

THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS

OF THE

MINISTERS

OF THE

DIFFERENT PARISHES.

BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

VOLUME EIGHTH.

"Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam."

CICERO, de Orat. lib. ii.

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY WILLIAM CREECH;

AND ALSO SOLD BY J. DONALDSON, A. GUTHRIE, W. LAING, AND JO. AND

J.A. FAIRBAIRN, EDINBURGH; T. CADELL, J. DEBARTT, AND J.

SEWELL, LONDON; DUNLOP AND WILSON, GLASGOW;

ANGUS AND SON, ABERDEEN.

MDCG, XCIIL.

Digitized by Google

*Ref. - St.
Thun
6-29-27
17403*

CONTENTS.

Num.	Name of the parish.	Population in 1755.	Ditto in 1792-3	Increase	Dec.	Page
1	Dornoch, - - -	2,780	2,541	- -	239	1
2	Eckford, - - -	1,083	952	- -	131	20
3	Gigha and Cara, - -	514	614	100	- -	37
4	Ladykirk, - - -	386	500	204	- -	71
5	Douglas, - - -	2,009	1,715	- -	294	76
6	Tweedsmuir, - - -	397	227	- -	170	86
7	Kilmartin, - - -	1,150	1,537	387	- -	90
8	Auchtermoul, - - -	389	334	- -	55	110
9	Carlisle, - - -	1,459	1,730	271	- -	120
10	Canisbay, - - -	1,481	1,950	469	- -	142
11	Newburgh, - - -	1,347	1,664	317	- -	170
12	Dundee, - - -	12,477	23,500	11,023	- -	192
13	Cromdale, - - -	3,063	3,000	- -	63	251
14	Tong, - - -	570	560	- -	10	261
15	Stirling, - - -	3,951	4,698	747	- -	274
16	Kelton, - - -	811	1,600	789	- -	297
17	Applegarth, - - -	897	741	- -	156	310
18	Beith, - - -	2,064	2,872	808	- -	314
19	Guthrie, - - -	584	571	- -	13	329
20	Glenorchy and Inishail, -	1,654	1,669	15	- -	335
21	Cricch, - - -	1,705	1,730	25	- -	362
22	Duffus, - - -	1,679	1,500	- -	179	384
23	Dumbarny, - - -	764	1,230	466	- -	401
24	Kilmalie, - - -	3,093	4,031	938	- -	407
25	Torryburn, - - -	1,635	1,600	- -	35	448
26	Ferry-Port-on-Craig, -	621	875	254	- -	456
27	Logie, - - -	413	425	12	- -	476
28	Cadder, - - -	2,396	1,767	- -	629	474
29	Muthil, - - -	2,902	2,948	46	- -	485
30	Moy and Dalaroffie, -	1,693	1,813	120	- -	499
31	Leffly, - - -	319	392	73	- -	511
32	Hawick, - - -	2,713	2,918	205	- -	521
33	Clatt, - - -	559	425	- -	134	535
34	Drymen, - - -	2,789	1,607	- -	1,182	546
35	Edenkeillie, - - -	1,443	1,800	357	- -	553
36	Monivaird and Strowan, -	1,460	1,025	- -	435	567
37	Kilbride, in Arran, -	1,369	2,545	1,176	- -	578
38	Moonsie, - - -	249	171	- -	78	583
39	Symington, - - -	264	307	43	- -	585
40	Alloa, - - -	*5,816	4,802	- -	1,014	594
Population in 1755,		72,948	87,006	14,058	4,817	
Increase,		- - -	14,058	14,058	- - -	

* Doubts are entertained how far the parish of Alloa contained so great a number, as 5816 souls, in 1755; but the reader will easily perceive, that no fair comparison can be made, between the population in 1755, and at present, but by a strict adherence to Dr. Webster's account of the population at the former period.

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF KILMALIE.

(Counties of Inverness and Argyll.—Presbytery of Abertarph.—
Synod of Glenelg.)

By the Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER FRASER, Minister of that
parish.

Origin of the Name.

FROM the Gaelic, a branch of the Celtic language, are derived the names of places, not only among the mountains of Caledonia, but in the more campaign counties of Scotland. *Kil* signifies a burying place; and *Malie* must have been a person eminent for piety, or for some other extraordinary quality, who probably was the first that had been interred in that particular place, whence the parish receives its name. This is the more probable, as it is well known, that, wherever Popery prevailed, its partisans were wont to dedicate their churches, and sacred grounds, to some canonised saint. And, as a farther evidence, even the modern Highlanders, when their veracity is suspected, will use the following phrase: "*Air Malie tha*," i. e. "I swear, or declare, by *Malie*, that it is as I say."

Yet

Yet they seldom give themselves the trouble to trace the origin of the expression. As to the time, wherein this Malis flourished, tradition is silent.

Situation and Extent.—A part of the parish lies in Argyllshire, but the greatest part of it is in the county of Inverness. Being intersected in three different places, by as many arms of the sea, the parish is of an irregular form. The length, from N. W. to S. E., is about 60 miles in a straight line. The greatest breadth, from N. E. to S. W., is 30 miles in a line. It comprehends about 589 square miles, or nearly 376,969 English acres, measuring in straight lines. And, adding the surface of the hills and vallies, it must be, at least, one third more. An account of such an extensive parish may, to the natives of the low country, appear romantic.

Surface, Soil, and Climate.—The greatest part of the parish consists of high grounds; and, as the heaths yield excellent grass, it is well calculated for sheep. There are, however, many vallies, of various extent and quality. Upon the banks of the rivers Lochy and Nevis, and in several other places, there is a good deal of arable ground, of different qualities: the soil, in general, is shallow and sandy. The climate cannot be reckoned unwholesome, for several have lived to an advanced age; yet the air is moist, for the wind blows off the sea nearly two-thirds of the year. This accounts for the almost incessant rains which prevail; not only here, but in all other places on the West Coast of Scotland. Here, extreme cold is never known; and it is remarkably warm close to the shores, where snow seldom lies above 24 hours.

Diseases.—To the dampness of the air, may, no doubt, be attributed the frequency of the rheumatism; which is the disease

case that prevails most in the parish; and, since people have ceased to wear flannel shirts, it is become much more general. The prejudices, entertained by the inhabitants of this parish against inoculation, were, for a long time, invincible. But the better sort, setting the example, the rest gradually followed:—for we are fond to imitate our superiors. Yet there are some who still say, “That, to inoculate for the “small-pox, is to tempt Providence.” In one season, 460 were inoculated, of whom only 3 died; and their death the surgeon imputed to their being in a bad habit of body. Fevers of the epidemical kind are very frequent. Of late years, the dropfy is become pretty common, particularly among the poorer sort of people. This is ascribed to their feeding so much upon potatoes, which is now become a substitute for meal. The jaundice and the stone are almost unknown here: the former appears ofteneft, however, but the ague has never yet invaded the parish. The *itch*, which has been imputed, as a disgrace, to this quarter of the island, is but rarely seen now, even among the lowest classes of the people. This, doubtless, is owing to their living in a more cleanly manner than their forefathers. But this distemper is not peculiar to a Highlander,—nor to a Scotch-man. It is a *plant* which grows in countries south of the Tweed, else there would be no word to express it in the *English* tongue; and it is well known to have been one of the plagues incident to the Egyptians * †.

VOL. VIII.

3 F

Lakes

* Deut. xxviii. 27.

† It is a common practice for people to go hence to the low countries, in time of harvest, and return again in the beginning of winter. Within these very few years, a woman of this description came home, infected with a disorder that is a disgrace to human nature. Her father, who had been a stranger to the nature of her complaint, spoke to the incumbent about her;—and upon

Lakes and Rivers.—Loch-Archaig, which is 16 miles long, and one broad, is the only fresh-water lake, in the parish, of any consequence. From it flows the River Archaig, which, after running about a mile, discharges itself into Loch-lochy. This lake is partly in the parish, and is the fountain of the river Lochy; which, near its fount, joins the river of Spian, and thus loses its name. Spian, runs through the parish of Kilmanivaig. These lakes are very deep: there are some others of inferior size. The length of the river Lochy is about 10 miles; and the medium breadth, about 200 feet. It is fordable in many places; yet, excepting at Torecastle, small boats are sometimes rowed up to its fountain. It disgorges itself into the sea, near Fort-William, with such rapidity and force, that it preserves its streams entire, for a long way, without any great mixture or taste of salt water. No other stream, in the parish, merits the appellation of *river*. Nevis, indeed, after great falls of rain, and when the snow is dissolving upon Benevis, and the surrounding hills, swells to a great height; but, in dry weather, it is no more than an inconsiderable rivulet. After performing a circuit of about 10 miles, and forcing its passage betwixt rocks and mountains, it sweeps along the walls of the garrison of Fort-William, and then resigns its waters to the ocean.

Fresh-Water Fish.—In those rivers, and in some of the lakes, there are salmon, finnacks, white, black, and yellow trouts. Even the lesser lakes, in the hills, abound with fine yellow trouts; and in some of them there are a few *char*. May, June, and July,

his inquiring what her disease was, answered, " I am entirely ignorant of it;—
 " it is such as I never heard of; neither did you, I am persuaded.—It is some
 " low-country disorder."—It cannot be denied, however, but that the army have frequently introduced this same *too fashionable* disease, into Fort-William and its neighbourhood,

July, are the principal months for salmon;—July, August, and September, for white trouts and finnacks,—November, for char,—and April, for yellow trouts. Any salmon, that are sold in the parish, fetch 3d., and sometimes 4d. *per lib.*, and white trouts 2d. The fishing, upon the property of Mr. M'Lean of Ardgour, is worth 20l. annually. But the principal fishing is upon the Lochy, the property of the Duke of Gordon, and of Mr. Cameron of Locheile. The following table will show the number of fish caught upon it, during the last 7 years, their prices at Fort-William, and the markets to which they were exported.

Years.	Salmon.	Grilse.	Price of each cask.	Markets.
1785	3678	976	L. 5 2 0	Aberdeen.
1786	2036	3899	4 13 6	Ostend by Aberdeen.
1787	5279	819	4 1 0	Bilboa.
1788	1498	2032	3 10 0	Ostend by Aberdeen.
1789	1260	835	3 0 0	Aberdeen.
1790	2041	830	3 0 0	Ostend by Greenock.
1791	576	1200	3 2 6	Aberdeen.
	<hr/> 15368	<hr/> 10591	<hr/> L. 26 9 0	

Each cask contains about 80 grilse, or 28 salmon and 8 grilse, or thereabouts. The price of each cask, including salt, cooperage, &c. costs 13s. The rent of the river, and expences attending the fishing, are about 370l. a-year. The average of those 7 years, is 2195½ salmon, and 1513 grilse, equal to 92 barrels; which, at the medium price of 3l. 16s. 8d., are worth only 352l. 13s. 4d.; whereas the rent and expences, as stated, are 370l. *per annum*. It is, however, to be observed, that it is only within these three last years, that the river has been rented so high; and likewise, that the rent of a farm, worth, at least, 50l. *per annum*, is included in the 370l. Every year since 1787, there has been a

great decrease in the number of fish caught ; which must proceed from some inattention in preserving the salmon fry. The cruiving of the river, it is thought, is the chief cause, as the fish are thereby prevented from going to the fresh-water lakes to spawn. In all the lakes in the north of Scotland, which run to the east, pikes are to be found, but in none that run to the western sea, at least in the Highlands.

Coast.—One of the greatest advantages of the parish, is the vast extent of sea-shore it has ; which, computing on both sides of Locheile, on the north of Lochleven, and a part of both sides of Linge-Hilloch, amounts to about 70 miles,—most of which is rocky and high. The lands, in some places, rise gradually many yards above the level of the sea, and are excellent pasturage for sheep, or horses. There is but little kelp made in the parish, because it is mostly the property of the landlords : and the tenants cut the sea ware, for manuring the ground, the quantity of dung they have being insufficient for that purpose. In some places, the tides run with amazing violence and rapidity. There are four very strong currents,—at Annat, Corran, Ballachulish, and Culisnagon. The lands, on both sides of Locheile, being so high, occasion frequent sudden squalls, which have sometimes proved dangerous. Several have been drowned, of late years, in the parish.

Sea Fish and Fowls.—Herrings are the fish that abound most, and that are of the greatest benefit. They generally enter the parish in the month of July, and continue in season, provided the weather does not prove very stormy, till November. They are not equally numerous every year. The people of Fort-William, (where the greatest number of boats are,) reckon that a good fishing-season, in which they catch about 2000 barrels : last year (1791) there were about 3000 caught ;
which

which proved a seasonable relief to many indigent families. There are red cod, lythe, seath, skate, flounders, mackarels, whittings*, and a few haddocks. If the weather be moderate, lythes and seaths may be fished every day of the year. Their prices vary, according to their sizes, from 2d. to 5d. the dozen. They are killed with small rods, and a hook, having a feather, resembling one of the herring fry. Cod, skate, and flounder, are caught with long lines, and baits of herring, or of muscles. There are a great many eels and sturgeons. Seals, and porpoises, and other sea animals, are frequently seen to chase the salmon, and whales, the herrings. Last harvest, three whales appeared in Locheile, of a great size: one of them seemed to measure about 600 feet. The same season, a shark, 3 years old, came ashore. That species of shark, called the dog-fish, is very numerous.

The sea fowls are, gulls, herons, cormorants, curlews, ducks, teals, pies, marrots, solon geese, eagles, and many others. Of the migratory kind, are the pictarnies and widgeons. The last appear in the latter end of harvest, or early in winter, and take their passage to some other seas in spring. The former arrive in the beginning of May.

Hills—Are numerous in the parish, and mostly clothed with rich heath, and a mixture of grass, to the very summit. They are also of considerable height, but the most remarkable is Benevis, which is an object that attracts the attention

* Lord Lyttleton, in his journey into Wales, says: "But what Bala is most famous for, is the beauty of its women: and, indeed, I there saw some of the prettiest girls, I ever beheld.—The lake produces very fine trouts, and a fish called whiting, peculiar to itself, and of so delicate a taste, that, I believe, you would prefer the flavour of it to the lips of the fair maids of Bala." A hungry man might, but, surely, an amorous lover would not. Whether the whiting, of the lake of Bala, be the same with the whiting of our seas, is uncertain; but these have a sweet flavour, and are a delicious morsel.

attention of all curious travellers. Being the highest mountain in Great Britain, it certainly deserves a particular description.

Benevis.—This mountain is 4370 feet high.—It is easily ascended, by a ridge of the mountain, towards the west, about a quarter of a mile up the river Nevis, from the house where the proprietor resides. There is good pasture for sheep, here, as well as on the surrounding hills, for a great way up. The view is entirely confined within Glenevis hill, till you have got up about 500 yards perpendicular. Indeed, the valley, though confined, presents an agreeable prospect. The Vista is beautified with a diversity of bushes, shrubs, and birch woods, the seats of roes and deer, besides many lovely spots of green; a decent, neat, rural mansion, encircled by a young flourishing plantation; a river at the bottom of the vale, which, after being broken by a heap of mis-shapen stones, glides away in a clear stream; and, wandering through woods, vales, and rocks, loses itself in the sea. To heighten the pleasure of the charming view, the sea and the shores present themselves. This is such a prospect, as must expand the heart, and delight the spectator, attached to the charms of nature, and to rural scenes; and recal to mind the days of old, when princes and princesses are said to have tended their herds and flocks, amidst the beauties of *Arenaria*.

Upon ascending above this height, the prospect opens, and enlarges, to the south-west, and you behold the Strait of Corran, the islands of Shuna and Lismore; the south-east part of Mull, together with the islands of Saile and Kerrera, on the opposite coast of Argyll. At this altitude, two elevated hills make their appearance over these isles; which, by their shape, declare themselves to be *the Paps of Jura*. Turning to the west, and inclining a little towards the north,
you

you see the small isles, particularly Rum and Canna, and the Sound that separates them from Sky, and beyond all these, the Cullin hills, which form the west part of Sky itself. Here the prospect to the east is wholly obstructed by the upper part of the mountain. But still every part of Loch-eile can be easily observed, over which the whole horizon is surprisingly equal. One uninterrupted range of hills, which rise, one behind another, presents no particular object worth distinguishing.

From the altitude of 600, or 700 yards, upward, there is no vegetation at all, but merely rocks and stony parts, without even a mixture of earth. These parts are called *Scarnachs*.—They are quite flat, and may be walked over without any detriment :—Upon entering into them, some excellent springs of water are to be found. Here one is deceived with the appearance of a high part, which seems to be the top of the hill. The deception returns, and is repeated twice or thrice before you reach the summit, which is flat, and bears some resemblance to the segment of an arch, held in a horizontal position. The left side appears to be the highest : Hence you walk, with ease, over the flat weather-beaten stones, that lie close to each other, with a gentle declivity, and form an easy pavement to the foot.—You now come, all at once, to the brink of a precipice on the north-east of the mountain, almost perpendicular ;—certainly not less than 400, or 500 yards,—perhaps more, as it appears to exceed the third part of the whole height of the hill. A stranger is astonished at the sight of this dreadful rock, which has a quantity of snow, lodged in its bosom, through the whole year. The sound of a stone, thrown over the clift, to the bottom, cannot be heard, when it falls ; so that the height of the precipice cannot be ascertained by that easy experiment,

Looking

Looking to the east, Loch-Laggan appears, and to the south-east, Loch-Rannoch in Perthshire. But Loch-Tay, being covered by the land, cannot be seen ; nor Loch-Er-racht. If you have a good map in company, lay it here, in a horizontal position, and, placing your eye on that part of it, where Benevis is delineated ; turn it, till the natural position of Loch-Rannoch coincides with its image on the map, and you will then have before your eye a true representation of the objects in view. In this manner, you will be able to discover the names of those high mountains, which rise above the rest ; viz. Crouchan Bhane, near Bunaw in Glenorchay ;—Shichallion, Ben-More, and Ben-Lawers, in Perthshire, Bhillan in Glenco, Ben-More, in the island of Mull ; Benuais, and other hills in Rossshire. The whole of the great glen of Scotland, from Fort-George, to the sound of Mull, is, at once, in view ; comprehending the fresh water lakes of Nefs, Oich, and Lochy, and all the course of the two rivers Nefs and Lochy, from their source, to the place where they enter into the salt water, running in opposite directions, the one north-east, and the other south-west. The extent of view, on the horizon of the sea, is about 80 miles. One sees at once, across the island, eastward, to the German Sea, and westward, to the Atlantic Ocean.

Nature, here, appears on a majestic scale ; and the vastness of the prospect engages one's whole attention. Particular objects are but few in number, and they of no common dimensions ; else the eye would entirely overlook them. Such are those high mountains already enumerated ; which rise with sublime aspect over the other hills. But you are instantly sensible, that none of them is elevated so high as the spot on which you stand.

Just over the opening of the sound, at the south-west corner of Mull, Colunsa rises out of the sea, like a shade of mist, at the distance of more than 90 miles. Shuna and Lismore,

are

are like small spots of rich verdure ; and, though distant, near 30 miles, seem quite near, and under the beholder. The low parts of Jura, cannot be discerned, nor any part of Isla ; far less, the coast of Ireland, which some have pretended to see from the top of Benevis. Such, however, is the wide extent of view, from the summit of this mountain, that it reaches 170 miles, from the horizon of the sea, at the Murray Frith, on the north east, to the island of Colunsa, on the south west. Could one pass a night, in October, on the summit of Benevis, it is probable, that he would discover the heavenly bodies in greater splendour, than upon Mount Blanc itself. The latter, it is true, is much higher ; but the former, is in a colder climate, and consequently, when fair, in a less shaded sky.

The high hills on each side of the lakes and rivers, mentioned above, opening like huge walls, or ramparts, on each hand, yield a curious variety of agreeable wild prospects ; the vast windings whereof make the several turnings of the mountains rather diversify the scene, than obstruct the eye. Their extremities, declining gradually from their several summits, open into vallies, where one has variegated views of woods, rivers, plains, and lakes. The torrents of water, which, here and there, tumble down the precipices, and, in many places, break through the cracks and cliffs of the rocks, arrest the eye, and suspend the mind, in awful astonishment. In a word, the number, the extent, and the variety of the several prospects,—the irregular wildness of the hills, of the rocks, and of the precipices,—the noise of rivulets, and of torrents, breaking and foaming among the stones, in such a diversity of shapes and colours,—the shining smoothness of the seas, and of the lakes,—the rapidity, and rumbling of the rivers, falling from shelve to shelve, and forcing their streams through a multitude of obstructions,—the serenity of the

azure skies, and the splendour of the glorious sun, riding in the brightness of his majesty—have something so charmingly wild and romantic, and so congenial to the contemplative mind, as surpasses all description, and presents a scene, of which the most fervid imagination can scarcely form an idea.

The traveller, who is so callous, as to behold all this, and not feel the greatness and majesty of the ALMIGHTY ARCHITECT impressed upon his heart, must, indeed, be strangely void of sense, of taste, and of sentiment. It affords a lesson, worthy of travelling up the mountain to learn. Benevis, and the surrounding mountains, do, indeed, strongly excite the idea of Burnet, of their being the fragments of a once demolished world.—Few can perform a journey to the top of Benevis, and make proper observations, going and returning, in less than 7 hours; and still fewer, without feeling, in their limbs, the effects of the fatigue, for a day or two after.

Minerals.—There is no coal mine in the parish; but a vein of lead ore has been lately discovered, upon the west side of Benevis, running east and west, cross a burn, in the heart of a solid rock of fine red granite, with a slope outwards, as it descends; and, but for this slope, in a vertical position. It is four or five inches thick; composed of about one third of ore, and the rest, of white marcasite, with a mixture of sulphur; and seems to grow thicker, and richer, as it descends. The access is not difficult; and the perpendicular height, about 300 yards from the bottom of the valley. Two other parallel narrow veins, are to be seen a few yards lower down. Though a trial could be easily made, none has, as yet, been attempted. But, no doubt, Mr. Cameron of Glenevis, the proprietor of this mountain, so famous among Scottish hills, will be induced, by the promising appearance, to make a trial. At Invercaddie, belonging to Mr. Cameron of Falsfern, there is another vein, of the same kind, which has been tried, but not

so far, as to ascertain its value. That these veins are good, and worth working, is highly probable, as they run in a line, east and west, with those at Strontian.

There is abundance of limestone in the parish; and, at Ballachulish *, belonging to Mr. Cameron of Lochcille, there is a fine appearance of a slate quarry, close to the shore of Lochleven, which there forms a pretty basin, where a quay could

3 G 2

be

* "Near the farm houses," of Ballachulish, "there is a limestone, or marble rock, of a beautiful ashen grey colour, and of a fine regular uniform grain, or texture; capable of being raised in blocks, or slabs, of any size, and capable of receiving a fine polish. This singular rock, is finely sprinkled throughout, with grains and specks of fine bright mundick, or pyrites; and likewise, with grains and specks of beautiful lead ore, of a fine texture, which, to the eye, appears to be rich in silver. This would make a bright and beautiful metallic marble.

"In the farm of Blarmachshuildaich, belonging to the Duke of Gordon, about 3 miles south of Fort-William, in the bed of a river, there is a very singular marble, consisting of a black ground, and flowered with white. This stone, is of a fine close grain, or uniform texture, but not very hard; and the flowering in it is light, elegant, and beautiful, like fine needle-work; or rather, resembling the frosty fret-work, upon glass windows, in a winter morning; and this flowering, is not only upon the outside, but quite through all parts of the body of the stone.

"A great part of the hill of Benevis, is composed of porphyry. It is a remarkably fine, beautiful, and elegant stone, of a redish cast, in which the pale rose, the blush, and the yellowish white colours, are finely blended, and shaded, through the body of the stone, which is of a jelly-like texture, and is, undoubtedly, one of the finest, and most elegant, stones in the world. About three fourths of the way up this hill, upon the north west side, there is found a porphyry, of a greenish colour, with a tinge off a brownish red. This stone is smooth, compact, hard, and heavy, of a close uniform texture, but of no brightness, when broken. It is spotted with angular specks, of a white quartz substance.

"The elegant redish granite, of Benevis, is, perhaps, the best, and most beautiful in the world; and there is enough of it, to serve all the kingdoms of the universe, though they were all as fond of granite, as ancient Egypt *."

* See Williams's *Natural History of the Mineral Kingdom.*

be easily built.—There is a rock, of an excellent redish granite, in the farm of Sallachan, belonging to Captain M'Lean of Ardgour, which will admit of a fine polish. What a pity it is, that such sums of money, should be sent every year to foreign kingdoms for marble, when our own country abounds with all kinds of stones, of the very best quality, necessary for ornamental architecture?

Echoes.—There is an echo at the Esplanade of Fort-William, near the place where the brewhouse stands, and another, in the face of the hill of Succoth, immediately behind Ardgour-house. There are probably several more in the parish.

Caves.—In the face of a very steep rock, near Ballachulish, there is a cave, but so difficult of access, that there is no person living, at present, in the parish, who has ventured to explore it*. A description of it, consequently, cannot be given. About 8 miles up the river Nevis, there is another remarkable cave, known by the name of "*Uaigh-'t 'Hoirle*," or *Samuel's Cave*; that being the patronymic of the family of Glenevis. This cave is in the heart of a rock, which appears to be about 70 feet high, and nearly as broad, leaning to the side of a mount, south of the river, and not far distant from it. It is of difficult access, having, quite close to the entrance, a perpendicular rock, 30 or 40 feet high. The cave appears to

* It is not a great number of years, however, since a man, who had been obliged to skulk for his crimes, made it his place of abode and refuge, for the space of about 3 years. During day light, he kept within his cell; but, as soon as the darkness of the night favoured him, he issued forth from his strong hold, in quest of provisions. While he continued thus cautious, he was secure; but, at last, growing confident, he ventured to sally out in the day time. In one of these predatory excursions, he was apprehended, and compelled to do justice to the laws of his country.

to be formed, by one part of the rock leaning to the other, and forming, between them, an arched, irregular, shapeless, kind of grotto, from 6 to 12 or 14 feet high. It is 30 feet long, and 11 broad. The floor is very uneven, sloping from the mouth all the way. There are 3 divisions in it; the largest of which, would afford shelter for about 30 people. At its extremity, there are two other passages, leading farther into the rock; both are quite dark. These apertures conduct, through the body of the rock, to other recesses; but such is their dark, and hideous appearance, that few can be prevailed on to enter them. One of these passages, opens at the extremity of the large apartment, and is lined with a shelving precipitate rock, that goes about 10 feet downwards, and effectually deters most of the visitants from proceeding any farther;—the other passage is nearly over it, at the roof of the vault, to which one may easily ascend, by the help of a sloping part of the rock. The earth, on the floor of the cave, and the drops oozing through the crevices, occasion a perpetual dampness, and disagreeable smell. It is the frightful habitation of darkness;—an abode, fit to be inhabited only by the sons of despair,—being one of those howling caverns, where the subterraneous winds blow. Hither, however, some retreated for safety, in the year 1746,—and here they, for some time, lived secure *. The mouth of the cave is not above 3½ feet high, and is pretty much concealed by its situation. The largeness .

* There is a tradition among the vulgar, that a piper went once into this cave, and that the noise of his music was heard, under ground, at a place called Kinloch, distant, from the entrance of the cave, no less than 10 miles. The tune he played was, “*Oh! that I had three hands! two for the bagpipe, and one for the sword!*” signifying that he had been attacked by subterranean foes. Other parishes will, no doubt, claim right to this unfortunate piper, who forgot to bring a clew with him, to guide him back through the labyrinth. This story deserves the same credit, with those of many other traditionary tales, of the fabulous bards.

largeness of the rock, however, where it is, and some fir trees on its top, will lead to a discovery of it.

Cascades.—Just opposite to the rock, where the last mentioned cave is, on the other side of the river, there is a most beautiful cascade, falling down, by a gradual slope, from Ben-nevis, upwards of half a mile before it reaches the bottom of the valley, where it unites its streams with those of the Nevis. The appearance of this sheet of water, immediately attracts one's attention, dilates the heart, and kindles, in the mind, those lofty and grand sentiments of devotion, and those pleasing elevated feelings, which the sublime sound of a cascade, or the war of many waters, naturally excite. The windings of the river,—the verdure of the trees,—the wildness of the rocks,—the terrific aspect of the hills,—the mist, flying swiftly on their tops,—the clouds, rolling along with velocity,—the lonely situation, remote from human eye,—every thing conspires to make this fall of water, one of the grandest objects in nature. It even excels the famous *Fall of Foyers*, which cannot be beheld with so much complacency. It is, indeed, awful and sublime; but has too much of the *terrible* in its appearance.—About two miles further up the river Nevis, there is another cascade, which, after forcing its way through hills and rocks, has a fall of, at least, 500 feet perpendicular. It is on the same side of the river with the cave. This parish, as may naturally be expected, from the number of hills in it, abounds with cascades, that compose a beautiful and picturesque scenery.

Woods.—There can be little doubt, but that the greatest part of the parish was once over-run with wood. At present, it is said, there are about 14,000 acres under it. The most considerable, and the most valuable plantation, belongs to Mr. Cameron of Locheile,

Locheile, who has upwards of 6,000 acres under birch and fir, intermingled, and 4,000 acres more, under oak and other timber. On the property of Capt. M'Lean of Ardgour, there are about 1,000 acres of firs, oak, and other species of trees. These woods, in many places, would be very valuable. Here, however, they are not, being far from the shore, and the roads to them extremely bad. To purchase imported timber, therefore, is found to be cheaper; at least, it is preferred. The trees, that grow naturally, are oak, fir, birch, ash, mountain-ash, holly, elm, wild geen, hazle, and the Scotch poplar. Those planted are, larix, spruce, silver fir, beech, plane, and fruit trees.

Wild Quadrupeds and Birds.—The quadrupeds are, deer and roes,—hares, as large as those in the low countries of Scotland, but not so swift,—weasels, polecats, badgers, and foxes, of two kinds: these last, are mostly extirpated, since the introduction of sheep.—The birds are, eagles, of three different kinds, hawks, kites, ravens, crows, and rooks. There are heathcocks, ptarmachans, and partridges; but they are decreasing annually, as their eggs are trampled upon, and broke by the sheep. There are also snipes, and plovers, with all sorts of poultry; and a great variety of small birds, of the musical kind, such as the rose, the heath, and the rock-linnet,—the chaff, the bull, and the goldfinch,—the sky-lark, the thrush, the robin-redbreast, &c.—The migratory birds are, woodcocks, which appear in October, and go away in March,—and cuckoos, swallows, martins, swifts, and stonechatters, which arrive in April, and depart in August, September, and October.

Cattle.—At present, there are in the parish, according to the exactest calculation that could be made, about 6,000 head
of

of black cattle, 500 horses, 1,000 goats, and 60,000 sheep. Before the mode of sheep-farming was introduced, a great number of horses were reared for sale. They were well shaped, hardy, and high mettled. Good ones now sell at from 8*l.* to 20*l.* Owing to their decreasing in number every season, they have advanced in price considerably, of late years. They are used in ploughing, harrowing, leading home peats, and carrying manure to the fields. Four of them, are yoked a-breast in the plough; and a man, who leads them, stands immediately before them, and walks backward, facing the ploughman. This, surely, is very awkward! The gentlemen in the parish, however, yoke but two horses in the plough; and the one who holds it, manages also the reins. Three different kinds of ploughs are used.—The sheep were first introduced, into the parish, in the year 1764. They have since increased so much, that about three fourths of the country are occupied by them. Wherever they are, there is not above the 1300th acre in tillage. Hence the quantity of hill ground may be conceived. But, indeed, the vallies are mostly pasture walks, for the winter and spring retreat of the sheep, as well as of the black cattle.—All the hills, below the perpendicular altitude of 600 yards, are lined with beautiful, soft, and rich heath; but, above that height, they are mostly barren. There is no common in the parish.

Produce, Cultivation, &c.—Oats, barley, and potatoes, are the principal crops. The climate and soil here are ill calculated for rearing grain. In the best season, the crop is precarious, and hardly equivalent to the expences incurred. Potatoes, which are mostly planted in drills, answer remarkably well; and turnips, it is believed, would turn to good account, particularly to the sheep farmer. Hitherto, however, little attention has been bestowed upon them. Oats are sown during

during the two last weeks of March ; barley, and potatoes, in the end of April, and beginning of May. Barley is reaped in the end of August ; oats, from the beginning of September to October, and potatoes, about the end of September.

The following is the average number of English acres, under the different sorts of grain, on each of the sheep farms :

13	acres are under 12 bolls of oats.
4	— under 3 bolls of barley.
10	— under 14 bolls of potatoes.
<hr/>	
Total,	27 acres in tillage.
	34,973 acres in sheep pasture.
<hr/>	
In all,	35,000 acres; being 16 miles by 3 and two fifths.

In farms of less extent, there is a smaller proportion accordingly. Indeed, those proportions are equal to a medium of 4 ordinary sheep farms in the parish, or to 8, according to former divisions. In farms, where there are black cattle stocks, there are nearly 4 times this proportion of ground in culture. The pasture grounds, including sheallings, do not rent at above 4d. *per* acre annually. The returns, upon an average, are, of oats, 3 from 1, of barley, 5, and of potatoes, 10. There is no hemp, and very little flax seed, sown in the parish. The vallies and meadows yielding spontaneously plenty of excellent grass: there is but little clover, or rye grass sown. The gardens yield the ordinary vegetables.

Imports and Exports.—The articles imported are, meal, flour, oats, butter, cheese, whisky, foreign spirits, salt, timber, tar, and all kinds of mercantile goods. There were entered inwards, in the year 1791, at the port of Fort-William, coastwise, 8,000 bolls of oatmeal; which, at the average price of 16s. 8d. *per* boll, is 6666l. 13s. 4d. But only about 2500

bolls were used in the parish, the rest being sold to other countries: 2500 bolls, at the above price, come to 2083*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* We may safely say, that the parish pays at least, that sum for meal every year; for seldom, very seldom, it is, that it sells so reasonably, as is above stated. Of whisky, there are annually imported into the parish, and drunk in it, about 15,000 gallons, which, at 4*s.* each gallon, costs 3,000*l.* The exports are, fish, wool, sheep, horses, and black cattle. During the summer and harvest 1791, there were taken, by the people of the parish, about 3,000 barrels of herrings, which, at 18*s.* per barrel, is 2700*l.*

ACCOUNT of Wool sent coastwise, from the port of Fort-William, for 3 years preceding the 5th day of January 1792.

			cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
From 5th January 1789, to 5th January 1790,	-	-	2737	3	24,
From 5th January 1790, to 5th January 1791,	-	-	2652	2	8
From 5th January 1791, to 5th January 1792,	-	-	3593	2	1
In all,			8985	0	5

Or, 41,930 stones, at 24 lbs. English to each stone. Two thirds of the wool are white, and one third is tarred.

Stones.	lbs.				£.	s.	d.
27,953	8,	at 7s. 6d. per stone, amount to	-	-	10482	10	0
13,976	16,	at 5s. 6d. per stone, amount to	-	-	3843	11	8
<hr/>					<hr/>		
41930	0	Total of wool exported in 3 years,			14326	1	8
<hr/>					<hr/>		
The annual average produce of wool, exported from Fort-Wil-					4776	7	2½
liam, is therefore							

The greatest part of the above wool, was sent coastwise to Liverpool, and other ports in England. Let it be observed, however, that it includes much more than the produce of this parish, in which there are only 60,000 sheep. Something more

more than 6 fleeces generally go to each stone, which is equal to about 10,000 stones.

Stones.	lbs.		L.	s.	d.
6666	14,	at 7s. 6d. per stone, come to	-	2499	19 4½
3333	10,	at 5s. 6d. per stone, come to	-	916	13 9½
10000	0	Total annual produce of the wool of this parish,		3416	13 2

Population.—The introduction of sheep, it is obvious, has a tendency to diminish the number of inhabitants in particular districts *. In this parish, however, from the operation of peculiar circumstances, the population has increased considerably, and is still on the increase. It is not easy, now, to determine the exact proportion of people that remain, compared with those who have been obliged to remove. From a medium statement of several farms, in different situations, they appear to have been nearly three times as populous, as they are at present. But one fourth of the parish is still under black cattle, and contains as great a number of people as

3 H 2 ever.

* There is an absolute necessity of preserving the graze, during summer and harvest, upon the low grounds, for the use of the sheep in winter and spring;—for, otherwise, they run a risk of perishing. This could not be done, were the same number of people, as formerly, to live there, and to cultivate lands for their own subsistence. Besides, the number of cows and horses, they would require, would entirely consume the graze. Proprietors, it is said, have made repeated trials of letting their lands, among the former tenants, jointly, provided they would stock them with sheep, and agree among themselves, with regard to their respective shares. But every instance of this kind, has proved unsuccessful in the end. And, indeed, it is almost impossible, that a multitude of people can agree in managing a joint stock of sheep, and bringing the produce to market. Schemes of this kind, consequently, how plausible soever they may seem in theory, will ever fail of success in practice; and experience has demonstrated the absurdity of such an attempt. The fact is, that sheep farms cannot be let with prudence, or advantage, to a number of tenants; and the introduction of sheep must, of course, diminish the number of tenants in particular districts.

ever. And of those, who have been dispossessed, very few have quitted the parish. They go and reside in Maryburgh; as several also do from other neighbouring parishes; which accounts for the increasing populousness of that village. Besides which, the women, in general, are very prolific, frequently bringing forth twins; and, in September last, (1792), two women were delivered of 3 children each at a birth. Every marriage commonly produces from 5 to 7 children. For several reasons, it is almost impossible to keep an exact and a complete register of baptisms and marriages, in so extensive a parish as this. Unless the clergyman, at the time of celebrating these ordinances, write down, in a memorandum book, the names of the parties, and transmit them afterwards to the session clerk, they will never be registered; for the parties themselves either neglect, or disregard to do it. Besides, it is believed, that the Papists and Episcopalians keep a separate register of their own births and marriages. And, of deaths, no register has ever yet been attempted to be kept in the parish. By the most exact calculation, the number of souls is

The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was	-	-	3093
Increase,	-	-	1132
The inhabitants, in the garrison, however, being included in the above number, and not enumerated in the return to Dr. Webster, must be deducted			} 194
Exact increase in 37 years,	-	-	938

Of the above number, about 1200 live in Maryburgh and Fort-William; and of these there are

Merchants,	5	0	0	2	Brought over,	131
Shop-keepers,	-	-	-	9	Fidlers,	2
Carpenters,	-	-	-	11	Barber,	2
Ship-wright,	-	-	-	1	Dyer,	2
Boat-wrights,	-	-	-	3	Surgeons,	2
Wheel-wrights,	-	-	-	3	Comptroller,	2
Cart-wrights,	-	-	-	2	Surveyor,	1
Coopers,	-	-	-	2	Tide-waiters,	2
Sawers,	-	-	-	6	Excise-men,	2
Masons*,	-	-	-	26	School-masters,	2
Tailors,	-	-	-	12	Attorneys,	4
Weavers,	-	-	-	24	Farmers,	10
Shoe-makers,	-	-	-	18	Gardeners,	4
Smiths,	-	-	-	3	Inn-keepers,	2
Nailors,	-	-	-	3	Mantua-makers,	3
Butchers,	-	-	-	9	Scamstresses,	4
Bakers,	-	-	-	3		
					In all,	125
				Carry over,	131	

There are 13 old people living, at present, in Maryburgh, at the following ages :

6 aged 84 years of age.
 1 — 88 —
 3 — 97 —
 2 — 98 —
 1 — 104 —

Died in the parish,

15 years ago, 1 aged 107 years of age.
 11 — 1 — 109 —
 4 — 1 — 102 —
 And last year, 1 — 103 —

Language,

* Good masons, brick-layers, and carpenters, get 1s. 8d. per day. A taylor, and brogue-maker, who goes about for work, receives 10d. a-day, besides victuals, and a common labourer, 1s. But, for this last class, there is not constant work throughout the year; and what he earns, depends upon his own diligence. Where there is not constant work, the rates for day-labourers cannot be fixed; and, of course, it is impossible to ascertain any determinate income, or any certain expence.

Language.—The Gaelic is the mother tongue of the natives; and, it is thought, that in this, and some neighbouring parishes, it is spoken in its greatest purity. Though ~~the~~ Gaelic be the original language, there are very few people, especially of the younger class, who do not understand and speak English. It is remarkable, yet not the less true, that the illiterate Highlander, who is a stranger to every other language but the Gaelic, speaks it more fluently, more elegantly, and more purely, than the scholar^b.

Village.—*Maryburgh*, or *Gordonburgh*, is the only one of note in the parish, and is situated upon the sea shore, south side of Lochcille, within a few yards to the south-west of Fort-William. Anciently, the place where it stands, was called *Ansbiorie-beg*. The village was then built on the ground where the Esplanade is now. It was after the accession of the Prince of Orange to the British throne, that it obtained the name of Maryburgh, in honour of his royal consort. For some time past, it has been indiscriminately called Maryburgh and Gordonburgh, from the family of Gordon, whose property

* The name of almost every place in Caledonia, is derived from the Gaelic; so that it is unnecessary to enumerate many instances. *Corpach*, a place close to the shore, on an angle of Lochcille, is a compound, signifying the *field of corpses*. It is well known, that men of note were anciently interred in Iona. Such as were brought from the north of this parish, were kept in state at Corpach for a night, or perhaps longer. Hence the original of the name. *Ochinish* is another place upon the shore of Lochleven, where the dead, brought from Perthshire, were embarked for the consecrated ground of Iona, and means *a groan*, or deep conflicting sigh of lamentation. Perhaps women were hired to set up the *Cormach*. *Lochaber*, or *Loch-na-capper*, signifies the *Lake of Horns*. Indeed it deserves not the name of lake, being a small pool in the moss of Corpach. The tradition is, that the deer, in the rutting season, fought about this lake, and lost their horns. Hence the whole country has received its name.

perty it is. It is in a thriving way, and with their countenance and patronage, is likely to become a distinguished place.

Fort-William.—Stands upon the south side of a small gulph of that arm of the sea, called Lochailt; where, by the turn of the mountains, it forms itself into an angle, and receives the rivers Lochy and Nevis. It is situated upon a plain, almost level with the sea. Upon the opposite shore, there is another of a much larger extent, upon the same level, which widens, and exceedingly beautifies the prospect. These plains are surrounded with mountains, which were once covered with woods, and are watered with many springs and rivulets.

The fort was first built during the usurpation of *Oliver Cromwell*, by the advice and direction of Monk. It occupied more ground at that time than it does now, and consisted of 2,000 effective troops. Colonel Braym was the first, I believe, who was appointed governor. The fort was then distinguished by the name of the “Garrison of Inverlochy.”—In the time of King William, it was rebuilt, on a less scale, with stone and lime. In the year 1746, it stood a siege of 5 weeks, which commenced 24th February, and was raised 3d April following, with the loss only of 6 men killed, and 24 wounded*. The fort is, by no means, a place of strength. For these two years past, all the men in it have been only a company of invalids. Besides, some years ago, about a fourth part of the wall was undermined, and swept away by the river Nevis: It has ever since been fast going to ruin, and there appears not the most distant prospect of its being repaired. General James Murray is the present governor of the fort; Lord Forbes is deputy-governor; and
Captain

* A journal of the siege, had been kept by one of the officers in the garrison, a copy of which is in the possession of the writer heretof.

Captain Thomas Cochrane, commanding officer. A post-office was established at Fort-William in the year 1764.—There is a mason-lodge; and a jail, in which there have been, in all, since 1781, for various crimes, 48 prisoners, many of them for trivial offences.

Rent and Proprietors.—The valued rent of the parish, is 434l. 14s. 4d. Ster.; the real gross rent, about 5200l.; the lands, rent at 4723 l. 8 s. 11 d.; the salmon fishing, upon the river Lochy, rents at about 230 l.; still water fishing, at 27 l.; houses rent at about 200 l. The following table shows the proprietors in the parish*; their rental, valued and real; and the superiors of whom they hold their lands. The three last reside in it.

	Valuations.	Real Rents.	Superiors.
Mr. Cameron of Lochcille,	L. 250 0 0	L. 1500 0 0	{ Dukes of Argyll and Gordon.
Mr. McLean of Ardgour †,	78 11 1	1663 8 11	{ Duke of Argyll and Crown ‡.
Duke of Gordon,	34 8 10	300 0 0	Crown.
Mr. Cameron of Glenevis,	30 16 8	500 0 0	Duke of Gordon.
Mr. Cameron of Falsfern	30 5 6	660 0 0	{ Dukes of Gordon and Argyll.
Mr. Cameron of Kinlochleven,	10 18 3	100 0 0	Duke of Gordon.
	<hr/> L. 434 14 4	<hr/> L. 4723 8 11	

Improved Value of Land.—Since the year 1764, when sheep were first introduced into the parish, the value of land has augmented considerably;—in general, to triple what it then was. Farms, under long leases, must be excepted. Of these there are only a few, which were granted by the commissioners upon the annexed estates. Where there are but short leases

* Changes of property are not frequent; not above three instances having occurred within these 150 years.

† Ardgour does not hold so much of the Crown, as intitles him to a vote.

leases granted by landlords, improvements will advance very slowly. There are some lands in the parish, which are esteemed high rented.—The great augmentation of rents must be attributed, principally, to the mode adopted, of stocking farms with sheep. They require a smaller number of hands to tend them, than black cattle; can graze in places where these would not venture, and yield a greater produce. This, it will be acknowledged, is a strong temptation to proprietors, who value *money* more than *men*, to encourage sheep-farming *.—There are 93 farms in the parish: The average extent of each, is $6\frac{1}{2}$ square miles; and the average annual rent, about 50 l. Sterling. Of these 93 farms, 54 belong to Locheile, and 18 to Ardour;—and of these last 18, 2 farms rent at 100 l. each; 2 at 260 l. each; and one at 340 l. The lowest at 30 l.

Churches, &c.—There are 9 places of worship in the parish. Besides the established minister, there is a missionary, appointed by the committee for managing his Majesty's royal bounty, who resides at Fort-William, and another, who officiates in the parish once a month. The minister of a mission, in some neighbouring parishes, also resides in Kilmalie, besides a preacher of the gospel. Once a month, a Popish and a Non-juring clergyman, preach within the bounds of the parish.

VOL. VIII.

3 I

The

* A periodical writer has proposed to mingle corn and sheep farms together, in such proportions, that the latter may purchase the fruits of the former. The adoption of this scheme, he thinks, would prevent emigration. In the south of Scotland, such a plan might answer; but, in this parish, it is totally impracticable. For what is the land in tillage, compared to the hill grounds? The vallies could easily be cultivated, but what would then become of the grafs upon the hills? There, the sheep graze all summer and harvest, but must be brought to the straths to feed during winter and spring; and, consequently, very little crop can be reared. The bulk of the people, therefore, must remove, either to towns or villages in the neighbourhood, or out of the country.

The number of members of the Established Church, is 3715, —of Papists, 103,—and of Nonjurors, 407. It is not long, since the number of Papists amounted only to 35. The increase is owing to their flocking into Maryburgh, from the neighbouring countries, when dispossessed of their lands.—Until the year 1779, the living was worth no more than 52 l. 10 s. Sterling annually ; neither was there any allowance made for communion elements ; and even yet, it is only 69 l. 10 s., and 3 l. 6 s. 8 d. for communion elements. There is no manse. The heritors allow, in place thereof, and for deficiency of glebe, the sum of 11 l. 13 s. 4 d. An excellent parish church was built, in the year 1783, which cost 440 l. ; and, last year, another was built, in Maryburgh, by the Duke of Gordon and the inhabitants, that cost somewhat more. The Duke of Argyll has always been reckoned the patron of the parish ; but, it is said, that he has made over his right of patronage to Locheile, with whom the Duke of Gordon disputes it. Principal Campbell, of the University of Glasgow, was predecessor to the present incumbent.

Schools.—The parochial school is at Fort-William ; which, if not the most central place, is at least the most populous in the parish. Here, the languages and mathematics are taught. The number of the scholars, attending, is about 150. The salary is 16 l. 13 s. 4 d. ; which, with the school fees, session-clerk's salary, and the dues for christenings and marriages, will be equal to about 90 l., or 100 l. Sterling annually. Besides this school, there are 5 others, on the establishment of the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. To one of these, they grant a salary of 22 l., and to the rest 12 l. each. There is also a catechist, employed between this and Kilmanivaig parish, with a salary of 12 l. Sterling.

Poor.—The poor of this parish wander about, and beg from door to door, to the grave : For the funds; appropriated to their use, are very inadequate to their necessities, being the Sunday collections, which may amount to something better than 20 l. a-year ; and the interest of 18 l., being donations made, at different times, by the following persons, viz.

Alexander Cameron, tacksmen of Strone,	-	-	L. 10	0	0
Dugald Cameron, tenant at Stronlie,	-	-	3	0	0
James M'Cawl, tenant at Drumerbine,	-	-	3	0	0
John Cameron, tenant at Clachraig,	-	-	1	10	0
John M'Phee, tenant at Glendessary,	-	-	0	10	0
			<hr/>		
			L. 18	0	0

Last year Major Cameron, of Erract, sent to the writer of this article 20 l. Sterling, for the immediate relief of the poor ; and he has since distributed among them upwards of 20 l. more himself. There are no stated times for dividing the poor's money ; and some are relieved oftener than others. If any are reduced to poverty by accident, disease, or calamity, there is an extraordinary collection made for their relief.

COMPARATIVE VIEW

Of the Prices of Provisions, &c. in the years 1771 and 1791.

1771.	1791.
Beef and mutton, per lib. 1½d.	Beef and mutton, 2½d. or 3d.
A goose, 1s. 2d.	A goose, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d.
A hen, from 2d. to 3d.	A Hen, 6d. to 8d.
Butter, per lib. 4d.	Butter, 8d.
Cheese, per stone 2s. 6d.	Cheese, 6d.
Salmon, per lib. 2d.	Salmon, 3d. to 4d.
Eggs, per dozen, 1d.	Eggs, 2d. to 3d.
Potatoes, per peck, (scarce), 6d.	Potatoes, 7d. to 9d.
Barley, per boll. 16s.	Barley, 1l. 1s.
Oats, per boll, 10s.	Oats, 13s. 4d. to 15s.
Coals, per ton, 18s.	Coals, 18s. to 1l.
A boat load of peats, 4s. 6d.	A boat load of peats, 9s. to 12s.
Pork, per lib. 2d.	Pork, 3d.
	A pig, 1l. to 2l.
	A duck, 1s.
	A goat, 5s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.
	A calf, 2s. 6d. to 5s.

Antiquities.—Upon the banks of the river Lochy, on the north side, about 4 miles above Fort-William, there are the remains of an ancient castle, concerning which the M. S. history of the house of Locheile says, “that it was built by the chief of that family, in the reign of Queen Mary.” The probability is, however, that it is of a much more ancient date; and the tradition of the country is, that it was built at the same time with the castle of Inverness. An additional probability, of its being built long before the reign of the unfortunate Mary, is, that *Bancho*, Thane of *Lochaber*, (the ancestor of the royal house of Stewart), had his castle in this neighbourhood; and,

field, a little below the site of Torecastle, there is a most beautiful walk, about a quarter of a mile long, that still retains his name. Along this sweet walk, on the one hand, flows the Lochy; on the other, there is a delightful bank, which is at present planted with fir, and which was then, undoubtedly, covered, with stately wood. There is still remaining, of this building, a wall of 40 or 50 feet, and a vault, almost entire, which could be converted into an excellent cellar. Of old, when fire arms were unknown, it certainly was a very strong place. It stands on the brink of a frightful precipice, at the bottom of which the river forces its passage through rocks, and has been secured on the land side, by a ditch and draw-bridge. The traces of the ditch are still very visible*. On the side of the glen, opposite to the south west part of Benevis, lie scattered in ruins, the last vestiges of a very ancient building, which, in a few years hence, will be entirely demolished, by the

* Out of the face of the rock, on which the ruins stand, grows an aged venerable ash, luxuriant in branches, where a pair of crows had nested, and continued to hatch for a number of years. But, of late, the nest has been overturned, from real wantonness, and its inhabitants scared away.—Many things concur to make this a scene of mixed pleasure and grandeur. Below, there is a black deep gulph, that makes the heart recoil; the roar of the water, foaming and forcing its way amidst rocks, has a wonderful effect upon the mind, while the salmon are seen struggling against its streams. Upon the other side of the river, are beheld lambs skipping along its banks, while the heath is covered with sheep, which inspire pleasantness and gaiety. At some distance, Benevis seems to threaten the neighbouring hills with destruction. Here and there, are seen some plots of arable ground, and the corn changing its colour from green to yellow. The golden rays of the setting sun, glittering on the water, and darting through the green boughs, heighten the picturesque scenery. A few yards farther down the river, there is a small island, that is covered with large ancient fir, where a vast number of herons nestle, whose noise is heard at a considerable distance. A scene in which the heart, the mind, and the imagination, are at once interested, is surely no mean object. Within a few yards of this ruinous castle, the present minister of the parish resides. There are a number of *tumuli* in the parish.

the ravages of all-conquering time. It is forgotten in the annals of fame, and tradition itself, has hardly been able to preserve the name it bore, viz.

Dundhairdghall.—It stands upon the very summit of a green hill, about 400 yards perpendicular in height. The traces of the building are still visible; and the part now remaining runs round the whole top of the hill, (the compass of which is 150 yards), not in any regular form, but following exactly the verge of the steep, so as to command the greatest strength possible. The figure is nearly oval. By its situation upon this elevated spot, it commands part of Mamore, and the whole of Glenevis, and must have been originally intended for a place of defence. This opinion seems to be confirmed by the size of the work, and by its being in sight of the castle of Inverlochry*. Dundhairdghall appears to have been a fort of great antiquity, and not inferior, in this respect, to Inverlochry castle: indeed, of the two, it seems the more ancient. It is thought to have served as an outwork for strengthening that place, when it was a royal residence. Authentic information is upon record, of the kings of Scotland having resided at Inverlochry, in the time of Charles the Great of France: and this need not seem surprising, when we reflect that Scotland was then, most probably, confined within very narrow bounds. Granting the probability of the co-antiquity of these buildings, Dundhairdghall is not less than 1,000 years old. The part of the wall that remains, is no more than from 2 to 4 feet high, and is vitrified all round. As this naturally renders stone more friable, it has probably accelerated the downfall of the building. How the fire has been applied, can be only conjectured.

* Inverlochry castle is within less than 2 miles of Fort-William, but in the parish of Kilmanivaig.

human body.—The last man of genius, born in the parish, whom we shall mention, is Mr. ROBERT GRAY, who bid fair to shine, had he lived; but, being born with a delicate constitution, he literally fell a sacrifice to his thirst for literature. He died at Edinburgh, 6th January 1791*.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The great extent of sea shore has been already mentioned as an advantage to the parish; nor are the mild winters, and the easy communication with other parts of the world, among the least of them. The parish, in general, is well provided with excellent peats, which is the chief fuel that is used. Fort-William, however, is ill supplied with this necessary article. And, indeed, were the duty taken off coals, none who live upon the shore would burn any other fuel. Thus, much time, that is now unavoidably taken up in procuring the article of fire, would be saved; and many hands might be employed in fishing, and other useful occupations, that, at present, are neglected. Another great disadvantage, but not peculiar to this parish alone, is the duty upon salt. There are other inconveniences and disadvantages, that are peculiar to this parish, especially to Fort-William and Maryburgh, but which could be removed without any great expence. Some of these are, the want of a quay, of a regular

* In a few days after, the following character of him appeared in the papers:
 " On Sunday last died here, at the age of 20, Mr. Robert Gray of Lofs, late
 " president of the Royal Medical and Royal Physical Societies, Edinburgh, most
 " sincerely lamented by the whole University. It is difficult to say, whether
 " more admiration was excited by his acquisition in every branch of science, at
 " so early a period, or more love and esteem by the sincerity and disinterestedness
 " of his friendship, joined to the most amiable and engaging manners. The
 " heart-felt grief of his fellow students, who have often been delighted by his
 " eloquence, and instructed by his erudition, is the most unequivocal testimony
 " to his worth, and will long continue to be the most flattering tribute to his me-
 " rit, though it may embitter the loss sustained by his relations."

jeſtured*. Of the æra, hiſtory, and uſe of this place, tradition is totally ſilent. And, in fact, when the hiſtory of Inverlochy caſtle itſelf is involved in ſo much obſcurity and fable, no wonder that its watch-tower ſhould moulder into forgetfulneſs and oblivion†.

Eminent Men.—Of theſe the pariſh has not been wholly barren. In the reign of James I., flouriſhed JAMES CAMERON, a native of this pariſh, who was biſhop of Glaſgow, chancellor of Scotland, and firſt miniſter to that monarch. He was a man of great learning, and a profound ſtateſman‡.—In the reign of Queen Mary, lived JOHN CAMERON, miniſter of Du-
 noon; a perſon of great probity and learning, and father to the “great CAMERON, who was then the moſt famous Proteſ-
 “tant divine living. He paſt his younger years in the Uni-
 “verſity of Glaſgow; and leaving his own country, when he
 “was very young, he arrived at Bourdeaux in 1660, where
 “he was much noticed for his great qualities and progreſs in
 “learning. He taught divinity, for three years, at Lamur,
 “and ſeemed to embrace the opinion of Arminius, in ſupport
 “of which he publiſhed many treatiſes.”—Sir EWEN CAMERON was born in 1629, and died in 1719. Of this gentleman, the author of this article could ſay much, having materials in his hands for ſeveral pages§. JOHN INNES, another native of this pariſh, is well known to the medical ſtudent, by his *Treatiſe on the Muſcles*, and his anatomical tables of the human

* See an account of vitrified forts, publiſhed by Alexander Fraſer Tytler, Eſq.

† Notwithſtanding theſe fragments of ancient fortification, there have been no battles, in this pariſh, of any conſequence; but frequent ſkirmiſhes between the clans, Cameron and M'Intyſh.

‡ Vide Buchanan, b. XI.

§ See a good account of him in Penant's Tour, ſecond edition.

regular weekly market, of good water, of a tannery, of a saw mill, and of a manufactory.

Proposed Improvements.—In stormy weather, vessels, lying at Fort William, are obliged to unmoor, and cross to the opposite shore: where, indeed, there is a pretty safe harbour, and good anchorage, called *Camusnugaul*. This is always attended with additional expence and loss of time, and sometimes the vessels receive damage upon the banks. All this could be avoided, if only 400*l.* were laid out in building a proper quay. But, small as this sum is, the merchants of Fort William are unable to advance it. The Duke of Gordon, who is proprietor of the place, is the only person from whom assistance can be expected. But the necessity, or utility of such a work, has never been represented to him. There is a still greater necessity of establishing at Fort William, a weekly market for butcher meat and other articles. For want of this, people seldom have it in their power to purchase fresh meat; and all winter and spring they feed upon salt provisions. This could be easily remedied, and some of the neighbouring sheep farmers would find it their interest, were they to sell some of their flock to a butcher in the place.

Abundance of good water could easily, and at a small expence, be conducted by pipes. This ought to be done by Government, because the garrison is much worse supplied than the village.—The only objection, against a tannery, is, that there are too few cattle killed in the country, for keeping such a work going. But, then, would it not be an easy matter to import undressed hides, and to tan them here? This is done in other places.—Against the erection of a saw mill, there can be no solid objection. There was one formerly on the river Archaig; but it did not answer the purpose, on account of its distance from the garrison; and was therefore

discontinued. A vast quantity of timber is imported yearly to Fort William, and 6 sawers are constantly employed about it: Whereas a mill would saw more in a few days, than all the 6 would do in a twelvemonth. It should be built upon the Nevis, within a few yards of the foot.

What would be of still greater benefit to this parish, and likewise to all the surrounding countries, would be the establishment of a manufactory of coarse woollen cloth. If nations consider the exportation of raw materials, as one of the greatest disadvantages and misfortunes, is it not to be regretted, that 10,000 stones of wool should be annually exported, from this parish alone, to Liverpool, and other ports of England, whence it is sometimes returned to ourselves, after it is wrought into cloth? Thus the English manufacturer and merchant are enriched by the produce of our country, while hundreds of our own people are idle and unemployed throughout the whole year*.

But the improvement that would be of the greatest advantage to the parish, and indeed to the whole kingdom, would be,

* This extreme *tardiness in improvements* must, in a great degree, be attributed to the want of public spirit, and of liberal sentiments, in many of the landholders; for whose benefit it may not be improper to insert the following lines, composed *extempore*, a few years ago, by a gentleman, a highland proprietor, when at Laurencekirk, on his way to Edinburgh, by way of apostrophe to Lord GARDENSTONE:

" If Rome, from a dirty and mean poultry village,
 " Arose to such grandeur, by plunder and pillage,
 " What may not the Patron of LAURENCEKIRK hope,
 " Before arts and science and industry drop?
 " Had our Lords, or our Lairds, but the half of thy merit,
 " The tenth of thy sense, or the twelfth of thy spirit;
 " Our poor would be rich, and our rich would be great,
 " And quite independent of minions of state."

be, to cut a canal between the west and east seas. Without aid from government, it is too great an undertaking for private individuals. It could easily be accomplished; for there are 3 large lakes intervening, viz. Lochy, Oich, and Ness, where ships of the line might sail. Two miles of dry land are the utmost distance, following the course of the lakes and rivers issuing from them, betwixt Fort William and Inverness. The channels of the rivers would require to be made deeper and wider, and in some places, no doubt, altered entirely. Were this passage opened, the long and dangerous navigation by the Pentland Frith would be avoided.—Another canal, from the head of Lochcille to Loch Sheil, would be of very great advantage to this parish. The distance, between these two lochs, is between 3 and 4 miles of a soft moss. From Loch Sheil a river runs into the sea of about a mile long. The benefit of such a canal would be experienced by all navigators, going from the north to the Clyde; the dangerous point of Ardnarmurchan would not then be dreaded by them.

Manner of living prior to the year 1764.—All the arable ground was carefully cultivated, and sowed, mostly with oats. If the returns were few, the rents were low. Farms were divided into small proportions among the occupants; yet their cattle were grazed in common, every tenant having cattle in proportion to the share of rent which he paid. The cattle were nevertheless appropriated, and each had his own, and their fruits. Besides black cattle, they had a few sheep and goats; out of which, they could, at any time, afford to take part for the use of their families. And, as they had plenty of milk, butter and cheese, and a good deal of oats, they lived very comfortably. In return, they were always ready to perform for their landlords every kind of service. This was rarely an involuntary service. For, when they had the

felicity to have a good master, their attachment to him was strong and ardent. Instances of such are fresh in the memory of many living: and there have been *proprietors, who never removed a tenant; and tenants, who never sought a discharge for their rents.* Landlords, when indulgent, actually possessed all the authority and love of a magistrate, of a protector and a father. In those days, however, the tenants were ill lodged, and as ill clothed.

Manner of living upon Sheep Farms, anno 1791.—The people subsist, as may naturally be expected, in a great measure, upon the offals of the flock. If they live apart, as herds, they have each a stone of oat-meal per week, from the possessor, together with grafs for 2 cows, and 70 sheep; and they may plant as much potatoes, for their own use, as they can cultivate. They live very comfortably, and generally save some money. They are well accommodated in clothes and bedding; which is a consequence of their more extensive commerce with the world, and of the abundance of wool. Travelling the hills, to look after the sheep, is their usual employment; excepting at the smearing and shearing seasons, when they gather them all down to the low grounds, and take them by parcels for these purposes.—Shepherds, who live in their masters houses, have their maintenance, and grafs for 70 sheep, or so. Their allowance and profits are far superior to those of domestic work servants. Their sheep are marked for themselves, and the produce sold commonly with the master's, and at the same price*.

Character.

* Servants are kept, either for tending and managing sheep, or for black cattle. The former are few in proportion: two shepherds are sufficient for any ordinary farm, capable of grazing 1,460 sheep. If they live in their master's house, they have, besides their maintenance, grafs for 70 sheep. If the shepherd be married, and keep a family of his own, he has grafs for a cow, and 80 sheep

Marital Spirit.—Upon the sea coast, the people are fond of a sea-faring life. Their disposition, however, leads them to delight more in the sound of the pipe, and in the clang of arms, than in the majesty of the tempest; thinking it more honourable to serve in the field of Mars, than in the empire of Neptune. By an authentic register, it appears, that, during the war in 1756, Kilmalie and Kilmasivaig parishes, between them, furnished 750 men to the army and navy. It is almost needless to say, that the natives of Lochaber prefer enlisting in Highland regiments; and it is perhaps equally so to mention, what valour and conduct they have displayed, and what glory they have acquired, under prudent commanders. The Legislature would then surely act wisely, by encouraging such a useful and warlike body of men, to remain in their native country. No step, however, has hitherto been taken for that purpose; and the system adopted by the landlords, of farming their estates,

sheep, or thereabout, and a stone of meal per week: All of which are equal to about 20*l.*—If a servant be employed for the purposes of husbandry, and lives by himself, with a family, but ready to answer when called on, to assist in the work of the farm, he is paid as follows:

Graze for 8 cows, valued at	-	-	-	-	L. 2	10	0
Ditto for 20 sheep, valued at	-	-	-	-	2	0	0
Lands for potatoes, &c. valued at	-	-	-	-	1	0	0
Maintenance, when working for his master, valued at	-	-	-	-	3	10	0
Oat-meal, 3 1-half bolls, valued at	-	-	-	-	2	18	4
Cash,	-	-	-	-	5	0	0
					<hr/>		
					L. 16	18	4

He has also the use of his master's horses.

Upon black cattle farms, the wages are something different. Domestic servant men have from 5*l.* to 6*l.*; women, from 5*ov.* to 3*l.* In harvest, or in time of cutting peats, the men have 2*s.* per day, and the women from 6*d.* to 8*d.*, with their dinner.

estates, tends to extirpate and compel them to seek bread in foreign climes. Admitting that they receive employment in the Low Countries, debility and effeminacy would there soon extinguish their heroic spirit and martial ardour.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The greatest height, which any individual in the parish has attained, is 6 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, without shoes and stockings. The general size of the people is 5 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; they are tight and well-built.—There are 2 four wheel chaises, one of them belonging to the vintner at Fort William, which he lets to travellers: There are other 3 kinds of machines of two wheels each; one of these also belongs to the same vintner. There may be about two dozen carts. Sledges are chiefly used in leading home hay and corn. Peats, for the most part, are carried in creels upon horseback.—There are between 80 and 100 boats in the parish. Of these, 60 belong to Maryburgh; where there are also 4 sloops, from 20 to 40 tons, and 1 brig of 200 tons.—There are 8 slated ferries; 5 of which are on the salt water.—Bridges and government roads are in a good state; but the country roads, which are carried on at the expence of the counties, have been, and still are, much neglected. The statute labour is commuted at 6d. per day.—In 1782 and 1783, the parish was remarkably well supplied with provisions. The Duke of Gordon sent two cargoes for its relief, one of pease meal, and the other of potatoes; and the Commissioners of the Annexed Estates sent two more, one of oats and pease, and the other of potatoes.—There are no ale-houses in the parish, but many whisky retailers. Indeed they are so numerous, that they are a nuisance, and tend, very much, to encourage idleness, and to corrupt the morals of the people. In Fort-William there are two inns; and, in almost every other house in Maryburgh, whisky is sold.—There are 4 students attending universities.—The prevailing

prevailing name in the parish is *Cameron*.—There have been two instances of suicide *.

NUMBER

* The following character of the people, drawn up by a friend of the incumbent's, does not seem to err, on, what is too commonly the case, the side of partiality; and it is therefore given, as in general the clergy are accused of having transmitted accounts, rather too favourable, of the manners and morals of their parishioners.

Character of the People.—" They are sometimes accused of being given to change; but many instances of steady and unshaken friendship are not wanting. In professions of kindness they are profuse; and their sincerity, in general, is more to be depended on, than is usual on such occasions. They are inquisitive, but (more especially after having had the advantage of some intercourse with the world at large), distinguished by the politeness of their manners, and the insinuation of their address: Fond of sauntering in idleness, but less addicted to a roving life than heretofore: Though poor, inclined to indolence; and though naturally sagacious and intelligent, yet not in general learned: Less revengeful and implacable than formerly, and, now, more disposed to determine matters by litigation, than by arms; family dissensions imbitter not their lives, as in the feudal times: Impatient of restraint; yet, when under a proper leader, in whom they have confidence, invincible by fatigue, cold, or hunger: Intrepid, equal to any race of men ever known, in the midst of the greatest dangers: Less hospitable than of old, (indeed the old exertions of hospitality are not now so necessary as formerly;) but when feasts are prepared, the cheer is good: Spirited in a high degree to promote works of public utility: Charitable and willing to relieve the distressed, as far as their circumstances will admit of: Though no strangers to the power and influence of religion, yet rather apt to undervalue its holy ordinances: Fond of spirituous liquors, yet seldom habitual drunkards: They deserve praise for their continence; but are rather addicted to swearing.—These are some of the predominant traits; and though there must be a great variety of character among 4,225 persons, yet there are, in this district, no inconsiderable proportion of persons, distinguished by their generosity, humanity, disinterestedness, benevolence, hospitality, temperance, piety, and religion."