst after knowledge was great, and continued unabated to his death, which happened A. D. 1803, in the eighty-second year of his age, and the fifty-eighth of his ministry.

Another individual long connected with this parish by office, was Mr John Row. He seems to have been the third minister of it after the Reformation.* Livingston, in his memoirs as quoted by Gillies, says, that "he was a godly, zealous man, who was careful to collect the most observable passages of Providence in his time. He helped at the General Assembly at Glasgow 1638, to discover sundry corruptions of the former time." His father, who was one of the Reformers, and who was a distinguished Hebrew scholar, and the first that taught that language in Scotland, early initiated him into the knowledge of the Hebrew, so that when eight years of age he read the Hebrew chapter in the family. Being firmly attached to the Presbyterian Church government, and an enemy to the encroachments of Episcopacy, he suffered frequent hardships in consequence, during the ascendancy of the latter. But, being much respected for his piety and integrity, he, though a nonconformist, was permitted to live at his charge; and

* David Ferguson, afterwards minister of Dunfermline, and James Stewart, were his predecessors. Vide Row's *Historie*, p. 471, just published by the Wodrow Society.

after mourning for a long period over the defections under Prelacy, he was privileged to witness its overthrow, and to assist in effecting the second Reformation. His father-in-law, the celebrated David Ferguson, first Presbyterian minister of Dunfermline, and coadjutor of John Knox, began to write a history of the Church of Scotland, which Mr Row continued. This history, which consists chiefly of an abridgement of the Acts of the General Assembly, and which bears the name of Row's MS., has been published both by the Wodrow Society, and the Maitland Club.

Mr Row was settled minister of Carnock in 1592, and died June 26th 1646, aged seventy-eight years.*

The eldest son of Mr Row was named John, and attained to such eminence both for his literary accomplishments, and for his zeal in church affairs, that he deserves to be mentioned in connection with his native parish. He was for some time rector of the grammar-school at Kirkaldy, and was afterwards translated to the rectorship of that of Perth, where he taught during twenty years with distinguished ability and success. Subsequently, he turned his attention more particularly to the church, and having gone to Aberdeen he was ordained one of the ministers of that city. In 1652, he was appointed Principal of King's College, Old Aberdeen, in room of Dr Guild, who had been deposed the preceding year. When at the head of this college, he gave great encouragement to learning, and was much respected. He was deprived of his office of Principal after the Restoration in 1661.

* His death is thus noted in the session records: "Junnie 28.—My father, Mr Johne Row of worthie memorie, being departed this life, I, his youngest sone, Mr William Row, minister of Seres, did preach, and after sermone did hold session." His monument in the church-yard here, which seems to be of considerable antiquity, though the date of its erection is unknown, has the following Latin inscription in raised capitals: "Hic jacet M. Jo. Row, pastor hujus Ecclesie Fideliss. vixit acerrimus veritatis et foederis Scotici assertor: Hic rarchias Pseudoepiscopalis et Romanorum rituum cordicitus osor: in frequenti symmystarum apostasia cubi instar constantissimus. Duxit Gricelidem Fergusoniam, cum qua annis 51 conjunctissime vixit. Huic Ecclesie annis. 54 præfuit. Obiit Junnii 26, anno Dom. 1646, ætatis 78. Obiit et illa Januarii 30, 1659.

On another part of Row's monument is the following inscription: "Here lyes Adam Stobie of Wester Luskar, born 1620, died 1711, and Margaret Gibbon, grandchild to Mr John Row, born 1630, died 1670." This Mr Stobie, who belonged to the parish, was a zealous Covenanter, and met, in consequence, with much hard usage. Both tradition, and the facts mentioned by Wodrow, fully establish the truth of the following statement regarding him in the Religious Monitor for October 1808. "He was a gentleman much respected in the country, a man of great spirit and exemplary piety. His house was the resort of many of the ministers and others who were persecuted for conscience sake, in the profligate reign of Charles II. He himself was fined, imprisoned, sent to the Bass, and condemned to be transported beyond seas; but by a wonderful interposition of Providence, was landed in England, and got safe home to his family."

Orem, in his *History of Aberdeen*, says, that he demitted his charge. He published a grammar and vocabulary of the Hebrew language, besides several tracts, both of a political and of a religious kind.

Nor should we omit to mention Mr Row's immediate successor, the Rev. George Belfrage, who was ordained minister of this parish in the year 1647, and who appears to have been distinguished for his piety and zeal. He lived in troublous times, and suffered for his attachment to the principles of the second Reformation. Being among the nonconformists in the time of Archbishop Sharpe, he was first suspended, and then deposed from the ministry by appointment of that prelate.

Connected with this parish also, as minister for nearly thirty-five years, was the Rev. James Hog, an able, learned, and pious man. After his return from Holland, whither he had gone to complete his education, he received license as a preacher in the Scottish Church, and was first settled as minister of Dalserf. While here, he became involved in a dispute with his Presbytery in consequence of his opposition to the oaths of allegiance and abjuration. Though of undoubted royalty, yet he greatly dreaded the erastian principles which appeared to him to be spreading, and felt himself constrained to testify against them. Subsequently he demitted his charge at Dalserf, and did not for some years accept of another. In 1699, however, he became minister of Carnock, and continued to labour there with general acceptance and much success till his death. The same piety and the same zeal for the liberties and the efficiency of the church as he had shown before, distinguished him now. He took an active share in the Marrow controversy, and was one of those who, in the year 1720, were censured by the General Assembly on account of it. The first edition of the Marrow published in Scotland was prefaced by him, and, besides some of the ablest tracts that appeared in its defence, he wrote several other pieces of considerable merit. He died in the year 1736, leaving behind him a name for distinguished worth and usefulness.

Another minister of this parish was the celebrated Thomas Gillespie, afterwards founder of the Presbytery of Relief. He was licensed to preach the gospel in the year 1740, and in the year following was ordained by a class of Dissenting ministers in England, of which Dr Doddridge was moderator. The same year he received a call to this parish, and was settled in it on the 4th Sep-

tember.* In the discharge of his pastoral duties while in Carnock, Mr Gillespie showed great diligence and fidelity. And though there are few now alive who have any personal recollection of him, yet his memory is still cherished throughout the district. Having, with other members of his Presbytery, refused to attend, or to acquiesce in the settlement of Mr Richardson at Inverkeithing, he was summarily deposed by the General Assembly of 1752. This sentence of deposition he received with the Christian meekness which uniformly marked his demeanour. And whatever opinion may be entertained of that part of his conduct which constituted the sole ground of the sentence pronounced against him, no one will question but that he was actuated by a sense of duty. His deposition, however, gave rise to a new sect of Dissenters. But he himself continued "partial to the Establishment to the end of his life; and of this he gave a striking proof, when, on his deathbed, he advised his congregation to apply to the church after his decease, to be restored to her communion: which they afterwards successfully did." His death happened in the beginning of the year 1774.

Before closing these notices, it is right to mention the name of Mr Thomas Marshall, who was a minister of Carnock in the time of Episcopacy, and who seems to have suffered for his adherence to it. The following entry regarding him is found in the session-record of the period: "Sep. 4, 1689, Mr Tho. Marschal, minister, was silenced by the counsell, in not giving obedience to qt

* An idle report has been circulated, and gained credit in certain quarters, that Mr Gillespie, before his induction, subscribed the confession and formula with reservations and explanations regarding the power of the civil magistrate. Whatever opinions he may have entertained on this subject, it is certain that he tendered no explanation regarding it to the presbytery, when he adhibited the usual subscription. And we believe that he was too single-minded and honest a man to subscribe with any mental reservation. The following extracts, however, from the minutes of Presbytery, and from the book which contains the usual autograph signatures to the formula, should, it is thought, set the matter at rest. After narrating certain circumstances connected with Mr Gillespie's residence in England, &c. the minute of Presbytery proceeds: "After all which, the Presbytery being satisfied with what had been offered, Mr Gillespie was called in, and having declared his adherence to the doctrine, worship, and government of this church, and judicially signed the Confession of Faith and formula, the moderator put the call from Carnock into his hand, which he judicially accepted of, upon which Mr Wardlaw took instruments, and the Presbytery appoint the settlement to take place, Friday, 4th September." Then in the book containing the formula is the following entry in Mr Gillespie's own handwriting: "Dunfermling, August 19th 1741, I, Mr Thomas Gillespie, minister of the gospel, do subscribe the above written Confession of Faith as the confession of my faith, according to the above written formula. Witness my hand at Dunfermling, the 19th day of August one thousand seven hundred and forty-one. Thos. Gillespie."

then was enjoyn'd." The same record shows him to have been diligent and exemplary in the performance of his pastoral duties.

Land-owners.—The principal land-owners of the parish, arranged according to the extent of their property in it, are, John Stuart, Esq. of Carnock; Sir Peter Halket of Pitfirrane, Bart.; Adam Rolland, Esq. of Gask; Lady Buchan Hepburn of Smeaton Hepburn; and Mrs Mill of Blair.

Parochial Registers.—The parochial registers, which consist of minutes of session, records of marriages, birth, and burials, and accounts of collections and disbursements, commence in 1642, and come down, with a few intervals, to the present time. They are comprised in eleven volumes of various sizes, some of which are much injured, and one of them the duplicate of another that is now scarcely legible. An earlier volume than any of the present seems once to have existed; but it appears not to have continued long in the hands of the session, as the following entry in the record intimates: "Junii 20, 1647, The kirk registers were produced, viz. the covenant and declaration, the acts of the General Assembly holden at Glasgow 1638, &c. The old session book was amissing." The loss of this volume is much to be regretted, because it evidently comprehended the early part of Mr Row's ministry, and would probably have thrown much light on the state of the parish at that period. The covenant also, another precious relic, with its signatures, disappeared at a subsequent time.

The first of the existing volumes wants thirteen leaves at the beginning. It contains the minutes of session from January 30, 1642, to February 16, 1662; as also an account of collections and disbursements, and a few notices of baptisms. The first part of this volume appears to be in the handwriting of Mr Row, and contains several interesting particulars, both of a local and a general character. The greater part of the remainder of the volume, which comprehends the incumbency of Mr Belfrage, seems to have been written by the schoolmaster of the time. This latter fact is noticed on account of the beauty of the writing, which shows the schoolmaster of that period to have been a superior penman to most of the clerks that succeeded him, and which indicates a higher degree of literary attainment than what some men are willing to admit as belonging to the time.

The principal blanks in the registers are from February 1662, to February 1665, and from March 2, 1693, to October 23, 1699.

The more early of these records throw considerable light on the

times to which they refer, and bear a strong testimony to the advantages which the country at large derives from the National Church, and show with what intelligence and zeal the men who then administered her affairs laboured to reform a rude people, and to promote their intellectual and moral advancement. The discipline exercised was strict and minute. And, though the power that was sometimes assumed may now appear unwarrantable, yet, when we consider the state of the times referred to, and the faithful ministrations with which it was accompanied, we shall be constrained to admit both that it was not overstretched, and that it was used simply with a view to the good of the people themselves. Indeed, almost all beneficial undertakings seem to have then originated with the Established Church, or to have been countenanced and furthered by her. The interests of education, the maintenance of the poor, the ransoming of such as had been carried into slavery, the repairing of damage occasioned by fire, the building or improving of harbours, bridges, and other public works—these objects, in addition to the more peculiar duties of their office, engaged the attention of ministers and elders, and showed them to have been men of sagacity and benevolence no less than of piety.*

* The following extracts may be regarded as confirmatory of these remarks, as well as interesting in themselves:—“The 3 of November 1643, We, ministeris of the Presbyterie of Dunfer. haifing resolvit to intertene a bursar at the new colledge in St Andrews, we stentet qt every kirk within the said Presbyterie suld pay, yt he mycht be intertened and Carnock was stentet to pay 3 libs. and thairfor Mr John.....present bursar, cam to my house the day foresaid, and receivit the said 3 libs.”—“Oct. 3. 1647. Having mist some of our people out of the church this afternoon, it was enacted, that some of our elders, day about, should go through the parish one the Lord's day, and see who was absent remaining in their houses; and if some just and lawll cause detained them not, that they should be censured.” This regulation was long after continued in Carnock.—“Oct. 29, 1647. I did exhort the elders that they wold be carefull to search and try the parish if ther wer any neighbour at discord wt another, and let them be warned in before the sessioun, that their friendship might be mad, and the day appointed for this purpose to be Thursday next. Nov. 4. The qlk day Andrew Creich and David Anderson came in, and were reconciled.”—“Nov. 14. Ther was delivered to Robt. Creich, our ruling elder, for the repairing of Craiment brig, 4 lib., qlk was delivered.”—“November 21. I did shew unto the sessione, that one day of the week must be attendit for weekly examinations, and that one or more elders should be always present.”—“Decem. 12. The qlk day it was ordained by the sessione, that the children of poor ones should have the benefit of learning to read, and therefore because they are unable to pay ther quarter payments the sessione ordains,” &c.—“Decem. 19. Orders given to procure “directions for family worship,” for the use of the parishioners.”—“Apr. 30. Ordained, that no more than 24 persons be at penny bridalls, under a penalty of a dollar.”—“My Lord Kincardine came to Carnock this 12 of this instant of Oct. and, having held a court, he settled the maintenance of the school to be the somme of a hundred pounds,” &c.—“March 18, 1649. Deacons appointed.—15 Febr. “A general collection throw the parochie for the poor” ordered.—“7 March 1652. Publick intimation was made from the pulpit of a collection for the supplie of some prisoners that were taken captive at Dunbar, and are now very hardlie dealt withal.”—8th July 1656. The session, at a

Antiquities.—In the charter granted to Sir George Bruce of the barony of Carnock, mention is made of the tower of Carnock; and tradition assigns a Roman camp to a farm in the parish which bears the name of Camps. No vestiges of either, however, are now to be found. Remains of Roman urns were dug up by the plough on Carneil hill more than twenty years ago, and a few coins have been occasionally met with; but no certain information about them has been obtained by the writer.

In the former Statistical Account of the parish notice is taken of "an ancient cross," situated in the northern division of the village. "This cross," it is said, "is of a circular form, containing six rounds of stone steps, rising one above another, and gradually diminishing in diameter as they ascend. In the middle grows a venerable thorn tree, which was, even within these few years, covered with leaves and blossoms in summer; but is now much decayed." This venerable thorn, which was probably more than two hundred years old, being reduced at last to a decayed trunk and a single branch, and in constant danger of falling, was a few years ago cut down. The cross itself has also been removed. The road-maker being abroad, and finding the venerable "rounds of steps" in his way, first got them remodelled, and then pulled down altogether. And thus, though our carriage-way has been greatly improved in consequence, we have been deprived of almost the only relic of the olden times that we possessed. Several references are made to the "thorne" in the session record. The following entry is characteristic: "Feb. 6, 1653. Forasmuch as it has been found yt many breaches of the Lord's holy Sabbath has been occasioned by people's gathering about the thorne on the Sunday afternoone, some by yr buying and selling of servant's corne in the harvest, and some by other frivolous and idle dis-

meeting of this date, granted leave to certain persons to erect a seat for themselves in the church, and "every one of them are to give in 24s. to the poor."—"12 July 1657, The elders wer appointed once in the moneth to give ane accompt of those under yr severall charges, and to see who are sick, under necessity, scandalous in yr carriage, or defective in familie deutes."—"21 Feb. 1658, A collection was publickly intimat for the relief of a poor man in Sauling, called Rot. Harrower, who had his house brunt."—"22 May 1659, Given to a stranger supplicant, 6s. To another stranger supplicant, 4s. To a poor disabled souldier, 2s."—"18 Decr. 1659, There was a contribution intimat to be for the support and supplie of the people in Pittenweyme, &c. who had suffered so much skaith by the inundation of waters."—"15 April 1660. The elders were exhorted to visit the sick more frequently, for the minister declared, that the sick told him yt few or none of the elders came to them, and they were sharply rebuked."—"29 July 1666. There was a contribution intimat for repairing the harboree of Inverkeithing."

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courses dishonour God—therefore it was appointed yt every one sall repaire to yr owne houses immediatelie after sermones are ended, yt the rest of the Lord's day remaining may be employed by masters and others in the family in repeating of sermones, catechising, and other religious exercises; and if hereafter any sall be found standing about ye thorne, they shall be conveyned before the kirk-session, and censured according to the nature of yr disobedience."

The designation Law Know, given to a small eminence in the neighbourhood of the village of Carnock, may be also mentioned, as pointing out a place where, it is probable, in feudal times, the vassals and dependents were assembled by their superiors for deciding their differences, and administering justice.

Modern Buildings.—Of these there are few to be noticed. The mansion-house of Newbigging, in which the Institutes of the Law of Scotland were composed, is still standing. It was designed, it is said, by one of the Adams, and affords but an indifferent specimen of his art at the time. It is at present used as a farmhouse, and considered a very indifferent one. There is a plain and substantial house on the estate of Blair, which was built about thirty years ago. And at Luscar a handsome residence, in the old English or Elizabethan style, has been lately built. And on the estate of Carnock Mr Stuart has just erected a small but commodious dwelling. A new church has also been lately erected, which, though it be a plain structure, is yet, independently of its utility, a great ornament to the place. It is in the Saxon style, and in the form of a cross, with a handsome spire, and groined ceiling. There is a single corn-mill in the parish. It goes both by water and steam.

III.—POPULATION.

Nothing very certain can be mentioned regarding the ancient state of the population of the parish, except that it seems to have been more scattered than it is at present. Judging from the register of births, the number of inhabitants, nearly 200 years ago, would not amount to much above 350. At that time, the village of Carnock was the only one in the parish, and of small extent. The others are of comparatively recent date. And as manufactures had then made little progress, the population was chiefly engaged in agricultural pursuits, and in the domestic labours which were then requisite for procuring the necessary supplies of food and clothing.

is said to be of an inferior quality. Some of the plantations have not been much attended to. The management of them, however, has, of late years, been much improved, and their value in consequence been increased.

Prices.—A close cart and wheels with iron axle costs from L.8 to L.10, according to the quality; open carts for corn and hay cost L.3; with wheels, L.6; an iron plough costs L.4; and a wooden plough, L.2; a pair of harrows mounted costs L.2; a break harrow for two or three horses costs from L.1, 10s. to L.2; fanners vary in price from L.6 to L.8; a tarnip barrow costs L.1; a stone roller from L.3 to L.4; the price of an iron drill plough is L.2, 10s., and of a wooden one, L.1; a horse-hoe costs L.1; a grubber, L.8; a paring plough costs L.2; a drill sowing-machine varies in price according to the width: one used in the parish cost L.11; riddles average 3s. 6d. each; a bushel costs 12s.; a potato firlo, 10s. 6d.; harness of a pair of horses for cart and plough is bought for L.10; a grape costs 3s.; a spade, 3s. 6d.; a shovel, 4s.; a mattock, 4s.; a horse-shoe made and driven costs 9d., iron furnished by the smith; laying plough-irons, 1s. 3d., iron also furnished by the smith; sharpening plough-irons, 2d.; shoeing a pair of cart wheels, including iron, L.1, 7s.; building rubble wall per rood, exclusive of material, L.2, 5s.; plastering per yard, do. 3d.; a horse and cart per day, 4s. 6d.; a day's ploughing, 8s.

Live-Stock.—A considerable number of sheep are grazed in the parish. The cattle commonly reared are the Fife and Teeswater; but small attention is paid to the improvement of the breed. The number of cattle reared in the parish is not great,*—the attention of the farmers being more directed to the raising of grain than to grazing. The horses differ not from those generally used in the district, and are, for the most part, kept in good condition.

The general state of husbandry in the parish is at least equal to that in the surrounding district. Ploughing is executed, for the most part, in a superior style; but the reaping is often done in rather a careless manner, much grain being left on the field. Draining, both with stones and tiles, is at present carried on with much spirit, on almost every farm in the parish, and with the most beneficial results.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years; and these are chiefly, it is believed, drawn up in such a way as to be mutually advantageous to the proprietor and the tenant.

Farm-buildings have been much improved of late years; and

* Of late, however, a good many have been fattened for slaughter.

the whole of them are now in a respectable and comfortable condition. Some of them are very complete. They are all covered either with slate or tile. Thrashing-mills are attached to them all, except one; and of these, six are driven by horses, one by water, four by steam, and one by steam and water. At three of the farms are saw-mills. The enclosures also have been of late much attended to, and considerably improved. They consist both of stone fences and hedges. The latter are increasing. A considerable extent of stone wall, in the south part of the parish, has lately been removed, and been replaced by hedges; and of the many new enclosures which have been recently formed, not one has been of stone. The hedges are in general well managed, and in good condition.

The rents are generally a fixed money rent, without reference to the fiars. The tenantry, for the most part, are in comfortable circumstances; and the families of several of them have been long on the farms which they at present occupy. They are a sober and industrious body of men. But, perhaps, a greater command of capital on their part, and greater encouragement on the part of proprietors, would be necessary to enable them to turn the whole capabilities of the land to account.

Produce.—The average gross amount of raw produce may be stated as under;—

Wheat, 125 acres,	L.1250	0	0
Barley, 228	1900	0	0
Oats, 450	2362	0	0
Beans, 105	805	0	0
Potatoes, 92	992	0	0
Turnips, 56	448	0	0
Hay, 161	805	0	0
Flax,	5	0	0
Pasture, 290	237	0	0
Thinnings of wood,	250	0	0
Gardens,	100	0	0
Cattle, supposing 200 annually sold,	1200	0	0
Horses, supposing 30 annually sold,	450	0	0
Coals and stones,	650	0	0
Miscellaneous produce, including pigs, sheep, butter, &c.	1600	0	0
Total yearly value of raw produce,	L.11,454	0	0

The amount of capital sunk in the different articles of manufacture required for the various purposes of husbandry, as carts ploughs, &c., and in horses employed in agriculture, may be estimated at L.4896.

Manufactures.—There are no spinning-mills nor public manufactures in this parish. No fewer, however, than 205 persons are

employed in weaving,—155 males, and 50 females. They are all, with the exception of one or two, who do country work, dependent upon the neighbouring town of Dunfermline, and get their webs from thence ready for the loom. The kinds of cloth worked are table-linens and table-covers. These last consist of cotton and worsted. The number of looms in the parish is 208. Of these, 159 are mounted with Jacquard machines, and may average in value, along with the machine, L.15. The remaining looms, which are without machines, may average L.4 each. The value of the whole looms in the parish may be estimated at L.2500, reckoning them at what they cost when new. A gross of pirns, value 2s., is generally allowed to each loom. Connected with this branch of manufacture, also, there are in use 83 pairs of wheels and swifts. Each pair, consisting of a wheel and a swift, costs from 11s. to 14s. These are used in winding pirns,—a department of the trade which is generally allotted to females or to young persons. Each loom may consume a boll of potatoes during the year in the shape of dressing, or a quantity of flour equal in value. Niffers and rollers, which are used in beaming webs, are also provided by the weavers, and cost L.3 the set. And as a number of persons are required to beam a web, the weavers form themselves into societies, commonly called quarters, and have a set of niffers to each.

Weavers receive so much a spindle for their work; and as that varies with the kind of cloth, and as the quantity wrought by different workmen in a given time differs considerably, it is not easy to ascertain with accuracy their average earnings, either by the day or by the week. It may be stated, however, that at present those employed in weaving can scarcely be said to have a fair remuneration and support from their labours.*

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—There is no market-town in the parish. The nearest is Dunfermline, three miles distant from the centre of Carnock, where there are weekly markets and frequent fairs. The villages in the parish are, Carnock, Gowkhill, and Cairneyhill. A fair for cattle, &c. is held annually at Carnock, on the 26th May; and when that happens to be Sunday, the fair is held on the Saturday previous.

* This account of the manufactures is properly descriptive of their state a year or two ago; for at present, many of the weavers are out of employment. But it is to be hoped that the depression of trade will only be temporary.

Means of Communication.—A penny-post, in connection with Dunfermline, was procured for the village of Carnock in the year 1838, and has proved a great convenience to the inhabitants. It passes daily. The Culross and Kincardine posts also pass through Cairneyhill twice a-day. The only stage-coach is that between Kirkcaldy and Glasgow, which passes daily through Cairneyhill. But from Dunfermline there is communication with Edinburgh twice a-day by coaches; and the steam-boats between Stirling and Edinburgh are easily accessible to our population. Carriers go twice a-week from Cairneyhill to Edinburgh, and once a-week from the same to Auchterarder, Crieff, and Comrie.

The length of turnpike roads in the parish is only between five and six miles. They are kept in good repair. The statute-labour roads, however, are generally very indifferent. The one especially between the villages of Carnock and Cairneyhill, and which forms the principal parish road, was, until lately, in a wretched state. The line is bad, and there is little prospect of getting it altered; so that the intercourse between these villages is very much impeded, especially in winter.

There are six bridges in or on the confines of the parish. They are all small, but in good condition. The two oldest have had an addition made to their width, subsequent to their first erection. Above the arch of the one of these, which is in the village of Carnock, there are two stones with an inscription on each. The one contains the following in raised letters; MR. R. ROW PASTOR ANNO D. 1638; and the other contains the words GEORGE BRUCE OF CARNOCK. But whether this date marks the age of the oldest part of the bridge, or of a previous erection, is somewhat uncertain.

Ecclesiastical State.—The former parish church stood near the village of Carnock, and was conveniently situated for upwards of one-half of the population. It was distant from the furthest extremity of the parish a little more than two miles, and from the nearest somewhat more than one mile. It was old, inconveniently small, and most uncomfortable. The time of its being built is unknown. The date 1602, with the letters G. B., appears on it; but it is evident that part of the building at least was much older than that. From Row's *Historie* just published, it appears that it was repaired in the year 1602, when the roof of heath was replaced by one of heavy gray slate. It was again repaired in the year 1641; and in the year 1815, the gray slate roof was replaced,

by one of Eisdale slate. A few years ago, some further repairs were made on it, which rendered it more comfortable. But in 1838, the presbytery, on a report by Gillespie Graham, Esq. Architect, condemned it, and issued a decret for building a new church, in which the heritors unanimously acquiesced. The greater part of the walls still remain, and form an interesting relic of the olden times. The old church bell bore the date 1638; but it was lately recast. On the pulpit, which was of oak, was the date 1674, with this motto, *Sermonem vitæ præbenti*, Phil. ii. 16. The materials of this pulpit have been converted into a chair and table, for the communion elements, in the new church, preserving as much of their original appearance as was consistent with what they have been adopted to.

The new church, which was planned by John Henderson, Esq. Architect, Edinburgh, contains 400 sittings on the ground-floor; provision being made for the erection of galleries afterwards to contain 200 more, if required. It is an exceedingly comfortable place of worship. The site chosen for it is only at a short distance from that of the old church; no other place being more convenient, considering the localities of the parish. It was opened for worship in May 1840, and proves a great accommodation to the parish.

The manse was built in 1802. It underwent some repairs in 1829, and is in pretty good condition; though, from the defects of its construction originally, it is still cold. The old offices were removed in 1829, and the present ones built. They are small, but comfortable. A barn and cart-shed, however, are still to be erected. The glebe contains a little more than eight acres, exclusive of the space occupied by the manse, offices, and garden. It is at present worth L.24 a-year.

The stipend is one of those which receive aid from Government. It consists of 61 bolls, 1 firloft, 1 peck, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lippy of meal; 30 bolls, 3 firlofts, 1 peck, $3\frac{1}{2}$ lippies of bear; 19 bolls of oats; and L.216, 1s. 4d. Scots, being the whole teinds of the parish. The Government allowance is L.36, 10s. 6d.

The number of persons belonging to the Established Church is 652. The number of families, 127. The average attendance during the summer months may be estimated at 220. The number who are in the habit of attending throughout the year, but not all present at any one time, amounts to upwards of 350. Several persons, belonging to the Establishment, are in the habit of at-

tending worship in the neighbouring parish churches. The number of communicants on the roll at last communion, belonging to the congregation, and exclusive of those who worship in other parishes, was about 200. Previous to 1828, the number on the roll was 93; and in 1833, it was 151.

There is one Dissenting meeting-house in the parish. It originated about 1748, and is situated in the village of Cairneyhill. The congregation belongs to the United Associate Synod. The number of sittings in the meeting-house is 400. The minister's stipend is L.96, derived from seat rents and collections, besides a house and garden, and a glebe of two acres. The whole number of Dissenters of all denominations in the parish is 598. Of these, about 400 profess to belong to the congregation at Cairneyhill; two are Episcopalians, and one a Roman Catholic, who occasionally worship in the parish church; and the remainder, adhering to the United Secession, the Relief, and the Original Burghers, attend places of worship belonging to their respective denominations in Dunfermline. Of those not known to belong to any religious denomination, the number is 19.

The average amount of church collections, &c. yearly for religious and charitable objects, besides the ordinary weekly collections for the poor, may be estimated at upwards of L.10.

Education.—There are two schools in the parish; one, the parochial school, in Carnock village; and the other at Cairneyhill.

The branches of instruction taught in the two schools at present existing, are, English reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, and sometimes Latin and Greek. The parochial schoolmaster has the maximum salary, and a small mortification of the value of 5s. 6½d. annually. This mortification is the interest of 100 merks bequeathed the kirk-session of Carnock, for behoof of the schoolmaster, by Principal Row, "calling to mynd," as the deed of mortification in the principal's hand-writing states "the place of my birth, and first initiating in letters." The schoolmaster at Cairneyhill has a free school-house; but is otherwise wholly dependent upon the school fees.

Besides the facilities afforded for the education of the young by the two schools already mentioned, the inhabitants of the eastern portion of the parish have the privilege of sending their children to a well-conducted school, which is connected with a public work in the parish of Dunfermline.

In 1834, the number of children at school was 210. Subse-

quently, the number decreased considerably, and has never since reached that number. This diminution, especially of late, has been owing to the depression of trade.

The parochial teacher has barely the legal accommodation. The school-room is small and ill-furnished; and the dwelling-house, which is above, is in ill-repair and uncomfortable.

A seminary for young ladies has for a number of years past been successfully conducted at Cairneyhill, by Mrs More. Besides the ordinary branches of education, there are taught French, Italian, English composition, music, drawing, and other branches, both useful and ornamental, that are usually taught in the most respectable boarding-schools. The terms are moderate, and the seminary is flourishing.

Libraries.—There are two libraries in the parish; one in the village of Cairneyhill, which has existed several years; the other in the village of Carnock, which was established by means of collections and subscriptions by the minister in the year 1840, and which now consists of about 250 volumes. The desire for reading has of late been increasing among the people.

Friendly Societies.—The only association of this kind in the parish is what is called the Dead Fund, the object of which is to assist in defraying the expenses of funerals. On the occasion of a death in the family of a member, a certain sum is paid out of the fund to the survivors, each member contributing a shilling or a sixpence, as the sum to be paid may be greater or less. This association has proved very beneficial.

Savings' Banks.—There is no Savings' Bank in the parish. The nearest is in the town of Dunfermline. A Savings' Bank was established there a good many years ago; but as a national one was opened in 1838, the deposits of the old bank were transferred to it. Few persons, however, in this parish avail themselves of the advantages which it offers.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons on the permanent poor's roll, including those that are dependent upon them, is 12. Of these some receive 5s. a month, and some as low as 3s. 6d. One pauper receives 2s. a week. Besides those on the permanent roll, there are several that receive occasional relief. The funds to meet these expenses consist of collections at the church doors, mortcloth-dues, the interest of L.200 of money accumulated in former years by the session, and now invested in the Dunfermline gas stock, and a voluntary assessment by the

heritors when required. The average annual amount of church collections for relief of the poor may be estimated at L.11, 7s. 7d. The mortcloth-dues now yield a very small sum, as in these days of reform many think it better to support a small concern of their own, than to be the means of contributing a little for the relief of the poor by using the parish mortcloth; and the heritors do not choose to litigate the matter with them. The burden on account of the poor of this parish, however, is by no means heavy. The sum annually distributed among paupers on permanent roll, in occasional relief to persons not on roll, and in the education of poor children, has not, on an average of several years, exceeded L.36; a fact which testifies to the general comfort of the population, and shows that there is a creditable disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief.

Fairs.—Only one fair is held in the parish in the year. It is chiefly a cattle and shoe market, and is held on the 26th May, except when that happens to be Sunday, in which case the fair is held on the 27th. Much business used formerly to be transacted at it; but now the attendance is comparatively small.

Inns.—When the former account of the parish was written, the number of inns or alehouses appears to have been ten, viz. four in Carnock, five in Cairneyhill, and one at Blair. A considerable improvement has since taken place in this respect, for the number of these houses now amounts only to five, viz. two in Carnock, two in Cairneyhill, and one at Gowkhill.

Fuel.—Coal is the only fuel used in the parish. It is procured either at the Blair colliery in the parish, or at some of the pits in the neighbouring parish of Dunfermline. The price of the former varies from 5s. to 6s. a ton of 20 cwt., and that of the latter from 5s. to 6s., and sometimes more, a ton, at the pit mouth.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the former Statistical Account was written, the general appearance of the parish has evidently been much improved. With the exception of a few acres of moor, and of what is occupied by wood, roads, fences, and water, the whole surface is under cultivation. Agriculture has greatly improved; the means of communication has much increased; trade and manufactures have received a new impulse. Farms have been enlarged. Oxen are no longer employed in husbandry. Thrashing-machines are in general use. Draining is now much attended to. Bone-dust is used extensively in turnip husbandry. The rental of the parish,

which in 1791 amounted to L.1100 a year, including the proceeds of the feus, may now be estimated at nearly L.3000. And it is not to be doubted that the population generally have kept pace with their neighbours, in the ordinary comforts of life, and in their endeavours to increase them.

January 1843.

PARISH OF ABERDOUR.*

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. HUGH RALPH, LL.D., MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name, Extent, &c.—THE name Aberdour, in Gaelic, signifies "the mouth of the water," referring in this instance to a rivulet, which empties itself into the Forth, a little below the village. It is bounded by the parish of Dalgety on the west; by those of Beath and Auchtertoul, on the north; by Kinghorn and Burntisland, on the east; and by the Forth, on the south; being, at an average, about three miles from east to west, and as much from north to south. A small part of the parish is detached from the rest, by the intervening parishes of Burntisland and Kinghorn, and lies at the distance of four or five miles. The number of acres may be about 5000. The parish is divided by a ridge of hills, running nearly from east to west. The north part is a cold and bleak track, considerably above the level of the sea, and, excepting what has been done by one of the heritors on the north-west corner of the parish, altogether unsheltered, either by hedges or plantations. The soil is cold and sour. On the south of this ridge, both the soil and the climate are much more kindly.

Coast.—The parish stretches along the shore above two miles. From the east boundary the coast is rugged and steep, and generally covered with wood to the water's edge. The trees have been planted with a proper regard to effect, and the jutting rocks which appear in different places, render the whole extremely picturesque and beautiful. This wood is intersected with

* From notes furnished by a parishioner of Aberdour.