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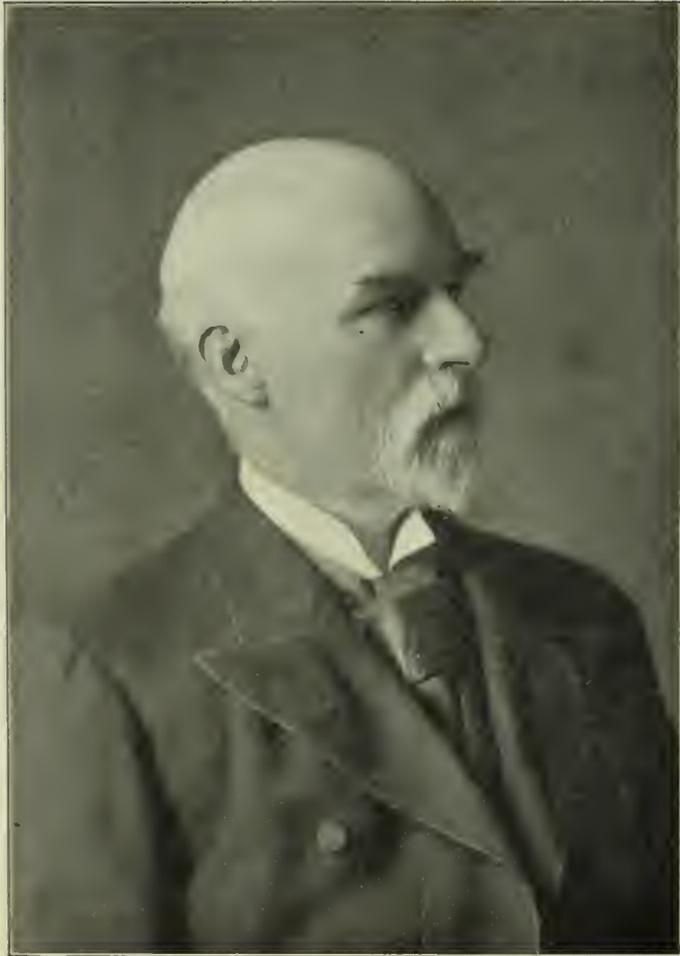
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A
HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF NEILSTON.



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*Yours sincerely
David Priddy.*

A
HISTORY
OF THE
PARISH OF NEILSTON.

BY
DAVID PRIDE, M.D., J.P.

With a Map and Seventeen Illustrations.

PAISLEY: ALEXANDER GARDNER,
Publisher by Appointment to the late Queen Victoria.

1910.

718004

“ Go, little book, God send thee good passage,
And specially let this be thy prayre
Unto them all that thee will read or hear,
Where thou art wrong, after their help to call,
Thee to correct in any part or all.”

—*Chaucer.*

P R E F A C E.

THE many and great changes that have taken place in the parish of Neilston in recent years have been such as to render the information contained in the different historical accounts now extant very misleading, and in many particulars quite incorrect. The public works described as flourishing at the time the accounts were written, have in many instances now ceased to exist altogether, and new forms of labour and enterprise, in which the parish has taken a forward part, are altogether unrecorded. Properties have changed hands, noble and illustrious proprietors, once large holders of land, have ceased to be possessors in the parish where they at one period flourished, and industries unheard of at the date of the latest of the former records, have brought new men and new business into prominence; whilst by the union of several small hamlets, unimportant places a few years ago, what was lately the town, now the Burgh, of Barrhead, has become a busy centre of industry and influence; and the spread of various railway systems throughout the parish has brought the whole community into closer touch with the outside world and its affairs.

For these and other reasons, the writer has thought good, whilst not neglecting or leaving unconsidered the landmarks of the past, to put on record, however imperfectly, the following statements bearing upon the conditions of the parish as they present themselves at this date.

The objects aimed at have been to trace succinctly the origin of the parish and its people from the earliest periods to the present times; to describe the progress and advancement that have been made socially, politically, and economically, and, with the changes, to indicate the vast improvements everywhere visible in these respects.

It has also been the writer's aim, as far as is compatible with the character of the book, to consider the Archæology and Antiquities of the parish, and preserve some record of such of the ancient mansions as are fast passing away under the corroding influences of time and neglect. In connection with the earlier of these studies, an endeavour has been made to trace the origin—or “whence?”—of the numerous Place-Names that have come down through the ages to us attached to the great, though familiar, outstanding landmarks of the parish—a record, in short, of things old and new as affecting the parish and the community.

To friends from whom the writer has received help and guidance, he desires to express his grateful thanks, and though, for the most part, he has refrained from adding foot-notes of the several works consulted, yet he gladly acknowledges both the authors and the works he has been indebted to for valuable information, and from which he has frequently made extracts, and without which, in short, the book could not have been written.

In closing this record of an ancient parish, there comes the forceful presentiment that its rural conditions are silently, but surely, undergoing change. Public opinion, which quite recently was little more than *in embryo*, is now so rapidly expanding, that, ere many decades pass, the simple customs, frugal habits, and kindly manners that characterised the earlier and more primitive people, will have largely passed away, giving place to more strenuous and exacting conditions. For good, or otherwise, many things are contributing to this end, and nothing will stay it, even were it desirable to do so.

No one is more sensible than the writer of a certain want of sequence or continuity in the work. But this was to some extent almost unavoidable from the fact that it was written at spare intervals as opportunity presented during the arduous practice of a country professional life.

Subjoined is a list of the works which have been referred to, and which represent the literature of the subject.

Crawfurd's *History of Renfrewshire*.
 Church's *Early Britain*.
 Munro's *Story of the British Race*.
 Cochran-Patrick's *Mediæval Scotland*.
 Hume's *History of England*.
 Mackay's *History of Scotland*.
Encyclopædia Britannica, Edit. IX.
 Chalmers' *Caledonia*.
 Monteath's article "Neilston," in Sir
 John Sinclair's *Statistical Account of
 Scotland*.
 Fleming's article "Neilston," in *New
 Statistical Account of Scotland*.
Gazeteer of Scotland.

Pitcairn's *Trials, Scotland*.
 Isaac Taylor's *Names and Places*.
Caldwell Papers.
Eglinton Papers.
 M'Phail's "Levern Valley," *Trans. Geol.
 Society*.
 Taylor's *The Levern Delineated*.
 Mitchell's *History of the Highlands*.
 Smith's *Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire*.
 Huxley's *Physiography*.
 Metcalfe's *History of County of Renfrew*.
 Henderson's *Norse Influence in Scotland*.
 Semple's *Poll Tax Roll*.

And Mr. Taylor, ex-curator of Paisley Museum, who contributes the chapter on Botany.

D. P.

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A

HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF NEILSTON.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY HISTORY.

As in the earliest history of an ancient country or race the beginnings are lost in the mists and uncertainties of the past, so it is with the earliest history of any particular community; and it is not until long after the dawn is passed and the people have emerged from their primitive and aboriginal surroundings, when to some extent they have begun to assert themselves, that history comes to deal with them; recognising their doings and recording their relations according as they interact upon themselves and affect their neighbours.

In this respect the history of the parish, and of the town from which it takes its name, is no exception to the general law.

The Parish of Neilston, like the county of which it is an integral part, was originally included in the ancient kingdom of Strathclyde; "a kingdom formed by the Britons during the inter-tribal battles and strife that followed upon the withdrawal of the Romans from Britain in 407 A.D." These Britons were, as their name indicates, a Celtic people. They entered the British Isles from the Continent at a very early but uncertain period.

The River-drift and Cave-men were the earliest human inhabitants of the British Isles, and they are only traceable by their relics. They are also known as the Palæolithic men, or men of the Ancient Stone Age. Judged by their skeletal remains, they appear to have been a short, sturdy people, with long, narrow heads, depressed or low at the crown, strong ridgy eye-brows, prominent muzzle-like mouths, and very little chin.

They had no domestic animals, not even the dog, that almost constant companion of savage man. They wandered hither and thither as chance of food impelled them, sheltering under overhanging rocks or in the mouths of caves, or camping in the open air.

It is a matter of conjecture with anthropologists whether this people, like the animals they hunted and lived on, became extinct, or whether they were to some extent absorbed by the race that followed them. They do not appear to have had canoes or any means of crossing streams or water, and probably reached this country while there was yet a land connection with the Continent, and therefore before the Channel, the "silver strand" that separates these islands from the Continent, was formed.

The Iberians, another very ancient race, were, it is believed, the successors to these primitive peoples in our islands. At one period they appear to have spread all over the West and South-west of Europe, and even to Berber in North Africa, whence they are sometimes spoken of as the Berber race. They were non-Aryan and spoke a non-Aryan tongue—traces of which, philologists say, are still discoverable in the British language. They were taller than their predecessors, having an average height of about 5 ft. 5 in. Their heads were oval-shaped, their eyes very dark, their skin swarthy, and their hair black. Slim and agile in body, they were alert and active hunters. They had some knowledge of the earlier rudiments of civilization, could weave a kind of cloth, and make a coarse kind of pottery, the ornamentation of which, simple, wavy, dotted or zig-zag lines, indicates the beginnings of art. The later members of this people, however, as evidenced by some of their relics, exercised a much higher degree of art. They were already in possession of the more common cereals, and practised a rude kind of agriculture, and had domesticated animals. They possessed, however, no knowledge of metals, and therefore, of all their implements, the stone axe, in making which they evinced great dexterity, was perhaps the most important. They made dug-out canoes from the trunks of trees, by the aid of which they probably had reached our shores from the continent of Europe. Their system of sepulture was to bury their dead in a crouching or sitting position in chambers, a very interesting series of which may be seen just across the border of the parish at Cuff Hill in the parish of Beith. "They are part of a cairn (originally a long barrow and as such probably unique, second in interest only to the Cave Cairn on Strawarren in Ballantrae district) that exists near the south-

east base of Cuff Hill. In 1810, when the parish road was being formed near it, it was considered a convenient quarry for road metal, and as it was being removed, two rows of stone Cists, with human remains, were laid bare. Public curiosity was excited, and a stop was put to its demolition. At the same time the rest of the Cairn was partly explored, with the result that three Cromlechs or Cistvaen, and other features of interest, were found. These ancient graves having been left open, can still be examined. Two of the Cromlechs have still got their table stones in position, whence the popular mind has come to associate them with caves. Both of them are 3 feet wide, and one of them is at least 3 feet deep. The other Cromlech has had the top stone removed, for there are two massive stones beside it, that may have covered it. One of the massive cheek-slabs, a lime-stone one, of this Cromlech, is over 8 feet long. This Cist is 3 feet 6 inches wide at one end, and 1 foot 9 inches at the other, the depth being 3 feet 9 inches. The original size of the Cairn was 153 feet by 59 feet by 13 feet high. About thirty yards of it still remain.”¹

The Gauls, a Celtic people, so named by Cæsar, would appear to have been the next people, in the order of racial succession, to invade our shores. Their original home is said to have extended over a great part of Central Europe. They are supposed to have reached our country in the ninth century before Christ. They were altogether a superior people to any of their predecessors, and brought with them a knowledge of metals. They used bronze weapons instead of stone, which no doubt greatly aided them in their conflicts with their Iberian predecessors. They seem to have been a comparatively tall people, their average height being about 5 feet 9 inches. They had broad heads, capacious skulls, white skin, fair hair, and blue eyes, with large and strong limbs. They belonged to the great Aryan family of nations, and spoke an Aryan language, which at a later period we shall find their descendants bringing back from Ireland into Scotland, on the establishment of the Dalriadic colony. Their language, according to some, became also the tongue of Pictland. They are sometimes spoken of as the “Men of the Bronze Age,” from the fact that they were the first to introduce a knowledge of bronze into the country. To them also we owe the cranogs and lake-dwellings, and possibly many other pre-historic structures.

¹ J. Smith : *Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire.*

The Britons or Brythons, another branch of the Celtic stock, appeared on our shores four or five centuries before the present era, in succession to the Gauls. Spreading from the south-east part of our island, where they probably first landed, they had become, by the time of Cæsar's invasion, a "great multitude." They seem to have extended northward and westward, possessing the country as they advanced. Like the Gauls, they spoke a dialect of the Celtic tongue, which at a later period developed into Welsh. More advanced in knowledge than any of their predecessors, they possessed weapons of iron, and had a practical understanding of agriculture and of growing of cereals, which we are told they continued to exercise, their predecessors, whom they certainly did not entirely destroy, maintaining themselves for the most part by pasturing their herds and flocks. It was probably during the predominance of this people, and from them, that our country obtained the name of Britain. They, with their predecessors, the Gauls, are sometimes spoken of as the Megalithic race, from the gigantic structures they are supposed to have left in the several countries they inhabited; the great circle of Avesbury in Wiltshire, Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain, and the many smaller circles, pillar stones, or maenhirs and trilithons to be found among the hills of our own country under the name of Druid Circles and Altars. The religion of the Britons was the Druid system, and no idolatrous worship ever attained such ascendancy over its followers. Our country at this period was covered with dense forest, in the groves and secret recesses of which their priests practised their occult rites and ceremonies. War was more or less the constant occupation of the different tribes, and as human sacrifice was part of their system of offerings, the captives taken in war as well as slaves were frequently devoted as sacrifices to their gods.

The Picts were divided into the northern and southern Picts. The former dwelt in the Lowlands north of the Forth. The others are said to have occupied the country immediately to the north-east of the Forth, but were probably confined to Galloway and certain districts between the walls built by the Romans. According to Skene, they were of Celtic origin, and spoke the Goidelic dialect. According to Professor Rhys, they were the descendants of the old Iberian race, who had adopted the Goidelic dialect, and were ultimately merged into the Celtic population. The name Picts—Pictus—a painted man, was applied by the Romans to such of the tribes as painted and tattoed their bodies with woad and other pigments.

The Scots came from Ireland, and landed on the west coast of Scotland about the beginning of the fifth century. They founded the kingdom of Dalriada in Argyllshire, and thence spread over a number of the western isles and along the shores of Ayrshire, and probably to the Solway. After much fighting, their king, Kenneth II., in 843, subdued the Picts. In 1018, under Malcolm II., they conquered the Angles of Bernicia, made the Tweed their southern boundary, and gave to the whole of the country the name of Scotland.

Mere lust of conquest may, to some extent, have prompted the aggressive inroads of these savage peoples, but the necessity for expansion may have been the result of some economic law. The Aryan stock were a prolific people; the land in the east had already been exploited by the Asiatic, and consequently the south and west alone remained into which they could overflow. What probably took place at these several incursions upon our shores would be something like what Cæsar tells us he experienced when he landed in South Britain. The people in possession would offer the most strenuous resistance in their power to each aggressor, but superior weapons and discipline, better generalship and leading, would ultimately prevail. The natives, forced to give way, would for a time fall back into the forests and mountain fastnesses of the land, and doubtless many would fall in battle. But the necessity is not implied, as is too readily assumed, that the native people were hunted down, and annihilated root and branch. On the contrary, there is sufficient reason for believing that the older people, slowly emerging from their places of retreat, made friends with their new masters, and through various ways and expedients, became gradually absorbed by them. The conquered would, in process of time, be admitted to the protection of the chief or headman of the tribe, for body service, thirled as a serf or bondsman, possibly to work out his liberty or freedom, and ultimately, no doubt, closer unions would be formed through the medium of inter-marriage. Some such solution as this of the question of racial survival is almost predicted by daily experience, as, excepting possibly the River-drift and Cave men, representatives of the various other peoples are to be met with among the inhabitants of the different parts of our country at the present day. The persistence of the Jewish type, through the ages, shows us that racial characteristics are not readily lost.

CHAPTER II.

INVASION BY THE ROMANS.

THE Romans, under the command of the famous General, Caius Julius Cæsar, invaded our shores 55 B.C., and with that event begins the recorded history of our country. A large part of Scotland is said to have been travelled through six centuries before that date by Pytheas, a native of Massila, the modern Marseilles. But his narrative having been lost, his opinions are only known through quotations by other writers. Cæsar's operations were confined mostly to the south-east of Britain, and therefore do not so much concern us. It is not until the arrival of Agricola, 79 A.D., that the veil is lifted, and we get an authentic glimpse of the geographical and ethnological conditions of Northern Britain. This famous commander, having finished his campaign in the south, marched in person from Wales, to subdue the northern tribes, who were giving trouble. He was the first commander to lead the legions of Rome across the border into what is now Lowland Scotland. In the course of his progress northward, he found the country along the western shores inhabited by several native tribes, and an account of them is given by Tacitus, his son-in-law, who was also his biographer. On reaching the district which is now Renfrewshire, on his way to the great ford across the Clyde, Agricola found it "inhabited by the Goidelic Dumnonians (except in the east, where, in the Mearns, as the name implies, was a tribe or clan or settlement of Mæatae). The Dumnonians were related to the Damnonians of Cornwall and Devon, who were probably their superiors in the arts of civilization, in consequence of their more frequent intercourse with foreigners."¹ The inhabitants here named Dumnonians by the Romans were Goidels, *i.e.*, Gaels, and we are given a description of them by their historian, as they were found on his arrival amongst them. They were a rude, uncivilized, very barbarous, yet brave and warlike people, living mostly on the milk of their flocks, wild fruits, and the flesh of such animals as they captured in hunting. They do not,

¹ Metcalfe's *History of Renfrewshire*, p. 13.

however, seem to have lacked courage, as they are said to have been very hostile. No doubt they would give strenuous and stubborn resistance to the invader of their territory at first; in fact, we are left in no doubt of this, as Tacitus informs us that, on the part of the Romans, the struggle with them was at first for existence, and afterwards for conquest; adding, that the Britons exhibited such fierceness, that even a long peace had not softened them. During the occupation of the district by the Romans, no doubt the native tribes in their vicinity would be held in a state of comparative subjection, but as they were the most tolerant of conquerors, the restraint may have been compatible with considerable freedom.

The Picts from beyond the Clyde and Forth line would appear to have given the Roman invaders a great deal of trouble by their harassing raids. So much so, indeed, as to subsequently necessitate the erection of a fort on what is now Oakshaw Hill, Paisley, to protect their camp, and a great wall, the Wall of Antonine, across the isthmus between these rivers (the remains of which may be seen to the present day), in order to keep them within their northern boundaries. These border Picts are spoken of as being naked, painted, and tattooed, after the manner of the New Zealander in later times, with representations of animals, etc., and the Romans seem never to have succeeded in conquering them. The Picts appear to have lived in the rudest of houses, little better in many instances than holes excavated in the ground; or rude huts, erections of wattle and clay; or shelters scooped out of the hillsides; weems or earth-houses, as they have been named.

In connection with these primitive dwellings, it is interesting to note that quite a group, a town indeed, of such was discovered in our neighbourhood little over a hundred years ago in quarrying near the site of the Castle of Williamwood in the parish of Cathcart. A description of this interesting discovery is given in the *New Statistical Account*, which I here copy:—

“In removing the earth from the quarry, a great many subterraneous houses were discovered, ranged round the slope of a small swelling hill. Each house consisted of one apartment from eight to twelve feet square. The sides, which were from four to five feet high, were faced with rough undressed stones, and the floors were neatly paved with thin flag-stones, which are found in the neighbourhood. In the centre of each floor was a hole scooped out as a fireplace, in which coal-ashes still remained and seem to indicate that their occupiers had left the place on a sudden. That coal and not wood or peat had been employed as fuel,

seemed at first an argument against the antiquity of the houses, until it was remembered that many seams of coal crop out on the steep banks of the river in the immediate vicinity, which may have been picked out for firing by the aboriginal inhabitants, as is still done to a limited extent by a few of the poorer classes in the neighbourhood. Near the fireplaces were found small heaps of water-worn pebbles, from two to three inches in diameter, the use of which it is difficult to conjecture. They may have been used as missiles for attack or defence in the rude warfare of ancient days, or more probably they served the purpose of an equally rude system of cooking, by which meat was prepared for being eaten by heated stones placed round it as is still done in many of the South Sea Islands. . . . The number of huts discovered amounted to forty-two, of which thirty-six formed the arc of a lower and larger circle, and the remaining six, also circularly ranged, stood a little higher up the hill. . . . If the natives of the village described above, deserted their homes hastily, as may be conjectured from the fact of the fuel remaining on their hearths, it may have been in terror of the Romans, one division of whose invading army must have passed not far from the place. About twelve querns or hand-mills were found near the site of these houses, and a grave lined with stone, containing a rude urn filled with ashes and human bones, which the discoverer avers were of almost super-human magnitude. To the great loss of antiquarian science, these houses were unfortunately destroyed.”¹

As has already been stated, during the inter-tribal strife that followed the withdrawal of the Roman legions from our island, 407 A.D., the tribes of Britons, rallying to each others support, succeeded in establishing the independent kingdom of Strathclyde or Cumbrae. This kingdom extended at one period from the Clyde—where its existence is still witnessed to by the islands of the Cumbraes—along the western shore between the Pennine Range and the coast, as far as the Ribble in Lancashire. Rydderick Hael, the great king of the Britons, a prince of liberal sentiments and great valour, reigned over it in the zenith of its power, 573 A.D., his “strong city” or capital being fixed at Alclyde, the “Rock of Dumbarton,” or fortress of the Britons; and as this kingdom includes the Dumnonian Britons who occupied the tract of country that long afterwards became the County of Renfrew, it possesses for us more than an ordinary interest.

¹ Rev. Jas. Smith : *Strathgryfe or Strathclyde*.

Concurrently with the growth of the kingdom of Strathclyde in the west, its great rival, the Anglian kingdom of Northumbria, was gaining strength and power on the eastern shore of the island, and during a war of encroachment on the part of the latter, under their king, Ethelfrid, what is now modern Wales, was separated from the Strathclyde Britons, and the Northumbrian kingdom reached the western shore. At this time the island of Mona, which had always been held in sacred respect as a holy isle, by both Druid and Christian Britons, had its name changed to Anglesey, the island of the Angles, and Strathclyde for a period was itself reduced to the condition of a subject province. The venerable Bede informs us that the Anglians established a bishopric thus early at Whithorn, "Candida Casa," which continued till 803 A.D., and adds, "The island (of Britain) at the present time (750 A.D.) contains five nations, the Angles, Britons, Scots, Picts, and Latins, and that the Latin tongue by the study of the Scriptures had become common to all."

The decline of the Northumbrian kingdom in the eighth century afforded Strathclyde the opportunity of again asserting its independence; and within the restricted limits nearly answering to the valley of the Clyde, it continued to maintain this condition until its union with the greater kingdom of Scotland.

The Britons of Strathclyde we thus see were a persistent and indomitable people. Not only had they survived the Roman occupation with all its vicissitudes, but had also successfully maintained the struggle for independence against the aggressions of their great rivals, the Saxons and Angles. This protracted independence—for it continued for two hundred years after the conquest of the other provinces in the lowlands—had an enduring influence upon the language, the place names of the West of Scotland and Renfrewshire being rich in Celtic derivatives.

The Strathclyde Britons were, moreover, a people of tall stature and powerful build; and there is reason for thinking that their influence in these particulars can still be traced in the people of our own day in the south and west of Scotland, and even among their kindred people in Wales, into which they numerously emigrated during the pressure of the Angles on the east, and the Irish Scots on the west.¹ The character given of them by Tacitus, "that they were a warlike people," still continued

¹ Munro: *British Race*.

to distinguish them, and in 912, during the wars that followed the M'Alpine succession, they carried the tide of battle against the enemy in the north, as far as Dunblane, which they burned. Their kingdom, still unconquered, became absorbed by union with Scotland, first under Malcolm, King of Scots, but finally and permanently when their prince ascended the Scottish throne as King David I.; thus terminating their independence as Strathclyde by giving their prince to Scotland as its king, 1124 A.D. In the later years of the protracted military occupation of the district of the Dumnonians by the Roman legions, there would appear to have subsisted a quite friendly relationship between them and the native Britons, which could only have been engendered by a certain mutual confidence as between rulers and ruled. For after the withdrawal of the Romans, we find a section or tribe of the latter boasting themselves, with evident pride of descent, as "Roman-Britons," and claiming to have descended from the Roman rulers. They were, probably, the Clyde Britons.

Notwithstanding the length of time the Romans occupied their camp or fort on Oakshawhill, Paisley, and its proximity to what is now our parish, I am not aware of any evidence to show that they were ever resident in the parish itself, though from its salubrious surroundings, as a health station, such may have been the case. With the Britons it is different; they have not gone without having left evidence of their former occupancy in numerous ways; in the stature of the subsequent race; in the place-names in the parish and county; in the geographical names of the islands of the Clyde; and in the valour and courage they have transmitted to their successors throughout the ages.

At the battle of the Standard, for instance, it is the opinion of the ablest critics that the brave tribesmen who fought for King David I. under the name of the "Levernanii," were the men of Lavernside (the sons of the noisy stream), drawn from Neilston parish. Such is the opinion of Chalmers and Hailes. And when Walter the Steward summoned the stout men of Strathclyde to his standard to aid in repelling the invasion of Somerled, "Lord of the Isles," when he sailed up the Clyde and landed at Renfrew, 1164 A.D., they would doubtless again be in the field fighting for hearth and home; and at the battle of Largs, in 1263 A.D., when it became necessary to hurl back the invading host under Haco, the men of Renfrewshire and Neilston parish were there, and a Mure of the Caldwell family was a leader. Then, on that

ever memorable day in the year 1314, when the fate of Scotland's independence was to be finally decided, when the High Steward of Scotland again summoned the men of Renfrewshire, his own particular district, to the support of the royal Bruce, there can be no doubt that the stalwart men of the Levern valley responded to the call, and on the glorious field of Bannockburn upheld their own traditional honour, and the honour of their country, in that fateful struggle for national freedom.

We have thus seen that the men of Strathclyde were of heroic mould. But they were also men of intellectual stamina, and the two most outstanding missionary saints of the early Christian Church, St. Ninian, the apostle of the Southron Picts, and St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, were natives of Strathclyde; whilst St. Mungo of the Celtic Church, the apostle of the Britons, spent his life amongst them. † But if Ireland was indebted to us for her great patron saint, born at Kilpatrick on the Clyde, she amply repaid the debt by giving us in return the apostle of the Scots and northern Picts, St. Columba, who, coming *de Scotia ad Britanniam*, bore the torch of Christian enlightenment into the dark regions of the Western Isles and the northern Highlands. Nor is the region of romance unrepresented by this remarkable people. Arthur of "heroic valour" and "Round Table" fame was also a prince of the Britons, who, after his campaign in Ayrshire, may have passed through our parish on his way to the Lennox, leaving as a relic some connection with the Arthurlie at Barrhead. We thus learn that the territorial ancestors of the people of Renfrewshire and the parish of Neilston, as an integral part, were no mean race, but brave, hardy, and intellectual, according as we view them in their different phases of progressive civilization, and that during their long occupancy (for, as already shown, they were a persistent people) they passed through many vicissitudes and took part in many bold enterprises.

In the opinion of many people, much that has been written in this chapter may be considered as having little to do with the history of the parish. But as the character and genius of a people can often only be traced by a knowledge of their ancestry, an inquiry into that ancestry must have an important bearing on any question relating to them; and therefore, as Chalmers has well said, "in every history it is of the greatest importance to ascertain the origin of the people whose rise and progress it is proposed to investigate." For as there is no adequate reason for thinking that these brave peoples were ever exterminated, but on the contrary, were gradually absorbed, they must

have exercised a permanent influence upon their successors throughout the slow but progressive development through which the country has passed.

ORIGIN OF THE COUNTY OF RENFREW.

Up till the beginning of the fifteenth century, what is now the County of Renfrew was wholly included in the County of Lanark; and from a very early period what is now the western or lower division of the County, was known as Strathgryfe. But on December 10, 1404, King Robert III., as all the lands were holden of him, caused the baronies of Renfrew, Cunningham, and Kyle Stewart in Ayrshire, his possessions as Earl of Carrick, and the islands of Arran, Bute, and Cumbræ, and other lands, to be erected into a free regality,¹ and afterwards into a principality, for James, his son, the heir-apparent, under the title of Prince and Steward of Scotland. This title the Prince of Wales, as heir-apparent to the British Crown, still enjoys, with all the benefits attaching thereto. About ten years later, somewhere between August 7, 1413, and August 12, 1414, Renfrew ceased to be a barony, and was erected into a shire.²

¹ Alloa MS., p. 7.

² Metcalfe's *History of Renfrewshire*, p. 77-8.

CHAPTER III.

THE PARISH.

IN Scotland equally with England, the division of the land into parishes would appear to have been of ecclesiastical origin, forming probably in both countries the sub-divisions of the diocesan territory of a bishop, connected with the particular church of the established religion, for the support of which tithes within the boundary would be allocated; and there is reason to believe this division, so far at least as Scotland is concerned, took place about the beginning of the thirteenth century. But it is obvious that before a township could become the centre of a parochial district requiring such ecclesiastical supervision, the people must have advanced a long way on the road to civilization.

I am not aware of any record as to the precise period at which the division into parishes took place in this county, although it was probably about the time of King David I. There may, however, have been some recognised territorial division at a much earlier date, as Abbot Ailred, in describing the success of Saint Ninian's preaching among the Picts of Galloway, among other things represents him as ordaining priests, consecrating bishops, conferring the other dignities of ecclesiastical orders, and finally dividing the whole land into parishes—*totam terram per certas parochias dividere*. (Apud Pinkerton, *Vit. Sanct. Scot.*, p. 11; *Origines Parochiales Scotiæ*, p. 20.) But too much importance is not to be attached to this statement, as the word *schira* is often equivalent to parish in church records. (*Idem.*)

But it is quite in harmony with their ecclesiastical origin, that the earliest notice we have of Neilston is in connection with the Church. In 1163, Walter, the great High Steward of Scotland, founded the Abbey of Paisley. This Walter was the great-grandson of the first Stewart, *i.e.*, of Alan Dapifer or Steward of Dol, in France, and son of Allan, who, in accordance with the customs of the period, had gone on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, *circa* 1097. His family had received marked distinction from the ruling kings of the time, and he had been appointed steward of the royal household, with large grants of land,

Kyle in Ayrshire, and Strathgryfe, the ancient barony of Renfrew, etc. This Walter seemed to have found great favour in the eyes of King David I., who, for "signal though unstated services," advanced him to be "Senescallus Scotiæ" (Lord High Stewart of Scotland). From this office the family assumed the surname of Stewart. The founding of the Abbey in Paisley naturally exercised a great influence over the surrounding country, which ultimately reached the parish of Neilston, for by the early part of the thirteenth century, the church of Neilston belonged to the Abbey of Paisley. Robert De Croc Lord de Neilston of a very ancient family, which possibly came to this country with Walter the Steward, and designated of Crockston and Darnley, would appear to have held some right in the church property. This claim he however renounced, and all right to patronage, in the presence of Walter the High Steward, in favour of the monks of Paisley, *pro salute animæ suæ*—for the safety of his soul.

In addition to the Croc family, it would appear that Walter the High Steward gave the lands of Levern to Henry de Nes, but there is little subsequent reference made to this settlement. He was one of the Steward's retainers.

THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME.

The origin of the name Neilston has given rise to a good deal of controversy, but it does not seem to have resulted in anything more definite than has always been traditionally the opinion of the "oldest inhabitants," namely, that it owes its origin to an officer or commander of the name of Neil, who, having been killed in the vicinity, had a cairn or stone erected to his memory, as was the custom of the age when commemorating the death of venerated leaders; a custom common enough throughout Scotland, especially in the north and west; and fine specimens of such may be seen in the neighbourhood of Roy Bridge, and other places in the West Highlands, as relics of the days of the clansmen.

It is, of course, open to the explanation that the name may have been derived from some person of the name of Neil, who first began to lay off property, for farm or other building, in the neighbourhood, as it was and is still quite customary to call a property or hamlet by the name of its first or principal proprietor. This would quite, orthographically, account for the name Neilston. In point of fact, this has been the case in other parts of our immediate neighbourhood, where what is now part of

Barrhead, but which until within a few years ago stood as a hamlet by itself, and was named Grahamston, from the name of the proprietor on whose land the properties were first built.

This is the view favoured by the late Rev. Dr. Fleming, of Neilston, in his contribution to the *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, and that also of the Rev. John Menteth, sometime minister of the parish, in his account of it in Sir John Sinclair's *Statistical Account of Scotland*, in which he says:—"It is originally supposed that the names of such parishes as end in the syllable 'town' or 'ton,' are derived from proper names. Perhaps some person of the name of Neil had either fixed his residence, or having been killed in battle, had a stone erected on his grave." Either circumstance might occasion the name Neilstown or Neilston, being given to the district. Doubtless, these conditions would meet the necessities of the case, but there is something to be said in favour of the stone theory.

Crawfurd, in his *History of Renfrewshire*, referring to the tradition of such a stone, says:—"They report that in ancient times a battle was fought (I suppose about the year 1012), where Malcolm II. killed Grimus or Duff,¹ his predecessor, in battle, when an officer called Neil, being one of the leaders of the army, had the hard fate to be there slain. He was buried at a place called Kirkton, where a stone was set to perpetuate his memory; which stone was afterwards called Neil's stone. And from that the place was called Neilston," and adds that "the stone is still standing." Before proceeding further with this argument, I would draw attention to the fact that the "Good King Duncan," whose murder by Macbeth forms the groundwork of Shakespeare's great tragedy of that name, was the grandson and successor to the throne of Scotland, to this King Malcolm II. incidentally introduced into the narrative by Crawfurd.²

At the top of the first rise on Kingston Road, known as "Cross-stane-Brae," about three hundred yards outside the town to the south-west, tradition has it—and in such matters this is often the only kind of evidence forthcoming, not, however, to be despised on that account—that within the memory of men of the last century, there was a "standing stone" at the roadside with a history, an important stone, no less than the name "stone" of our town and parish. For it had in some way got to be connected with the origin of the name of the town, and was believed to indicate the vicinity of a burial tumulus raised over one Neil, a chief

¹ *Ency. Brit.*

² *Ency. Brit.*, Edition IX.

who had been killed at a very early period in a skirmish or battle in the neighbourhood. Of the existence of the stone on the roadside, there is no reasonable doubt; the writer had the pleasure of talking with a venerable acquaintance who quite well remembered seeing it in his youth. But it is not to be overlooked that as the rising ground on which it stood is designated the Cross-stane-brae, and it is well known that during early Catholic times devotional crosses were erected by the wayside in country districts to arrest the traveller's attention, it is within the scope of the possible that the stone referred to may have been the base and shaft or some such relic of a pre-Reformation roadside cross. In harmony with and so far confirmatory of the tradition that some special stone stood here in early times, is the fact that the field (which is on Kirkton farm), alongside of the road to the south at this point, is designated in feu-contracts "Stonefield Park." But in any case the stone is now gone, having been broken up by blasting about the beginning of last century, and built into the house known as "Murdoch-moor," on the roadside a little to the south-west of the rising ground on which it is said to have stood. This act of vandalism is reported to have been the occasion of high feeling in the district at the time, and the contractor or his representative on the work is said to have narrowly escaped punishment at the hands of the natives.

THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PARISH.

The parish of Neilston is bounded on the north by that of Paisley, the two parishes having a common boundary for about eight miles; on the east by Eastwood parish; on the south by Mearns and Stewarton; on the south-west by Dunlop; on the west by Beith; and on the west by north by Lochwinnoch. By a re-adjustment of boundaries, which took place in 1895, between the parishes of Neilston, Dunlop, and Beith, after the coming into force of the County Councils Act of 1889, the county and parish boundaries were made conterminous as affecting these three parishes.

SITUATION AND EXTENT OF THE PARISH.

The parish of Neilston lies in latitude $55^{\circ} 47' 15''$ north, and in longitude $4^{\circ} 21' 35''$ west, and by Ordnance Survey of Scotland, 1858, contains 12862.202 acres,—12268.775 acres being the area of land, 192.493 acres being taken up as roads, 381.197 acres being under water,

and 19,737 acres being then taken up by railways. Since this survey, the re-adjustment of boundaries and the extension of the railways may have produced some little alteration of the acreage under lands and railways, but for all practical purposes, these figures represent the extent of land surface in the parish. The parish at one time included the baronies of Knockmaid and Shutterflat within its boundaries, but these have long ago been annexed, the former to Dunlop, and the latter to Beith parishes.

This question of the extent of the parish has been much wrangled over, and is very differently stated in the *New*, and in Sir John Sinclair's *Statistical Account of Scotland*. In the former it is said to be by measurement, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ fully in breadth, and to contain 36 square miles or 24,320 imperial acres; whilst in the latter, it is said to be 9 miles from east to west, and on an average 3 miles in breadth, and allowing 503 Scots to an English square mile, it contains 13,570 acres. There must have been mistakes somewhere when the two able writers just named could arrive at such diverse conclusions. It is difficult to think they were working from the same data.

THE GENERAL CONFIGURATION OF THE PARISH.

The land, from the eastern boundary of the parish, where it joins that of Eastwood and Paisley, until it reaches Barrhead, is comparatively level, being only gently undulating. From Barrhead it gradually rises by a series of hills, which are continued on past Neilston to the south and west until, by various gradients, it reaches its highest elevation on the four roads leading into Ayrshire, respectively by Kingston, Moyne, Uplawmoor, and Shilford. These elevations constitute also the common water-shed, from which the great majority of the streams flow eastward through the parish, to join ultimately the waters of the White Cart, the only exception being the Lugton, which flows westward to the Irvine, from Loch Libo.

The land to the north of the Lovern valley passes through the parish from east to west as a hill range, under the various designations of Fereneze and Capellie Hills, Lochlibo-side, and Corkindale and Caldwell Laws, and varies in altitude from about 500 to 800 feet at the last-named hills. From this it extends backwards as a tableland of moss, heather, and moorland pasture, to the common boundary with the parish

of Lochwinnoch. Through this moorland tract the road passes from Paisley by Meikleriggs and Gleniffer to Caldwell, and thence to Beith, skirting the south side of Caplaw or Hartfield Dam, with cross road connections from Johnstone and Lochwinnoch by way of Peesweep and Greenfield moor to Neilston. The highest points of this hill range are, as already stated, Corkindale Law, 848 feet, and Caldwell Law, 800 feet above the mean level of the sea; from these altitudes respectively the land gradually trends towards Shutterflat moor, where it marches with the parish of Beith.

To the south of the Levern valley, the land rises by a series of elevations over the interstratified trappean formations, till it joins the boundaries of the parishes of Mearns, Stewarton, and Dunlop, in the south and south-west at Moyne and Mearns-moor in the neighbourhood of the Long Loch, from which as a broad tableland it spreads out over a very irregular surface, amidst extensive surroundings of peat-moor, heather, and meadow pasture, possessing a somewhat wild and shaggy aspect, amidst which, on the border of the parish of Stewarton, is the extinct volcano of Blacklaw, 787 feet, which has a remarkably well defined crater.

The Long Loch, through which the parish boundary in this direction passes, is situated amid these moorland surroundings. In this loch the river Levern takes its origin, whence its channel divides the elevated plateau obliquely in a north-east direction, until it reaches the valley of the Levern. This, the principal stream in the parish, will be more fully described when dealing with the rivers.

The great trappean formation included in these northern and southern divisions of the parish, constitute the rocky framework within which are all the lochs, rivers, valleys, streams, and glens, that we shall meet with in the course of our narrative, and which give character and climate to our district of the county. In mineral composition and other respects, they are very similar to trap hills found in other parts of Renfrewshire, and evidently belong to the same period of volcanic activity. At various points, it is seen along the hill ranges that the lower part of the formation consists of greenish grey and reddish brown beds of volcanic ash, whilst greenstone and felstone porphyrite compose their higher parts.

MINERALOGY.

Coal and iron and lime are to be found in different parts of the parish. The former mineral was wrought profitably for many years at Uplawmoor and neighbourhood, and within the policies west of Caldwell. "At Boylestone Quarry, Barrhead, it is said, fine specimens of prehnite, of a rich greenish colour, are to be found, the green colour of the mineral being due to its surface being coated with a green carbonate of copper, which is found upon the prehnite in the form of small round mammilated crystals. Native copper is also found in thin sheets in the same place, lining fissures and cavities in the trap. It is not very abundant, but there have been specimens found weighing several ounces."¹ The writer has a specimen weighing $2\frac{1}{4}$ ounces, and has seen much larger pieces which have been procured from the same source. "Native copper is of rather rare occurrence in Britain, having been found in only a few localities."² Very small quantities of native gold have been obtained from a quartz vein in the rock formation which crosses between the upper and lower division of Killoch Glen. Various zeolites are also to be got in Boylestone Quarry.

PRECIOUS STONES AND METALS.

The following precious stones have at different times been obtained from the tuff, or trap ash, on the south side of Cowden Glen:—striped onyx; spar, covered with arsenite of copper; amethyst, jasper, cornelian, bismuth, native galena, garnet, blood-stone.

¹ M·Phail, *Transactions of the Geological Society*.

² *Ibid.*

CHAPTER IV.

THE GEOLOGY OF THE PARISH.

THE parish of Neilston is traversed by a great valley, which, under different names, extends from the level land in the north-east, where it is bounded by the parishes of Paisley and Eastwood, to where it marches with the parishes of Dunlop and Beith in the south-west. The eastern portion of this valley may be considered as passing through Hurlet, Nitshill, and Darnley, and here it is between two and three miles wide. From this it gradually converges as it passes up the stream of the Levern until it reaches to within about half a mile of Neilston station on the Joint Line of railway; and at this point it narrows in so rapidly that, by the time it reaches the station, the trap formations on either side have met. From this point the outlet of the valley towards the west is through a comparatively narrow break in the trap, known as Cowden Glen, which extends south-westward for about a mile, and is about a hundred feet wide. The boundary of this glen on the north side is a continuation of the porphyrite traps of Gleniffer Hills, which here rise as a bold escarpment to the height of about eighty feet; the southern boundary is a more recent formation of volcanic ash and tuff, and in it several eruptive dykes have been exposed through the alteration on the turnpike road rendered necessary by the construction of the Joint Line to Kilmarnock.

Emerging from this comparatively narrow ravine, the valley begins gradually to widen out again, passing westward through Shilford, Loch Libo, Caldwell, and Lugton sections. Beyond Caldwell it again broadens out, until in the neighbourhood of Lugton, where it enters into the parishes of Dunlop and Beith, it attains a width of about three miles and merges into the carboniferous formations of the Dalry basin. It will thus be seen that, as regards general outline, the valleys of Levern and Lugton, viewed together, bear some resemblance to a gigantic sand glass, two or three miles wide at the eastern and western extremities respectively, but narrowing to about a hundred feet in the middle, where



HORN AND UPPER PART OF SKULL OF *Bos PRIMIGENIUS*,
FOUND IN INTERGLACIAL BEDS IN COWDEN GLEN,
NEILSTON.

Facing page 21.

the trap formations meet in Cowden Glen. About the west end of this short glen the trap suddenly dips, by a fault, to about sixty feet, the depression or blank thus caused being filled up with boulder clay, whilst the hollows on the surface are filled up with stratified deposits of sand, mud, and peat, evidently the remains of an old lake, being one of a series of lakes, which it appears had at one time occupied the valley from this point to Caldwell, the present Loch Libo being the only one of the series now remaining.

Mr. James Binnie, of the Geological Survey of Scotland, speaking of this formation, says:—"Up to 1867 the picturesque little valley of Cowden beyond Crofthead on the road to Ayrshire, was not known to possess any features of special geological interest, but in that year, having been chosen as the route of the district railway to Kilmarnock, it was invaded by the navy with pick and shovel to the utter destruction of all its natural beauties. The gradients being steep, the excavations were extensive, and at one point the bed of an ancient lake was cut through, containing deposits of mud and peat lying between two distinct layers of boulder clay. These stratified deposits were found to contain numerous remains of vegetable and animal life, both of higher and lower forms."

In the opening up of these stratified lacustrine beds, the following fossil fauna were found near to the trap fault already referred to,—the skull and horn-core of the *Bos primigenius* (this interesting relic has now found a home in Caldwell House); part of the horn of the extinct Irish elk, *Megaceros hibernicus*, and a few bones of the horse, *Equus caballus*. The horn-core of the *bos primus* was lying near the centre of the railway cutting, about six feet from the surface, while the antlers and fragments of the Irish elk were about thirty feet further into the hillside, and fifteen feet from the surface. The fossil flora was represented by, besides mosses and a sedge *Scirpus lacustris*, branches of *Betula alba*, leaves of the *Salix alba*, twigs of *Calimun vulgaris*, and *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

Through this great valley and closely alongside the Joint Line Railway, the main turnpike road from Glasgow and Paisley passes through the parish into Ayrshire, and divides at Lugton into two principal roads, one leading to Kilmarnock and the other to Irvine. At the north-eastern boundary of the parish, the Lavern valley as thus defined becomes sub-divided by a thick ridge of sandstone, which runs from nearly opposite Darnley Hospital to Barrhead, and along Craigheads, to the west of Barrhead; and each sub-valley has its own water course.

This ridge makes a great break in the carboniferous strata with which the main valley is filled, with the consequence that the beds on the north side of the ridge are lower in the series than those exposed on its south, which crop out against the sandstone, giving a displacement, possibly of about sixty fathoms, near Darnley. The trough of the southern sub-valley narrows towards its termination at Colinbar Glen, near Wraes Mill. Various beds of sandstone, coalshale, clayshale, oilshale, ironstone, and others, from a depth of over 175 fathoms, crop out on either side of the valley against the trap formations, and in some places lie at such an acute angle to them, as against the Fereneze ash, as to show that these valley troughs have been formed by the bursting upwards through their beds of the volcanic eruption, which now in the form of the trap formation constitutes the northern and southern hill ranges forming the boundaries already referred to in the configuration of the parish. The carboniferous limestone of the valley yields many fossils belonging to the following classes, viz. :—*Plantae*, *Zoophyta*, *Echinodermata*, *Annelida*, *Crustacea*, *Brachiopoda*, *Lamelli-branchiata*, *Gasteropoda*, *Pteropoda*, *Cephalopoda*, and *Pisces*. During the recent formation of the Lanarkshire and Ayrshire Railway, which passes through the parish from its eastern to its western border, the excavations and cuttings exposed formations very varied in character; trap and ash tuff, blue and boulder clay, the latter containing boulders of various sizes—round and sub-angular—amongst which the writer picked up a small, evidently carried, quartz, which had a number of small pieces of gold inbedded in it.

• In a field known as the Wellpark, and situated behind and to the east of Brig o' Lea, a considerable section of sand bed was passed through distinctly stratified in character, and evidently the remains of some ponded up body of water. In the rock-cutting at the south side of the entrance to Midge Glen, which was wrought by the contractor as a quarry for ballast until the railway was quite finished, it was observed that the whinstone was distinctly columnar in its arrangement when exposed, and at the east end of the same section, the friable volcanic ash was seen to underlie the more solid stone, the latter having evidently flowed out over it when in its liquid condition, as if the froth and ash of the volcano had first boiled up and overflowed, and been then itself covered over with the more consistent stream, which ultimately on cooling formed the bulk of the erupted mass of which the hill is composed. On Cowdenmoor farm, and



THE WORKING FACE OF THE GLACIATED LIME-STONE WHICH SHOWS THE STRIATED SURFACE IN LUGTON QUARRY.



A SECTION OF THE GLACIALLY STRIATED SURFACE OF LIME-STONE, LUGTON.

It would appear from an article on this subject in Vol. XIII., Part 1, page 10, *Trans. Geol. Society of Glasgow*, by Prof. Gregory of the University, that the glaciated surface was much larger when first exposed than is given in our text; "that originally it was from 12 to 14 yards in width, and from 70 to 80 yards in length."

about two hundred yards east of the bridge across the railway, on the road leading from Uplawmoor to Shilford, and on the south bank of the line, there is exposed a large boulder well glaciated, the striae having a direction from north-east to south-west; whilst at the east end of the village of Uplawmoor, where the line passes through the skirt of the plantation there, and for some distance westward, under ten feet of peat, a bed of boulder clay was exposed, laden with boulders of different sizes, mostly sub-angular, and many of them striated, resting on an outcrop limestone consisting mostly of fossil shells, and stems of encrinites at its eastern exposure. In passing through Pollick farm, westward of Uplawmoor, the formation of the railway was entirely through limestone, which is continued beyond the boundary of the parish to the limestone quarries of Lugton and Beith.

At this point I think it proper, as it is connected with the limestone under consideration, although just beyond the boundary of the parish, to refer to a very remarkable exposure of glaciated surface in the lime quarry on Waterland farm at Lugton. In 1906 the workmen, for blasting purposes, had to bare the limestone of a top soil of about eight or nine feet in thickness, and on this being cleared away there was exposed a broad platform of stone, having a highly polished and gently undulating surface, with a slight dip to the south-west. The dimensions of the surface thus laid bare were about thirty feet by fifteen; but it was observed that the same character of surface was continued under the still unremoved soil of the field, to what extent was unknown. The glaciation of this surface was quite remarkable for its high polish, and when wet or washed clean, it shone with quite a glassy lustre. But besides, and constituting a marvellous addition to its interest, the whole exposure was marked with striations or groovings, some deeper, some shallower, and many very fine scratchings, but all clearly and definitely cut in long parallel lines, and all trending from north-east to south-west, and the undulations on the surface crossed these striations. At the western end of the exposure, the natural surface of the stone dipped gently down towards the west, and was unworn and rough, apparently indicating that the polished surface represented some boss of rock that had been ground off; and at places where this terminated somewhat abruptly, there was found in the depressions, clay, containing bones, boulders, and other deposits, huddled together. Shining everywhere through this beautiful surface were the fossil remains of many marine structures, shells, and crustaceans, cut through at all angles, and the outlines of very large

animals were clearly defined, while bones and teeth were frequently met with, the whole surface presenting the unmistakeable evidence of long bygone and long continued glacial action. In connection with glacier grooving, it may be further pointed out, that when the alteration was made in the turnpike road at the west end of Loch Libo, during the formation of the railway there in 1867, on baring the sandstone on the south side of the road, there were several very pronounced gutters exposed in the surface of the stone, running north-east and south-west. These markings were about three inches wide, and fully an inch deep. At the east end of the loch, and near the gravel quarry on the farm, "Head of Side," there is an "osar," or sand hill, quite as circular in form as the track of a circus, "the fairy ring," a relic no doubt of early glacier movement, or a once larger lake than the present Loch Libo.

TOPOGRAPHY OF THE PARISH.

In its physical features, most of the land of the parish may be said to lie along the hill ranges situated south and north of the Levern valley. As has been already pointed out, this valley passes through the parish from north-east to south-west, and the general trend of the hill ranges is in the same direction.

To the north is the Fereneze range, which, by Capellie, Lochliboside, and Caldwell, continues into Ayrshire. At Caldwell it spreads out into a broad tableland, having Corkindale and Caldwell Laws as its most conspicuous elevations, the former rising to a height of 848 feet, and the latter to 800 feet above the mean level of the sea. From these heights, spreading in a north-westerly direction, the land becomes continuous with the parishes of Lochwinnoch and Beith. To the south of the valley the land begins to rise from Craigheads at Barrhead, and continues to increase in elevation as it extends south and west, until it also spreads out into a broad tableland through moss and rough pasturage into that of the parishes of Mearns, Stewarton, and Dunlop. In the direction of Kingston, where the water shedding is reached, the old turnpike road rises by a succession of long step-like elevations, which clearly indicate their trap formation.

The most prominent elevations in this westward progress are the trap formations of Craig of Carnock, on the borderland of Mearns parish; Neilston Pad, also of igneous origin; How-Craigs-hill, south of Uplawmoor Road; Dumgrain and Knockanae, both north of Kingston Road;

Cannon Rock and Durduffhill, both south of Kingston Road; Knockmaid, south of Uplawmoor, all rising on igneous formations more or less interstratified. These hill ranges rise with a varying but gentle acclivity from the level of the Levern valley to Kingston, in the parish of Dunlop. In the east of the parish beyond Barrhead, the valley gradually opens out, and becomes continuous with the comparatively level land that passes on to the Clyde; whilst westward through its Lugton section, it reaches the Firth of Clyde by the broad alluvial lands that stretch onward to Ardrossan and the Ayrshire coast.

VIEWS FROM HILLTOPS AROUND NEILSTON.

The views that are to be obtained from several of the most prominent hilltops in the parish are as varied as they are grand and extensive. From Craig of Carnock, and from its more gigantic neighbour, The Pad—so named from its fancied resemblance to the cushion or pad ladies were wont to sit on when riding behind gentlemen on horseback, a familiar enough practice in the days of our grandfathers, when vehicles were less common than they are now—the broad valley through which the Clyde passes, lies spread out before the observer, from the east of the parish to the Campsie and Kilpatrick ranges, including Campsie Fell and Glen, with the wide spreading city of St. Mungo, and the numerous towns and villages surrounding it stretched out between.

Nor does the broad prospect end here, for in early spring when the distant sky is clear, and the hilltops of the Grampians are covered with snow, the whole range from Ben Lomond to Schiehallion, including Ben Arthur and its neighbours, Ben Cruachan, Ben More, Ben Lawers, Ben Voirlech, Ben Nevis, and very many others, come within the extensive prospect.

But the view from the top of Corkindale Law at Lochliboside, for extent and grandeur, is unsurpassed by any hill of equal height in Scotland, so wide and varied is the prospect it affords. Its summit is quite green, and the ascent to it is so gradual that, on reaching it, one can scarcely realize that such a height has been attained, and if the day is favourable, the labour entailed in attaining it is amply rewarded, so great is the range of vision. To the north the Kilpatrick range, and the Vale of Leven, Loch Lomond, with a number of its islands, and the great Ben Lomond towering over it, and dominating the whole scene; Ben Ledi, the "Cobbler," and a host of other hilltops. Mount Tinto in the east,

with the towns and villages that intervene ; and in the south and west the fertile lands of Ayrshire, and the coast line down to the Rhinns of Galloway. Dalmellington and Cumnock hills, the heights of Kirkeudbright, and the massive range of Saddleback, and Scafell in England, in the Lake District of Cumberland and Westmoreland, are dimly visible, with the Trostan and northern hills of Ireland ; while in the west and south-west, the grandeur of the prospect is more immediate. Eglinton Castle in its surrounding woods, the shore by Ayr bay, Troon, and Ardrossan, Arran, and Ailsa, in their watery surroundings, while sailing vessels and gigantic ocean liners on the waters of the firth give animation to the scene. With Kilbirnie hills, Mistylaw, and the heights of Kilmacolm in the nearer view, altogether they make up a prospect of unsurpassed interest and grandeur.

CHAPTER V.

THE RIVERS AND STREAMS OF THE PARISH.

In no particular has there been greater diversity of opinion, and error, than in the accounts given of the origin and distribution of the several water courses of the parish by writers who have dealt with this question. Some writers have ridiculed the errors of others, whilst they have themselves fallen into equally grave mistakes when dealing with other parts of the same subject.

THE RIVER LEVERN.

The name is of Celtic origin, and signifies the “noisy stream.”¹ This is by much the largest and most important stream in the parish, and throughout its past history it has always been the same. The use of steam as a motive power has, no doubt, to a great extent superseded its operations at many of the works on its banks, but it is still a stream of first importance and great beauty. It takes its origin in the Long Loch. This loch is situated on the level uplands beyond Moyne Moor, and is about one and a half to two miles long, and half a mile broad. From this origin it flows through Harelaw Dam and farm, and in the lands of the latter is joined by the Knock Burn, a tributary from the farm of Nether-Carswell, in a hollow on the upper lands of which there formerly existed Knock Loch. With the exception of a small pond for the farmer’s mill, the waters of this loch are now drained off. After crossing Kingston Road, under a quaint old narrow bridge—which has recently undergone repair, and been widened on one side—the Lovern enters Commore Dam, whence it passes through Waterside, where, for many years, there was situated a bleaching work of that name.² This was the first bleaching work on the river, and as such, from the purity of the water, was considered one of the most important in the valley for fine

¹ *New Statistical Account*, 528.

² It is interesting to note that the castle of the first High Steward of Scotland was built on the south side of the Lovern, near the ruins of the present bleachfield of Waterside.—*Temple*, p. 23.

fabrics. It is now, however, quite a ruin, having been driven out of the trade chiefly on account of the extra cost of working, especially from expense in coal, owing to its distance from any railway station.

At this point the Lavern formerly received the waters of the "Lady Well," a perennial spring now turned to domestic purposes in supplying the town of Neilston with water, and will be elsewhere referred to. Having given off a branch here to turn a wheel for the farm of Neilston-side, but which is now no longer used, the river leaves the vicinity of the solitary ruin, and flows through a series of most tortuous links—"The Links of Lavern"—in the meadow land, where it forms the march between the farms of Neilston-side and Jaapston, and where, many years ago, there used to be a considerable dam. It now crosses "the Keeper's Road" under an ancient arch, and passing the remains of the "Old Grain Mill,"—Mall's Mill,—to which it used to lend its power, it rushes into Midge-hole Glen, or "Image-hole Glen," for there is a local tradition thus accounting for the origin of the name. During the Reformation period, the iconoclastic zeal of some of the reformers led them to drag the image of the Virgin from the religious house at Water-side to the falls in this glen, where they dashed it on the rocks in the bed of the stream, whence the name "Image-hole Glen," now corrupted to Midge-hole Glen. This glen is a very picturesque ravine, in which there are two very fine water-falls, over which the water plunges, especially when in spate, in white foam, into deep basins beneath, which have been honoured by poetic notice, and have received the names of "Kilminning's Linn," and "Dusty's Linn," from above downwards. Subjoined are the lines referred to:—

" Now rushing o'er Kilminning's Linn,
Now jouking 'neath brambles it goes ;"

and

" Are hushed here as foaming the flow
Of Lavern o'er Dusty's Linn loud."

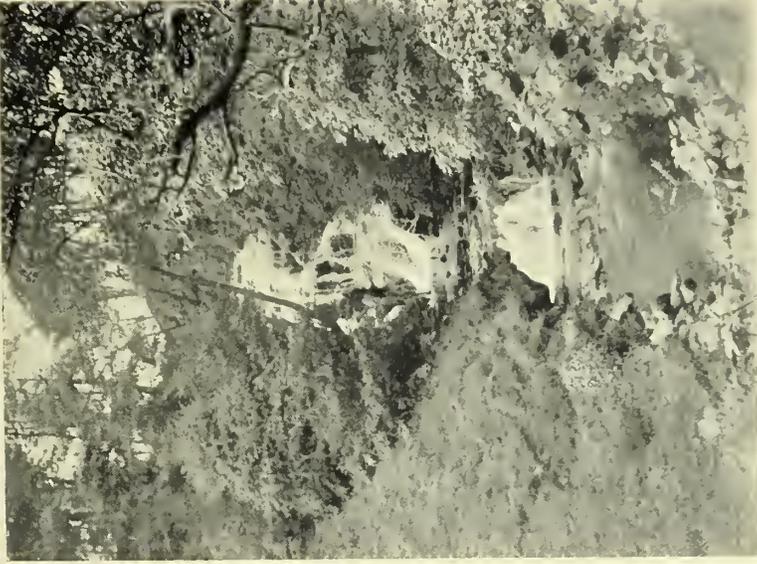
The Image Glen then (for on the grounds of euphony the word *hole* should be dropped from its name as an inelegant clog) is beautifully wooded with overhanging trees on its eastern bank, whilst on its western bank there is a right-of-way, which is a favourite walk with the youthful lieges.

Having now reached the lower meadow land by these falls, the waters glide smoothly along through Kilburn farm to what was, until



KILMINNING LINN AND FALLS, MIDGE GLEN.

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PART OF KILLOCH GLEN.

See page 97.

lately, Lintmill Bleaching Works, formerly a "Wauk Mill." For many years this was a prosperous and thriving concern, but now it is a complete ruin. The river now crosses under Uplawmoor Road to "High Croft-head," also, until recently, a thriving bleaching and dyeing work employing one or two hundred hands, men and women, but of which not even the ruins are left, all having been torn down to make concrete; the same fate having equally befallen "Holehouse Laundry," to which also the Levern gave a supply of water. These works having been utterly destroyed, the workers, many of them old in the service of the employers, were scattered in helplessness.

"Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

Hastening from these inhospitable scenes, the waters pass through Crofthead Thread Works, and here the level of the Levern valley is reached at a point coinciding with the east end of Cowden Glen, where it receives the water of Cowden Burn. This burn is made up of the united waters of Shilford and Witch Burns. The former rises in Tuphead Park and meadows, of Cowdenmoor farm; passing Shilford Sawmill they flow eastward to join the Witch Burn in the meadows below. The Witch Burn flows from two sources, one in Dumgrain Moor on the farm of Aboon-the-Brae, which runs in the hollow south of Braeface hill, and thence through the meadows of Braeface and Jaapston farms, and joins the other branch which rises in the moorland south of Knockglass farm, and passes eastward by the glen west of How-Craig's-Hill, to its junction with the stream from Dumgrain Moor.

The united streams now continue as the Witch Burn, and cross under a bridge on Uplawmoor Road. Now flowing through a tortuous channel where the banks consist of several high terraces which the waters have scooped out in the course of long ages, the burn plunges over a shelving rock forming an agreeable waterfall, into the meadow land below, where it joins Shilford Burn as previously stated. The waters of the united burns now continue to flow eastward alongside the railway, till, on leaving Cowden Glen, they join the river Levern as Cowden Burn at Crofthead Thread Works as before indicated.

At Crofthead Mill the Levern gives off a lade or millrace for the supply of Broadlie Bleaching and Dyeing Works, thence passing under Levern or Crofthead Bridge it reaches the south side of the turnpike road from Glasgow, and at Broadlie Mill passes under this road from the south

to reach the north side of the railway, where it immediately receives the water from Killoch Glen.

Killoch Burn rises by two heads. The first takes origin in the moors of Caplaw farm and flows south, under Sergeantlaw Road leading to Paisley. Continuing through Greenfield Moor, it is joined by the second stream, the Witch Burn (the second of that name in the parish), which springs in the meadows of Foreside farm. The burn now passes under the road leading to Capellie farm, and shortly gains the upper reaches of Killoch Glen. In traversing this beautiful glen to arrive at the level of the general valley at Killoch Laundry, where it joins the Levern, the water is precipitated over a series of falls which present a grand appearance when in flood.

The muses have been courted by more than one poet in this beautiful glen, and the gentle Tannahill found inspiration in singing the glories—

“O'er Glen-Killoch's sunny brae.”

In the course of the descent two small streams are taken from the Killoch Water, the upper as a mill-race to Killoch farm, whence it is continued to the dam for Fereneze Printing Works at Gateside, after which it joins the Levern; the other, at a lower level, is ponded up and led in pipes to Millfield Printing Works, after which it also joins the Levern. Still pursuing its useful career, the Levern runs eastward past the Waterproofing Works at Gateside, West Arthurlie Cotton Mills, Chappell Laundry, Saunders & Connor's Sanitary Engineering Works, Lochrie & Nelson's Plumber Works, through Grahamston. Here it passes under the road leading from Barrhead to Paisley and enters the Dunterlie valley, where it is joined by the waters of Kirkton Burn, which have been pursuing an equally useful but quite different course.

Kirkton Burn.—The waters of this burn take origin in the marsh and meadow-land surrounding the skirts of Neilston Pad, both north and south. On the north, they are gathered into Craigha' Dam, whence, after giving off a mill-pond for the Craig farm, they flow into Kirkton Dam. In the south and east, they originate in the meadows of Loanfoot, Low Walton and High Walton farms, and flow into Snypes Dam, whence they also pass into Kirkton Dam. From this dam Kirkton Burn proper begins, and passes under the road leading from Neilston to Mearns immediately on leaving the dam; thence it continues past Kirkton Grain Mill, Kirktonfield Bleaching Works, Netherkirkton Works, now in ruin, to Wraes

Grain Mill, whence it flows through Colinbar Glen to Blackwood's, or Arthurlie Bleaching Works; it crosses what was lately Blackwood's Dam, now filled up, giving off a stream to Arthurlie Skinnery filters; thence by a conduit under the road leading from Barrhead to Neilston it passes by the Skinnery, under the road from Barrhead to Paisley, in a built channel, where it was formerly ponded up (now drained off) behind Cross Arthurlie Inn; and shortly after, as before stated, joins the Lavern at Dunterlie valley.

Walton Burn.—This burn takes origin in Snypes Moss and the lands of Muirhead, Low Walton, and North Walton farms. Having been first gathered into Walton Dam, it flows thence, and crosses the road leading from Neilston to Mearns almost immediately. At this point it constitutes the boundary between these two parishes. Passing through Burnside farm, the water is again stored up in Glanderston Dam, which burst with such disastrous consequence in 1842, again referred to. This sheet of water now occupies what was probably the gardens of Glanderston House, at one time the residence of a branch of the ancient family of the Mures of Caldwell, but of which not even the ruins now remain. Here, too, a bleaching work was subsequently carried on by the family of Cochrane, afterwards of Kirktonfield. Glanderston Burn continues from this dam to Springfield and South Arthurlie Calico Printing Works; and now, sadly changed in colour by dye stuffs, it continues its course by Arthurlie to Aars Road, which it crosses under the name of Aars Burn. Flowing sluggishly thence to Darnley, it joins the Brock Burn, and the conjoined waters pass on to Househill, where they unite with the Lavern, and continuing their course through the lands of Nether Pollok, enter the White Cart at Crookston.

Craigton Burn.—This burn rises in the moss-land of South Walton and Middleton farms, in the parish of Mearns; flowing thence through the small glen between these lands, it reaches Craigton farms, where it is collected into a small mill-pond and drives a water-wheel; continuing its flow through the Craigton meadows, it there becomes united with the water of the Brock Burn.

Brock Burn.—This burn draws its source from the extensive moor west of Dodhill, in the parish of Mearns, from the west side of the same hill, and the meadow-land of Banner Bank farm, on the Stewarton Road. Flowing thence through Langton farm, it crosses the road leading by the

Craigtons from Neilston to Mearns, and entering the meadows, there it receives the water of Craigton Burn, as before stated. The Brock now continues past Fingleton Grain Mill and South Balgray House, where it enters Gorbals Gravitation Reservoir. From the reservoir the riparian or compensation water continues through Waulk-mill Glen to Darnley, where it is joined by the Aars or Walton Burn, and thence flows, as before mentioned, to Househill, where it enters the Levern, and subsequently the Cart.

All the streams hitherto enumerated and described have been flowing in a direction that is more or less eastward through the parish, but there are four streams that in their course flow towards the west. These are Thortor Burn, Pollick Burn, Lugton River, and Cross-burn.

Thortor Burn.—The name by which this stream is locally known, and the farm of the same name through which it flows, is evidently a corruption of the words “Athort-the-burn,” that is, across the burn, and has reference to the position of the farm-house which is at the other side of the stream from the main road. The waters of this burn are gathered from the moorland of “Thortor-burn” farm, and after flowing down a narrow gully towards the railway, they continue along the north side of the line, through the meadows, into the east end of Loch Libo.

The Lugton.—This river takes origin from the west end of Loch Libo, and passes beyond the boundary of the parish just as it enters the policies of Caldwell. Continuing its course westward, it passes through the policies of Eglinton Castle, where it is joined by the Garnock from Kilbirnie hills; here it unites with the Irvine, and so reaches the estuary of the Clyde.

Pollick Burn.—This water draws its source from the moorlands and meadows of the several Uplaws and Linnhead farms. Crossing the road above Uplawmoor station, it passes through Pollick Glen, a very picturesque ravine, to Neukfoot; thence under the Joint Line and turnpike at Caldwell station, where it enters the waters of the Lugton quite near its source. This water constitutes the newly-adjusted boundary of the parish in the west.

Dunsmuir or *Cross-burn* draws its source from Moorhouse and Braco meadows, where it is ponded up, and was used at a saw-mill formerly at Cross-burn, but now gone. After flowing through The Hall farm and Caldwell policies, where it forms a small curling pond, it joins the Lugton.

LOCHS AND DAMS.

In a parish where the water supply is so abundant as it is in Neilston, as evidenced by the number and variety of streams that contribute to swell our main river, the Lavern, as has been pointed out, and where the water supply is wanted all the year round, one naturally expects that there would be such provision made as would place the regulation of the supply under the control of those who required it, and this is found to be the case. Storage is provided by lochs and reservoirs in the upper reaches of the parish, as the general supply comes from the elevated moorland in the south and west. First and most important of these water storages is the *Long Loch*. This loch, which is from a mile and a half to two miles long by half a mile broad, is situated about four miles from Neilston, between Moyne Moor and James' Hill. The surrounding country is a bleak, rough tract of moss and heatherland, at an elevation varying from 808 feet to 900 feet, which extends from Dumgrain in this parish to Loch-goin Moors in the parish of Eaglesham. The boundary line between the parishes of Neilston and Mearns passes longitudinally through this loch, and continues across Harelaw Dam, into which the water from Long Loch flows. The character of the land by which this sheet of water is surrounded, being free from all manure contamination—none of it being under cultivation—renders it an admirable gathering ground, and the water being naturally soft, is in every way adapted for domestic purposes. From this source the town of Neilston now obtains its water supply by gravitation, supplementary to the excellent spring water from the Lady Well.

Harelaw Dam.—This is a large body of water, being the surplus storage of the overflow water from Long Loch. There are one or two small islands in it, and in early spring they swarm with the nests and squabs of seagulls, which have come inland from the coast for breeding purposes.

Commore and *Crofthead Dams* are places of storage for the Lavern in its upper reaches, after leaving which it continues its course as already described.

Snypes, *Craigha'*, and *Kirkton Dams* are places of storage for the water of Kirkton Burn; while *Walton* and *Glanderston Dams* store the water of Walton Burn. *Craigton Dam* is a small storage for the

farmer's use. These dams are well stocked with fish—trout, perch, and braze. *Fereneze Dam*, at Gateside, is a storage pond for Fereneze Printing Works. The water is brought from Killoch Burn by a lade, as described when speaking of that stream. *West Arthurlie Dam* is a place of storage for the cotton mill of that name. Arthurlie Bleaching Works obtain their water supply from *Kirkton Burn* at Colinbar Glen.

Formerly there existed on the lands of Nether Carswell a considerable sheet of water—the *Knock Loch*—which is referred to and marked in many of the older maps and records of the parish; but the water of this loch was drained off many years ago, with the exception of a small mill-pond for the farmer's use. The water is continued into the meadows below, where it joins the Lovern as the Knock Burn. On the land of Greenhill Farm there at one time existed a small collection of water—*Greenhill Loch*—marked on some local maps, but it also has long since been drained away.

Loch Libo.—This beautiful and picturesque loch lies near the western border of the parish, in the valley between Caldwell Law on the north and Uplawmoor Wood on the south. The turnpike road leading into Ayrshire passes along its southern edge for about a mile. The district railway from Glasgow to Kilmarnock runs along the margin of the water, yet in such a way as simply to lend variety and animation to the scene. Viewed from the slopes of Uplawmoor Wood, everything about the loch looks calm and peaceful. In its sedgy surroundings, the gaunt heron (*Ardea cinerea*) may be seen fishing in patience, and the round leaves and creamy yellow trumpets of the water lilies (*Nymphaea alba*) observed floating on its surface—what time the month of July brings round Glasgow Fair. The monotonous note of the coot (*Fulica atra*), the wild duck (*Anas boskas*), and water-hen (*Gallinula chloropus*) are to be heard as they glide over its surface, leaving the wavelets of their rippling course behind them in their wake. The stately spike of the reed mace (*Typha latifolia*) and the delicate colour and soft waxy flowers of the bog-bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), that adorn its marshy margin, all contribute to enhance a scene of transcending loveliness. On a calm day its tranquil waters form a mirror in which the umbrageous woods that skirt the surrounding hills, and the green hills themselves, are gracefully reflected in its transparent depths.

The loch, in its general outline, is of an oval form, which renders it more pleasing to the eye. As already stated, the water from “Thortor-

burn" glen flows into it from the direction of Shilford, through the meadows of Banklug Farm, to the east; whilst from its western extremity the Lugton river takes origin. Loch Libo is well stocked with fish, especially pike, but eels, perch, and braze are also abundant.

For many years coal was profitably wrought on the southern edge of the loch, but about 1791 the waters broke in upon the underground workings, deluging the pit and drowning several of the unfortunate workmen. Since then, although attempts have been made to renew operations, nothing special has come of them, and the pit is now closed.

Hartfield, Brownside, or Caplaw Dam—for this sheet of water is known by each of these names—is produced by the waters of the Altpatrick burn having been ponded up on Hartfield moor. The Altpatrick water flows eastward from this dam to Gleupatrick Carpet Works, near which it is known as the Brandy Burn. This water constitutes the boundary between the parishes of Neilston and Paisley. The volume of water in the dam varies with the weather conditions, but it is always kept well stocked with fine trout by the parties owning the shooting on the surrounding moor.

On the top of Fereneze hills, at an altitude of about 600 feet, is *Havelaw Dam*, the waters of which are collected from the moorland around Duchal-law. The boundary between Neilston and Paisley parishes passes through this sheet of water.

SPRING WELLS OF NEILSTON.

Previous to the adoption, in 1892, of the scheme for "Neilston Special Water Supply" from the spring at Lady Well, situated near the old bleachfield of Waterside, the water supply of the inhabitants was drawn, for all domestic purposes, from a number of spring wells, mostly with hand-pumps on them, that were distributed throughout the different parts of the town and neighbourhood. These wells have now all been closed by order of the sanitary authority, as the subsoil through which the water percolated had, by long years of defective drainage and constant use, become more or less contaminated with sewage. In the older and, at that time, more densely peopled part of the town, sewage, on chemical analysis, was found to have made its way into the water of most of the wells to such a degree as to render them, in time of drought

especially, a source of danger to the inhabitants, who were obliged to use them, having no alternative means of obtaining water. But though no longer in use, I consider it a matter of local interest that they should be enumerated, their locality pointed out, the names recorded by which they were known, and the quality of the water they yielded referred to, especially as by this means it will be possible to point out the stratigraphic limits within which it was quite safe, in sinking a well, to expect to obtain a supply of water.

The number of wells in the town and neighbourhood, except in seasons of extreme drought, afforded an ample supply of water to the inhabitants, but its quality was not always to be relied upon, especially in periods of protracted dry weather. During such times, when any disease of an epidemic character threatened the district, the wells were duly examined and the water analysed, and such sanitary and protective measures adopted as the requirements of the outbreak seemed to demand, to give it check. These steps were carefully carried out at the instance of the Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Medical Officers under the Parochial Board.

The wells in and around the town were thirty-seven in number, and I propose simply to enumerate them, giving the names by which they were known, and making reference to the analysis of the more important of them at the end:—

Lady Well, a spring of great importance, to be more particularly referred to again; Murdoch-moor Well; Toll Well; Betty's Well; Big Well; The School Well; Wishart's Well; Craig's Well; Wilson's Well; Robertson's Well; The Cross Well; Holehouse, or the Doctor's, Well; Russell's Well; High Broadlie Well; Marshall's Well; Waddell's Well; Gray's Well; Gallocher's Well; Baker's Well; Telfer's Well; Lang Laird's Well; Wright's Well; Writer's Well; Manse Well; Butter Well; The Rest Well; Kirkhill Well; Kirkhill Cottage Well; Lindsay's Well; Menteith's Well; Nether Kirkton Well; Killoch Well; Auchen-tiber Well; Barnfauld Well; Broadlie Well; Broadlie Bleaching Green Well; and the well in Broadlie Wood.

These wells were not all equally available to the public, as many of them were connected with private property, and I will, therefore, give only the analysis, with extracts from the remarks of Professor Penny, of Anderson's College, Glasgow, of those wells that were situated in the most populous parts of the town.

The Big Well.—“An imperial gallon of this water was found to contain 34·40 grains of dissolved ingredients, consisting of—

“Organic matter,	...	...	4·00 grains.
Saline matter,	...	...	30·40 grains.
			34·40 grains.
Hardness,	...	16·5°	

“The analysis shows that this water is strongly charged with saline substances and contains a larger proportion of organic matter than is usually found in good, wholesome waters.

“In colour, taste, and other physical qualities, this water was found to be unexceptionable, but distinct evidence was obtained of a small quantity of surface drainage and matter analogous to sewage.”

The Cross Well.—“It was found that an imperial gallon of this water contained 72 grains of dissolved ingredients, consisting of—

“Organic matter,	...	...	4·00 grains.
Saline matter,	...	...	68·00 grains.
			72·00 grains.
Hardness,	...	30°	

“The large proportion of sulphate of lime and nitrates and chlorides in this water, is conclusive in showing that it is polluted with the products of surface drainage, of the nature of sewage from an inhabited locality. The organic matter is also in notable quantity, and partly of an animal and noxious character.

“This is an impure and decidedly unwholesome water, and unsuitable for any kind of domestic use.”

Gallocher’s, or the Chapel Well.—“An imperial gallon of this water was found to contain 39·00 grains of dissolved ingredients, consisting of—

“Organic matter,	...	...	6·04 grains.
Saline matter,	...	...	32·96 grains.
			39·00 grains.
Hardness,	...	28·5°	

“This is an impure and polluted water, evidently containing products from objectionable surface drainage. The organic matter is in large proportion, and of noxious character. The presence of nitrates and the

marked quantity of sulphate of lime is peculiarly indicative of its being polluted with matter from objectionable sources."

Yet, though decidedly unwholesome, this water was clear to the eye and pleasant to the taste, and a favourite water with the people in its neighbourhood.

High Broadlie Well.—"An imperial gallon of this water contained 19 grains of dissolved ingredients, consisting of—

"Organic matter,	...	...	1.60 grains.
Saline matter,	...	...	17.40 grains.
			19.00 grains.
Hardness,	...	10°	

"This water is of fair quality for domestic use. The total amount of dissolved ingredients is not in excess of the quantity contained in many waters used for town supply, and in the proportion present none of the ingredients may be regarded as hurtful or objectionable. But the presence of nitrates indicates that surface drainage has access to the well."

The water was held in high repute by the people who used it.

The Toll Well.—"An imperial gallon of this water was found to contain 11.5 grains of dissolved ingredients, consisting of—

"Organic matter,	...	...	1.40 grains.
Saline matter,	...	...	10.10 grains.
			11.50 grains.
Hardness,	...	7.5°	

"This is a good, wholesome water; in colour, taste, and appearance, all that could be desired. The organic matter is wholly of a vegetable nature, and in the proportion present quite harmless. It is free from iron and nitrates, and from all injurious metallic impregnation."

The wells, in the order in which I have given their analysis, extended mostly westward from the centre of the town, and it is highly significant that the objectionable contamination lessens in amount as we go west, until at the Toll Well—and the same remark applies to the Doctor's, or Holehouse, Well—which is quite free of the town to westward, organic pollution is entirely eliminated, and the water becomes

quite a desirable water for all domestic and potable purposes. And it is further worthy of observation, that this clearly indicates the direction from which the body of water flows which supplied the wells, viz., from west to east under the town.

The practical limits of the underground water, from which nearly, if not absolutely, all the wells in the town had their supply, is evidenced by the physical characters of the wells themselves. To the west of the town they were near the surface and shallow; towards the centre of the town many of them were quite deep; and, again, as they got clear of the town, towards the east, they became shallower, until at Kirkhill, they came almost to the surface. It is thus apparent that the water gathered in the extensive trappean hill district to the west of the town, gravitating down their sloping surfaces and percolating through the relatively porous formation on its way, found its natural bed in the irregular trough that is thus shown to pass under the town, and gained a more or less natural outlet at Kirkhill and Netherkirkton in the east. This was amply verified during the introduction of the drainage scheme through the town,—when it became necessary, from the irregular levels of the streets, to make deep cuttings at certain parts, as from the Cross to the bend in High Street, and from the former to near the Chapel, where they were as much as 18 feet deep,—the inflowing water so filled the pipe-track as to necessitate the almost constant use of a powerful portable pump to admit of the men getting on with the work at all. Whilst the trend of the subterranean trough is from west to east, in which direction the underground stream flows, its width would also appear to be well defined by the sloping lands of Broadlie on the north and north-west, and the meadow-lands of Kirkton on the south. Within these limits, wells could be sunk almost anywhere with every prospect of obtaining water. But on the hill-slope where the lands of Broadlie dip towards the Levern, the water seems to be lost, as boring in these parts was attended with failure.

By much the most important spring in the neighbourhood is that of Lady Well, situated on the farm of Aboon the Brae. During the existence of the bleaching works at Waterside, the water of this spring was stored up, and was used for finishing the finest kinds of bleached goods.

The very unsatisfactory, and, in the light of analysis, even dangerous water-supply of Neilston, forced the necessity of obtaining a purer water upon the notice of the inhabitants, and, under the guidance of the then District Committee of the County Council, accordingly, it was resolved

to accomplish this by bringing into the town the water from the powerful spring of Lady Well. The flow of water from this well was favourably spoken of in the *Gazetteer of Scotland* as to quantity, and the proverbial oldest inhabitant had no scruples in declaring that it never varied summer nor winter. Accordingly, measurements were taken and calculations made, and its adoption, which was fixed upon, was looked forward to with confidence; and, as the water was of the very purest and seemed adequate, there was a general feeling of satisfaction. The work connected with the bringing in of this water-supply, and constructing storage tank, into which it was led, west of the town, was completed in the autumn of 1892, and for a time the supply seemed to be quite equal to the demands made upon it. But now that the water of Lady Well came under closer observation and measurement, the flow was found to vary very materially in the winter and summer months; and that whilst the supply was sufficient for the requirements of the inhabitants for about two-thirds of the year, in the summer it proved altogether inadequate, and the people had to be placed upon a limited supply—the average maximum flow from the spring having varied from a rate of about 54,000 gallons in 24 hours, to an average minimum flow, during the same period, of about 12,500 gallons. This fluctuation of supply, and the great inconvenience experienced by the inhabitants in being placed on short allowance, led to some of the wells—which had all been closed—being opened up again for use in summers of great drought, with all the risks attendant, so that it became necessary to look out for an additional water-supply.

At first it was thought that this might be accomplished by sinking an Artesian well; and, accordingly, a bore was put down on the outer skirts of the Pad, about a hundred yards south of Kingston Road, but with very unsatisfactory results, the maximum amount obtained being only about 1,700 gallons per day; although, considering where the bore was sunk—on the top of a trap formation—it is difficult to see how other results could have been expected. Finally, after an expenditure of £426, both the engineer and borer reported that, in their opinion, it would not be expedient to proceed further with the boring operations. Blasts of gelignite were discharged in the bore at different depths, in the hope of reaching some under-flow, but without any more satisfactory results. This was in the year 1899. The first 30 feet of this bore passed through “blue boulder clay,” and the remaining 370 feet “through very close-grained trap rock.”

The question of a sufficient water-supply being still clamant, it was decided, after some negotiation, to apply to the Local Government Board to acquire the right to 100,000 gallons of water per day from the Long Loch, on the southern border of the parish, and in due course the consent of the Board was obtained. The estimated cost of the scheme was £1,900. This was in the year 1901, but it was not till the beginning of 1903 that the work was finished, and the water turned on. The Long Loch, as already described under lochs, is situated on an extensive moor in the hilly uplands to the west of the parish, and about four miles from the town. It is a large body of water, about one and a half or two miles long by half a mile wide, and admirably placed as a gathering-ground for a domestic water, being free from all kinds of pollution, and never likely to give trouble so far as regards shortage—a very important matter for any community.

But scarcely had the inhabitants begun to realize the blessings of this abundant water-supply, when they were startled by an announcement of the supply having to be shortened—no water in the town all night, supply cut off “from 7 o’clock P.M. till 7 o’clock A.M.” Not from want of water in this instance, for this was in the summer of 1907, which had been one continuous deluge, but on account of the service-pipes from the Long Loch being too small (six inches in diameter), and “air having got into them without sufficient provision having been made for getting it out again.” This error has now been put right by having larger pipes put in, at a further cost, however, of about £900.

Referring to the variability of the flow from the Lady Well spring, the fact that the flow never entirely ceases, precludes it from being classified with “intermittent springs.” Its rising and sinking would appear rather to indicate variations of level from time to time in the underground reservoir from which its supplies are drawn, whilst the extensive moor of Dumgrane, which occupies the great hollow in the trap formation around Knockanæ, constitutes the gathering-ground. This moor spreads out for miles in every direction, stretching beyond the parish of Neilston into that of Dunlop, and is filled with treacherous moss and “wellies,” into which cattle sometimes wholly disappear—a horse having sunk into one of them a few years ago, possibly to form a subject of enquiry to some geologist of the age when Macaulay’s Zulu will be studying St. Paul’s from the vantage ground of the ruins of London Bridge—and Lady Well would seem to form the principal, though not

the only natural outlet. This to some extent is evidenced by the fact that it is not until some time after continuous and heavy rains, that the increased flow is experienced, and that the flow continues at nearly its maximum discharge long after drought has begun to be felt by every other surrounding object; as if the great extent of moss in the moor had first to supply its own wants to perfect saturation, before allowing the water to percolate through the surface to the underground reservoir at all, whilst the latter continues to supply the spring long after the surface moorland has begun to suffer from evaporation and drought.

CLIMATE OF THE PARISH.

Where there is such diversity of altitude in the land, as is to be found in the parish of Neilston, rising from a level of about three hundred feet above the sea in the lower or eastern district, to eight and nine hundred in the western or upper district, it is naturally to be expected that there will be climatic differences, for the inter-relationship that is always found to subsist between climate and altitude is found to apply here also. In the lower lands, as about Barrhead, where the soil is everywhere fertile, the seasons are earlier by about two or three weeks than in the upper district of Neilston and Uplawmoor, and harvesting is correspondingly sooner begun; there is greater dampness, and more mists, and consequently the climatic surroundings are slightly milder and more relaxing than in the upper district. Spring is earlier, frost in winter is less severe, but fogs are more frequent and prolonged. From the town of Neilston, which is about 500 feet above sea level, the land westward rises gradually by gentle undulations, and the natural drainage by the number of streams that flow through it, causes it to be drier than that in the east. The atmosphere is clearer, more bracing and invigorating, and although the seasons are a little later, its comparative proximity to the sea—being only about fourteen miles from the Firth of Clyde, at Troon—makes it that they are never rigorous, whilst its great salubriousness is evidenced, amongst other things, by the great longevity of many of its inhabitants. In this relation it is interesting to note that at a casual tea-party of five that came under the writer's notice, the respective ages of those present were 82, 81, 81, 77, and 75 years. As a matter of fact, few places can vie with the western surroundings of Neilston, as, for example, Uplawmoor and the Caldwell district, from a health point of view. The climate is genial and mild; the exposure is west and south; and

whilst the hill range of Corkindale and Caldwell Laws and Hartley Hill, shelter it from the north, the woods of Uplawmoor screen it from the east ; and the noble forest trees in the policies round the ancient home of the Mures of Caldwell, the old tower on the hill overlooking the delightful scene, and the unsurpassed, if not unparalleled beauty of Loch Libo in the valley below, all contribute to lend a charm and character to the surroundings, that make the general restfulness equally with the health amenities of the locality of the highest order, which, to be fully appreciated, only require to be more widely known.

The prevailing winds in the parish for a large section of the year—generally spoken of as about three-quarters of it—are from the west and south, or some combination of these cardinal directions ; but in early spring, there is a good deal of east wind, especially in the eastern parts of the parish, as from Barrhead westward, where it is somewhat confined by the hill ranges north and south of the main valley. The average rainfall, notwithstanding the elevation, is comparatively low in the district. Few things more clearly indicate the direction of the prevailing winds in any locality than the growth of the older trees. They are Nature's own register, over which man can exercise very little control. And it is instructive and important, and no less curious to note in this respect, how the oldest trees on the Kingston and Uplawmoor roads, for example, have their trunks leaning over towards the east, and their largest and most luxurious branches swinging in the same direction, demonstrating in the most obvious manner that, during the long years of their comparatively slow growth, the western or west by south winds have prevailed. The winds that blow directly from the Firth of Clyde and the mountain peaks of Arran, bring with them the invigorating influences of the shore, freed of the excess of saline matter in the journey overland, but still bearing with them the health-giving elements of ozone. In winter the uplands are often covered with snow, which at times attains considerable depth, through drifting, when accompanied with high winds, but it seldom lies for any length of time, and the frost is rarely of such intensity as to do harm to flocks or vegetation.

CHAPTER VI.

AGRICULTURE.

As we are largely an agricultural community, I propose giving a short sketch of that important branch of industry from an early period, before dealing with its special development in our parish. So universal has the knowledge of agriculture become in our day, and so important are its bearings in every relation of life, that it is difficult to think that there ever could be a period in the history of our country when agriculture was unknown. Nevertheless, such seems to have been the case, for the earliest recorded observations inform us that, at the time the Romans came to Scotland, agriculture had not begun; that tillage of the soil was unknown; that the natives, who were a fierce and rude people, lived upon roots, and the milk of their cattle, on fish, and the flesh of such animals as they killed in the chase. This was the state of the people in the first and second and third centuries, and had been so from an unknown antiquity. The Romans, no doubt, during the four hundred years they occupied this country, carried on a process of agriculture; and the early Scots, who came from Ireland in the third century to Kintyre, would also bring with them a crude knowledge of agriculture from their early home; but its development must have been slow and tedious amongst a semi-civilized people with such implements as were at their disposal.

In the fifth century, however, a second batch of Scots crossed to Kintyre, and established themselves there in the Dalriadic sub-kingdom; and, following in their wake, and bearing with him the torch of Christian knowledge, came St. Columba, who finally founded his house in the island of Iona. By this time agriculture was evidently beginning to take shape, for we find him blessing the harvest of barley, and giving directions as to the ploughing and sowing, and grinding of corn; and it is interesting to note that at this early time the tribesmen seem to have been in possession of all the principal cereals, as corn and barley, etc. The early tribes having discovered the advantages of cultivating the soil, next began to form

their several homesteads into social units or townships for protection, and began the distribution of the land. The arable land was given at first to the freemen of the tribe, whilst pasture land was held in common by bond and free. At a later period, what were designated inheritance lands were held by the headsmen of the tribes as individual property, and the tribesmen cultivated this property either by bondsmen (probably prisoners taken in war), or by free tenants, on various tenures, one of which was steelbow, a mode of tenure which has come down the ages to our own day in some parts of Scotland;—an arrangement by which the tenant is supplied by the superior with the means of stocking and labouring the farm, and is bound to return produce equal in value at the expiration of the tack. The primitive farm-steading consisted of dwelling-house, ox-stall, hog-stye, sheep-pen, and calf-house, and the whole was surrounded by an earthen wall or rampart. Each clan or tribe gave a portion of its territory for the support of the headsmen and officers, and, after the introduction of Christianity, a portion for the support of the priest.

In the ninth and tenth centuries, rents were paid by “kain” or kind. This was necessary where payment had to be made, as there was no money coined in Scotland until the reign of David I.; grain was given from arable lands, and stock from pasture lands, and poultry and eggs. This method of paying rent has come down to within quite recent times. In the event of disagreement occurring in any matter, it was referred to the birleyman, an umpire chosen by the people themselves, whose decision had all the force of law, as the tribesmen always supported it and saw it carried out.

In the twelfth century, the tribal system of agriculture passed away, and the feudal system was established throughout Scotland; and now a new class of agriculturist come into prominence, viz., the monks, who were principally concerned in land operations, as they held considerable possessions. Each district had a Grange, and we learn that the Grange was the Abbey homestead. These references are interesting, because, amongst other things, they explain the original use of many farm and place-names that still remain amongst us. The homestead farm had a byre, etc., besides a house for the carles or nativi—who did the land labour—names which strongly suggest that the nativi or carles were the original natives of the land now reduced to serfs by their conquerors, as we are told they belonged to the land and went with it. There were also the Mains and the Granary—names which again throw light upon the origin of many farm names in our parish and county—and outside the grange

property were the “cotters,” occupying a township with from one to nine acres of land each, for which they paid rent in service. Then came the “malars,” occupying a “mailen,” these were farmers renting a husbandland. The husbandland consisted generally of two “oxgates” of land, each thirteen acres, “where plough and scythe could gang,” and four husbandmen occupied together a ploughgate of land, which was equal to 104 acres, and they had a plough in common, to which each contributed two oxen; they were bound to good fellowship by rules, which, if broken, were enforced by the birleyman. By an Act of the Scottish Parliament, where any one owned more than four cows, he was forced to rent land and plough it with the cattle, under penalties; and so hurtful to the crops had the “gule”—the corn marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*)—become, that it was enacted he should be punished as a traitor would be who grew it, which meant that he might be executed for it. If it grew owing to the carelessness of a bondsman, the farmer was to be held responsible, and fined in a shilling for every plant, and was compelled to clean the land besides.

Leases began to be given in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, to tenants, and it was a condition of lease to plant trees near the steading, and hedges round the fields, and with moorland farmers, that they were bound to keep dogs to hunt the wolves. Throughout these periods, an essential part of all tenants’ contracts, except on lands belonging to the Church, was the obligation of being ready and equipped for service in the field on military expeditions, whenever called upon by the headsmen, laird, or baron, and to give a certain number of days’ labour on the laird’s land each year.

Where rents were paid in kind, it was necessary there should be some standard of value for calculating the amounts, and, accordingly, for the neighbourhood of Paisley, the monks of the Abbey had a table drawn up for this purpose, in which “each capon is valued at 8d.; each poultry at 4d.; ilk chicken at 2d.; a laid of coals, 4d.; the day’s pleuch, 2sh.; the day’s sherin, 3d. ;” and we have a glimpse of prices in the thirteenth century, in the following rhyme:—

“A bolle o’ aits, pennies foure
Of Scottis mone past nought owre,
A bolle o’ bere for aucht or ten
In common pryse sauld was then,
For sextene a bolle o’ quhetes.”

These prices are all of Scots money, which is one-twelfth of sterling money. That is, a shilling Scots is one penny sterling; a pound Scots is one shilling and eightpence sterling. And, further, that the lieges might be protected from imposition in regard to charges for the ordinary necessaries of life, Royal proclamation was made in each assize town, by authority of the Court of Justice, as to the prices of commodities. In Pitcairn's *Criminal Trials*, we have an example of such a proclamation:—

“All maner of victuallis, sic as flesche, fische, meitt, fowale, and uther necessaris, be brocht to the mercat and sauld for reddie money, for the prices following. . . . That is to say—

“The laif of guid sufficient quheit bread for sustentation of the Quenes Majesteis Houshald and remanet Nobill men, of xxii unces wecht,	4d.
The pynt of Burdeous vyne,	12d.
The pynt of fine Scherand or Amzerk vyne,	10d.
The quairt of guid Aill, to be sauld for	8d.
The best mutton bowik (carcase), for	6sh.
And uther nocht sa guid, to be sauld under that pryce as it is of availl.	
The pryce of ane guiss,	18d.
The muirfoull,	4d.
The capon to be sauld for	12d.
The peiss of poultrie,	6d.
Gryt chikkinnis,	4d.
The gryse (pig),	12d.
Four eggis, for	1d.
The kid, for	2sh. 4d.
The leid of puttis,	4d.
And that thair be guid cheir throw all the toune for Gentillmen and thair servandis, for 12d. at the mel- teithe (mealttime),	12d.
The furneist bed, on the nycht and that to freithe the chalmer,	4d.
The stabill fie for ane horse, xxiiii houris,	1d.

Under the pane of confiscatioune of all the guidis of the brekeris thair of.”

In the beginning of the seventeenth century, leases were usually for five and six years, and the several distinct classes of rural occupiers were—

Tacksmen, or tenants with leases.

Bowers, who farmed milk “kye” and grass.

Steel-Bowers, who received stock and cattle along with their farm, as already explained.

Pendiclars, persons having a small quantity of land from the chief tenant or tacksmen.

Cotters, who had a house and portion of land, and who worked for the farmer, but had no cattle, and got their tillage work done by the tenant.

Crofters, these differed from the cotters in as far as their arable land was not subject to the tenant’s pleasure, and they had their cattle herded and pastured with the tacksman’s.

Lastly, there was the “Dryhouse Cotter,” who had nothing but a hut and a kailyard.

The Barony of Corshill, in the adjoining parish of Stewarton, exercised in its Court some peculiar powers in agricultural matters, and others. The tenants and feuars in the parish having been summoned, the Baron presided, the Bailie, the Baron Officer, and the Dempster—who pronounced the doom of the Court—and the Birleyman to keep good order, were appointed, and then the Court proceeded to consider complaints.

The proceedings of the Court cover a period from 1590 to 1719. Tenants not attending the summons of the Court were fined. Complaints of many kinds were considered—for example, farmers taking their grain past the mill to which they were thirled, had to pay the multures to the miller, with expenses. Sub-tenants refusing to pay the “grass maill” were, by the Court, ordained to pay; and petty squabbles, such as stealing fruit, steeping lint in running water, shooting hares, or wild fowl, or burning moss out of season, were all amenable to this Court.

Such is a view of some of the conditions through which agricultural customs have passed in Scotland from a very early period till the eighteenth century, and although the general tendency has been towards advancement, the progress has been slow, as agricultural methods are amongst the last things to undergo change in any country.

But as civilization is not always the same quantity, even in the same country, so some districts have advanced with greater strides towards improvement than others, and our county has, through a long series of years, always occupied a forward position in agricultural matters in all its varied branches. Many things contributed towards the retardation of this branch of industry. For one thing, want of a proper system of drainage kept the land in a sour, bad condition; then the pernicious practice of succession cropping—taking successive crops of the same grain from the same land; for example, three crops of oats, in three following years, thereby necessitating a long rest of probably six years in grass, to allow the soil to recuperate, constituted a great hindrance to progress; another drawback was the wretched state of the roads leading to many of the farms, for, except in the drought of summer, or the frost of winter, the roads before the conversion of Statute Labour in 1836, were scarcely passable, and it would not be easy to over estimate the benefit agriculture has derived from good roads; whilst clumsy implements made it impossible to economize labour.

About the middle of the eighteenth century, it was no uncommon thing to see four horses in a plough, and three individuals attending it, a boy who acted as “gaudsman” (driver), the ploughman, and a gundyman, who, with a long pole fastened to the beam of the plough, helped to guide it, by pushing it off or pulling it to him as required, and seeing that the furrows were turned over, for they were sometimes from twelve to fourteen inches wide, and the plough, save “the metals,” was made of wood, of strong, clumsy construction. Now two horses do the same work equally well, without either gaudsman or gundyman; no doubt this is contributed to in the present day by the land being more friable for one thing from improved drainage, and the great improvement in the breed of horses for another. It is to this form of plough-yoke that our national bard refers in his “Salutation to the Auld Mare Maggie;” when speaking of her offspring, he says—

“My pleugh is now thy *bairn-time* a’,
Four gallant brutes, as e’er did draw.”

And, again, in the “Inventory,” when describing the four brutes o’ gallant mettle he was possessed of, when he says—

“My Lan’ afore’s a gude auld has-been,
An wight an wilfu’ a’ his days been.
(This was the fore-horse on the left hand in the plough)

My Lan' ahin's a weel gaun fillie,
 That aft has borne me hame frae Killie.
 (The hindmost horse on the left hand in the plough)
 My Furr ahin's a wordy beast
 As e'er in tug or tow was traced ;
 (The hindmost on the right hand in the plough)
 The fourth's a Highland Donald hastie."

So that the custom of having four horses in the plough must have been quite common in Burns's time.

The wages of farm labourers about the end of the eighteenth century were—for men servants, £10 yearly and board ; women servants, £3 10s. yearly and board ; and common labourers, 1s. 6d. per day. By this time also the system of succession cropping was mostly, if not entirely abandoned, and that of rotation cropping generally in use. This method was found to be advantageous in two ways—it produced more satisfactory results to the farmer, and the ground was kept in better heart by the manure used.

But with the advent of the nineteenth century, agricultural methods began to assume a different aspect, especially was this the case towards the middle of it ; and concurrently with the improvements in the farmer's implements and methods, the dwelling-houses and offices began to receive attention. One-storeyed houses gave place in a great many instances to houses of two storeys, with corresponding comfort to the farmer's family ; and the extension of modern conveniences generally greatly increased the facilities for carrying on the work. So much has this been the case in our own agricultural community, that it may now be said there is not a farm steading in the parish that has not undergone almost entire renewal, or received great enlargement in some respect, as regards either milk-house, byre, hay-shed, stable, or barn, and also a pure and abundant water supply, so that not only is there increased domestic comfort for the farmer's family, but the cattle upon which so much depends, have now more comfortable and sanitary surroundings, which should aid in warding off disease. The land has been better drained, and fences have been made more efficient.

Sixty years ago, as now, sowing was begun generally by the end of March, but reaping, especially of oats and food-stuff, was a much slower process than it is now. Human food crops were then cut entirely by the hand sickle. To have cut them otherwise, as with the scythe, seemed to evince such a want of a proper sense of thankfulness for the gift of human food, as to amount almost to impiety ; although the scythe was regularly used for the hay crop, and the harvesters who

came annually from Ireland "scutched" the corn crop with the hook. The writer can remember the first farmer in the parish to cut his corn crop with the scythe. His proceedings were at first looked upon with surprise, if not with something more, by his neighbours, but the advantage of it was soon apparent, and ere long the practice became general. The reaping machine, which was invented in 1827 by the Rev. Patrick Bell, LL.D., minister of Carnyllie, in Forfarshire, since so greatly improved, and the many other modern implements of agriculture, and the great advantages they have brought within the range of the present-day farmer's work, were then practically things of the future. Sanitation as now carried out was to a large extent unknown, and certainly quite beyond the ken of the ordinary farmer; nor was it then of such transcendent importance, as his connection with the outside public was chiefly confined to cereal cropping, oats, barley, flax, etc. But the broad hold the farmer has now taken of the general community, and especially upon every large centre of population within a radius of many miles of his steading, through the enormous development of dairy produce, especially the new milk trade, has put him on an entirely new footing. He has now become such an important factor for good or mischief, according to the care manifested in his productions, in regard to cleanliness and wholesome surroundings, as to make it matter of absolute necessity that the most scrupulous watchfulness and sanitary care should be bestowed upon his daily productions.

Another important factor, and one which has been largely exercised by the farmers of our parish, is the application of agricultural chemistry to the various crops grown. In point of fact, agriculture, to be profitably and successfully carried out in the present day, and I daresay this is the experience of every intelligent farmer, is the outcome of sound judgment, a good stock, and practical skill, aided by the discriminating use of chemical manures to ordinary manuring, and the latest mechanical implements. Leases used generally to run for a term of nineteen years, but of late many farmers have been less anxious than formerly for long leases. Another change has been gradually coming over farming operations in our parish, of late years, largely due no doubt to the great extension of dairy produce; cereals, as oats, etc., have received less attention than formerly, and have been replaced by more grazing and hay crops, which the farmer no doubt finds to his advantage, as he can probably supply himself more profitably with grain for feeding from the foreign market, whilst dairy stock and Clydesdale horses are now double the price they were seventy years ago.

Present-day Wages of Country Servants.

Man servant (ploughman), £14 to £16 and £18 half-yearly, with board; woman servant (dairymaid), £12 to £14 and £15 half-yearly, with board; second girl (if she can milk), £11 half-yearly, with board; drainer, from 4s. to 5s. per day; common labourer, 18s. per week. This shows an enormous advance over any previous record of farm workers in the parish, but it is only in accordance with the general advance in wages of all kinds of workers.

Current Prices of Produce.

Butter, on an average over the year, 1s. 4d. per lb.

Oats, 18s. per boll (Renfrewshire boll, 240 lbs., 6 bushels).

Oats grown in the upper part of the parish, about 15s. per boll of 240 lbs.

Barley, 28s. per quarter (very little grown in this parish).

Wheat, 35s. per qr. of 8 bushels (very little grown in this parish).

Rye Grass Seed, 8s. 6d. per cwt. (not much grown).

Probable Rental of Land in the Parish.

In the lower district of the parish, where the land is all well suited for cropping, on an average about £2 5s. per acre.

In the upper district, where the soil is more moorland, and better adapted for grazing purposes, £1 5s. to £1 10s. per acre.

Increase in Valuation.

In the valuation of Renfrewshire for 1907, there was £1,248 6s. 2d. of an increase in the valuation of Neilston parish, compared with that of the previous year.

In dealing with the agricultural interests generally of our own parish, it is to be observed that the cultivation of the land is carried on by a very intelligent and industrious class of farmers. In the eastern or lower division of the parish, where the land is of the best description, cropping of every kind is most successfully carried on, and the corn crops are generally amongst the earliest in the market in the season, and excellent in quality. In the middle division of the parish, where the ground is more of a mixed character, dairy produce is that to which the agriculturist devotes his attention; whilst in the higher or upland district, where the grassy slopes and rough moorland are better suited for

pastoral pursuits, though the dairy is not neglected, grazing sheep and rearing lambs and young cattle and horses, receive the farmer's utmost attention. Each in his own sphere brings to bear upon the productions of his particular branch of the business, the most recent improvements and advances that have been made in machinery, and the application of agricultural chemical knowledge; whilst the landlords seem to possess a generous and enlightened desire of seeing their tenants fairly dealt by, and not rack-rented, the result being that the tenants as a class have a prosperous appearance. But the labours of the dairy-farm are of the most trying nature. In order that the morning's milk may be in the city for the breakfast hour, it is necessary that the milk-cart leave the farm between the hours of three and four o'clock in the morning, and nearer three than four, in the upper and western parts of the parish. To admit of this being accomplished, the farmer's household must be up by two o'clock, sometimes earlier, in the morning, in order that the cattle may be fed and milked, and the cans filled and put on the cart ready for the driver, and as this has to go on morning after morning, Sunday and Saturday, all the year round, the exacting character of the labour to the men and women alike, is obvious, and the consumer in the city, in the large majority of instances, has little idea of the labour his morning's milk has entailed before reaching his breakfast table. In the summer mornings this is not so laborious, for then the cattle are in the fields all night, and only require to be driven into the byre and foddered before milking; and then the cheery milk-boy drives his team citywards with song and whistle as the rising sun meets him with its early rays; but the *per contra* is the case in winter, when in the dark, stormy, sunless mornings, pinched with frost or pelted and battered with rain, he has to plod his way along the roads—a task frequently the duty of the farmer's son.

For a considerable number of years past an influence has been at work in our parish, in common with most parishes in the neighbourhood of large towns, the tendency of which has been to induce the best and most thrifty class of farm labourers, both men and women, to leave the rural occupations of the country and crowd into the city, in quest of better wages and more leisure; though, unhappily, not always with the best moral results. This great evil has, no doubt, been the outcome of much ungenerous treatment in bygone times, and now its effects upon all classes of farmers is of a serious character; but especially is this so upon dairy farmers who require female labour. Formerly a highly moral, robust, and reliable peasantry grew up in every farming district of

Scotland, from amongst whom men for ploughing and women for dairy-work were obtained, who could be trusted by the farmer with as much confidence as could the members of his own family—

“Buirly chieils and clever hizzies.”

But now that this healthy source of labour has been removed, or greatly curtailed, a class of workers, drawn from entirely different environments and surroundings, has taken their place, with results, in many instances, disastrous alike to both the work and the household. This is, no doubt, a serious grievance, and anything of the nature of a remedy is worthy of most earnest consideration. This grievance, as has already been said, is not confined to our parish alone, it more or less affects agricultural interests everywhere; and to counteract it, an endeavour should be made by presenting inducements of a kind that would appeal to the farm labourer's sense of comfort and advantage, without which, the appeal would be in vain. At a meeting of the farmers of the parish, held under the ægis of the Renfrewshire Agricultural Society, in the Glen Hall, some time ago, to consider the question of servants, amongst other things, speaker after speaker deplored the difficulties that beset the servant question, but without arriving at any practical solution of the matter. But to this end, every farm of any size should have a cotter's house attached to it, with a piece of land, where a married ploughman could live in comfort and bring up a family. The members of such a family would, from their earliest years, be familiar with all the operations of the farm, and would form a nucleus from which, as they grew up, dairymaids and farm-workers of every description could be drawn, and who might be expected to have some moral stamina in them—when the picture of the national bard might again be realized in the cotter's home—

“When the elder bairns come drappin in,
At service out amang the farmers roun;
Some ca' the pleugh, some herd, some tentie rin
A cannie errand to a neebor town.”

That our parish at an early period had a crofting population is borne ample testimony to by the evidence discernible in the ruins of their homesteads in the neighbourhood, whilst the land belonging to them has been absorbed in the adjoining farms. The names of the places are, and they by no means exhaust the list:—The Mains, Mossneuk, Rhodenhead, Sclates, Broomdyke, Dunsmuir, Craigha', Mid-Upla, Howcraigs, West Head of Syde, Windyha', Tinnoch, and Newlands.

Connected with the agricultural interest of the parish there are two societies—Neilston Agricultural Society and Barrhead Agricultural Society. Both are in a flourishing condition, and hold annual exhibitions of every description of farming stock, in the month of May.

VILLAGE LIFE.

Amid the many changes that have taken place within the last sixty years, few things have undergone greater change than the internal economy of village life everywhere. Railway extension, by bringing rural populations more into contact with city life, has led to greater interchange of opinions, and new aspects of affairs have broadened out ideas in such a manner as to influence every relation of life; whilst the narrower and more contracted thoughts incident to isolation have given place to more enlarged views and almost cosmopolitan information, through the agency of a cheap daily press, with the result that something akin to public opinion is now found in every village.

In the earlier period, few facilities were offered for travelling. The mail-coach usually stopped as it passed through the town, night and morning, on its way from one large centre of industry and population to another, to take up or to set down passengers, and generally there would be a little bustle round the steaming horses. But a visit to the city implied a tedious journey, and, in winter, exposure to the inclemencies of the season, with often serious consequences; and, therefore, such trips, unless where absolutely required, were seldom indulged in. Social relations were thus very much restricted, and intermarriage became not uncommon, with the consequent result that the greater part of a village, and even large tracts of the parish around it, were frequently connected to each other by the ties of blood relationship. Clannishness, with all its prejudices, whether for good or bad, usually dominated the life of the place, and each one's affairs being known to every other family of the community, became common property.

In this respect the town of Neilston bore a strong resemblance to other towns similarly placed, with this great difference in its favour as regards many places: that the great good sense of the original inhabitants so guided opinion that it never became intolerant. The people were interested in and helpful to each other, and the old proverb "that blood is thicker than water," was frequently manifested through their consanguinity, when the sorrows, equally with the joys, the prosperities, no

less than the distresses, were participated in, or rejoiced over, by their kindred neighbours.

In these conditional environments, constitutional peculiarities and idiosyncrasies were no doubt liable to be brought out, and there were at times odd characters to be seen—mental weaklings, with strange temperaments and tendencies, generally innocent and harmless, frequently hangers-on to their better-off relatives and neighbours, and often useful in their way. Sixty years ago there were several characters of this class to be seen in our community, but they have passed away, and it is satisfactory to know that their places are not being taken up in the newer generation.

Within that number of years the town was innocent of street lamps, and in the long winter nights, the streets were anything but attractive; and this notwithstanding that the gas work had been erected in 1837, that the gas had been brought into the town for many years, and that the shops and places of business were lighted by this illuminant. At this time the church bell—there was only one in the town then, there are three now—was rung at 5.30 o'clock A.M. for the purpose of awakening the people to their work; again at 8 o'clock P.M., for the shopkeepers to shut their places of business; and again at 10 o'clock P.M., for what purpose I have never heard clearly defined, although the influence of the custom—for it was very general in villages—is noticed in the words of the old song:—

“I’ve heard my uncle tell,
When he gaed wi’ the lass himsel’,
When he heard the ten-hour bell,
He would hie awa hame.”

But I am not aware whether or not it influenced matters in this direction in our parish. The morning bell, however, as the owners of works had evidently discovered, was not a sufficient method for rousing the sleepers, and as the invention of the noisy syren was not then known, the custom was for the night watchman, before going off duty, to perambulate the streets, each in the neighbourhood of his own work, about half-past five, blowing a fierce, loud, and protracted blast upon a long trumpet, similar to that used by the guard of the stage coach at an earlier date, in order that the sleeper might have no reasonable excuse for a late appearance at the hour of commencing work.

CHAPTER VII.

THE TOWN OF NEILSTON.

Population, Census 1901, - - - 2,666.

ALTHOUGH the town of Neilston dates back to a very early period, it has not been a place of rapid growth, and an early writer, referring to it, speaks of it with questionable veracity, as a "finished town." Whatever grounds there may have been for the opprobrious epithet when it was first used, it has no relation to its present condition, for within the last generation there have been considerable extensions made, though not of a phenomenal nature, in several kinds of buildings, villas, semi-detached villas, and cottages, besides a large number of workmen's dwellings of a superior class, cottages, and two-storey houses. The latter were necessary to meet the requirements of the large extension that has been made at Crofthead Thread Works.

The town occupies a pleasant situation overlooking the valley of the Levern, on a stretch of comparatively level land, which extends from the top of Kirkhill in the east, to the foot of Cross-stane-brae, on Kingston Road in the south-west, and Brig-o'-Lea in the west. From the contour of the surrounding country, the town can neither be approached nor departed from without either ascending or descending a hilly incline, and this applies whether from the north, west, south, or east. The principal street passes through the town from west to east, and is a continuation of the highway leading from Ayrshire by Uplawmoor, and thence through Barrhead to Glasgow. The High Street enters from the south-west, and is a continuation through the town as far as the Cross, of the Kilmarnock Road by Kingston. At the Parish Church these streets intersect each other, thus forming the Cross of Neilston. Broadlie Road, beginning at the Cross, gives off a "right of way" through the lands of Broadlie to Crofthead, and passes thence by Broadlie Mill to join the highway from Ayrshire, which passes through the parish by Levern valley to Cross Arthurlie, Barrhead. At Barrhead, the highway divides, one section passing by Cross-stobs to Paisley, and the other by Hurlet and Pollok-

shaws to Glasgow. Main Street, Neilston, continues eastward, from High Broadlie to Kirkhill, thence the road continues and joins the Lavern valley highway at the east end of Barrhead.

Like most towns and villages that lay within convenient reach of Paisley, Neilston at one time carried on a large trade in handloom weaving, in all its various departments of silk and harness work, there being no fewer than forty-eight looms in the town at one period. But for many years past, this has been all changed; the looms are all gone, and with their departure, the once familiar sound of the shuttle has ceased to be heard in the neighbourhood. At one time there was also a large business carried on in the boot and shoe trade, by a long resident family of the name of Telfer, who exported largely to Ireland; and also, in great hogsheads, to Canada. And for many years an extensive and prosperous building and contracting business was carried on in the town by Mr. Robert Wilson, who was afterwards succeeded by Mr. Robert Wallace; whilst on the several water courses to which we have already referred, were a number of prosperous bleaching works.

Fifty years ago, notwithstanding the fact that the gas-work had been in existence from about 1837, the town, as already noticed, was badly lighted, there being no lamps on the streets; the shops, too, were small windowed, and many of them presented a somewhat dingy appearance inside, not a few of them having been converted from the weaving-shops of other days.—The small windows of bygone days are, however, largely to be accounted for by the window tax, or the tax imposed upon window glass. This tax was first imposed in 1695 to defray the expense of re-coining the silver then in circulation, and making up the loss and deficiency incident to that operation; and was renewed on the commutation of the tax on tea in 1784, and finally repealed only on 24th July, 1851. In the year 1840, the tax on windows yielded about one and a quarter millions to the revenue. But I am not aware of what houses in the parish paid this tax during its existence, nor the amount paid.—In the oldest parts of the town, the houses were mostly thatched, and one storeyed, and as some of the earliest erections stood out halfway across the street, what was wanting in regularity was thought to be made up in picturesqueness of appearance. One property in particular, which had for many years held a licence, stood so far out as to reduce the width of the Main Street to about sixteen feet. It was near the entrance to the town from the east, and there was a bend in the street at the place, which it was impossible to see beyond, as to what traffic was coming, and conse-

quently it was a constant source of danger to drivers, as two vehicles could scarcely pass each other if they met, and as the property was rather below the level of the road, vehicles were apt to bowl into the gutter in front of it, in the endeavour to avoid a collision; so that in attempting to escape Scylla, the danger was of coming to wreck on Charybdis.

A number of unsuccessful attempts had been made to purchase this property before it was finally bought by Dr. David Pride, in 1888, with the object of having it removed. Several parties afterwards contributed towards the purchase price, and the whole was sold, house and grounds, to the Police Commissioners and Road Trust. By them the buildings were cleared away, and the street greatly widened and improved, the bend being practically done away with. The Police Station now occupies the ground. The names of the lady and gentlemen who so generously contributed towards carrying out this public improvement were:—Mrs. James Armour, Townfoot, £5; John Heys, Esq., of Woodside, £25; James Martin, Esq., of Broadlie, £25; Rev. Peter M'Leod, minister of Neilston, £10; H. B. Dunlop, Esq., of Arthurlie, £5; Henry Heys, Esq., of Springfield, £5; H. M'Connell, Esq., of Broadlie Park, £5; John M'Haffie, Esq., of Kirktonfield, £5; William Muir, Esq., Brig o' Lea, £5; James Patrick, Esq., Neilston, £3; Z. John Heys, Esq., of Stonehouse, £2 2s.; John Wallace, Esq., Broadlie, £2 2s.

For very many years there was a weighing machine at the side of the street near this property. It belonged to a private company, but was also for the use of the general public. From their minutes the members of the company seem to have held a meeting each year on 24th January, to balance up with the weigher and sign his book. The machine was named "Neilston Hay Weighs." The following, which is a copy, shows the names of the owners, and other matters relating to the concern:—

"At a meeting of the shareholders of Neilston Hay Weighs, held in
Mr. James Brown's Inns, Neilston, this 5th day of August, 1862.

Present:—

WILLIAM CARSWELL, Craig of Neilston.
ANDREW GILMOUR, Muirhead.
MATTHEW STEVENSON, Neilston.
ANDREW GILMOUR, Braeface.
ARTHUR RENFREW, Neilston.
MATTHEW ANDERSON, Writer, Neilston.

Mr. William Carswell was chosen Preses.

The meeting having revised the list of shareholders, found it to stand thus:—

The Heirs of the late Capt. Anderson, Broadlie, ...	12 shares.
The Heirs of the late John Cochrane, Kirtonfield, ...	1 „
William Carswell, Craig of Neilston,	1 „
Andrew Gilmour, Braeface,	1 „
Andrew Gilmour, Dyke,	2 „
Matthew Stevenson, Neilston,	1 „
Matthew Anderson, Writer, Neilston,	1 „
The Heirs of the late Walter Stewart, Kirkton, ...	1 „
Arthur Renfrew, Blacksmith, Neilston,	2 „
Robert Craig, Arthurlic,	1 „
Andrew Gilmour, Muirhead,	1 „
<hr/>	
Total number of shares, ...	24 shares.

The meeting having examined the foregoing accounts for the last four years, found the same correct, and handed over the balance to the chairman, being three pounds, eleven shillings, and one penny halfpenny, giving two shillings and eleven pence halfpenny on each share.

The next General Meeting to be held on the first Tuesday of August, 1863.

(Signed) WILLIAM CARSWELL, Preses.”

“NEILSTON, 5th August, 1862.—We, the subscribers, have this evening received from Mr. William Carswell, the Preses, our respective shares of two shillings and eleven pence halfpenny dividend.

(Signed) MATTHEW ANDERSON.
ARTHUR RENFREW.
MATTHEW STEVENSON.
ANDREW GILMOUR.
ANDREW GILMOUR.
WILLIAM ANDERSON.”

It would appear from subsequent minutes that the day of meeting was changed to the month of August, and that the last meeting was held on the 3rd August, 1866, when the “accounts were examined for previous four years, found correct, and a dividend of one shilling and eight pence paid on each share. (Signed) WILLIAM CARSWELL, ARTHUR RENFREW.”

In a notebook I find it stated that these weights were placed on the street opposite Cooper Armour’s dwelling-house, that is, where the foot-path at the Police Office is now; that when the old properties were

taken down to make way for the constabulary, the weighs and stones, which formed their seat, were removed to David Renfrew's smithy; that the stones lay at the trees in front of the smithy for many a day, and were ultimately used by John Marshall, joiner, in 1900-01, who bought the smithy property at David Renfrew's death, in building the foundation of the dwarf wall in front of the cottage; and that the metals seem to have been sold as old iron, as they disappear altogether.

But the general aspect of the town is now greatly changed. The streets are well lighted with gas-lamps, and well kept. The shops are quite up-to-date, many of them being entirely new and handsome buildings, with large plate-glass windows, and all modern conveniences.

LAND TENURE AND FEU-DUTY.

PECULIAR FEUS.

In very early Celtic Scotland, land was held by the tribe or clan under special conditions; the tribe being the social unit, rather than the family, as in the present day. This system prevailed in Ireland, equally with Scotland, and possibly at an earlier date. The chief had his individual rights in the land by descent, the tribesmen theirs in common; especially was this so in regard to pasture land, while certain special duties were imposed on the whole land—such as supporting the chief, the several officers, and the priest, after Christianity was introduced. These matters are more particularly referred to under Agriculture. This mode of land tenure prevailed in the Western Highlands, and in Pictland, in the time of Saint Columba, and down to the eleventh century.

With the accession of William the Norman to the throne of England by conquest, the feudal system was imposed on the land of that country; and gradually this system was introduced into Scotland during the reigns of Alexander I. and David I.

The modern system of land tenure in our parish is almost always by feu, long leases being quite the exception. Feu-duty, or the sum to be paid annually to the granter or superior for the land feued, varies naturally according to the value of the land or the demand for it, and though usually paid in money, if arranged, can be paid in any other way of acknowledgment, and some of these arrangements are very curious in old parish towns like Neilston. For example, I am informed, in one of the old feus of the town, which has to be paid in kind, the feu-duty claimable is a

box of snuff annually, and if demanded, the collector must come riding on a white horse, and wearing a cocked hat. There is a bran new property on the old feu now, but the proprietor informs me he has never been called upon for payment of the duty. In another of these old feus, the same commodity is the medium of tender, with the difference, however, that in this instance payment must be made at the Cross. But it does not appear that there are any conditions imposed as to how the collector shall come for it, but it must be called for. In another instance I am informed the feu-duty is so many eggs, if called for; whilst as a variant on this, the duty payable on another small feu, is so many creels of peat. Needless to say, these halcyon days for feuars are passed, and the modern proprietor makes no mistakes as to the rights of *meum* and the obligations of *tuum* as regards his position, and that feu-duty is not now so elusory as far as concerns the feuar.

THE PARISH CHURCH.

The Church of Neilston, which has been in the Presbytery of Paisley since 1590, and was in the ancient Deanery of Rutherglen,¹ is situated on the north-east side of the Cross, and is a plain square structure, having little to recommend it from an architectural point of view. The Session House is at the front of the church, which is to the south, where is also the spire, with clock, belfry, and weather-cock. There is gallery accommodation on the east, north, and west sides, access to which is by stairs inside the east and west walls, and there are three doors of entrance, one each in the east and west walls, and one under the pulpit, from the Session House. At the west side of the gate leading into the churchyard, there is a "round house," in which the elders stood for shelter, when the collection plate was placed just inside the church gate, and before the present method was adopted of having the collection plate inside each porch at the side doors; a cloak-room has been erected opposite, on the east side on entering the gateway from the street. There is great diversity of opinion as to the age of the church. The present building was erected in 1763. But there must have been some considerable structural alterations, requiring large timber, about 1677, for we find Robert Park of Paisley appointed on 10th October of that year, to sue

¹*Orig. Paroch. Scot.*

two men named Kirkton and Dunlop, "for the rest of price of the town's timber, they got to Neilston Kirk." This timber had grown on the lands of Sneddon, Paisley.¹ The endowment charter (1163-72) of the Monastery of Paisley was witnessed to by Robert de Croc, and we learn that this Robert gave the patronage of the Kirk of Neilston, which then existed, to the Monastery of Paisley, *pro salute anime sue* (*i.e.*, for the safety of his soul), as elsewhere noticed.

There can be little doubt that the church here referred to was a much earlier structure than the present one, and may possibly have been one of several that are known to have existed in different parts of the country, representing an earlier wave of Christianity, dating from a period long before the arrival of the Stewarts in Scotland, and therefore before the erection of the Abbey at Paisley. These old churches were "St. Mirin's, Paisley, sixth century; St. Winoc's, Lochwinnoch, eighth century; the old Parish Church of Killallan; the Churches of Renfrew, Pollockshaws, Inchinnan (which belonged to the Templars), and the Church of Neilston." But I have no information by whom that in Neilston was erected. This church would appear to have been included in the gift bestowed on Walter the Steward by King David I.—a gift which included nearly all Renfrewshire. It would seem, also, that as soon as this royal gift to Walter was confirmed by charter, he made certain divisions of the land among those of his followers who came with him from England, and that the lands of Neilston, along with Crookston, were conferred upon Robert de Croc.

After the erection of the Abbey, the several churches above named, with the exception of that of Inchinnan, together with the rest of the churches of Strathgryffe, were bestowed by the Steward upon the Abbey at Paisley. Most probably the fine old Gothic window in the north wall of the present church, which is much older than the general structure, represents what remains of an earlier erection on the site of the present building, and may possibly have some relation to the early church gifted to the Abbey. From structural evidence in Crawford's time (1710), this window was supposed to be from five to six hundred years old.

It would appear, also, from a charter belonging to the first half of the thirteenth century,² that the De Croc family, who at the time held the lands of Neilston, had reserved some right in the church property,

¹ Metcalfe's *History of Paisley*, p. 342.

² *Regis. de Passel.*, p. 105.

or believed that they had, and a dispute arose. It was settled, however, by the De Crocs renouncing all their claims, in the presence of Walter the High Steward of Scotland and other witnesses. In any case, we find that by the middle of the thirteenth century, the monks of Paisley had obtained not only the church, but also the property of the church, of Neilston. At a later date, we learn that the possessions of the De Croc family at Crookston and Darnley had passed into the Darnley branch of the family of Stewart.¹

¹ *Orig. Paroch. Scot.*, p. 96.



CHAPTER VIII.

THE REFORMATION PERIOD.

IN 1265, the Bull of Pope Clement IV. confirmed to the Monastery of Paisley the Church of Neilston, with all its pertinents, together with the churches of "Lochwynoc, Innerwyc, Lygadwod, Katcart, Rughglen, Curmanoc, Polloc, Mernes, Kylberhan, Hestwod, Howston, Kylhelan, Harskyn, Kylmacolm, Innerkyp, Largyss, Prestwic burgh, Prestwic, Cragyn, Turnebery, Dundonald, Schanher, Haucynlec, Kilpatrik, Rosneyth, Kyllynan, Kylkeran, St. Colmanel, Sybinche, with chapels, lands, and pertinents; also the chapel of Kylmor, at Kenlochgilpe, with its pertinents."¹

Soon after the middle of the sixteenth century, a change took place. In August, 1560, the Protestants of Scotland presented a petition to the Parliament then assembled in Edinburgh, craving the abolition of the Papal doctrine, and the restoration of the purity of worship and discipline, and the appropriation of ecclesiastic revenues to the support of the ministry, the promotion of education, and the relief of the poor; and we learn that "Within foure dayis," the Protestant religion was formally established by Act of Parliament; and the Pope's jurisdiction in Scotland formally and finally abolished, 24th August, 1560.

Exactly a year afterwards (August, 1561), Queen Mary of Scotland, now a youthful widow and Queen-Dowager of France, and, without exception, perhaps, the most accomplished and beautiful woman of her time, arrived at the Palace of Holyrood from France. She immediately threw her influence in support of the Catholic religion, in which she had been reared and educated, and such was the charm of her condescension and grace, and her admirable prudence at this early period, that she not only enchanted the people, but made such rapid progress in their affection that, by 1563, a Catholic reaction had to some extent become

¹ *Reg. de Pas.*, p. 308.

established in Scotland; and as part of this general movement, we learn from Pitcairn's *Trials*, "that an attempt was made to restore Popery in Neilston; that on 19th May, 1563, there were quite a number of "persons on pannel." Forty-seven were charged with hearing confessions in different parts and celebrating Mass, in "the controuentione of our Souerane ladies Act and Proclamatioune chargeing all her lieges that every ane of them sauld contente themeselfis in quietnes, keep peax and civile societie amangis thameselfis, and that nane of thame tak upone hand, priuatlie nor opinlie, to mak ony alteratioun or innouation of the Stait Religionne, or attempt onything agains the forme quhilk hir grace faund publictlic and uniuersallie standing at hir arrywell within this realme." It would appear from what follows that at this time there was a certain David Fergusone, described as "the curate of Neilstone," implicated as one of the forty-seven, and we further learn "that the Schir David Fergusone became in our Souerane ladies Wile (pled guilty and threw himself upon the Queen's mercy) for the samyn cryme (*i.e.*, contravening the Act of Proclamation) committed be him within the parroche kirk of Neilstone the foirsaid tyme."

During the early period of the Reformation many churches were without either minister or reader; the church of Neilston was in this position until 1572, when the minister of Paisley was given charge of four parishes—Paisley, Kilbarchan, Neilston, and Mearns.

Two years after the restoration of Charles II., when the affairs of Scotland were under the administrative management of the odious Earl of Hamilton, a renegade Presbyterian—like Archbishop Sharpe, and the Earl of Lauderdale—the civil and religious liberties of the country, which had been gained from an unwilling Parliament since 1633, were overturned and annulled by the contemptible proceedings of the subservient Scottish Estates, and at one fell swoop by the proclamation of the Privy Council issued at Glasgow on October 1, 1662, four hundred Presbyterian ministers were expelled from their churches. These "outed" ministers, with their families, and deprived of their last year's stipend, were forced from their homes in winter (November), because, for conscience sake, they could not seek institution to their livings at the hands of bishops of the Episcopal Church, which was then being forced upon the people of Scotland, by a breach of the King's promise "to protect and preserve the government of the Church of Scotland as settled by law." Nor did the tyrannous procedure end there; for, when driven from their places of worship, they sought the lonely glen, the bare

hillside, or the open field for their meetings, disaster still dogged their footsteps, and two years later, by the Conventicles Act, 1664, they were deprived of the right and privilege of holding their meetings even in field or glen, and any attempt at infringement led to heavy fines being imposed.

At this period, when, as Wodrow informs us, "there was more zeal shown against presbyterians than there was against papists," the church of Neilston fell under suspicion and vigilant observation, and the Council gave orders about meetings and conventicles in various parts of the kingdom. "On 14th April, 1663, the Chancellor declared to the Council that he had received a letter from a sure hand, that there was great abuse committed by several heritors, especially those of the parish of Neilston, tending highly to disquiet the Government." In 1670, it would appear that matters were not going too smoothly in the parish, and the people were again to be dealt with. "On 14th June, 1670, the Council Committee order out summons against the parishioners of Neilston for a riot committed upon their minister, Mr. Alexander Kinier, one of the curates, and clerk to the Presbytery of Curates, and his wife." It appears that sometime in May, 1670, upon a Saturday, at twelve at night, nine or ten men came into the house, beat Mr. Kinier and his wife, and plundered the house. For this outrage, the heritors were fined in 1,000 pounds Scots, and Allan Stewart, of Kirkton, was forbidden to remove from Edinburgh till it was paid.

In the midst of the general unrest and suffering—even murder was, in some instances, connected with this upheaval—it is not surprising that Scotland hailed with satisfaction and joy the arrival, at Torbay, of William Prince of Orange, on 5th November, 1688. Great changes soon followed. One of the earliest was the expulsion of the curates from their several manses. As a class, though zealous against the papacy, they seemed never to have gained the respect of the people amongst whom they were placed, but, on the contrary, were abhorred by them, so that, on their dismissal, they were hounded to the boundary of their charges by a shouting and jeering crowd, and "rabbed," as it was called, out of the parish.

In several parishes "indulged ministers"—who had made a modified conformity—had been appointed to churches; and one of their number, Andrew Millar, indulged minister of Neilston, refused to proclaim John Davidson, in order to marriage with Jean Lochhead; for what reason is not stated.

During this period of stress and trial, when the Church was passing through the throes of persecution, and the people at the same time were struggling for their civil and religious rights; "at a time when many worthy folk in the shire of Renfrew suffered great molestation (1670—1685), Neilston had its 'Communion Hill.'" The hill is described as being "situated a little to the south of the Cross, and owes its name to the fact that, during these times of furious trial, the people were wont to meet there and hold quiet communion." The locality or place that best harmonizes with the description given of the hill, is the sloping hillside to the south of what is now known as Mount Pleasant, a concealed yet convenient spot for such meetings.

THE ANCIENT CHURCH OF NEILSTON.

The precise date at which the main body of the original church of Neilston was erected cannot be definitely given. It is said to have been cruciform in shape, and to have had no galleries. It is also said that the ancient Gothic window in the north side represents its chancel; that there was no steeple connected with it, and that, as a consequence, the bell was hung on a large ash tree which grew near the gate, and that, during a period of seven hundred years, one family of the name of Gemmel, continued to perform the duties of church-officer and grave-digger. We shall have occasion to refer further to this family at a later part. But though precise dates are wanting for the foundation of the original church, the present church was built in 1763, additions were made to it in 1797, and it received a thorough repair in 1820. It is reported to be capable of accommodating between 800 and 900 worshippers. During the incumbency of the late Rev. Peter Macleod—to whose memory a mural tablet has been erected in the south wall—a good organ was built in the church.

There are two very handsome memorial windows of an heraldic character in the south wall, one at each side of the pulpit. Their interest centres chiefly in their local association. The thistle is a special feature in the ornamental background of the windows, into which are inserted rich and harmonious colours. In one window there is the heraldic emblazonment of the Craig family, with the motto, *Vive Deo ut Vivas*, and the inscription, "Erected in loving memory of Robert Craig, Merchant, St. Petersburg. Born at Capellie, Neilston. Died in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, 24th February, 1864. This window is the gift of his



INTERIOR OF NEILSTON PARISH CHURCH.

Facing page 68.

niece, Margaret Pollock Glen, of Carlibar, Barrhead." In the other window, the arms of Craig and Pollock are combined, with medallions showing the family monograms with the motto, *Audacter et Strenue*, and the inscription, "The gift of his daughter, Margaret Pollock Glen." Several of the other windows are filled with stained glass.

For many years the church had a wide and rather unenviable notoriety from being the subject of litigation, partly on the ground of assumed inadequate accommodation, and partly because its walls were considered to be unsafe; but chiefly because, in the year 1798, the heritors, contrary, as it turned out, to law and custom, demanded seat-rents, and let the seats by public roup in the church. The parishioners bore the evil until the year 1820, when they declined to rent the seats any longer, and resolved, at a meeting called by public notice, and held in Cochran's schoolhouse, Barrhead, on 28th April, 1826, to go on the following Sabbath—the day after the roup—to their seats as usual in that part of the church which was formerly rouped. The heritors procured an interdict, under date "Paisley, 6th May, 1826." But the parishioners, determined not to be deprived of hearing the gospel preached, erected in the churchyard a wooden pulpit, from which, in compliance "to a petition to the Kirk Session, signed to the number of about 900," the Rev. Dr. Fleming, the minister, conducted public worship for eight years, the people sitting around on forms, the recumbent grave-stones, or the grass. In 1828, the General Assembly ordered the minister to return to the church, and this he did, preaching in the forenoon to the few heritors and their families, and in the afternoon in the churchyard to the parishioners.

Notwithstanding that, in 1830, the Court of Session admitted the claims of the parishioners, the heritors continued their practice, and it was not until the following year,—when the House of Lords, incidentally, as it would appear, in connection with some other case, disapproved of the charging of seat rents in parish churches,—that the parishioners were allowed to enjoy the rights of which they had been so long deprived, and for which they had so strenuously contended.

Under the ancient gothic window in the north of the church is the burial vault of the ancient family of the Mures of Caldwell. But only those members of the family who are of the direct line of succession are interred in this vault. This family held the patronage of the church of Neilston for many years, prior to disposing of the lands of Glanderston, with which the living was connected.

THE CHURCHYARD.

Until the opening of the burial-ground connected with what is now Arthurlie United Free Church, 1796,—then the United Secession Church—the churchyard which surrounds the church was, for very many years, the only place of sepulture in the parish. The small burial-ground of St. John's Chapel, Barrhead, was opened about 1840, and the Cemetery in 1878. The graveyard around the church consists of two parts, that to the front of a line continuous with the back or north wall of the church, being the original burying ground, is common property; whilst the portion which extends from the north wall of the church to the north boundary wall of the graveyard is the "Neilston Additional Burial Ground," and private property; having been taken off from the Broadlie estate in 1816.

Several of the gravestones in the churchyard are of great age. One in particular, a stone lying in the triangular space in front of the church, would appear to be of great antiquity. It bears on it in full length the representation of what is said to be a "Runic Cross." Though considerably worn, what are called the runic knots are still visible at the upper end of the shaft. I am not aware of any record of the age of this stone. Another stone in the same plot of ground has the image of a pair of large scissors cut on it, which would seem sufficiently to indicate the sartorial occupation of "the poor inhabitant below," or possibly the scissors of fate pointing out the awful uncertainty of human life. A third stone in the same plot is said to have given great offence to a certain reverend incumbent. It was removed more than once at his instance, but somehow always found its way back again to the same place, where it still is. The legend it bears is as follows:—

"Haught Kings, Proud Priests,
And humble slaves, must all
Lodge with me."



STONES IN NEILSTON CHURCHYARD.

Facing page 70.



SOUTH AFRICAN VOLUNTEERS' MEMORIAL CROSS AND
 PART OF NEILSTON CHURCH AND VESTRY.

Facing page 71.

There is also a cenotaph to the inventor of the *Comet's* engines, which reads as follows:—

TO THE MEMORY
OF
JOHN ROBERTSON, ENGINEER;
INVENTOR AND ERECTOR
OF THE
ENGINE OF THE COMET IN 1811,
WHICH FIRST SAILED THE CLYDE, 1812,
And was the first (vessel) propelled by steam
that regularly traded in Europe.
Born, Neilston, 10th Decr., 1782,
Died, Glasgow, 19th Novr., 1868,
Aged 86.

In the apex of the same triangular plot of ground, just inside the gateway, is a beautiful Celtic cross of grey granite, erected after the conclusion of the terrible Boer War, in South Africa, by the officers, men, and friends, of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, in memory of their brave comrades, who fell at the front. It bears the following inscription:—

3RD (RENFREW) VOLUNTEER BATT.

IN
LOVING MEMORY
OF
JOHN M'CORKINDALE CAMPBELL,
Born 23rd June, 1878,
Died near Rustenburg, 1st Octr., 1900.
JOHN CLANNACHAN,
Born 24th Aug., 1883,
Died at Kaal Spruit, 14th March, 1902.
GEORGE WILLIAMS,
Born 2nd July, 1883,
Died at Klerksdorp, 3rd March, 1902.
These three Volunteers from this Parish
Who fell in the South African Campaign,
1900-1902.

Erected by
The Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men, and Friends.

THE PATRONAGE OF THE CHURCH.

As already stated, the patronage of Neilston church belonged to the Mures of Glanderston ; but on the purchase of that property by Speirs of Elderslie, in 1774, the presentation to the living passed into that family. Their custom, however, was to grant the congregation the privilege of electing their own minister, and that long before the Act for the abolition of patronage came into force in 1874, 37 and 38 Vict., c. 83, which, transfers the right of appointing ministers to the congregation.

In Roman Catholic times, this church was under the patronage of the Abbey of Paisley ; but at the period of the establishment of Presbyteries, as we learn from Crawford, all the churches in the county, excepting two, Eaglesham and Cathcart, which are in the Presbytery of Glasgow, were united into one Presbytery, whose seat was Paisley, and formed part of the Synod of Glasgow, viz., Eastwood, Mearns, Paisley, Neilston, Lochwinnoch, Inverkip, Greenock, Port-Glasgow, Kilmacolm, Kilbarchan, Kilallan, Houston, Erskine, Inchinnan, and Renfrew. Since Crawford's time, the ecclesiastical arrangements of the county have been greatly altered, and what was once the Presbytery of Paisley is now split up into two, viz., the Presbyteries of Paisley and Greenock, in the former of which is the Parish of Neilston.

THE PARISH MANSE.

The manse, which was built in 1766, is pleasantly situated on an eminence at the top of Kirkhill, and is surrounded by the lands of the glebe. There is a number of fine large beech and ash trees around it ; but a few years ago, some of those that grew nearest the house, were cut down under the apprehension that, through age and decay, they had become dangerous to the building, and also because they were thought to interfere with the working of the chimneys. Those that remain still give tone and character to the age of the glebe lands. The view from the front of the manse is as varied as it is extensive ; commanding, as it does on a suitable day, in the direction of the east, the whole range of Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick hills, with the broad valley between. Some years ago, 1873, the old manse having been found hampered and incommodious for a family, and quite out of date as regards modern requirements, a large addition—practically a new manse—was built to

the north side of the old one. This was done in such a manner that the entrance to the old house was still utilised, whilst a spacious hall and staircase were formed from part of the old premises, from which access could be had to all the rooms in the house, alike in the new and in the old parts of the building. At the time this addition was made to the manse, the church was thoroughly overhauled and repainted, and since then its comfort has been greatly increased, in the winter season, by the introduction of a hot water heating system.

THE UNITED FREE CHURCH.

Connected with this body there is a very comfortable place of worship, situated on the south side of High Street, which was opened in September, 1873, and in the north front of which is a fine rose window. There is a very successful Savings Bank attached to this church for the young of the congregation. The manse, a quite modern building, stands amongst some trees in the southern outskirts of the town.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL.

There is connected with the worshippers of this denomination a commodious chapel and presbytery house, situated on the north side of Main Street. Quite recently the latter was greatly enlarged by taking in additional land from the adjoining field for garden and other purposes.

THE PARISH SCHOOL.

Previous to the introduction of compulsory education, the parish school was a plain two-storeyed building, successor to a less pretentious erection, on the south side of High Street; the class-rooms were on the ground flat, and the teacher's house above. Writing in 1792, the Rev. Dr. Monteath says:—"The school-house was built large and commodious last year, *i.e.*, 1791, with a dwelling-house in the upper storey for the teacher. The heritors also gave an area before the school for the use of the children, and a garden to the schoolmaster behind. The school may have between 60 and 70 scholars, and the wages per quarter are—Latin, 3s.; Arithmetic, 2s. 6d.; Writing, 2s.; English, 1s. 6d.; with 3d. in the winter and 1½d. in the summer quarters for coal." Such was the school which had done duty from time immemorial in spreading an excellent education throughout the community, fitting scholars to take

their places with credit, directly on leaving the school, in any of the faculties of the University. And such was very much its condition at the coming into force of the Education Act of 1872—an Act which revolutionised the parish schools throughout the country. The subjects taught and the scale of fees charged for the same in Neilston Parish School, when the Act came into operation, are indicated in the subjoined table, which had the sanction and approval of the qualified heritors and minister of the parish, as at 6th August, 1869, in terms of the Act 43, George III., Cap. 54 :—

Reading, - - - - -	1s.	per 4 weeks.
Reading and Writing, - - -	1s. 2d.	„
Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, -	1s. 4d.	„
Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and Geography, - - - - -	1s. 6d.	„
Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geo- graphy, and German, - - -	1s. 8d.	„
Greek, Latin, French, Mathematics, and Drawing, - - - - -	each 4d. extra.	
Pens and ink, - - - - -	1d.	per month.

Fee for sewing left to be decided by schoolmaster.

Coal money, 6d., payable on 1st October, and 6d. on 1st February.

School books, etc., at published prices. No deduction was made on the fees except for unavoidable absence duly certified.

At this time the school had accommodation for 279 pupils.

It will thus be seen that, at the time of coming into operation of the 1872 Act of Lord Young throughout the parishes of Scotland, the educational interests of Neilston were amply provided for, and the subjects taught were of such a character as to fully justify the people of Scotland in the pride they entertained for their national system of education, the great gift of the Reformers and the Reformation period. But under the compulsory regime of the new law, it was soon found that what suited the former educational wants of the district, were altogether inadequate for the altered conditions, and that increased school accommodation would have to be provided at an early date. In 1893, accommodation was made for 422 pupils; in 1904 again, provision was made for the accommodation of 782 pupils. Such are some of the outward and visible results of the compulsory system of education;

so that the days when dissolute, careless, intemperate and indifferent parents could intellectually starve their children, are happily gone, let us hope, for ever, and the State is now wisely, though late in beginning as compared with many other countries, doing its duty in this respect to the young of all classes of society.

THE MADRAS SCHOOL.

The buildings connected with this school are situated at the bottom of Kirkhill, on the north side of the road between Barrhead and Neilston, and were erected about 1861 by the late Rev. Hugh Aird, then minister of the parish. Mr. Aird seemed to think that there was at that time a class of children in the town and neighbourhood whose educational wants were being neglected, in consequence of the fees of the parish school being higher than the parents were able to pay, though he himself had been a party to fixing the fees; and in this school he hoped to reach the class referred to, by making the fee one penny per week. The expense incident to erecting and equipping the school was defrayed by subscription, and the then Earl of Glasgow granted a site, on merely nominal terms, on the nearest ground he had to the town. But the fact that the land was not quite at the town, came ultimately, as will be seen, to militate seriously against the school's usefulness.

In due course, however, the erection was completed, and consists of a large hall for school purposes, a teacher's house, with necessary offices and garden attached, all well walled in. The school was under the management of the minister and kirk-session, and for a time seemed to have met a felt want, as it was largely attended and prosperous. But with the introduction of the Education Act, 1872, its difficulties began, and ultimately it was handed over to the School Board. Under this new management, an endeavour was made to turn it to some useful purpose, but its distance from the town seemed insuperable to its success; and although the dwelling-house is still used for a teacher's residence, the school as such has, for the present, been abandoned.

The subjoined documents are, however, of general importance, as well as of local interest, as showing the deep interest which the inhabitants had of having education brought within the reach of every class of children in the parish, and that, at a time when there was neither prospect nor expectation of the State making the education of the children of the nation an Imperial duty.

Subjoined is a copy of the list of subscribers towards the erection of the Madras School, and the amount of their subscription :—

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS TOWARDS THE ERECTION OF THE
MADRAS SCHOOL, NEILSTON

Site, given by the Right Honourable The Earl of Glasgow, valued at £130.

Collected by Rev. HUGH AIRD.	Collected by Mr. DAVID STEEL.
Allowance from Govern- ment, - - - £182 0 0	Mr. Andrew Gemmel, - £1 0 0
Ferguson Bequest Fund, - 100 0 0	„ George Russell,- - 1 0 0
Dr. Bell's Trustees, - - 100 0 0	„ James Knox, - - 1 0 0
Archd. Alexr. Speirs, Esq., Elderslie,- - - 100 0 0	„ Robert Craig, - - 1 0 0
Mrs. Speirs, - - - 70 0 0	„ David Steel, - - 1 0 0
John King, Esq., of Levern- holme, - - - 10 0 0	„ Peter Craig, - - 0 10 0
James Dunlop, Esq., of Arthurlie,- - - 10 0 0	Smaller Sums, - - - 1 12 0
James Cunningham, Esq., 10 0 0	<u>£7 2 0</u>
Z. Heys & Sons, - - 5 0 0	
Andrew Arthur, Esq., - 5 0 0	Collected by Mr. DAVID OSBORNE.
Matthew Anderson, Esq.,- 5 0 0	Mr. William Carswell, - £2 0 0
Robt. Orr, Esq., - - 5 0 0	„ Thomas Carswell, - 1 0 0
Miss Craig of Kirkton, - 5 0 0	„ David Osborne,- - 1 0 0
A Friend, - - - 5 0 0	„ Andrew Gilmour, - 1 0 0
Robt. Andrew, Esq., - 3 0 0	„ George Hutcheson, - 1 0 0
William Wallace, Esq., - 3 3 0	„ David Steel, - - 1 0 0
James MacFarlane, Esq., - 2 0 0	„ Alexander Holms, - 1 0 0
A Wellwisher,- - - 1 0 0	„ James Kerr, - - 1 0 0
Mrs. Craig, Milnthird, - 1 0 0	„ John Gemmell,- - 0 10 0
Miss Speirs, of Elderslie, - 1 0 0	„ Andrew Chalmers, - 0 10 0
Mrs. Aird, - - - 1 0 0	„ Andrew Gilmour, - 0 10 0
Church Door Collection, - 3 0 0	Mrs. Carswell, - - - 0 10 0
Others, - - - 2 4 0	Mr. John Pollock, - - 0 10 0
Rev. Hugh Aird, - - 100 0 0	„ William Paisley, - 0 10 0
<u>£729 7 3</u>	„ Robert Pollock,- - 0 10 0
	„ Thomas Gilmour, - 0 10 0
	Mrs. Sproull, - - - 0 10 0
	Mr. Andrew Gilmour, - 0 10 0
	„ Robert Harvey,- - 0 5 0
	<u>£14 5 0</u>

Collected by Messrs. M'CONNELL and
MACFARLANE.

Mr. C. Thomson, Esq.,	-	£10	0	0
Hugh Lock, Esq.,	-	5	0	0
Hugh M'Connell,	-	5	0	0
Robert Glen, Gateside,	-	2	10	0
Matth. Blackwood, Senr., Esq.,	-	2	2	0
Mr. James M. Cowat,	-	0	10	0
„ Thomas Hart,	-	1	0	0
„ Matthew Purdon,	-	1	0	0
„ William Hunter,	-	1	0	0
Mrs. M'Connell,	-	0	15	0
Mr. David Gray,	-	0	10	0
„ A. Duncan,	-	0	10	0
„ John Young,	-	0	10	0
„ Parlane M'Farlane,	-	0	10	0
„ William M. Cowan,	-	0	10	0
„ John Gray,	-	0	5	0
„ Robert Rankin,	-	0	5	0
Miss Pollock,	-	0	5	0
Mr. William Gormlay,	-	0	5	0
„ Robert Gray,	-	0	5	0
Sums under Five Shillings,		0	7	6
		<u>£32</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>6</u>

Collected by Mr. A. M'LINTOCK.

		<u>£1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
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Collected by Messrs. ANDERSON and
WINNING.

Mr. Robert Wilson,	-	£3	0	0
„ James Armour,	-	1	0	0
„ Thomas Anderson,	-	1	0	0
„ William Wishart,	-	1	0	0
Dr. Young,	-	1	0	0
Mr. William Patrick, Senr.,		1	0	0
„ Henry Anderson,	-	1	0	0
„ William Pollock,	-	1	0	0
„ John Shanks,	-	1	0	0
„ John Kean,	-	0	15	0
„ Alexander Martin,	-	0	15	0
„ Robert Thomson,	-	0	10	0
„ William Gallacher,	-	0	10	0

Mr. James Buchanan,	-	£0	10	0
„ Robert Wallace,	-	0	10	0
„ Matthew Waddell,	-	0	10	0
„ Robert Whitelaw,	-	0	10	0
„ Robert Robertson,	-	0	10	0
„ John Gardiner,	-	0	10	0
„ Alex. M'Intyre,	-	0	10	0
„ Alex. Gray,	-	0	10	0
„ William Young,	-	0	10	0
„ Andrew Young,	-	0	10	0
Mrs. Wright,	-	0	10	0
Mr. John M'Farlane,	-	0	10	0
„ James Anderson,	-	0	7	6
„ David Reid,	-	0	5	0
„ Arch. Mackenzie,	-	0	5	0
„ James Marshall,	-	0	5	0
„ Millar Beith,	-	0	5	0
Miss Glen,	-	0	5	0
Mr. Arthur Renfrew,	-	0	5	0
„ Robert Winning,	-	0	5	0
„ Robert M'Donald,	-	0	6	0
„ James Muir,	-	0	5	0
„ John Haig,	-	0	5	0
„ Willm. Gray,	-	0	5	0
„ James Glen,	-	0	5	0
„ John Drummond,	-	0	5	0
„ James Patrick,	-	0	5	0
„ John Carswell,	-	0	5	0
Sums under Five Shillings,		4	5	6
No names given,	-	0	7	6
		<u>£28</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>

ABSTRACT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Value of Site,	-	£130	0	0
Collected by Rev. H. Aird,		729	7	3
Bank Interest,	-	1	7	8
Collected by Mr. Steel,	-	7	2	0
„ Mr. Osborne,		14	5	0
„ Messrs. M'Con-				
„ nell and Macfarlane,		32	19	6
Collected by Mr. M'Lintock,		1	5	0
„ Messrs. Ander-				
„ son and Winning,	-	28	16	6
		<u>£945</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>11</u>

ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

Connected with St. Thomas' Roman Catholic Chapel (1861) there is a commodious school, which has quite recently undergone great enlargement and structural alteration. In point of fact, it is practically a new school, an additional storey having been added to it, in order to meet the requirements of the Education Department.

NEILSTON SOCIETY FOR CHARITY.

This Society was founded in 1797, as the preamble informs us, "to establish a fund for the support and maintenance of such of their own members, their widows, or children, as may, by indisposition or misfortune, be rendered unable to maintain themselves." Since its origin, this Society has done much good work and benefited many who little expected to require its help at the time their connection was made with it. The funds are derived from invested money and property.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

There are also in the town several branches of thriving friendly societies—Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society; St. Andrew's Order of Ancient Gardeners; Independent Order of Rechabites; Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds; and the Catholic Benefit Society.

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This Society has existed under various names and conditions for a great many years, having originated in the old "Cow Fair" which was held at one period every second Tuesday of May in the Big Square. The Cow Fair was beginning to fall off, and mainly at the instance of Captain Anderson of Broadlie (a Waterloo veteran, in which glorious action he lost one of his legs) it was changed into the Cattle Show, and for many years after the Show was held on his grounds of Broadlie. This Society is at present in a flourishing condition, and the members hold their annual exhibition, under the designation of "Neilston Cattle Show," on the first Saturday of May, when the exhibits are usually of high class, and there is a large turn-out of people.

HALLS.

The town has good postal arrangements with telegraph and Savings Bank attached, also telephone connection; and there is a branch of the Clydesdale Bank. Though there had been several halls connected with the town for very many years, they were small, not easy of access, and uncomfortable. Yet in one of them, known as "Jen's Hall"—Miss Janet Anderson's, Neilston Inn—in the beginning of the nineteenth century, R. A. Smith, the musician and composer, then in Paisley, was in the habit of giving special concerts, when some of his friend Tannahill's beautiful lyrics, to which he had set original and appropriate music, would receive graceful rendering by the composer himself—as we have been told by no mean judge—the late Mr. Robert Andrew. These concerts were well attended and had a great vogue at the time. Still, the want of a sufficiently commodious place of meeting for lectures, assemblies, political meetings, and social gatherings had for many years been a felt desideratum. But the defect has lately been amply and liberally provided for by the generous gift of Mrs. Glen of Carlibar, to her native town, of a complete suite of halls with all their requisites. The buildings, which are known as "The Glen Halls," are of red sandstone and situated on the north side of the Main Street. They consist of a large hall, a lesser hall, two committee rooms or ladies' and gentlemen's cloak and coat rooms, and several retiring rooms behind, with kitchen, etc., and cellarage accommodation for heating apparatus beneath. The front elevation is very handsome, and the whole building is fortunate in having a good open space before it, which shows its proportions well, and affords room for vehicles turning and facilitates the alighting of parties.

The Volunteers of Neilston, a body in which Mrs. Glen for many years has taken a deep interest—her late husband, Captain Glen, having been one of their early officers—have been equally fortunate in being provided by the same generous lady with a drill hall, recreation rooms, parade ground, and armoury, with instructor's house attached, all adjacent to the Glen Halls.

THE TRADE OF THE TOWN.

Neilston has been long famed for bleaching, owing to the abundant supply of excellent water, and though there are fewer works now than there were formerly, there is still an active trade carried on in all the departments of bleaching, laundry work, dyeing, and mercerising

at Kirktonfield, Broadlie Mill, Killoch, and Gateside. There is also a large thread manufacturing work, the firm of R. F. & J. Alexander, a branch of the English Sewing Cotton Co., Limited. This work has been greatly added to and extended recently, by the closing of the Molendinar thread works, in Glasgow, from railway extension there, and gives employment to over 1,500 workers of different kinds. To meet the demand for increased house accommodation for these operatives, a large number of better-class workmen's houses has been built at Holehouse, west of the town. Other occupations are joiners, slaters, blacksmiths, and plumbers.

Since the opening of the Caledonian Railway station in the town, several superior villas and cottages have been erected. There is a large and prosperous branch of the Co-operative Society, and also a highly useful affiliated branch of the Victoria Nursing Association, a house for the nurse having been provided, through the generosity of Mr. Alex. Martin, of Holehouse, by the erection of a cottage on Holehouse Brae. There is, also, a branch of the British Women's Temperance Association; a Good Templar Lodge; and formerly a company of Volunteers, now in part merged in the Territorial Forces, and a Boys' Brigade and Boy Scouts. There also existed a useful Public Library, instituted 1852, but for a number of years past, partly owing to the difficulty of keeping up a proper supply of books, but mainly from the facility with which cheap books can be bought privately, and the ease with which library connections can be formed in Glasgow, the library has got into a state of complete decay. There are bowling green, cricket pitch, and football field, all within easy reach of both Caledonian and the Kilmarnock and Joint Line railway stations, and a curling club, instituted 1875. This club has maintained its reputation in many contests: of 41 with other clubs, it gained 28 and lost 13. In the first 15 contests, they were defeated only once, gaining 15 medals—a gold and a silver one having been won in one competition; and in the 28 victories, they were up 362 shots, being an average of nearly 13 per victory. Such is the information supplied by their late secretary. The followers of the gentle Isaac have a Free-Water Angling Club.

There are eight licensed properties in the town, being eight fewer than in 1863.

Formerly (1837) there was a Small Debt Court held alternately, once a month, in Neilston and Barrhead, which has for many years been departed from.

SPECIAL DRAINAGE SCHEME.

The County Council having resolved to establish a Special Drainage District in Neilston, the work was begun in the spring of 1907, and, having been pushed on with great activity, was opened in 1909. The purification works are on the septic-tank principle—a system which seems to have met the difficulty of inland sewage requirements—with eight filters, arranged in two sets of four. The filters are to be treated as contact beds, and given as long as possible to drain and aërate, the opening and closing being regulated by alternating gear. Provision was made for the construction of no fewer than twenty-four sewers, varying in size from 15 to 6 inches fire-clay pipes, which, being now finished, should put the town upon a sound sanitary basis, and secure healthy surroundings for the people. It is estimated that the scheme, exclusive of site for purification works, will cost about £9,700.

NEILSTON AND BARRHEAD RACES.

Seventy years ago, we, like many other west-country towns, had our races, which took place on the first Tuesday of July annually. In Neilston, the race was run on the street, the course being from the Masons' Arms to the Craig gate, near the quarry of the same name, on Kingston road, the turning post being a barrel placed there in the middle of the road. The jockeys were a couple of nondescript characters, who always turned up to ride on the race day, known as "Tory" and "Friday." As in greater and more pretentious events of a kindred character, the patrons of our race had their favourites—the bookmaker had not then been evolved—and Friday, who was generally successful in carrying off the "blue ribbon" of the day, enjoyed that position. He had a stiff leg, or pin, and was a bit of a trickster or cheat, and somehow the sympathy of the public or crowd went out in that direction. He had, or was credited with having, which in his case served much the same purpose, a fluky way of poking his pin in front of his rival's horse, if it was likely to dispute his position when nearing the winning-post, which scared it from coming forward, and gave him the race.

The race, in Barrhead, was run in the Aars road for some years, and, later, in a field alongside that road. But, needless to say, these racing events are now things of the past, and the only thing of their kind left in the parish is the motley affair that annually, for many years, at least,

winds up the Cattle Show in Neilston, for the practice has been altogether abandoned at Barrhead. These events were, doubtless, kindred to the Cadgers' Race, still kept up in some towns in the west—relics of a friendly rivalry that took place amongst the followers of an occupation (the cadger) that is now, in the face of railway enterprise, rapidly becoming an industry of bygone days.

UPLAWMOOR.

Uplawmoor, or Ouplaymuir, as it is written in older documents, has a population (1901) of 220. There is no special trade carried on, the population being either residential or connected with agricultural work. The village is situated three miles to the west of Neilston, and on the very border of Ayrshire. Its situation, surroundings, and exposure are alike charming, and, within the last thirty years, it has been almost entirely rebuilt. The old houses were mostly single-storeyed and thatched, and in the thriving days of hand-loom weaving, there were nine looms in the village; but these have all long ago passed away, and with them most of the houses they occupied have disappeared, and their places been supplied by modern buildings possessed of every comfort and convenience, substantial villas, and cottages. There is a fine church in the village known as the *quoad sacra* parish church of Caldwell, with large and comfortable manse attached. The foundation-stone of this church was laid in 1888, by Colonel Mure of Caldwell, with Masonic honours. There is a commodious school, with teacher's house; post-office and telegraph connection; and a good water supply. There is very ample railway service, as both the Glasgow & South-Western, or Joint Line, and the Caledonian railways have stations at the village. There is an excellent golf course of eighteen holes within Caldwell policies, and the Joint Line station is within three minutes' walk of the pavilion. Such is the provision made for healthful exercise in summer; whilst in winter, the proximity of Loch Libo gives ample scope for indulging the curlers in the roaring game. There is one licensed house in the village.

SHILFORD.

This hamlet has a population of 46, and is situated on the main turnpike between Barrhead and Lugton. Many of the place-names here about are corruptions of old names, quite descriptive of the places when

first given. Previous to the formation of the turnpike road (*circa* 1820), the water from the glen on the hillside, which now runs down to the railway, spread out here in the hollow part of the road which then, as now, passes from Uplawmoor over the braes to Paisley by Gleniffer, and formed a "shallow ford" at this point, of which the name of the hamlet is evidently a corruption. This stream, too, has evidently a name-relation to the two farms on the hillside, "Thortor-burn" being a corruption of "Athort-the-burn," *i.e.*, across, or the other side of the burn; and "Bung-clug" evidently has been originally "Bank-lug," the side, or "lug," of the bank of the same water. After leaving Athort-the-burn glen, the water crosses the meadow to the railway, where it is now diverted to a westward course, and finds its way to Loch Libo. There is a blacksmith and farrier's shop and a saw-mill here, and, formerly, there were two licensed properties, but, some years ago, the licences were both withdrawn, first one and then the other.

GATESIDE.

This village has a population of 396, and lies along the base of the Fereneze hills, which shelter it completely from the north winds, and is about equally distant between Barrhead and Neilston. For many years there was a cotton mill and two printfields here; the latter entered into the "Calico combine," since which one of them has been closed, and the cotton mill has been converted into a waterproofing work; and there is also a laundry. The inhabitants are chiefly the employees of these different works. As the manufacture of waterproof cloth is a new and rising industry, prosperity has visited the place, and led to improvements being made in the dwelling-houses, bringing them more into line with modern sanitary requirements. There is one licensed property in the village.

CHAPTER IX.

BARRHEAD.

THE population of this rapidly rising burgh was, in the census of 1901, 9,855, but is now computed to be over 10,000; in 1811, it was 1,230. Writing about the last third of the eighteenth century (1773), Crawford, in his *History* of the county (p. 170), says:—"Gavin Ralston, of that Ilk, Esquire, had lately feued off a new town for building upon, which appears to do well, that he called the name of the place Newton-Ralston;" and it is further observed that "in Newton-Ralston, Barrhead, Dovecot-hall, and Grahamston, there are about 70 weavers' houses, containing about 130 looms; all the four places lying contiguous to one another, and having the rivulet of the Levern running through between them, at which place another small rivulet, the Kirkton, hath its influx into the Levern."

Such is the unpretentious description of the beginnings of the now prosperous and busy burgh of Barrhead, the extension and growth of population in which, within the last quarter of a century, has been quite phenomenal. So much so, indeed, that Crawford's observation regarding Newton-Ralston still applies—"that it appears to do well."

So late as 1837, this now busy centre was merely a thriving village, with its several hamlets, or clachans—as named by Crawford—no more than met together. It is said to owe its name to the first buildings of the predominant member of these hamlets being situated at the *head* of some *bars*, or rigs, of ploughed land on one of the oldest farms in the neighbourhood—hence *Barrhead*. Barrhead is about two miles north-east of Neilston, three miles south-east from Paisley, and eight miles south-west of Glasgow, the distance being reckoned from the cross in each case respectively. The turnpike road from Ayrshire to Glasgow passes through the burgh from south-west to north-east, and, at Cross-Arthurlie, the main road to Paisley branches off to the north. The principal thoroughfare is one long street—Main Street—stretching from the west-end of Kelburn Street, at the junction of Neilston Road to Chapelbrae, at Dovecot-hall, on the Darnley Road. But the extension of Cross-

Arthurlie Street, along Paisley Road, almost to Cross-stobs, has added an additional long street to the town. From these principal thoroughfares several side-streets branch off to the south of the town, leading to a number of handsome villa residences.

Of recent years, and particularly since the adoption, in 1894, of the "Burgh Police (Scotland) Act," the town has been extending in all directions, while the streets have undergone great improvement at the hands of the Council. In 1901, Carlibar bridge across the Lavern, at Dovecothall, was reconstructed and greatly widened, towards the cost of which, as it is quite convenient to the main entrance gate at Carlibar, Mrs. Glen generously contributed £600. The shops and places of business generally are all up-to-date, and have every convenience for carrying on their transactions with facility and expedition. The Co-operative Society have a number of prosperous branches in different quarters of the town, besides holding large blocks of residential tenements.

For many years, in its earlier periods, the trade of Barrhead was handloom weaving, when, as we have already learned, there were no fewer than 130 looms. Following this, the industry was mostly confined to printfields, bleaching works, and cotton mills; and it is matter of history that Lavern mill, situated on that water at Dovecothall, was the second of its kind in Scotland (the first having been erected at Rothesay), and the first in the Lavern valley. To these branches of trade was subsequently added engineering in all its departments. But of recent years trade development has been by leaps and bounds, largely due, no doubt, to actual and prospective facilities by railway extension; and now the various industries embrace a wide range, some of them, such as the sanitary works, being entirely new occupations in the district. The industries now carried on include calico-printing, cotton-spinning, foundry and engineering, several sanitary works, pottery, brass-foundry, copper-works, flock-spinning, pulley-works, skinnery, boiler-works, bakery, hosiery, bleach-fields, laundries, etc., giving employment to thousands of operatives of all classes, with a corresponding increase of population and prosperity.

On the south side of Main Street, and in a quite central situation, the Municipal Buildings of the burgh have been erected, the site having been the gift to the town of the late Provost Colonel Z. John Heys. The structure has a very handsome front, and is of red sandstone, towards the cost of which Mrs. Glen, of Carlibar, with characteristic liberality, contributed £1,000; whilst the clock, which is placed in an ornamental

tower, is the gift of then Bailie, now Provost Paton, of the skinnery. The formal opening of the buildings took place in April, 1904, when Mrs. Glen, who performed the interesting ceremony, further presented the burgh with a handsome gold chain and badge of office for the Provost; she being at the same time made the recipient of the gold key with which she had so gracefully performed the opening ceremony.

There are commodious Public Halls; Constitutional and Liberal Club Rooms; Mechanics' Institute and Library; Amateur Dramatic Club; Choral Society; branches of the Union and National Banks, and of the Bank of Scotland; postal, telegraph, and telephone offices; a bowling-club, and golf links, the latter on Fereneze braes; and an Agricultural Society, which has its annual exhibition in May.

There were three companies of Volunteers, now merged into the Territorial Forces; there are an Angling Club; a Burns' Club; a Boys' Brigade; Boy Scouts; an Art Club, inaugurated in 1904; a Masonic Lodge, "Union and Crown"; a British Women's Temperance Association. Formerly a Fair was held at Barrhead on the last Friday and Saturday in June annually; and as already noticed, there was formerly a horse-race.

There are twenty-five licensed houses.

CHURCHES IN BARRHEAD.

The Established Church, or, as it is more familiarly named, the "Bourock Kirk," is a *quoad sacra* parish church, and was erected under the provisions of 7 and 8 Vict., c. 44, to meet a greatly-felt want in the lower ward of the parish at the time. It was opened for service on 23rd July, 1840. This church was the scene of considerable commotion, in 1843, when the Rev. Mr. Brewster, Paisley, in terms of the Presbytery's appointment, arrived at the gates to preach the church vacant against the Rev. Mr. Salmon, who had adopted the views of the followers of Dr. Chalmers, and found them shut against him. After the church bell had ended, Mr. Brewster read the edict, and thereafter proceeded to Neilston, where he preached in the parish church, and again read the decision of the Presbytery; leaving Mr. Salmon and his congregation in undisturbed possession of their church for the time being. This gentleman, however, went over to the Free Church at the Disruption, in the same year.

North Arthurlie United Free Church was erected as the Burgher Meeting House, in 1796. It is a substantial, but severely plain structure, quite in accordance with the belief in simple and unadorned church architecture that characterized many religious bodies at that period. This church has a large burial-ground around it. Before the union of the Free and United Presbyterian Churches, this was the United Presbyterian church of Barrhead.

The South United Free Church is situated on the south side of the main street, in the centre of the town. It is placed a little back, and has a considerable space between it and the street. It has a very good front, with double belfries, one at each corner; and the Mr. Salmon who has just been named was its first minister.

The Roman Catholic Chapel of St. John, which was opened on 17th October, 1841, is a large erection situated on the north side of Darnley Road, in Prior Park, near Dovecothall, at the top of what is now known as Chapelbrae. The Presbytery-house, a two-storey building, is within the same enclosure.

The Evangelical Union have a comfortable church on the west side of Arthurlie Street; and the Wesleyan Methodists a chapel on the south side of Cross Arthurlie Street. In addition, there is a strong and active contingent of the Salvation Army, a Young Men's Christian Association, and various other Christian agencies.

There is an affiliated branch of the Victoria Nursing Association, to which Mrs. Glen gave Craig-Newsky Cottage in 1904 as a home for the district nurse at a cost of £630; in addition, there is a Burgh nurse, and branches of the following friendly societies—Ancient Order of Foresters; St. Andrew's Order of Ancient Gardeners; Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds; and other agencies making for social elevation and thrift.

SCHOOLS OF BARRHEAD.

For many years school accommodation in Barrhead was of the most meagre description, and all scholars who aimed at a higher education were under the necessity of coming to Neilston to the Parish School. This want became so much felt that a few years before the Education Act came into force, the principal inhabitants of the town had a commodious school erected by voluntary subscription to meet the circumstances, and in January, 1870, the new school was opened. Under the Act of 1872, this state of matters was, of course, all changed, and school

accommodation, commensurate with the requirements of the population, has been amply provided.

There are three large public schools under School Board management, in addition to a large school at Chapelbrae, connected with the Roman Catholic denomination, successor to an earlier school opened in Water Road in 1842. The benefits of Mrs. Glen's bursaries apply to all the schools under the Board.

RAILWAYS.

For many years the only railway communication between Barrhead and Glasgow, was by the Joint Line, which, in 1867, was opened through to Kilmarnock, forming the Glasgow, Barrhead, & Kilmarnock Joint Line; whilst connection with Paisley was by omnibus, which ran several times a day. But now the town is the centre of a network of railways, having connection with all the principal railway systems of the country; and the Paisley & District Tramway connects with Barrhead, and will shortly, it is expected, connect with Rouken Glen, and let us hope, with Neilston. In point of fact, the town of Barrhead is at present over-railwayed, as one of the lines has not yet been opened.

One engineering feature of the Paisley, Barrhead, & District Railway cannot be passed over without remark, viz., the large viaduct which carries the line over the hollow where Arthurlie Skinnery is located. It is a long and beautiful series of arches, thirty-eight in number, built of white freestone, and is one of the largest, if, indeed, it is not the largest railway viaduct in the kingdom, surpassing that at Berwick-on-Tweed.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the burgh is from the Balgray or Gorbals gravitation reservoir, which supplies the south-side of the city of Glasgow, and is very ample.

SEWAGE SCHEME.

As was naturally to be expected, where sanitary engineering is a special industry, the town has excellent provision made for the disposal of its sewage on the septic tank principle. These works are designed to serve a population of 10,000, and to purify a maximum flow of sewage and storm-water of 400,000 gallons per day. The purification of the

sewage is effected solely by bacterial agency, without chemicals, labour, or motor power, and without the production of sludge. The inauguration of these works took place on 15th June, 1899.

ROMAN CATHOLICS IN THE PARISH.

In the year 1791 the population of the parish was 2,330, and in that number there was only one Roman Catholic.¹ In 1836, there were 1,061; in 1858, 2,770; in 1861, 3,000; in 1893, 3,400. This remarkable increase must be due to some special cause. It is not that the original inhabitants have gone over to the older Communion, for, with the exception of mixed marriages, which have no bearing on the question, there is no evidence to show that there has been any tendency in that direction. The true explanation will probably be found in the considerable immigration of Irish people to Scotland that followed the unsettled condition of Ireland after the troubled period of 1798. Having landed in the western counties of Wigton and Ayr, they appear to have spread through Renfrewshire and Lanarkshire in a north-eastern direction to the great centres of unskilled labour, supplying the market with their strength and muscle. Settling in these districts, they have established many places of worship and schools to meet their religious and educational requirements; evincing no special anxiety to return to their native land, they have become in many instances a prosperous people.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

The French nation has, on more than one occasion, led to the embodiment of Volunteers in Great Britain.

In 1803, the first Napoleon having established a great camp of 300,000 troops of all arms on the heights of Boulogne, for the purpose, as was alleged, of invading our country, a Volunteer Force—stated in the Estimates of 1803-4 to amount to 463,000 men—was raised in defence of the nation. To this body the County of Renfrew contributed 2,700 men. I have no knowledge, however, as to what number, if any, of these Volunteers was raised in the parish of Neilston, but our proximity to Paisley, where the first Volunteer corps in Scotland was embodied, makes it at least probable that our parish was represented in that earlier movement.

¹ *New Statistical Account* (Fleming), p. 350.

In the late "fifties" the armament of the French nation had become so very formidable, both on land and sea, under the third Napoleon—following their successes in North Italy in 1859—and their being no specially apparent objective, British statesmen, from certain ominous rumours and crowings, became convinced that the preparation could have only one meaning—a contest with Great Britain. In these circumstances, therefore, for Britain to have neglected the means of resistance and defence would simply have been infatuation.

Our military system, of non-compulsory enlistment, makes the increase of the army a slow process, even in emergency. The manhood of the nation saw this, and also realised the threatening danger, and everywhere came forward spontaneously offering their services in tens of thousands in defence of the country, thus constituting a remedy so far for our slow enlistment. It at once became apparent that this Volunteer Force, well drilled in the use of the rifle, would become a formidable defence in any attempt at invasion.

At this period, the men of Neilston and Barrhead formed themselves into two Volunteer Companies. Rifle targets were erected on Capellie Braes for practice; drill was set about in thorough earnestness; and the greatest enthusiasm pervaded all ranks of our "citizen soldiers," so that when the "sham fight" took place on Capellie Moors, 1864, our local Volunteers were ready to take an active part in the manœuvres.

In the annual National Competition established at Wimbledon to encourage Volunteers, Colour-Sergeant John Clews, of Neilston, early distinguished himself as a successful shot, winning the Caledonian Shield in 1864, the Wimbledon Cup in 1868, and many other prizes, reaching the final stage of the Queen's Prize in 1868. Major Grier, of Barrhead, another successful prizeman, was six times in the final stage of the Queen's Prize—1877, 1884, 1885, 1888, 1889, 1890—and won the Gold Cross. Sergeant Pollock, Neilston, reached the final stage of the Queen's in 1891; whilst Major Pollock of Barrhead, another very successful prizeman, won the Queen's Prize and Gold Medal in 1892, and in the same year the Silver Medal in the Grand Aggregate. In 1896 he was also the winner of the Prince of Wales prize of £100. On reaching home from London, the whole district turned out to welcome their successful volunteer with a triumphant procession, who, being chaired, was carried through the town, led by the brass band to the strains of the "Conquering Hero."

PATRIOTISM.

The inhabitants of this ancient parish have been conspicuous for patriotism and valour from the earliest times. We have already seen that there is reason for believing that as far back as 1138, at the Battle of the Standard, the men of the Levern valley—the “Levernani”—were present; that at the battle of Largs they again showed their valour, under the Prince and Steward of Scotland, in repelling the Norwegian invasion; and that at the ever glorious victory of Bannockburn, 1314, they again upheld the reputation of the district that gave them birth. It is therefore not surprising that we should find the same spirit animating their successors during the Boer War.

Previous to the introduction of the Territorial system, there were four companies of Volunteers in the parish—one in Neilston and three in Barrhead—recruits for which were drawn from the hamlets and villages around, and from the town of Neilston and the Burgh of Barrhead. The business of the Volunteer is, of course, home defence, but during the terrible experiences of the Boer War in South Africa, and especially after the dark days of December, 1899, that followed the Colenso and other reverses, when the military resources of our country were strained in a manner never before experienced, the eyes of the nation turned to the Volunteers, amongst the reserve forces, and a call was made on them for volunteers for foreign service at the front. Then the men of this ancient parish, especially of the capital town, showed themselves second to none in their patriotism and courage in the hour of need, and in their devotion to Queen and Country, as is shown by the subjoined statement.

When the call was made by the Queen for a first Active Service Corps, for the front, from among her Volunteer Forces, three members of Neilston “C” Company—then only sixty-five strong—offered their services, and were accepted. At the call for the second Active Service Corps, six volunteered, but were finally, at the time, not required. And when the third Active Service Corps was called for, thirteen offered their services, and of these three were accepted. Of the number who thus volunteered their services and were accepted, three lost their lives—two having been shot, and one killed by railway accident. The names of the brave young men who thus sealed with their lives their devotion to their country’s cause, were Private John M’Corkindale Campbell, Private George Williams, and Private John Clannachan, to whose memory the

beautiful Celtic cross already referred to has been erected in the churchyard.

During the short stay in Stirling Castle, to which these young men were sent before sailing for the Cape, they were enrolled as Honorary Burgesses of the ancient Burgh of Stirling. Subjoined is a copy of one of the Burgess Tickets, the Burgh Arms being encircled by the motto, "Burgh of Stirling, *Opidum Sterlini*"—

AT STIRLING, the Fifth day of February, in the year
One Thousand Nine Hundred.

Which day the Magistrates and Town Council of the Burgh of Stirling, being convened, they receive and admit Private J. Campbell, 3rd (Renfrewshire) Volunteer Battalion, Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders), to the Liberty and Freedom of an Honorary Burgess of said Burgh, on the occasion of his volunteering and being accepted for active service with Her Majesty's forces now engaged in the South African War.

Extracted from the Council Records of said Burgh by
THOMAS L. GALBRAITH, *Town Clerk.*

In Barrhead, under identical circumstances, where there were three companies—"B," "F," and "K"—mustering about three hundred strong, on the Queen's call being made for a first Active Service Corps, there were no volunteers. In response to the call for a second Active Service Corps, one member volunteered and was accepted. And on the call for a third Active Service Corps being made up, one member offered his services and was accepted; but in reality this last volunteer was a Neilston young man, who had joined the Barrhead Company only for comrades' sake, as he was employed in Barrhead. Happily, these two young men were spared to return home when their period of service was over.

In addition to the members of the Volunteer body, Neilston had a considerable contingent of Regulars, Yeomanry, Reservists, and Militiamen, besides members of Baden Powell's Mounted South African Constabulary, on active service. Of this number was Captain John Orr, of Cowdenhall, who was resident in South Africa when the war broke out. He early volunteered for active service, and was present at the battles of Dundee and Elanslante, in the latter of which he was severely wounded. He is more fully referred to elsewhere.

James Orr, Esq., also of Cowdenhall, volunteered for service at the front with the Imperial Yeomanry, and was wounded in action at Lindley. He is again referred to.

Private William Anderson of Neilston, who served with the mounted constabulary, was seriously wounded, being shot through the chest in action at Rooival in April, 1902, when acting as an advanced guard to Colonel Dunop's column under Colonel Kekewich; the Boers being concealed in a mealy-patch, assaulted the advancing column.

Indeed, at one period of the war, the small community of Neilston had no fewer than twenty-five of its number in the field on active service in South Africa. And as showing how thoroughly the practical sympathy of the community, from the highest to the humblest, was with the brave fellows at the front, a public meeting of the inhabitants was called by Lady Georgiana Mure, of Caldwell,—whose husband, Colonel Mure, was at the seat of war at the time with the Renfrewshire Militia, 4th Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders,—to see what could be done to minimise the suffering the men had to endure in the bivouac on the open veldt during the terrible frosts at night. The result was that the people all went to work with hearty goodwill, and the following letter, which appeared in the *Glasgow Herald* at the time, bespeaks the practical outcome:—

LADY GEORGIANA MURE AND COMFORTS FOR THE SOLDIERS.

CALDWELL HOUSE, May 21.

SIR,—Will you kindly grant me space in your columns to thank all who have so generously given me donations of clothing and other comforts for the men of the 4th Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders (Renfrewshire Militia), now serving at the front, particularly Mrs. Orr of Cowdenhall, and the workers in Crofthead Thread Works, the workers of Kirktonfield, Broadlie Mill, Gateside Laundry, the children of the public school, and the people of Neilston district; also the Boys' Brigade, Christian Endeavour Society, Sabbath School and Choir, and people of Uplawmoor district, through whose kindness I have been able to forward 237 shirts, 670 pairs socks, 10 semmits, 42 cholera belts, 127 helmets, 14 shanters, 345 handkerchiefs, 7 pairs drawers, 24 mufflers, 7 pairs mittens, 1 vest, 3 pairs braces, 11 pairs wristlets, several dozens bootlaces, bath towels, letter cards, and pencils, quantity of thread reels, buttons, soap, combs, needles, pins, paper and envelopes, box cigars, cigarettes, several pounds tobacco, pipes, pocket knife, and large number of magazines, which comforts I am sure will be highly prized by the men of the battalion, and give them kindly remembrances of friends at home.—

I am, etc.,

GEORGIANA MURE.

This action, which was common to a great many other parishes throughout the country, is of historic importance as showing how deeply the people's feelings were strained by a practical patriotism in the hour of our country's danger.

But this practical sympathy on the part of the non-combatant portion of the people is no new practice, nor is it always homeward bound, but a duty transmitted to us as an inheritance from generations bygone, who carried out the same beneficent spirit in their own day. For during the terrible struggle of the Franco-German war in the early seventies, when the feelings of every civilized community were strained beyond measure at the awful sufferings of the brave men of both nations then writhing in mortal combat, the same endeavour to help to mitigate the horrors and distress of the wounded was carried out in our community, when bales of lint and cases of surgical instruments were forwarded to the Red Cross services of both nations.

The following interesting letter from William Mure of Caldwell, in 1815, on the glorious occasion to which it refers, and the circular letter of the Waterloo Subscription Committee of London on the same occasion (with the privilege of copying which the writer has been favoured), show that the same beneficent spirit actuated our forefathers in similar trials. Writing to a friend in Beith, Mr. Mure says :—

DEAR SIR,

The Waterloo Subscription Paper of the City of London enclosed in a letter from the Secretary, dated 4th July, and addressed to Beith, was sent me yesterday from the Post Office, where I have this day returned it.

There has been a County Meeting at Ayr, where liberal subscriptions were made. District meetings have also been held at Kilmarnock and Maybole. I don't know whether any of the inhabitants of Beith or the neighbourhood will be inclined to contribute in their own district to this fund so desirable, and in raising which such a noble example has been set in London, but perhaps it may be proper that an opportunity were afforded them, and if a meeting takes place at Beith, I will attend it, if in my power.

As Vice-Lieut. of Renfrewshire, I have, in the absence of Lord Glasgow, joined some other gentlemen in a request to the Convener to call that County together at an early day on this laudable business, and a meeting will be held about the middle of this month, for which I reserve my subscription, preferring to make it on this occasion at Renfrew instead of in Ayrshire, on account of the part I am required to take as Vice-Lieut. of Renfrewshire.

I write you on this subject, as I understand you opened the letter from London at the Post Office, and I beg to submit to your judgment what you think best to be done with regard to promoting at Beith the object of the London Committee. Perhaps Mr. Muir might think it advisable to recommend a collection at the church, on which account I shall be glad if you had an opportunity of seeing him to-morrow, and showing him the letter

and Subscription Paper. If anything occurs to communicate, I shall be glad to hear from you. I mean to be in Beith Church on Sunday afternoon, and will call at the Manse between sermons.

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours ever truly,

WILLM. MURE.

R. MONTGOMERIE, Esq.,
Bogstone,
Beith.

COPY OF SUBSCRIPTION PAPER REFERRED TO.

WATERLOO SUBSCRIPTION COMMITTEE ROOM,
CITY OF LONDON TAVERN,
4th July, 1815.

SIR,

While the glorious Victory of Waterloo will have impressed the inhabitants of in common with all their fellow subjects, with a due sense of thankfulness for its important advantages; the unexampled cost of Human Life, by which this astonishing and unparalleled Victory has been achieved, must have excited also their sympathy and commiseration.

The Committee for conducting the Subscription for the benefit of the Families of the Slain, and of the numerous severely Wounded of the British Army, convinced that you will find pleasure in every proper means to promote this good work, have directed me to call your attention to the propriety of convening a public meeting of the Inhabitants, or of taking such other steps as you may deem most proper to procure the assistance of all classes to the laudable purposes of this just, and necessary act of liberality and beneficence.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. P. WELSFORD,
Secretary.

P.S.—All communications per Post are to be directed

WATERLOO SUBSCRIPTION,
LONDON.

And to be put under Cover directed

FRANCIS FREELING, Esq., etc., etc.,
POST OFFICE, LONDON.
W.S.

THE NEW TERRITORIAL ARMY.

The new Territorial Army scheme came into force in 1908, and with its introduction into the country the old Volunteer system may be said to have passed everywhere into the crucible. How it may come out will largely depend upon the encouragement received from headquarters. In the meantime, the four companies referred to, one in Neilston and three in Barrhead, may be looked upon as in a state of animated suspension. Difficulties have cropped up, but as there is an inclination on the part both of men and officers to join the new force, these difficulties may be got over in such a way as to admit of their enlistment under the new regulations.

In point of fact, this has in part been realised, as a very efficient company has been already formed in Barrhead, composed of men and officers drawn from Neilston and Barrhead districts, with headquarters in the burgh town, where a new drill hall is to be erected, on the east side of Paisley road, to meet their requirements. The architects are Messrs. Craig Barr & Cook, Paisley.

In the meantime, this change has made a very material alteration in the numbers of men in the respective services. Under the Volunteer system—that passed away, 31st March, 1908—there were upwards of 400 men in the several companies in the parish; whereas, the full complement of the present Territorial company will muster only 120—of which its present strength is 89.

The Territorial Force is, however, gaining popularity; and as the War Office is giving active assistance, it may be naturally expected that the number of those to join it will increase in the parish, as the system becomes more generally known and better understood.

CHAPTER X.

THE GLENS OF NEILSTON PARISH.

THERE are several glens in the parish which possess all the beauty and charm that result from a combination of wood and stream and rifted rock, with the ever-changing light and shade that afford such pleasure and delight to persons of a contemplative and poetic nature. Of these, perhaps the finest is Killoch Glen. This picturesque and romantic ravine is situated on the southern slope of the Capellie range of hills, nearly opposite the town of Neilston. Both its banks are finely wooded with well-grown trees, and it has been celebrated in song as the early home of the crawflower, anemone, and primrose. The glen is a comparatively short one, and consists of two parts, the upper and the lower glens. The trap formation at the top of the upper glen which separates it from the hollow meadow-land beyond and to the west of it, bears evidence of having been worn down by the overflow of water, probably from a lake formed there by the ponded-back water of the Capellie burn that now flows past the old mill and under the bridge on the Capellie road. The upper reach of the glen is short but picturesque, and the descent from the trap which separates it from the lower glen is rapidly made by a series of broken rocks, and as the water plunges over them a succession of foaming white falls is produced, which, when the burn is in flow, have a grand appearance, especially when viewed from below. Tannahill and his friend Scadlock have both sung the praises of this truly delightful glen. In times of drought, when the burn water is low, many pot-holes are observed in the bed of the stream. In some places these have been worn into one another, giving rise to many fantastic shapes, which have been from time immemorial, in one way or another, associated with "The Witch of Killoch Glen." The smoother parts between the holes are her "floor," and her "hearth"; while the cavities, according to their shape and depth, are her "cradle," her "water-stoups," and her "grave"; and it is surprising how these objects are outlined in the part of the glen referred to.

“Down splash the Killoch’s wimpling wave,
 As through the glen the waters rave,
 Far o’er the witch’s eerie grave,
 Frae crag to linn,
 Yon beetling rocks, they wildly lave,
 Wi’ gurgling din.”

The Killoch burn, very shortly after leaving the glen, as already stated, joins the Levern.

The Kissing Tree.—From Killoch Glen across Fereneze Braes to Paisley there is, and has been from time immemorial, a footpath, or right-of-way. From this path on the top of the hill on an early morning in summer, when the sun’s rays are bursting athwart the broad expanse below, one of the finest and most extensive views is to be had of the surrounding country, a view which will well repay the early riser for his trouble. Formerly the “Kissing Tree,” which was well studded with nails, stood on the crest of the hill by the side of this walk, connected with which tradition has it that the swain who succeeded in driving a nail into its gnarled trunk at the first blow was entitled to claim the osculatory fee. The tree has, however, long since disappeared, carrying with it the nailed record of many victories.

Midge Glen, or Image Glen.—This glen is inferior in beauty to none of its size. In general contour it presents all the evidence of having, through the ages, been scooped out of the trap formation which forms its bed by the action of the river Levern. About half-way through the glen there is a sudden bend in it, the river being turned from a nearly eastern to a nearly northern course, due to the solid trap on the eastern bank, against which the water impinges, having resisted its denuding power and deflected it from its course. The river enters the head of the glen under a quaint old bridge, immediately after leaving the “Links of Levern.” These links are remarkable in the regularity and completeness of their formation and in the way they wind about through the meadow-land above the old bridge, in what is doubtless the silted up remains of an ancient loch. Immediately on entering the glen, where it passes the ruins of the old grain mill, the stream is dashed over a series of shelving rocks which form two beautiful waterfalls. The banks of the defile, especially the southern bank, as has been stated when dealing with the Levern, are well wooded, and the “right-of-way” through the glen, an old church path, is a delightful walk, as throughout its course it overlooks the bed

of the river, the waterfalls, and the old mill. The walk seems to be much enjoyed by the people.

Polleick Glen.—This is a delightfully wooded glen, situated on the outcrop of the carboniferous formations at the west end of the village of Uplawmoor. It is not a long glen, but in its course there are several fine waterfalls, and some charming “bits” from an artistic point of view. The stream which flows through it rises in Dumgraine moor and the meadowland of Linnhead farm, and passes under the bridge on the road leading from Uplawmoor past South Polleick. On leaving the glen, it flows past Caldwell station and joins the Lugton just immediately after the latter has left Loch Libo.

Colinbar Glen.—This glen extends from Wraes grain mill to Arthurlie bleaching works, and has some fairly good wood on its banks. Kirkton burn flows through it, and at its eastern end there is a pleasant walk under the shadow of some trees.

Wauk-Mill Glen.—This glen reaches from the eastern or lower reservoir of Gorbals gravitation works, at Balgray, to Darnley old mill, a ruin on its right bank. It receives the overflow or service water, which represents the continuation of the Brock burn, after it has been ponded up, with other streams, in the reservoirs. Nature has cut this glen through the outcrop of the carboniferous formations of the Levern valley, the coal, clay, and lime-stone of which are plainly visible on the northern side of the glen, where they are being wrought by adit workings. The filters connected with the reservoirs above are placed to the south of the glen, and between them and the southern margin of the stream there is a very agreeable walk, from the road leading from Barrhead to Upper Pollok castle, through the glen to Darnley on the Glasgow Road. This ravine is highly picturesque, being beautifully wooded with tall, well-grown trees, under whose umbrageous shadows ferns of many kinds grow in great luxuriance, and the stream murmurs in tranquil solitude.

EVIDENCE OF GLACIERS IN THE PARISH.

That the valley of the Levern, like most of the great valleys of Scotland, has been traversed by glacier ice during the “great winter of our land” is amply borne testimony to by the grooved markings left along the Fereneze and Capellie hill slopes and alongside of Loch Libo on the exposed sandstone formation at Uplawmoor wood; and also by the

famous inter-glacial beds in Cowden Glen, and especially by the great glaciated surface on the lime-stone formation at the Lugton outlet of the valley, in addition to large sandbanks and gravel formations to the east of the loch and at Killoch Glen, Gateside, and other places.

The direction of these groovings seems to indicate that the glacier movements were in a north-easterly to south-westerly direction, from probably what was the great ice field of our country at the time, the dreary elevation of the moor of Rannoch. From the height at which the markings can be traced on Capellie hills, the ice seems to have quite filled the valley, and before denudition took place the valley had probably more trap ash in it than at present. As the ice age began to pass off and the rigours of the climate became ameliorated, the valley glacier would seem to have been retarded in its westward progress by the trap formations which so much narrow the valley at the entrance to Cowden Glen, during which period the sand, boulders, and boulder clay, were probably deposited—found in such abundance in this locality as to suggest the existence of a moraine.

When laying the sewage pipes from Lovernbanks to Crofthead; and in making the septic tank at Killoch Glen, great beds of sand had to be dealt with, that at Killoch being quite stratified; and everywhere there were abundance of boulders. During operations for the enlargement of Crofthead Thread Works some years ago, extensive sand beds were also passed through. The cutting covered several acres, and at the face the embankment had a depth of thirty feet. "At this depth the sand was found to rest upon boulder clay, and this again upon volcanic ash. But towards the surface the ash was found interbedded with loose sand." The boulders exposed during the latter operation varied in size, many of them weighing several tons, and requiring to be shattered with dynamite before they could be removed. They were striated and non-striated, angular and sub-angular, and many of them had travelled far.

In the course of constructing the Lanarkshire and Ayrshire Railway in this neighbourhood, one of the cuttings passed through a considerable extent of sand and gravel on Kilburn farm, evidently an extension southward of the corresponding formations quarried for many years on the adjoining farm of Holehouse. It was observed at the time, that these deposits were laid down in such well-defined stratified beds as to indicate the operation of water, probably some ancient lake in the locality, which in some remote way had been associated also with the valley glacier, ponding back the waters of the higher lands, now



1.
SINKER
OR
WHETSTONE.

2.
BOWL OF STONE LADLE—
HANDLE HAS BEEN
BROKEN OFF.

3.
STONE CELT
OF NEOLITHIC
PERIOD.

FOUND AT NEILSTON.

the Lavern, in the direction of Midge Glen, where there is evidence that a much larger body of water once existed than passes through it at the present day; at which time, also, the natural channel of outlet for the stream would appear to have been more easterly than the present course through Crofthead mill.

It is quite in consonance with the existence of such a lake, that some years ago, in a field on Holehouse farm, which would then be covered by its waters, a beautifully finished, evidently neolithic stone celt was found, which is in the writer's possession. A drain was being cut in one of the lower fields to collect water for the supply of the then Holehouse laundry, during an interdict of their supply from the Lavern, and the celt was found at an unascertained depth below the present land surface. In an adjoining field was also found a stone sinker, or possibly a whetstone. This stone is 5 inches long, by $2\frac{1}{4}$ broad, and has a hole through one end of it, which has been formed by drilling from either side. The stone is in the writer's possession. How long this lake may have continued, there is nothing to indicate, but it most probably existed well into neolithic times, when some primitive savage or native, paddling over its surface, or possibly engaged in the more deadly enterprise of war, lost the celt overboard, to be subsequently restored to light by a modern drain-maker; whilst the sinker, which the peaceful ploughshare revealed in long subsequent ages, may have broken away from the primitive tackle. These discoveries open up wide fields for reflection. The stone of which the celt is made is "Water of Ayr-stone," and as no such stone is found in this locality, we have evidence of very early trading—barter possibly, or possibly worse—or the celt may have been part of the booty after some tribal battle with their neighbours from the district of Ayr, and subsequently lost from the canoe in the lake. As to the stone sinker, one can readily imagine what grief the savage fisherman—not this time a disciple of honest Isaac, but rather, a very early forerunner—would display when he found that his tackle had given way, and the sinker it had cost him so much pains and trouble to drill and make had gone to the bottom, and was lost to him for ever.

THE LANDS AND PROPERTIES OF NEILSTON.

King David I., when he ascended the throne of Scotland, was forty-four years of age; of mature judgment, and possessed of some education and refinement from his connection with the Court of England, where his

sister was Queen to Henry I. He was, besides, a baron of England, and possessed large estates in that country. His friends and followers from England were chiefly Normans who came to settle in Scotland, as many of their fellow-countrymen had done before during the reign of his father, Malcolm Canmore. By them the feudal system, already established in England by the Conqueror, and introduced into our country in the reign of Alexander, became established, and from them most of the ancient nobility of Scotland claim to derive their Norman descent. Prominent among those who followed the king from England was Walter Fitz Alan,—a scion of a Norman family in Shropshire, whose ancestor, the first Walter, had come to England with William the Conqueror, and to Scotland in the reign of Canmore, to whom he acted as Dapifer. For him the king seemed to entertain the highest esteem and regard, and, for some eminent but unnamed special services, appointed him Lord High Steward of Scotland—*Senescallus Scotiæ*—an office which afterwards became hereditary in that family. In addition to this high favour and signal reward, and to enable him the better to maintain his exalted position, large gifts of land were made to him, including nearly the whole of what is now Renfrewshire, and much of Ayrshire—King's Kyle and Kyle Stewart in that county—lands which in the beginning of the fifteenth century were erected into a Principedom by King Robert III. for his son. Amongst the retainers of the High Steward, who had accompanied him northward to Scotland in the king's service, was Robert de Croc, whose ancestors appear to have also come to England with William the Conqueror, although there is an opinion that he may have been of Saxon origin, from the prefix "de" being seldom used in his name. Following the example of the great Norman monarch, who had divided the rich lands of England amongst those followers who had helped him in the great conquest, the Steward would appear, almost immediately after receipt of the royal honours and gifts from King David, to have begun sub-dividing them with his retainers and followers, and accordingly, amongst the earliest references there is to the lands of Neilston, The Register of the Monastery of Paisley, *circa* 1170, shows that already these lands, including nearly the whole of the parish, were in possession of the ancient family of de Croc, whose principal residence was Crookston, probably so called from the owner's surname, the lands being then named Crooksfeu. Subsequently to this date the lands of Neilston passed into possession of a collateral branch of the same illustrious family by marriage, when Robert Stewart, third son of Walter,

second High Steward of Scotland, took to wife the daughter and heiress of Robert de Croc, designated of Neilston, as about the twelfth century the greater part of the parish belonged to that family. The lands of Glanderston formed part of the lordship of Neilston, and, through the marriage of Lady Jane Stewart, also of the High Steward's family, with John Mure of Caldwell, they came into the Caldwell family. John Mure of Caldwell disposed the lands to his second son, William Mure (1554), in whose family they remained until 1710, when the Mures of Glanderston, on the failure of the elder line, inherited the Caldwell estates, and thus united the lands of Glanderston to Caldwell again, after they had been separated for a period of one hundred and fifty years. In 1774, these lands were acquired by Speirs of Elderslie from Mr. Wilson, and in that family they still remain.

In 1613, the Laird of Glanderston married Jean, daughter of Hans Hamilton, rector of Dunlop. This lady's brother, James, rose to eminence in Ireland, being created first Viscount Clandebois, and latterly Earl of Clanbrissil, honours which became extinct in 1798. The Laird of Glanderston had issue by his wife, Jean Hamilton :—William, afterwards Laird of Glanderston ; Ursula, who became the wife of Ralston of that ilk ; Jean, who married John Hamilton of Halcraig ; Margaret, who became the wife of the minister of the Barony Kirk, Glasgow. This somewhat eccentric clergyman, Zachary Boyd, whose bust occupied a niche over the west arch in the inner quadrangle of the old University in High Street, translated parts of the Bible into a kind of rhyme, of which the following quatrain may be taken as a specimen :—

“Jonah was three days in the whaul's bellie,
Withouten fyre or caunill,
And had naething a' the while,
But cauld fish guts to haunil.”

The MS. is in the College Library, Glasgow, but was never published.

Lochliboside, the property of J. Meikle, Esq., of Barskimming and Lochliboside.—This estate extends along the north side of the valley, past Shilford, and joins that of Caldwell at Loch Libo, and there is a charter to show that it was from an early period a possession of the Eglinton family : “Charter by King Robert Second to his dearest brother Hugh of Eglinton, knight, of the lands of Lochlibo within the barony of Renfrew : To be held by Hugh and Egidia his spouse, the King's dearest sister, and their heirs, Stewards of Scotland, for giving yearly ten marks sterling for

the support of a chaplain to celebrate divine service in the Cathedral Church at Glasgow.”¹ Dated at Perth, 12th October, 1374. In the fifteenth century it was still an Eglinton possession, and became pledged in a curious way as part of a marriage dower: “Indenture between Sir John Montgomery, Lord of Ardrossan, and Sir Robert Conyngham, Lord of Kilmaurs, whereby the latter ‘is obligt to wed Anny of Montgomery, the dochtyr of Sir Jone of Mungumry, and gyfe to the said Anny joyntefestment of tuenty markis worth of hir mothers lands.’ Sir John is bound to give Sir Robert for the marriage three hundred merks and forty pounds, to be paid by yearly sums of forty pounds from the lands of Eastwood and Loychlebokside.”²

Neilstonside and Dumgraine lie to the south-west of the parish. A large part of the property is rough moorland and marshes. During some estrangement between Queen Mary and the Lennox family, we find it treated as rebellious, and under date 36th April, 1548,—this was before the death of Darnley, which took place on 9th February, 1567,—“The Queen (Mary) granted to Robert Master of Sempile and his heirs and assignees for services rendered by him, his friends and relations, etc., the lands of Crookston (Crooksfeu), and Neilstonside, also Inchinnan, with castles, towers, mills, multures, fishings, etc., the advowsons of the churches, benefices of chapels of the same, which fall to the Queen by their forfeiture of Matthew, sometime Earl of Lennox.”³ In 1755, Neilstonside belonged to John Wallace, a lineal descendant of Scotland’s great liberator, but is now the property of Mr. Speirs of Elderslie. “The principal branch of the Wallaces of Elderslie failing in the person of Hugh Wallace of Elderslie, who died without succession. John Wallace of Neilstonside was his heir.”⁴ There would appear to have been at one time an old Celtic town of Dumgraine, near Waterside; that the castle of Walter Fitzallan, the first High Steward of Scotland, appointed by King David I., circa 1140, was built at this place on the south side of the Lavern. (*Semple.*)

The lands of *Fereneze* are now the possession of Admiral Fairfax; and *Auchenback*, long a possession of the Earls of Glasgow, was purchased some years ago by David Riddell, Esq., Paisley.

¹ *Eglinton MSS. Com.*, Vol. X., p. 7.

² *Eglinton MSS. Com.*, p. 10.

³ *Reg. Mag. Sigili, Reg. Scotorum*, 1546-1580. Par. 199.

⁴ Crawford and Robertson, p. 87.

The estates of *Capellie* and *Killochside* are owned by A. G. Barns-Graham, Esq., of Limekilns and Craigallion.

Chappell, the site of an early religious house attached to the Abbey of Paisley, is the property of Joseph Watson, Esq., writer, Glasgow and Barrhead.

But since the period of the early possessors of the lands now enumerated, time has wrought enormous changes in the parish. In the greater number of instances all that remains to show that these ancient and noble owners through hundreds of years ever held possession here, are a few ruins fast crumbling into oblivion, as their owners have done long ages ago. Cowden Castle, which gave the first title of Lord to the family of Cochrane, afterwards Earls of Dundonald, is now a shapeless ruin on the hillside in Cowden Glen; the lands of Lochlibo, at one time the property of the Earl of Eglinton; Raiss Castle, east of Barrhead, in 1488 the property of an ancient family named Logan, subsequently a possession of Lord Ross, and afterwards of the Earl of Lennox, who granted it by charter to Alexander Stewart, *consang. suo*, and of the family of Lord Darnley, a son of whose house became the unfortunate husband and king to Queen Mary of Scots; the broad acres once owned in the parish by the Earls of Glasgow,—have all changed hands, so that the motto, “New men in old acres,” might very fittingly be applied to the greater number of the proprietors of land in the parish of Neilston at the present day.

LIST OF PRINCIPAL LANDOWNERS IN NEILSTON DISTRICT.

(PER 1902-1903 ROLL.)

OWNER.	SUBJECT.	VALUATION.
J. MEIKLE, <i>per</i> J. M. Person, 51 John Finnie Street, Kilmarnock.	Plymuir Farm and other 17 subjects.	£1,792 19 2
A. G. B. GRAHAM, <i>per</i> Messrs. Graham, Johnston & Fleming, 4 Albyn Place, Edinburgh.	Killoch Glen and other 13 subjects.	1,086 0 5
A. A. SPEIRS, of Elderslie.	Burnside Farm and other 35 subjects.	3,480 19 0
WM. MURE, of Caldwell.	Dunsmore and Braco, and other 29 subjects.	2,710 10 0
HENRY B. DUNLOP, of Arthurlie.	Arthurlie and other 13 subjects.	620 7 0
J. H. TURNER, of Parkhouse.	Boghall and Parkhouse.	236 1 0

OWNER.	SUBJECT.	VALUATION.
LADY COCHRANE, <i>per</i> W. J. Armstrong, 57 Manor Place, Edinburgh.	Dubbs and other 3 subjects.	459 6 5
DAVID RIDDELL, Blackhall, Paisley.	High and Low Auchenback.	314 0 0
Admiral FAIRFAX'S TRUSTEES, <i>per</i> Brownlie, Watson & Beckett.	Boylestone and Fereneze.	147 10 11
J. C. F. POLLOK, <i>per</i> E. A. & F. Hunter & Co., 7 York Place, Edinburgh.	Northbrae and Ryat.	164 6 10
HARVIE'S TRUSTEES, <i>per</i> W. H. Harvie, 33 Bath Street, Glasgow.	Lyoncross.	95 0 0
D. WRIGHT ENDOWMENT, <i>per</i> R. Thom- son, Burgh Chamberlain, Paisley.	West Over Carswell, etc.	360 0 0
T. S. STEWART, <i>per</i> Laird & M'Intyre, 175 Hope Street, Glasgow.	Nether Carswell.	280 0 0
JOHN FOULDS, Longridgehill, Dunlop.	Over Carswell and Greystonehill.	155 0 0
MATTHEW LOCKE, of Netherkirkton.	Barshagra and West Arthurlie.	157 18 8
J. B. GIBSON, <i>per</i> John Kennedy, 2 Market Place, Kilmarnock.	Snypes, etc.	88 0 0
Mrs. SKEOCH, <i>per</i> J. & J. Love, Writers, Stewarton.	Long Loch and Picketlaw.	76 10 0
ENGLISH SEWING COTTON Co.	Holehouse, Lintmill, etc.	...
TRUSTEES OF JAMES MARTIN, <i>per</i> Wright, Johnston & Orr, 103 Bath Street, Glasgow.	Broadlie and part of Holehouse.	...
MONTGOMERY'S TRUSTEES, <i>per</i> Lade & Hood, Port-Glasgow.	Kirkstyle.	...

THE POPULATION OF THE PARISH.

According to the Poll Roll, the population of the parish (which then included Shutterflat, in Beith) was for the year 1695—

MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
466	466	932

As given by Crawford and Robertson, it was for the years—

1755.	1791-7.	1801.	1811.	1818.
1,299	2,330	3,794	4,949	6,000

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS.

In few things have there been greater improvements in recent times throughout the country generally, than in the condition of the public roads that pass through parishes from one centre of population to another; and the parish of Neilston has participated in this modern movement. The Romans—that mighty and intrepid people—in the great military ways they constructed in their march northward through Britain, were possibly the earliest road-makers in our country; and their works have never been excelled for solidity of construction. But it does not appear that the inhabitants profited much by their example in road-making; and it was not until Telfer and Macadam, the great engineers—especially the latter, whose name is still preserved in the designation, “Macadamised roads”—demonstrated the principles of road construction, that any real improvement was effected in this direction. Before their time, the roads were in such a wretched condition that travelling was difficult and dangerous. We are told that in rainy weather there was only a slight ride in the centre of the road, between two channels of deep mud, and that, so late as 1669, the “Flying Dutchman” stage-coach took thirteen hours to cover fifty-five miles, which was considered a wonderful feat; and that even in the vicinity of the Scottish capital the roads were such, that riding was always preferred. When the military roads constructed by General Wade through the Highlands made such a thing practicable, we learn that his chariot, drawn by six horses, produced a great sensation in his progress through the territory of the clansmen. It had been brought from London by sea, and, when passing along the roads, the people ran from their huts, bowing, with bonnets off, to the coachman, as the great man, altogether disregarding the quality within. In those days burdens were mostly carried on horseback; and, to give the animals secure footing and ensure them against sinking under their loads, the roads in general were so made as to secure a rocky bottom, and no attempt was made, by the slightest circuit, to avoid steep places. For example, in making the old Glasgow and Kilmarnock road, which skirts the southern border of our parish, the writer was credibly informed by a gentleman of long experience as a road surveyor, that the method adopted by Sir Hew Pollok, Bart., of Upper Pollok, and the gentlemen associated with him in laying off the undertaking, was to proceed to the top of one hill and then look out for another in the direction they meant to go, and so continue; the result being, that the road has

a good and substantial bottom, but is quite a "switchback," a constant succession of up and down hills for much the greater part of its way, and therefore ill-suited for vehicular traffic. So much was this found to be the case, as to necessitate the construction of the "New Line" of road some years after, when the stage-coach had to be provided for. In our own parish, where the Turnpike Act was long in being adopted (though introduced into Scotland in 1750), the condition as regards roads was nearly identical. The Kingston road to Kilmarnock being such a "switchback" of hills and hollows, as to necessitate the building, about 1820, of the new turnpike road from Glasgow, through the Levern valley by Lugton, to Kilmarnock, Irvine, and Ayr, at a cost of about £18,000. The parish roads at this period were even more deplorable, before Statute Labour was converted into money payments, in 1792.

STATUTE LABOUR ROADS.

Formerly, the roads of the parish other than turnpikes, being intended for local communication only, were kept up by tenants, cottars, and labourers giving so much of their personal labour yearly as served for their maintenance; the consequence of this loose arrangement was, that not unfrequently they were allowed to lapse into a very dilapidated condition. The writer remembers being told by a Neilston farmer, that in his young manhood—the beginning of the nineteenth century—in the parish of Kilmacolm, where his father was also a farmer, he was sent with a load of hay to near Govan, and that the condition of the roads was such as to quite preclude the use of any kind of cart, and that the load of hay had to be taken on the horse's back. This, however, was a common enough practice at the period referred to in country districts, and it is to this practice that we owe the term "load," being just as much as a horse could carry conveniently as a load of any commodity. In the present day, to realize something of the condition of such roads in our parish, it is only necessary to travel over the relic of a reputed once public thoroughfare that passes from the east side of Harelaw dam on the Moyne road, past Snyptes farm to the "Flush," at the junction of roads from Barrhead and Neilston to Mearns; or the similar old road, the remains also of a once public way, which passes along the top of the hill, by the farm of Bank-lug, above Loch Libo, to Greenside and Dunsmuir road. But, happily, these conditions are now gone, and by the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, the County Council now provides for

the maintenance of the highways, which include main roads and most of their branches, everywhere throughout the parish, which, under the superintendence of our vigilant surveyor, Mr. Robert Drummond, C.E., are kept in a thoroughly good condition ; while the bypaths, old church roads, rights-of-way, and all roads other than highways, are under the supervision of the Parish Council.

TOLL BARS IN THE PARISH.

Closely associated with the roads of the parish were the tolls by which they were formerly kept up ; and, as this system is now relegated to the limbo of past devices, not likely to be had recourse to again, a few words regarding tolls may come to interest those of a future generation who will know nothing of them from practical knowledge. Toll primarily meant money paid for the enjoyment of some special privilege or monopoly in trade. But latterly it came to have a much broader meaning, and by Act of Parliament, Customs of many kinds were recognised as tolls—turnpikes, railways, harbours, navigable rivers and canals, were all brought under its operation. Our interest, of course, rests with the first of these, the turnpike, or road tolls. The first Act of Parliament for the collection of tolls on the highways in Scotland came into force, as already stated, in 1750. The principle underlying this mode of taxation was, of course, “that they who used the roads should pay for their upkeep,” and at one period there might have been a superficial sense of equity in this mode of road upkeep, but after the introduction of railways, the whole position was changed, and it soon became apparent that much injustice was being practised on some branches of industry that others were largely exempted from. For example, some large business concerns or contractors, by the facilities railway stations afforded them, could have quite a number of horses on the road from one year’s end to another, and yet pay no toll ; while another contractor could not move a load of coal from a pit, or stone from a quarry, without having to pay toll dues on every cart. The toll bars were placed on the turnpike roads by the Road Trustees, a public body empowered by Act of Parliament to do so at their discretion ; and they were generally so placed as to intercept all horse or cattle or vehicular traffic entering or leaving the parish, or passing through it. The charges varied at different toll bars, but it is not apparent on what principle, and vehicles varied according to the number of horses by which they were drawn. At Neilston toll, on

Kingston road, the charge was 6d. for each gig and horse, 2d. for a riding or led horse; Shilford toll the same; Dovecothall toll the same; Kingston toll was 4½d. for horse and gig, and 1½d. for single horse; Dunsmuir toll the same.

The following table indicates the dues leviabie at most of the tolls in the parish, a copy of which usually hung on a board outside the toll-house, for reference when the charges were disputed, as sometimes occurred:—

TOLL DUES

LEVIABLE AT

SHILFORD BAR.

							S.	D.	
For every Coach, Chariot, Berlin, Landau, Calash, Chaise, or Hearse,									
drawn by 6 Horses or other Beasts of Draught,	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
5 do.	do.,	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
4 do.	do.,	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
3 do.	do.,	...	...	...	...	...	1	6
2 do.	do.,	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
1 do.	do.,	...	...	...	...	...	0	6
For every Waggon, Wain, Cart, Sledge, or other Carriage, drawn by									
6 Horses or other Beasts of Draught,	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
5 do.	do.,	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
4 do.	do.,	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
3 do.	do.,	...	...	...	...	...	1	6
2 do.	do.,	...	...	...	...	...	0	8
1 do.	do.,	...	...	...	...	...	0	4
For every Horse, Unladen, and not in a Carriage,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
For every Ass, do. do.,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
For every Score of Oxen, or Neat Cattle, ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	10
For every Score of Sheep, Hogs, or Goats,	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	5
For every Score of Horses or Fillies, Unshod,	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8
And so on in proportion for a greater or less number.									
Manure, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1½
Lime for Manure pays full toll at the first Bar and half-toll at every other.									
Wall Stones, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
Farmers pay on going to the Mill with Grain, the produce of their farms,									
but not on returning therewith after it is grinded.									

CERTIFIED BY LAURENCE HILL, CLERK.

MAY, 1847.

The tolls were roused annually, and, for our parish, in Paisley. There was usually a dwelling-house attached to the toll bar, in which the toll-keeper and his family resided; gates, with wickets for foot passengers at either end, were stretched across the highway to intercept traffic; and there was generally some one of the family on the look out for traffic at night. This system of collecting toll dues often entailed a considerable amount of annoyance to the traveller; as on a stormy winter day, or in a hurricane of wind and rain in the middle of the night, when wrapped up in waterproof or overcoat for protection—as was often the lot of the country medical practitioner—it became necessary to strip to procure the needful sixpence. But, happily, this clumsy mode of tax-gathering is gone; abolished by the “Roads and Bridges Act of 1878,” which came into force throughout Scotland, where not previously adopted, on 1st June, 1883. This arrangement applied, however, to main turnpikes only; roads other than turnpikes being dealt with under the Statute Labour Roads system until 1889, when they were included as highways, and taken over by the County Council.

CHAPTER XI.

SOCIAL RELATIONS AND PROGRESS.

THE change that has come over the social relations of village and rural life generally within the last sixty years is very marked in many ways. In former times, the means of communication with the larger centres of population (indeed, many of the present large centres of population scarcely existed then as such) were defective, irregular, and tedious, in addition to being expensive; the spirit and exuberance of youth had, consequently, few outlets, and such as were, were often of a kind the reverse of conducing to either self-respect, refinement, or mental elevation. Not infrequently the facilities afforded by the large number of licensed premises that then existed—Neilston, we are informed, had fifty-eight inns and alehouses¹—and the comparatively low price of intoxicants, with no restriction as to the hours the places might be kept open, gave a bias to this mode of enjoyment, with all its consequent evils, helped on, it is to be feared, in many instances by the example of the senior members of the community. Indeed, no greater improvement has taken place than there is in this respect among the leading classes of village communities.

Sixty or seventy years ago, and even down to times nearer our own, there seemed to be no disgrace in men in the first positions being overtaken in liquor! But, happily, opinion has branded this practice so that it is now left a long way behind in the march of progress, and though the legislature, with its prohibitory and restrictive influences, may have aided in bringing about this altered condition of affairs, the vast change in the drinking customs—particularly in the better classes—of the country during that time is not the result of legislation, but of a more subtle influence—an influence which there is now reason to believe is percolating through every class of society at the present moment. And we look with confidence to the time arriving when the man, who at the present day is rather disposed to boast of his Saturday's potations, will

¹ *New Statistical Account* (Fleming).

realize the stigma that attaches to such conduct, and will come to see that intemperance is a thing to be heartily ashamed of.

Many customs or usages that have now practically ceased to exist, then contributed towards developing the evils of intemperance, among young tradesmen especially. Seventy, or even fifty years ago, tradesmen, particularly those who served apprenticeships under indenture, of the then usual term of seven years, in what were considered the better class of trades or handicrafts, underwent a painful training in this respect during the seven years of their novitiate. For example, no sooner had a lad of from thirteen to sixteen years of age commenced his apprenticeship than an "entry-money," or sum to put him on a "footing" (for such it was often called) with his new shop-mates, was imposed upon him. This sum varied in different trades from half a sovereign to a guinea or more,—for in some instances seven guineas in addition were paid for trade purposes; then a night was fixed upon, generally a Friday night, when all in the workshop, men and boys, met in a public-house, and spent the night in carousal. Towards the expense of this revel the journeymen contributed their quota, and the other apprentices added theirs. The time was usually passed in eating, singing, and drinking, and the young lad, having now made his "baptism of alcohol," was acknowledged a fully fledged apprentice, and entered upon his particular duties as such; next morning the workshop savoured of "stale debauch." It was now his business to do what was known as the "scudgy-work" of the shop: attend the fire, sweep and keep the place clean, run errands for the journeymen—including "running the cutter" for drink, for the more bibulous of them—when he was praised as being clever if he escaped being caught by the manager or employer, and felt flattered at the praise. These duties he continued to discharge, while at the same time he was being initiated into the mysteries of his calling, and he was only relieved from them on the appointment of a new apprentice; his successor taking over the scudgy-work. But the matter did not end there, for he had now to "pay up" for being freed of the "beesom"; and when the time came round for drinking his successor's entry-money, his new fine was his contribution to the meeting. Nor was this always the end. If a young man got married, he was expected to "pay-off," and in some instances a similar obligation followed the arrival of his first-born. In fact, the methods had recourse to for "raising" money for drinking purposes at this period were so numerous and varied, that by the time the young man had finished his apprenticeship, it was many

chances against him that he had also learned something more than being a tradesman: that he had become so bound round with the merciless fetters of an acquired habit as to render it difficult, if at all possible, to be broken away from in later years.

But many of the older trades have now passed away, and those customs, "more honoured in the breach than in the observance," have passed with them, or been greatly modified in the trades that have succeeded them; and, so far, a happier era has begun. Concurrently with these changes, improved conditions have arisen, workmen's wages, for all kinds of labour, have greatly increased; money has become more plentiful, and where this is properly used, want is less pressing than in the earlier period referred to; the burdens have been made lighter also by the State educating, and, where necessary, otherwise providing for the children, so that they are no longer the victims of neglect. The health of the workers is now protected, injuries compensated, and dangerous occupations specially guarded against; and when years and decrepitude have rendered them no longer able to earn their maintenance, provision is made for them by the Old Age Pensions Act of 1908; whilst the amenities of life have been broadened out and enlarged in a way impossible to the earlier generation of artizans. With greater railway facilities for leaving rural districts, with statutory and regulated annual holidays, it has now been made possible for all classes, and at small cost, to devote their leisure to more healthful, elevating, and rational enjoyment. That this is taken advantage of is well exemplified in the large numbers of respectable tradesmen who, annually with their families, spend their holidays by the seashore, and the crowds that take advantage of the many special excursions to spend their Spring and Autumn and other holidays at different places of interest, in enjoyment and healthful exercise which, in the younger generation rising up, may lead, let us hope, to better regulated lives and greater regard for decency and social order.

Yet, in the dawn of this brighter and more elevating outlook for the toilers, it is painful to learn the extent to which the evils incident to betting on horse-racing has permeated certain of the working community in recent years, when the systematic book-maker in the city sends his vampires to raid country districts among the employés of different works. At the earlier period here referred to, this practice was either entirely unknown, or viewed only as a kind of horror carried on among a certain class of people of questionable character and reputation. Let us hope

that, by the spread of education and wider and better knowledge, a taste may be generated and acquired for more healthful enjoyment, and so stamp out these pests of society, by playing into whose hands the breadwinner's wages are too often curtailed, and the dependent family too often made to suffer in consequence.

PHYSIQUE.

Closely associated with the foregoing subject is the question, Whether or not we as a people are deteriorating in point of physique? The recent statistics of the Anthropometric Committee of the British Association, 1882-3, would seem to show some foundation for thinking such was the case, at all events as applied to the average recruit when compared with the average British youth of the present day.

	Recruit.	Youth.	Youth.
Age,	19·9	17	19
Height,.....	5 ft. 5·4 in.	5 ft. 6·34 in.	5 ft. 7·29 in.
Chest,.....	35·9 in.	34·19 in.	34·98 in.
Weight,.....	8st. 12·1 lb.	8st. 4·9 lb.	9st. 13·6 lb.

But, when we take a wider view of the matter, there are substantial grounds for concluding that the race has improved, taking like with like, for the above is scarcely a proper comparison, seeing the source from which many recruits are drawn is one where the essentials of subsistence are not always to be found when tissue growth is keenest in demand, as is evidenced by the way recruits grow and thrive every way when put on ample and regulated rations. But if we compare class with class of the present generation with those of a bygone age, the results show somewhat differently; for example:—At the tournament held at Eglinton Castle in 1839, the interesting and, in relation to our present inquiry, instructive fact was brought out, that the armour obtained on loan from the Tower, London, was mostly too small, and had to be “let out” before it could be worn by men of like social position in our own time. And as bearing on the same question, it may be noted that at the International Exhibition in Glasgow, 1888, there was a four-posted wooden bedstead among the exhibits at the Bishop's palace, lent by the Earl of Home, the present representative of the family, which had belonged to and was used by the Black Douglas, perhaps the most powerful and formidable knight of his age for strength and prowess. On measurement, this bedstead was

found to be barely six feet in length, whereas a full-sized bedstead of the present day is six and a half feet long. These two features, I think, help us to conclude that we are an improved race, stouter and taller than were the men of the earlier age. And as collaterally showing that the whole European peoples have probably improved in stature, it is reported in Laing's Notes, as quoted by Bulwer Lytton, in *Harold*, that in almost all the swords of the Norman age to be found in the collection of weapons in the Antiquarian Museum in Copenhagen, the handles indicate a size of hand very much smaller than the hands of modern people of any class or rank. The descendants of a people, who have for generations been workers in mines and some kinds of factories or employment of a more or less confining character, may become stunted in growth and deteriorate in physique; but with an agricultural and rural population it is different, and this applies to the original inhabitants of Neilston parish, who have long been remarkable for size, strength, and complexion, many of them being tall, stout, able-bodied men; some with fair, and others with dark complexions, but intelligent features; and engaged largely in out-door pursuits. They are a stalwart, big-boned race, as becomes the descendants of a people who have been influenced in their stature by the primitive Britons of Strathclyde.

THE MANUFACTURES OF LEVERN VALLEY.

Within the last seventy years, the change that has taken place in the trade of the Lavern valley has been such as might, without exaggeration, be designated a complete revolution. In 1831, when Charles Taylor published *The Lavern Delineated*, the trade of the valley consisted mainly of cotton spinning; and from Crofthead factory, with 16,000 spindles, to Lavern mill, erected in 1780, at Dovecothall, there were, he says, six cotton mills on a large scale; in the *New Statistical Account*, 1837, Rev. Dr. Fleming also speaks of the parish as abounding in cotton mills, printfields, and bleachfields. But since their day, the trade of the valley has undergone a very marked change. There are now only two bleachfields that were in operation then, Kirktonfield and Arthurlie; two cotton mills, West Arthurlie and Lavern mill; two printworks, South Arthurlie and Gateside printfields—for Millfield printwork has been unemployed since shortly after joining the calico combine, 1899. Several of the bleachfields and one printfield that then existed have been razed to the ground, viz., Waterside, Lintmill, High Crofthead,

Holehouse, and Nether Kirkton bleachfields, and Fereneze printfield; whilst Broadlie flax mill has been converted into a bleaching and dyeing work; Gateside cotton mill is now a waterproofing manufactory, and West Arthurlie bleachfield is now a skinnery, the Spinning factory a bakery, and Cogan's or Craig's Mill, long in a state of comparative ruin, is now a laundry. These changes point to a revolutionary alteration in trade. Not that the work of the valley is lessened thereby, or the output decreased, for the contrary is the case; employment has been enormously extended, and become more varied in character, much of it, especially in the lower ward, being entirely new industry, whilst some of the works where the industry remains the same have been more than quadrupled in size.

Crofthead Thread Factory and Spool Turning Work is now the first or highest work on the Lavern—formerly there were four works higher up. Of recent years this work has undergone great extension, and now gives employment to fully 1,500 operatives, many of the girls coming to it by train from Glasgow, Pollokshaws, and Barrhead. Bleaching, dyeing, and mercerising is carried on at Broadlie Mill; and Kirktonfield is specially noted for muslin, curtains, and lace bleaching. In Gateside, printing is carried on in the long-established Gateside printworks; and waterproofing, a new industry, has been established in what was formerly Gateside Cotton Mill. In Barrhead, trade occupations are very varied, and represented by—South Arthurlie Printing Works, an old-established concern; Shanks & Company, Ltd., Sanitary Engineers, a new and large industry giving employment to about 2,000 hands; Arthurlie Bleaching Work; Cross Arthurlie Skinnery, a new industry; Sanitas and Darnley Sanitary Engineering Works; Grahamston Foundry and Engineering Works; Pulley Makers; Flock Spinners; Boilermakers; Brass Finishers; Copper Works; Arthurlie Bread and Biscuit Factory; Co-operative Bakery; Pottery Works; Wool and Hosiery Works; Cabinetmaking; Joiners; Plumbers; and Blacksmiths.

These diversified industries bear evidence to the spirit of enterprise and progress that has been everywhere spreading by leaps and bounds in the district—especially in the lower district—until what was only, even a quarter of a century ago, a comparatively small community, has now become the populous and prosperous Burgh of Barrhead.

It is interesting to note how very early the industry and push, that seems always to have characterised the Lavern valley, had established a connection with the rising cotton industry of the country by erecting what

was the second mill in Scotland. In the light of the present day it seems not a little remarkable that the first cotton mill should have been erected at Rothesay on the island of Bute. But the circumstance is explained by the fact, that in 1765 the laws of Britain required that all Colonial produce should be landed in Britain before it could be imported into Ireland, and for the accommodation of the Irish colonial trade, Rothesay was made a Custom House station. Taking advantage of this, a cotton mill, the first in Scotland, was erected in 1778 by an English firm. But it soon afterwards became the property of the celebrated David Dale, of Lanark mills fame, a man of great enterprise, and a native of the neighbouring town of Stewarton, where his father was a grocer. Lavern mill, erected in 1780, followed closely after, being, as already noticed, the second of its kind in Scotland.

THE OLD PAROCHIAL BOARD.

The provision made for the poor and destitute of the parish under the old system, in which the landlords of landward parishes assessed themselves and were relieved of one-half by their tenants, the management of which was by the minister and elders of the church, was often precarious in its nature, and always unsatisfactory. But in the year 1845 the Poor Law (Scotland) Act, came into force, and by it the circumstances of the poor of the parish were placed upon an entirely different footing, and came under the care of the Parochial Board, the duties of which were carried out by an Inspector of Poor; the sick poor, in addition, being attended to by the Parochial Medical Officer. In our parish, which was non-burghal, the qualification for becoming a member of the Board was being owner of lands and heritages of the yearly value of £20. The funds for the relief of the poor were raised by assessment, towards which owners and occupiers of houses both contributed, and the whole administration of parochial affairs was under the superintendence of a Central Board, the Board of Supervision in Edinburgh. There were no special chambers for the meetings of the Board. The meetings were held monthly, generally in a room in the Inspector's house set apart and paid for by the Board as an office. Under this system the able-bodied poor had no claim, but poor persons of seventy years, or even under that age, who were so infirm as to be unable to gain a livelihood by their work, all orphans, and destitute children under fourteen years, and all suffering from mental disease were eligible, and all who were certified by the Medical Officer as being unable to earn their

maintenance, were provided for. And, under certain conditions of residence, foreigners, and people from other parishes, could acquire a settlement and claim, entitling them to relief when destitute. Where doubt existed as to the alleged destitution being genuine, the Board had the power of putting the matter to a test by offering the party admission to the poorhouse as a residence. In Neilston, forty years ago, there was a small poorhouse, under the care of a matron, in which provision was made for the aged and infirm, and by this arrangement the poor and sick of the parish were comfortable and well provided for.

But with the introduction of the new form of Local Government, the old Parochial Board has become obsolete, and superseded by the Parish Council since 1895, under which the Poor Law administrators are elected and representative. But though the venue has been changed, the law in its power and purpose remains the same and unchanged. The Chairman of the Parish Council under the new law is *ex-officio* a member of the Commission of the Peace.

That there is, however, ample scope for improvement in the present methods of Poor Law administration has been abundantly shown by the voluminous reports of the recent Poor Law Commission. Both sections of the Commission unhesitatingly condemn the present system, and therefore, when Parliament comes to deal with the question, we may naturally look for legislative reform of such a drastic character as will bring the whole organisation of the Poor Law more into harmony with present day opinions and recent cognate enactments; embodying, probably, recommendations from both the majority and minority reports of the Commission.

CHAPTER XII.

HISTORIC HOUSES AND PRINCIPAL FAMILIES.¹

OF the many families once large holders of property in our parish, many of whose ancestors assisted in making Scottish history, the ancient and highly esteemed family of the Mures of Caldwell is happily still with us. This family traces its descent from Sir Gilchrist Mure of Rowallan, near Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, but through Sir Reginald Mure, of the Abercorn and Cowdams branch of that family, who held the office of Lord High Chamberlain of Scotland in the year 1324—being the first year of the reign of David II. The family consider themselves of Irish extraction, and the same with the Moors, Marquises of Drogheda, their armorial bearings and motto—*Duris non frangor* (“Not to be broken by adversity”)—being the same. The name is found in the early records of all the three kingdoms, and is most probably of Celtic-Irish origin, a view which receives countenance from the absence of the preposition “de,” which harmonises with the idiomatic structure of Celtic names, Norman or Saxon patronymics almost always carrying that preposition. But this, though a general rule, would seem not to be absolute in this family, as the name David de More appears as a witness to a charter in the time of Alexander II. of Scotland, *circa* 1214, alleged to be the earliest signature of the family. There are also two other charters—of King Robert the Bruce—in which the signatures retain the preposition, even when in the Latinised form, as “Willielmi de Mora et Laurentii de Mora.”

It is understood that the most ancient seat of the family was Polkelly, near Kilmarnock, and that Sir Gilchrist Mure, first of Rowallan, had been successor to the above David de More of Polkelly. Rowallan came to the Mures through the marriage of Sir Gilchrist with Isobel Comyn, heiress of Rowallan. This Sir Gilchrist was a man of great valour, and fought at the memorable battle of Largs, 1262, being there with his followers from our parish and others, no doubt in response to the

¹ For much of the information in this chapter the author has been indebted to the *Caldwell Papers*.

summons of the High Steward of Scotland of that period. In this battle he so distinguished himself for bravery as to be knighted on the field.

About the middle of the fourteenth century, the Mure family "obtained lustre" through the marriage, by Papal dispensation dated 22nd November, 1347, of Elizabeth Mure to her cousin Robert, Earl of Strathearn and Steward of Scotland, who afterwards succeeded to the Scottish throne as Robert II., 1370—the accession of the Stewarts to the throne of Scotland being due to the male descendants of King Robert the Bruce becoming extinct through David II. dying without children, and the succession being continued through the female line of the Bruce—Marjory, daughter of the great king, had become the wife of Walter the High Steward—sixth of his name who had enjoyed that dignity—and their son, grandson of the Bruce, succeeded to the throne as Robert II. It is thus obvious that, as King Robert II. was the first sovereign of the House of Stewart, and therefore ancestor of the long line of Stewarts who afterwards reigned in Scotland, so this daughter of the house of Mure, his wife, was mother of the whole "blood royal" of that race, and that both were ancestors, through King James I. of England, of the present reigning family of Britain.

In 1346, when the Scots resolved to ransom their king, David II., who had been taken prisoner at the battle of Nevill's Cross, and who by that time had undergone eleven years' imprisonment, Sir William Mure was one of the twelve nobles deputed by Parliament to negotiate the terms of ransom, when a son of the Mure family was left as one of the hostages till payment of the ransom was made. Through the death of this Sir William without issue, the Abercorn branch of the estates passed to Sir John Lindsay of Byres, ancestor of the Earl of Crawford and Lindsay.

The estate of Caldwell—in "1294 the boundaries of which marched with the Steward's forest of Fereneze"—is understood to have come to the Mures through the marriage of Godfrey Mure with the heiress of Caldwell—she being Caldwell of that ilk. It does not appear, however, that the whole estate belonged to her, as a younger male branch of the family retained the name, and was proprietor of Wester or Little Caldwell, which did not fall into the hands of the Mures till towards the end of the seventeenth century.

In 1513, Sir David Mure was killed on the fatal field of Flodden, there falling with the many "Flowers of the Forest" their country mourned. In 1580, Sir Robert Mure was appointed one of the jury in



GLANDERSTON HOUSE.

See page 171.



OLD HALL OF CALDWELL BEFORE RECENT ALTERATIONS.

Facing page 12.

the trial of Lord Ruthven for the murder of Rizzio. When Scotland became more settled, after the death of Edward I., and a regular Parliament could be convened, the "Guidman" of Wester Caldwell was one of its members; and in 1688, in the first Parliament after the Revolution, the Guidman of Wester Caldwell represented Renfrewshire.

The title of "the Guidman"—with its coeval title of "the Laird"—are curious relics of the feudal age in Scotland. A proprietor who held his land, for service mostly, direct from the King, was "the Laird," and usually addressed as such—as in the letter from King James VI., dated from Holyrood to the Mure of that time, elsewhere included, where he is addressed as "The Laird of Caldwell." A proprietor who held lands from "the Laird," by purchase or otherwise, was "the Guidman of that Ilk." So that the member of the Scottish Parliament of 1688 was "the Guidman" of Little or Wester Caldwell, his property being holden of Greater Caldwell. It is curious to note, too, that "the Guidman" was paid the sum of £13 6s. 8d. Scots by the Laird of Caldwell for attending Parliament, as we learn from the account of charges against the estate (p. 127); probably because the former attended in place of the Laird. An equally curious matter is that those feudal laws and the burdens incident to them are still in force, as was exemplified on the recent occasion of King Edward VII. ascending the throne, when dues to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales—designated as to "The Prince and Steward of Scotland"—were collected from the Laird of Caldwell, as shown by the following casualty receipt:—

"1901.

"April 25.—To paid H.R.H. The Prince and Steward of
Scotland. Casualty payable in respect of
the lands of Cowdens, Ouplys, and Knock-
glass. Old valued rent, £500— $\frac{1}{6}$ th whereof
is £83 6/8 Scots or £6 18/11 Sterling.
Ex. 6d, - - - - - £6 19 5"

whilst, equally, the Laird collects from his feudatory, "the Guidman," though the property may have been long out of his possession by purchase. These burdens are, however, more curious than grievous, as they are paid in Scots money, one-twelfth of sterling money.

The Parliament of that period was very different from the Parliament of the present day—no King's writs summoned the knights or members: they sat by territorial right as owners of land, The members

met in a single chamber: the Lords Spiritual—bishops, abbots, and priors—and the Lords Temporal.

This Wester or Little Caldwell is now known as The Hall of Caldwell, and although not the identical house, the ancient structure now standing—with its old-world aspect, deep niches in front, craw-stepped gable, and surrounded by a high wall having a quaint arched gateway—is still a place of interesting association as having in its day returned a member for Renfrewshire to the Scottish Parliament. In 1909, Colonel Mure extended this old and historic house by adding to it a commodious modern addition.

In 1666, on 28th November, William Mure, the then Laird of Caldwell, met with a number of west country gentlemen, namely:—“Kerr of Kersland, Caldwell of that Ilk, Ralston of that Ilk, Cunningham of Bedland, Porterfield of Quarrelton, Maxwell of Blackstone—who became traitor and gave evidence against his companions at the trial—Gabriel Maxwell, minister of Dundonald, and John Carstairs, minister of Glasgow, father of Principal Carstairs”—at Shutterflat, in the parish of Beith, on the western border of Neilston parish, where they formed a squadron of cavalry of about fifty horse, chiefly from the Caldwell tenantry. These gentlemen, all of Presbyterian principles, had cast in their lot with the Covenanters in the cause of religious freedom, their immediate intention being to join a body of some strength, who had risen in the southern counties, then on the way to Edinburgh. But the disaster of Rullion Green, 1666, anticipated their action, and shattered whatever hopes they might have had, greatly increasing their calamities. Mure was attainted, and fled first to Ireland and subsequently to Holland, where he died in exile on the 9th February, 1670. His estates being forfeited, were bestowed upon the notorious General Thomas Dalziel of Binns, who, with his successors, retained possession of them until 1690, when they were returned to the family by special Act of Parliament.

The “Lady Caldwell,” on the exile and death of her husband, underwent much harsh treatment from the Government, and, without trial, she was imprisoned in the castle of Blackness for three years. As showing how harshly she was treated during her imprisonment: her youngest daughter, Ann, died in a relative’s house not far from Lintlithgow and near Blackness. The Secret Council was petitioned “for liberty for the lady to come out of Blackness to see her daughter then dying.” She offered to take a guard with her or maintain the garrison

as a guard, if they pleased, while she was doing her last duties to her child, yet the unnatural cruelty of the time was such that this reasonable request could not be granted.

Connected with the affairs of this gentleman's minority, and that of his brother James, whom he succeeded, there exists a very interesting and detailed record which was kept by their uncle, Hew Mure, who was also their guardian. The record relates to the management of the estate during the years of their minority, especially from 1644 to 1653. During this period the state of society was very unsettled both in England, after the execution of Charles I., and in Scotland, after the battle of Dunbar, and burdens vexatious and ill to bear were frequently imposed upon rural districts, where there was any degree of distrust; and it would appear that the people around Caldwell, doubtless in consequence of the Shutterflat affair, exciting suspicion in headquarters, were grievously burdened, having alternately to maintain the rival armies of the Royalists and Republicans. From this record we get a glimpse into the social conditions of the parish, and the district around it on the western border at that time; and we find the surrounding farmers harassed by having troops quartered upon them, the soldiers acting after the manner of ordinary brigands and highwaymen. From one item we learn that the "Englishmen" broke into the Tower of the Place of Caldwell, then the family residence, in midsummer, destroying much property; that at another time the "Englishmen" stopped the laird on the road near the Tower, and robbed him of the horse he was riding; another item informs us that the plague had visited the western border of the parish, whilst many other items are equally important in relation to social matters, as showing the prices of many commodities of daily use, the prices of various kinds of cloth, articles of trade, harness, gloves, boots, and shoes, and dress of different kinds, with grain, peat, and such necessaries, in addition to bringing before us the very friendly relationship that then subsisted between laird and tenant, as indicated by the rebatement of rent granted by the former to the latter in consequence of losses sustained through the plague; burdens imposed by having soldiers quartered upon them, and the disturbed state of the district generally. The record further shows the quaint expressions and peculiar idioms of the Scottish tongue at a period when it was spoken and written with some degree of purity and precision, and for these reasons I have thought proper to transcribe here so much of it by selection, referring to the *Caldwell Papers* for a more detailed account. The sums are in Scots money.

SELECTIONS FROM PERSONAL AND OTHER ACCOUNTS OF
 "TUTOR OF CALDWELL" (1644-1653).

Item payit to Johne Wylie in Nethertoun for ane horse, pryce to James Mure,	£83 6 8
Item in Jan. ii. 1647, for ane horse furnishing ane saddle and cloath to the lard's horss,	17 10 0
Item for three firlots of corne forder, 1646,	4 10 0
Item to Johne Wilson for four bolls corne to y ^e lard's horss, 1646,	24 0 0
Item Merche 1647, for fyve elnes of Londoun claithe to y ^e laird, at 12 lib y ^e elne, inde,	60 0 0
Item for twa elnes plying to lyne his breicks,	1 12 0
Item for making the hail suitt of claithe and drink silver,	8 4 0
Item for ane pair of gray buitts and a pair of gray shoine, with twa elnes rebens to his shoine,	13 10 0
Item payit for stra and hay and sum corne to the lard's horss in Paslay, 1647,	12 15 0
Item to the schoilmaster and doctor at Paslay, at directioun of Mr. Alex ^r Dunlop, for W ^m Mure his Candilmes waidg and offering, 1648,	11 4 0
Item in Winter 1648, for 4 bolls corne to y ^e laird's horss at 6 lib. 13 sh. 4d. the boll,	26 13 4
Item payit to Joh ⁿ Spreull's wife in Paslay, for W ^m Muir his buerding fra to first October 1648 tell the 9th Feby. 1649,	45 6 0
Item the 10 Apryll 1649, for 4 elnes and a half Frenshe serge at 4 lib. y ^e elne to be claithe to y ^e lard,	18 0 0
Item payed for shoeing of the lard's horss fra y ^e 15 of febr ⁱⁱ tell the 6 Octr. 1649,	8 0 0
Item to a lad y ^t carried a lettre to Remforlie to keip y ^e tryst,	0 6 0
Item for ane crosbow to y ^e lard,	6 0 0
Item to 36 elnes of lining claith to be serks to y ^e lard at 13 sh. iiid. the elne,	24 0 0
Item for ane lock and shield to y ^e chalmer dore of Cauldwell,	3 2 0
Item ... day of Apryl 1650, when the laird was servit air of the lands of Capilrig, for bread, drink, and wyne in Paslay, to y ^e gentlemen y ^t was on the service,	6 13 4
Item when the lard was takin in December 1650, he was rydand on a horss belonging to the lard of Nethir Pollok, quhilk was ane hundred pundis pryce; and in respect the Inglishmen tuik the horss fra the lard of Caldwell; Payet be y ^e comptur at directioun of Glanderstoun to y ^e lard Nethir Pollok 50 lib.; so the lard of Ney ^r Pollok lost 50 lib. Inde payit be compt,	50 0 0
Item payit to Jn ^o Lauder merchand in Ed ^r for twa new cloaks and furnitor yrto, to y ^e lard and his brother W ^m , quh ^k y ^e Inglishmen tuik fra y ^m ,	90 0 0
Item to y ^e shoillm ^r and doctor in Glasgow for W ^m Mure his Candilmes offering, he being Victor y ^t year 1651,	20 0 0

Item for mending y ^e lock of the tour gaitt of Cauldwell, and for nails yrto, quich the Inglishmen brak in May 1651, ...	£0 14 0
Item for ane brydle and ane bitt to y ^e lard's horss, ...	2 2 0
Item for a new sadle to y ^e lard and curple, ...	5 14 0
Item yair was at severall tymes layd in be the tenents for the use of the hous of Cauldwell, 15 scoir crealls peitts, ...	15 0 0
Item to Mr. Francis Kincaid when W ^m Mure left the Gramer schoill, ...	4 18 0
Item to W ^m Mure his regent when he entered to y ^e Colledge, ...	13 0 0
Item to the Porttor of the Colledge, ...	1 13 0
Item y ^e 5 febr ^r to W ^m Mure to buy him buiks, ...	6 11 0
Item to y ^e guedman of Cauldwell for his commissioun wage at y ^e parliament of St. Androis, ...	6 13 4
[This is rather a curious item, as showing that the Laird of Cald- well paid the guidman of Little or Wester Caldwell for his services in attending Parliament.]	
Item allowit to y ^e tenante of Knokewart for quarterings [of troop] 1645, being the equall half of qrterings that zeir, ...	33 0 0
Item allowit to y ^e tenant of Newlands for his great losses by James Graham of his rent, 1645, ...	50 0 0
Item restand in Newlands for thrie preceeding years 1645, 1646, 1647 unpayed; for quich when the tenent dyeit of the plague, ...	171 13 4
Item the compter discharges himself in paying to y ^e lard of Black- hall younger, factor of the Duik of Lenox for the Duik's rent of Newlands for the Croft, 1648; because the Newlands was layd waist y ^t yeir throw deceis of the tenant who dyed of the plague, ...	66 13 4
Item allowit to y ^e tenents of Cowdames the half of y ^r troupe horss Apryl 1649, and y ^e half of y ^r mantinance, ...	39 12 0
Item payit be the tenents of Knockmaed of mantinance, fra Mer- times 1648 tell Mertimes 1649, 133 lib. quherof y ^e half allowit, ...	66 10 0
Item allowit to the tenents of Capilrig for the half of y ^r troupe horss and mantinance, &c., ...	46 3 4
Item debursit be the tenents of Dunyflat for mantinance fra Mar- times 1649 tell Mertimes 1650, 44 lib. 6ss. 8d. qrof the half allowit. Ind, ...	22 3 4
Item deburssit be y ^m for keyn sheip and cheiss to the armie, 50ss. for ilk hundreth merks, 18 lib. qurof the half allowit. Ind, ...	9 0 0
Item Dec ^r 1649 to W ^m Cauldwell of y ^t ilk for his commesseoune waidge to y ^e Parliament in Edin ^r ...	13 6 8
Item given out be the saids tenents to y ^e troupers, when cam fra Dunbar and were sent to Stirling againe, ...	3 6 8

After the exile and death of this William Mure, following on the Shutterflat affair, the estate of Caldwell was restored, as we have learned, to Barbara, his only surviving daughter, by special Act of Parliament, 19th June, 1690. But this lady, who was married to the

second son of Fairlie of Fairlie, dying without issue, the succession to Caldwell fell to the Glanderston branch of the family in 1710, in right of his mother, Euphemia, sister of the last unfortunate laird.

Baron Mure, who was an intimate friend of David Hume, the philosopher and historian, was a gentleman of conspicuous ability in many walks of life, and, to great wisdom and learning, added a profound knowledge of public affairs, which found ample scope in the elevated position he occupied as Baron of the Scottish Court of Exchequer. He was eminent for his legal attainments and learning; was Member of Parliament for Renfrewshire, 1742-1761; Lord Rector of Glasgow University, 1764-5; and during the middle of the eighteenth century his influence in Scottish affairs was perhaps greater than that of any other person in the kingdom, as the patronage of the Crown was administered entirely through him in Scotland. This gentleman built the present house of Caldwell, from plans by Robert Adam, the eminent architect, in 1772.

A rather amusing anecdote relating to the Baron is told by his son. The son having been on tour, and having arrived at Paris with his companion, went to see the famous Chateau of Count d'Eu, then almost a rival to Versailles. In the extensive park there is a beautiful lake, and on the way to it their guide entertained them with the following story:—Many years ago, two impudent Englishmen, who had been permitted to see the place on a very hot day, took advantage of not being observed, as they thought, to bathe in the lake. The Countess, however, got word of what was going on, and immediately ran down, with her ladies, from the chateau towards the water, much to the consternation of the bathers, who had just time, before she came up, to regain their clothes and effect their retreat into a wood adjoining. The guide added that the strangers were both very tall, being above six feet high, and that, as they hurriedly dressed themselves and got off, the Princess remarked what fine fellows they were, and how much she regretted not having arrived in time to see them get out of the water!

On repeating the story to his father on arriving at Caldwell, the Baron asked if the cicerone had told them the names of the two tall Englishmen, and on being informed in the negative, he replied—"Then I will tell you: the one was the late Sir John Maxwell of Pollok, the other myself!"

William Mure, grandson of the Baron, was no less distinguished and eminent in his career. His investigations into the *Chronology of the Egyptian Dynasties*, his elaborate dissertation on the *Calendar of the*



CALDWELL HOUSE.

Zodiac of Ancient Egypt, his *Critical History of the Language and Literature of Ancient Greece*, and other writings—the *Caldwell Papers* included—place him amongst the greatest scholars and scientific investigators of modern Europe. He was Member of Parliament for the County of Renfrew, 1846-1855, and, like his eminent grandfather, had the distinguishing honour of having been returned as Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow, 1847-48.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Mure of the Scots Fusilier Guards, eldest son of William Mure the historian of Greece, was born in 1830. In 1859, he married the Hon. Constance Elizabeth, third daughter of the first Lord Leconfield. He entered the 60th Rifles in 1843, and served with them in the Kaffir War in South Africa, 1851-3, under the command of General Sir George Cathcart. During the war with Russia, he served with the 79th Highlanders in the Crimea, 1854-5, taking part in the battles of Alma and Balaclava, and the siege of Sebastopol. He received the Kaffir medal, the Crimean medal and three clasps, and the Turkish medal. He retired from the service in 1860, as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Scots Fusilier Guards. On returning to his seat at Caldwell, he became well known throughout the County, in the affairs of which he took an active interest. A keen politician, he sat from 1874 to 1880 for the County of Renfrew—then undivided into East and West as at present—as so many of his ancestors had done before, and was always listened to with respectful attention when he addressed the House. He was a gentleman of chivalrous honour and self-denying disposition, and never scrupled at sacrificing even his own interest and advancement to that of his friend, where he thought there was priority of claim—as, when offered the Lord-Lieutenancy of the County by Mr. Gladstone, he at once suggested that his friend, Sir Michael Shaw-Stewart, should have the honour, a suggestion which was directly acted on. He had travelled much, during which, as a keen observer, he had studied men and affairs, and was possessed of great and varied information. His early death cut short a political career of much promise.

During the Crimean war, in 1854, he was deeply impressed with the terrible sufferings of the troops during the siege of Sebastopol, which a better managed commissariat should have avoided. An incident during this period of his life shows the true soldierly sympathy with his men. He had just brought down some poor fellows from the trenches—helping the weaker of them, being a tall, powerful man, by carrying knapsacks for them from time to time—worn out and sadly in want of comforts,

which, though at hand, could not be obtained, from the absence of some red-tape official. In this moment of irritation and annoyance, he casually met Russel of *The Times*, and was "interviewed," a practice then less common than it is in the present day under like circumstances; the result was a series of inspired letters from that brilliant war correspondent, exposing the absurd rules under which military stores were then regulated, which helped, among other things, the downfall of the Government, 1854.

He died in London, 9th November, 1880, in his fifty-first year, shortly after having, for the second time, successfully contested the County. He had, in fact, contested the seat on three several occasions against the then Colonel Campbell, afterwards first Lord Blythswood, in what was known as "the battles of the Colonels," but was unsuccessful in the first effort.

During the long minority that followed his death, the affairs of the estate were managed with great acceptance to the tenantry and neighbourhood by his widow, the Honourable Mrs. Mure, youngest daughter of Lord Leconfield, a lady of great capacity, whose interest in the well-being of the whole community was of the most generous and active character. She took a deep interest in education long before School Boards existed, and the church and manse in Uplawmoor owe their existence mainly to her generous efforts, associated with other members of the Caldwell family.

We have thus seen that the members of this family throughout the centuries of their past existence have been conspicuous for their patriotism as soldiers and their eminence in the various walks of literature, science, politics, and law, and as members of the Imperial Legislature; and the present representative of the house worthily upholds the traditions of the family.

Colonel William Mure, the present laird, had the disadvantage of losing his father when very young; but, at the expiry of the long minority, he assumed the management of the estate in 1891. Four years afterwards—25th April, 1895—he was married to the Honourable Lady Georgiana Montgomerie, elder daughter of the Earl of Eglinton and Winton, a lady who has endeared herself to the whole neighbourhood by her noble sympathies and generous disposition, whose help and influence goes out towards every good cause. Possessing the instincts that have so often characterised members of his family, Colonel Mure is a keen soldier, and when the 4th Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders (Renfrewshire Militia) volunteered for service at the front during the war

in South Africa, conscious of the responsibilities that should attach to large holders of land, he volunteered for active service with them—*noblesse oblige*. He saw fighting in the two colonies, Cape and Orange River, and had the honour, as Captain, of being twice mentioned in despatches—the General Officer Commanding, under date 23rd January, 1901, saying, in despatch received from Lieut.-Colonel Munro, commanding Bethune's Mounted Infantry: "I should like to bring to the notice of the General Officer Commanding at Kronstad the excellent work done by the 4th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders M.I. The 4th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders M.I., I understand, had only shortly been raised, but have carried out the duties of mounted troops in a most satisfactory manner the whole time they have been with me. In fact, the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Militia under Captain Mure leave nothing to be desired as reliable troops in action, and the mounted branch when employed on reconnoitring duties are particularly bold scouts."

Colonel Mure is a keen and bold huntsman, and takes an active interest in dairy farming and all agricultural matters, and is held in the highest esteem by his tenantry. He is President of the Renfrewshire Agricultural Society, and was for many years a County Councillor; Provincial Grand Master of the Masonic Order in Ayrshire: believing that "peace has its honours, no less renowned than war," and declaring, as the result of his experience, "that he has seen enough of war, to know that the greatest blessing enjoyed by man is peace." He is a Justice of the Peace for Renfrewshire, and a Justice of the Peace and Lieutenant-Depute for the County of Ayr.

CARLIBAR AND MRS. GLEN.

On the north bank of the Levern adjacent to Dovecothall Bridge lies the property of Carlibar, long a possession of the Dunlop family. During its occupancy by Henry Dunlop, Esq., when that gentleman occupied the civic chair as Lord-Provost of Glasgow, the house was greatly enlarged and the grounds altered and improved. In 1871 the estate passed by purchase into the possession of Captain Robert Corse Glen, but before the house was ready for occupying, that gentleman died, after a very short illness. Since then it has been occupied by his widow, who has greatly improved its amenities by the addition of new conservatories, lodges, stable, coach-house, etc., and during the period of her occupancy, now nearly four decades, a stream of generosity has extended from it

towards Neilston and Barrhead, the mere enumeration of which presents a long list:—the Glen Halls, Volunteer Drill Hall and Instructor's House provided for Neilston; Home for District Nurse, Barrhead; gift of £1,000 towards erection of Municipal Buildings, Barrhead; £600 towards widening Dovecothall Bridge, Barrhead; £300 invested to provide bursaries for school children of the parish; gold chain and badge of office to Provost of Burgh of Barrhead; beautiful memorial windows in Neilston church; besides taking an active interest in providing prizes for annual shooting competitions for the Volunteers while they existed, in which corps her husband had been Captain of Neilston Company; and private charities innumerable. Indeed, every good work that has for its object the relief of distress and suffering, or the increase of the comfort and happiness of the people, has found a generous and ready helper in Mrs. Glen of Carlibar, and the esteem and respect in which she is held by the community has earned for her the well-merited designation of "Lady Glen," the patent for the title being drawn from the general heart of the people.

SPEIRS OF ELDERSLIE.

This family are large landholders in the parish of Neilston. Until a few years ago they were non-resident, the shootings being mostly let. But having acquired by purchase in 1896, the property of Kirkton, the mansion-house has been converted into a shooting-lodge, and during that season, the family are occasionally in residence. Until the period at which the Anti-Patronage Act came into force, 1874, the Speirs of Elderslie were patrons of the Church of Neilston; the living being attached to the estate of Glanderston, purchased from the Mures of Caldwell by Mr. Wilson, said to have been a somewhat eccentric person, from whom it was acquired by Mr. Archibald Speirs in 1774; but the privilege of electing their own pastor was generally granted to the congregation. This family is more immediately descended from one of Glasgow's merchant princes, who, in 1760, in the person of Alexander Speirs, Esq., purchased the lands of Inch on the Clyde, near Renfrew. This gentleman, in right of his grandfather, Alexander Speirs or Speir, from Logie, also a Glasgow merchant, was admitted a burghess of Glasgow, 9th March, 1753. On the female side the ancestors of the family belonged to Peebles, John Speirs, Merchant, Edinburgh, father of the gentleman who purchased the lands of Inch, having married

Isobel, daughter of Provost Tweedie of Peebles, at which town one of the oldest and most interesting tombstones in the churchyard has reference to the Tweedie family in 1699. Round the sides of the stone, figures can be traced representing the four seasons : a farmer sowing, a woman with a garland of flowers in her hand, a young man with a reaping-hook on his arm, and a boy blowing on his hands with his breath. In 1769, the lands of Elderslie, adjoining the property of Inch, were purchased from Mrs. Campbell of Succoth by the same gentleman, Mr. Alexander Speirs. Mrs. Campbell, whose maiden name was Helen Wallace, was a descendant of and bore the name of Scotland's immortal hero, Sir William Wallace, with whom the name of this estate is always so intimately associated. Her husband, Archibald Campbell, had been a Writer to the Signet. In 1777-1782, Mr. Speirs built a new mansion-house on the lands of Inch, which he designated Elderslie House, and subsequently by purchase added to his property the barony of Houston and the lands of Blackburn. From 1810 till 1818, this gentleman sat in Parliament for the County of Renfrew, and his eldest son, Archibald, held a commission in the 3rd Dragoon Guards. His successor, Alexander, was at one period Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Renfrew, and sat in Parliament for Richmond in England. His son and successor, Archibald Alexander, was only four years of age when his father died in 1844. Archibald Alexander held a commission as Captain in the Scots Fusilier Guards, and in 1867 was returned in the Liberal interest Member of Parliament for Renfrewshire. In 1867, Captain Speirs married Lady Anne Pleydell-Bouverie (eldest daughter of the fourth Earl of Radnor). This gentleman died 1868, comparatively young, of enteric fever, leaving issue, one son (born posthumous), Alexander Archibald, the present proprietor, who, as a large landholder, takes an active interest in the affairs of the County. He served for several years in the 4th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, but resigned his commission in 1900, as his health would not permit of his going out to South Africa with the Battalion. During the two long minorities here indicated, the estates benefited by the able and enlightened management of Mrs. Speirs (now Mrs. Ellice), and Lady Anne Speirs, who devoted themselves to the best interests of the estates on behalf of their respective sons. Mr. Speirs is a Justice of the Peace for Renfrewshire, and a member of the County Council, etc.

CAPTAIN JACK ORR.

Mr. John Orr, of Cowdenhall, was resident in South Africa at the outbreak of the Boer War on 12th October, 1899, and he at once joined the British forces, as a volunteer, under the command of General Sir George White. Nine days afterwards, at the battle of Elandslaagte, he was struck down severely wounded, being shot through the neck in one of the charges in that engagement. Much anxiety was felt in our neighbourhood at the time for the brave young soldier, he having been a favourite Volunteer officer in Neilston Company before going out to the Transvaal. Happily, no bad effects followed, and on his recovery he again went to the front, and ultimately obtaining a Captain's command, continued till the end of the war as Captain Jack Orr.

JAMES ORR, ESQ., COWDENHALL.

This gentleman, elder brother of Captain Jack Orr, volunteered for active service at the front, joining the Yeomanry when that body left London for South Africa. When on duty in the Orange Free State, where he was sent after his arrival in the country, he had the misfortune to be entirely incapacitated by a shot-wound through his arm, received in action at Lindley. When able to travel, he was invalided home, where, happily, his arm made a good recovery.

These gallant gentlemen are both sons of Robert Orr, Esq., of Cowdenhall.

PIONEERS OF LABOUR IN THE PARISH.

Amongst those whom Carlyle would have designated the "Captains of Labour" in our parish, the family of Cochrane, late of Kirktonfield bleaching works, occupy an early position, having first established a bleachfield on the Glanderston Burn, at the base of Craig of Carnock and in the immediate neighbourhood of Glanderston House, the ruins of which are now razed to the ground. After being there for a number of years, they built Kirktonfield, on the Kirkton Burn, and removed thereto *circa* 1832; although 1817 is on a stone built into the gable of one of the buildings, it has no relation to the erection of the work. In these new premises an extensive trade in book-muslin and laundry work was carried on for many years, and a large number of persons, chiefly females, at that period brought mostly from the High-

lands, found employment. At the death of Mr. Alexander Cochrane (whose father died February, 1849, of cholera, then epidemic in Neilston), the last of the firm, the property passed, by purchase, into the hands of James M'Haffie & Son, under whose management the concern has been enlarged, the machinery modernized, and the trade considerably changed, their principal industry being now connected with the muslins of Ayrshire, which they bleach in large quantities. The firm is now included in the Bleachers' Combination.

THE ORRS OF CROFTHHEAD.

This family occupies a prominent position amongst the early pioneers of labour in the Levern valley, where they had established large mills at a very early period in the cotton trade. About fifty years ago, the concern passed into the hands of Mr. Robert Orr, a gentleman of great practical knowledge, and under him the whole aspect of the work has been changed. Taking advantage of the old mill having been burned down, he erected several large blocks of buildings with the special view of carrying on the sewing thread manufacturing industry. The several mills are filled with the most modern machinery, and lighted up from a large electrical installation on the premises, dynamos for which are driven by hydraulic power from the Levern.

These mills are now incorporated in the "English Sewing Cotton Combination," who have added a large spool manufacturing section to the works. They are at present our largest employers of labour in the Upper District, and give employment to between fifteen and sixteen hundred employees of different trades and occupations.

J. & H. M'CONNEL & Co., LTD.

This business is now established in what was formerly Broadlie flax mill, having been removed from Nether Kirkton by the late Mr. Hugh M'Connel, who obtained the mill by purchase a number of years ago, when it was in the market. Being a gentleman of enterprise and push, he soon had the whole internal arrangement changed and fitted up to bring it into line with the most approved methods of the industry. By recent changes and enlargements greater facilities have been afforded for adding new branches of the trade, and now an active business is being carried on by the firm in all the various departments of bleaching, dyeing, and mercerising.

SOUTH ARTHURLIE PRINTING WORKS.

The name of Z. Heys & Sons, calico printers, South Arthurlie, has been familiar as household words for a long series of years in Barrhead and the parish of Neilston, and in outside circles, is commensurate with all that is known of calico printing. The work was begun about sixty-eight years ago (1842) by the late Mr. Z. Heys & Sons, since which it has gone on as a prosperous work, always abreast of the times in machinery and appliances, with the result that the material it produces is second to none in the printing trade. It gives employment to a large number of workers, and at the time of joining the Calico Printers' Association, Limited, it was one of the most important works of the kind in Scotland. Colonel Z. John Heys, grandson of the founder of the business, who was for so many years actively associated with the Volunteer movement in Barrhead, and whose lamented death took place whilst he was in office as Provost of the burgh, was for many years the active manager of the concern.

GRAHAMSTON ENGINEERING WORKS.

The founder of this prosperous concern was Mr. John Cochran, whose family has been connected with Barrhead for a great many years. Starting business early in life, he devoted great energy and capacity to its development, with the result that some years ago it was found necessary to remove to newer and more extended premises. A man of push, and of a benevolent nature, he never hesitated to extend the helping hand, even to his own workmen, when he saw that a little help would put them in the right way of self-help. The business is now carried on by his sons, the eldest of whom, John Cochran, was the late worthy Provost of Barrhead.

THE TUBAL SANITARY ENGINEERING WORKS.

The large sanitary engineering works of Shanks & Co., Limited, have made quite phenomenal strides within the last quarter of a century, and have now become one of the largest employers of labour in the parish. Started many years ago by the late John and Andrew Shanks, the business slowly advanced from one of moderate dimensions to its present position. The urgent necessity which was felt in all large centres of population for more efficient sanitary methods was no sooner thoroughly understood than the demand for appliances spread like a great wave over

every community at home and abroad—a demand which gave an immediate impulse to the business of Shanks & Co., who were pioneers in that industry.

The inventive genius of the late Mr. John Shanks, one of the founders of the firm, had early solved many of the difficulties of practical sanitary appliances, with the consequence that his inventions and patents were largely sought after, and as their fame spread, so the business developed, until the formation of a Limited Company extended the powers of dealing with their enormously growing trade. Now the sanitary productions of the Tubal Company are to be met with in every country in the world. Mr. William Shanks of this firm was the first Provost of the Burgh of Barrhead.

ARTHURLIE.

We learn from Crawford's *History* of the County, when speaking of the properties in the parish of Neilston, that "Arthurlie was anciently the inheritance of a family of the surname of Stewart, a branch of the noble house of Darnley," and that at a later date it became "the property of Allan Pollock, Esq., of Arthurlie." It would appear that, after remaining in the Pollock family for several generations, it passed, through the failure of heirs male, to Gavin Ralston, sometime of Woodside, in the parish of Beith, through his marriage with Annabella, daughter of James Pollock, Esq., of Arthurlie, at his death, 1780.

The name of this property has, somehow, been persistently associated by tradition with that of Arthur, the early king of the Britons, the hero of "Round Table" fame, and champion of many battles against the Saxons, as well as Picts and Scots, during the latter part of the fifth and beginning of the sixth centuries. There is possibly just a sufficient substratum of fact in this tradition (for he is not entirely a person of romance) to give countenance to this origin of the name. Strathclyde, as we have seen in the earlier chapter on this subject, at one period stretched along the western border of our country, as far south as North Wales, and as Arthur is said by Skene to have fought several battles in Ayrshire, and invaded the district of the Lennox, it is quite within the probable that he marched north from Ayrshire through the part of Renfrewshire now corresponding to Neilston parish, to the great ford across the Clyde at Renfrew, leading to the Lennox, which would be his most natural course. In support of this contention, the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Vol. II., p. 651, says:—"The historical Arthur

is now regarded as a 6th century leader, the 'Dux Bellorum' of the northern Cambria and Strathclyde, against the incroaching Angles and Saxons of the east coast, and the Picts and Scots from beyond the Forth and Clyde. Such is approximately the result of recent research." He is said to have perished at Camelon, Falkirk, through treachery. In the field that abuts against Arthurlie policies to the west, known as the Cross-stane park, from time immemorial has stood what is known as the Arthurlie Stone. This stone has always traditionally been thought to mark either the grave of Arthur or some conspicuous leader of that name. The stone is more particularly referred to under Antiquities.

In its early history, the barony of Arthurlie would seem to have been a large, important, and valuable estate; but, latterly, becoming much divided, passed into the possession of several proprietors, till now the number of Arthurlies about Barrhead is sufficiently perplexing. Robertson, in his continuation of Crawford, says "that of Arthurlie proper, Mr. Lowndes' may be considered the principal;" but that is not borne out by reference to the table of values he supplies, in which the rent value of Lowndes' Arthurlie is given as £6 6s. 8d. Scots, while that of Pollock's Arthurlie is stated to be £136.

Arthurlie continued in the possession of Gavin Ralston for a number of years, during which time Newton-Ralston, now the Craigheads district of Barrhead, was feued by him from the lands of Arthurlie as the beginning of a new town. In 1806, the property was acquired by purchase from Gavin Ralston by Henry Dunlop, Esq., the latter being connected to the Ralston family by marriage. The family of Dunlop was amongst the earliest pioneers of trade in the Levern valley, being especially associated with the early introduction and development of the cotton industry—Gateside mill, now part of Millfield print-works, having been erected and carried on by them under the firm of James Dunlop & Son. On the estate of Arthurlie passing into the hands of Mr. Dunlop, several alterations were carried out. The gardens were removed to a higher and more southern position, and Ralston's old residence was pulled down and the present mansion-house erected.

Henry Barclay Dunlop, Esq., of Arthurlie, the present proprietor, is a Justice of the Peace and Deputy-Lieutenant for the County, and County Councillor for the third division of the Burgh of Barrhead. In his earlier days he was a major of the Renfrewshire Militia, lately the 4th Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.

CHAPTER XIII.

NOTABLE EVENTS, CUSTOMS, CHARACTERS, AND INCIDENTS.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

ON the occasion of the first Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria (1887), amid splendid summer weather, Neilston and Barrhead were the scene of right loyal rejoicings. From an early hour signs of coming enthusiasm were visible, and as the day wore on, the buildings were gay with bunting; strings of bannerets were thrown across the streets, and flags of many descriptions were displayed from the windows and house-tops, many of them bearing expressions of loyal good wishes. In Barrhead, the band marched through the burgh amidst general rejoicings: at Neilston, as the shades of night came down, electric lights flashed from the top of the clock-tower at Crofthead thread works, lighting up the country around. A bonfire was kindled, and a grand display was produced by setting off a large number of brilliant rockets. The streets were perambulated by an enthusiastic company amidst great rejoicings and the singing of snatches of popular songs. Later in the evening, to the inspiring strains of the violin and cornet, dancing on the street was kept up for several hours by the younger members of the community.

BURSTING OF GLANDERSTON DAM.

This dam is the reservoir for supplying South Arthurlie print-works with water, and is situated on a much higher ground about two miles to the west of the works. The accident occurred when the works were stopped for the New Year holidays, and is supposed to have been caused by some interference with the water-levels at Walton dam, immediately above it, and to which it is a supplementary reservoir. The embankment gave way during the night of the 30th December, 1842, when the great volume of water thus let suddenly loose rolled down the valley through which Glanderston Burn flows to the printfield below, dashing amongst the buildings there with very serious consequences. Several families

resided at the works, and there were many narrow escapes, but one family had eight of its members cut off without the slightest warning. Most probably the disaster would have been more destructive than it unfortunately was, had it taken place at any other than the holiday time. The members of the unfortunate family who lost their lives were interred in the burial-ground of what is now Arthurlie U.F. Church, where a large tombstone was subsequently erected to their memory, with the following inscription:—

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF

MRS. M'INTYRE, aged 48, and her daughter MARGARET, aged 8 years; also, ROBERT JOHNSTON, aged 45, and his wife MARGARET M'NAE, aged 50, and their children, HENRIETTA, aged 26, ARCHIBALD, aged 21, and MARGARET, aged 17 years; also, their grand-child, MARGARET HENDERSON, aged 4 years, daughter of HENRIETTA; who perished together in their own house at South Arthurlie Field, on the night of the 30th December, 1842, in the flood occasioned by the bursting of the embankment of Glanderston Dam.

“Truly, as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death.”—1 SAM. xx. 3.

“Boast not thyself of to-morrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”—PROV. xxvii. 1.

VICTORIA PIT EXPLOSION.

In the year 1851—when the general heart of the country, with pleasure and pride, was looking forward to the approaching great world's show, the first International Exhibition, then being raised in Hyde Park, London, in which the Prince Consort was taking such an active and praiseworthy interest—a great gloom fell over the inhabitants of the parish of Neilston and neighbourhood, and many hearts were suddenly stricken by an irretrievable loss through the dreadful explosion at the Victoria Pit, Nitshill. This pit is situated just beyond the boundary of the parish at Barrhead, and the sound of the explosion was heard there and over a wide area for miles around, causing an anxious and uneasy feeling amongst the people who heard it, from the dread that something mysterious was impending, though no conception could be formed of its nature at the time. This appalling catastrophe took place on the morning of Saturday, between four and five o'clock, 15th March, 1851.

The pit had been working for many years before the disaster, and the underground arrangements were of such a superior character that the

pit had the reputation of being one of the best managed and healthiest in Scotland, as well as one of the safest. The explosion took place in the Hurllet shaft, which was about 170 fathoms deep, whilst the workings below covered an area of 70 acres. Sixty-four men and boys had been checked off as having descended the shaft that morning before the explosion took place, and of that number only two men were taken out alive, whilst sixty-two were killed. Many of those who had met with such a sad end resided in Barrhead and several in Neilston; where a profound feeling of sympathy prevailed for the sufferers left—the orphans and widows. Many funerals took place on Saturday, 22nd, and Sunday, 23rd, when a large number of the dead were buried in the little graveyard attached to St. John's Chapel at Barrhead. Conscious of the far-reaching effects the catastrophe would have upon the living sufferers, men's minds were early drawn to take steps such as the urgency called for. Messrs. Coats, Paisley, to whom the pit belonged, subscribed £500 towards a fund in aid of the stricken people, and the Earl of Glasgow, who had arrived early on the scene from Hawkhead, and had taken an active part in helping the rescuers, with a noble generosity, also subscribed £500, besides giving £50 as a reward to the heroic explorers, who, at the risk of their own lives, had volunteered and gone down the shaft as a search party. The disaster was thought to have been caused by the roof having fallen in in some part of the workings, by which a large accumulation of gas had taken place.

ACCIDENT ON THE CANAL AT PAISLEY.

Fifty years ago many of the older inhabitants here possessed a vivid recollection of the disastrous accident on the then Glasgow, Paisley and Ardrossan Canal, since converted into the Canal Railway, which occurred on the 10th November, 1810, and cast a gloom over the whole district, some Neilston people having friends in the disaster. The Canal, which had its Glasgow terminus—Port-Eglington—where Eglington Street Station of the Caledonian Railway now is, had been in use as far as Johnstone for some time, and the fly-boat which plied regularly between these ports had just brought a full complement of passengers from Johnstone as far as Paisley, and put into the landing-stage there, when an excited crowd of excursionists, not giving time for those on board to land first who wanted to do so, rushed on to the deck of the little craft. This extra side weight caused the vessel to heel over, and immediately two hundred

people were thrown into the canal basin and struggling for life, and although the water was only about six feet deep, eighty-five of their number were drowned.

LOCH LIBO COAL PIT DISASTER.

At various times coal has been wrought in the western division of the parish, especially about Caldwell, Uplawmoor, and Loch Libo. At the loch the coal seam dips under the water from its southern margin, and here the remains of the old engine seat of a former pit are still to be seen. About the end of the eighteenth century—1793—the waters of the loch, unfortunately, burst through upon the men underground, deluging the workings. How many men were in the pit at the time of its occurrence is not said, but six or seven of their number were drowned. One of the men, we learn, was a servant of the Rev. John Monteath, D.D., afterwards minister of Houston, who had gone with a horse and cart for coal, and who had gone down the shaft out of curiosity, or at all events without any special message. The bodies of the unfortunate men were never recovered.

THE FRENCH IN IRELAND.

Fifty years ago several of the oldest Irish residents in Neilston could tell that they quite well remembered the rebellion in Ireland of 1798; and of seeing the French warships appearing in Killala Bay, on the shores of which they then lived, and of the French troops being quartered in the town of Killala, County of Mayo. It is interesting to observe that this military adventure brought out one of those generous courtesies that sometimes pass between gallant foes. General Humbert, commanding the French, having been defeated and taken prisoner at Carrick-on-Shannon—out-manœuvred by Colonel Vereker of the Limerick Militia—was one day at mess asked to give a toast, and immediately gave “General Vereker”; being informed that Vereker was only a Colonel of Militia, he exclaimed, “Vraiment! mais c’est dommage (Indeed! that is a pity), for he is de only general I have met with since I came to Ireland;” and this though he had been opposed by Generals Luke and Lord Cornwallis.

THE BAPTISMAL CAKE.

Among customs that still existed in the parish fifty years ago, though then dying out, was that of the baptismal cake; in which, when a child was to be presented for baptism, the mother baked beforehand a special

christening bread, designated the "blithemeat cake." The cake, or so much of it, was carried by the person, mother or nurse, who took the infant to church, and was presented by her to the first adult person whom she chanced to meet. If the person who received the cake was aware of what was expected of him in the ceremony, he would immediately take the child in his arms and accompany the mother or nurse part of the way to church, as an evidence of his good-will towards the family. But on the solitary occasion on which the writer was presented with such a cake, being totally ignorant of the part he was expected to take in the affair, he simply received the cake with thanks and continued his journey, rather surprised at the nurse's insistency, as she offered no explanation.

RIDING THE BROOSE.

This custom, though also rapidly dying out, was occasionally practised in the parish fifty years ago, especially at country marriages. The broose was generally ridden by well-mounted young farmers, tolerably mellowed with the national beverage, and was a spectacle greatly enjoyed. The object of the race was, of course, to be first to welcome the young wife; and guns were fired into the air when she was seen approaching. When the bride reached the threshold of her future home she was frequently lifted over it, lest she should stumble, an omen of ill-luck, and, as with her Roman sister of old, a farle of oat-cake, or sacred cake baked for the purpose, was broken over her head,¹ as a sort of invocation that she might always have abundance of the staff of life. It is to this custom, more common in his time than it is to-day, that our national bard alludes in his address to his "Auld Mare Maggie":—

"At brooses thou had'st ne'er a fallow
For pith and speed.
But every tail thou pay't them hollow
Where'er thou gaed."

The writer had an experience of being sent for on one occasion to see professionally a young birkie who had, in the comparative darkness of the night and his zeal and hurry, ridden into the midden-stead that lay empty, except for some water, convenient to an entrance into the farm court. No doubt, in this case the "barmy noddle" had contributed to the mistake; but it was so far satisfactory that there was practically no injury done.

¹Ramsay, *Roman Antiquities*, p. 251.

THE BELTANE TANEL.

Firing the whin, or gorse, on Capellie and Fereneze hill slopes, as darkness came down on the evening of "May Day," was a common practice among the young people of Neilston until well within the memory of many of the older inhabitants of the present day; and numbers of them can, doubtless, recall merry evenings spent on the braes, between Killoch Glen and the *locale* of the "kissing tree," romping round the bonfires on these occasions of welcoming in "the good old summer time."

This custom was, doubtless, a relic of the very ancient Celtic festival, celebrated by the Druids about this season of the year, when the sacred fires were kindled—not without the suspicion that they were frequently the scene of human sacrifice and suffering—with the new light, which was produced by forcibly rubbing together two pieces of wood. These rejoicings, with the amount of superstition surrounding them, lingered long in the Hebrides and Western Highlands generally, but they seem to have been common enough in other parts of Scotland as well. The merry-making associated with them is referred to by the royal bard, King James I., in his poem, "Peblis to the Play":—

"At Beltane when ilk bodie bownes
To Peblis to the play,
To hear the singin' and the soundes
The Beltane, suth to say."

GATHERING THE YARROW.

Another practice indulged in by the youthful maidens of Neilston, in common with many other places, on this eventful May Day evening was to "gather the yarrow," that they might try the fates as to the appearance of their future partner in life. To be effective and propitious, this had to be done just as the sun went down. Having culled the plant, it was taken home and placed under the pillow, where its reputed influence was expected to evoke the necessary dream; and just before "slumber's chains had bound" the fair one, the following rhyme had to be slowly repeated:—

"Yarrow, fair yarrow!
I hope before this time to-morrow
That you will show me
Who my true love shall be;
The colour of his hair,
The clothes that he'll wear,
And the words that he'll speak,
When he comes to court me."

THE PAYING, OR PENNY WEDDINGS.

The method of celebrating the marriage festival by Penny Wedding was occasionally had recourse to among a certain class of people in our community.

On such occasions, the custom was for each guest—and the more the merrier—to contribute towards the expense incident to carrying out the marriage in this fashion, and also to help the young couple to start in their new sphere of life. The assembly generally took the form of a night's dancing in one of the halls, when the local disciple of Paganini was requisitioned, and the fun went fast and furious for several hours. But for many years this practice has been given up, and paying weddings are now things of the past.

NEWSPAPER CLUBS.

Fifty years ago, when the spread of knowledge was still trammelled by the tax upon paper and newspaper duty (removed in 1861), when the evening paper was yet a thing of the future, and a daily paper a luxury beyond the reach of many, even middle-class families, it was no unusual thing in our good town, where the desire was to keep abreast of the times as regards news, for several persons to join or club together in procuring a daily paper amongst them. The writer was one of five who jointly carried out this economical method of procuring the *Glasgow Herald* daily for many years.

THE CHARTISTS OF NEILSTON.

During the exciting period that for some years preceded the passing of the great Reform Bill of 1832—more particularly after the disastrous affair at Manchester in 1819, known as Peterloo, when a political gathering was dispersed by cavalry, and from 500 to 600 people were killed—the whole country for miles around Paisley was in a state of intense political ferment, aggravated by the suffering the people endured through bad harvests and want of employment. For three years, from 1817 till 1820, many meetings of an alarming and riotous character were held in Paisley under Radical and Chartist leaders, requiring, in some instances, the intervention of the military force for their suppression. Fortunately these disturbances did not lead to any loss of life, but the destruction of property was very considerable in different parts of the town.

As was to be expected in an advanced community, the people of Neilston did not escape the contagion of this political commotion. From

the nature of a special part of their trade, the people of Neilston were brought a good deal into contact with Paisley, then the great centre of the hand-loom industry, and through this they came to have strong sympathies with the movement that was there in progress. A great meeting was held on Meikleriggs Moor in September, 1819. The people assembled in thousands from the surrounding towns and villages, carrying flags draped with black in sympathy with their compatriots who had fallen in the struggle at Manchester; and we learn that the brass band from Neilston entered the grounds playing "Scots Wha Hae," at the head of a contingent of followers. The Magistrates of Paisley, at an earlier date, had issued a Proclamation forbidding the carrying of flags at this gathering, and a rumour got out during the progress of the meeting that the Hussars had been sent for to disperse it. This may have helped to break up the meeting a little earlier, but it had not the effect of improving the temper of those taking part in it, and consequently when those of the eastern section were on their way home, they got engaged in a riotous disturbance in High Street, which, at the Cross, required the assistance of the cavalry for its suppression. "But the Neilston contingent, with their band playing, turned down Storie Street, then just outside the burgh, and got quietly away."¹

The intelligent moderation displayed in this instance was not, however, acceptable to all the members of the party, as the people of Neilston were not without keen representatives in the struggle; and a story is told of some physical force Radicals and Chartists who, after a rousing meeting in the Masons' Arms Hall, with deputations from other parts, were resolved to "go out" against the oppressor. The intention was, according to the "plan of campaign," first to march to Paisley Cross, whence, with increased numbers, they would proceed by way of Renfrew, to Dumbarton, and, in emulation of the brave Sir Thomas Crawford of Jordanhill, would seize the castle there, and place the guard in irons. Having done this, and supplied themselves with arms, they would march to London, increasing in volume as they neared the capital, and there demand the charter. But, as the day approached for the grand start being made, it became rumoured that the Yeomanry were on the alert, and that a domiciliary search might be made of suspects, which had the effect of giving their zeal pause; and, finally, the fiasco burst up. And in later years and happier times, when the object of their

¹ Metcalfe, *History of Paisley*, p. 374.

agitation had been practically granted by statesmen who "took occasion by the hand to broad base the constitution on the people's will," and their own better sense had asserted itself, they could join with others heartily in the laugh at the Chartist escapade, even when at their own expense.

THE "SNUFF MULL" IN THE KIRK.

The late John Carswell, sometime minister's man, church officer, gravedigger, postman, and registrar, was quite a type of characters that were to be found in many old and somewhat isolated towns fifty or sixty years ago. His family, by his maternal relatives of the name of Gemmell, had been continuously "church officers and gravediggers for over seven hundred years, as proved from church records." John, or Johnny, as he was generally called, was an all-round man, about seventeen stone weight, and not by any manner of means a teetotaller. To a blustering manner, he added a good deal of natural shrewdness and wit, a straight out and honourable man. In his time he had been brought into contact with the ministers of most of the parishes around, through the occasional interchange of pulpits. On one occasion, when the minister of Neilston, the Rev. Dr. Fleming, was preaching at Eaglesham, he had his man Johnny with him as coachman. John, having seen the horse duly stabled, attended the church in company with his brother beadle, occupying the same seat with him. The sermon having got fairly under weigh, the home beadle, by way of courtesy, after helping himself, handed his snuff-box as a friendly greeting to the stranger, who, having helped himself, returned the box to its owner. This, as a matter of course, they thought had passed unnoticed, but such was not their luck; the preacher had observed the proceedings, and, being a strict disciplinarian, could not allow this flagrant want of attention to pass unchecked; so, suddenly stopping in his discourse, to the no small surprise of the congregation, including the beadles, he leaned over the pulpit and, looking the culprits straight in the face, remarked with great deliberation: "There are some of you more concerned about your noses, than the salvation of your souls." Needless to say, more caution would be exercised when next the kindly beadle ventured to pass the "mull" in the kirk.

THE GOOSE AND THE "JAW-HOLE."

The Rev. Dr. Fleming was a powerful and resourceful preacher, and during the many years he presided over ecclesiastical affairs in the parish, was held in the highest esteem by the people, but he did not get

on very harmoniously with the heritors. Law pleas, and bickerings of various kinds, led to estrangement, and they seldom saw eye to eye in things pertaining to the management of the church. The disproportion between the accommodation of the church and the population of the parish at this time, 1826, led to considerable friction. The minister wanted more accommodation for the people; whilst the heritors contended the church had ample sitting room for those of the inhabitants for whom they were obliged to provide sittings, viz., the agricultural section of the community. This demand resulted in the heritors rousing the seats for people other than the farming population, a practice which was continued for some time. At a public meeting, however, the people resolved that they would attend church and disregard the seat-rouping. This led to legal proceedings, when it was ultimately found the heritors were in error in acting as they had done; and rousing the seats was prohibited by interdict, greatly to their annoyance. Some of them even left the church and ceased to worship with the reverend doctor, and began to attend a dissenting church in Barrhead; which the reverend doctor, in consequence, designated the "Jaw-hole." During this period of disputation, the minister preached to one section of the congregation in the churchyard from what was called "the tent," a square box on four legs with a covering over it, and steps leading up to it, as to a pulpit; and in the church to another section, the heritors, their families, and supporters; and this practice he continued one way and another for eight years. On a particular Sunday, as the open air service was being thus conducted, a fine large goose wandered into the churchyard among the people—or, as some aver, was thrown in by one of the malcontent heritors—when it began screaming and gabbling in its own peculiar way, greatly to the annoyance of the worshippers. The reverend doctor, however, who was a keen satirist and wit, was equal to the occasion. Pausing in his discourse and addressing the church officer, he said, "John, take that poor creature out, and send it down the hill to gabble with its kindred geese in the jaw-hole."

On the misconduct being repeated the following Sunday, the minister, again pausing, remarked, "It is perhaps well, at all events it is so far pleasant to think that the owners of this creature are not unmindful of ordinances; for since they have not come themselves, they have had the grace to send a suitable representative." These retorts were more than the obtruders had calculated upon, and finding they were only supplying a means by which they were themselves chastised, the unseemly disturbance thenceforth ceased.

Another instance of the reverend gentleman’s ready wit is given, on an occasion in which he had applied to the heritors to have his garden properly fenced round. The spokesman of the heritors who waited upon him to examine the defects, said, “Well, suppose we give your garden an effectual enclosure in the form of a strong fence of ‘stabs and railings.’” “Stabs and railings, sir,” replied the reverend doctor, “I have had nothing else since I came amongst you.”

“SMEEKIN’ JOHNNY.”

Sixty years ago, in the bleaching works about Neilston, where a large number of unmarried women were employed, most of them girls from “Far Lochaber” and other parts of the Highlands, it was the custom to provide them with lodging accommodation inside the work, in what was known as the woman-house; a practice now wisely discontinued, as its tendency in most instances was not towards elevation. At this period there was no limitation to the number of hours women might be obliged to work, and frequently they were called to labour at a very early hour. To ensure there being no excuse for not being up in the morning, the night watchman was sent to the woman-house to rouse them in plenty of time. One morning some of the girls had been more than usually somnolent, and had not got to their work in what their irate employer thought a reasonable time after being wakened, so he resolved to give the sleepers a rude awakening. For this purpose he filled the sleeping apartment with the fumes of chlorine, liberated from chloride of lime, bleaching powder, by the action of sulphuric acid or vitriol, seemingly ignorant of the physiological effects of the gas upon human life. Some time afterwards, wondering at the continued non-appearance of the women, the foolish man fortunately sent some one to see how they were relishing their fumigation; when it was discovered that the inmates were all but suffocated; many of them barely escaping with their lives after strenuous medical efforts and attention. Legal proceedings were only stayed by subsequent liberal treatment. But ever afterwards the fumigator was known in the neighbourhood by the sobriquet of “Smeekin’ Johnny.”

The following quatrain of some doggerel verses written at the time indicates sufficiently the “smeekin’” process:—

“The chemic barrels were brought o’er,
 Paddy set them soon a-reekin’,
 ‘Now,’ quo’ Johnny, ‘steek the door,
 And let the bitches get a smeekin’!’”

STREET PREACHING.

The practice of street preaching dates from a period long anterior to the inception of the Salvation Army, in country towns at least, and in our good town it was not without a following. The place usually selected for these meetings was the Cross, near to the church gate, and convenient to a tavern at the Cross which we shall designate the "Pump Tavern," from a pump well that stood just beside it. The landlord of this tavern, an irate and peppery old "son of a bung," had frequently had his temper sorely tried by the attacks his trade and he were weekly subjected to by a special preacher of the name of H . . . cock. At length, however, the proverbial last straw was reached, and "Old Pump," as he was called, unable to contain himself any longer, fumed out of his den, and attacked the preacher with such sustained volleys of expletives as made him fain to beat a retreat, "Old Pump" winding up the final volley with, "Dang ye, sir, ye may be a H . . . cock, a gem cock, or a midden cock, but I'll let ye see ye'll no craw at my door as ye've been doin', without bein' tell't o't."

On another occasion, the worthy landlord of the "Pump" had been hay-making. When he began work, the strength of the wind had been such as suited the operation; but suddenly springing into quite a little gale, the hay got blown out of the old man's arms as he carried it across the field to be ricked. Having borne with the annoyance for some time, he at length lost what little patience he possessed, and threw the whole of what was left in his arms into the wind, at the same time exclaiming, as he addressed his windy enemy, "There, dang ye, tak it a!"

WITCHES IN NEILSTON.

It is scarcely matter for surprise to learn that, during the witch-hunting time, towards the end of the seventeenth century, Neilston did not escape suspicion. Pardovan informs us that "our General Assembly, July 29, 1640, had ordained all ministers carefully to take notice of charmers, witches, and all such abusers of the people, and to urge the Acts of Parliament to be execute against the people."¹ When such was the state of matters "in the green tree," we do not wonder when we learn at a later date that "a number of witches were apprehended in Inverkip, Linwood, Neilston, and Kilallan, 1650," against whom "an

¹ *Collections and Observations concerning Witches*, Book III., Walter Stuart of Pardovan, p. 158.

appeal was made to the Committee of Privy Council for their punishment." It would appear that this appeal was listened to, and that after the wretched people were duly "worrit," the following decision was given out:—"26th July, 1650, find Janet Hewison, in Kilallan guiltie of divers points of sorcerie and witchcraft, and seriouslie recommend her to the Lords of Secret Council or Committee of Assembly that ane Commission may be granted for her trial and punishment."

Who the suspects from Neilston may have been, that "were apprehended," is not set forth, but whoever she or they were, it would seem that with the others from Linwood and Inverkip, they had passed through the prescribed ordeal of being "worrit" scathless. No easy matter in these terrible Councils. But Neilston's connection with witchcraft did not end there. In 1697, when "Christina Shaw, the impostor of Bargarran, who pretended she was bewitched, and made credulous ministers believe her rhapsodies," we find the Laird of Glanderston was of the Commission for Inquiry and of Justiciary with others; whose finding was "that there were witches," and that further inquiry should be made. In consequence of this recommendation, a new warrant of Privy Council was issued, 5th April, 1697, subscribed by Polwarth, Chancellor; Douglas, Lauderdale, Annandale, Carmichael, W. Anstruther, and Archibald Mure; when, after a trial, which is painful reading in the light of the present day, seven wretched people, three men and four women, were condemned to death as guilty of the crime of witchcraft. During the incarceration of these poor creatures, the Rev. David Brown, then minister of Neilston, was appointed to deal with them; and accordingly, on Wednesday, 9th June, 1697, he preached at Paisley prison, being the day before the execution, a sermon on the sin of witchcraft from the text, I. Timothy, chapter xvi. 5. In his closing paragraph he says:—"One word further, and that is, delay no longer to Renounce your deed of gift to the Devil, . . . and give away yourself to the Son of God from head to foot. Ye have put it off before and since the sentence; ye have been much dealt with, and now it comes within a day of your stepping into eternity, and we are come to you the day before your death, entreating you to put it off no longer. O be serious! God hath exercised a great deal of long-suffering toward you [how little they had experienced from man!], and ye have hardened your hearts; and now we are come to you in your adversity, at last to desire you to take Jesus Christ, and if you will not take Him, we are free of your blood, and Jesus Christ is free of your blood; and if ye should endure a

thousand hells, ye yourselves are only to be blamed for the slighting the great salvation.”

Next day, for a crime that could not possibly have any existence, these poor creatures were led out and executed on the Gallow Green of Paisley, having, we are informed, “been first hung for a few minutes and then cut down and put into a fire prepared for them, into which a barrel of tar was put, in order to consume them the more quickly! The names of the miserable victims were, John Lindsay, James Lindsay, John Reid, Catherine Campbell, Margaret Lang, Margaret Fulton, Agnes Naismith—Sacrificed at the altar of the three fatal sisters—Ignorance, Superstition, and Cruelty.”

SMUGGLING IN THE PARISH.

The desire to evade payment of the duties imposed by the Excise upon particular commodities seems almost like an instinct with a certain class of people, and to no commodity does this seem more especially to have applied in early times than to the production of whisky in our country. From a very remote period the private still has been in use, and in some districts many exciting scenes and hazardous adventures have resulted from the endeavour of officials to effect a capture. The days of the adventurous smuggler and his hardy crew are, of course, long past, when foreign importations were common enough, when a kilderkin of gin or a keg of brandy might arrive by night in some mysterious way from an unknown quarter to certain folks. In any case, this class of hazard had more to do with sea-coast villages than with inland country towns. But as showing that rural towns are not always free from this form of enterprise, it may be mentioned that between thirty and fifty years ago, Neilston had at least two illicit manufacturers doing business with the private still after their own fashion. One of them was situated in a comparative ruin in a romantic glen, not a mile west of the Cross, while the other was located in the middle of a peat-bog, not a mile south of Hartfield dam, in the moorland neighbourhood of old Peesweep Inn, though both concerns were not going at the same time. It is a trite proverb, “that woo’ sellers ken woo’ buyers,” and from each of these fountains of “mountain dew” many gallons of stuff were sent forth in the winter season when the moon hid her glory,—

“That were brewed in the starlight,
Whaur kings dinna ken.”

But this is now, happily, a thing of the past. The increased number of police, and their more thorough surveillance of the district, has rendered this form of illicit traffic all but impossible ; with the result that, for many years past, the parish has been free from this nefarious practice.

REMARKABLE BURGLARY AT CAPELLIE FARM,
AND EXECUTION OF THE BURGLARS.

In 1820, during the tenancy of Mr. James Arneil, the farm of Capellie was the scene of a very daring and successful burglary. On the night of the 13th November of that year, some hours after the inmates had retired to rest, several burglars found entrance to the dwelling by breaking open the door leading to the milk-house. The party were well armed, and on reaching the kitchen, some were placed so as to overawe the servant women in bed, and compel them to remain silent, whilst the others ransacked the rooms. Mrs. Arneil, awakening by noise she heard, became conscious that something unusual was going on in the house, and at once suspecting robbery, got up, and, with her daughter, escaped by a window. Before running off for help, she had caution and courage enough to look into the room where the noise came from, by the window, and there she saw the desperadoes busy at their work of plunder—Miss Arneil being too much excited to observe anything that was going on. Mother and daughter now ran with all haste to the adjoining farm—Nether Capellie—then occupied by Mr. Brown, to obtain help. Two of the Brown family set out with despatch for Capellie, and on nearing Arneil's house were met in the courtyard by a gang of seven burglars, who, on being challenged, gave vent to some dreadful oaths—some of the villains shouting “shoot them,” whilst one of the gang flourished a drawn sword over Mr. Brown's head. Ultimately, the order was given to let them pass—whilst at the same time the gang made off with all speed. Mrs. Arneil went next to the old mill on Killoch Burn (since razed to the ground) for further help, but finding that there were only female inmates, she remained for shelter. It was discovered that the burglars had been successful in carrying away ten pounds in money, a gold watch, and a large quantity of body clothing. Subsequently, five of the burglars were apprehended, and brought to trial at the High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh. They were Alexander Hamilton, Robert Muir, Samuel Maxwell, James Donnelly, and a wretch of the name of Dolin, who, by turning Crown witness, gave evidence against the others, and was set at

liberty. Hamilton and Maxwell were hanged on 12th December, 1820. It is interesting to note, in connection with this otherwise wretched affair, that Mr. Brown here referred to, who so pluckily, in the middle of the night, came to the assistance of Arneil's family in their distress, was the father of the late Provost Brown of Paisley, who was then tenant of Nether Capellie farm, and there the late Provost passed his early life.

THE COWAN PARK.

By the will of the late James Cowan, Esq., of Rosshall, the sum of £10,000 was bequeathed to the Burgh of Barrhead for the purpose of providing a public park, to bear his name. The want of such a place, and the amenities it presents, was beginning to be felt by the rapidly growing population of the burgh, and when it became known that, through the generosity of Mr. Cowan, this desideratum would be provided for, a sense of grateful satisfaction pervaded the whole community.

Mr. Cowan was a native of Barrhead, in which his father at one time carried on a varied and active business, and which had been also the scene of his own early business efforts; and though he had not resided in the burgh for many years, he appears to have always entertained a warm feeling for his native town and a deep interest in its welfare, as shown by his munificent benefaction.

But the gift imposed a somewhat difficult task upon the Town Council, as it is not always an easy matter to find land that will be at once suitable and convenient for such a purpose. Many things have to be considered—the prospective growth of the town; the condition of the ground as regards improvability with years; its convenience to the population; its surroundings in respect of preserving its amenities as to health, outlook, and openness to sunshine—its general adaptability, in short, as a place for healthful recreation for the young and middle-aged, and restful resort for the aged and infirm.

After much inquiry and negotiation—with commendable deliberation and reserve on their part—the Town Council were in a position to announce that they had been able to confirm the minutes of the Special Meeting of 14th February, 1910, at which it was unanimously agreed to select the Parkhouse site, which is situated to the east of the town, for the public park, and on the terms offered by Mr. Turner, the proprietor.

The grounds extend to forty acres, and will cost £4,750. There will thus be left, after providing for laying off and making the park, a large sum with which to maintain it in proper condition for time to come.

CHAPTER XIV.

CHANGE OF MANNERS IN SCOTLAND.

By the kindness of Colonel Mure, the present laird of Caldwell, the writer is privileged to grace his pages with an Essay—reproduced from the *Caldwell Papers*, written by Miss Elizabeth Mure, sister of Baron Mure, a lady of decided literary taste and accomplishment, who for many years took a deep interest in the people generally on the western border of Neilston parish, where she resided, and the tenantry there and in the adjoining parishes of Dunlop and Beith, when the management of the estate of Caldwell was mostly in her hands during the minority of the then heir. This lady died at Caldwell in 1795, at the age of eighty-one, and the essay, which covers a number of years following the accession of William III. to the throne of England, may apply more particularly to the earlier years of her life.

Spelling and grammatical construction have undergone some change since the paper was written, but there can be no difficulty in this respect in understanding and enjoying the beauty of the composition.

SOME REMARKS ON THE CHANGE OF MANNERS IN MY OWN TIME, 1700–1790.

Being Article xciv., Part First, of “Caldwell Papers.”

HAD we a particular account of the manners of our country, and of the changes that has taken place from time to time since the reign of William IIIrd, no history could be more entertaining; but those changes has been so little marked, that what knowledge we have of them we owe it more to the essay writers in Queen Anne’s time than to any of our historians. Addison, Pope, Swift, lairns us the manners of the times they wrote in. Since that period the information we have had from our parents, and our own observation, may instruct us. It were to be wished that some good author would make his observations on this subject during his own life, which, if carried down would contain both useful and entertaining knowledge.

Nobody that has lived any time in the world but must have made remarks of this kind, tho’ it’s only the men of genius that can make the proper use of them, by representing the good or ill consequences the changes may have on society. Those I have lived myself to see I wish to remember and mark for my own use. I’m sensible that in

order to make those remarks properly, its necessary one should have been more in the world than I was during the times I write off, as the manners in the chief towns would be something different from those in the country; but as our fashions are brought from the Metropolis, the people of fashion in the country cannot be far behind.

My observation cannot go much farther back than the 30, which period I reckon verged on the age of my Grandfather, who was one of those born betwixt the 60 and 70 in last centry, many of whom remained beyond the time above mentioned. Their manners was peculiar to themselves, as some part of the old feudal system still remained. Every master was revered by his family, honour'd by his tenants, and awful to his domestics. His hours of eating, sleeping and amusement, were carefully attended to by all his family, and by all his guests. Even his hours of devotion was mark'd, that nothing might interrupt him. He kept his own sete by the fire or at table, with his hat on his head; and often particular dishes served up for himself, that nobody else shared off. Their children approach'd them with awe, and never spok with any degree of freedom before them. The consequence of this was that except at meals they were never together; tho' the reverance they had for their parents taught them obedience, modisty, temperance. Nobody helped themselves at table, nor was it the fashion to cat up what was put on the plate. So that the mistress of the family might give you a ful or not as she pleased; from whence came in the fashion of pressing the guests to eat so far as to be disagreeable.

The 1727 is as far back as I can remember. At that time there was little bread in Scotland; Manufactorys brought to no perfection either in linnen or woolen. Every woman made her web of wove linnen, and bleched it herself; it never rose higher than 2 shillings the yard, and with this cloth was every body cloathed. The young gentlemen, who at this time were growing more delicat, got their cloth from Holland for shirts; but the old was satisfied with necks and sleeves of the fine, which were put on loose above the country cloth. I remember in the 30 and 31 of a ball where it was agreed that the company should be dress'd in nothing but what was manufactur'd in the country. My sisters were as well dress'd as any, and their gowns were striped linen at 2s. and 6d. per yard. Their heads and ruffles were of Paisley muslings, at 4 and sixpence with four peny edging from Hamilton; all of them the finest that could be had. A few years after this wevers were brought over from Holland, and manufactorys for linen established in the West. The dress of the ladys were nearly as expensive as at present, tho not so often renewed. At the time I mention houps were worn constantly 4 yards and a half wide, which required much silk to cover them; and Gould and silver was much used for triming, never less than three rows round the peticot; so that tho the silk was slight the price was increased by the triming. Then the heads were all dress'd in laces from Flanders; no blonds nor courss-edging used; the price of those was high, but two sute would serve for life; they were not renewed but at marriage or some great event. Who could not afoard those wore fringes of thread.

Their table were as full as at present, tho very ill dress'd and as ill served up. They eat out of Pewder, often ill cleaned; but were nicer in their linen than now, which was renewed every day in most Gentlemens familyes, and allwise napkins besides the cloth. The servants eat ill; having a sett form for the week, three days broth and salt meat, the rest meagre, with plenty of bread and small bear. Their wages were small till the Vails—fees from the master of his guests at particular seasons—were abolished; the men from 3 to 4 pounds in the year, the maids from 30 shillings to 40. At those times I mention few of the maids could either sew or dress linen; it was all smouthed in the mangle but the

Ladys headdresses, which were done by their own maids, and the gentlemen's shirts by the housekeeper. They in general employd as many servants as they do at present in the country, but not in the towns; for one man servant was thought sufficient for most families, or two at most, unless they kept a Carrage, which was a thing very uncommon in those days, and only used by the Nobles of great fortune. The prices of provisions were about a third of what they are now; beaf from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 pen. per pound; Butter 2 p^c $\frac{1}{2}$ peny; Cheese 3 fardings or 1 peny; eggs 1 p. the Dozen; Veal 5 shillings the whole; a hen 4 pence; Geese and Turkeys 1 shilling. Nether was the provisions much raised till after the Rebellion in the forty five, when riches increased considerably. Before the union, and for many years after it, money was very scarce in Scotland. A country without Trade, without Cultivation, or money to carrie on either of them, must improve by very slow degrees. A great part of the gentlemens rents were payd in kind. This made them live comfortably at home, tho they could not anywhere else. This introduced that old hospitality so much boasted of in Britan. No doubt we had our share in it according to our abilities; but this way of life led to manners very different from the present. Nothing could affect them more than the restrent young people were under in presence of their parents. There was little intercourse betwixt the old and young; the parents had their own guests, which consisted for the most part of their own relations and nighbours. As few people could affoord to go to town in the winter, their acquaintance was much confin'd. The Children of this small Society were under a necessity of being companions to one another. This produced many strong friendships, and strong attachments, and often very improper mariages. By their society being confined, their affections were less difused, and center'd all in their own small circle. There was no enlargement of mind here; their manners were the same and their sentiments were the same; they were indulgent to the faults of one another, but most severe on those they were not accustomed to; so that censure and detraction seemed to be the vice of the age. From this education proceeded pride of understanding, Bigotry of religion, and want of refinement in every useful art. While the Parents were both alive the mother could give little attention to her girls. Domestick affairs and amuseing her husband was the business of a good wife. Those that could afoard governesses for their children had them; but all they could learn them was to read English ill, and plain work. The chief thing required was to hear them repeat Psalms and long catechisms, in which they were employed an hour or more every day, and almost the whole day on Sunday. If there was no governess to perform this work, it was done by the chaplan of which there was one in every family. No attention was given to what we call accomplishments. Reading and writing well or even spelling was never thought off. Musick, drawing or French, were seldom taught the girls. They were allowed to run about and amuse themselves in the way they choiced even to the age of women, at which time they were generally sent to Edin^r for a winter or two to lairn to dress themselves and to dance and to see a little of the world. The world was only to be seen at Church, at mariages, Burials, and Baptisms. These were the only public places where the Ladys went in full dress, and as they walked the street they were seen by every body; but it was the fashion when in undress allwise to be masked. When in the country their employment was in color'd work, beds, Tapestry, and other pieces of furniture; immitations of fruits and flowers, with very little taste. If they read any it was either books of devotion or long Romances, and sometimes both. They never eat a full meal at Table; this was thought very undelicat, but they took care to have something before diner, that they might behave with propriety in company. From the account given by old people that lived in this time

we have reason to believe that there was little care taken of the young men as of the women; excepting those that were intended for lairned professions, who got a regular education thro schools and Coledges. But the generallity of our Country gentlemen, and even our Noblemen, were contented with the instructions given by the chaplin to their young men. But that the manners of the times I write of may be shoven in a fuller light I shall give Mr. Barclay's relation of the most memorable things that past in his father's house from the begining of the centry till the 13, in which year he died.

"My brother was married (says he) in the four, at the age of twenty-one; few men were unmarried after this time of life. I myself was married by my friends at 18, which was thought a proper age. (This Mr. Barclay was the essayist's uncle, a younger son of Sir James Stewart, Lord Advocate, who took the name of Barclay.) Sir James Stewart's marriage (the brother referred to above) with President Dalrymple's second Daughtir brought together a number of people related to both familys. At the signing of the eldest Miss Dalrymple's Contract the year before there was an entire hogshead of wine drunk that night, and the number of people at Sir James Stewart's was little less. The marriage was in the President's house, with as many of the relations as it would hold. The Bride's favours were all sowed on her gowu from top to bottom and round the neck and sleeves. The moment the ceremony was performed, the whole company run to her and pulled off the favours: in an instant she was stripd of all of them. The next ceremony was the garter, which the Bridegroom's man attempted to pull from her leg; but she dropt it throw her peticot on the floor. This was a white and silver ribbon which was cut in small morsals to every one in the company. The Bride's mother came in then with a basket of favours belonging to the Bridegroom; those and the Bride's were the same with the Liverys of their familys; hers pink and white, his blue and gold colour. All the company dined and suped together, and had a ball in the evening. The same next day in the Advocate's. On Sunday there went from the President's house to church three and twenty cupple, all in high dress; Mr. Barclay then a boy led the youngest Miss Dalrymple who was the last of them. They filled the lofts of the kirk from the King's sate to the wing loft. The feasting continued every day till they had gone throw all the friends of both familys, with a ball every night."

As the Baptisam was another public place, he goes on to describe it thus.

"On the forth week after the Lady's delivery she is sett on her bed on a low foot-stool; the bed covered with some neat piece of sewed work or white sattin, with three pillows at her back covered with the same; she in full dress with a lapped head dress and a fan in her hand. Having informed her acquaintance what day she is to see company, they all come and pay their respects to her, standing or walking a little thro the room (for there's no chair). They drink a glass of wine, and eat a bit of cake and then give place to others. Towards the end of the week all the friends were ask'd to what was called the Cummer's feast (a corruption of the French Commère = gossip, therefore the gossip's feast). This was a supper, where every gentleman brought a pint of wine to be drunk by him and his wife. The supper was a ham at the head and a pirimid of fowl at the bottom. This dish consisted of four or five ducks at bottom, hens above, partrages at tope. There was an eating posset in the middle of the table, with dryed fruits and sweetmeats at the sides. When they had finished their supper, the meat was removed, and in a moment everybody flies to the sweetmeats to pocket them. Upon which a scramble insued, chairs overturned and everything on the table; wrassalling and pulling at one another with the utmost noise. When all was quiet'd they went to the stoups (for there

was no bottles) of which the women had a good share. For tho it was a disgrace to be seen drunk, yet it was none to be a little intoxicate in good Company. A few days after this the same company was asked to the Christening, which was allwise in the Church; all in high dress; a number of them young ladys who were call'd maiden Cummers. One of them presented the child to the Father. After the Cerrimony they dined and supped together, and the night often concluded with a ball."

The burialls is the only thing now to be taken notice off. It was allwise on foot. The magistrits and town Council were invited to every person's of any consideration: 1500 buriall letters were wrot (says Mr. Barclay) at my Fathers death. The Assembly was sitting at the time, and all the Clargie were asked; and so great was the crowd, that the magistrats were at the grave in Grayfriars Church-yard before the corps was taken out of the house in the foot of the Advocate's Closs. A few years before this it had ceased to be the fashion for the Ladys to walk behind the Corps, in high Dress and coloured Cloaths; but formerly the Chesting—Coffining—was at the same time; and all the female relations ask'd, who made part of the procession.

At this time acts of devotion employed much of their time; see the same Gentlemans account of a Sunday past in his fathers house. "Prayers by the Chaplin at nine o'clock; all went regularly to church at ten, the women in high dress." He himself was employed by his Father to give the Collection for the family which was a Crown. "Half after twelve they came home; at one had prayers again by the Chaplin; after which they had a bit of cold meat or an ege, and returned to Church at two; was out again by four, when every body retired to their private devotions, except the Children and servants, who were conveyen by the Chaplin and examined. This continued till five, when supper was served up, or rather dinner. A few men friends generally partaked of this meal and sat till eight; after which singing, reading, and prayers was performed by the old gentleman himself; after which they all retired."

Whether the genius of a people forms their religious sentiments, or if religion forms in some measure the manners of a people, I shall leve the wise to decide. I shall only observe, that while that reverance and Awe remained on the minds of man for masters, Fathers, and heads of Clans, it was then the Awe and dread of Deity was most powerful. This will appear from the superstitious writings of the times. The fear of Hell and deceitful power of the Devil was at the bottom of all their religious sentiments. The established belief in Witchcraft (for which many suffer'd) prevailed much at this time; Ghosts too and apparitions of various kinds were credit'd; few old houses was without a Ghost-chamber that few people had Courage to sleep in. Omens and Dreams were much regarded even by people of the best Education. These were the manners of the last Century, and remained in part for 30 years in this.

The change of manners in the new generation was very remarkable. The Union with England carried many of our nobility and gentry to London. Sixty of the most considerable people being obliged to pass half of the year there would no doubt change their ideas. Besides many English came to reside at Edin^r. The Court of Exchequer and the Bourds of Customs and Excise were mostly all of that nation; at least all the under officers were. These were people of fashion, and were well recieved by the first people here. As this intercourse with the English opened our eyes a little, so it gave us a liberty of Trade we had not before. From the Union many of our younger sons became marchants and went abroad. It likewise became the fashion for our young men of fortune to Study for some years in Holland, after which to make a tour throw France. On their return home

they brought to Scotland French politeness grafted on the self importance and dignity of their Fathers. May we not suppose it was at this time our nation acquired the Character of poverty and pride.

About the 24, a weekly Assembly for dancing was set up at Edinburgh. This with privit balls carried on by subscription took the place of marrages, baptisams, and burials. Their society now came to be more enlarged, but it required time to have a proper effect. The men's manners tho stiff and evidently put on, yet were better than the women's, who were undelicat in their conversation and vulgar in their manners. As the awe and reverence for parents and elder friends wore off, they brought into company the freedom and romping they had acquired amongst their brothers and neer relations. Many of them threw off all restrent. Were I to name the time when the Scotch Ladys went farthest wrong, it would be betwixt the 30 and 40. I'm at a loss to account for this, if it was not owing to our young noblemen bringing home French manners; and least they should be led into marriges, made their addresses to those only that were in that state. No doubt the contrast betwixt the young men educated abroad and ours who were closs at home would be very great. Besides, the manners of the Ladys might lead the men to more freedom if they were so disposed, as they had not yet lairnd that restrent so necessary where society is enlarged. Yet this was far from being general.

There was still in the country a teast for good morals, which was improved by a sett of teachers established among us, most of whom had their education abroad or had traveled with young Gentlemen. As every body at this period went regularly to Church, I may justly mention ministers as teachers: Professor Hamilton and the two Mr. Wisherts at Edin^r, Professor Hutcheson; Craig, Clark, and Principal Leishman in the west; these taught that whoever would please God must resemble him in goodness and benevolence, and those that had it not must affect it by politeness and good manners. Those lectures and sermons were attended by all the young and gay. They were new and entertaining, and matter for conversation and criticisam. In well regulate familys there was still kept up a reverance for parents and for elderly friends; and when the young was admitted to their society, there was a degree of attention pay'd the old, yea even servility, that this age knows nothing off, and whoever was wanting in it was unfit for company. Nobody in those times thought of pleasing themselves. The established rule was to please your company; endeavour to make them think well of themselves and they well of you for doing it. Society was not yet so much enlarged as to weaken the affections of near relations. This may be easily ascertained by every one now alive that is turned of fifty. Not only brothers and Sisters, but Brothers and Sisters-in-Law, mothers in Law, and even more distant connections, would leave their own familys for ten or twelve days, and attend with the utmost care a friend in a fever or dangerous disorder. These were the Nurskeepers for the first 30 years of this centry, who by every method endeavour'd to lessen their distress, nor left them night or day till recover'd or buried. The intercourse betwixt relations and friends was kept up in another way, which was by small presents, mostly consisting of meats or drink. Anything rare or good of its kind was in part sent to a friend whatever rank of life they were in. These presents were received with thanks and return'd in kind on proper occasions. Nather was strangers or people of high rank sought after in their entertainments. It was their Relations, the Friends they loved, that shared their delicacy. Those manners still remain in many places in Scotland. At Glasgow two brothers will vie with one another who will give the most ellegant meal.

Tho this may proceed more from vanity than affection yet I believe it to be introduced by the last.

When this restraint was thrown off every character appeared in a natural light, of which there was great variety. Prudes and Coquettes, romps and affected fine Ladies, they were at no pains to disguise, as every one had their own admirers. The regular teatables which commenced about the 20 was the meeting of all the young and gay every evening. There they pulled to pieces the manners of those that differed from them; every thing was matter of conversation; Religion, morals, Love, Friendship, Good manners, dress. This tended more to our refinement than any thing else. The subjects were all new and all entertaining. The bookseller's shoppes were not stuffed as they are now with Novels and Magazines. The woman's knowledge was gain'd only by conversing with the men not by reading themselves, as they had few books to read that they could understand. Whoever had read Pope, Addison and Swift, with some ill wrote history, was then thought a lairnd Lady, which character was by no means agreeable. The men thought justly on this point, that what knowledge the woman had out of their own sphere should be given by themselves, and not pick'd up at their own hand in ill choisen books of amusement, tho many of them not without a morral, yet more fitted to reclaim the desolate than to improve a young untented mind, that might have passed through life with more happiness and purity than they could with the knowledge those books contain'd. Nather was there any Sceptics in these times. Religion was just recovered from the power of the Devil and the fear of Hell, taught by our Mothers and Grandmothers. At this period those terrors began to wear off and religion appear'd in a more ammiable Light. We were bid draw our knowledge of God from his works, the chief of which is the soul of a good man; then judge if we have cause to fear. The Christian religion was taught as the purest rule of morrals; the beliefe of a particular providance and of a future state as a support in every situation. The distresses of individuals were necessary for exercising the good affections of others, and the state of suffering the post of honour. The intercouress of the men with the weman, tho less reserved than at present, was full as pure. They would walk together for hours, or travele on hors's back or in a Chaise, without any imputation of imprudence. The Parents had no concern when an admirer was their guide; nather had they cause. The men show'd their attachment by corecting their faults, informing them what the world thought of them, and what was most agreeable to men if they choiced to please them.¹

About the 40 riches began to increass considerably. Many returned from the East and West Indias with good fortunes who had gone abroad after the Union. These pick'd estates thro' the Country, and lived in a higher Style than the old Gentry. The rebellion in the 45 still more increasd our riches. From this time the Country took a new form. Whether the dread of Arbitrary power disposed us for more liberty, or if another cause, I shall leave the more knowing to determine, but surely it had powerful effects on the manners. It was then that the slavery of the mind began to be spoken of; freedom was in every bodys mouth. The Fathers would use the Sons with such freedom that they should be their first friend, and the mothers would allow of no intimasies but with them-

¹ In a note the editor of the *Caldwell Papers* thinks this passage can hardly have been intended for the place in which it now stands, indicating that the Essay had not received the last finish of its authoress.

selves. For their Girls the utmost care was taken that fear of no kind should enslave the mind; nurses were turned off who would tell the young of Witches and Ghosts. The old Ministers were ridiculed who preached up hell and damnation; the minds was to be influenced by gentle and generous motives alone. These methods of instruction has been on the increase since the time mentioned above. What may be the effects none knows. May not even the love of Liberty become the disease of a State; and Men be enslaved in the worst way by their own passions? The word meniall becomes of late years to be much used; every degree of denying on's self to please others is meniall; and for fear of the imputation of this we are in hazard of tricking ourselves out of the finest feelings of humanity; Devotion, Love, and Friendship; as in each of them theres a degree of self denyall. Nobody will at present share a family dinner with the friend they love for fear of being meniall. Nather will they attend them when in distress for the same cause; but satisfie themselves with dayly enquiring after them.

About the same time that teatables were established, it was the fashion for the men to meet regularly in Change-house, as it was called, for their different Clubs. There they spent the evening in conversation, without much expence; a shillings reckoning was very high; and for people of the first fashion it was more general from four pence to eight pence the piece, paying besides for their tobacco and pipes which was much in use. In some of those Clubs they played at Backgamon or Catch honours for a penny the game. All business was transacted in the forenoon and in the Change-houses. The Lawiers were there consulted and the bill paid by the employer. The Liquor was Cherry in Muchken stoups. Every new Muchkin was chalked on the head of the Stoup. It was incredible the quantity that was drunk sometimes on those occasions. Every body dined at home in privit, unless called to some of the entertainments mentioned above; but the Teatables very soon intredused supping in private houses. When young people found themselves happy with one another they were loath to part, so that supping came to be the universal fashion in Edinr; and least the family they visited might be unprepared, they sent in the morning to know if they were to drink tea at home, as they wished to wait on them. Amongst friends this was alwise considered as a supper, and any of their men acquaintances ask'd that they could command to make up the party. The acquaintance made at public places did not visit in this way; they hir'd a Chair for the afternoon, and run throw a number of houses as is the fashion still. Those merry suppers made the young people find a want when they went to the country, and to supply the place of them was introduced Colations after supper; when the young people met in some one of their bed chambers, and had either tea or a posset, where they satt and made merry till far in the morning. But this meeting was carefully concealed from the Parents, who were all ennimys to those Collations. Those manners continued till the sixty, or near it, when more of the English fashions took place, one of which was to dine at three, and what Company you had should be at dinner. These dinners lasted long, the weman satt for half an hour after them and retired to tea; but the men took their bottle and often remained till eight at night. The weman were all the evening by themselves, which pute a stope to that general intercourse so necessary for the improvement of both sexes. This naturally makes a run on the Public places; as the woman has little amusement at home. Cut off from the company of the men, and no familie friends to occupie this void, they must tire of their mothers and elderly society, and flee to the public for reliefe. They find the men there, tho least in the evening, when they have left their bottle, and too often unfitted for every thing but their

bed. In this kind of intercourse there is little chance for forming attachments. The women see the men in the worst light, and what impression they make on the men is forgot by them in the morning. These leat dinners has entirely cut off the merry suppers very much regreated by the women, while the men passe the nights in the Taverns in gaming or other amusment as their temper leads them. Cut off in a great measure from the Society of the men, its necessary the women should have some constant amusement; and as they are likewise denied friendships with one another, the Parents provides for this void as much as possible in giving them compleat Education; and what formerly begun at ten years of age, or often leater, now begins at four or five. How long its to continue the next age most determine; for its not yet fixed in this. Reading, writing, musick, drawing, Franch, Italian, Geografie, History, with all kinds of nedle work are now carefully taught the girles, that time may not lye heavie on their hand without proper society. Besides this, shopes loaded with novels and books of amusement, to kill the time.

CHAPTER XV.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE PARISH.

THE parish of Neilston, both in origin and name, is a very ancient one, and many of the incidents connected with it date back to a remote antiquity in the civil and religious history of our country. But, notwithstanding this, objects of outstanding interest from an antiquarian point of view are not numerous. The earliest objects of this character are of ecclesiastical origin. Following on the missionary enterprise of St. Columba to Iona in the sixth century, it would seem that quite a number of monks from the monastic establishments in Ireland came to different parts of Scotland, and with great zeal entered upon the labours of converting and civilising its early inhabitants. Of this number was St. Conval.

ST. CONVAL'S CHAPEL AND WELL.

This saint was born in Ireland in the fifth century, and came to Scotland in early life, primarily as a disciple of St. Mungo or Kentigern, the patron saint of Glasgow, and landed at Inchinnan on the Clyde. Strange stories are told of his passage across the Channel—how, in the absence of regular “shipping,” he was able by a miracle to transport himself over on a boulder, which is still pointed out at Inchinnan as St. Conval's stone, and is credited with powers of healing through touch. He was eminent as a confessor, and patron of the churches of Pollokshaws, Cumnock, and Ochiltree, and had many churches named in his honour in other parts. Of this class was the very ancient religious house situated at the primitive township of Fereneze, now the lands of Chappell at Barrhead. Doubtless this early structure was a very simple one, possibly at first only a votive cell of mud and wattle, though in its later history becoming a church of greater pretension and importance. In the sixteenth century the kirk lands of this chapel were presented by Lord Semple as part of the endowment of his collegiate church at Lochwinnoch. The lands of Chappell lie immediately to the south of Fereneze hills, then covered by forest; and it is a distinctive feature of this early church

“that its garden sloped back to the hills of Fereneze.” The important question now is, Are there any relics of this church in evidence? In the vicinity of the present mansion-house of Chappell there exist certain substantial remains of a very early wall, traditionally associated with the chapel of St. Conval. In the opinion of the present proprietor, Mr. Joseph Watson, who has investigated this matter thoroughly, these remains are most probably relics of the boundary wall of the ancient church land, including possibly part of the foundation of the ancient chapel. There is also convenient to this mural relic a large dipping well, with abundance of spring water, from which, it may be safely concluded, the religious drew their water supply.

OUR LADY'S CHAPEL OF ABOON-THE-BRAE, AND LADY-WELL.

About two miles to the west of Neilston, on a plateau of the farm lands of Aboon-the-Brae, overlooking Commore (the great valley), in which lie Waterside and the Links of Leven, there formerly existed another of those early religious houses, which, from its convenience to the great road through Dumgraine Muir to Kilmarnock, has been conjectured to have been most probably of the character of a *hospice* and monastery. There are now no remains of this church visible above ground, but within the memory of a gentleman still alive, the writer's reverend friend, Dean Tracy of Barrhead, certain remains of a pavement or court were visible on the plateau referred to, such as are to be met with in old Continental monasteries, by which it was almost possible mentally to restore the outline of the ancient court of the hospice. During the existence of Waterside Works, now razed to the ground, there existed an old structure, little more than a gable partly built into the other erections, which was out of all harmony with its surroundings: for while the other windows were everywhere of the ordinary quadrangular bleachwork type, this gable presented several shapely narrow lancet windows such as are characteristic of ecclesiastical structures. Indeed, looking at them there was no getting past the conclusion that the stones of this gable and these windows had got into plebeian company, and that when Waterside was being built, they had been brought from the then existing ruin of the ancient religious house on the plateau of the farm above, hewn and ready to the builder's hand.

Many traditional stories have come down the ages from the old chapel Aboon-the-Brae—such as the finding of hollow stones resembling

holy-water founts, and, also, statues among the rubbish, by workmen at different times, and especially of the image said to have been thrown into one of the linnis in Image (or Midge Hole) Glen.

At Aboon-the-Brae is also found the justly celebrated spring known as the Lady-well, conjectured to have been one of the holy wells of Scotland. This well has been elsewhere referred to in detail.

In the neighbourhood of Waterside, too, the first High Steward erected a castle near the old Celtic town of Dumgraine, on the south side of the Lavern, possibly a hunting seat, convenient to the forest of Dumgraine, but no relic is known to exist.¹

ARTHURLIE STONE.

Within the grounds of Arthurlie, at Barrhead, the property of Mr. H. B. Dunlop, D.L., there is a pillar stone of much interest and great antiquity, and which in its day has passed through many vicissitudes. In its original condition it is said to have stood in the field immediately west of the present policies, a field designated the "Cross-stane-park" in the plan of the estate. Previous to 1788, there is good reason for presuming that the structure was in this field and entire, base and shaft, as it is stated that Gavin Ralston, in whose possession the estate was at that time, had the upright shaft removed, and the base on which it stood taken away. The base was spoken of as a "trough stone," from being hollowed out on its upper surface, where probably the end of the shaft was fixed into it. There are said to be historic grounds for thinking that the stone must have been erected before 1452, but how much earlier is unknown. This very ancient pillar is by some thought to be of Danish origin, and to have marked the last resting-place of some venerated chief of the name of Arthur; but by the majority of thinkers who have examined it, it is considered to be much older, and associated in some way with the memory of Arthur, the King of the Britons, the famous "Knight of the Round Table," and champion of many battles against the Picts and Scots for the independence of the kingdom of Strathclyde. This aspect of its history is more fully referred to under "Arthurlie." The stone is generally spoken of as "Arthurlie Cross." The material of which it is composed is a very hard and compact sandstone, and the shaft is of the following dimensions:—Height, 6 ft. 6 in.; breadth across the widest part of the

¹ D. Semple, *Neilston Parochine*, p. 23.



ARTHURLIE STONE.

Facing page 166.

base, 23 in. ; thickness at the same part, 9 in. ; it tapers slightly towards the top, where its breadth is 18 in. and its thickness $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. The front and back surfaces of the stone are each divided into three not quite equal panels, the middle one being the largest. The lower panel of what is the north surface as the stone stands at present, is surrounded by a flat moulding which is continued round the margin of the stone, and divides it into three panels, the lowest of which encloses a cross in slight relief. The shaft and arms of this enclosed cross are respectively 3 in. and 2 in. wide, and are entire, excepting that the lower part of the shaft seems shortened, probably from the lower end of the stone having been broken at some time, and possibly also from its base being set about a foot into the stone on which it at present stands. The upper panels have no cross, but are filled in with an intricate pattern of tortuous interlacing rope work, very much after the manner of runic designs. The pattern is boldly cut, and, considering the reputed great age of the stone, is fairly well defined. What is now the south, or reverse side of the stone from that we have just been describing, is also divided into three panels, but this time more equally, and they are defined by a rather obscure moulding and filled in with the same interlacing pattern, but there is no cross or other symbol. The centre part of this surface is a good deal worn, and at one place near the middle the pattern has been almost obliterated by the tramping of many feet, a condition due to the fact that for many years the stone did duty as a footbridge across the stream in Colinbar Glen, at the bottom of "Cross-stane-park," in which it had stood originally. The edges of the stone show three panels, and are traversed from base to top by a linked chain or rope pattern, the members of which are about $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. thick and well defined. At about four feet up from the bottom of the stone, and in the middle of the surface as regards its edges, there is an iron ring indented into it, almost flush with the surface, and run in with lead, put there to receive the end of an iron bolt when the venerable pillar did duty as a gate-post at the entrance to a field, after its services as a footbridge were over. But now, in its extreme old age, this ancient relic has fallen upon better times, and once more stands erect upon a double block of hewn sandstone at the end of a walk in the garden, where it is carefully looked after by the present proprietor, Mr. Henry B. Dunlop, the utilitarian age being past. But it is doubtful if even now it is in proper position, as what is presently the north surface should probably have faced the orient. The top of the stone has been broken off at the point from which the arms of the cross would spring, and the general

appearance of the shaft at present would indicate that, when complete, the cross would resemble that cut in the panel on its front.

CAPELRIG STONE.

On the lands of Capelrig, in a field to the north of the "Home Farm," there is an upright stone, very similar in appearance and general treatment to that of Arthurlie; both are broken at the top; they are of the same taper and composed of the same material, a hard sandstone; and as it is probable that this stone is in its original position, it may throw some light on the Arthurlie stone, which is certainly not so at present, and is our reason for referring to it here. In the first place, it is to be noted that the Capelrig stone is oriented—the obverse surface to the east, the reverse west, and the edges north and south—but the stone itself is not nearly so well preserved as that at Arthurlie. Both surfaces are channelled from the top to fully half-way down the shaft, as if long splinters had been burst out of them by frost and exposure, and near the north edge of the east face there is now a fissure as if the beginning of another splinter. Both surfaces of the stone are divided into two nearly equal panels, the dividing and border mouldings being 4 in. and 3 in. respectively. These panels have been filled in with some form of figuring, possibly of an interlacing pattern, but it is so worn as to be untraceable, and the pattern on the edges is similarly obscured. There are no symbols or other specific forms on any part of the surfaces. If this stone, as is assumed, is in its original site, then it is flush with the ground, the grass growing rankly round its shaft, and there is no visible trace of a base or trough stone, as is claimed for that at Arthurlie. On separating the grass, the base of the shaft seems packed round with stones, but it must be set deep in the ground to give it the stability it evidently possesses. Its measurements are:—Height, 6 ft. 4 in.; greatest width at base, 30 in.; width at top, 20 in.; thickness at base, 14 in.; at top, 12 in.

There are also preserved traditional accounts of the "Steed-Stane Cross," which, it is said, stood near "Rais Castle," now in ruins, at Dovecothall, Barrhead, and "Cross-stobs Cross," which is alleged to have marked the grave of the famous Donald Lord of the Isles, on his defeat at Harelaw in the neighbourhood.

No relic of either of these two stones now exists; but Mr. Dunlop, of Arthurlie, informed the writer that he remembered, many years ago, seeing part of the stone from Cross-stobs lying behind the hedge on the north side of the road leading by Hawkhead to Paisley.



RUINS OF STEWART RAISS, DOVECOTEHALL, BARRHEAD.

See page 175.



RUINS OF COWDEN HA', NEILSTON.

See page 169.

These four stones, Arthurlie, Capelrig, Steed-Stane Cross, and Cross-stobs, have been evidently memorial structures and not wayside devotional crosses; a view which tends greatly to strengthen the inference that Neil's-stone, which stood on Cross-stane Brae, was a fifth pillar of the same character.

DRUID, OR COVENANTERS' STONES.

On either side of the footpath leading through the Moyne moor to the Long Loch there are several stones of evidently considerable antiquity. They are seven in number, and all lie in one direction, east and west. How they came to be placed there, or for what purpose, is not known. They are flat, undressed stones, with no inscription or other markings to indicate their purpose. They have been variously called Druidical and Covenanters' grave-stones. The former they are not so likely to be, but the latter is not at all unlikely, as they are quite in the track of moor that leads by the south-west into Ayrshire by Lochgoin, and we know that the suffering "Men of the Moss hags" during "the killing time" were frequently in that district; and the further fact, that it was by the Mearns moor route that a body of their number marched to join the Pentland Rising, shows they were not unfamiliar with the locality referred to. "The Covenanters of the shire of Ayr, headed by several of their ejected ministers, whom they had cherished in the solitary dens and hidings in the moors and hills, to which they had been forced to flee from the proclamation against the field-preachings, advanced to meet us on our march," and "as we toiled through the deep heather on the eastern skerts of Mearns Moor a mist hovered all the morning over the Pad of Neilston, covering like a snowy fleece the sides of the hills down almost to the course of our route, in such a manner that we could see nothing on the left beyond it."¹

THE RUINS OF COWDENHALL.

The ruins of this ancient castle occupy the summit of a rising knoll on the south bank of Cowden Burn, about half a mile to the west of Neilston railway station. When the "Joint Line" was being built, it became necessary to alter the turnpike road here, and the hill on which the ruin stands had to be cut down, on its northern slope; at which time also the Cowden Burn was diverted from its natural bed, and made to run in an artificial channel between the north side of the highway and the line. To

¹ Galt, *Ringan Gilhaize*, p. 212.

judge by what remains of this ancient mansion, it must at one time have been a place of considerable size and importance; and that it was so, is quite borne out by the position accorded to it in history. It is surrounded by a number of fine trees, ash, beech, and plane, of quite forest dimensions, whose sturdy trunks and mighty arms bear evidence of having wrestled with time, and not unsuccessfully, for many centuries. Sir William Cochrane, afterwards Earl of Dundonald, derived his first title of Baron Cowden from this property.

The Spreuls of Cowden were a very ancient family in the parish. Walter Spreul, who was High Steward of Dumbarton, *Senescallus de Dumbartoun*, is the earliest of the family of whom there is any record. He appears to have been a retainer of Malcolm Earl of Lennox, from whom he had the lands of Dalquhern, *pro homagio servitio suo*—for attendance and bodily service—referring to war service, doubtless. This was early in the reign of King Robert the Bruce, probably the beginning of the fourteenth century. Subsequently to 1441, the property would appear to have been alienated; for in 1545 we find Queen Mary granting the castle, etc., of Cowden to Spreul, for good services. (*Reg. Mag. Sigilli*, 1546-80.) The family, however, would appear to have failed in the person of James Spreul, who sold the property to Alexander Cochran, whose family, we have seen, afterwards became the Earls of Dundonald. At a subsequent date, the estate became the possession of the Marquis of Clydesdale, in right of his mother, a daughter of the Earl of Dundonald. But on the Marquis becoming the Duke of Hamilton, he sold it, in 1776, to the then Baron Mure of Caldwell, in which family it still remains.

THE HALL OF CALDWELL.

This picturesque building has already been referred to in the description of the Mures of Caldwell, and it will be sufficient here to mention the fact there dealt with in more detail: that at one period of its history the property, under the name of Little or Wester Caldwell, returned a Member to the Scottish Parliament, 1659, and that he was paid for his services there by the Laird of Caldwell, as we learn from "the Accounts" of that family.¹

Previous to the Covenanting times, "when the heart was young," the open green in front of the old Hall of Caldwell, we are informed, was a favourite place for dance gatherings, and that the rival followers of

¹ *Caldwell Papers*, Part First, p. 116.

Terpsichore from Neilston, Lochwinnoch, and Beith, the parishes adjoining this centre, had regular meetings for dancing purposes and general enjoyment on summer Sunday evenings. On these occasions there would, no doubt, be frequently witnessed the feats of Goldsmith's "Sweet Auburn,"

"The dancing pair that simply sought renown,
By holding out, to tire each other down."

Or that other picture by Allan Ramsay, when describing similar meetings, in which—

"While the young brood sport on the green,
The auld anes think it best
With the broon cow to clear their e'en,
Snuff, crack, and tak' their rest."

But with the advent of the more earnest period referred to, those generally innocent and happy meetings, that helped to while away the heavy hour—when books were out of the question and reading to a great extent an unlearned art—got naturally to be discontinued, and they are now merely matter of very ancient memory.

GLANDERSTON HOUSE.

The lands of Glanderston, in the beginning of the eighteenth century, were in the possession of the Mures of Caldwell. Crawford, referring to the mansion, in his *History*, speaks of it as a "Pretty one of a new model, with several well-finished apartments, upon a small rivulet adorned with regular orchards and large meadows, beautiful with a great deal of regular planting." This was in 1697, when it was rebuilt, but "Ichabod" has long years ago been written over it; its glory has departed. But even in its ruin it was a picturesque old structure, with crow-stepped gables and dormer windows with peaked entablatures, and grass-grown gateway and court, with the initials T.W. and W.M. carved in the lintel over the door, and the date 1697 over the windows. Its last occupant was Mr. Walton, and in it Mr. E. A. Walton, R.S.A., was born about fifty odd years ago. Forty-five years ago, the windows were gone and the door owned no latch, and the wind and storm howled through the casements; but even then there were several very interesting frescoes on the lobby walls—"A harvest scene," scenes of "Moonlight on the waters," and others—possibly where the R.S.A. "tried his 'prentice hand," and if so, they were certainly the promise of the distinguished artist of the present day. But now they are gone, and the ruin even has been razed

to the ground, not one stone being left upon another to tell of its existence. Further information will be found with regard to this interesting old property under "the Mures of Glanderston."

NEILSTONSIDE.

This property belongs to Mr. Speirs of Elderslie, but it was at one time a possession of a descendant of Sir William Wallace, Scotland's liberator, whose family removed to Kelly, in the neighbourhood of Greenock. A few years ago, when some alterations were being made on the dwelling, now a farm-house, the tradesmen came upon quite a number of old Spanish silver coins of various values. But how they came to be there, record says not.

CURIOUS PRESCRIPTION : A GLANDERSTON RELIC.

For many years before the Union of Scotland with England, "the predominant partner," in 1707, the unsettled state of society and the country generally offered a direct barrier to the advancement of all intellectual pursuits; and witchcraft was only too often called in to account for and explain what was not obvious on the surface. In these circumstances, it is not very surprising to learn—what the following ludicrous prescription abundantly shews—that the science of medicine was at a very low ebb, and that empiricism not infrequently covered want of knowledge. In any case, the prescription is sufficiently curious in itself to merit notice, even if it had not been connected with Glanderston in our parish. Dr. Johnstone was probably a practitioner who had some status in Paisley. The letter is from the *Caldwell Papers*.¹

"Dr. Johnstone to the Laird of Glanderstoun.

"Directions for Margret Polick. Paisley, Octr. 28, 1692.

"Sir,

"The bearer labours under the common weakness of being now more feard yⁿ is just. As she was formerlie a little too confident in her own conduct. The spinal bon head hath never been restor'd intirly, q^{ch} will make her sensible all her days of a weakness in a descent; but

¹ *Caldwell Papers*, Part First, p. 92.

will be freed from all achin paines if she nightly anoint it wth the following oyl, viz. :

“Take a littl fatt dogg, take out only his puddings, & putt in his bellie 4 ounces of Cuningseed ; rost him, and carefullie keep the dropping, grin boyl a handfull of earth wormes quhill they be leiklie ; then lett it be straind and preservd for use, as said is.

“My humble dutie to your Ladie. I am,

“Glanderstoun,

“Your most humble servitor,

“JOHNSTONE.”

LETTER FROM KING JAMES VI. TO THE LAIRD OF CALDWELL.

The following letter from King James VI. of Scotland to Sir Robert Mure of Caldwell, the representative of the family at that period, and who had only shortly before been knighted by him, is of interest, as reasonably referring to Neilston parish, and also as shewing the personal care the king took of matters now wisely left to the management of ecclesiastical courts. The letter emanates from the royal palace at Falkland, but does not record the year, but it was most probably about the end of the sixteenth century, and consequently only shortly before his accession to the throne of England, in 1603. The diocese of Glasgow then probably extended westward to the parish of Dunlop, where it became conterminous with that of Galloway, leaving little doubt, therefore, that the “parochin” spoken of in the letter as being “within your bondes” of Caldwell, was the parish of Neilston, then under the care, as we have elsewhere seen, of Schir David Ferguson, as curate.

“To our traist freind the Lard of Caldwell.

“Traist freind we greit zou weill. Undrstanding that our belovit Robert Archbishhope of Glasgw is to repair and travell to the visitatioun of all kirkis within the boundes of his dyocis, for ordour taking and reformatioun of abuses within the samyn according to his dewitie and charge ; We have thairfoir thought gude, maist effectuouslie to requeiste and desyr zou to accompany assist manteine and concur with him in all thingis, requisit tending to gude ordour and refermatioun of all enormiteis, within zour bondes and parochin ; And to withstainde all sic as ony way wald

seame to impeid or hinder him in that behalf; As ze will gif prui of your gude affectioun to our service and do us acceptable pleisour. Thus we comit zou to God. From Falkland, the 22d day of Julij.¹

“JAMES R.”

THE TOWER OF THE PLACE OF CALDWELL.

This is another of those relics that carry the mind back to an early period of the history of the parish. The ancient “keep” is now in a good state of repair, having been thoroughly strengthened by the late Colonel Mure, M.P. It is situated on the summit of a hill overlooking the valley of Loch Libo. The structure is a quadrangular or square tower, and consists of three stories; the walls are of great thickness, and there are several windows and loop-holes in them. There are many towers of similar character throughout the country; and, judging from its style, it was probably built about the middle of the fifteenth century. The kitchen, or ground flat, enters from the court; the second flat is reached by an outside stair, while access is gained to the third flat by a winding stair built in the thickness of the wall; and the outside on the top, which is surrounded by a battlemented parapet about three feet in height, is reached through a hatchway or window in the roof. The ceilings of all the apartments are built of stone, and vaulted, giving the greatest strength to the erection. The present tower is but an outwork of the original building, and in the palmy days of the castle was connected with several other buildings, and a screen, in such a way as to enclose a large court; the structures other than the tower having been demolished during the forfeiture. Some of the old trees of the avenue leading to the tower are still to be seen at the top of the hill, the present turnpike road having been cut through them; and, up till 1879, a number of their companions stood in the field round the tower. Old and gnarled they looked, and doubtless, from their elevated position, had wrestled with many a storm in their younger days. But the hurricane wind-storm of that winter—the winter after the Tay Bridge disaster—proved too much for them, and they were all blown down, singularly enough, with their heads all turned in towards each other, as having been caught in a whirlwind; and now the old tower stands alone.

¹ *Caldwell Papers*, Part First, p. 90.



CALDWELL PLACE TOWER

Facing page 174.

THE OLD WINDOW IN THE CHURCH.

This ancient Gothic window in the north side of the church is an object of much architectural interest, which has already been referred to. Its age is quite unknown, but the stone mouldings and general composition would seem to point to a period not long after the foundation of the religious houses, in the other parts of the parish, which were holden of the Abbey of Paisley. The structure, as we learn from Crawford, was gifted to the Abbot by De Croc of Crookston. It is beyond doubt a pre-Reformation relic; but what relation it bears to that important event, whether of the church of De Croc, is unascertained; most probably it is of mediæval origin. The burial vault of the Mures of Caldwell is situated under this window; and during the many years this family was in possession of Glanderston, they were patrons of the church. Referring to this place of sepulture in 1640, on the occasion of making his testamentary settlement, Robert Mure, the then Laird of Caldwell, directs, amongst other things—"my body to be honestlie buryit, according to my qualitie, besyd my predecessors in the kirk of Neilstoune."

ANCIENT CROSS IN CHURCHYARD.

In the triangular space between the walks in front of the church there is a most interesting recumbent stone, having sculptured on its surface what is considered to be an ancient Runic cross, all reference to which is lost in obscurity.

STEWART RAISS.

Of this once important castle only a very small part remains. The ruin is situated at Dovecothall, on the south bank of the Levern, and north-east boundary of the parish, and is remarkable for the great thickness of its walls. In an assize connected with the lands of the County in 1545, George Stewart of Raiss proved that the lands in question at one time belonged to his kinsman, Matthew Earl of Lennox; and Crawford tells us that he had seen a charter granted by John Lord Darnley and Earl of Lennox, which puts beyond question the fact that this property at one period belonged to that once powerful family.

CHAPTER XVI.

SUCCESSION OF MINISTERS.

THE succession of ministers in the parish and other churches of Neilston since 1602, has been as follows :—

NEILSTON CHURCH.

In 1602, the Rev. Andrew Law.

In 1632, the Rev. John Law. In 1649, this gentleman was deposed, and during the vacancy William Semple, a gentleman from Ireland, preached.

The vacancy does not appear to have been filled up till 1657, when the Rev. Hugh Walker was ordained. This gentleman was “outed,” most probably for non-conformity, in 1662, during Middleton’s odious and contemptible administration in Scotland, which has been previously referred to.

In 1668 (or 1669), the Rev. David Brown was ordained; and in 1701, he was translated to Glasgow. This gentleman preached in the prison of Paisley on Wednesday, 9th June, 1697, being the day before the execution of the several persons condemned for witchcraft through the Bargarran imposture, referred to elsewhere.

In 1707, the Rev. John Millar was ordained.

In 1733, the Rev. Alexander Clerk was presented to the church by Lord Dundonald, and was opposed by some of the people, but the Presbytery sustained the call, which was confirmed by the General Assembly. He died in 1736.

In 1737, the Rev. Henry Millar was ordained; and died in 1771.

In 1772, the Rev. John Wilson was ordained; and died in 1784.

In 1785, the Rev. John Monteath was ordained, and was translated to Houston in 1797; he died in 1843, in the ninety-first year of his age, and the sixty-third of his ministry.

In 1798, the Rev. William Hood was ordained; and died in 1804. Over this gentleman’s grave a very unseemly squabble took place regard-

ing the inscription to be placed on the tombstone the heritors wished raised to his memory.¹

In 1804, the Rev. Alexander Fleming, afterwards D.D., was ordained ; and died 10th June, 1844.

In 1845 the Rev. Hugh Aird was ordained ; and died in 1872, very suddenly during the night.

In 1873, the Rev. Thomas Miller, formerly of Lamington, was translated from St. Stephens, Glasgow ; he died in 1878.

In 1879, the Rev. Peter M'Leod, who had been ordained in 1874, was translated from Dundee. He had formerly been assistant to the Rev. Hugh Aird, and his appointment was opposed by some of the people ; but the Presbytery sustained the call, and it was not carried to the General Assembly. This gentleman, by his urbanity, general kindness, and liberality, lived to gain the respect and goodwill of nearly all those who opposed him when he came to the parish. He retired from the church because of infirm health a few years before his death, which took place in 1896, when a mural tablet bearing the following inscription was placed in the church :—

In loving Memory of
REV. PETER M'LEOD,
Ordained, 17th Sepr., 1874,
Died, 17th Decr., 1896.
An earnest preacher of the Gospel,
A diligent pastor and a true friend.
ERECTED
As a token of esteem and affection,
By the Congregation.

In 1895, the Rev. Robert Barr, M.A., the present incumbent, was ordained, having previously been appointed assistant and successor.

Rev. Alexander Martin, M.A. and B.D. This gentleman, a native of our town, after being licensed, acted as assistant in two parishes with much acceptance ; but, in consequence of his health giving way, he was obliged to retire from the active prosecution of the regular ministry.

NEILSTON UNITED FREE CHURCH.

Connected with the Free Church, the Rev. Mr. Robertson conducted a Mission in Neilston, previous to the erection of the present building, which was opened in September, 1873.

¹ *Life of Alexander Fleming, D.D.*, p. 14.

In September, 1873, the Rev. Archibald Ferguson, the present incumbent, was ordained their first minister.

UPLAWMOOR QUOAD SACRA PARISH CHURCH.

Mr. Alexander Horne acted as missionary in this village for upwards of twenty-three years, and died in 1881; when he was succeeded by Mr. Nicol, now an esteemed missionary in Dalry, Ayrshire.

In 1888, the present church was erected, mainly by the generous efforts of the Honourable Mrs. Mure and other members of that family, when the memorial stone was laid with masonic honours by Colonel Mure of Caldwell.

In 1889, the Rev. David Stewart, the present incumbent, was ordained their first minister.

NEILSTON.

From the period of the Reformation, 24th August, 1560, at which date the Pope's jurisdiction in Scotland was finally and formally abolished, till 1862, there had been no place of Roman Catholic worship in Neilston; but in that year the present chapel of St. Thomas was opened, and the Rev. James M'Namara appointed their first pastor. This gentleman, who was much respected in the district, was subsequently removed to Pollokshaws, 1881, where he became Dean, and afterwards Canon, of the Pro-Cathedral, Glasgow. He was succeeded by the Rev. Bernard Tracy, 1881, from Pollokshaws, presently Dean Tracy of St. John's, Barrhead. The Rev. Duncan Brown was his successor, and on his removal to Hamilton he was succeeded, 1900, by the Rev. Aloysius Reifenrath, the present incumbent.

BARRHEAD CLERGYMEN.

In the Established Church, the clergymen have been: the Rev. Mr. Salmon, the Rev. Mr. Mungal, the Rev. Thomas Buchanan, and the Rev. Duncan Cameron, B.D., the present incumbent.

The United Secession Church: Rev. James Tait.

In the United Presbyterian, now the Arthurlie United Free Church, the clergymen have been ordained in the following order: the Rev. Mr. Lowe, the Rev. William Clark, M.A.; and the Rev. Duncan S. Brown, M.A., the Rev. J. G. Clark, M.A., present incumbent.

In what was the Free, but now the South United Free Church, the succession of ministers has been: the Rev. Mr. Salmon (this gentleman came out of the Established Church, Barrhead, at the Disruption in 1843,

and was consequently the first pastor of the Free Church there); the Rev. Mr. Stewart succeeded him; the Rev. Ivy M'Lachlan being his successor; the Rev. William Young, the present incumbent.

The Evangelical Union Congregational Church.—The succession of clergymen in this church has been: the Rev. Mr. M'Callum, the Rev. Mr. Davidson, father of Davidson the poet, the Rev. Mr. Andrew, who was translated to Dundee; the Rev. Edward Bruce Kirk, the present incumbent (this gentleman has a very extensive knowledge of astronomy, on which subject he is frequently engaged as a lecturer).

The Wesleyan Church.—In this church the clergymen are changed every three years. The succession hitherto has been: the Rev. Mr. Butcher, the Rev. C. M. Weeks; the Rev. W. F. Howard.

St. John's Roman Catholic Chapel, Prior Park.—This church was solemnly opened on the 17th October, 1841, and has sitting accommodation for 800 persons. The succession of clergymen has been: Rev. Fr. Bremner, founder, 1841; Rev. Jas. Purcell, appointed at opening, 1841-1845 (church opened by Bishop Murdoch), built school, 1842; Rev. John Sheedy, 1845-1858, built presbytery house; Rev. Thos. Keane, 1858-1869, built Neilston Chapel, 1861-2 (opened 1862, by Bishop Murdoch; Rev. John M'Ginnes, 1869-1873; Rev. Thos. Frederick Carlin, 1873-1893; Rev. Bernard (now Dean) Tracy, 1893, present incumbent, with Revs. Fr. Henry Edgar and Fr. Fitzgerald, assistants.

MEDICAL PROFESSION OF NEILSTON.

The members of the medical profession who have practised, or are now in practice in Neilston, are:—

Dr. William Young, a native of the town. This gentleman removed to Glasgow, where he became eminent in his profession.

Dr. Charles Ritchie. This gentleman also went to Glasgow, where he obtained considerable eminence. Dr. Ritchie contributed an article to the *Glasgow Medical Journal* for August, 1828, entitled, "Remarks on the Medical Topography of the Parish of Neilston."

Dr. Craig, Dr. Jas. Wallace, Dr. Ferguson, Dr. William Wilson, Dr. Thomas Young (brother of the above William Young); Dr. Dunlop (this gentleman removed to Greenock); Dr. Lambert, Dr. Kidd, Dr. George Smith, Dr. James Mason (this gentleman removed to England).

Presently in practice there are: David Pride, M.D. and J.P., and his son, Wallace Ainsworth Pride, M.B. and C.M.

MEDICAL PROFESSION OF BARRHEAD.

Members of the medical profession who have practised, or are now in practice in Barrhead, are :—

Dr. John Brown, Dr. T. C. Adam, and Dr. Robert Colquhoun.

Dr. Joseph Bell, a native of the town, who, after having been in Barrhead for several years, removed to Glasgow, where he gained a high reputation, and for many years was Lecturer on *Materia Medica* in Anderson's College, and Clinical Lecturer at the Royal Infirmary, where he was one of the physicians.

Dr. Thomas Young, of Neilston, also carried on practice in Barrhead.

John M'Kinlay, M.D. ; Dr. M'Aulay ; Robert Corbett, M.D. ; Dr. Anderson ; Dr. Lambert (also of Neilston) ; David Ligat, M.B. and C.M. (this gentleman removed to London) ; Dr. James Mason (removed from Neilston, and subsequently to England) ; and Dr. Turner.

The present practitioners are : Dr. John M'Kinlay, J.P. (son of the above Dr. M'Kinlay) ; Robert Corbett, M.B. and C.M. (son of the above Dr. Corbett) ; Dr. Allan M'Leod, Dr. Calderwood, Dr. Davidson.

WRITERS, PAST AND PRESENT, IN NEILSTON.

William Fernie, notary public ; Mr. Auld, Mr. Matthew Anderson, writer and banker ; Mr. Robertson, W.S. ; Mr. Alexander Robertson-Ferguson, writer and banker ; Mr. John Anderson ; Mr. Robert A. Doak, M.A. ; David Hunter.

WRITERS, PAST AND PRESENT, IN BARRHEAD.

Mr. Matthew Anderson, of Neilston, writer and banker ; Mr. Archibald Brownlie, writer and banker ; Mr. Joseph Watson, writer and banker ; Mr. William Fife, Mr. Jas. B. Paton, Mr. John M'Kinlay, Mr. Robert Stewart (also bankers) ; Mr. Pattison (who is also Burgh Fiscal) ; Mr. Duncan Watson.

TEACHERS, PAST AND PRESENT, OF NEILSTON.

Mr. Eadie ; Mr. John Gardner, M.A., was appointed parochial school-master in 1812, which office he continued to hold till 1862, when he resigned. He was a superior scholar and a very successful teacher. It is curious to note, as in striking contrast to the interest taken in educational matters in the present day, that the number of scholars receiving tuition

when he retired was 92. His retiring allowance was £23 6s. 8d., being two-thirds of his salary at the time, with a further yearly sum of £15, being a sum equal to the annual value of his dwelling-house and yard.

Mr. William Paton was appointed his successor on 1st September, 1862. This gentleman died in 1869, aged sixty-two years.

Mr. Duncan Martin Doak, J.P., was appointed his successor, in 1869. He was a gentleman of great energy and organizing power; and during his incumbency the national system of compulsory education was introduced into parochial schools in 1872, which had the effect of revolutionising the educational methods of our country, greatly increasing the number of scholars, and enlarging the school accommodation. Mr. Doak died in 1905, when

Mr. D. G. Nicolson, who was at the time headmaster in the Board school in Uplawmoor, was translated to Neilston school. For the first time in the experience of any of the public schools in the parish, a venture was made, Christmas, 1906, by the issue, quarterly, of a magazine, under the designation of *Neilston Public School Magazine*, which is under the editorship of the headmaster, and is to be supported by the writings of the children of the school as far as possible. The journal gives promise of being a highly useful paper.

TEACHERS IN BARRHEAD.

Until the year 1876, Barrhead, if not entirely without, was very inadequately supplied with regular school accommodation. But in that year, by a voluntary effort on the part of the principal inhabitants of the town, this defect was made up, and a school of quite a superior character was erected and provided for; and Mr. Rodger, the present esteemed teacher, was appointed master, 1870. With the introduction of the national system of education in 1872, this school was taken over by the School Board, under the management of which it has been very greatly enlarged, and, since 1906, with full equipment and special staff of teachers, has become the centre of the Higher Grade education, with Mr. Rodger as headmaster. This gentleman retired in 1908.

In order to meet the educational wants of the greatly-increased population of the burgh, two additional large schools have been erected—Cross-Arthurlie School, headmaster, Mr. Ferguson; and Grahamston School, headmaster, Mr. M'Conochie, M.A.—each school being thoroughly provided as to staff, space, and other requirements, in accordance with the Education Code.

There is also a large and thoroughly efficient school attached to St. John's Roman Catholic Chapel, Darnley Road. At the opening of the new addition to this school, on 1st September, 1905, the Rev. Dean Tracy said the school from which they were now withdrawing was opened in Water Road in 1842, and had the honour of being the first school built in Barrhead.

TEACHERS IN UPLAWMOOR.

Previous to the Education Act of 1872 coming into force, education in this village was placed upon no very secure or satisfactory basis. There had almost always been a kind of adventure school in the village, and the number of teachers that passed through it was very considerable, mostly Divinity students, there only for a year or two—Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Thos. Sproul, Mr. Dove, Mr. Craig (Dominie Craig), Mr. Kidd, Mr. Pattison, and Mr. Crow. But, about 1858, a committee of the inhabitants and surrounding farmers took upon themselves to collect the money necessary to pay a teacher, and the late Colonel Mure generously granted a school-house and a cottage for the teacher to reside in; and when the premises were ready for opening, the late Mr. R. C. B. Watt was appointed schoolmaster, he being the first certificated teacher in the village. This gentleman saw the Education Act introduced, and continued as headmaster under the School Board for many years in the new and enlarged school; but in 1890 he retired on the age limit, and died in Pollokshaws, to which he had removed in 1907. Mr. Watt was succeeded in the headmastership by Mr. D. G. Nicolson, who, on being transferred to Neilston, was succeeded by Mr. John Little. He retired in 1910, and was succeeded by Mr. Young from Barrhead.

CHAPTER XVII.

PERSONS OF EMINENCE.

BARON MURE.

THIS gentleman was held in the highest esteem for his great wisdom and knowledge of affairs, and was eminent in many walks of life. He was distinguished equally as a man of learning and great legal attainments. He sat from 1742-1761 as Member of Parliament for the County, and was created Baron of Exchequer. His influence in all matters affecting the well-being of the kingdom was perhaps greater than that of any other person in the kingdom, as during the middle of last century he dispensed the patronage of the Crown in Scotland. He built the present mansion-house of Caldwell in 1772, from plans by Robert Adam, architect, London. He was Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow, 1774-5, and died in 1776.

WILLIAM MURE

was no less distinguished and eminent in his career than was the Baron, his grandfather. His studies related to subjects of a most abstruse character mostly ; as the *Chronology of the Egyptian Dynasties*, and the *Calendar of the Zodiac of Ancient Egypt*, which, with his investigations into the *Critical History of the Language and Literature of Ancient Greece*, and other writings, the *Caldwell Papers* included, gave him rank amongst the greatest scholars and scientific investigators of modern Europe. He was D.C.L., Vice-Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, and Member of Parliament for the County from 1846 to 1855, and Lord Rector of Glasgow University, 1847-1848. He died, aged about sixty-one years, in London, 1860.

GEORGE C. MONTEATH, M.D.,

second son of the Rev. Dr. Monteath, sometime minister of the parish of Neilston, attained marked eminence in his profession in Glasgow, especially as an oculist, and in the science of optics. In the churchyard of

Houston, to which church his father was translated from Neilston, there is a handsome monument erected to his memory, for which Mr. Smith of Jordanhill wrote the following inscription :—

SACRED TO THE MEMORY
OF
GEORGE CUNINGHAME MONTEATH, M.D.,

Who died at Glasgow, 21st January, 1828,

Aged Thirty-nine Years.

Distinguished by the highest attainments, and most honourable conduct in his profession, to the humane and arduous duties of which he was devotedly attached. He was respected in public, and beloved in private life.

This tribute of affection is erected by his afflicted widow,

ANNE COLHOUN CUNINGHAME.

WILLIAM YOUNG, M.D.,

was distinguished for his knowledge of anatomy and pathology, and after removing from Neilston to Glasgow, became equally eminent as a physician. In the discharge of his duties as one of the physicians to the Royal Infirmary, he contracted typhus fever, of which he died, in the forty-seventh year of his age. He was much regretted, as he was held in high esteem, and the public prints of the city testified to his great worth.

JOHN ROBERTSON, ENGINEER,

was for several years a foreman in Crofthead mill, then a cotton-spinning mill. He was well-known to be a man of more than ordinary capacity ; and that to his great practical knowledge of mechanics, he united a special aptitude for original contrivances in overcoming difficulties of an engineering character connected with his business. We are informed that the application of his invention to the "self-acting mule," made that ingenious machine of greatly increased practical value in the industry of cotton-spinning. And we learn from a cenotaph erected in Neilston churchyard that to his genius was due the invention of the first marine engine on the Clyde. (See page 71 for inscription on this stone.)

JOHN SHANKS, SANITARY ENGINEER.

Founder with his brother, Andrew, of the celebrated firm of Shanks & Co., Tubal Sanitary Engineering Works, Barrhead. This gentleman was the inventor and patentee of many ingenious appliances relating to practical sanitation of every description, when that branch of health knowledge was only beginning to attract attention.

He was a native of Paisley, but came to Barrhead when quite young, and was happy in having his life prolonged sufficiently to see the success of his enterprise, and reap the fruits of his earlier mental efforts and ingenuity.

JAMES RIGG, POET,

spent his early years in connection with calico printing in Barrhead, in one of the branches of which he began an apprenticeship; but, like many others in the same trade, finding that that business was changing from hand to machine labour, he turned his attention to other industries. For a number of years he was employed as a clerk; and always a lover of music, he was for a time precentor in churches in Paisley and Barrhead. Latterly, however, he was engaged as a traveller for a firm in Glasgow. From his earliest youth he had been a lover of Nature, especially field botany, in which he became very proficient. Meanwhile, the elements of poetry were finding expression in verses published from time to time, and in his later and riper years, with greatly improved versification, he carried into these studies a fine poetic vein, in which the poet-botanist is beautifully illustrated and exemplified in the two volumes he published, *Wild Flower Lyrics and other Poems* 1897,¹ and *Nature Lyrics and Essays*, 1902.² Rigg died at Chipmill, near Kennishead, 12th December, 1907, aged sixty-six years. Since his death, a monument to his memory has been erected in Neilston Cemetery by one of his late employers, we understand, who was also an admirer of his writings, which has the following inscription on its base:—

JAMES RIGG,
POET OF THE WILD FLOWERS,
LIES BURIED HERE.
A MAN OF WORTH AND GENIUS.

¹Alex. Gardner, Paisley.

²Alex. Gardner, Paisley.

JOHN DAVIDSON, POET AND JOURNALIST,

was a native of Barrhead, where his father was minister of one of the dissenting churches, but left that town when quite young. He was engaged as a teacher in Greenock at one period of his life, in which town he had been educated, and was also for a short time engaged teaching in Paisley. He was a prolific writer on many subjects—ballads, songs, and plays, and a series of remarkable “Testaments.” His poetical and critical powers were of a high order, and his poetically descriptive essays and papers are as ingenious as they are interesting and varied. The mere enumeration of his writings after he settled in London in 1890 and devoted his energies exclusively to literature, show the vast fertility of the poet’s genius. In 1886, he published the drama *Bruce*; in 1888, *Smith: a Tragedy*; in 1889, *Scaramouch in Naxos*; in 1890, *Perfervid*; after which, he issued two volumes of poems: *In a Music Hall*, 1891, and then followed the remarkable series of impressions of life in London, under the title of *Fleet Street Eclogues*, 1893. Following these came quite a succession of works from his busy pen—*A Random Itinerary*, 1894; *Ballads and Songs*, 1894; *Baptist Lake*, 1894; *A Full and True Account of the Wonderful Mission of Earl Lavender*, 1895; *Miss Armstrong and other Circumstances*, 1896; in this year also Translation of Copee’s play, “For the Crown,” staged at the Lyceum Theatre, London; *Ballads*, 1898; *Self’s the Man: a Tragedy*, 1901; *Testaments*, 1901-2; *The Knights of the Maypole*, 1902; *A Rosary*, 1903; *The Testament of a Prime Minister*; *Selected Poems*, 1904; and *Theatrocrat: a Tragic Play of Church and Stage*. In consideration of his contributions to literature he received, in 1905, a Civil List pension of £100. In 1909, the poet’s mind seems to have given way to melancholia, and he could see only darkness and difficulties ahead. On an evening in March of that year he left his home near Penzance, and did not return. In the same year, on 18th September, his body was recovered from the sea; to which again it was committed by his family at the close of the coroner’s investigation, in consequence of a letter he had left in which he expressed a wish to be buried at sea.

E. A. WALTON, R.S.A.

This gentleman is a native of Neilston, having been born in Glanderston, 15th April, 1860. He early devoted a natural genius for the art, to the study of painting in its various branches, first at Glasgow and subsequently at Dusseldorf. He holds the medals of Paris and Munich,

and also Chicago, and has been a Royal Scottish Academician for a number of years. He is an original worker, and his pictures are always famous for fine colour and charm, while he is equally at home in portrait and landscape art. As an artist, he is yet comparatively young, and we hope for a brilliant future for our fellow-parishioner in the art of which he is even now a foremost exponent.

ALEXANDER HORNE, MISSIONARY,

for twenty-three years, was engaged in missionary work in the village of Uplawmoor, previous to the erection of the *quoad sacra* church there. He was never of very robust constitution, but was imbued with a deeply religious spirit, and possessed a gentle and kindly disposition. His verses, *Shadow and Substance, and other Poems*, 1874, are a true reflex of his own inner and deeper nature. He died at Uplawmoor, 1881.

JAMES SHAW, TEACHER.

James Shaw, teacher, Tynron, Dumfries, was born at Barrhead, 22nd April, 1826. When about thirteen years of age he was sent to Glasgow to be initiated into pattern designing, and on returning home two years afterwards, began a regular apprenticeship of seven years to the same business at Gateside Printwork, then under the management of Glen & M'Indoe. At the close of his apprenticeship he went for two or three years as clerk and designer to Cumming, Melville & Co., silk printers, Roebank, Beith. Returning to Barrhead about 1853, he started, with five others, as master printer at Cross-mill, an unfortunate experience, so far as he was concerned. As the business with which he had hitherto been connected was passing through a dull stage, he now, at the age of thirty years, turned his attention to the profession of teaching, and entered the Established Church Training College, Glasgow, in 1855. Shortly after being qualified, he was appointed to the parish school of Tynron, where, with much acceptance, his labours continued for thirty-four years, and where he died, 15th July, 1895. Shaw was no ordinary schoolmaster: to a many-sided mind he added the instincts of a philosopher, which found scope in nearly every department of study—Natural History, Botany, Astronomy, Geology, Antiquities, Philology, Poetry. Had he either been more favourably placed as to his intellectual surroundings or more specialized in his studies, instead of dissipating his energies, he might have attained a different position in literature. A

collection of his writings has been compiled into a Memorial Volume of 392 pages, by his friend and former pupil, Professor Robert Wallace, Edinburgh University, under the title of *A Country Schoolmaster, James Shaw*, 1899. In the preface to the work, it is said of Shaw, by one who knew him well:—"He was a large man, fated to play out his life's drama on a small and dimly lighted stage."

JAMES SCADLOCK, POET.

James Scadlock was born in Paisley, 7th October, 1775, where his father was a hand-loom weaver. But as he came to our parish in very early life, and remained in it until his death, he may be looked upon as all but a native. After spending only a few months, when a mere boy, with his father at the loom, and a short time as a lad in a stationer's shop in his native town, he came to Barrhead and took up residence with a relation. Here he began an apprenticeship of seven years as a copper-plate engraver in Fereneze Printwork, then under the firm of Finlay, Ure, Bryce & Co. Towards the close of his apprenticeship, having already begun to court the Muse, he made the acquaintance of Tannahill, Paisley's sweet singer, with whom, being kindred spirits, a friendship was developed which continued during the whole of the latter's lifetime. In a dull period in the printing trade of Barrhead, Scadlock went to Perth, where he wrought for a short time. But on business improving, he returned to Barrhead, and, in April, 1808, was married to Mary Ewing. Taking up house in Grahamston, he and his wife continued to reside there until his death, which took place from typhus fever, 4th July, 1818. He was of an amiable disposition, and was a fond admirer of nature in all its aspects, loving to linger among the hills and glens that surrounded his home. His pure and gentle muse frequently found subjects of song among the beauties of our local scenery, in Killoch Glen and by Levernside. He will always take a place among the minor poets of our country.

EX-PROVOST BROWN, UNDERWOOD PARK, PAISLEY.

This gentleman was not a native of our parish, but he was brought to it at a very early age, and was reared and educated in it, at the most impressionable period in his life, and ever afterwards entertained such warm sentiments towards it, that it seems proper to include him among her eminent natives. Robert Brown was born at Rainger Home farm, East Kilbride, 15th July, 1810. In 1815, his parents removed to Nether

Capellie farm, Neilston, and the boy's first duty was to herd on the braes above Glen Killoch till school age. He was educated at Neilston parish school, and seems early to have evinced an aptitude for Latin and Greek and Arithmetic—the intention being that he should proceed to the University. This intention was, however, departed from, and he removed to Paisley in 1827. Subsequently going to Glasgow, he acted for a time as reporter and sub-editor of the *Chronicle* newspaper, which helped to give a literary bias to his inclinations. In 1834, he was appointed Town Chamberlain to the Burgh of Paisley, and in 1845 was an accountant and share broker in Buchanan Street, Glasgow. Having acquired, in 1850, the property of Ferguslie, he founded the Ferguslie Fire-clay Works. In 1854, he entered the Town Council for the Fourth Ward, and two years after—1856—had become Provost of Paisley, from which office he retired in 1859. Active, diligent, and accomplished, he now, with more leisure, turned to literary work, for which he had early imbibed a taste, which seemed never to have left him, the result being the publication of quite a series of works: *History of the High Church*, *History of the Grammar School and Academy*, *History of Burns Clubs*, *Memoirs of Paisley Poets*, and his greatest work, *A History of Paisley*, closing a busy life on 6th May, 1895.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

It has been stated, on what authority is not said, that the family of this celebrated novelist had at one period some connection with the parish of Neilston. Stevenson is known to have been descended from a Covenanting stock belonging to the West of Scotland, and we are probably indebted to the Covenanting blood that was in his veins for the stirring story, *The Pentland Rising*. But whether the stock here referred to was the Neilston resident or not, is obscure. The statement, however, is that the novelist's grandfather at one time resided in Nether Carswell farm in our parish. Nether Carswell is a moorland sheep-farm situated to the south of Neilston, and in the direction of Dunlop.

CHAPTER XVIII.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS FOR THE PARISH OF NEILSTON.

Neilston.

- 1890-1893—Rev. Peter M'Leod, The Manse, Neilston.
1893-1907—A Robertson-Ferguson, Writer, Neilston.
1907—Rev. Robert Barr, M.A., The Manse, Neilston

Uplawmoor.

- 1890-1892—John Holm, Jaapston Farm, Neilston.
1892-1893—Alexander Archibald Speirs, Elderslie.
1893-1907—William Mure, Caldwell.
1907—David Pride, M.D., The Knowe, Neilston.

Barrhead.

- 1891-1893—Andrew Ferrier Shanks.
1891-1893—Z. Henry Heys.
1891-1896—John Cochrane.
1893-1896—William Pollock.
1893-1896—John MacKay, Corssmill.
1895-1898—William Bowie.
1896-1908—Henry Barclay Dunlop, Arthurlie.
1898-1900—Rubini A. Rochester.
1898-1908—Robert Osborne, Forebrae, Barrhead.
1900-1903—William Johnston.
1903-1908—James Pollock, Banker, Barrhead.

PARISH COUNCILLORS.

Landward.

- 1895-1904—Henry Barclay Dunlop, Arthurlie, Barrhead.
1895-1901—Rev. Duncan Brown, Chapel House, Neilston.

- 1895-1898—William Robinson, Springbank, Neilston.
 1895-1910—James Walker, Post Office, Neilston.
 1895-1910—Charles Docherty, Sunnyside, Uplawmoor.
 1895-1907—Z. Pollard, Wellbrae, Barrhead.
 1895-1904—John S. Murray, Gateside, Barrhead.
 1898-1901—John A. M'Haffie, Kirktonfield, Neilston.
 1901-1901—Rev. A. Reifenrath, Chapel House, Neilston.
 1901-1910—Rev. Robert Barr, M.A., The Manse, Neilston.
 1901-1907—John Conlon, Main Street, Neilston.
 1904-1910—Isaac Gillespie, Gateside, Barrhead.
 1904-1910—Thomas Thomson, Westlea, Barrhead.

Burgh.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1895-1898—Z. Henry Heys, Rockmount, | Barrhead. |
| 1895-1901—James Kilpatrick, Cogan Street, | „ |
| 1895-1901—John Shanks, Dalmeny, | „ |
| 1895-1897—William Whyte, Cross Arthurlie, | „ |
| 1895-1910—Robert Murray, Main Street, Chairman, | „ |
| 1895-1898—Z. John Heys, Stonehouse, | „ |
| 1895-1907—Gavin Pinkerton, Kelburn Street, | „ |
| 1895-1904—John Andrew, Barnes Street, | „ |
| 1897-1900—James C. Marshall, Cross Arthurlie, | „ |
| 1898-1907—Hugh M'Callum, John Street, | „ |
| 1898-1904—Duncan Blair, Arthurlie Street, | „ |
| 1898-1907—Dr. Allan P. M'Leod, Achnashie Villa, | „ |
| 1901-1907—Finlay Jessiman, George Street, | „ |
| 1901-1910—John Paslay, Braeside Cottage, | „ |
| 1904-1910—James Catterson, Craigheads Street, | „ |
| 1904-1907—William Tait, Barnes Street, | „ |

PARISH COUNCIL AS AT 1910.

Burgh.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| William Colquhoun, Barrhead. | Nicholas Henderson, Barrhead. |
| James Catterson, „ | John Pasley, „ |
| James Mills, „ | Matthew B. Paterson, „ |
| Andrew Murray, „ | Robert Murray, Chairman. |

Landward.

Rev. Robert Barr, M.A., Neilston.	Charles Docherty, Ouplaymuir.
J. F. Swift, Neilston.	Isaac Gillespie, Gateside.
Thomas Thomson, Barrhead.	John M. Donald, Neilston.
James Walker, Neilston.	Charles H. M'Custker (resigned) Neilston.

MEMBERS OF SCHOOL BOARD—1873-1909.

- 1873-1885—Rev. Thomas Buchanan, Established Manse, Barrhead.
 1873-1881—Rev. James M'Namara, Chapel House, Neilston.
 1873-1879—John Cunningham, Engineer, Barrhead.
 1873-1876—James Anderson, Grocer, Neilston.
 1873-1876—Archibald Brownlie, Writer, Barrhead.
 1873-1875—Alexander Cochrane, Kirktonfield, Neilston.
 1873-1879 }
 1885-1891 } Rev. William Clark, M.A., U.F. Manse, Barrhead.
 1873-1885—John Heys, Calico Printer, Barrhead.
 1873-1876—Robert Montgomery, The Hall Farm, Uplawmoor.
 John Heys, Esq., Chairman.
 Joseph Watson, Writer, Clerk and Treasurer.
 Charles Johnston, Compulsory Officer.
 1875-1878—Rev. Thomas Miller, The Manse, Neilston.
 1876-1885—William Pollock, Banker, Barrhead.
 1876-1879—H. B. Dunlop, Arthurlie, Barrhead.
 1876-1885—Robert Henderson, Arthurliefield, Barrhead.
 1878-1888—David Pride, M.D., The Knowe, Neilston.
 John Heys, Esq., Chairman.
 1876—James Peters appointed Compulsory Officer ;
 Charles Johnston resigned.
 1879-1885—Alexander Leggat, Brassfounder, Barrhead.
 1879-1885 }
 1888-1891 } Rev. Peter M'Leod, The Manse, Neilston.
 1879-1885—Thomas M'Lellan, Ironmonger, Barrhead.
 1881-1888 }
 1891-1894 } Rev. Bernard Tracy, Chapel House, Barrhead.
 1885-1894—Z. John Heys, Stonehouse, Barrhead (Chairman).

- 1885-1891 } Z. Henry Heys, Rockmount, Barrhead.
 1892-1900 }
 1885-1891—Rev. William Young, F.C. Manse, Barrhead.
 1885-1894—John Cochrane, Engineer, Barrhead.
 1885-1888 } John M'Haffie, Kirktonfield, Neilston.
 1896-1900 }
 1885-1888—William Craig, Manufacturer, Barrhead.
 1888-1891—Patrick Small, Pawnbroker, Barrhead.
 1888-1892—Andrew F. Shanks, Sanitary, Engineer, Barrhead.
 1888-1900—Charles Docherty, Shoemaker, Uplawmoor.
 1891-1894—Dougal M'Callum, Plumber, Barrhead.
 1891-1896—Charles Cattanach, Millworker, Neilston.
 1891-1894—William Whyte, Merchant, Barrhead.
 1891-1897—John Cunningham, Engineer, Barrhead.
 1894-1900—Rev. Duncan Brown, R.C. Manse, Neilston.
 1894-1909—John S. Murray, Gateside, Barrhead.
 1894-1906—Z. Pollard, Wellbrae, Barrhead.
 1894-1908—Rev. David Stewart, The Manse, Uplawmoor (Chairman).
 1894-1900—Adam Bohn, Draper, Barrhead.
 1897-1909—William Murray, Caledonian Works, Barrhead.
 1900-1903—John Shanks, Dalmeny, Barrhead (Chairman).
 1900-1909—Duncan Blair, Cross-Arthurlie Street, Barrhead.
 1900-1903—Archibald Clark, Cross-Arthurlie Street, Barrhead.
 1900-1909—T. J. Saunders, Emenscraig, Barrhead.
 1900-1909—Rev. A. Reifenrath, R.C. Clergyman, Neilston.
 1903-1909—Rev. Robert Barr, M.A., The Manse, Neilston.
 1906-1909—John Beattie, Barrhead.
 1906-1909—Andrew Carnduff, Barrhead.

THE BOARD AS AT THE ELECTION, 1909.

J. S. Murray, Chairman.

Rev. Robert Barr, M.A., Neilston.

Rev. A. Reifenrath, Neilston.

Duncan Blair, Barrhead.

Robert Young, Uplawmoor.

T. J. Saunders, „

John Beattie, Barrhead.

Andrew Holms, „

Richard John Speirs, Barrhead.

Joseph Watson, Esq., Writer, Clerk to the Board from its commencement.

William Fife, Esq., Writer, Joint-Clerk from 1901.

GENTLEMEN ON THE COMMISSION OF THE PEACE.

William Mure, Esquire, of Caldwell.
 Henry Barclay Dunlop, Esquire, of Arthurlie.
 Robert Orr, Esquire, of Cowdenhall.
 David Pride, Esquire, The Knowe.
 Robert Osborne, Esquire, Forebrae.
 Z. Henry Heys, Esquire, Rockmount.
 William Shanks, Esquire, Raisdale.
 John Shanks, Esquire, Dalmeny.
 John Cochrane, Esquire, Househill.
 John Mackinlay, Esquire, Meadowbank.
 James Pollock, Esquire, Banker.
 John Anderson M'Haffie, Esquire, Kirktonfield.
 Z. George Heys, Esquire, Springhill.
 Thomas Thomson, Esquire, Westlea.
 Robert Murray, Esquire, Barrhead.

INSPECTORS OF POOR FOR THE PARISH.

John Gardiner, schoolmaster.
 Archibald Mackenzie.
 Matthew Anderson Haig.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE PARISH.

It will be unnecessary to enter at any length into generalities regarding the natural history of the parish; reference will be made to locality, distribution, and relation, when dealing with the individual species.

It will be found, however, that the fauna and the flora of the parish are both varied and rich, that while they include most of the species common to surrounding parishes, they also possess certain interesting species peculiar to itself. Here the varied nature of the land surface, the great diversity of altitude by which it is characterised, and the consequent differences of surroundings, as peat moss, heathy moors, wooded hills and sheltering glens and hollows, present such diverse environment as naturally gives opportunity for great variety in the land fauna and flora; while equally the distribution of numerous, and in several instances, large sheets of water, as Loch Libo, Harelaw dam, Long-Loch, Balgray reservoir, present attractions to the various species of aquatic birds that visit our neighbourhood annually for nesting purposes, and remain with us throughout most of the summer months.

I.

Subjoined is a list of the Mammalia of the parish. As far as regards nomenclature, the names given by W. S. Dallas, in his *Natural History of the Animal Kingdom*, have been mostly followed.

The Common Squirrel—*Sciurus vulgares*.—This active little fellow is quite common where there are trees, as at Caldwell and the Pad.

The Water Rat or Vole—*Arvicola amphibia*.—Found in Cowden Burn and other streams.

The Common Field Vole—*Microtus agrestis*.—Common throughout the parish.

The Black Rat—*Mus rattus*.—This rat was formerly found in the parish, but has now disappeared.

The Common or Brown House Rat—*Mus decumanus*.—This rat, which is common and well known, has all but extirpated the former, which is the true British rat. This rat

is found in all parts of the world, and is not indigenous to our country, having been probably brought to it by some ships, and is also known as the Norway Rat, which is an error.

The Common House Mouse—*Mus musculus*.

The Harvest Mouse—*Mus messorius*.—Observed among the stooks in harvest in the meadows of Caldwell, after they had been sown with corn.

The Long-tailed Field Mouse—*Mus sylvaticus*.—Common enough.

The Otter—*Lutra vulgaris*.—The otter was formerly found in the parish. One that was killed some years ago, the writer is informed, is still in preservation.

The Common Hare—*Lepus timidus*.—Is fairly common, especially about the Pad and Harelaw. The white variety is occasionally met with in winter.

The Rabbit—*Lepus cuniculus*.—Very common in the west of the parish.

The Common Shrew—*Sorex araneus*.—Common.

The Little Shrew—*Sorex pygmaeus*.—This species, which is quite a recent addition to zoological knowledge, is to be found in Cowden valley.

The Water Shrew—*Sorex remifer*.

The Hedgehog—*Erinaceus Europæus*.—This creature is common. It hibernates in winter, and many are killed if the frost is severe.

The Bank Vole—*Microtus glareolus*.—Is rare, but has been found in the vicinity of Killoch Glen, where also a white variety was caught some years ago.

Short-tailed Vole—*Arvicola arvensis*.—Popularly called the field-mouse. The voles are from time to time very destructive to crops, especially where their natural enemies are severely shot down.

The Fox—*Canis vulpus*.—This creature is found in various parts of the parish, as Caldwell wood, Uplawmoor wood, Hartfield moor, Knockanae wood, and others, and is regularly hunted. It is often a source of much mischief to farmers near its haunts.

The Wild Cat—*Felis catus*.—Up till 1895, this creature was found in the north of the parish, but in that year the last of them is reported to have been killed.

The Weasel—*Mustela vulgaris*.—Common on moorland roads where there are drystone walls.

The Stoat or Ermine—*Mustela erminea*.—Found at Neilston Pad and other places, and sometimes found with white body and dark tail in winter. The writer got a fine specimen, a very fierce little fellow, in the ermine stage, in the winter of 1909, which had been very severe: white body, black tail, light brown on top of head.

The Mole—*Talpa Europæa*.—Very common throughout the parish, and often does much mischief, especially in fields under crop.

The White Mole—*Talpa alba*.—A variety which, the writer is informed by the mole catcher, has been caught at the Pad.

The Pole Cat—*Mustela putorius*.—Up till 1868, was to be found in the parish, but about that year it became extinct.

The Common Bat—*Vespertilio pepetrellus*.—The bat is common and frequently seen on the wing after its insect food in mild evenings, near old buildings and under large trees.

The Long-eared Bat—*Plecotus auritus*.—Common at Crofthead mill and the printfield, and the works at Gateside.

Debenton's Bat—*Vespertilio Debentoni*.—To be found in the north of the parish, and is remarkable for the ease with which it can be tamed and made a pet of.

II.

THE REPTILIA.

The Adder or Viper—*Pelias berus*.—The gamekeeper informs the writer that the adder is still seen in Picketlaw and Moyne moors, in the south of the parish. This is the only venomous reptile found in Britain,¹ and ammonia or carbonate of ammonia applied, is the best cure when bitten.

The Common Ringed Snake—*Coluber natrix*.—It is reported on good authority that a living specimen of this snake was taken in the northern boundary of the parish in the summer of 1898.

The Ask or Lizard—*Lacerta vivipara*.—To be found at Cowden valley and Loch Libo.

The Blind or Slow Worm—*Anguis fragilis*.—Reported as found on Moyne moor and at Long Loch. A most harmless reptile, although popularly regarded as exceedingly venomous.

The Common Newt—*Molge vulgaris*.—To be found about quarry holes.

III.

THE AMPHIBIA.

The Frog—*Rana temporaria*.—Very common in different parts of the parish.

The Scotch Frog—*Rana Scotica*.—Found about Riglaw, Old Kilpatrick water, and Harelaw dam. In the last-named station, the large characteristic spawn is abundant.

The Toad—*Bufo vulgaris*.—This somewhat unwieldy creature is fairly common about Uplawmoor wood, where their nocturnal habits often bring them under notice in the dusk of summer nights, especially on the road between the plantation and the loch.

The Common or Spotted Newt—*Triton vulgaris*.—Found in quarry holes.

The Crested Newt or Salamander—*Triton cristatus*.—Found in the north of the parish.

The Webbed Newt—*Triton palmatus*.—Rare, but also found in the north of the parish, at Old Kilpatrick water.

IV.

THE ORNITHOLOGY OF THE PARISH.

The birds of any district constitute undoubtedly one of its most pleasing attractions, and whether our attention be turned to the moors or woods of the uplands, or the open fields or glens and valleys of the lowlands of the parish, it will be found that we everywhere possess a rich variety of the feathered songsters.

In the valley of the Clyde there are found 238 species, and of these, 110 are to be found in the parish of Neilston.

¹ Orr's *Circle of the Sciences*, Vol. III., Zoology, p. 282.

In the scale of classification, this section might have been noticed before the Mammalia, but it was more convenient to place it in the order adopted in the subjoined list, which is not by any means exhaustive.

The Skua—*Megalestres catarrhactes*.—Common at Harelaw dam, and following the plough in spring—a bold and daring bird.

The Common Gull—*Larus canus*.—Common in spring at Harelaw dam.

Blackheaded Gull—*Larus ridibundus*.—Common in spring at Harelaw dam. This bird's head is white in winter, but becomes dark in early spring.

Lesser Black-back Gull—*Larus fuscus*.—In spring and summer on the islands and margins of Harelaw dam in great numbers. This is a great breeding station.

The Common Gray Heron—*Ardea cinerea*.—Loch Libo, Caplaw dam, and others. This bird is blamed for being sore on fish; but, as a matter of fact, it lives largely on water rats.

The Coot or Bullecoot—*Fulicula atra*.—In considerable numbers at Loch Libo.

Water or Moorhen—*Gallinula chloropus*.—Loch Libo, Caplaw dam, and other waters.

The Water Rail—*Rallus aquaticus*.—Caplaw dam, etc.

The Wild Duck or Malard—*Anas boschas*.—Loch Libo, Caplaw dam.

Teal Duck—*Querquedula crecca*.—The smallest of the ducks—Moyne moor.

Solan Goose—*Sula bassana*.—Specimens are seen in Loch Libo, and they are often heard crying when flying over head at night.

The Ailsa Cock.—In 1866, on 6th February, one of these birds was carried in the upper stratum of a very severe wind storm from Ailsa Craig to Caldwell. The late Colonel Mure, M.P., observed it tumbling down through the air, and fall to the ground with a heavy thud as if shot. It was alive, but could not fly, and on examination was found to have a broken leg, and was otherwise injured.

The Cornerake or Landrail—*Crex pratensis*.—Common in corn and hayfields—their rasping notes "crek, crek," heard in summer till well on in the night.

The Golden Plover—*Charadrius plumialis*.—On Hartfield moor.

The Gray Plover—*Squatarola cinerea*.—Common.

Gray Wagtail—*Motacilla boarula*.—Fairly common.

Pied Wagtail—*Motacilla yarrellii*.—Do.

Yellow Wagtail—*Budytes raji*.—Do.

Common Snipe—*Scolopax gallinago*.—Quite common on the moors.

Jack Snipe—*Gallinago gallinula*.—Hartfield moor.

Curlew or Whaup—*Numenius arquata*.—Nests in Middleton and Moyne moors.

Sandpipers—*Tringæ*.—Common at streams and springs, Brownside and Caplaw moors, and Moyne moor.

The Crested Lapwing—*Vanelus crestata*.—The Peesweep, everywhere common.

The Common Partridge—*Pardex cinerea*.—Common on the moors.

Common Red Grouse—*Lagopus Scoticus*.—Moyne, Picketlaw, Caplaw moor. As its name implies, this bird is peculiar to Scotland.

The Pheasant—*Phasianus colchicus*.—Caldwell woods and surroundings.

The Woodcock—*Scolopax rusticola*.—Fairly common as an autumn migrant.

The Blackcock—*Tetrao tetrix*.—On Moyne, Picketlaw, Caplaw, and Hartfield moors. In these places, the keepers inform the writer, it is known to nest.

- The Wood Pigeon—*Columba palumbus*.—These birds breed in large numbers in Caldwell woods and many other plantations around.
- The Cuckoo—*Cuculus canorus*.—A regular visitant in summer, whose welcome notes are to be heard from the Pad, Killoch Glen, Uplawmoor Road, and other places.
- The Skylark—*Alauda arvensis*.—This charming songster is found everywhere in the parish. Numbers of them die in severe winters, being unable to find food when the ground is frozen.
- The Woodlark—*Alauda arborea*.—Common.
- The Linnet—*Linota cannabina*.—Common in the furze and on the upland moors. Often seen flying in flocks.
- The Goldfinch—*Carduelis clegans*.—Found at Caldwell, Arthurlie, and Cowdenhall, where they nested regularly for a number of years.
- The Lesser Redpole—*Linota linaria*.—These lively birds frequent all our heathery moors.
- The Bullfinch—*Pyrrhula Europæa*.—The Scottish parrot, and fairly common.
- The Chaffinch or Shelfa—*Frangilla œlebs*.—Common; and has a sweet refrain in early spring.
- The Greenfinch—*Ligurinus chloris*.—"The Green Linty," common.
- The Heather Lintie "Twite"—*Linota flavirostri*.—Common; Moyne, Picketlaw, and other moors.
- The White Throat—*Sylvia cineria*.—Popularly known as the "Bletherin' Tam," and is heard in our hedgerows by the wayside in summer evenings, hurrying with his peculiar "chur-r-r, chur" song.
- The Titlark—*Anthus pratensis*.—Common; known as the "Titlin," and often seen flying after its foster young—the cuckoo—when that bird takes to the wing; hence the proverb of the "cuckoo and the titlin."
- The House Sparrow—*Passer domesticus*.—Common wherever there are dwellings.
- Hedge Sparrow—*Accentor modularis*.—Common.
- The Starling—*Sturnus vulgaris*.—Very common; flying in flocks or following cows in the fields. Fifty years ago, this was a rather rare bird, and boxes were put up on houses and trees to induce it to build—quite unnecessary in the present day.
- The Yellow-hammer—*Emberiza citrinella*.—The "yeldren"—a bunting—common, and known locally as "Willie, Willie, Willie tak' a fee," from his song.
- The Redbreast—*Erythacus rubecula*.—Common; an interesting and bold bird, and held in affection by the people.
- The Wren—*Troglodytes vulgaris*.—Fairly common; seen flitting about in bushy and rocky retired places. This lively little bird shares with the robin the affections of people in the country.
- Corn Bunting—*Emberiza miliaria*.—Seen flying in the stubble fields in autumn.
- Stone Chat—*Pratincola rubicola*.
- Whin Chat—*Savicola rubetra*.
- Wheatear—*Savicola ananthe*.
- Blackred Start—*Raticella tites*.
- The Red Start—*Ruticella phœnecura*.
- The Garden Warbler—*Corruco hortensis*.
- The Marsh Tit—*Parus palustris*.
- The Blue Tit—*Parus cœruleus*.—Common; a pair has built in a hole in the writer's garden wall for many years.

- The Great Tit—*Parus major*.—Interesting and very lively and active birds.
- The Water Ouzel or Water Pyet—*Cinclus aquaticus*.—The burn in Cowden Glen and Kirkton Burn.
- The Mavis, Thristle, or Song Thrush—*Turdus musicus*.—Common; nesting in shrubs and small plantations, more timid than the blackbird. They don't approach the dwellings of man so readily, and consequently suffer more in severe winters, when many of them die.
- The Missel Thrush—*Turdus viscivorus*.—Common; sometimes known by the name of the feltie.
- The Blackbird—*Turdus merula*.—Common; more venturesome than the mavis. It approaches village gardens, and consequently fewer of them are killed in bad winters from frost.
- The Fieldfare—*Turdus pilaris*.—Frequently seen in the upper parts of the parish in winter and early spring, before leaving for their nesting station in the forests of, possibly, Northern Europe; also sometimes popularly named the feltie.
- The House Swallow or Martin—*Hirundo or Chelidon urbica*.—Short-tailed and less forked, always builds its nest outside.
- Chimney or Barn Swallow—*Hirundo rustico*.—Long-tailed and a twitterer, differing in this respect from the next.
- The Sand Martin—*Hirundo riparia*.—This bird is always mute; found wherever there are sand quarries, as at Holehouse and Gateside and Loch Libo.
- The Common Swift—*Cypselus apus*.—Common; seen skimming over the ponds in soft summer evenings, and rising in sweeps after flies, on the smaller varieties of which they exclusively live. It is peculiar from all other birds, in that all its toes look forward.
- The Carrion Crow—*Corvus coronus*.—Common.
- The Common Rook—*Corvus frugilegus*.—Very common; large rookery at Caldwell, and many smaller ones in different parts of the parish.
- The Jackdaw—*Corvus monedula*.—Common; sometimes this bird gives a good deal of trouble by building its nest in chimneys not in regular use in houses even in the town. A bold bird.
- The Magpie—*Pica caudata*.—Builds in many of the retired and quiet plantations, as at Knockanae, Middleton, and the Pad.
- The Barn Owl—*Strix flammea*.—Common at certain farms in the west of the parish.
- The Long-eared Owl—*Otus vulgaris*.—Fairly common.
- The Tawny Hooting Owl—*Syrnium stridula* or *aluco*.—Common in Caldwell woods, the plantation at Caldwell Law, Loch Libo, and Knockanae wood.
- The Short-eared Owl—*Otus brachyotus*.
- The Sparrow-hawk—*Accipiter nisus*.—Fairly common; an elegant bird, and frequently seen flying about lonely country roads and hedgerows after its prey.
- The Kestrel or Hovering Hawk—*Falco tinnunculus*.—This bird is common, and is frequently seen hovering in the air inspecting the ground, or instantly closing its wings and tail, and falling like a stone upon its victim, should its quarry come into view in the grass below.

CHAPTER XX.

THE BOTANY OF NEILSTON PARISH.

BY J. M. B. TAYLOR

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THE earliest known state of the vegetation of the parish of Neilston is that of the Carboniferous Period—which may be regarded as about the middle of the history of the earth's crust. At that time the vegetation grew very rapidly, and consisted of various species of Lepidodendroids of eighty or more feet in height, gigantic ferns, and numerous calamites. There is distinct evidence that this state of vegetation was at one time broken down by volcanic outbursts, and the breaching of volcanoes. From this cause, whole and massive forests were not only broken down, but were covered by arenaceous debris, and to-day are found solidified into rock. This early state of vegetation was very largely of the endogenous type, but there were also exogenous trees and shrubs. These latter are still to be had in the rocky mass, and when sliced and seen under the microscope, they show the annual rings, and the cell structure as distinct as if the specimen had been sliced off one of our present-day growing plants.

LATENT SEEDS.

A botanical peculiarity connected with the parish is the high percentage of plant seeds that lie latent in the soil. By "latent seeds" is meant seeds that are in the soil, but at such a depth that they do not sprout, but when such seeds are brought near enough to the surface, they sprout and yield their own species. In research work carried on in the County of Renfrew, by the writer, Neilston parish yielded by far the highest percentage of latent seeds. In this research work quantities of soil were collected at various parts. Certain quantities of the several soils collected were put into boxes of equal sizes and of a certain depth (both of soil and box), and these were exposed to the ordinary atmospheric influences, such as light, heat, and cold—in short, to the weather—and a register was made of how many seeds sprang up in each of the soils. As a means of check, every sample of soil was exposed in duplicate, but before being exposed, it was raised to a dull-red heat, and kept at this for a certain time. These observations of the soils were carried on for several years. Neilston gave a percentage per square inch of 41·11. The next two highest were Kilmacolm, 22·2 per cent. per square inch, and Abbey, Newton Woods, 13·88 per cent. per square inch. This shows Neilston parish to stand very high.

COLOURATION OF VIOLETS AND PANSIES.

On the eastern side of the parish, the colour of the violets and pansies in the wild state is quite exceptional. The colours are remarkably fine, and depart considerably from that usually met with in the same species. Here the violets and pansies are most abundant, they grow in profusion, but in general they are smaller than the same species in other parts of the country. Planted in flower-pots they are very pretty, and if planted in the same soil the colour remains. If, however, they are planted in other soils, they slowly lose their remarkably fine colour—which goes to show that the composition of the soil *has* got to do with colouration.

FRESH WATER ALGÆ.

In the parish there is a fine display of fresh water algæ. In the early months of the year many of the streams on the higher parts, and the ponds and pools, are often rendered very pretty by the colouration of the fresh water algæ. Various species of *HORMISCI*A, such as *HORMISCI*A *SUBTILIS*, var. *TENERINA*, is general on Fereuze. In spring fresh water algæ is very abundant in the sandstone quarries about Loch Libo, where their action is very marked in the changing of rock into soil. Various species of *OSCELLARIA* (these moving plants under the microscope) are abundant in various parts of the parish. Species met with are *O. SPLENDIDA*, *O. AMPHIBIA*, and *O. CHALYBEA*. The fresh water algæ *NOSTOC LINCKI* is got about the waterfalls on the northern boundaries of the parish. One of the rarer fresh water algæ is common as a jelly on grassy parts of Fereuze in the autumn in rainy weather. Various beautiful Diatoms are got about the streams near Netherton, Dyke farm, and Walton; and Loch Libo is itself a study for Diatoms. That loch is very shallow, and is being slowly but surely filled up, and in whose bottom mud the Diatoms are very abundant.

FUNGI.

In the parish there is to be met with a fine assortment of various fungi. Various edible species are found in considerable abundance on the grassy parts of Fereuze, and on furnace slag.

LIVERWORTS.

The liverworts are commonly met with in the parish, but as yet they are imperfectly worked. In the spring of 1908 a very fine display of one species was observed in Killoch Glen wholly confined to a narrow igneous dyke.

MOSSES.

The mosses are abundant in the parish, especially on the western boundary. Here we met with the formation of peat from mosses, such as *FONTINALIS ANTIPIRETICA*, and various species of *Sphagni*. Fine mosses are got about Moyne moor, and in the neighbourhood of the Long Loch.

THE FLOWERING PLANTS.

Considering the flowering plants, Neilston parish shows a goodly number of all those that are British. In Great Britain, there are of flowering plants in all 92 natural orders. Of this number, Neilston contains types of 72, which only leaves 20 without types. They may be tabulated thus:—

<i>Natural Orders.</i>				<i>Dicotyledons.</i>	<i>Monocotyledons.</i>
British,	-	-	-	77	15
Neilston,	-	-	-	59	13
Neilston without,	-	-	-	18	2

The parish contains several of the rarer plants. The Mud Crowfoot (*Ranunculus Lenormandi*): it is not so long since this plant found a place in our British Flora. It grows fairly abundant in the streams and marshes about Dyke. On the eastern boundary of the parish there is a plant new to the British Flora, which was discovered by the writer in 1883, and is named in honour of the old man who first taught him botany, John Duncan. This plant is Duncan's Simple Mint (*Mentha Simplex-Duncani*, Nov. sp.). It is described in the yearly circular of the Paisley Practical Botany and Geology Class. This plant was first got in Abbey parish, and the additional station for it in Neilston parish was discovered by Miss L. Innes, teacher, Paisley, a field botanist. In the parish there are three species of sensitive plants; four species that live on insects; and one, a parasite, which lives on the juices of other plants. In the parish the travelling of plants has been observed. This is well known among the Orchids, but on Fereneze, a little cruciferous plant, *Eriophila verna*, which is an annual, has entirely left one station, and travelled 250 yards further north.

Of introduced plants, two, at least, have become well established in the parish, viz. :— The Monkey-flower (*Mimulus ringans*), as at Uplawmoor; and the Canary grass (*Phalaris Canariensis*), around Neilston, Barrhead, and other homes in the parish. Sweet Cicely (*Myrrhis odorata*) is abundant, and has many stations in the parish.

Botanically Loch Libo is the richest part in the county; here there is to be found such plants as Whorled Caraway (*Carum verticillatum*), said to be its furthest inland point from the sea. The Water-Hemlock, or Cowbane (*Cicuta virosa*), that highly poisonous plant with a peculiar chambered root. That rare plant the Water Starwort (*Callitriche autumnalis*). The Lesser Skullcap (*Scutellaria minor*), and the Great Carex (*Carex vulpina*), which, if the collector should obtain a specimen without parting with some blood—that would be the exception to the rule. The following is a short list of plants that are met with in the parish :—

A LIST OF PLANTS IN NEILSTON PARISH.

DICOTYLEDONS—POLYPETALE.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES.	ENGLISH NAMES.	STATIONS OR HABITATS.
<i>Anemonea nemorosa</i> ,	Wood Anemone,	General; Dyke and Fereneze.
<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i> ,	Water Crowfoot,	Snype's dam; Loch Libo.
„ <i>var. peltatus</i> ,	Shielded Water Crowfoot,	Dams; Lint Mill; Neilston.
„ <i>repens</i> ,	Creeping Meadow Crow-	} Both very common in grass fields.
„ <i>acris</i> ,	Upright Meadow Crow-	
	foot,	
<i>Trollius Europæus</i> ,	The Globe Flower,	Harelaw dam.
<i>Helleborus viridis</i> ,	Green Hellebore,	About Barrhead (south).
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> ,	Barberry,	Road to Springhill.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES.	ENGLISH NAMES.	STATIONS OR HABITATS.
<i>Nymphæa alba</i> ,	Great White Water Lily,	Alt-Patrick ; Loch Libo.
<i>Nuphar lutea</i> ,	Yellow Water Lily,	Loch Libo ; Alt-Patrick.
<i>Corydalis claviculata</i> ,	White Climbing Corydalis,	Barrhead, but getting rare.
<i>Cardamine amara</i> ,	Large-flowered Bitter Cress,	Side of streams ; Cowden ; Harelaw.
<i>Eriophila verna</i> ,	Whitlow Grass,	Roads, and rocky places ; Uplaw- moor.
<i>Brassica sinupistrum</i> ,	Charlock, or Wild Mustard,	Waste places ; cornfield weed.
<i>Lepidium Smithii</i> ,	Smooth Field Pepper-Wort,	Scarce ; Kingston Road.
<i>Viola palustris</i> ,	Marsh Violet,	Snype marsh, and other marshes.
„ <i>tricolor</i> ,	Heart's-ease or Pansy,	Fereneze ; Craigton Road.
„ <i>lutea</i> ,	Yellow Mountain Violet,	Abundant ; roads at Harelaw.
<i>Arenaria trinervis</i> ,	Three-nerved Sandwort,	Road from Barrhead to Crofthead.
<i>Montia fontana</i> ,	Water Blinks,	About all the marsh springs.
<i>Sceleranthus annuus</i> ,	Annual Knawel,	Thornton Quarry ; Loch Libo.
<i>Hypericum quadrangu- lum</i> ,	Square-stalked St. John's- Wort,	Glen Killoch.
<i>Tilia Europæa</i> ,	Linden or Limetree,	Planted ; Barrhead, etc.
<i>Linum catharticum</i> ,	Purgin Flax,	Fereneze ; road sides.
<i>Geranium phæum</i> ,	Dusky Crane's-bill,	South of Barrhead ; rare.
„ <i>purpureum</i> ,	Purple „	Rocks ; Cowden valley.
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> ,	Holly.	Barrhead ; Uplawmoor.
<i>Empetrum nigrum</i> ,	Black Crowberry,	Moyné moor.
<i>Ononis arvensis</i> ,	Rest-harrow, or Wild Li- quorice,	Rare ; Fereneze.
<i>Trifolium medium</i> ,	Zig-zag Trefoil, or Meadow Clover,	Shilford ; Kingston Road ; and at Walton.
<i>Vicia sylvatica</i> ,	Wood Vetch,	Harelaw burn ; rare.
<i>Orobis macrorrhizus</i> ,	Tuberous Bitter Vetch,	Fereneze ; Crofthead ; Walton.
<i>Fragaria vesca</i> ,	Wild Strawberry,	Gateside ; Harelaw.
„ <i>elatior</i> ,	Haut-bois Strawberry,	Gateside Road.
<i>Rosa Watsoni</i> ,	Watson's Rose,	Gateside and Barrhead.
<i>Pyrus communis</i> ,	Wild Pear,	} About Uplawmoor and south of } that.
„ <i>malus</i> ,	Wild or Crab Apple,	
<i>Chrysosplenium alterni- folium</i> ,	Alternate-leaved Golden Saxifrage,	Local ; Neilston Pad ; Harelaw burn.
<i>Parnassia palustris</i> ,	Grass of Parnassus,	Marsh on east of Fereneze.
<i>Sedum villosum</i> ,	Hairy Stonecrop,	Marsh ; Fereneze and Harelaw.
<i>Senperivium tectorum</i> ,	The House-leek, or Foo,	Walls ; Barrhead and Mid-Walton ; on rock, Loch Liboside hills.
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i> ,	Round-leaved Sundew,	On peat and sphagnum, west side ; Fereneze, etc.
<i>Hippurus vulgaris</i> ,	Mare's Tail,	Loch Libo ; Snype's dam.
<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i> ,	Square-stalked Willow Herb,	Glen Killoch.
<i>Circæa lutetiana</i> ,	Enchanter's Night Shade,	Waulk-mill glen.
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i> ,	Marsh Penny-wort,	In moist places ; Glanderston.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES.	ENGLISH NAMES.	STATIONS OR HABITATS.
<i>Sanicula Europæa</i> ,	Wood Sanicle,	Waulk-mill glen.
<i>Sium angustifolium</i> ,	Water-parsnip,	West of Commore dam.
<i>Meum athamanticum</i> ,	Bald Money or Meum.	“Dinglin’ bog,” Kingston Road.
<i>Peucedanum Obstruthium</i> ,	Master-wort,	West of Commore and at Caplaw.
<i>Hedera helix</i> ,	The Ivy,	On rock and trees ; general.

MONOPETALEÆ.

<i>Fiburnum opulus</i> ,	Guelder Rose,	Gateside. Not common.
<i>Asperula odorata</i> ,	Wood-ruff,	Glen Killock ; Harelaw.
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i> ,	Cat Velarian,	Cowden Burn ; Loch Libo.
<i>Arctium lappa</i> ,	Burdock,	Gateside ; Neilston.
<i>Petasites vulgaris</i> ,	Butter-bur,	Barrhead and Westhead of Side.
<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i> ,	Highland Cudweed,	Scarce ; Fereneze.
<i>Antennaria dioica</i> ,	Cat’s-Foot, or Cat’s-Paw,	Snype Moor and Fereneze.
<i>Senecio Jacobæ</i> ,	Ragwort,	A too common grass weed.
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i> ,	Marsh Andromeda,	Very rare ; Hartfield (Alt-Patrick).
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> ,	Privet (fruit not always developed),	Planted—various hedges.
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> ,	Buck or Bog-bean,	Snype marsh ; Loch Libo ; etc.
<i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i> ,	Lingwort,	Neilston—garden escape.
<i>Littorella lacustris</i> ,	Shoreweed,	Glanderston, Walton, and Harelaw Dams.
<i>Linaria cymbalaria</i> ,	Ivy-leaved Toadflax,	Wall at Barrhead.
<i>Scrophularia vernalis</i> ,	Yellow Figwort,	South of Barrhead.
<i>Sibthorpia Europæa</i> ,	Cornish Money,	On the railway.
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i> ,	Butterwort,	In various marshes.
<i>Primula vulgaris</i> ,	The Primrose,	Fereneze ; Harelaw.
„ <i>viridis</i> ,	Cowslip or Paigle,	Sparingly in south of parish.
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i> ,	Yellow Pimpernel,	Harelaw Burn.

APETALÆ.

<i>Polygonum bistorta</i> ,	Bistort, or Snake-root,	Not common ; railway bank, Killock.
„ <i>hydropiper</i> ,	Water Pepper,	Mud banks, Harelaw Dam, Loch Libo, Glanderston, and Walton.
„ <i>convolvulus</i> ,	Black Bindweed,	House roofs, Neilston and Uplawmoor.
<i>Atriplex patula</i> ,	The Orache,	Very variable ; wastes, Neilston.
<i>Daphne mezereum</i> ,	Mezereon,	Barrhead, Gateside, Neilston, and Uplawmoor.
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i> ,	Sun-spurge or Wart-wort,	Gardens, cereal fields, etc.
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i> ,	Dog’s Mercury,	General ; more males than females, females scarce.
<i>Humulus lupulus</i> ,	Hop,	Hedge north-east of Barrhead.
<i>Ulmus suberosa</i> ,	Elm,	Scarce variety ; a few, Paisley Road, Barrhead.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES.	ENGLISH NAMES.	STATIONS OR HABITATS.
<i>Populus tremula</i> ,	The Aspen,	Loch Libo.
<i>Salix alba</i> ,	White Willow,	Large trees in various parts, as about Wraes.
.. <i>caprea</i> ,	Common Sallow, or Goat Willow,	Glanderston and Walton dams; Cowden Burn.
.. <i>repens</i> ,	Creeping Willow,	Rare ; on Fereneze.
.. <i>viminalis</i> ,	Oiser Willow,	Near Nether Carswell.
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ,	Beech,	Fine trees at Uplawmoor ; near the same with a very large gnaur.
<i>Corylus avellana</i> ,	The Hazel,	Harelaw Glen, Glen Killock, and Uplawmoor Glen ; general.
<i>Betula alba</i> ,	The Birch,	Self-planted at Uplawmoor wood.

MONOCOTYLEDONS—PETALOIDEÆ.

<i>Orchis mascula</i> ,	Early Purple Orchis,	Fereneze, near Gateside.
.. <i>maculata</i> ,	Spotted Orchis,	Common in marshes ; large at Loch Libo.
<i>Habenaria bifolia</i> ,	Lesser Habernaria,	Hilly ground, Fereneze.
<i>Epipactis latifolia</i> ,	Broad-leaved Helleborine,	Woods, Uplawmoor and Loch Libo.
<i>Iris Pseudo-acorus</i> ,	Iris, or Yellow Flag,	Gateside ; Killock ; Cowden ; etc.
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i> ,	The Snowdrop,	Pollick Burn ; east of Uplawmoor.
<i>Alisma plantago</i> ,	Water Plantain,	Gateside and Loch Libo.
<i>Triglochin palustre</i> ,	Marsh Arrowgrass,	Loch Libo in marsh.
<i>Potamogeton natans</i> ,	Sharp fruited broad-leaved Pond-weed,	Dams at lint mills, Neilston ; Loch Libo.
.. <i>rufescens</i> ,	Reddish Pond-weed,	Loch Libo and various marsh waters.
.. <i>crispus</i> ,	Curled Pond-weed,	Loch Libo and dams at lint mill.
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i> ,	Herb Paris,	Waulk Mill Glen.
<i>Scilla nutans</i> ,	Bluebell, or Wild Hyacinth,	Thornton ; Gateside ; etc.
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i> ,	Lancashire Bog Asphodel,	Alt-Patrick and most of the marshes.
<i>Juncus communis</i> ,	Common Rush,	This, and varieties, general on many of the higher fields : Wraes, Craighall, Cowden Moor.
.. <i>bufonius</i> ,	Toad Rush,	Muddy footpaths ; sides of streams.
.. <i>squarrosus</i> ,	Heath Rush,	{ Keeps its own on heathy and clayey ground ; Fereneze and Carswell.
<i>Sparganium ramosum</i> ,	Branched Bur-reed,	{ In various slow muddy streams. All the three species are got about the eastern side of Loch Libo.
.. <i>simplex</i> ,	Unbranched Bur-reed,	
.. <i>natans</i> ,	Floating Bur-reed,	
<i>Typha latifolia</i> ,	Reed-mace, Cat's Tail, or Bulrush,	In Loch Libo.
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i> ,	Needle Spike-rush,	Rare ; Glanderston and Harelaw.

GLUMACEÆ.

<i>Carex</i> ,	The Sedges,	In the parish over 30 species.
<i>Nardus stricta</i> ,	The Mat-grass,	On many of the higher parts this is the chief grass.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES.	ENGLISH NAMES.	STATIONS OR HABITATS.
<i>Phleum pratense</i> ,	Timothy-grass,	Largely used for hay.
<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i> ,	Floating Foxtail-grass,	In parts where water has stood.
<i>Aira cespitosa</i> ,	Tufted Hair-grass,	Abundant; railway, Shilford.
<i>Avena elatior</i> ,	False Oat-grass,	Troublesome weed in many fields; by hedges, etc.
<i>Melica uniflora</i> ,	Wood Melic-grass,	Rare; rocks, Harelaw burn.
<i>Molinia cærulea</i> ,	Purple Molinia,	Rare; marsh, Alt-Patrick.

ACOTYLEDONS—VASCULARES.

<i>Pteris aquilina</i> ,	Brake, or Bracken,	Abundant and luxuriant on top of Ferezeze, Thornton, and Up- lawmoor wood.
<i>Cryptogramme crispa</i> ,	Parsley-fern, or Rock-brake,	Formerly on Neilston Pad.
<i>Lomaria spicant</i> ,	Northern Hard-fern,	Uplawmoor glen and woods.
<i>Nephrodium filix-mas</i> ,	Male Fern,	General; rocky places and woods.
„ <i>borreri</i> , or <i>paleacea</i> ,	Scaly Male Fern,	The Scaly Fern is the most abun- dant of the two; very fine on Neilston Pad.
„ <i>oreopteris</i> ,	Mountain Heath, or Heath Shield Fern,	
<i>Polypodium phegopteris</i> ,	Pale Mountain Polypody,	Abundant and luxuriant in coaly shale; Pollock burn.
„ <i>dryopteris</i> ,	Oak-fern,	Killock Glen.
„ <i>phegopteris</i> ,	Beech-fern,	Killock Glen.
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i> ,	Moon-wort Fern,	Top of Ferezeze and above Loch Libo, and at the Pad.
<i>Equisetum arvense</i> ,	Field Horsetail,	Gateside and Cowden valley; Cat- kins in spring: barren frond, later in autumn.
„ <i>sylvaticum</i> ,	Branched Wood Horsetail,	
„ <i>limosum</i> ,	Smooth Naked Horsetail,		Glanderston, Snype's, and Walton dams; Loch Libo.

CHAPTER XXI.

THE PLACE-NAMES OF THE PARISH.

THE study of the place-names of any district is often of much interest, as frequently thereby meanings are found attaching to them that are at first quite hidden, or only, if at all, obscurely revealed. In some instances, as will be seen from those of our parish, the local names throw light, not only upon the physical and geographical condition of the land as it was in the remote past and as it continues to be even now, but in others they indicate conditions of its past natural history that would not be readily discovered now, as they have very long ago ceased to exist. Especially would this seem to apply to words of Celtic origin, whether Gaelic or Cymric—Highland, that is, or Welsh. Take examples from one or two of the place-names in the parish as illustrative of what is here meant. For instance, the local name The Moyne, from the Welsh word *mawn*=peat. Here we have disclosed at once a whole description of the character of the tract of land bearing that name, which is one vast moor of peat. Again, the local name Knockglass—Gaelic, *cnoc*=hill, *glass*=green—Greenhill. What more descriptive designation could have been selected for the lands of this hill farm?

As a matter of fact, identical or cognate names to these are to be found in adjoining parishes, and also in places further apart, even different counties, showing that the same natural objects had suggested identical or kindred names to the kindred tribesmen who invented them, and who, though inhabiting those separate and isolated localities, all spoke a common language. It has already been shown that the lands of the parish were at one time included in the ancient kingdom of Strathclyde, which for a very long period was possessed by the Strathclyde Britons, a Celtic people speaking a Celtic tongue. In these circumstances, therefore, it might naturally be expected, notwithstanding the remoteness of the period, that they would have left behind them some evidence of their protracted stay—for they continued in possession until a comparatively late date—in the names, for instance, of the most outstanding physical

aspects and conditions of the land, its hills, moors, and specialties of land and water; those features, in short, least likely to undergo or be exposed to change. Now, this is exactly what is to be found. Many centuries have passed away since the Gaelic language was regularly spoken by the people of this parish, but many of its place-names still bear evidence of having been originated by a people speaking that tongue. No doubt the names have in many instances undergone change of form in spelling and pronunciation as they have come down to us through the ages, and that their original meanings and significance have been correspondingly obscured. But, notwithstanding this, it is still possible to trace backward through the root meanings of the words and discover some, at least, of the reasons and ideas those early people had in their minds when giving or associating, as they did, those very descriptive names to the different places and localities. For example, take the Celtic name, *knock-an-ae*—which means the hill of the hind. When that word was coined and given to the hill and surrounding land, it would appear that the stag or red deer roamed wild in the broad moorland and district, and that the hinds were so much accustomed to assemble about this hill as to suggest to the early people the distinctive name, *Knock-an-ae*. Whilst another name belonging to the same class—*Knockmade*, the hill of the wolf, or *Wolfhill*, the local name of another hill in the parish—probably takes us back, by its name, to the period when the wolf was to be still met with in the uplands, and had to be combated with by the inhabitants.

By other of our place-names, again, the ecclesiastical conditions of the parish in mediæval times are recalled and brought before us. The “Mains,” for instance, was the designation given to the “granary of the Abbey homestead” by the monks—a place, we learn, which was usually under the charge of a lay brother, or sometimes one of the monks.

Other names in the parish are, many of them, either Scottish or English, and are mostly self-explanatory, whilst a few have been derived from the proper names of persons, either owning or holding the land or occupying some special relation to it.

Subjoined is a list of the names, given alphabetically, with their meanings :—

PLACE-NAMES OF CELTIC ORIGIN.

Aurs Road—Obscure. Possibly Old British. Having some relation to Walton Burn, which crosses this road, and which, before being covered over, would be a broadish, shallow stream. Several river-names resemble it. Cf. *Ahr*, a tributary of the Rhine; Scot. *Ayr*; Eng. *Aire*; etc.

- Alt-Patrick—Gaelic, *alt*, a stream, and proper name, Patrick—Burn of Patrick.
- Auchentiber—Gaelic, *achadh*, field : *en*, the, = Gaelic *an* : *tiber*, a well—Field of the well.
- Auchenback—Gaelic, *achadh*, field : *cu*, the, = Gaelic *an* : *bac*, crook, or Gaelic, *bac*, bank of moss, etc., from Norse, *bakki*—The moss field.
- Balgray—Gaelic, *bail' greigh*, the stead or town of the stud or herd (of horses, etc.). *Greigh*, stud of horses, cognate with Lat. *grex*, *gvegis*, horse-stead. The surrounding land, including that now under water by the Gorbals Gravitation Reservoir, having been in olden times most likely used for grazing young horses, this was the horse-stead where they were brought together, as occasion might require.
- “Barrhead—Gaelic, *barr*, a hill : Engl. *head*, end—The end of the hill ; from Neilston—as in Townend, end of the town.”
- Boghhouse—Gaelic, hybrid, *bog*, a marsh, and Engl. *house*—A dwelling in the marsh.
- Braco—Gaelic, *brāgo* : obscure. Evidently a compound. Possibly Old British. If Gaelic, *brāgo* = *brach*, a wolf, and *magh*, plain, or field—*brechmagh*, wolf field ; *brac* being assumed a variant of *brach*. Possibly phonetic. A moor extends from this place north-eastward to Paisley, which in very early times was covered with forest.
- Brockburn—Gaelic, *broc*, a badger ; Scot. burn—The burn of the badger.
- Caldwell—Possibly Celtic, root as *keld* (in *Dunkeld*), wood, cognate with Gaelic *coille*, and well—The well in the wood. Having, possibly, special reference to the fine well within the policies, known as “The Brandy Well.”
- Capellie—Gaelic, *caiplich*, from *capall*, a horse—Horse pasture.
- Capellie-moor—Gaelic, *caiplich*, from *capall*, from Latin, *caballus*, a horse : moor—Moor for pasturing horses.
- Caplaw—Gaelic, *caiplich*—A hill for grazing horses. Cf. *caiplich* in Highland place-names, stretch of moorland for pasturing horses. It is a little remarkable that this hill has always been used for grazing young horses, and is so now.
- Carswell—*cars*, a level tract, and well—A well in a level tract of land. Derivation of *cars* is doubtful : if Celtic, it may be Pictish. It may be Cross-well (or even Norse, *kross-völlr*, the field of the cross).
- Chappell—Gaelic, *caibcal*, a cell or church. There is a tradition that St. Conval had a cell or primitive church here at a very early date.
- Commere—Cymric, *cwm*, a valley or hollow : *mor*, great—Great or big hollow. The accent is on *more*. In the bottom of this valley the ruins of Waterside and the Links of Lavern are situated.
- Corkindale-law—Norse, *Thorketoll's*, Gaelic, *Corkadalc's*, hill, hybrid—A proper name with suffix *law*, a hill.
- Cowden valley—Gaelic, *caltuinn*, hazel, and valley ; hybrid—Hazel valley.
- Cowden burn—Hazel burn.
- Cowden muir—Hazel muir or moor.
- The hazel is not a conspicuous growth in any of these places at the present day ; but in very early times, and before this tract of country became so public and altered, it probably was so, as the valley would be very suitable for its growth, and at present the tree or shrub grows freely to the west of it, at Uplawmoor.
- The Craig—Gaelic, *creag*, the rock. The name of a farm on the east skirt of the Pad, a large trap hill west of the town.
- Craig o' Carnock—Gaelic, *creag*, a rock or hill : *carnach*, place of cairns—Cairnplace rocks or cairnshaped hill. This trap hill has quite the shape of a very large cairn or

tumulus. It is quite a detached hillock, and Macdonald, in his *Rambles*, describes it as "presenting a sort of *fac-simile* in miniature of Arthur's Seat."

Craigheads—Gaelic, *creag*, a rock, and heads—Rock of projections.

Craigiebar—Gaelic, *creag*, rock : *bar*, obstruction—Rocky obstruction. Or, *craig a' bharr*, "rock of the top," or rock with a projecting top.

Dodhill—Cumbrian—Mountain with round summit.

Dubs—*cf.* Gaelic, *dubh* ; Old Welsh, *dub*, black—Black pools.

Duchallaw—Gaelic, *dubh*, black, *choill'*, wood, black wood ; derivative, *dubhallach* ; and Sc. *law*, hill—Blackwood-hill.

Dumgraine—*dum* for Gaelic, *tom* ; Cymric, *tom*, knoll or hillock : hence grain-knoll—Grain-hill.

Duncarnock—Gaelic, *dun*, fort : *carnach*, stony—Stony-fort.

Durduff—*dur* for Gaelic, *torr* ; Welsh, *twr*, hill of conic shape : *dubh*, black—Black conical hill.

Fereneze or Ferenenze, Fernieneze (1296), as it is spelled in some old records—Gaelic, *fern*, the alder, or *fearna*, alderwood : *innes*, mead or marsh—Aldermead or Alderwood marsh. *Cf.* cognate place name Ferinish in Morvern Parish. This hill is situated at the north-east end of Levern Valley and has a varying height of about 500 feet. At its most prominent part it occupies a somewhat angular position at Grahamston, Barrhead, where it turns northward, in the direction of Paisley, to join Gleniffer Braes ; whilst, in the direction of Neilston, it turns westward to join Capellie hill range. At the top of the hill the land extends backwards with an irregular surface, having Harelaw Dam, through which the boundary of the parish passes in this direction, in one of its hollows. In the earliest records all these hills—extending from Paisley to Caldwell—are described as being covered with forest, and that, as the wild deer were abundant on the hills, they were preserved as a hunting forest for the Stewards of Scotland, their hunting lodge being Blackhall, Paisley, part of which still exists, and John le Hunter, de la Forreste de Pasly, is mentioned in *Ragman's Roll*, Anno, 1296. There is also a village of Fereneze referred to, and most probably this village was situated on the southern, or what is now Barrhead, slope of the hill, and in the vicinity of Chappell, where the ancient religious house of St. Conval then was ; where an old well and some ruins, thought to be relics some way associated with the early chapel, still exist. The place-name probably had been suggested to the ancient name-makers by the free and vigorous growth of the alder tree in the marshy uplands and in the ancient forest. And it is only necessary to observe the healthy and vigorous growth of the alders planted a few years ago at Rockwood, to see how suitable the environments of Fereneze still are for the growth of this particular tree.

Head of Side—Gaelic, hybrid, Engl., head : Old Gaelic, *side*, fairyhill—Head of fairy hill. Possibly connected with the circular mound (fairy circle) lower down the hill at the east end of Loch Libo. *Side*, the old spelling is here given ; and if the etymon be right, it takes us back to the old form when the *d* was as yet unaspirated in the word (eighth or ninth century) ; *sidhe* being a much later spelling.

Kilburn—Gaelic, hybrid, *cell*, *kil*, church : Scot., burn, a stream—The church stream, or burn. Most probably from the burn (Levern) which comes from the vicinity of the very early church at Waterside and flows past the farm, forming its boundary in Midge Glen.

- Killoch—Gaelic, *cin*, head (*n* assimilated to *l* following), and loch—Head of loch or loch head.
- Knockanae—Gaelic, *cnoc*, hill: *an-agh*, hind; gen. *aigh*—Hill of the hind.
- Knockglass—Gaelic, *cnoc*, hill; Old Welsh, *cnoch*, tumulus: Gaelic and Old Welsh, *glas*, green—Greenhill.
- Knockloch—Gaelic, *cnoc*, hill: *loch*, loch—Hill loch.
- Knockmade—Gaelic, *cnoc*, hill: *madadh*, mastiff (wild dog), wolf—Hill of the wolf.
- Levern (river)—Celtic, from Pictish or Old British root cognate with Latin *luo*; cf. *Leven*, *Lovat*. The idea is “flowing water.”
- Linnhead—Gaelic, hybrid, *linne*, a pool or water, and head, Engl.—Head of the pool.
- Loch Libo—Libo is very obscure and, possibly, of great antiquity, even pre-Gaelic. Cf. *Liffy*, Dublin.
- The Moyne—Cymric, *mann*, cognate with E. Irish *mōin*, peat, bog, or moss. Same name occurs in *The Moyne*, a peaty stretch between Durness and Tongue.
- Moyne Moor—Cymric, *mann*, peat: Celtic, *mor*, big, great—The big moss. Which, in this situation, extends miles into the adjoining parish.
- Plymuir—Obscure. The meaning seems to be “Muir-ton,” *ply* being through Old British in the sense of “ton.” Cf. Armorican, *plou*—Moor-dwelling; and quite descriptive of the farm.
- Polleick—Celtic, *baile* (farm), town, or steading, and *lic*, genitive of *leuc*, flag or flagstone—town of the flagstones; having reference to the outcrop of limestone flags under the steading.
- Paisley Road—Paisley, Gaelic, *Paislig*, from Latin, *basilica*, ultimately through Greek, *βασιλική*, palace, or abbey, and *road*, A.-S. pa. t. of *ridan*, to ride. The ride or road to the Abbey. At the early period here implied, the busy burgh of Barrhead would be non-existent, and the people of the parish would mostly find their way to chapel by this road to Paisley, or the Abbey.
- Syde—Celtic, *side*, fairy hill; possibly connected with the circular mound above the east end of Loch Libo.
- Tinnoch—Gaelic, *teine*, fire—Where Beltane fires were probably kindled.
- Whitehouse—Mid. Engl.—Whitearn, house. Latin writers used the word *candida* as in *candida casa* at Whithorn.

PLACE-NAMES OF TEUTONIC ORIGIN.

- Arthurlie—Proper name, with suffix *lie*—Mid. Engl., a field—Arthur’s field.
- Auld Barn—Scot.—Old barn.
- Banklug—Doric—A tautology; beside the bank of a stream.
- Barnfaulds—Doric—Barn enclosure.
- Bogside—Scot.—Beside the bog or marsh.
- Boghous—Scot.—Dwelling in the moss.
- Boon the Brae—Doric—Above the hill.
- Bowfield—Scot.—A hollow field.
- Braeface—Scot.—The face or slope of the hill.
- Broadlie—A.-S.—Broad, with Mid. Engl. *lie* suffix, broad fields.
- Burhouse—Scot.—Dwelling beside a stream.
- Burnhouse—Scot.—A dwelling beside a stream.

- Colinburn Glen—Proper name, Colin's burn ; glen, A.-S., small valley.
- Craigha'—Scot. "rock-hall"—House on the hill.
- Crofthead—A.-S., cognate with Dutch *kroft*, a little hill ; and Eng. head—Head of little hill.
- Daruley—Proper name.
- Dinsmuir—Obscure.
- Dyke—A.-S.—A ditch ; probably referring to the ditch between Dyke and Greenhills farms.
- Fauldhead—Doric—Pastoral ; top of sheep-fold.
- Fifthpart—Doric—Agricul. ; a farm where one-fifth part of the multure was thirled to a mill.
- Finnybrae—Proper name ; and brae, a hill slope.
- Foreside—Front of a hill slope.
- Gateside—Doric—by the side of the gate or road ; by the wayside.
- Glanderston—Probably a proper name ; with the A.-S. suffix *ton*.
- Grahamston—Proper name ; with A.-S. suffix *ton*, town.
- Grange—Engl.—A granary.
- Greenfield moor—The green fields of a moorish farm.
- Greenhills—Engl. (Name of a farm.)
- Greenside—Engl. (Name of a farm.)
- Harelaw—Scot.—Hill of the hares.
- Hartleyhill—Proper name, and hill.
- Hillside—Engl.—The slope of the hill.
- Holehouse—Scot.—House or dwelling in a hollow.
- How-Craig—Scots—Hollow in the rocks.
- Jaapston—Probably a proper name ; and the A.-S. suffix *ton*, a farm town.
- Kirkhill—Scot.—A hill near the church.
- Kirkstile—A.-S.—Stigel to climb ; and probably derived from a step or stile leading to a lane or pathway to the church in early times.
- Kirkton—Scot. *kirk* : A.-S., *ton*, dwelling or enclosure—A dwelling near the kirk.
- Kirkton-field—Scot., *kirk*, and *ton*, and field—Dwellings in field near the kirk.
- "Kissing-tree." The stubby old thorn bearing this name, which stood near the summit of the path across Fereneze Braes from Neilston to Paisley, passed away about fifty years ago. The associations of the name, however, seem to have been too interesting to allow it to die out, and so there is still a "kissing-tree" on the Braes, but not that referred to by Macdonald in his delightful *Rambles*, under date 14th August, 1852.
- Knowe—Scot.—A little hill.
- Loanfoot—Scot.—Lower end of narrow road.
- Luckiesfauld—Doric—The old woman's enclosure.
- Mains—Mediæval Eccl.—The granary of the Abbey homesteads.
- Mall's mill—Doric—Mary's mill.
- Maukens Glen—Doric—The hares' glen.
- Middleton—A.-S., *midd*, middle : *ton*, town—The middle farm town.
- Midgehole Glen—Doric—Probably a corruption of image hole. There is a tradition that the iconoclastic reformers threw an image, taken from the church at Waterside, into the pool under Kilminning's fall on the Levern, in this glen, hence the name.
- Milnthird—Engl. mill, and third—A farm where one-third of the multure was thirled to a particular mill.
- Mossneuk—Doric—Corner of the moss.
- Muirhead—Doric—Head of the moor.

- Muirhouse—Doric—Dwelling in the moor.
- Neilston—Proper name ; with suffix *ton*, town.
- Neilstonside—Doric—Beside or near Neilston.
- Netherton—Engl. *nether*, lower : A.-S., *ton*, enclosure—Lower farm town or steading.
- Neukfoot—Doric—The bottom corner.
- Ouplay—Up-hill ; variant of Uplaw.
- Over-Carswell—Above Carswell. See Carswell.
- The Pad—Doric—A large trap hill, so named from the resemblance it is said to bear to the pillion or saddle-pad used by ladies, when it was customary for them to ride sitting behind gentlemen.
- Parkhouse—Doric—A dwelling in the field.
- Pattieston—Doric—Proper name Peter ; with suffix *ton*, a dwelling.
- Peesweep—Doric—Named from the cry of the lapwing—*vanellus cristatus*—common round the moorland road where this house is situated.
- Picketlaw¹—picket, a small military out-post ; and *lagh*, a hill—Hill of the pickets.
- Shilford—Doric—Corruption of shallow ford. In early times the water from Thortor burn crossed the road here on its way to Loch Libo.
- Sergeantlaw—Military—Hill of observation during military occupation of the country.
- Sidebraes—Scot.—Hills on the north side of Loch Libo valley.
- Smithyhill—Doric—From a farrier's shop at one time on the hill.
- Snypes—Ornith.—Probably from the birds of that name which frequent the marshy places round this farm.
- Springhill—Engl.—Hill of water springs.
- Stewart Raiss, or Raiss Castle—The name of an old castle now in ruins on the south bank of the river Lavern, east of Barrhead.—Obscure. An old map of 1654 gives the orthography as *Res*. Possibly the word is Old British, with some relation to the river which runs close past it : and a proper name.
- Tod-plantain—Nat. his.—The fox plantation.
- Thornlie moor—Doric—Thorn ; *lie*, field : muir—Thornfield-muir.
- Thortor burn
Athort the burn } —Doric—On the other side, or across the stream.
- Threepegrass—Mediæval agric.—Grass of the three-penny land.
- “Two-penny land of old extent”—Norse, *peighinn*, penny—Name attached to certain land on the west border of the parish, indicating Norse methods of valuation of land in Celtic Scotland.
- Uplaw—Doric—Up hill.
- Uplawmoor—Doric—Up hill muir.
- Walton—Scot.—A stone-walled dwelling as opposed to an earth or “clay biggin.”
- Wardlaw—*Ward*, to watch : *law*, a hill—Watch-hill.
- Wardhill—A variant on the above name. These hill tops were probably places for giving warning by means of fire-signals in times of inter-tribal strife.
- Waterside—Engl.—Beside the water.
- Windy ha'—Doric—A dwelling in a windy exposure.

¹ Picketlaw, west of Moyne moor, was the residence of the Captain of Neilston Militia in the time of the rebellion of the Pretender in 1745.

Witch Burn—Doric—A name probably derived from electrical phenomenon—as St. Elmo's fire—being witnessed during a thunderstorm, and ascribed by superstition to witchcraft. The writer had an experience of such a nature, and at this very bridge, during a professional night journey in an electrical storm. It was about two o'clock a.m. The night had been very stormy, and was at the time intensely dark, the whole sky—except along the eastern horizon, which showed a faint streak of light—being filled with dense clouds, darker than the ordinary nimbus cloud. The wind blew in great gusts from the north-west, across the high land of Caplaw moor, with occasional sharp showers of small hail; and at intervals broad sheets of lightning, accompanied by a quite audible, soft fluffy sound, passed sluggishly from the masses of cloud in the west to those in the east. The road through Greenfield moor dips into a slight hollow, where the moorland stream passes under the bridge at Witch Burn; and the writer, who was on horseback, was surprised to observe that, immediately on the horse getting into this hollow, both its ears became lit up with a shimmering phosphorescent glow, as if from a tiny light in each ear, and at the same time the creature becoming restless and uneasy, snorted as if its nostrils were being irritated also. Scarcely had there been time to realize these conditions, before the same phenomena overtook the rider, who had evidently now himself entered this electric stratum, as his eyebrows immediately began to emit a faint crackling sound and his moustache and locks to twitch and coruscate and shimmer with a luminosity similar to that displayed by the horse's ears. On getting beyond the bridge, under which the water was running, the phenomena entirely disappeared. It was evident that the atmosphere at this place was highly surcharged with electric fluid; that the electrically-laden clouds were so low as to admit of their electricity combining with that of the earth; and that the points of hair of the horse's ears and nostrils, and the writer's eyebrows and moustache, had become the medium of rendering it visible, in a manner analogous to the electrical brush. There can be little doubt that the name, Witch Burn, attached to this and the stream on Uplawmoor road, had its origin in some experience similar to the above, at a time when superstition exercised greater influence over the human mind than it happily does in the present age. So far this view is supported, as regards superstition, by the following story, from a gentleman whose family has had long connection with this parish. His grand-uncle, a man of substance, and owner of several farms at Sproulston, Kilbarchan, was in the habit of coming to Neilston to see his brother, who owned Holehouse farm, the journey being usually made on horseback. As evening had generally set in before he left to return, he always required two or three persons to accompany him and see him as far as the Witch Burn, in Greenfield moor, on his way home, so great was his dread of being caught by witches at that place after dark. When nearing the burn, he was suspicious and watchful, but when safely past that uncanny spot he became cheerful, and could bid his escort "good-bye," in excellent spirits. This would be about a hundred and forty years ago; and no doubt his friends considered his caution highly commendable, their own safety being assured by their number on the way back.

Waukmill Glen—Doric—*Wauk*, to thicken: mill and glen—The glen of the fuller's mill. An art introduced into this country by the Flemish merchants early in the twelfth century.

CHAPTER XXII.

1910—A RETROSPECT.

THE year 1910 has been in many respects, national and local, an eventful period.

It is the poet Campbell who says—

“The sunset of life gives us mystical lore,
And coming events cast their shadows before.”

THE COMET OF 1910^A.

The coming event of 1910 was what had long been common knowledge: that astronomers had foretold that that year was to witness the return to our skies of Halley's historic comet. Accordingly it was being waited and watched for eagerly in many quarters. But while this state of expectancy and outlook was being maintained at astronomical observatories especially, another and more brilliant and altogether unexpected member of the Cometary family, known as Comet 1910^a was suddenly announced from Cape Town, where it would seem to have first come under observation. Following very shortly on this came the further announcement that the stranger had been detected from the Observatory at Paisley. By the month of January, the wanderer was to be seen from many different stations, and in due time—the 29th of that month—as darkness came down, it had become a very brilliant and conspicuous naked-eye object in the western sky at Neilston, presenting a beautiful and fascinating yet marvellous and awe-inspiring appearance, with a clear nuclear head and great fan-shaped tail spread out over a wide extent of sky. It had already passed its perihelion, and was rapidly receding from our view to renew its wonderful journey through space.

HALLEY'S COMET.

But this splendid celestial object had only shortly disappeared from our ken, when astronomers began to proclaim the advent of Halley's great comet. It had been detected from Cambridge, and was rapidly

approaching our sun, and calculations made of its course showed that it would cross the orbit of our earth, coming between it and the sun; and that on the 19th-20th of May our planet would probably pass through its tail or coma. The prediction of Halley, the great English astronomer, whose name the comet bears, had again been verified as to its seventy-six years' period of recurrence. As a celestial appearance, however, it fell far short of the splendour of its immediate predecessor. As seen by the writer, on the evening of 24th May, low in the western sky at Neilston, it was dim in appearance, being neither so bright nor so well defined as 1910^a, and either had no tail or one so inconspicuous and nebulous as not to be always visible even with the aid of a glass. It should, however, be remarked that at the upper part of its south or left hand margin there was seen at times what appeared a short, shadowy, and slightly fan-shaped coma, rather broader than it was long. But even this could not always be made out. Its stay with us was short and opportunities of seeing it few, in consequence of the hazy state of the evening atmosphere.

THE KING'S DEATH.

Our great dramatist tells us that comets do not appear at the death of beggars, but herald in the demise of kings¹; and already the nation had been startled by the announcement that the King—Edward VII., the Peace-Maker—was seriously ill, so seriously, indeed, that the very terms of the earliest bulletin clearly foreshadowed the imminence of his death, which took place on 6th May, 1910—an event coming on us so suddenly that it may be said to have given pause, not to the British nation only, but to the whole civilised world.

PARISH AFFAIRS.

But scarcely had the feelings of the people in Neilston district rallied from this national bereavement, when one of those social upheavals, which from time to time overtake industrial centres and absorb all other interests, burst upon our community, without warning; when what at first was only a small dispute affecting a single department of the work concerned, developed with such startling rapidity as in three

¹ "Julius Cæsar," Act ii., Scene ii. :—

"When beggars die there are no comets seen;
The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes."

weeks to bring about a general lock-out or strike involving the interests of 1500 employees, and possibly many hundreds more people, and throwing idle all the operatives in R. F. & J. Alexander & Co.'s large thread mills, which are part of The English Sewing Cotton Co., Limited.

These mills, and their importance to our community, have already been referred to when dealing with the industries of the parish, and from what was then said, it must be obvious that any movement leading to this work being closed, even temporarily, must seriously concern all the people of our town.

The closing chapters of this book were passing through the press when these stirring events were transpiring, and it was considered that a History of the Parish would be incomplete if these events, which were unique as regards our experience, were left unnoticed, and hence it has been thought proper to introduce an account of the strike in the form of a retrospect, jointly with other happenings in this, which will be an ever memorable year, not to the nation only, but also, and in an especial sense, to our parish.

THE STRIKE.

In the course of what might be looked upon as a natural development in the work, some changes were being introduced in the speed regulations of the machinery used in cop-winding in Crofthead Mill, in consequence of which it was proposed to make certain alterations in the prices paid for the work. This did not meet with the approval of the workers, and, after giving the new process and new prices three days' trial, the girls seem all to have discovered that the change would seriously reduce their wages, and that it was impossible to go on in the circumstances.

An appeal was consequently made to the management. But as it failed to effect any alteration in their grievance, the girls resolved, to the number of 120, to stop work, and accordingly, on Monday, 16th May, 1910, they left the mill in a body, and a strike was declared in the cop-winding department. For a short time, at first, this seemed to have little or no effect upon the other parts of the mill, which went on much as if nothing had happened.

At the outset of the movement the girls on strike had no connection with any Union, and were quite unorganised. But the representatives of "The National Federation of Women Workers," early began to champion their cause, and meetings were held in the Glen Halls, under their guid-

ance, at which large numbers of the workers, those on strike and those not on strike, joined the Union. At this stage several interviews took place between the management and the Federation leaders, when an endeavour was made, by compromise on the part of the girls, to come to an understanding on the several points in dispute. It was hoped, as the result of these consultations, that a possible basis of agreement had been reached, and the manager left for Manchester to consult his directors in the matter. But a telegram on the 25th May dashed all hopes of any early settlement—the directors would deal only with their workers and would not treat with outsiders.

Much indignation among the workers followed this announcement, and after a meeting held with their leaders, in the dinner meal hour, on Monday, 6th June, all hands, male and female, that were still in the mill, failed to resume work that afternoon; with the result that, as already stated, 1500 workers were thrown idle, and the gates were closed till further notice. The excitement which, up till this crisis, had been of a moderate character, immediately assumed quite a different aspect, and, with an alarming suddenness, became not only demonstrative but even aggressive; when manager, foremen, and all who were thought to be in any way against the strikers, came in for some rough treatment.

After one of the meetings, held in the vicinity of the mill, many of the windows were smashed, not, it is satisfactory to record, by the women workers, but by strangers and thoughtless lads who followed in their procession when the meeting broke up.

At this stage of the agitation the town was posted with bills announcing that, at a full meeting of the directors of the company, held at Manchester, and after full consideration of the cause of the strike, so confident were the directors that the changes complained of would not have the effect of reducing the cop-winders' wages, but, on the contrary, if given a fair trial, would improve them, that they were, and still are, prepared to guarantee that the wages would be no less than they had been before the change was introduced; and that they would treat only with their own workers and would have no dealings with outsiders. No immediate action followed this overture.

On the evening of Friday, 10th June, with banners flying and headed by a piper, a procession, mostly of women workers, began a toilsome march of ten miles, from Neilston to Pollokshields, through Barrhead, where they were joined by the workers resident there. The object of the march was to make a condemnatory demonstration in front of the manager's house;

but there had been rain during the day and the roads were soft, and soon became slippery by the tramping of so many feet, and as the evening set in close and sultry, much fatigue and distress was experienced by the poor girls from heat and exhaustion, long before the end of the journey was reached.

The meetings, which at first were held in the Glen Halls, were of quite an orderly character. But latterly, from the crowds that attended them, made up largely of outsiders, the halls were much too small for their numbers, and the meetings were subsequently held in the football field. Here the crowd became still greater, and as the different speakers, each with his or her own axe to grind, harangued the assembled mass, excitement ran high, and, as a matter of precaution, a considerable body of police were drafted into the town. But happily, unless to hold the rougher and more youthful element in check, their services were little required, as, notwithstanding the keenness of feeling that existed among the workers generally, their better sense prevailed, and there was even a disposition to see the humorous side of certain aspects of the crowd. At this stage, the attitude assumed by the directors, in determining that they would deal only with their workers, and recognise no outsiders, was like to aggravate the difficulty of negotiation, more especially as this was a mere arbitrary resolution on their part, the principle having already been conceded in the earlier stages of the dispute, by the management having admitted the Federation agents to several interviews. It was, therefore, matter of great and general satisfaction that, by the middle of June, it was observed that better feelings were beginning to gain ground, at the meetings and otherwise, and that both parties were prepared to submit the matters in dispute to the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, who had been requested to assist with their good offices, and had consented to act. In due time a meeting was arranged for, under the auspices of this Board, and took place in St. Enoch's Station Hotel, on 16th June, which was attended by a deputation selected from among the aggrieved cop-winders. After full consideration and discussion, such terms of agreement were come to, as—subject to the body of strikers approving of the doings of their deputation to the conference—would terminate the strike, and admit of work being resumed at the mill on the following Monday. Happily, the terms of settlement were considered satisfactory, and approved of at a meeting, held on the return of the deputation from Glasgow on the same evening, and amidst much joy and cheering there seemed to be a general sense of gladness that the strife

was past. The mill was again started, and work resumed on Monday, 20th June, five weeks after the beginning of the strike.

How much was gained by the strike; or to what extent the cop-winders, who were the occasion of it, had benefited by it; and whether the alleged cause justified the occasion, the writer is unable to determine. But that it was, for a time, the occasion of much excitement and bitter feeling, and entailed, as a consequence, considerable loss and many painful incidents, is beyond question. If, however, the result of the agreement arrived at should lead to better and kindlier feelings between employer and employed, as we trust will be the case, and inspire a desire each to be actuated by a true sense of justice and equity in the future, then the cop-winders strike will not have been altogether in vain.

CHAPTER XXIII.

POLL TAX ROLL FOR THE YEAR 1695.

Neilstoun Parochine.

WRITERS of books pertaining to the history of any part of the County of Renfrew since 1864, the date of his work, have been under a debt of gratitude, expressed or otherwise, to the late David Semple, Esq., Writer, Paisley, for the labour he devoted to compiling the Poll Tax Roll from the manuscript Rolls of 1695, which are still extant in the Charter chest of Paisley, and written in old Saxon characters, applicable to the shire for that year. Semple's articles were originally published in the *Glasgow Herald*, and very few copies are now to be found. The writer has been favoured by the loan of what was the compiler's own copy from which to make the following extract relating to the parish of Neilstou.

The proclamation of King William of Orange and his Queen, Mary, to the throne of Great Britain, took place at Edinburgh, 11th April, 1689, being two months after their proclamation at London, on 13th February of the same year; and the Poll Tax had its origin six years later in the Poll Money Act of the Scottish Parliament for the year 1695. This Act empowered the imposition of a special tax to maintain the military efficiency of the country. The tax amounted to six shillings a head on all the inhabitants over sixteen years of age, only those living by charity being exempted; men who had trades paid double, whilst merchants and titled persons paid more.

The Poll Tax Roll is therefore an accurate and authentic record of the names and occupations of all the people in the parish over the age of sixteen years, and of the places of their residence at the time, and cannot fail to be of interest to the inhabitants, especially the older families, in tracing family connections. The sums charged against the names are in Scots money, which, as we have already seen, is one-twelfth of money sterling. The following contractions are used: Val., valuation; lib., pounds; sh., shillings; d., pence; mks., merks; gen., gnall., general; daur., daughter; servt., servd., servant; yor., younger; yr., their. Names occurring in the Roll that refer to the occupation of the people are: Cordoner, shoemaker; taylior, tailor; oye, grandchild; por., portioner; fie, fee.

NEILSTOUNSYDS LANDS IN DUMGREIN.

Jo. Hamiltoune, heretor, yr., 18 lib. 10 sh. val., 3 sh. 8d.; Isso. Hamiltoune, his wife, 6 sh.; Jean, her sister, 6 sh.,	£1 1 8
John Renfrew, yr., 18 lib. 10 sh. val., 3 sh. 8d.; Jean Craig, spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 15 8
John Andrew, yr., 18 lib. 10 sh. val., 3 sh. 8d.; John and Marion, childreine, each 6 sh.,	1 1 8
John Andrew, yr., 25 lib. 10 sh. val., 5 sh. 4d.; Jennet Lachlane, spouse, 6 sh.; John and Matt., childreine, each 6 sh.; John Cochrane, servant, 15 lib. fie, 13 sh. 6d.,	2 2 8
James Crafoord, yr., 37 lib. val., 7 sh. 6d.; Margaret Andrew, spouse, 6 sh.; James, Jennet, and Margaret, children, each 6 sh.,	1 17 4
Robert Hamiltoune, his uncle, 6 sh.; James Crafoord, in house with him, 6 sh., John Spreul, 37 lib. val., 7 sh. 6d.; Marg. Polleick, spouse, 6 sh.; Thomas Steinsoune, servant, 9 lib. fie, 4 sh. 6d.; John Neilie, in hervest 7 lib. fie, 3 sh. 6d.; Margt. Craig and Margt. Morrey, 6 lib. fie, each 3 sh.; inde	1 10 6
Robert Spreul, yr., 15 lib. val., 3 sh.; John, Matt., and Jennet Spreuls, childreine, each 6 sh.,	1 7 0
Allan Andrew, cotter, no trade, 6 sh.,	0 6 0
Rot. Scott, 15 lib., 3 sh.; Jean Fulltoune, spouse, 6 sh.; Alex. and Marion, childreine, each 6 sh.,	1 7 0
Rot. Pinkertoune, cotter, weiver, 12 sh. trade and pole; Margt. Pattiesoune, spouse, 6 sh.,	0 18 0
Jennet Andrew, yr., 18 lib. val., 3 sh. 8d.; Helen Dinsmuire, daur., 6 sh.; John Dinsmuire, servant, 20 mks. fie, 6 sh. 8d.,	1 8 4
John Fauls, 25 lib. val., 5 sh.; Matt. Spreull, servant, 18 lib. fie, 7 sh. 6d.,	1 17 6
Rot. Arskine, 15 lib. val.; Walker, 12 sh.,	0 12 0
John Arskine, his brother, in house with him, 6 sh.,	0 6 0
John Stewart, cotter, no trade, 6 sh.; Robert Stewart, and Margaret Stewart, daur., 6 sh. each,	0 18 0
John Caldwell of yt. ilk, 366 lib. 13 sh. 4d. val., 9 lib. 6 sh.; John, Margt., and Jean Caldwell, childreine, each 6 sh.; John Peock, sert., 14 lib. fie, 7 sh.; Samuell Watt, servant, 23 lib. 10 sh. fie, 11 sh. 10d; Margt. Paul, sert., 16 lib. fie, 8 sh.; Mary Pollock, servant, 16 lib. fie, 8 sh., ...	13 0 0
Robert Lohead, taylior, 3 lib. val., 12 sh. trade and pole; Margt. Masoune, his wife, 6 sh.,	0 18 0
Robert Dinsmuir, 13 lib. 6 sh. 8d. val., 2 sh. 6d.; Barbara Cochrane, his wife, 6 sh.; Helen, his daur., 6 sh.,	1 0 8
James Dinsmuir, 23 lib. 6 sh. 8d. val., 4 sh. 8d.; Marion Glen, his wife, 6 sh.; Jean and Barbara, daurs., each 6 sh.,	1 8 8
John Dinsmuir, cotter, no trade, 6 sh.; Isso. Gillies, his wife, 6 sh., ...	0 12 0
John Gillies, cotter, cordoner, 12 sh. trade and pole; Isso. Robiesoune, his wife, 6 sh.; Wm. Lylle, journeyman, 12 sh.,	1 10 0
Robert Gillies, 38 lib. val., 7 sh. 8d.; Jennet Bisket, his wife, 6 sh.; Jean Lohead, servant, 10 lib. 13 sh. 4d. fie, 5 sh. 4d.,	1 11 0
Tho. Gillies, cotter, weiver, yr., 12 sh. trade and pole; Margt. Wilsoune, his wife, 6 sh.,	0 18 0

POLL TAX ROLL.

225

David Smith, yr., 3 lib. 6 sh. 8d. val., 8d. ; Ursilla Swane, his wife, 6 sh., ...	£0 12 8
John Swane, 15 lib. 6 sh. 8d., 13 sh. ; Jonnet Lohead, spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 15 0
Robert Steinsoune, 10 lib. val., 2 sh. ; Jennet Clerk, his moyr., and John, his brother, each 6 sh., ...	1 0 0
John Clerk, 26 lib. 13 sh. 4d. val., 5 sh. 4d. ; Margaret Boyd, his wife, 6 sh. ; Ro. Peock, sert., 16 lib. fie, 8 sh. ; Agnas Orr, servant, 12 lib. fie, 12 sh.,	2 3 4
Wm. Clerk, in Rigglaw, 26 lib. 13 sh. 4d. val., 5 sh. 4d. ; Wm., his sone, 6 sh. ; Jean Biggert, his oye, 6 sh. ; Margt. Walker, servant, 16 lib. fie, 8 sh.,	1 19 4
John Adam, cotter, shoemaker, 12 sh., ...	0 12 0
Margt. Peock, 22 lib. val., 4 sh. 6d. ; John and Jean Caldwell, childreine, each 6 sh., ...	1 2 6
Wm. Clerk, 23 lib. 6 sh. 8d. val., 7 sh. 4d. ; Jean Stewart, his wife, 6 sh. ; Isso. Caldwell, sert., 14 lib. fie, 7 sh., ...	1 13 4
Alexr. Clerk, 23 lib. 6 sh. 8d. val., 4 sh. 8d. ; Marion Clerk, his wife, 6 sh. ; Jonnet Love, servant, 11 lib. fie, 5 sh. 6d., ...	1 8 2
Wm. Caldwell, yr., 23 lib. 6 sh. 8d. val., 4 sh. 8d. ; Jean Caldwell, his wife, 6 sh. ; Chr. Gray, sert., 13 lib. fie, 6 sh. 6d., ...	1 9 2
John Steinsoune, 10 lib. val., 2 sh. ; Jennett Peock, his wife, 6 sh. ; Marion, his daur., 6 sh., ...	1 0 0
James Stirling, 14 lib. val., 2 sh. 10d. ; Marion Gillmour, his wife, 6 sh. ; John, his son, 6 sh., ...	1 0 10
Robert Craig, 8 lib. val., weiver, twelve shill. trade and pole, ...	0 12 0
Martha Andersoune, 12 lib. 13 sh. 4d., and her son and daur., ...	1 0 0
Robert Caldwell, serd. to James Gillies, fie 12 lib., ...	0 12 0

THE LANDS OF CALDWALL,

BELONGING TO THE LADY.

Allan Stewart, 12 lib. val., 2 sh. 6d. ; Margaret Storrie, spouse, 6 sh. ; Jo. and Allan, childreine, each 6 sh., ...	1 6 4
John Pollock, 20 lib. val., smith, 12 sh. ; Margaret Spreull, spouse, 6 sh. ; Margt. Cochrane, servant, 12 lib. fie, 12 sh. ; Agnes Craig, herd, 10 mks. fie, 3 sh. 4d. ; Ro. Fairie, in hervest 4 lib. fie, 2 sh., ...	2 1 4
Patt. Craig, 14 lib. val., 13 sh. ; Margt. Robiesoune, spouse, 6 sh. ; Agnes and Isso. Craigs, daurs., each six shill., ...	1 13 0
Wm. Peock, 14 lib. val., 3 sh. ; Jean Craig, spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 15 0
Wm. Peock, elder, no trade, 6 sh. ; Ann Love, spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 12 0
Patt. Parkhill, 10 lib. val., 2 sh. ; Agnes Robiesoune, spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 14 0
Dav. Craig, 11 lib. val., 2 sh. 2d. ; Margt. Cochrane, his spouse, 6 sh. ; Marion Connell, herd, 3 lib. fie, 1 sh. 6d. ; Mertha Peock, 2 lib. fie in hervest, 1 sh.,	1 2 8
And. Robiesoune, 14 lib. val., 3 sh. ; Mary Hobken, spouse, 6 sh. ; Jean Giffine, sert., 10 lib. fie, 5 sh., ...	1 7 0
John Dinsmuir, 25 lib. val., 5 sh. ; Margt. Steinsoune, spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 17 0
Tho. Dinsmuir, cotter, weiver, 12 sh. trade and pole ; Agnes Andersoune, Andersoune, spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 18 0

John Skinsoune, 30 lib. val., 6 sh.; Margt. Andersoune, spouse, 6 sh.; Margt. Ross, servt., 15 lib. fie, 7 sh. 6d.; John Ross, in house with him, no trade, 6 sh.,	£1 17 6
James Thomsoune, yr., 10 lib. val.	
Wm. Gillies, 20 lib. val, 4 sh.; Bessie Cochrane, spouse, 6 sh.; William Neillie, herd, 5 lib. 12 sh. fie, 2 sh. 10d.,	1 5 0
John Cochrane, 20 lib. val., 4 sh.; Margt. King, spouse, 6 sh.,	0 16 0
John Giffene, cotter, shoemaker, 12 sh. trade and pole; Jennet Gillies, spouse, 6 sh.,	0 18 0
John Steinsoune, in Holehouse, 31 lib. val., 6 sh. 2d.; Elizabeth Neil, spouse, 6 sh.; Robt., his sone, 6 sh.,	1 4 2

THE 17 LIB. LAND IN NEILSTOUN.

John Pollock of Greinhill, heretor, 93 lib. val., 4 lib. 6 sh.; Isso. Magie, spouse, 6 sh.; Jennet, Margt., and Isso. Pollocks, childreine, each 6 sh.; John Pollock, sert., 23 lib. 6 sh. 8d. fie, 11 sh. 8d.; Margt. Strean, sert., 14 lib. 13sh. 4d. fie, 7 sh. 4d.; Agnes Leggett, sert., 11 lib. 13sh. 4d. fie, 5 sh. 10d.; John Pollock, herd, 6 lib. fie, 3 sh.,	8 2 0
Robert Young of Carswall, 31 lib. 5 sh. val., heretor, 4 lib. 6 sh.; Jennet Gilmour, spouse, 6 sh.; Helen and Margt., childreine, each 6 sh.; Wm. Stewart, servant, 21 lib. fie, 10 sh. 6d.; Margt. Lothead, servant, 15 lib. fie, 7 sh. 6d.; Thomas Young, in harvest, 8 lib. fie, 4 sh.,	3 18 0
Thomas Young, his brother, in house with him,	0 6 0
Jennet Stewart, cotter,	0 6 0
Euphame Whyte, cotter,	0 6 0
Robert Craig, tennent, 35 lib. val., 7 sh.; Margt. Craig, spouse, 6 sh.; Ro., Jean, and Jen., childreine, each 6 sh.; Ja. Craig, 8 lib. hervest fie, 4 sh.,	2 1 0
Thomas Cuthbertsoune, por., yr., 24 lib. val., 1 lib. 6 sh.; Thomas and Mary, childreine, each 6 sh.; Wm. Giffine, in hervest, 7 lib. fie, 3 sh. 6 d.; Mary Stewart, in hervest, 6 lib. fie, 3 sh.,	2 4 6
Marie Stewart, with Thos. Cuthbertsoune, in summer,	0 6 0
James Steinsoune, por., yr., 37 lib. val., 1 lib. 6 sh.; Marion Andrew, spouse, 6 sh.; Robert aud Jennet, childreine, each 6 sh.,	2 4 0
Ja. Steinsoune, yor., yr., 6 sh.; Jennet Andersoune, spouse, 6 sh.,	0 12 0
John Stewart, heretor of Moyne, 34 lib. val., 1 lib. 6 sh.; Ursilla Cors, spouse, 6 sh.; Anable Allan, sert., 10 lib. fie, 5 sh.,	2 3 0
Rot. Carswall, tennent, yr., 34 lib. val., 7 sh; Agnas Stewart, spouse, 6 sh.; Ro. Carswall, his sone, 6 sh.; Jennet Wilsoune, servant, 6 lib. fie, 3 sh.,	1 14 0
Allan Gillmour, por. of Carswall, 47 lib. val., 1 lib. 6 sh.; Barbara Andersoune, spouse, 6 sh.; Robt. Steinsoune, servant, 20 lib. fie, 10 sh.; Jean Carswall, servant, 17 lib. fie, 8 sh. 6d.; John Steinsoune, herd, 9 lib. fie, 4 sh. 6d.,	3 3 2
Wm. Muire, cotter, taylior, 12 sh. trade and pole; Cath. Rodger, his wife, 6sh.,	0 18 0
Wm. Steinsoune, cotter, taylior, 12 sh.; Marion Lylle, spouse, 6 sh.,	0 18 0
John Steinsoune, in Craig of Neilston, 33 lib. val., 6 sh. 8d.; Jennet Cameron, spouse, 6 sh.; Allan Cumine, in hervest, 10 mks. fie, 3 sh. 4d.,	1 2 0

John Carswall, yr., 33 lib. val., 6 sh. 8d. ; Barbara Carswall, spouse, 6 sh. ; Jennet Gordoune, herd, 4 lib. fie, 2 sh.,	£1 6 8
Rot. Carswall, yr., 23 lib. val., 4 sh. 8d. ; Jennet Gemmell, spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 16 8
Rot. Carswall, his sone, 6 sh. ; Cat. Pollock, his wife, 6 sh. ; Wm. Gemmell, herd, 7 lib. fie, 3 sh. 6d. ; Margt. Blair, in hervest, 8 mks. fie, 2 sh. 8d.,	1 4 2
Robt. Pollock, in Snypes, 6 sh. ; Jennet Simpsoune, his spouse, 6 sh. ; Robt., his sone, 6 sh.,	0 18 0
James Hamiltoune, tennent, 33 lib. val., 6 sh. 8d. ; Jennet Stewart, spouse, 6 sh. ; Agnas Pollock, in hervest, 6 lib. fie, 3 sh.,	1 1 8
Allan Carswall, yor., tennent, 33 lib. val., 6 sh. 8d. ; Jennet Carwall, spouse, 6 sh.,	1 0 0
Allan Carswall, elder, tennent, 33 lib. val , 6 sh. 8d. ; Margt. Carswall, spouse, 6 sh. ; Jannet, his daur., 6 sh.,	1 4 8
Bessie Thomsoune, cotter,	0 6 0
John Park, cotter, and his wife,	0 12 0
George Cunninghame, cotter, smith, 12 sh. trade and pole; Marion Allasoune, spouse, 6 sh. ; Barbara Steinsoune, sert., 6 lib. 10s. fie, 3 sh. 4d., ...	1 7 4
Geo. Arstoune, por. of Netherkirktoune, 44 lib. val., 1 lib. 6 sh. ; Agnas Liggett, spouse, 6 sh. ; Robt. Arstoune, sert., 13 lib. fie, 6 sh. 6d. ; Jennet Steinsoune, in harvest, 4 lib. fie, 2 sh. ; Dav. Andersoune, herd, 3 lib. fie, 1 sh. 6d.,	
Wm. Steinsoune, in Kirkhill, tennent, 20 lib. val., 4 sh. ; Jennet Glen, spouse, 6 sh. ; Margt. Steinsoune, servant, 8 lib. fie, 4 sh.,	1 6 0
Mat. Andersoune, heretor of Bredlie, 50 lib. val., 4 lib. 6 sh. ; Margt. Young, spouse, 6 sh. ; Anabell Allan, in hervest, 5 lib. fie, 2 sh. 6d. ; James, his sone, 6 sh.,	5 6 0
Mat. Andersoune, yor., yr., 6 sh. ; Margt. Cuthbertsoune, his wife, 6 sh., ...	0 12 0
Wm. Park, tennent, 30 lib. val., 6 sh. ; Margt. Arstoune, spouse, 6 sh. ; Isso. Craig, in hervest, 6 lib. fie, 3 sh. ; James Gillmour, herd, 4 lib. fie, 2 sh.,	1 11 0
Isso. Craig, cotter, 6 sh.,	0 6 0
Jo. Gillies, cotter, no trade, 6 sh. ; Agnas Carswall, spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 12 0
Allan Cumine, cotter, 6 sh. ; Agnas Carswall, spouse, 6 sh.,	0 12 0
Wm. Stewart, cotter, taylior, 12 sh. ; Emalie Wallsoune, spouse, 6 sh. ; Amalie Boyd, his goodmoyr., 6 sh.,	1 4 0
John Barr, in Kirktoune, 50 mks. val., 6 sh. 8d. ; Jennet Stewart, spouse, 6 sh. ; Alex., Barbara, Jen, childreine, each 6 sh.,	1 10 0
Wm. Barr, yr., 31 lib. val., 6 sh. 2d. ; Margt. Craig, spouse, 6 sh. ; John Cumine, in hervest, 6 lib. fie, 3 sh.,	3 5 2
Ro. Pollock, in Greinhill, 46 lib. val., 9 sh 2d. ; Jean Pollock, spouse, 6 sh. ; Agnes Steinsoune, his moyr., 6 sh. ; Robert Lothead, servant, 16 lib. fie, 8 sh. ; Alexr. Carswall, herd, 6 lib. fie, 3 sh.,	3 5 2
Dav. Stewart, por. of Dyck, 40 mks. val., 1 lib. 6 sh. ; Jennet Andersoune, spouse, 6 sh. ; Allan Carswall, in hervest, 11 mks. fie, 3 sh. 8d. ; Margaret Caldwell, in hervest, 6 lib. fie, 3 sh. ; John Cochrane, herd, 5 lib. fie, 2 sh. 6d., ...	2 7 8
Tho. Barr, heretor, yr., 40 mks. val., 1 lib. 6 sh. ; Barbara Stewart, spouse, 6 sh. ; Allan Steinsoune, in hervest, 7 lib. fie, 3 sh. 6d. ; Helen Andrew, in hervest, 4 lib. fie, 2 sh.,	1 17 6

CRAIGENDS LANDS (now Craigheads).

Geor. Arstoune, elder, por. of Arthourlie, 50 lib. val., 4 lib. 6 sh.,	...	£4 6 0
Geo. Arstoune, yor., yr., 25 lib. val., 1 lib. 6 sh.; Elspe Gillmour, spouse, 6 sh.;		
Margt. Pollock, servant, 14 lib. fie, 7 sh.; Wm. Gillmour, in hervest, 8		
lib. fie, 4 sh.; James Lohead, herd, 3 lib. fie, 1 sh. 6d.,	... ..	2 10 6
Wm. Pattersoune, cotter, weiver, 12 sh.; Margt. Pinkertoune, spouse, 6 sh.,		0 18 0
Ja. Allasoune, yr., 40 lib. val., 8 sh.; Marion Carswall, spouse, 6 sh.; Ro.		
Barr, servant, 21 lib. fee, 10 sh. 6d.,	... ..	1 16 6
Allan Pollock, por. of Arthourlie, yr., 100 lib. val., 4 lib. 6 sh.; Sussanna		
Murdoch, spouse, 6 sh.; Ro., Allan, and Jean Pollock, bairnes, 6 sh.		
each; John Polleick, servant, 15 lib. fie, 7 sh. 6d.; Jean Biggert, sert.,		
15 lib. fie, 7 sh. 6d.; Allan Barr, in hervest, 8 lib. fie, 4 sh., and 6 sh. for		
his pole; Jenmet Lata, his spouse, 6 sh.: Ann Craig, 6 lib hervest fie,		
3 sh.; Margaret Wodrow, 6 lib. hervest fie, 3s.,	... ..	7 19 0
John Holms, cotter, 6 lib. hervest fie, 3 sh.; Jen. Steinsoune, spouse, 6 sh.,		0 18 0
Rot. Arstroune, in Wrayes, tenment, 50 mks. val., 6 sh. 8d.; Margt. Cochrane,		
spouse, 6 sh.; Barliara and Elizabeth, daurs., each 6 sh.,	... ..	1 10 8
Jo. Arstoune, yr., no trade, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 6 0
Geo. Young, yr., no trade, 6 sh.; Jean Arstoune, his spouse, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 12 0

THE LANDS OF LYNDXCROSS.

Ro. Maxwell, in Northbrae, 20 lib. val., and his wife,	... ..	0 16 0
Jo. Maxwell, in Littleloune, 30 lib. val., 6 sh.; Margt. Park, his spouse, 6 sh.;		
Agnas, his daur., 6 sh.; Jo. Faulds, sert., 18 lib. fie, 9 sh.; Jenmet Max-		
well and Jenmet Hamiltoune, in hervest, each 6 lib. fie, 3 sh.; John		
Gillmour, herd, 4 lib. fie, 2 sh.,	... ..	2 3 0
John Pollock, heretor, yr., 20 lib. val., 1 lib. 6 sh.; Jenmet Baird, his wife,		
6 sh.; Margt. Young, in hervest, 4 lib., 2 sh.,	... ..	1 12 0
John Knows, tennent, yr., 30 lib. val., 6 sh.; Agnas Deans, spouse, 6 sh.;		
Jennet, his daur., 6 sh.,	... ..	1 4 0
Dav. Wallace, in Knows, 30 lib. val., 6 sh.; Agnas Knows, spouse, 6 sh.; Jo.		
Faulds, herd, 3 lib. fie, 1 sh. 6d.; Helen M'Lellan, in hervest, 4 lib. fie,		
2 sh.,	... ..	1 7 6
Helen Pollock,	... ..

THE LANDS OF COMMORE.

Alex. Barr, yr., 50 lib. val., 10 sh.; Margt. Hunter, spouse, 6 sh.; Margt.,		
daur., 6 sh.; John Strean, servant, 18 lib. 6 sh. 8d. fie, 9 sh. 2d.; Jean		
Cumine, servant, 10 mks. fie, 3 sh. 4d.; Wm. Barr, herd, 8 lib. fie, 4 sh.;		
Jean Curry, harvest fie, 7 mks., is 2 sh. 4,	... ..	3 10 10
James Andersoune, of Kilburne, 67 lib. 10sh. val., with his wife and 3 children,		5 6 0
James Pinkertoun, cotter, weiver, and his wife; John Lohead, his prentice,		1 4 0
Hew Fultoune, indweller at the kirk of Neilston,	.. ..	0 6 0

Robert Lohead, cotter, weiver, 12 sh. ; Jean Lindsay, spouse, 6 sh.,	...	£0 18 0
Tho. Lohead, cotter, no trade, 6 sh. ; Jennet Craig, spouse, 6 sh.,	...	0 12 0
Nicoll Craig, tenment in Paticstoune, 23 lib. 9 sh. val., 4 sh. 8d. ; Barbara Craig, spouse, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 16 8
Wm. Craig, cotter, flesher, 12 sh. trad and pole ; Barbara Dinsmuire, his wife, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 18 0
Ro. Craig, tenment in Greinfield Muire, 23 lib. 6 sh. 8d. val., 4 sh. 8d. ; Jssou. King, spouse, 6 sh. ; John, Issobell, and Marion, childreine, each 6 sh., ine.,	1 14 8	
Jo. Burne, Cotter,	... ..	0 6 0
John Craig, tenment in Thripgrass, 23 lib. 6 sh. 8d. val. ; Alexr., Robert, and Margt. Craigs, childrein, each 6 sh. ; Jean and Barbara Craigs, sisters, each 6 sh.,	... ..	2 0 8
John Lohead, Weiver, yr., 12 sh. ; Cat. Craig, spouse, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 18 0
Ro. Muire, yr., weiver, 12 sh. ; Margt. Lohead, spouse, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 18 0
John Lohead, tenment in Thortourburne, 23 lib. 9 sh. val., 4 sh. 8d. ; Jennet Arskine, spouse, 6 sh. ; Jennet Steinsoune, servant, 9 lib. fie, 4 sh. 6d. ; John Lohead, herd, 5 lib. fie, 2 sh. 6d.,	... ..	1 15 0
Jo. Wallace, cotter.		
Ja. Craig, in Plymuire, 28 lib. 6 sh. 8d. val., 4 sh. 8d. ; Marion Burnes, spouse, 6 sh. ; Agnas Cochrane, servant, 12 lib. fie, 12 sh.,	... ..	1 8 8
Jo. Jmith, cotter, no trade, 6 sh. ; Margt. Craig, spouse, 6 sh. ; Marion Boid, in hervest, 10 mks. fie, 3 sh. 4d. ; James Smith, herd, 10 mks. fie, 3 sh. 4d.,	1 4 8	
Agnas Steinsoune, yr.		
Ro. Craig, in Muirhouse, 23 lib. val., 4 sh. 8d. ; Issobell Merschell, spouse, Dav. and Cat. Craigs, childreine, each 6 sh. ; Jennet Clerk, sert., 16 lib. fie, 8 sh. ; Wm. Young, herd, 6 lib. fie, 3 sh.,	... ..	2 11 8
John Merschell, in Head of Syde, 23 lib. val., 4 sh. 8d. ; Margt. Barnes, spouse, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 16 8
Thomas Robiesoune, yr., 23 lib. val., 4 sh. 8d. ; Marion Craig, spouse, 6 sh. ; Tho., Ro., and Jean, childreine, each 6 sh. ; and for 50 mks. val. belong- ing to the Myllne, 6 sh. 8d. ; Wants for Eliz. Provan, servant,	... ..	2 1 4
Mar. Hamiltoune, widow, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 6 0
Margt. Stewart, tennent, 23 lib. val., 4 sh. 8d. ; James, Isso., and Cath. Mer- schells, childreine, each 6 sh.,	... ..	1 8 8
Ja. Robiesoune, cotter, cordoner, 12 sh. ; Margt. Merschell, spouse, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 18 0
Tho. Steinsoune, tennent in Finniestoune, 23 lib. val., 4 sh. 8d. ; Margt. Robiesoune, spouse, 6 sh. ; Tho. Craig, in hervest, 8 lib. fie, 4 sh.,	... ..	1 0 8
Hendrie Lohead, cotter, flesher, 12 sh. ; Agnas Watt, spouse, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 18 0
Jo. Robiesoune, in Banklug, 23 lib. val., 4 sh. 8d. ; Marion Carswall, spouse, 6 sh. ; Jennet Craig, sert., 15 lib. fie, 7 sh. 6d.,	... ..	1 10 2
Will. Andersoune, cotter, no trade, 6 sh. ; Jennet Craig, spouse, 6 sh. ; Ca. Craig, sert., 16 lib. fie, 8 sh.,	... ..	1 7 4
John Biskite, in Thortourburne, 23 lib. val., 4 sh. 8d. ; Jean Gillies, spouse, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 16 8
Jo. Lohead, in Copply, 23 lib. 6 sh. 8d. val., 4 sh. 6d. ; Helen Rodger, spouse, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 16 8
Jennet Burne, cotter, 6 sh. ; Matt. and Jean Lohead, childrein, each 6 sh.,	0 18 0	

Ro. Muire, weiver, cotter, 12 sh. trade and pole ; Margt. Lohead, his wife, 6 sh.,	£0 18 0
Alexr. Lohead, in Burnfoot, 23 lib. val., 4 sh. 6d. ; Jennet Lohead, spouse, Margt. Patoune, 4 lib hervest fie, 2 sh.,	0 18 0
Thomas Lohead, cotter,	0 6 0

MY LORD ROSS, HIS LANDS.

Robert Maxwell, in Dubs, val. 48 lib. 9 sh. 8d. ; Margt. and Jean, childreine, each 6 sh. ; James Arstoune, sert., 15 lib. 4 sh. fie, 7 sh. 6d. ; James Young, in hervest, 8 lib. 4 sh. fie, 7 sh. 6d. ; Margaret Pollock, in hervest, 6 lib. 6 sh. 8d. fie, 3 sh. 2d. ; Matt. Lohead, his relict, 10 mks. fie in hervest, 3 sh. 4d.,	2 12 0
John Dunlop, in Ducatmyllne, 38 lib. val., 7 sh. 8d. ; Helen Miller, spouse, 6 sh.,	0 19 8
Robert Barr, in Ars, 40 lib. value, 8 sh. ; Jean Arstoune, spouse, 6 sh. ; Mary Strean, sert., 20 mks. fie, 6 6 sh. 8d. ; Agnas Wilsoune, in hervest, 4 lib. fie, 1 sh.,	1 14 8
Robert Arstoune, in Auchinback, 51 lib. val., 10 sh. 2d. ; Margt. Arstoune, spouse, 6 sh. ; Jean and Margt., his daurs., each 6 sh. ; Ro. Auchinclosse, sert., 20 lib. fie, 10 sh.,	2 10 2
David Liggat, cotter, taylior, 12 sh. ; Jennet Craig, spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 18 0
John Leggat, yr., 51 lib. val., 10 sh. 2d. ; Jean Cochrane, spouse, 6 sh. ; John and Jean Liggats, children, 6 sh. each,	1 14 2
Dav. Leggatt, yr., no trade, 6 sh. ; Margt. Young, spouse, 6 sh. ; James, his sone, 6 sh. ; Agnas Young, servt., 15 lib. fie, 13 sh. 6d.,	1 11 6
James Arstoune, yr., in Auchinback, 44 lib. val., 9 sh. ; Agnas Pollock, spouse, 6 sh.,	1 1 0
Jo. Barr, yr., 44 lib. val., 9 sh. ; Margt. Stewart, spouse, 6 sh. ; Jean and George Barr, children, each 6 sh. ; Margt. Barr, 6 lib. hervest fie, 3 sh.,	1 16 0
Wm. Gillmour, taylior, 12 sh. ; Jean Biggert, spouse, 6 sh.,	0 18 0
And. Younger, weiver, yr., and his wife,	0 12 0
Patt. Gillmour, cotter, and his wife,	0 12 0
John Cross, in Arthourlie, 56 lib. val., 11 sh. 2d. ; Agnas Brone, spouse, 6 sh. ; Jo. Liggett, servt., 22 lib. fie, 11 sh. ; James Liggett, servant, 7 lib. fie, 3 sh. 6d. ; Margt. Lohead, sert., 16 lib. fie, 8 sh. ; Agnas Gibbe, servant, 19 mks. fie, 6 sh. 4d ; James Cross, 7 lib. fie in hervest, 3 sh. 6d., ...	3 9 6
Jo. Carswall, yr., no trade, 6 sh. ; Agnas Carswall, his sister, 6 sh., ...	0 12 0
Tho. Cochrane, yr., Corane, 12 sh. ; Margt. Hamiltoune, his spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 18 0
Geo. Stewart, cotter, no trade, 6 sh. ; Ursilla Steinsoune, his spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 12 0
Jo. Young, yr., weiver, 12 sh. ; Agnas Robiesoune, spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 18 0
Wm. Young, yr., 14 lib. val., 3 sh. ; Jennet Cumine, spouse, 6 sh. ; Gabriell Gemmell, in hervest, 10 mks. fie, 3s. 4d. ; Robt. Finlayson, 10 mks. her- vest fie, 3 sh. 4d. ; Geo. Arstoune, herd, 3 lib. fie, 1 sh. 6d.,	1 3 2
James Jamiesoune, in Arthourlie, 86 lib. val.,	0 17 2
James Lohead, cotter, no trade, 6 sh. ; Barbara Patoune, spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 12 0

THE LANDS OF COULDOUNE, FERNINEESE, AND HOLLHOUSE.

Thomas Spreull, in Smithhills, of Couldoune, 20 lib. val., 4 sh. ; Andrew, Cat., and Jean Spreuls, childreine, each 6 sh. ; James Craig, herd, 8 lib. fie, 3 sh.,	... ..	£1 18 0
John Spreull, yr., 20 lib. val., 4 sh. ; Margt. Gardiner, spouse, 6 sh. ; Marion Craig, servant, 6 lib. fie, 3 sh.,	... ..	1 5 0
James Spreull, in Knowglass, 20 lib. val., 4 sh. ; Margt. Dinsmuir, spouse, 6 sh. ; Bessie Muire, sert., 13 lib. fie, 6 sh. 6d.,	... ..	1 8 6
Robert Gemmell, yr., 38 lib. 9 sh. val., 7s. 8d. ; Mertha Steinsoune, spouse, 6 sh. ; Tho. Andrew, sert., 16 lib. fie, 8 sh. ; Helen Gemmell, his sister, 6 sh.,	... ..	1 19 8
John Stewart, in Coudoune Myllne, 20 lib. val., 4 sh. ; Jas. Wm., and Tho. Stewarts, in house with them, each 6 sh. ; Jean Stewart, his sister, 6 sh.,	... ..	1 14 0
Robert Lohead, yr., 20 lib. val., 4 sh. ; Margt. Craig, spouse, 6 sh. ; Jean Lohead, sister, 8 mks. fie in hervest, 2 sh. 8d.,	... ..	0 18 0
Thomas Lohead, yr., 20 lib. val., 4 sh. ; Helen Stevinsoune, spouse, 6 sh. ; Robert, his sone, 6 sh.,	... ..	1 2 1
Hew Cochrane, in Coldoune, 38 lib. 9 sh. 2d. ; his wife and daughters, 1 lib. 5 sh. 6d. ; John Pinkertoun, 22 lib. fie, 17 sh. ; John Lohead, 10 lib. fie, 11 sh. ; Margaret Craig, 6 lib. fie, 9 sh. ; Isobel Chalmers, 7 lib. 13 sh. 4d. fie, 9 sh. 10d.,	... ..	3 12 4
Jo. Robiesoune, yr., 40 lib. val., 8 sh. ; Margt. Craig, his wife, 6 sh. ; John Steinsoune, sert., 18 lib. fie, 9 sh. ; Elspe Baird, sert., 7 lib. 10 sh. fie, 3 sh. 10d. ; Ro. Lohead, 7 lib. hervest fie, 3 sh. 6d. ; Marion Craig, 4 lib. hervest fie, 2 sh. ; Jean Holms, in house with him, no fie, 6 sh.,	... ..	2 16 4
John Neillie, cotter, yr., and his wife,	... ..	0 12 0
Robert Lohead, taylior, cotter, yr.,	... ..	0 12 0
Tho. Cochrane, yr., 57 lib. 6 sh. 8d. val., 11 sh. 6d. ; Marion Spreul, spouse, 6 sh. ; Jonnet and Margt. Cochranes, childreine, each 6 sh. ; Wm. Craig, sert., 12 lib. fie, 12 sh.,	... ..	2 7 8
John Steinsoune, in Mains, 22 lib. val., 4 sh. 6d. ; Jennet Campbell, spouse, 6 sh. ; Mrtha Steinsoune, sert., 13 lib. fie, 6 sh. 6d.,	... ..	1 9 0
James Steinsoune, yr., 22 lib. val., 4 sh. 6d. ; Agnas Arstoune, his mother, 6 sh. ; Barbara Arstoune, in hervest, 8 mks. fie, 2 sh. 8d. ; George Steinsoune, herd, 5 lib. fie, 2 sh. 6d.,	... ..	1 7 8
Robert Cochrane, in Gemmelstoune, 14 lib. 13 sh. val., 3 sh. ; Agnas Arstoune, spouse, 6 sh. ; Wm. and Agnas, childreine, each 6 sh. ; Margt. Steinsoune, 8 mks. hervest fie, 2 sh. 8d.,	... ..	1 9 8
Geo. Barr, in Castlehead, 22 lib. val., 4 sh. 6d. ; Jean Cochrane, spouse, 6 sh. ; Jean Cochrane, in hervest, 6 lib. 6 sh. 8d. fie, 3 sh. 2d.,	... ..	0 19 8
John Taylior, smith in Boilstoune, 22 lib. val., 12 sh. ; Margt. Finlaysoune, spouse, 6 sh. ; John and Tho., sones, each 6 sh. ; Barbara Gibb, servant, 7 lib. fie, 3 sh. 6d.,	... ..	1 19 6
Mat. Finlaysoune, in Crawstob, 14 lib. 13 sh. 4d. val., weiver, 12 sh. ; Janet Taylior, spouse, 6 sh. ; Margt. and Isso, daurs., each 6 sh.,	1 10 0

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Jean Spreul, weidow, yr., 14 lib. 13 sh. 4d. val., 3 sh. ; George Pinkertoune, sert., 18 lib. fie, 9 sh. ; Margt. Cumine, sert., 20 mks. fie, 6 sh. 8d. ; James Craig, in hervest, 10 lib. fie, 5 sh. ; Margt. Caskie, in hervest, 10 mks. fie, 3 sh. 4d. ; George Gemmell, herd, 3 lib. fie, 1 sh. 6d. ; and gnall. pole,	£2 12 6
John Cochrane, in Chappell, 11 lib. val., as tennent and as heretor, 16 mks. val., 3 sh. 8d. ; Elez. Campbell, spouse, 6 sh. ; Marion Johnstoune, sert., 4 lib. fie, 2 sh. ; Jean Craig, 8 mks. in hervest, 2 sh. 8d. ; Margt. M'Artour, 8 mks. in hervest, 3 sh. 8d.,	1 9 2
James Cochrane, 33 lib. val., 6 sh. 8d. ; Wm. Cochrane, his brother, 6 sh. ; Agnas Cochrane, daur., 6 sh. ; Jennet Pinkertonne, herd, 4 lib. 6 sh. 8d. fie, 2 sh. 2d ; John Liggett, in hervest, 9 lib. fie, 4 sh. 6d. ; Jennet Liggett, sert., 16 lib. fie, 8 sh. ; Eupham M'Artour and Jennet Miller in hervest, each 6 lib. fie, 3 sh.,	2 17 4
Robert Steinsoune, in Brae, 22 lib. val., does not dwell yr.,	0 4 2
Gilbert Liggett, cotter. Margt. Cochrane, cotter.	
Jo. Cochrane, in Woodnock, 22 lib. val., with his wife,	0 16 0
Ga. Gemmell, cotter. Wm. Steinsoune, in Trees, 40 lib. val., 8 sh. ; Jean Stewart, spouse, 6 sh. ; Wm. Steinsoune, his brother, 6 sh.,	1 6 6
Jean Stewart, yr. James Pinkertoune, in Heughead, 20 lib. val., 4 sh. ; Margt. Jape, his wife, 6 sh. ; John and Jean, his childreine, each 6 sh. ; and John Pinkertoune, 5 lib. hervest fie, 2 sh. 6d.,	1 10 6
Thomas Andersoune, in Cappillie, 29 lib. 6 sh. 8d. val., 6 sh. ; Isso. Johnstoune, spouse, 6 sh. ; Tho. and Jennet, childreine, each 6 sh., ...	1 10 0
John Andersoune, yr., 14 lib. 13 sh. 4d. val., 3 sh. ; Mary Craig, spouse, 6 sh., Robert Craig, 14 lib. 13 sh. 4d. val., 3 sh. ; Margt. Craig, spouse, 6 sh. ; Ro. Craig, his sone, 6 sh.,	0 15 0 1 1 0
John Andersoune, yr., 29 lib. 6 sh. 8d. val., 6 sh. ; Jennet Steinsoune, spouse, 6 sh. ; Patt. Lohead, servant, 20 lib. fie, 10 sh. ; Jean Bryssone, sert., 15 lib. fie, 7 sh. 6d. ; Ro. Steinsoune, herd, 8 lib. fie, 4 sh.,	2 7 6
John Robiesoune, cotter, no trade, 6 sh. ; Mertha Wright, spouse, 6 sh., ...	0 12 0
John Lohead, in Hollhouse, 34 lib. val., 7 sh. ; Agnes Steinsoune, his mother, 6 sh. ; Marion and Agnas Loheads, sisters, each 6 sh. ; Jennet, his sister, 6 sh. ; James Stewart, herd, 6 lib. fie, 3 sh.,	2 8 0
Ja. Park, yr., no trade, 6 sh. ; Eliz. Clerk, spouse, 6 sh.,	0 12 0
Ja. Dinsmuire, yr , 48 lib. 1 sh. 4d., with his wife,	1 1 0
Jo. Robiesoune, cotter, yr., and his wife,	1 4 0
Wm. Connell, weiver, cotter, 12 sh. ; Jannet Craig, spouse, 6 sh.,	0 18 0
Margt. Craig, cotter. John Steinsoune, in Easter Ouplay, 39 lib. val., 7 sh. 10d. ; Margt. Cochrane, spouse, 6 sh. ; Jo. Lohead, servant, 16 lib. fie, 8 sh. ; Margt. Connell, herd, 8 lib., 4 sh. ; John Giffine, herd, 6 lib. fie, 3 sh. ; Jean Cochrane, 6 lib. hervest fie, 3 sh.,	2 15 10
And. Spreul, yr., 39 lib. val., 7 sh. 10d. ; Agnas Andrew, spouse, 6 sh. ; Jennet, his daur., 6 sh. ; Andrew Jack, 5 lib. hervest fie, 2 sh. 6d.,	1 8 8

John Robiesoune, yr., 41 lib. 13 sh. 4d. val., 8 sh. 4d.; James Robiesoune, his father, 6 sh.; Barbara Wilsoune, and Jean Robiesoune, each of fie, 15 lib., each 13 sh. 6d.,	... ..	£2 7 4
John Wayllie, yr., 42 lib. val., 8 sh. 4d.; Jennet Clerk, spouse, 6 sh.; John, his sone, 3 sh. 8d.,	... ..	1 10 0
Thomas Steinsoune, yr., 42 lib. val., 8 sh. 4d.; Margt. Craig, spouse, 6 sh.; Wm. Steinsoune, sert., 16 lib. fie, 8 sh.; Marie Steinsoune, sert., 13 lib. fie, 6 sh. 6d.,	... ..	2 6 10
Robert Steinsoune, his brother, in house with him,	... ..	0 6 0
Gabriel Steinsoune, yr., 42 lib. val., 8 sh. 6d.; Elez. Wilsoune, spouse, 6 sh.; Ro. Love, in hervest, 11 mks. fie, 3 sh. 8d.; John Wilsoune, in hervest, 6 lib. fie, 3 sh.,	... ..	1 7 0
Jean Summers, cotters,	... ..	0 6 0
John Kerr, weiver, cotter,	... ..	0 12 0

THE LANDS OF SHITTERFLAT.

Robert Clerk, yr., heretor, 50 lib. val., 4 lib. 6 sh.; Jennet Muire, spouse, 6 sh.; John, Mertha, Wm., and Mary, childreine, each 6 sh.; Wm. Knock, servant, 12 lib. fie, 12 sh.; Marion Clerk, sert., 12 lib. fie, 12 sh.; Jonnet M ^c Neil, in hervest, 5 lib. fie, 2 sh. 6d.,	... ..	7 0 6
Robert Smith, tennent, 16 lib. val., 3 sh.; Margt. Glen, spouse, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 15 2
Hugh Glen, tennent, yr., 16 lib. val., 3 sh.; Elspe Lylle, spouse, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 15 2
John Kirkwood, tennent, 6 lib. val., turnour, 12 sh.; Margt. Johnstoune, spouse, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 18 0
Will. Fulltounne, mert., worth 500 mks., 2 lib. 16 sh.; Margt. Smith, spouse, 6 sh.; Wm., his sone, 6 sh.,	... ..	3 8 0
Will. Steinsoune, heretor, 30 lib. val., 1 lib. 6 sh.; Jean Steinsoune, spouse, 6 sh.; Jean Orr, servant, 8 lib. fie, 4 sh.,	... ..	2 8 0
Thomas Boyd, cotter, no trade, 6 sh.; Marion Smith, spouse, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 12 0
John Cochrane, tennent, 25 mks. val., 3 sh. 4d.; Elspe Wayllie, his spouse, 6 sh.; Jean Polleick, in hervest, 6 lib. fie, 3 sh.,	... ..	0 18 4
Rot. Ramsey, tennent, 50 mks. val., 6 sh. 8d.; Elspe Fledger, spouse, 6 sh.; Cat. and Elspe, daurs., each 6 sh.; Ro. Peock, in hervest, 8 lib. fie, 4 sh.; Patt. Craig, 8 lib. hervest fie, 4 sh.,	... ..	1 8 8
Thomas Steinsoune, yr., 12 lib. val., 2 sh. 6d.; Margaret Blair, spouse, 6 sh., Mr. David Broune, ¹ minr., 3 lib. 6 sh. for himself; Catherine Blackwall, spouse, 6 sh.; Elez., Jennet, and Catha., childreine, each 6 sh.; Will. Sclatter, servant, 14 lib. fie, 7 sh.; Margt. Gillmour, and Barbara Airstounes, servanrs, each 13 lib. fie per ann., 76 sh. 6d.; and Hugh Fulltounne, schoolmaster, 6 sh.,	... ..	0 14 0
	... ..	6 4 0

The Roll for the Parish of Neilstoune, made up by William Mure, of Glanderstone; John Wallace, of Neilstonsyde; and Allane Pollock, their clerk, consisting of 8 pages, and delivered at Paisley on 28th October, 1695.

¹This minister preached from 1st Timothy, 1st chapter, 16th verse, to the seven witches at Paisley, on Wednesday, 9th June, 1697, being the day before the wretched victims were burnt on the Gallow Green at Paisley. Mrs. Brown was the sister of the minister of Paisley.

CHAPTER XXIV.

A DIRECTORY OF NEILSTON PARISH FOR 1830.

ALL information regarding the past conditions of the people of any community is rightly held to be of interest and importance to their successors.

The knowledge so gained not only enables the present to be compared with its former state, and so discover what improvements, if any, have been effected in the economics of the district in the interval; but it further helps us to discern the trend of the improvements, and even to some extent, prognosticate the future of the people. The information thus desiderated for one of the most important periods in the history of our community, is so far supplied by the subjoined extract from Fowler's *Commercial Directory of the Upper Ward of Renfrewshire* for 1830.

From it we obtain a glimpse into the general condition of the parish about eighty years ago, and discover how vast have been the improvements affecting every phase of social life, all having for their object the elevation, prosperity, comfort, and general betterment of the people.

Indeed, nothing could be more striking in this respect. The postal facilities and travelling arrangements have been quite revolutionized (the Darlington and Stockton Railway, the first on which steam locomotives were used in England, had been opened only five years before, 1825); the press has been freed from its fetters; the telegraph and telephone with all their marvellous adaptations, have been introduced; industries unrepresented at the beginning of the period, now give employment to thousands of the inhabitants; whilst in common with the rest of Scotland, education, which was then left to the indifference of parents, is now established on such a basis as guarantees the blessed advantage to every child born into the community. These changes all indicate that the parish has not simply been marking time, but, on the contrary, that it has kept pace to the full with the enormous strides that have everywhere in the kingdom characterized the great Victorian era.

FOWLER'S
NEILSTON, BARRHEAD, GRAHAMSTONE, AND NEIGHBOURHOOD
DIRECTORY.

- Adair, William, dryer, Kirktonfield, Neilston.
 Adam, John, grocer, boot and shoemaker, Barrhead.
 Adam, Robert, foreman, West Arthurlie Mill.
 Adam, T. C., surgeon, Barrhead.
 Anderson, Jas. C., wood turner and wheel wright, Neilston.
 Anderson, Miss Janet, baker and vintner, Neilston Inn, Neilston.
 Anderson, John, contractor, Neilston.
 Anderson, John, smith and farrier, Neilston.
 Anderson, Captain Matthew, Broadly.
 Anderson, Matthew, Arthurlie Inn, Arthurlie.
 Anderson, Miss, dressmaker, Neilston.
 Anderson, Nicol, boiler, Springbankfield, Neilston.
 Anderson, Thomas, post-master, land and road surveyor, Neilston.
 Anderson, William, teacher and session clerk, Neilston.
 Andrew, Robert, builder, Arthurlie.
 Andrew, Robert, merchant, manufacturer, and grocer, Neilston.
 Andrew, Walter, dryer, Kirktonfield (Neilston).
 Armour, Matthew, cooper, Neilston.
 Armstrong, Thomas, tailor, Barrhead.
 Auchinclose, Mrs., spirit-dealer, Barrhead.
- Bain, James, carter, Barrhead.
 Bannatyne, Wm., spinning master, Lavern Cotton Mills (Barrhead).
 Barr, John, junr., bleacher, Chappell.
 Baxter, William, carding master, Crofthead Mill.
 Bell, Wm., grocer and spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 Biskett, Mrs., dress and corset maker, Neilston.
 Bisket, Thomas, joiner and cartwright, Neilston.
 Black, James & John, bleachers of cotton and linen cloth, Fereneze bleachfield—house,
 Corsse, Arthurlie.
 Black, Mrs. Charles—house, Corsse, Arthurlie.
 Blackwood, Matthew, bleacher, Arthurlie.
 Blair, William, spirit dealer, Dovecothall.
 Bowman, Andrew, pattern drawer, Crofthead printfield.
 Broadly Spinning and Steam Loom Weaving Company, Broadly mill—William Craig,
 manager.
 Brown, Archibald, carding-master, Gateside mill.
 Brown, John, farmer, Wraes.
 Brown, John, surgeon, Apothecary Hall, Barrhead.
 Brown, William, cooper, Barrhead.
 Brownlie, Matthew, carter, Barrhead.

- Bruce, James, & Co., grocers and spirit dealers, Barrhead.
 Bulloch, Mrs., coal-ree, Barrhead.
- Calderwood, Adam, manager, Lavern cotton mill.
 Caldwell, John, boot and shoemaker, Neilston.
 Caldwell, Thomas, farmer, Rawflesh (Roughleas).
 Caldwell, William, farmer, Crossmill.
 Campbell, Edward, bleacher—house, Springhill.
 Campbell, James, grocer, Neilston.
 Campbell, John, tenter, Broadly mill.
 Carfrae, John, ironmonger and nail manufacturer, Barrhead.
 Carswell, James, spirit dealer, Thistle and Crown Mason Lodge, Neilston.
 Carswell, Robert, farmer, Craig of Carnock.
 Carswell, Robert, carding-master, Broadly mill.
 Chalmers, Andw., & Son, bleachers, Waterside bleachfield (Neilston).
 Cochran, Alexander—house, Kirktonfield.
 Cochran, Hugh, clerk, Chappell.
 Cochran, J. & A., bleachers, Kirktonfield (Neilston).
 Cochran, John, senr.—house, Kirktonfield.
 Cochrane, Robert, sen., farmer, Logan's Rais.
 Cochran, Robert, teacher, Barrhead.
 Cochran, William, grocer and spirit dealer, Neilston.
 Cochranes & Co., bleachers, Glanderston.
 Cochrane, James, dryer, Glanderston.
 Cogan, John & Robert, power loom factory, Corsse, Arthurlie.
 Colquhoun, David, grocer and spirit dealer, Dovehill.
 Colquhoun, Robert, farmer and carter, Barrhead.
 Colquhoun, Robert, surgeon, Barrhead.
 Conroy, Francis, cutler, Crofthead.
 Cooper, Thomas, farmer, Woodneuk.
 Cord, David, carding-master, Broadly mill.
 Cowan, Lachlan, saddler, wine and spirit merchant (coach office), Barrhead.
 Craig, Archibald, flesher and spirit dealer, Neilston.
 Craig, Arthur, Kirkton.
 Craig & Connell, bleachers, Springbank.
 Craig, Jas., notary public, auctioneer, and messenger-at-arms, Neilston.
 Craig, James, saddler, Neilston.
 Craig, John, spinning master, Gateside mill.
 Craig, Miss, of Kirkton.
 Craig, Robert—house, West Arthurlie.
 Craig, Robert, road maker, Hairlaw.
 Craig, Robert, sorting-master, Gateside mill.
 Craig, Thos., ironmonger, cabinetmaker, and joiner, Neilston.
 Craig, Thomas, Sheaf Inn, Neilston.
 Craig, William, grazier and flesher, Barrhead.
 Craig, Wm., joiner, mill and cart and plough wright, Neilston.
 Craig, William, of Kirkton.

Craig & Steel, graziers and fleshers, Barrhead.
 Crawford, John, tailor, Neilston.
 Crawford, Sir Robert, of Pollock, Bart.
 Cunningham, David, mason, Barrhead.
 Cunningham, Jas., & Sons, bleachers, West Arthurlie.
 Cuthbertson, David, tailor, Barrhead.

Daille, Peter, blacksmith, Dovehill.
 Dale, David, carding master, Gateside mill.
 Dalglish, Misses, dressmakers, Barrhead.
 Dennie, John, hosier, Dovehill.
 Denholm, Thomas, gardener and spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 Denny, John, & Co., calico printers, Crofthead printfield.
 Donaldson, William, tailor, Barrhead.
 Dougall, Alex., jun., carding-master, West Arthurlie mill.
 Douglas, Donald, sawyer and spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 Duncan, Andrew, grocer, West Arthurlie.
 Duncan, John, & Co., slaters and plasterers, Barrhead.
 Dunlop, Henry, of Arthurlie.
 Dunlop, James, Arthurlie.
 Dunlop, James, & Sons, cotton spinners, Lavern and Gateside mills.
 Dunlop, James, foreman, Gateside mill.
 Dunlop, Robert, of Carlibar.
 Dunlop, William, cotton-spinner—house, Barshagray.
 Dunn, Alexander, boot and shoemaker, Barrhead.
 Dunn, James, boot and shoemaker, Barrhead.
 Dunn, Mrs. Alexander, milliner and dressmaker, Barrhead.
 Dunn, Thomas, boot and shoemaker, Barrhead.

Esdon, John, spirit dealer, Dovehill.

Fernie, William, writer, Neilston.
 Finlay, William, of Trees.
 Finnie, Colin, senr., dryer, Kirktonfield.
 Finnie, Gavin, wright and smith, Fereneze cotton mill.
 Fleming, Rev. Alexander, A.M., Neilston Manse.
 Forrest, , miller, Kirkton mill.
 Faulds, Mrs. Andrew, Springfield House.

Galbraith, Alexander, excise officer, Barrhead.
 Gallaugher, William, grocer, Neilston.
 Gardiner, John, A.M., parish schoolmaster and treasurer of poor's funds, Neilston.
 Gemmell, Alexander, boiler, Gateside bleachfield.
 Gemmell, John, farmer, Holehouse.
 Gibbie, John, farmer, Boylstone.
 Gibson, Samuel, grocer, Barrhead.
 Gillies, J., & Co., bakers, grain dealers, and grocers, Arthurlie.

- Gilmour, Alexander, farmer, Muirhead.
 Gilmour, Allan, farmer, Burnside.
 Gilmour, James, mason and spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 Gilmour, John, Spierston (or Dykes).
 Gilmour, Mrs., milliner, dress and straw-hat maker, Butterwell.
 Glen, Hugh, spirit dealer, Neilston.
 Glen, James, grocer and grain dealer, Neilston.
 Glen, John, wine and spirit dealer, Grahamston Inn.
 Glen, Mrs., customer weaver, Neilston.
 Glenn, Robert, merchant, Barrhead.
 Gow, Hamilton, carding-master, Fereneze cotton mill.
 Graham, John, of Craigallian, residing at Chappell-house.
 Graham, William, druggist and post-master, Barrhead.
 Graham, William, & Co., steam-loom factory, Dunterlee.
 Gray, Henry, miller, baker, wine and spirit merchant, Barrhead.
 Gray & Whitelaw, millers, Wraes mill.
 Gray, Mrs., grocer, Barrhead.
 Gray, William, baker and spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 Grossart, John, Old Grahamstone Inn, Barrhead.
- Haggert, Robt., grocer and spirit merchant, Grahamstone.
 Hardie, John, tailor, Grahamstone.
 Harley, Francis, carding-master, Crofthead mill.
 Harvey, George, farmer, Lyoncross.
 Harvey, Robert, farmer, Auchenback.
 Hendry, James, nail manufacturer, Dovecothall.
 Holliday, Gavin, turner and nett-loom maker, Barrhead.
 Hunter, Adam, manager, Dunterlee steam-loom factory.
 Hutchison, James, farmer, Balgraystone.
- Innes, James, grocer and flesher, Barrhead.
- Jamieson, William, grocer, Barrhead.
 Johnston, Thomas, clerk, Fereneze printfield.
- Kemp, Archibald, travelling merchant, Arthurlie.
 King, James, grocer, Neilston.
 King, Thomas, clerk, Crofthead mill.
 Kirkwood, Allan, flesher, Barrhead.
 Kirkwood, James, tinsmith, Barrhead.
 Kirkwood, John, clerk, West Arthurlie mill.
 Knox, John, eating-house, Barrhead.
- Lambert, William, manager, Fereneze cotton mill.
 Lambert, William, surgeon, residing at Fereneze.
 Lamond, William, clerk, Fereneze bleachfield.
 Leckie, John, boiler, Arthurlie.

- Lee, John, & Co., patent and fancy nett manufacturers, Barrhead.
 Legget, James, builder, Grahamstone.
 Leitch, Mrs., teacher (Barrhead Female School), Arthurlie.
 Liddell, George, blacksmith and farrier, Barrhead.
 Lindsay, John, gardener, Nether Kirkton (Neilston).
 Lindsay, William, baker, Neilston.
 Lindsay, William, teacher (Grahamstone School), Grahamstone.
 Lithgow, Miss, dressmaker, Neilston.
 Little, William, blacksmith and farrier, Barrhead.
 Lochhead, James, farmer, West Arthurlie.
 Lochead, James, junr., cabinetmaker, Barrhead.
 Lochead, James, senr., customer weaver, Grahamstone, agent for James & John Black,
 cotton and linen bleachers, Fereneze bleachfield.
 Lochhead, John, miller, Neilstonside mill (Neilston).
 Lochead, Robt., customer weaver, Glanderstone dyke.
 Lochead, Mrs. Robert, corset and dress maker, Neilston.
 Lock and Dunlop, cotton-spinners, West Arthurlie mill.
 Lock, Miss—house, Dovehill.
 Lock, Robert—house, West Arthurlie.
 Lockhart, Samuel, spirit dealer, Neilston.
 Long, George, tailor, Barrhead.
 Lowndes, Charles, Arthurlie House.
 Lowndes, William, of Arthurlie House.
 Lymbery, Armado, tailor, Neilston.
- Maitland, James, clock and watchmaker, Neilston.
 Maitland, Miss, tea-dealer, Barrhead.
 Marshall, Mrs., seamstress, Neilston.
 Martin, Alex., & Co., patent and fancy nett manufacturers, Barrhead.
 Martin, James, spirit dealer, Neilston.
 Martin, William, spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 Mather, William, of Netherplace, Lang Bank.
 Meiklejones, William, boot and shoemaker, Neilston.
 Meikle, William, farmer, Killoch.
 Millar, William, musician, Kirkhill.
 Miller, Findlay, tailor, Barrhead.
 Miller, John, tailor, Crofthead.
 Miller, Robert, grocer and spirit-dealer, Barrhead.
 Monie, Hugh, sorting-master, Fereneze cotton mill.
 Monteath, James, manager, Netherkirkton bleachfield.
 Morris, Andrew, excise officer, Barrhead.
 Morrison, George, carding-master, West Arthurlie mill.
 Morton, Archibald, undertaker and spirit-dealer, Corsse, Arthurlie.
 Muir, Alexander, flesher, Barrhead.
 Muir, Andrew, vintner and keeper of Dovecothill Toll bar.
 Muir, James, picking-master, Broadly mill.
 Muir, John, clerk, Crofthead printfield.

- Mure, William, of Caldwell
 Mure, William, younger, of Caldwell.
 Murray, David, tailor, Barrhead.
 M'Arthur, Mrs., haberdasher, milliner, and dressmaker, Barrhead.
 M'Arthur & Reid, joiners, cart-wrights, and timber merchants, Barrhead.
 M'Aulay, Daniel, carding-master, Fereneze cotton mill.
 M'Callum, B. F., turkey-red dyer, South Arthurlie dye works.
 M'Callum, John, gardener, Dovecothill.
 M'Corkindale, Dougal, wine and spirit merchant, Barrhead.
 M'Cowan, Mrs.—house, Barrhead.
 M'Cowan, Robert, wright and smith, Grahamstone.
 M'Culloch, Mrs., spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 M'Davit, Anthony, spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 M'Ewan, John, hair-dresser, Neilston.
 M'Farlane, John, manager, Corsse Arthurlie power-loom factory.
 M'Farlane, John, tailor, Neilston.
 M'Gaw, Joseph, spirit dealer and travelling merchant, Barrhead.
 M'Gilchrist, John, watch and clock maker, Barrhead.
 M'Gregor, Alexander, manager and colour maker, Crofthead printfield.
 M'Hugh, John, dryer, Springbank field.
 M'Indoe, Archd., & Co., calico printers, Fereneze printfield.
 M'Intyre, Gilbert, boiler, Chappell (Barrhead).
 M'Intyre, James, colour maker, Fereneze printfield.
 M'Intyre, William, foreman, Fereneze printfield.
 M'Kay, John, farmer and flesher, Barrhead.
 M'Kechnie, Gilbt., customer weaver and spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 M'Kechnie, John, tailor, Barrhead.
 M'Kie, David, baker and spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 M'Laren, John, spirit dealer, Neilston.
 M'Laughlan, Lawson, flesher, Barrhead.
 M'Lean, John, clerk, Lavern cotton mill.
 M'Lean, Thomas, farmer, Brownside and Townhead farms.
 M'Lellan, Archibald, farmer, Barshagray.
 M'Monagal, Hugh, Lavern Bank Inn, Lavern Bank.
 M'Pherson, Charles, boiler, Kirktonfield.
 M'Queen, Richard, boot and shoemaker, Dovehill.

 Neil, Andrew, pattern drawer, Crofthead printfield.
 Nicol, James, grocer, Arthurlie.
 Nicol, John, cabinetmaker and spirit dealer, Arthurlie.

 Orr, James, boiler, Netherkirkton field.
 Orr, James, of Crofthead.
 Orr, James, & Co., cotton spinners, Crofthead mill.

 Paisley, John, wright and joiner, Barrhead.
 Paisley, William, farmer, High Walton.

- Parkhill, John, spinning-master, Broadly mill.
 Paterson, Mrs., spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 Paterson, Duncan, farmer, Nether Kirk.
 Patrick, William, slater and plasterer, Neilston.
 Paul, John, foreman, Fereneze bleachfield.
 Pinkerton, James, grocer and spirit dealer, Dovecothall.
 Pollock, James, builder and spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 Pollock, Robert, dryer, Chappell.
 Pollock, Thomas, contractor and spirit dealer, Neilston.

 Quigley, David, grocer and quarrier, Arthurlie.

 Ramsay, Wm., tailor and habit maker, Corsse, Arthurlie.
 Rankin, Andrew, boot and shoemaker, Barrhead.
 Reid, Robert, carter, Neilston.
 Renfrew, Arthur, blacksmith and farrier, Neilston.
 Rennie, Peter, pattern drawer, Fereneze printfield.
 Rennie, William, bleacher, Gateside bleachfield.
 Robertson, James, sorting master, Broadly mill.
 Robertson, James, & Son, boot and shoemakers, Arthurlie.
 Robertson, John, manager, Crofthead mill.
 Robertson, Peter, wheelwright, turner, and shuttle maker, Neilston.
 Robertson, Robert, Junr., grocer and spirit dealer, Neilston.
 Robertson, Thomas, merchant, Grahamstone.
 Robertson, William, carter, Neilston.
 Robertson, Wm., ironmonger, cloth and spirit merchant, Neilston and Barrhead.
 Rodger, Andrew, farmer, Mains of Glanderston.
 Rodger, William, ploughman and grocer, Kirktonfield.
 Russell, William, farmer, Partetaes and Lochartside.

 Saddler, David, picking master, Gateside mill.
 Sawers, Peter, of Craigengall, bleacher, Nether Kirktonfield.
 Scott, John, excise officer, Barrhead.
 Sloan, Dalrymple, plasterer and slater, Neilston.
 Smith, David, South Arthurlie.
 Speirs, James, farmer, Mossneuk.
 Speirs, William, boiler, Chappell.
 Spence, Henry, carding master, West Arthurlie mill.
 Spreul, Andrew, spirit dealer, Neilston.
 Sproul, Mrs.—house, Barrhead.
 Sproul, Robert, farmer, Braeface.
 Sproul, William, farmer, Japston.
 Steel, James, farmer, Knockglass.
 Steele, Robert, grocer, Barrhead.
 Stenhouse, John, & Co., calico printers, Crossmill printfield.
 Stenhouse, Thomas, calico printer—house, Crossmill.
 Stevenson, Andrew, road contractor, Crosstabe.

- Stevenson, John, farmer, Kirkhill.
 Stevenson, Mrs., grocer, Neilston.
 Stevenson, Peter, foreman, Chappell.
 Stevenson, Robert, picking-master, Lavern cotton mill.
 Stevenson, Thomas, farmer, Smithhill.
 Stevenson, William, joiner and cartwright, Neilston.
 Stewart, Allan, farmer, Greenhill.
 Stewart, James, manufacturer of dyewoods, Chappell work.
 Stewart, James, tailor, Neilston.
 Stewart, Mrs., spirit dealer, Neilston.
 Stewart, John, farmer, Barrhead.
 Stewart, Robert, Barrhead Seminary, Barrhead.
 Stewart, Walter, farmer, Kirkton (Neilston).
 Stirling, William, slater, West Arthurlie.
 Struthers, James, farm steward, Arthurlie House.
 Struthers, Peter, farmer, Loanfoot.
 Stuart, Duncan, copper and tinsmith, Neilston.
 Swan, James, teacher, Fereneze school-house, Neilston.
 Swan, Mrs., grocer, Neilston.
 Swan, Robert, tailor, Neilston.
 Swinnie, John, plasterer, Barrhead.
- Tait, Rev. James, Dunterlie Cottage (Barrhead)
 Taylor, Andrew, farmer, Hairlaw and Caplethill.
 Taylor, Charles (Barrhead Academy), Barrhead.
 Taylor, Colin, blacksmith, Arthurlie.
 Taylor, James, joiner and cabinetmaker, Barrhead.
 Taylor, John, farmer, Blackbyres.
 Taylor, Robert, grocer, Barrhead.
 Telfer, Thomas, & Sons, boot and shoe exporters, Neilston.
 Telfer, William, boot and shoemaker, Neilston.
 Templeton, John, Keeper, Kirkton Toll-bar.
 Thom, William, spinning-master, Crofthead.
 Thomson, Alex., teacher, Lavern mill school, Dovecothall.
 Thomson, David, manager, Fereneze printfield—house, do.
 Thomson, Mrs., baker and spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 Thomson, Peter, print-cutter, Fereneze printfield.
 Thomson, Robert, tinsmith, Neilston.
 Thomson, Robina, grocer, Barrhead.
 Thornton, James, spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 Todd, Allan, quarrier and spirit dealer, Arthurlie.
- Walker, David, wright, Barrhead.
 Walker, Mrs. David, straw-hat maker, Barrhead.
 Walker, Mrs., grocer, wine and spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 Wallace, Alex., farrier and blacksmith, Corsse, Arthurlie.
 Wallace, John, gardener, Arthurlie House.

- Wallace, John, grocer, Black Bull Inn, Neilston.
 Wallace, John, surgeon, Broadly (Neilston).
 Watson, Alexander, spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 Watson, Alexr. & James, joiners, cartwrights, and timber merchants, Barrhead.
 Watson, Mrs., straw-hat maker, Barrhead.
 Weatherly, James, gardener, Trees.
 White, William, dyer, Kirktonfield.
 Williamson, John, Junr., tailor, Neilston.
 Williamson, John, Senr., tailor, Neilston.
 Williamson, Miss, milliner and dressmaker, Neilston.
 Wilson, David, customer-weaver, Barrhead.
 Wilson, James, grocer and cloth merchant, Neilston.
 Wilson, James, grocer and spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 Wilson, James, quarrier and feuar, Barrhead.
 Wilson, James, teacher and spirit dealer, Barrhead.
 Wilson, John, hair-dresser, Barrhead.
 Wilson, Samuel, spinning-master, West Arthurly mill.
 Wilson, Thomas, boot and shoemaker, Barrhead.
 Wilson, William, carter, Gateside mill.
 Wilson, William, surgeon and druggist, Neilston.
 Winning, Robert, grocer, Gateside.
 Wood, James, grocer, Neilston.
 Wright, Ann, grocer, Neilston.
- Yool, Walter, boiler, Kirktonfield (Neilston).
 Young, David, farmer, Boghall.
 Young, David, wright, Crofthead mill.
 Young, Mrs. David, cabinet warehouse, Barrhead.
 Young, John, carding-master, Lavern mill.
 Young, John, farmer, Boghall.
 Young, Miss, milliner and dressmaker, Neilston.
 Young, Robert, agent for West of Scotland Fire and Life Insurance Company, Neilston.
 Young, Robert, flesher and grocer, Neilston.
 Young, Robert, farmer, Parkhouse.
 Young, Thomas, surgeon and druggist, Barrhead.
 Young, William, grocer, Neilston.
 Young, William, merchant, Neilston.
- Zuill, James, manager, Crossmill printfield.
 Zuill, John, colour maker, Crossmill printfield.
 Zuill, Thomas, spirit dealer, Bridgebar.

APPENDIX TO FOWLER'S
NEILSTON, BARRHEAD, GRAHAMSTONE, AND NEIGHBOURHOOD
DIRECTORY.

Justices of the Peace residing near Neilston.

William Mure, Senr., of Caldwell.	Robert Dunlop, of Carlibar.
William Mure, Junr., of Caldwell.	James Orr, of Crofthead.
William Lowndes, of Arthurlie House.	James Dunlop, yr., of Arthurlie.
John Graham, of Craigallion, residing at Chappell House.	William Finlay, of Trees.

Writer.

William Fernie, notary public.

Messenger at Arms and Auctioneer.

James Craig, notary public.

Sheriff Officer, &c.

Samuel M'Birnie, Neilston.	James Wright, constable, Barrhead.
Robert Stevenson, town crier, Neilston.	

Excise Officers.

Alex. Galbraith, Barrhead.	John Scott, Barrhead.
Geo. Henderson, do.	Andrew Morris, do.

Parochial Schoolmaster.

John Gardiner, A.M., Neilston.

Ministers.

Church of Scotland, Neilston—Alexander Fleming, A.M. ; house, Neilston Manse.
United Secession Church, Barrhead—James Tait ; house, Dunterlee Cottage.

Session Clerk.

William Anderson, Neilston.

Church Officers and Precentors.

Neilston Church—William Gemmell, officer, Neilston. Walter M'Kinlay, precentor,
Grahamstone.
United Secession Church, Barrhead—J. White, officer, Barrhead. William Bauchop,
Precentor, Grahamstone.

Medical Practitioners.

William Wilson, Neilston.	John Brown, Barrhead.
Thomas Young, Barrhead.	T. C. Adam, Barrhead.
John Wallace, Broadly.	Robert Colquhoun, Barrhead.

Midwives.

Mrs. Young, Neilston.	Mrs. Dunlop, Barrhead.
Mrs. Orr, Corsse Arthurlie.	

Neilston Post Office.

Arrival of Post.

From Glasgow daily (foot post), half-past eight o'clock evening.

Departure of Post.

To Glasgow daily (foot post) at half-past six o'clock morning.

Office open from seven o'clock morning till ten o'clock evening.

Thomas Anderson, postmaster.
Allan M'Donald, runner.

Barrhead Post Office.

Arrival of Post.

From Glasgow daily (foot post), half-past seven o'clock evening.

Departure of Post.

To Glasgow daily (foot post) at seven o'clock morning.

Office open from seven o'clock morning till eight o'clock evening.

William Graham, postmaster.

Rates of postage for single letters in Great Britain.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From any post-office to any place not exceeding 15 miles from such office,	0	0 4
For any distance above 15 and not exceeding 20 miles, ...	0	0 5
" 20 " 30 " 	0	0 6
" 30 " 50 " 	0	0 7
" 50 " 80 " 	0	0 8
" 80 " 120 " 	0	0 9
" 120 " 170 " 	0	0 10
" 170 " 230 " 	0	0 11
" 230 " 300 " 	0	1 0

And so on in proportion, the postage increasing progressively one penny for a single letter for every like excess of distance of 100 miles.

Stage Coaches.

The Lavern Trade Coach starts from Mr. Cowan's, Barrhead, every lawful day (except Thursday), at ten o'clock forenoon, for Glasgow, and leaves the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Gorbals, Glasgow, for Barrhead, at five o'clock afternoon. Same coach starts from Barrhead for Paisley, every Thursday, at ten o'clock forenoon, and leaves Cowan & Co.'s office, 7 New Street, Paisley, for Barrhead, at five o'clock afternoon.

The Royal Sovereign Stage Coach, from Irvine to Glasgow, by the Lochlibo road, arrives, every lawful day, at Mr. Anderson's, Arthurlie Inn, at half-past nine o'clock morning, and arrives again at same Inn, from Glasgow to Irvine, at five o'clock afternoon.

Neilston Carriers.

- To Glasgow—Robert M'Ewan, every lawful day (except Thursday), at eight o'clock morning, and returns same day.
 To Glasgow—John Anderson, every Wednesday morning, at eight o'clock, and returns same day.
 To Glasgow—Peter Gillespie (foot carrier), every lawful day, and returns same day.
 To Glasgow—Allan M'Donald (foot post runner), every morning at half-past six, and returns same evening at half-past eight.
 To Paisley—Robert M'Ewan, every Thursday, at ten o'clock morning, and returns same day.
 To Paisley—John Campbell (foot carrier), from Kirkton Toll-bar, every lawful day, and returns same day.

N.B.—Neilston Carriers to Glasgow pass through Barrhead.

Barrhead Carriers.

- To Glasgow—James Smith, every Wednesday morning, and returns same day.
 To Glasgow—Archibald Wilson (foot carrier), every lawful day, and returns same day.
 To Paisley—Mrs. Cumming (foot carrier), every lawful day, and returns same day.
 To Paisley—John M'Neil (foot carrier), every lawful day, and returns same day.

Irvine and Glasgow Carriers.

- To Glasgow—Robert Templeton, from Irvine, arrives at Mr. Henry Gray's, baker, Barrhead, on the mornings of Thursday and Friday, about seven o'clock; and arrives again at same hour, from Glasgow to Irvine, on the mornings of Wednesday and Saturday, about seven o'clock.
 To Glasgow—William Parker and Thomas Dunlop, from Irvine, arrive at Mr. M. Anderson's, Arthurlie Inn, on the mornings of Tuesday and Friday, about seven o'clock; and arrive again at same Inn, from Glasgow to Irvine, on Wednesday at four o'clock afternoon, and on Saturday at nine o'clock morning.

 Carriers from Stranraer and from other towns in the west, call at Arthurlie Inn.

Societies, &c.

Instituted.

1797. Neilston Society for Charity.

Allan Carswell, preses, Thortur—John Carswell, treasurer, Moorhead—Robert Andrew, clerk, Neilston—Robert Muir, officer, Neilston.

1799. Neilston Friendly Society.

Thomas Robertson, preses, Kirkton toll—James Muir, treasurer, Broadly mill—James Robertson, clerk, Butterwell—William Meiklejohn, officer, Neilston.

1802. Neilston Militia Society.
Robert Steele, preses, Barrhead—William Gornly, treasurer, High Holehouse—William Anderson, clerk and officer, Neilston.
1805. Barrhead Female Friendly Society.
Mrs. M'Farlane, preses, Dovecothall—Mrs. M'Lean, treasurer, Tower farm—William Lamond, clerk, Crosse Arthurlie—no officer.
1806. Neilston New Friendly Society.
Robert Carswell, preses, Broadly—Duncan Paterson, treasurer, Nether Kirkton—James Craig, clerk, Neilston—Robert Muir, officer, Neilston.
1807. Barrhead Trades' Society.
Alexander Miller, preses, Barrhead—Allan Gilmour, treasurer, Barrhead—Robert Miller, clerk, Barrhead—John Forsyth, officer, Barrhead.
1810. Neilston Original Sabbath School, in connection with the Crofthead and Uplaw Muir Sabbath Schools.
Robert Robertson, president, Neilston—Duncan Stuart, treasurer, Neilston—James Campbell, secretary and clerk, Neilston. The Directors meet on the first Tuesday of every month. There are under the Directors' inspection 3 Schools, Scholars 170.
1813. Barrhead and Neighbourhood Curling Club.
David Esdon, preses and treasurer, Grahamstone—Stewart Wilson, clerk.
1817. Neilston Thistle and Crown Lodge (No. 267).
John Cochran, R.W.M., Kirkton field—Robert Sproul, depute master, Neilston—Thomas Sproul, pass master, Braeface—Archd. Connel, senior warden, Springbank—Alexander M'Gregor, junior warden, Crofthead field—Robert Andrew, treasurer, Neilston—Hugh Glen, secretary, Neilston—Robert Muir, tyler, High Broadly.—Lodge Room, James Carswell's, Neilston.
1818. Neilston Masonic Sunk Fund.
William Patrick, preses, Neilston—David Craig, treasurer, Barrhead—Hugh Glen, clerk, Neilston—Robert Muir, officer, High Broadly.
1819. Neilston Female Society.
John Shaw, preses, Broadly mill—Duncan Stuart, treasurer, Neilston—James Robertson, clerk, Buttermill—Robert Muir, officer, High Broadly.
1819. Neilston Younger Female Friendly Society.
Miss Margaret Meiklejohn, president, Neilston—Alexander Cameron, collector, Neilston—James Craig, clerk, Neilston—John M'Queen, officer, Neilston.
1819. Barrhead Book Club.
James M'Credie, preses—Andrew Miller, clerk. Meets every four weeks, on Saturday evening, in Mr. Taylor's academy.
1821. Barrhead Sabbath School Association.
Peter Thomson, president, Barrhead—Alexander Brown, treasurer, Barrhead—James M'Intyre, secretary and clerk, Barrhead. The Association meets on the first Tuesday of every month. There are under the Directors' inspection five Sabbath Schools—number of scholars at present, 243.

1821. Neilston Sabbath School Association.
Rev. Alex. Fleming, president—William Meikle, treasurer—James Swan, secretary.
The Association meets on the first Tuesday of every month. There are under the Association's inspection two schools—number of scholars at present, 124.
1821. Renfrewshire Bleachers' Friendly Society.
John Cochran, preses, Kirktonfield—John Cochran, treasurer, Glanderstone—clerk, vacant.
1823. Barrhead Florists' Society.
James Zuill, preses, Crossmill—Samuel Whylie, treasurer, Crossmill—David Smith, clerk, South Arthurlie.
1823. The Barrhead Female School.
Mrs. R. Finlay, treasurer, Trees—Mrs. Leitch, teacher, (School) Arthurlie.
1824. Barrhead Union and Crowu Lodge.
David Calderwood, R. W. master, Barrhead—James Gilmour, depute master, Barrhead—David Thomson, senior warden, Barrhead—Charles Taylor, junior warden, Barrhead—James Pinkerton, treasurer, Barrhead—Robert Steele, secretary, Barrhead—Abraham Bodies, senior steward, Barrhead—Thomas Young, junior steward, Neilston—Robert Muir, tyler, Neilston. Lodge room, L. Cowan's, Barrhead.
1824. Neilston Curlers' Society.
Thomas Pollok, preses—William Robertson, treasurer, Neilston—J. Gardiner, clerk, Neilston—no officer.
1825. Ferenzeze Sick Society.
James Bruce, preses, Barrhead—William Bauchop, treasurer, Grahamstone—David Smith, clerk, Grahamstone—William M'Intyre and Peter Thomson, auditors—no officer.
1825. Lavern Lodge of Free Gardeners.
Alexander Muir, ancient father, Barrhead—William Gray, depute father, Barrhead—Henry Bell, senior garden, Cross Mill—Robert Allan, junior garden, Barrhead—Lauchlan Cowan, treasurer, Barrhead—Dugald Dove, secretary, Nitshill—George Forest, senior steward, Househill—James Kerr, junior steward, Arthurlie—John Jack, officer, Grahamstone.
1825. Lavern Mechanics' Institution.
J. Wilson, of Thornlie, patron—Robert Notman, preses, Hurlet—Abraham Bodies, treasurer, Barrhead—William M'Intyre, secretary and Librarian, Dunterlee—and 11 ordinary Managers.
1825. Neilston Society for Mutual Information.
A new preses every meeting, by rotation—Robert Young, grocer, treasurer, Neilston—Robert Young, merchant, clerk, Neilston.
1826. Neilston and Neighbourhood Agricultural Society.
James Speirs, treasurer, Mossneuk—James Lee, Stanley Green—William Stevenson, Smith-hills—William Carswell, Craig—Thomas M'Lean, Brownside—William Russell, Partetaes, managers—Thomas Anderson, clerk, Neilston—no officer.

Neilston Cattle Show.

Tuesday, 1st June, the Neilston Cattle Show took place, when prizes were awarded to the successful competitors—for the best Bull, to Mr. James Lee, Stanley—for the second best do., Mr. William Stevenson, Smithhills, Neilston.—For the best two year old do., Mr. Thomas M'Lean, Brownside; for the second best do., Mr. Robert Sproul, Braeface.—For the best one year old do., Mr. William Carswell, Craig—for the second best do., Mr. John Gilmour, Dyke.—For the best Milch Cow, Mr. Allan Gilmour, Burnside—for second best do., Mr. John Gilmour, Dyke.—For the best two year old Quey, in calf or milk, Captain Anderson, Broadly—for the second best do., Mr. John Gilmour, Dyke.—For the best two year old Quey, yield, Mr. Wm. Carswell, Craig—for the second best do., Mr. Robert Pollock, Walton.—For the best one year old Quey, Mr. John Gilmour, Dyke—for the second best do., William Findly, Esqre., Trees.

About sixty gentlemen, farmers and other individuals who took an interest in the affairs of the Society, dined in Miss Anderson's—James Dunlop, Esqre., younger of Arthurlie, in the chair. Robert Orr, Esqre., of Lylesland, croupier.

1827. West Arthurlie Cotton Mill Funeral Society.

William Sharp, preses, West Arthurlie—Alexander Dougal, treasurer, West Arthurlie—James Samuel, clerk, West Arthurlie—no officer.

1830. Barrhead and Neighbourhood Temperance Society.

Rev. James Tait, president, Dunterlee Cottage—Alexander Brown, treasurer, Barrhead—Charles Leckie, secretary, West Arthurlie.—With a Committee of seven.

— Neilston Home Mission Society.

Matthew Black, preses, Arthurlie—Rev. James Tait, treasurer—John M'Lean, secretary, Dovecothall—Rev. Mr. Barr, missionary.

Fire and Life Insurance Office and Agent.

West of Scotland Fire and Life—Robert Young, merchant, Neilston.

Grave Diggers.

William Gemmell and John Carswell, Neilston.
James White, Barrhead.

Neilston Fairs,

For Cattle, are held on the third Tuesday of February, May, and October, Old Style;
For Horse Racing, etc., on the fourth Friday of July, New Style.

Barrhead Fair,

For Horse Racing and Cattle Market, is held on the last Friday and Saturday of June, New Style.

Distance from Paisley Cross to

	<i>m.</i>	<i>f.</i>	<i>p.</i>
Neilston Cross, at Parish Church gate, ...	5	2	28
Barrhead, (Cross) Arthurlie Inn, ...	3	7	22

MAP OF
PARISH OF NEILSTON
IN
COUNTY OF RENFREW



A B B E Y

N E I L S T O N

M E A R N S

A Y R S H I R E

Scale of Miles
0 1/4 1/2 1



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