

PARISH OF KIRKCALDY.*

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JOHN ALEXANDER, MINISTER.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THERE seems to be no good reason for doubting the accuracy of the derivation commonly given of the name. It is said to be compounded of *Cil* or *Kil*, and *Celedei* or *Keledie*, the *Culdees*. Prior to the introduction and establishment of Popery in Scotland, the Culdees, who had erected several religious establishments in Fife and Kinross, had one of their houses, called cells, here; hence the place was called *Kil-celedei*. During the Scoto-Saxon period the name was changed into *Kirkcaledie*, and subsequently it was contracted into *Kirkcaldie* and *Kirkcaldy*.

Extent and Boundaries.—The parish was originally large, but is now very small, in consequence of the erection of the adjacent parish of Abbotshall, the greater part of which was disjoined from *Kirkcaldy*. The parish consists of one small farm; a piece of acre-land, which has been divided, from time immemorial, among a number of small proprietors; the burgh acres; and the commonies, with the moss and moor, which at one time belonged to the town. It is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, and scarcely 1 in breadth: and is bounded on the south-east, by the Frith of Forth; on the north-east, by the parish of Dysart; on the north-west, by the parishes of Dysart and Auchterderran; and on the south-west, by the parish of Abbotshall.

Topographical Appearances.—It rises towards the north, for the most part very gradually, to an elevation of 300 feet above the level of the sea. The sea-beach is level and sandy. The parish embraces about three-fourths of a mile of the sea-coast. A short

* The former Statistical Account of *Kirkcaldy* by Dr Thomas Fleming is minute and accurate. The writer of this account has freely used it, and he wishes to acknowledge this here, as he will not make more special reference to it in the following pages.

distance inward from the sea the land is nearly level, and then it rises rather abruptly. On this flat ground, along a section of a spacious bay on the north side of the Frith of Forth, the town stands. It is ten miles due north from Edinburgh.

It may be proper to mention, while speaking of the town of Kirkcaldy, that it comprehends much more than the royal burgh, though this be all of it that lies within the parish. When it is viewed as a considerable sea-port, and an important manufacturing town, it must be regarded as comprehending Linktown, in the parish of Abbotshall, West Bridge, in the parish of Kinghorn, and all this is included within the Parliamentary burgh. To this also may be added Pathhead and Gallaton, in the parish of Dysart. These places are all adjoining, and form one town, though they are looked upon as distinct by the inhabitants, more from the divisions of parishes than from any thing else. The town, in this extended sense, has a population of 15,000; and little more than 5000 reside within Kirkcaldy proper.

Climate.—The climate is dry and salubrious, and favourable to longevity, of which there are numerous instances. On account of the great and sudden variations in the temperature of the atmosphere during the end of spring and beginning of summer, croup, bronchitis, and other forms of thoracic inflammatory complaints are prevalent.

Hydrography.—This parish presents scarcely any thing worthy of notice under this head. The East Burn, a small stream, after receiving one or two nameless tributaries in its course, which does not exceed three miles, falls into the sea at the point where the parishes of Dysart and Kirkcaldy meet on the coast. This rivulet deserves to be mentioned chiefly on account of its romantic and richly wooded banks, which are commonly called the Den. These woods and banks are intersected with walks, to which the proprietor allows the public to have access; and thus the inhabitants have the privilege and advantage of a beautiful and agreeable retreat in the immediate vicinity of the town.

Minerals.—The limited extent of this parish, the absence of rocks on its sea coast, and the fact, that, in very few places, the strata make their appearance on the surface, render it scanty in geological phenomena. The general dip of the strata, where their bearings are regular, and have not been deranged by the convulsions which threw up the trap rocks, that intersect this coal-field, and are so troublesome in the working of the coal, is south-

south-east, from a ridge near the northern extremity of the parish. The prevailing strata are sandstone, slate, clay, and till, containing a number of seams of coal, varying in thickness from 9 inches to $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet. Above the coal, which is now being wrought, there is a bed of whinstone 8 fathoms thick. There is only one coal-pit in operation at present. It is 46 fathoms deep. The bed of coal is $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in thickness; but the expense of turning out this coal is much increased, in consequence of its being composed of two seams, separated by a stratum of clay 15 inches thick. This, however, only lessens the value of the coal-field to the proprietor, and does not raise the price of coal to the consumer;—for this is prevented by the competition of other coal-works in the neighbourhood.

Considerable quantities of iron ore are also found in this coal-field in globular masses. About thirty years ago, when the iron trade was more profitable than it is just now, this ore was wrought along with the coal, and was sold at 10s. 6d. per ton to the Carron Company. The working of it has been discontinued for many years. The present tacksman of the Dunnikier colliery could find buyers of the iron in England; but the prices offered are not sufficiently remunerating to encourage him to embark in this branch of trade.

Soil.—The soil of the plain along the coast, on which the town is built, as may be seen in all the gardens on the south side of the High Street, is exceedingly sandy. To the north of the High Street, where the ground begins to ascend, and all along the back of the town in its immediate vicinity, the soil is dry rich loam, and very productive. On the rising ground farther north, the sub-soil becomes retentive, and the land is cold, wet, and clayey. The part of the parish most distant from the sea is what was formerly the town's common moor; and, though much has been done for it by cultivation and improvements, it still remains comparatively unproductive.

Zoology.—Between twenty and thirty years ago, a little insect, whose effects are denominated the American blight, made its appearance here. Ever since that time, it has been very destructive to apple trees in this parish. Once visited by it, they seldom afterwards recover health. Various expedients have been tried to prevent its attacks, and to discover a remedy for the disease it leaves behind it; but all such attempts have hitherto been unsuccessful.

Botany.—Interesting as is this district of Fife to botanists, the parish of Kirkcaldy may be said to be destitute of botanical riches.

No plants are found in it, except what are common in similar localities. The adjacency of the spot to this parish may justify us in noticing here, that around Ravenscraig Castle, in the parish of Dysart, these two rare plants are found, the sea-fern (*Asplenium marinum*,) and Alexanders (*Smyrnum Olusatrum*.)

The only plantations in the parish are about Dunnikier house, and in the den already mentioned. They are between sixty and seventy years old, and contain various kinds of fir, beech, elm, and oak; but they present nothing remarkable.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

No historical account of this town has ever been published. Nor do the burgh records throw any light on its earlier history. It seems, however, to have been a place of considerable importance at a very remote period. The obscurity of antiquity conceals what accident or causes led the Culdees to plant an establishment here; and the date of these Christians coming to occupy this as one of their stations is unknown. Of the existence of one of their houses here, no reasonable doubt can be entertained. Its suppression, or at least it being brought into subjection to the religious establishment at Dunfermline, under which it subsequently continued for a long time, very probably took place in the earlier part of the twelfth century. David I., before the middle of that century, introduced thirteen English monks from Canterbury, belonging to the order of St Benedict, into the Culdee establishment at Dunfermline: and thus brought it under the dominion of the Pope. Such an innovation awakened the alarm of the Culdees, by threatening their independence with overthrow. To reconcile them to the change, and to divert their attention from the danger of their contemplated overthrow, the king elevated the priory of Dunfermline to the rank of an abbey; and to flatter them still farther, it is said he, at the same time, suppressed the Culdees of Kirkcaldy, or made them subordinate to, and dependent on, the newly erected abbey.

The first authentic notice of the town, except what is vague and general, from which the commencement of its history must be dated, is its erection into a burgh of regality in the year 1334. David II. at this date mortified Kirkcaldy to the abbot of Dunfermline, and his successors. For more than a century, it was held by this monastery, and used in all probability as the principal sea-port of Dunfermline. In 1450, the commendator and convent of Dunfermline, "gave, granted, and disposed to the bailies and community of the burgh of Kirkcaldy, then present, and their

successors, for ever, the burgh, the harbour of the same, and all burgage farms of the said burgh, with the small customs, lie tolls, stallages, with courts and their issues; also common pasture within the muir of Kirkcaldy, and pertinents thereof, as freely in all and by every respect as the burgesses of the burgh of Dunfermline have enjoyed and possessed." Not long after this disposition was granted, the holding of the burgh was changed. From being one of the burghs of the lordship of Dunfermline, it was erected into a free royal burgh, with all the privileges of other royal burghs. The original charter having been lost, the date of the royal burgh's erection is unknown. Charles I. granted a charter of confirmation to Kirkcaldy in 1644, ratifying all its former rights and immunities; and erecting it *de novo*, into a "new free burgh royal," with enlarged powers and privileges. Prior to the granting of this charter, the magistracy consisted of two bailies and a treasurer, but the charter of Charles gave power to choose "a provost, bailies, a dean of guild, and a treasurer, for administration of justice, and government of the burgh." The provost has also the title of admiral.

Historical Notices.—This town suffered severely during the civil war that followed the contest between the English Parliament and Charles I.; and also in the struggle maintained by the Covenanters in Scotland. It appears from a statement in the burgh records, that no less than 94 vessels belonging to this port, of the value of L.53,000 Sterling, were lost at sea, or taken by the enemy, between the beginning of the war and the restoration. The public authorities and inhabitants of Kirkcaldy espoused the cause of the Parliament, and opposed the Royalists.

The cause of the Covenanters also was well supported here. The presbytery records show, that the cause was popular in the district, and that the covenant was very generally subscribed. This parish added a large force to the Covenanters, as may be inferred from the circumstance, that the battle of Kilsyth alone, in 1645, is said to have left 200 widows in the town. The general feeling may be gathered from the session records, in which we find "runawayes from their cullors warnit," and "declaired contumacious." Sums were allowed from the poor's funds "for horses to cary woundit men," and to be given to "woundit men." On the margins of both the presbytery and session records, special notice is taken of the "batell of Kilsyth."

Maps, &c.—No map or survey of the town or parish is known to

have existed previous to 1809. A plan of the burgh was drawn that year by Mr Moore of Abbotshall, preparatory to application being made to Parliament for a police bill. This map is still preserved. Another was made by Mr Wood of Edinburgh in 1824, which is also in possession of the Town-Council. Mr John Sang, civil-engineer, Kirkcaldy, executed a plan of the burgh, including the whole of the royalty, in 1840, when the assessment under the new Prison Act was to be levied on the county: one copy of which was deposited with the commissioners of supply, and another with the town-council of Kirkcaldy.*

Eminent Characters.—Henry Balnaves of Halhill, who acted a conspicuous part in the reigns of James V. and his daughter Mary, was the son of poor parents in the town of Kirkcaldy. After attending school at St Andrews, he went to Cologne, and prosecuted his studies. While receiving a liberal education there, he was at the same time instructed in the principles of the Protestant faith. After his return to Scotland he was appointed a Lord of Session in 1588; and had a seat in several Parliaments. He took an active part in forwarding the work of the Reformation, and oftener than once suffered imprisonment for his zeal. He lent valuable assistance, when he was in parliament, to the passing of an act, that the enemies of the reformation violently opposed, for allowing “baith the New Testament and the Auld,” to be translated into the vulgar tongue and read. The sixth General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, appointed him, along with others, in 1563, “to advise the Booke of Discipline (viz. the first Book), diligentlie, consider the contents thereof, noting their judgments in writing, and to report to the next General Assemblie of the kirk.”

Mr George Gillespie and his brother Patrick, whose names are intimately associated with the history of the Church of Scotland, during the period immediately subsequent to the second Reformation, were sons of Mr John Gillespie, second minister of the collegiate charge of Kirkcaldy. George was born in 1613, and Patrick in 1617. George was sent to college as the presbytery's bursar, and was supported by contributions from the kirk-sessions, as appears from the following extract from Kirkcaldy session records: November 1629, “The session are content that

* These two copies were legalised in the following form:

Cupar, 27th October 1840. This is one of the copies of the plan of the boundary of the royal burgh of Kirkcaldy, produced to the general meeting of the commissioners of supply for the county of Fife held here this day, along with the agreement betwixt the magistrates of Kirkcaldy and a committee of the commissioners of supply, fixing the boundaries of the said burgh, and which is referred to in their minute of this date.

(Signed) G. Anderson, Provost. O. Tyndall Bruce, Convener of the County.

Mr George Gillespie shall have as much money of our session for his interteynment, as Dysart gives, viz. 20 merks, being our presbytery's bursar." He was ordained to be minister of Wemyss, on the "supplication" of the kirk and parish, and in opposition to the wish and order of the Archbishop of St Andrews. Mr Robert Douglas, minister of Kirkcaldy, who will be noticed afterwards, presided at the ordination. Mr Gillespie was soon after translated to Edinburgh; and in 1643, he was nominated and appointed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to be one of the Scotch Commissioners to the Westminster Assembly of Divines. He was one of its youngest members, and his abilities, acuteness, knowledge, and skill in debate, often astonished the assembly and confounded his adversaries. He is described by Principal Baillie as "the verie learned and acute Mr Gillespie, a singular ornament of our church, than whom no one in the whole assembly (Westminster,) speaks to better purpose." On one occasion, as is related, after Selden, with all his talents and erudition, had maintained, in an elaborate speech, the supremacy of the civil magistrate in the government of the church, Baillie, feeling strongly the necessity of the arguments advanced being answered, said to Gillespie, "Get up, George, and defend the kirk of your fathers." He replied with so much learning and ability, that Selden, feeling the overpowering force of Gillespie's strong arguments and conclusive reasoning, is reported to have whispered to a friend beside him, "that boy has, in the course of one speech, overturned the labours of my past years." George Gillespie wrote *Miscellanies*, and published also an acute and able work, entitled "Aaron's Rod Blossoming," for which he is most justly celebrated. He was chosen moderator of the General Assembly in 1648, and died at Kirkcaldy in the end of the same year. A monument was erected to his memory, which, as an inscription on a plain tablet, that still stands, informs us, was thrown down through the "malign influence of Archbishop Sharp." It was re-erected in 1745, by his grandson, the Rev. George Gillespie, minister of Strathmiglo. The tablet is still to be seen in the south-east porch of the present church.

Mr Patrick Gillespie, besides being a native of Kirkcaldy, was for some time minister of the parish. After the death of Charles I. he favoured the side of the Commonwealth, and was appointed Principal of the University of Glasgow. He had to encounter much opposition and many difficulties, before he could be installed into the office. At the Restoration he was ejected.

Mr Robert Douglas, another of the five commissioners appointed by the General Assembly to repair to the Westminster Assembly, was for some years one of the ministers of this parish. It does not appear that he ever attended at Westminster. He became one of the ministers of Edinburgh, was moderator of the General Assembly, and preached at the coronation of Charles II., which took place at Scone in 1651.

Three individuals were born in this town in the earlier part of last century, who attended the burgh school at the same time, and contracted a friendship there that continued through life; and each of them attained a certain degree of eminence in the station he occupied, and the duties he undertook. We refer to James Oswald, Esq., Dr John Drysdale, and Dr Adam Smith.

Mr Oswald of Dunnikier represented the county of Fife in one Parliament, and the Kirkcaldy district of burghs in three, between 1741 and 1768. During his parliamentary career, by attention to his duties, and his talent for business, he recommended himself to the ministry of the day, and gained their confidence. He thus secured for himself some of the honours of the State, and for his friends, as well as himself, the advantages of office. He was a privy-counsellor, and at different times he held the offices of a Commissioner of Trade, a Lord of the Treasury, and Vice-Treasurer of Ireland.

Dr Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, was clerk to the General Assembly, and was twice chosen moderator. He obtained his presentation to a church in the city through the influence of his friend and school companion, Mr Oswald. It may here be noticed, that, previous to the appointment of Dr Drysdale, the magistrates and town-council had entrusted the election of the city ministers to the general kirk-session. But in his case the council commenced to take the choice into their own hands, "for good reasons," according to the statement of the Doctor's biographer and son-in-law.

The last, but by far the greatest and most celebrated of the three, was Dr Adam Smith, the author of the *Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*,—a work which laid down principles and unfolded views of political science, that startled men by their novelty when they were first propounded, but whose soundness in general, whose enlightened and philosophical character, have long been admitted and applauded by political economists. He was also the author of a work entitled the *Theory of*

Moral Sentiments; but comparatively little of his well-merited and widely extended fame has arisen from this treatise. He was born here in 1723. After he left school, he was absent from the town for many years, following his literary pursuits, and discharging his professional duties in the chair of Moral Philosophy, which he for a time occupied in the University of Glasgow. But he returned again to Kirkcaldy, and resided here while he was composing his celebrated work. He died in 1789. It seems strange that no monument to his memory has ever been erected in Kirkcaldy. This want appears to indicate a prevailing insensibility to the high honour conferred on the town, by its being the birth-place and long the residence of a man of such universal celebrity.

Land-owners.—James Townsend Oswald, Esq. of Dunnikier, is proprietor of seven-eighths of the landward part of the parish. The other eighth is much subdivided.

Parochial Registers.—Five classes of registers are preserved, viz. minutes of session, registers of proclamations and marriages, of births and baptisms, of deaths and burials, and accounts of the collections and disbursements for the poor. The first and the last of these are nearly entire, and in a good state of preservation; the other three are much mutilated. The oldest volume of the session records commences with January 1614, and the same volume contains, besides the minutes of session, a register of baptisms and marriages, commencing with the same date. The minutes of session from 1645 to 1663 are wanting. In consequence of leaves being torn away at the beginning of a volume, the minutes for the year 1632 are lost. With these exceptions, the minutes from 1614 are complete and well kept. There are duplicates for considerable periods, the scroll copy of the minutes having been preserved.

Antiquities.—Various relics, such as sculptured arms and inscriptions, furnish grounds for supposing that a religious house must at one time have stood on the north side of the High Street. Sepulchral remains also have been found in this locality. Stone coffins, and large quantities of human bones have been discovered in different places, by workmen digging for foundations. This town, like many others in ancient times, had gates. They were called the east and west ports. The places where they stood still retain the names. These ports or gates, and the cross which stood at the market-place, were taken down early in the last century, of which notice is taken in the minutes of the town-council. Nothing like a ruin is found in the parish.

Modern Buildings.—Besides the parish church, which will be noticed more particularly elsewhere, we may mention here, a new and elegant church which stands close upon the sea, on the High Street, and was erected last year. It cost nearly L.2000, and is an ornament to the eastern part of the town.

The town-house and jail form one building, and it is situated near the middle of the town. It is a small, but very neat and handsome building, in the Saxon Gothic style, and cost L.5000. The town-hall or council-room, in which the courts and meetings of the public bodies of the town are held, is spacious and well-finished. It has lately been furnished with a portrait of Walter Fergus, Esq. of Strathore, copied by Colvin Smith, Esq. from an original painting by Raeburn. A number of gentlemen in the town presented it to the council, to be hung up in the hall, as a memorial of Mr Fergus's connection for many years with the advancement and prosperity of the trade and public affairs of the burgh.

The town is chiefly indebted for recent and extensive architectural improvements to the banks. The Bank of Scotland, the Commercial Bank, the National Bank of Scotland, and the Glasgow and Ship Bank have all branches here. They have all built large and elegant offices, and houses for the agents, on the High Street. Besides the ornament of the bank buildings themselves to the street, it may be remarked, that they have improved the style of building around, and thus the aspect of the town has been greatly changed of late years.

In the parish there is Dunnikier House, the seat of James Townsend Oswald, Esq., and in the town, or its immediate neighbourhood, there are three villas meriting notice, viz. that of John Fergus, Esq. of Strathore; Balsusney, the property of Colonel Ferguson of Raith; and St Brice-dale, the property of William Stark Dougall, Esq. of Scotsraig.

III.—POPULATION.

No traces remain of any census of this parish having been taken prior to 1755; but the parochial registers furnish data upon which we may approximate at least to the amount of the population at a much earlier date. The births, annually registered, on an average during the ten years commencing with 1614 were 115. This number is much larger than the register has annually received for many years past. The practice of registration was more general then, we apprehend, than it is at present; for the injury done to the interests of children by the inattention of pa-

rents to this duty is matter for regret. If we suppose the population to have been as 35 to 1 of the births, it must have been at this period 4025. Its rapid increase after this date may be inferred from the facts, that the church required to be enlarged in 1643, and in 1650 Abbotshall was disjoined from Kirkcaldy, and a new church was erected. From 1640 to 1650, the average of births was 17.4, making the population 6090. This, it will be observed, included the present parish of Abbotshall, the population of which, together with that of Kirkcaldy, is at present about 10,000. This gives an idea of the comparative size and importance of this parish, at dates two centuries distant. The trade of the town was nearly annihilated, and the number of its inhabitants was greatly reduced during the forty years that intervened between the death of Charles I. and the Revolution. The population has been gradually increasing for a century past.

Population in 1755,	2296
1795,	2673
1801,	3248
1811,	3747
1821,	4452
1831,	5034

The following abstract of the census taken on the 7th June 1841, in order to make a return to Parliament, will serve to exhibit the state of the population at present. The return contained the number of persons who slept in the parish on the night of the 6th June.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the East Port parish (<i>quoad sacra</i>),	912	1065	1977
In the rest of the old parish within the royal burgh,	1292	1476	2768
Within the royal burgh,	2204	2541	4745
In part of the parliamentary burgh outside the royal burgh, and within the parish,	149	216	365
Landward part of the parish beyond the parliamentary boundary of the burgh,	64	61	125
On shipboard in the harbour,	12	2	14
In the jail,	21	5	26
In the whole parish,	2450	2825	5275
Temporarily absent, and not included in the above returns,	From royal burgh,	sailors,	65
		other males,	51
	From rest of parish,	females,	64
		sailors,	3
		other males,	2
		females,	3
	Total,		188
Temporarily resident, and included in the above return,	} within royal burgh,	males,	34
		females,	37
	} in rest of the parish,	males,	2
	Total,		73

At the time of taking the census there was no apparent cause for any unusual influx or decrease in the population of this parish. Very few have emigrated of late years from this place.

Number of families in the parish,	1057
Houses, or parts of houses usually occupied by one family that are empty,	87
Houses building,	5
No register of deaths is kept; but the average number of burials annually in the church-yard during the last ten years,	82 ¹ / ₈

This must be rather under than above the number of deaths in the parish.

No noble family has a residence within the parish, and very few others, except annuitants, that live upon their fortunes independently of business. There are only two landed proprietors whose yearly incomes from their land within the parish exceed £100, viz. James Townsend Oswald, Esq. of Dunnikier, and John Fergus, Esq. of Strathore. The property of Mr Fergus, however, lies chiefly in adjoining parishes.

A spirit of enterprise, directed and regulated by that prudent caution which naturally accompanies the possession and employment of real capital in business, pervades this manufacturing and commercial community, and prevents the town from being visited with those sudden and ruinous convulsions, which the rashness of mere speculators, whom injurious facilities of obtaining credit raise up and sustain for a time, too frequently brings upon other trading districts. The habits and conduct of the merchants and manufacturers, who are commonly capitalists to a greater extent than is general throughout the country, in the management of their business, and the nature of the trade itself, give a steadiness to the various branches of industry, and exercise a very salutary influence on the community generally.

The demoralizing practice of smuggling, chiefly from Holland, prevailed here at one time to a great extent. It has now almost entirely disappeared. Of late years, the officers have never detected smuggling, except, and this very seldom, in the case of small craft from France, which sometimes bring along with their cargoes of fruit, larger quantities of brandy than the crew may be thought to require as sea-store.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—This parish contains 1050 imperial acres, of which 160 acres are planted. With this exception, all of it is under cultivation; but, from its small extent, it affords little scope for remarks

under this head. The land near the town, from its superior quality, from facilities for obtaining manure, and from the ready market found for produce, especially in the early part of the season, brings a rent varying from L.4, 10s. to L.6, 6s. per acre. The land becomes less valuable in the remoter part of the parish, not only from locality, but also from inferiority of soil, and its rent is from L.2 to L.3 per acre. The average rent per acre of the whole parish may be stated at L.3, 10s.

Mines.—One coal-pit is at present in operation. Forty (*pickmen*) colliers are employed in it, besides labourers, and young persons to draw the coals below ground.

Manufactures.—The capital of the burgesses seems at one time to have been chiefly employed in shipping. This interest received a shock, during the civil war in the reign of Charles I., which affected the prosperity of the town for a century and a half. After the shipping interests declined, and were destroyed, manufactures were introduced. With the increase and prosperity of manufactures, the shipping of the port has been revived, and the town, from the union of the shipping and manufacturing interests, now numbers among its inhabitants not a few, who are entitled to the honourable appellation of British merchants, and occupy no mean place among them, whether we regard the capital they employ, the spirit of enterprise they manifest, or the extent of their business.

The principal trade of the town is the manufacture of various descriptions of linen, with the collateral branches of flax-spinning, bleaching, and machine-making. This trade was probably introduced from Holland and Flanders about the time of the Revolution, or early in the last century. It was long very limited. It made little progress till after the middle of the last century, as the following facts demonstrate. In 1733, no more than 177,740 yards of linen were manufactured in this district, including Abbotshall, Dysart, Leslie, &c. It had increased in 1743 to 316,550 yards, the value of which was L.11,000. The infancy of the trade, the want of facilities for extending it, and the advancement it made during these ten years, may be seen in the anxiety and care manifested by the authorities to afford it all possible encouragement. In 1739, "the town-council, considering the great benefit the town may receive by an annual market for linen-cloth and other goods, they appoint the same to be held on the first Wednesday of July, and to be custom-free for three years." In the same year, "the council, considering how much it will be for the

benefit of the town and country that a heckler of lint be established, they, therefore, unanimously resolve to make application to the trustees that a heckler be settled here with such a salary, and under such regulations, as the trustees judge proper." About the same time advantages were held out to bleachers, and encouragement was given them to settle in the neighbourhood. The goods manufactured at this time consisted chiefly of linen checks of inferior quality, which were commonly sold to Glasgow merchants for exportation; and linen handkerchiefs, checks, and a coarse description of ticks not now manufactured; all for the home trade. The goods were conveyed by the manufacturers on horseback to the various towns in Scotland, and were mostly sold at fairs.

Towards the end of the last century, a great stimulus was given to the linen trade of Kirkcaldy by the judgment and energy of Mr James Fergus,—a name justly associated with the extension and prosperity of the trade of the town. He set himself to produce ticking for the home-trade in England. After he had discovered the tweel, and had provided materials for making this fabric of the first quality, he was unable to find weavers who could give the cloth the requisite stiffness and smoothness. The difficulty was at last overcome by a weaver discovering the effect of what is still denominated "the open stroke." The effect of this stroke in the weaving upon the cloth is, in the language of a workman, to make it as smooth as a "buik leaf." This opened up a new trade, and ticking is still the staple article in the manufactures of Kirkcaldy. Mixed cotton and linen-checks were made for the same market; they were produced in large quantities, and continued to be sold with profit till they were superseded by the cheaper and more showy article of cotton. Besides ticks, there are now manufactured in the town, drills, dowlas, sheetings, ducks, and sail-cloth.

It was difficult at one time for manufacturers to extend their business, in consequence of being obliged to provide houses for their weavers. Their trade was proportionate to the number of weavers they could accommodate. This practice is not yet altogether done away, but weavers now generally find houses for themselves, and seek after manufacturers who are willing to employ them. Females began to weave here between forty and fifty years ago: and they now form a considerable proportion of the number employed.

The trade is carried on chiefly by eight manufacturing houses

or establishments. Besides these, there are a few individuals who occasionally make webs. The manufacturers employ 1100 weavers.* Of this number 113 work in two factories, erected for the manufacture of canvas. This branch of trade was introduced in 1811; and the manufacturers of sail-cloth here generally obtain a share of government contracts for the navy. Only 119 weavers, exclusive of the factory workmen, are accommodated with looms within the parish. Accordingly, many weavers in the adjoining parishes and surrounding villages, are employed by the manufacturers of Kirkcaldy. The average earning of weavers is 6s. 6d. per week; † and the price of weaving is from one-fifth to two-ninths ‡ of the value of the goods when they are ready for the market. The gross value of the linens annually manufactured within the burgh may be estimated at L.80,000. Of the whole manufactures in the town, in the extended sense already explained, including the Links and Pathhead, two-fifths are said to be produced within the burgh; so that the value of the various de-

* The writer wishes to acknowledge the kindness of all the manufacturers in answering his inquiries, furnishing him with information, and affording him data and facilities for ascertaining the number of weavers employed on an average of years; the weekly wages of weavers, and the proportion which expense of weaving bears to the cost of the goods.

† Out of this sum the weaver has to pay the winding of his weft, and all other expenses. A very inadequate pittance is left for his subsistence.

‡ Statement of weekly wages (after allowing for necessary deductions) agreed upon at a meeting of manufacturers and weavers, held in the town-hall Kirkcaldy, August 8th 1838.

Linen Ticks.		
Stout men at the finest fabrics, (42 and 45 porter,)	L. 0	8 3
Do. Second class, (36 and 40 do.)	0	7 9
Older men and boys, (28 and 34 do.)	0	5 9
Making an average of		
	0	7 3
Fine Sheetings.		
Stout men at finest fabrics, (40 porter $\frac{1}{2}$ and upwards)	0	6 6
Older men and women, (36 do. $\frac{1}{2}$ do.)	0	5 4
Making an average of		
	0	5 11
Dowlas.		
Men and young women, 10 ^o and 13 ^o $\frac{1}{4}$	0	6 6
Wads and women, 34 and 45, porter, 30 inches,	0	4 6
Boys and girls, apprentices, 26 and 32 porter 25 inches,	0	3 0
Sail-Cloth.		
Heavy work (in factories) stout-men,	0	9 3

Reports from Assistant Commissions Hand-Loom Weavers.

Since the date of this report weavers' wages have been reduced 10 per cent.

‡ This proportion has been ascertained by taking from the books of two manufacturers a number of webs given out to different weavers in succession, and may therefore be regarded as a fair average of their business. The gross value of the one number, which are all ticks, is L. 148, 6d.; the price of weaving, L. 43, 6s. 6d. The value of the other number, composed of ticking and dowlas, is L. 128, 19s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; the price of weaving, L. 29, 18s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The expense of weaving fine ticks is nearly one-third of their cost; sheetings, one-fourth; dowlas, one-fifth; coarser fabrics, one-sixth; and the best sail-cloth, one-eighth. Nothing is here allowed for the manufacturer's profit,

scriptions of linen goods annually manufactured in the town may be reckoned at not less than L. 200,000. Besides the home trade in England and Scotland, these linens find markets in Canada, the United States, South America, the West Indies, and Australia.

The manufactures have created an extensive trade in bleaching and dyeing. Some manufacturers dye their own yarns, others employ public dyers. There are only two bleachfields in the parish, one of them is doing very little business; but there are other five in different parts of the county, belonging to merchants and manufacturers in the burgh. The yearly receipts for bleaching yarns at these seven bleachfields amount to fully L. 30,000.

Previous to the introduction of mill-spun yarn, manufacturers got their flax dressed in the town, and sent it to agents throughout the country, to be given out to women to be spun. Inferior yarns were imported in large quantities from Germany and Prussia. Hand-spun yarns were also brought from Ireland, and parcels were occasionally procured from the north of Scotland. The difficulty of obtaining supplies of yarn was so great, that orders for goods had often to be refused. Yarns continued to be imported till within the last ten years.

Cotton spinning was carried on here till about 1805. It was on a very limited scale however, as may be inferred from the fact, that neither steam nor water power was ever applied to it.

Flax-spinning, by machinery, was introduced into this neighbourhood from Darlington about 1793. At first the frames were small, and were driven by the hand. In 1807, a steam-engine of six horse-power was applied to flax-spinning. The price of mill-spinning after its introduction was from 1s. to 2s. per spyndle; at present it is not more than 3d. to 5d., and the price of a spyndle of yarn used in the common manufacture of the district, is from 1s. 6d. to 2s.. At present a girl will attend fifty spindles, and will produce 25 spyndles of yarn per day. About forty years ago a girl attended 24 spindles, and produced seven spyndles per day. Mills are now erected in Kirkcaldy or the neighbourhood, belonging to merchants and manufacturers within the burgh, which contain 13000 spindles, the cost of erecting which must have been L.90,000, and they will produce 6000 spyndles of yarn per day. Besides supplying the manufacturers in the district, the spinners now export large quantities of linen yarns to France. Notwithstanding the difficulties interposed by the additional import duties on linen yarns lately imposed by the French government, the trade

with France is still carried on. The yarns annually exported for the previous two years, from Kirkcaldy, may be estimated at about 700 tons, the value of which will be upwards of L.60,000.

The progress and prosperity of flax-spinning called for engineers and machine-makers, consequently a large and important branch of this trade has recently sprung up. There are in the parish three works, engaged chiefly in making steam-engines, and flax-spinning machines, in executing mill-wright work, and in founding iron and brass. In these three works 200 men, at an average wage of 15s. per week, are employed. The mills in the district have not furnished sufficient employment for these establishments, especially during the depression of late years; but extensive orders have been executed in them for Ireland, the continent of Europe, and the British colonies. The capital invested in these works will amount to L.21,000; and steam-engines, equal to twenty horses power, are constantly employed in them.

Navigation.—The port of Kirkcaldy, including the sub-port of Anstruther, extends from Aberdour, in the Frith of Forth, to Guard Bridge, in the upper part of St Andrews Bay, being about fifty-two miles of coast. The registered shipping consists of 160 vessels, with a tonnage of 12,077. There belong to the head port 91 vessels—8911 of tonnage. Two smacks ply regularly between London and Kirkcaldy; and there are regular traders from Kirkcaldy to Leith and Glasgow. Two vessels are engaged in whale-fishing; the rest in trading to North and South America, the Mediterranean, France, the Baltic, and occasionally beyond the Cape of Good Hope. The foreign ships which usually trade to this port are Norwegian, Danish, Hanseatic, Hanoverian, Prussian. On an average of years there have been 92 vessels from foreign parts. The principal articles of import are flax and timber; of export, coals and linen yarns. Nearly thirty years ago vessels began to sail from Kirkcaldy to the whale-fishing in Davis' Straits. For a number of years this trade increased, and was very profitable. In 1828, nine vessels belonging to this port, with a tonnage of 3008, were engaged in this fishing. A few prosperous years succeeded, and large profits were realized. In 1833, the Kirkcaldy ships brought home 900 tons of oil, and 60 tons of bone, the value of which was not less than L.30,000. The fishing trade has declined since 1835; and, but for the partial success of last year, the fishing would very probably have been this year entirely abandoned.

Agricultural Society.—The only association in the parish pro-

fessedly for encouraging or improving any branch of industry, is an Agricultural Society. It meets twice a year for competition among its members in seeds, crops, and stock; and it might be very advantageous to farming interests, if the proprietors in the neighbourhood were more generally to give its meetings the support and countenance, by premiums and attendance, which they justly deserve.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Markets.—Kirkcaldy is the market-town, not of the parish only, but of an extensive district. Retail dealers in the surrounding towns and villages are supplied with goods by Kirkcaldy merchants. This creates business for carriers, who frequent the town chiefly on Tuesdays and Fridays, and cause considerable bustle on the streets. A corn-market is held on Saturday. It was at one time only a sample market, and most of the buyers came from Leith. After the sales, the grain was shipped at the ports along the coast most convenient for sellers. The town-council erected a stock-market, and opened it for business in 1827. Not only is the grain grown in the neighbourhood mostly sold in this market, but large quantities are brought to it from within a circuit of fourteen or sixteen miles. The attendance of merchants belonging to the burgh, and buyers from other places, is numerous; and prices are generally a shade higher here than in any other market in Fife. The market was unpopular at first, and not a third part of the grain raised in the district was brought to it for some years after it was opened. When the fact came to be known that better prices were obtained when grain was sold in stock than when sold by sample, the prejudices of the sellers were removed, grain was brought from more distant places, and the quantity offered weekly for sale increased, so that this has now become the leading corn market in the county. About 25,000 quarters of grain are annually sold in the Kirkcaldy stock market; and 10,000 quarters more are annually sold in the market by sample. The success of this market has operated favourably on other branches of business, by augmenting the number of weekly visitors, and adding not a little to the circulation of money in the town. In this as in other stock markets, all sales are for ready money, and the effect of this upon the retail trade in the town is beneficial. The market-dues are 1½d. per quarter, and no shore-dues are charged on market grain, if it be shipped within fourteen days after it is sold.

Few places in Scotland have a better flesh-market. Besides furnishing the town and neighbourhood with a regular supply of

superior butcher-meat, the fleshers have been in the practice for some years of sending large quantities of meat, of all descriptions, to the London and Glasgow markets. No regular fishers are resident here. The town is supplied with fish from Buckhaven and other villages on the south coast of Fife. The fish is commonly carried by land, though boats occasionally expose fish for sale on the beach; but the vicinity of Edinburgh has a tendency to keep up the price of this article of food in Kirkcaldy.

There are a number of large and handsome shops in the town, in some of which there is carried on an extensive wholesale and retail trade. In this respect a great change has taken place within the last fifty years. It was not uncommon in the end of last century for grocers, drapers, and other merchants from Edinburgh and Leith to make regular calls on families here for orders, and many families were supplied with goods in this way. About the same time oatmeal was regularly imported into the parish for consumption from Mid-Lothian, whereas now great quantities of grain are constantly exported for the Edinburgh market.

Burgh.—The town-council consists of 21 members, who are elected by a constituency of 250,—the number of parliamentary voters within the ancient royalty. The council elect from their own number a provost and admiral, two bailies, a dean of guild, and a treasurer, on whom the management of the municipal affairs in a great measure depend. The burghs of Kirkcaldy, Dysart, Kinghorn, and Burntisland return a member to Parliament.

The town has no police; but the magistrates, the convener of the incorporated trades, and sixteen inhabitants, chosen by proprietors and tenants, being possessors of heritable subjects, within the burgh, of the yearly rent or value of eight pounds, are constituted, by Act of Parliament, a board of trustees, “for widening, paving, lighting, cleansing, and otherwise improving and keeping in repair the streets, lanes, and passages of the said royal burgh,” “and for bringing water into the same;” and they are empowered to levy for these purposes an assessment, not exceeding five per cent. on the rental. This assessment realizes at present upwards of L.500, and enables the trustees to light the streets with gas, to do something to keep them clean, and to supply the town with water, brought from a distance, and carried through the streets in pipes.

Harbour.—“The harbour of Kirkcaldy, though the property of the town, is under the management of Parliamentary Commis-

sioners, chosen in terms of a statute passed in 1829. The commissioners are, the provost, two bailies, dean of guild, and treasurer of the burgh, and the convener of the seven incorporated trades; three commissioners chosen by the Prime Gilt Society, which is composed of ship-owners and ship-masters; three chosen by the merchant traffickers; and two chosen by the county of Fife.* The revenue of the harbour belongs to the town, and the trustees have no funds, except such sums as may be granted to them by the town-council for the use of the harbour. It has been improved and extended at various times; but, being accessible by heavily laden vessels only at spring-tides, it is exceedingly inconvenient and disadvantageous for merchants, whose profits now depend so much on quickness of dispatch. It is also unsafe and incommodious for vessels. The want of a good harbour here has long been felt and complained of; and this seems to have an adverse influence on the increase of the trade of the town. Attempts are now making to supply this want. About a month ago, the town-council resolved to improve the harbour by extending the east pier, according to a plan furnished by James Leslie, Esq. civil-engineer, Dundee. Contractors have been advertised for, and the work is expected to proceed this year. It will cost L.10,000. This, however, is only a part of the proposed improvement and extension. The completion of the plan is supposed to require from L.30,000 to L.40,000; but the council have wisely determined to proceed according to their pecuniary means, and not all at once to overburden the town with debt. The revenue of the harbour is the chief income of the town; and this seems to impose on the council an obligation to provide as good accommodation as possible for vessels that frequent the harbour. The shore-dues have increased very rapidly of late years. The tacksman of the shore-dues complained to the council, in 1744, of the loss he was sustaining by his lease. For the ease and encouragement of the tacksman, "the council doe agree to set him the shoar-dues for this current year at four pounds Sterling, and recommend to the clerk to get him to enact therefore with a sufficient cautioner."

In 1791 the shore-dues were L.135; in 1811, a little above L.300; in 1823, let at L.625. In 1825, the council took the collection of them into their own hands; and in 1827 they amounted to L.1191; and in 1842, including the commuted anchorage of steam-boats, and exclusive of the charges of collecting, they amounted to L.1715.

* Report from Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in Scotland.

Revenue.—The funds of this burgh have long been managed with great economy. The honour of correcting abuses in this department of the town-council's administration was not reserved for the operation of the Municipal Reform Act. The debt of the town is now nearly liquidated,—a state of affairs found in few Scottish burghs, and this is at once a practical testimony of the judicious management of the public functionaries, and of the town's prosperity. At the Revolution, the town had a debt of 60,000 merks, or L.3333 Sterling. It seems never to have been liquidated. In 1791, it was L.2430; in 1832, L.7649. At the balance in October last, it was only L.775, 6s. 2d. The income of the town, in 1788, was L.284, 11s. 11d. * The revenue last year was L.2312, 1s. 6d. The town has no landed property. The commonties, consisting of 487 acres, at one time belonged to the town; but these lands were all feued out in 1723 and 1750. Their full value at the time seems to have been obtained for them; and the grassum paid for them, as well as the price of redeeming the feu-duty, appears to have been laid out in repairing the harbour, for the “pier met with a disaster be and through the late violent storme, that it is dung through and through.” This was one of the council's reasons for disposing of their lands, and the investment of the price in the harbour is perhaps better for the town than if the lands had still been retained. The revenue of the burgh arises from shore-dues, feu-duties, petty customs, the market-place, warehouses, &c.

Means of Communication.—The town has a post-office, and the letters are delivered twice a-day. Daily coaches either start from the town, or pass through it, to Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, St Andrews, and Glasgow. A steam-boat constantly plies the ferry between Newhaven and Kirkcaldy. During the summer, it makes eight passages, affording four opportunities of crossing from each side; during the winter months, there are only six passages. A railway is, at present, projected from Lochgelly colliery to the town and harbour of Kirkcaldy, a distance of eight miles; and notices have been served of application being to be made to the first session of Parliament for a bill giving power to the shareholders to carry this railway through.

The collector of excise for Fife and Kinross has his office in Kirkcaldy. The revenue realized from the excise-duties within the bounds of this collection amounted last year to L. 167,420. In 1819, it was L.95,700. This increase is chiefly owing to the

* From a Return to the House of Commons in 1789.

duty on spirits sent to England being now paid in Scotland, whereas, prior to 1826, this duty was paid in England. The increase would have been L. 40,000 more, had not the duties on beer, candles, tiles, leather, and salt been repealed since 1819.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church stands upon the rising ground to the north of the High Street, near the middle of the town,—a convenient situation for the population. It was erected in 1807. It is large and handsome, and Gothic in its style. It is oblong, with the pulpit at the end of it, and contains 1500 sittings. The fitting up and finish of its interior are chaste, without any superfluity of ornament; and it has an air of elegance superior to what is commonly met with in churches in Scotland. The building, from its style and elevated situation, would be an ornament to the town, were its architectural effect not destroyed by part of an old tower being attached to the west end of it, which is not only in itself devoid of beauty, but is destitute of historical interest, and even of the common attraction of a ruin, which, in the estimation of antiquarians, might have justified its preservation, to deface an elegant building, and offend the eye of strangers. It must indicate to strangers either a scarcity of money, or a want of taste in the inhabitants. Its removal, and the erection of a tower or spire, which would form a prominent and commanding object from Leith to the mouth of the Frith of Forth, have long been projected and talked of, but have hitherto been prevented, chiefly from the difficulty of raising the requisite funds.

The age of the old church was unknown. It was repaired and enlarged in 1643. It required repairs in 1806 that would have cost L.700. Instead of expending such a sum in repairs, the heritors resolved to erect a new church, if money for this purpose could be raised. The novel method adopted by the heritors to free themselves from the expense of erecting it, has done much to restrict accommodation for the parishioners in the present church. Instead of providing funds by an assessment, as law directs, they resolved to procure plans, and to ascertain, before proceeding to build, what sum could be realized by the sale of pews. After the plan of the proposed church had been exhibited for the inspection of the inhabitants, a committee of the heritors, appointed for the purpose, proceeded to sell the pews by public roup. In the articles and conditions of sale, the following clause was inserted: "in case a sum sufficient for finishing the church shall not be received from the sale of seats, it will be in the power of the

heritors to adopt such other method in building the church as they shall be advised, and in that case the sale to be made in virtue of these articles to be null and void." The sale of seats realized L.3428, and the estimate for executing the plan was L.2740. It would appear, however, that by extra work, changes on the plan, law-expenses in settling disputes with the contractor, and additional work to make the church sufficient, the whole of the money was expended; for a gallery was afterwards sold to the kirk-session for L.205, 11s. and a small assessment additional was required to settle the accounts. No detailed account of these money transactions can now be found; and it is commonly said, that no such account was ever rendered by those who took charge of the business.

Hitherto there have been no free sittings in the church. The kirk-session have charge of the communion or table-seats containing 160 sittings, and a gallery, which they purchased with poor's money, containing 200 sittings. These sittings have hitherto been let, and the rents applied in maintaining the poor. As this exaction in parish churches has been found to be illegal, it will, in future, be discontinued, and these sittings will be free. All the rest of the church is private property, and is occupied or let by the proprietors. Great inconvenience is experienced by the letting of sittings being in the hands of a great number of proprietors. It is difficult for those who want accommodation to find out where sittings may be got; and families coming to the parish often find it exceedingly difficult to get themselves accommodated, not so much because there is no room, for the church is not filled, (the average attendance will be from 1200 to 1300), but because they cannot find proprietors willing to let their seats. Pews of eight sittings have of late been selling for from L.40 to L.50. This is a virtual exclusion of the poor from the area of the church, in which these pews are situated, for they cannot acquire such pews; and those, whose worldly circumstances allow them to advance such a sum for church accommodation to their families, are often unwilling, by receiving a rent, to admit to sit beside them their less opulent neighbours.*

* An accident, attended with great loss of life, happened in this church in 1828. The Rev. Edward Irving of London was to preach on the evening of the sacramental Sabbath, and the church was densely crowded before the hour when worship was to commence. Before he entered the pulpit, the gallery upon the north side of the church gave way, in a moment and without warning, and precipitated not less than 250 individuals upon an equal number in the area below. "The scene," says an eye-witness, "that immediately ensued baffles all description. The cloud of dust that arose, the prayers and supplications for mercy, the howlings, the groans and la-

The manse was built in 1808, and is in good repair; but the offices are in a ruinous state. About six acres of land belong to the minister, consisting of glebe-land, and land enjoyed from a private mortification, in very nearly equal proportions. Its annual value is about L.36.

The modified stipend is 19 chalders, but teinds to this amount have not yet been found. A protracted process of locality was carried on, which was terminated in 1840; and there is a deficiency of L.48, 8s. 9d. of teind to make up the stipend modified. The interest of the money spent in this process would very nearly have paid this deficiency to the minister in all time coming. The expense of the process first and last must have been L.1000. The present stipend is paid according to a decret of locality obtained in 1737, and is 120 bolls, 2 firlots, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ lippies barley; 79 bolls, 3 firlots, and $2\frac{1}{4}$ lippies oats; and L.13, 1s. $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. for vicarage and communion elements. The late augmentation is 1 firlot, 3 pecks, and $\frac{1}{2}$ of a lippie of barley, and L.44, 0s. $9\frac{1}{2}$ d. in money. The decret of 1737, which is still the rule of payment, gives the teind of fish according to use and wont; but nothing is realized from this item.

The ecclesiastical state of this parish has undergone several important changes. From an early date, and for a long period, the ministerial charge of the parish was collegiate. The Crown is patron of the first charge, and the town-council were patrons of the second. Prior to 1650, one-half of the second minister's stipend was paid by the town, the other half by the heritors. This is stated in the beginning of the oldest volume of the kirk-session records: "Steipend payed to the second minister of Kirkcaldie, viz. 800 merks, equalie divyded by the toune and parosch." In 1612, the town agreed to be assessed for their proportion of the second minister's stipend. The same day, October 14, 1612, "David Huchone, baillie, declarit to the hail nybouris of the comunitie thair present, that Mr Ihone Gillespie, minister, was

mentations of the wounded, the frantic and terrific-like appearance of those emerging from the broken beams and rafters, are circumstances not easy to be effaced from the minds of those who were called to witness them." It was a considerable time, amid the panic and confusion that immediately followed the dreadful crash, before the amount of destruction could be ascertained. The killed and wounded were as speedily as possible extricated from the ruins, when it was found that sixteen females and twelve males had perished. Few were killed by the falling of the gallery. The greater part of the twenty-eight were either suffocated by the pressure of the crowd striving to get out, or having lost their balance, fell down, and were trodden to death. A lively recollection of the awful scene makes many nervous, and fills them with alarm when there is an appearance of the church being crowded.

proponit to the towne to be ane secund minister to thame; and thairfore demandid of thame giff they wald be contentit to be taxit of thair awn gudwill for payment of the said Mr Ihone his stipend for the townis part, or uther wayis giff they wald lose the benefit of the said Mr Ihone his doctreine in default of moyen for intertenuing of him to teach and instruct thame in the word of God. Qu'unto they maist willinglie agreit, approving and allowing the agreement w^t the said Mr Ihone to be ane gud and ane godlie wark, and that they willinglie agreit to be stentit to that effect." After 1650, the date of the parish of Abbotshall being disjoined from Kirkcaldy, the town paid the whole of the second minister's stipend. No hesitation in appointing, and no doubts of the town's liability to support the second minister, seem to have arisen till about 1740. The difficulty of continuing to maintain this living was occasioned by a considerable portion of an augmentation, obtained by the first minister in 1737, having fallen on the town for the lands they had feued, in the feuing of which the town reserved for itself all public burdens, as if for the purpose of publishing annually, that the town had once been possessed of considerable property in land. The town's desire to reduce the ecclesiastical establishment by discontinuing the second minister, in order to relieve the funds from the burden of his stipend, was first manifested in 1741.* A vacancy was prolonged at this time for upwards of two years. On various grounds, the town craved delay from the presbytery, always professing that there was "no intention to sink the said charge." The council applied to the Lord Advocate of the day for an opinion as to their liability to appoint and maintain a second minister. After reasoning on the memorial, his Lordship concludes thus: "After what has been said I must be of opinion, that the presbytery has a power, after the lapse of the patron's time, to settle a minister, and that he will be entitled to 1000 merks stipend, that has uniformly been paid to the second minister for so long a time." On receiving this opinion, the town-council appointed a minister. When the next vacancy occurred in 1759, the town offered to pay the first minister a certain portion of the second minister's stipend if he would undertake to discharge the whole duties. This offer was accepted by the minister, and connived at by the presbytery, and thus the council accomplished, by an unworthy compromise, what they had previously found they could not accomplish by law. This agree-

* Town and Presbytery records.

ment was not disturbed till the death of the incumbent in 1767. From this date, the town has retained the whole of the second minister's stipend, and the charge has remained vacant. Among the evils entailed by the sale of the town's lands, with a reservation of all the public burdens, this suppression of a ministerial charge, though by no means the smallest, is seldom heard of. The purchasers have gained by the bargain, the town-council have gained, the church and the religious interests of the community have chiefly suffered.

Application was made to the presbytery in 1649, by the heritors of this parish, requesting inquiry to be made as to the necessity for erecting another church in the parish; the heritors expressing, at the same time, their willingness to provide a church and stipend for an additional minister, should the Presbytery think this necessary. Heritors and presbyteries appear to have understood in these days the principles of church extension. The Presbytery recommended to the Commissioners of the Parliament for surrenders and tithes, "that, besydes the church w^{thin} the burgh of Kirkcaldie, for ye present usuallie attendit be two ministers, a church sould be erectit in ye landward for a distinct congregation." The proposed disjunction took place in the following year, and the present parish of Abbotshall, which contains almost the whole of the landward part of the original parish of Kirkcaldy, was erected.

The Rev. Robert M'Indoe, a member of the original Burgher Associate Synod, who had a congregation in this parish, lately returned with many of his brethren to the communion of the Church of Scotland. A new church, containing 840 sittings, has been erected for this congregation, which cost L.2000. It was opened last year. It is situated near the east end of the town, is called the East Port Church, and has the eastern part of the burgh, containing a population of 1977, assigned to it as a parish *quoad sacra*. The stipend is derived from seat-rents and collections, and varies according to the number of members. The minister has no bond for his stipend.

Besides the two churches in connection with the Establishment, there are four places of worship in the parish belonging to different religious denominations, viz. United Secession, Episcopalians, Independents, and Scottish Baptists. A few Bereans and old Independents regularly meet for worship, but neither of them has a church.

	Date of erection.	Cost.	Sittings.	Stipend.
United Secession Church,	1822	L. 1700	750	L. 160
Episcopalian,	1818	800	132	L. 37 to L. 65
Independent,	1803	650	480	L. 100 to L. 112
Scottish Baptists,*	1822	700	350	services of pastors gratuitous.

These stipends are raised from collections and seat-rents. There are two diets for public worship each Sabbath in all the churches; in some of them there are frequently three. These congregations are collected from a number of parishes; and, on the other hand, many from this parish attend a United Secession congregation in Abbotshall, and a congregation of Original Seceders in Pathhead, and a few go to a Relief church in Dysart.

Religious Societies.—There are two Bible Societies in the parish, a Tract Society, a Sabbath Evening School Society, and a Parochial Association in connection with the General Assembly's Schemes. Some of the congregations have missionary associations within themselves. The average amount annually collected for purely religious purposes by the societies within the parish cannot be less than L.150. The interest of L.400, mortified by Robert Philp, Esq. for the circulation of the scriptures, is annually sent to the British and Foreign Bible Society, agreeably to the directions given in his trust-deed.

Education.—There are 15 schools in the parish, attended by 773 scholars. Eight of these, with 206 scholars, are taught by females; three for young ladies, who are instructed in French, music, &c; and five for girls, who are taught needle-work, as well as the elementary branches of English reading, writing, and arithmetic; one of them called the Ladies' School, because it is supported and superintended by a committee of ladies, is partially maintained by subscriptions; and another is supported chiefly by the benevolence of one family. There is an infant school included in the eight, which is also supported by subscriptions.

The heritors have never been burdened with the maintenance of a parochial school in this parish. The town's funds bear the whole expense of the burgh school. For a long period this school had two teachers, who received small salaries, and were quite independent of each other; and in order to prevent interference or opposition, they were restricted by the council to teach particular branches. The burgh school is now under the charge of Mr John Lockhart, as rector, with one assistant. He is allowed L.50 of

* Report by the Commissioners of Religious Instruction in Scotland in 1838.

salary, without a house, and L.40 for his assistant. There are upwards of 170 pupils attending the school. The present school-house is insufficient for the accommodation of such a number; but measures are at present in progress for erecting new and more commodious school-rooms in a more open and airy situation than that of the present school-house. The elementary branches are taught in all the schools, and in three of them, Greek, Latin, French, and mathematics are taught. In the burgh school, the fees vary from 3s. to 10s. per quarter, according to the branches taught. In some of the other schools the fees are higher, and in some a shade lower than the rates fixed by the council for the burgh teacher. "Scale of fees in the burgh school, fixed by the magistrates: English alone, 3s. per quarter; English with writing, 4s. 6d.; English grammar, arithmetic, and writing, 5s. 6d.; arithmetic, rudiments of Latin, geography, and writing, 6s. 6d.; writing alone, for one hour, 2s. 6d. The above fees include pens, and no charge is to be made for coals or janitor."

"Any branches taught besides the above, to be by special agreement with the teacher; but in no case can more than 3s. 6d. per quarter be charged, in addition to the highest rate of 6s. 6d. as above, making in all 10s. per quarter."

Robert Philp, Esq. a native of this parish, long an extensive manufacturer in the town, and an elder in the Established Church, who died in 1828, left the munificent bequest of L.74,000, the interest of which is to be expended in educating and clothing 400 children, who are "most needy," in this district. Schools have been erected and teachers appointed under this trust in Kirkcaldy, Pathhead, and Abbotshall. In Pathhead, 150 children are taught and clothed; in Kirkcaldy, 100; in Abbotshall, 100; and 50 children are sent to the parish school of Kinghorn and clothed by the trust. Children are not admissible under six years of age, and they are not allowed to remain after they are fifteen. Well-behaved scholars, on leaving school, are allowed a sum "to enable them to begin the world." At present, the funds allow them from L.7 to L.10, according to their merits. The management of the fund is committed to eighteen trustees, consisting of the two oldest justices of the peace within the burgh, the minister of Kirkcaldy, three ministers of the presbytery of Kirkcaldy to be elected, four elders from the kirk-session of Kirkcaldy, also to be elected, and eight of the burgh trustees. Some of the details of managing the schools without the burgh are devolved on a board of managers

provided for in the trust-deed. The Kirkcaldy school is entirely under the management of the eighteen trustees. The teacher's salary in Kirkcaldy is L.100, and a schoolmistress is engaged to teach the girls to sew, at a yearly salary of L.15. The branches taught are, English reading, writing, arithmetic, and music. The testator provides for a Sabbath school being taught in all the four districts, and allows an annual sum of L.10 to each district for this purpose.

The sum of L.780 was mortified by Mr John Thomson, merchant in Kirkcaldy, who died in 1810, the half of the interest of which is to be expended "in paying school wages, and providing school-books for poor children of the parish of Kirkcaldy." About 20 children of the class described receive education from this fund.

Few places in Scotland enjoy such educational advantages as Kirkcaldy. There are few, if any in the parish, above twelve years of age, who cannot read; there are very few who cannot write a little. Nor need there be any. With such facilities for obtaining a gratuitous education, the neglect of it in the poorest would be inexcusable. It may be inferred, from the number and urgency of applicants for the benefit of the trust-funds of Philp and Thomson, that the advantages of education are generally appreciated.

Literature.—There are five public libraries in the parish, viz. Kirkcaldy Subscription Library, with 4000 volumes; Kirkcaldy Mechanics' Library, 1500; United Secession Congregational Library, 340; two circulating libraries, 2600.

Scientific Association.—A scientific association was formed here a few years ago, which provides a course of popular scientific lectures for the community during the winter season. These lectures have frequently excited considerable interest. They have been generally well attended, and have diffused much valuable information.

There is a public reading-room in the town, and a small weekly newspaper is published on Saturday.

Charitable Institutions.—About thirty years ago, a few friendly societies were formed in the parish, but being based on erroneous principles, they soon began to decline, and they have all been long extinct.

A charitable institution, denominated the "Prime Gilt Box," which provides for old and disabled mariners belonging to the

port, and for their widows and orphans, and for the relief of shipwrecked seamen, has existed in this parish from a period prior to 1591. Officers and men, in vessels belonging to the port, long paid a per centage of their wages into this society. These contributions are no longer paid. A proposal was made a few years ago to dissolve the society, and divide the funds among the existing members. This was prevented by interdict, and the Court of Session ultimately found, that the society cannot be dissolved, and that the whole property of the society is held in trust for the society called the "Prime Gilt Box of Kirkcaldy." The value of the property belonging to this society, the income of which will in future be applied in relieving poor seamen, their widows, and orphans, is from L.2000 to L.3000.

The half of the interest of L.780, mortified by Mr John Thomson, (the other half being for educational purposes), is applied "towards the support of respectable inhabitants of Kirkcaldy who have seen better days."

Savings' Bank.—A branch of the National Security Savings' Bank was established here three years ago.

The following statement will show its present condition :

263	depositors of sums under L.5,	L.975	5	11
102 above L.5 and under L.10,	698	8	10
114 10 ... 20,	1568	9	11
97 20 ... 50,	2842	19	2
25 50 ... 100,	1592	18	0
2 100 ... 150,	244	14	8
<hr/>		<hr/>		
603		L.7922	17	6
6	charitable societies,	53	15	7
5	friendly do.	433	6	8
		<hr/>		
		L.7809	19	9

Poor and Parochial Funds.—No legal assessment has yet been imposed in this parish. The poor are maintained from the collections at the church door and subscriptions among the inhabitants. The amount of annual church collections is about L.200; L.33 have hitherto been got from seat-rents; and the additional sum required has been furnished by subscription. A sum upwards of L.400 is annually required to maintain the poor. The average number of paupers on the roll for a few years past is 110.

Besides the provision made for paupers by the kirk-session, much is done in the town for the relief of the destitute, by a Ladies' Benevolent Society, a Clothing Society, and a fund annually raised to supply the poor with coals. In very few parishes are

the poor more liberally provided for, and are the wants of the destitute more promptly attended to and relieved?

Prison.—The Kirkcaldy jail is the best in the county of Fife. Under the New Prison Act, its management has been much improved. The prisoners are constantly employed, and great care is taken that proper attention be paid to their health, their diet, their education, and religious instruction. It is now a place more for the reformation than the punishment of prisoners.

Inns and Ale-houses.—In the parish 54 houses are licensed to sell ardent spirits. Vigorous and successful efforts have been made of late to detect the irregularity of some of the houses, and to bring their possessors to punishment; and it is to be hoped that this system of vigilant superintendence will be kept up, and that it will succeed in checking and preventing that noise and rioting, especially on Saturday nights and Sabbath mornings, of which there has been good reason to complain.

February 1843.

PARISH OF DAIRSIE.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ANGUS MACGILLIVRAY, MINISTER.

L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Situation and Surface.—THIS parish is of an irregular form, extending from the south-east to the north-west, two Scots miles, and from the south-west to the north-east, nearly as much. Its general appearance is that of a gently rising ground. The soil is for the most part fertile, and in many places rich and deep. The air is generally dry and healthy. There are no considerable rivers in this district, except the Eden, which forms its boundary to the south and south-east.

Craigfoodie Hill is the highest point of land in the parish, and may be about 500 feet above the level of the sea. It presents a fine precipitous mural and somewhat columnar front to the south-west. Another height towards the west is Foodie Hill, planted, on which a whinstone quarry has been opened. The lower parts of the parish, near the river Eden, exhibit freestone in abundance.