

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT,
1794

sition of a legal srent for maintaining the poor, the non-re-siding heritors, and the members of the Burgher congregation voluntarily contribute 221. 5s. Sterling, annually, which, with the interest of 831. stock, the weekly collections, and the mortcloth money, usually makes up the sum of 661. Sterling. This sum is found sufficient, for the maintenance of the poor, when the prices of provisions are moderate: On extraordinary occasions, the charity of individuals, of every rank, is liberal. The kirk-session takes the entire management, of the poor's money, but they submit an exact statement of their expenditure, every half year, to the heritors: Upon these occasions, the poor's-roll is made up, and when it is necessary, the members of the Burgher session, report the state of the paupers attached to their congregation.

Libraries.—The inhabitants of this parish, have given a good specimen of their character and taste, in the institution of two libraries, supported by an annual subscription, and containing a judicious selection of books, entertaining, historical, moral, and religious.

For the prices of labour and provisions, with other articles of the same kind; reference is made to the statistical account, of contiguous parishes.

The Statistical Acc

1794

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NUMBER XXXIX.

PARISH OF ABERDOUR.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF DEER.)

By the Rev. Mr. ANDREW YOUNGSON.

Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.

THE parish takes its name from a rivulet, or burn, which discharges itself into the sea, about 200 paces below the church. The form of the parish is irregular, its extent from E. to W. along the sea-coast, or Murray Frith, is 6½ miles, the church being nearly in the middle, and close to the sea; from the N. E. to the S. W., it extends about 9 miles habitable, besides a large extent of moss and moor ground. Its breadth from the church on the N. coast southward, is 6½ miles; but between the S. E. corner of the parish, and the rest of the parish of Aberdour, part of the parish of Tyrie, for about a mile of breadth, intervenes, and cuts off 3 farm towns, extending, where broadest, about a mile and a half, and

and much about the same length; and where there are 93 inhabitants. This detached part of the parish is believed to have been formerly grazing places for the tenants on the sea-coast of the lands of Aberdour, of which barony it is still a part. The face of the country is very uneven, and the soil of very different qualities: the soil of the corn-fields on the sea-coast is partly clay, or red loam, but mostly of a light black, or gravelly quality; and in the moors, the soil is light black, cold and watery. In the W. side of the parish are 3 deep hollows, with a rivulet in each, called the den of Aberdour, the den of Auchmedden, and the den of Troup. Each of these dens, as they advance from the sea-coast, branch out on each side into many other lesser ones, till they end at last in mosses and moors, about 2 or 3 miles from the sea. On each side of these dens (as they are called), for about a mile, or little more, from the sea, the ground is mostly arable, and, in general, of a kindly soil, producing pretty good crops of grain, when properly managed; but the high ground, or ridge between them, is a wretchedly poor heath, incapable of any improvement for the most part, but at an expense far beyond what it could ever repay, unless situated in the neighbourhood of a great town. The burn in the westmost of these dens is the boundary between the parishes of Aberdour and Gamery. The E. side of the parish is more level, and consists of corn-fields, some of a pretty good soil, others very poor, interspersed with heath, and near the sea, with large tracks of ground, producing a coarse kind of grass, called by the country people *reefk*. In the S. part of the parish is the den of Glasby, in which runs also a burn, the head of the N. branch of the river Ugie, into which it discharges itself at Rora, in the parish of Longside, passing by the church of Strichen in its way. On the N. side of this den, and facing the S., are pretty large corn-fields, but the greater part of this side of the parish consists

sifts of moss and moor, and here and there corn-fields, gained from these, with farm-towns at a considerable distance from one another; on the W. border of the parish, and along its whole breadth, are continued mosses and moors.

Sea-Coast, Caves, Castle, Cairns, &c.—The sea-coast in this district consists of high rocks; those to the W. of the church remarkably so, and in the whole length of the parish there are only 3 openings, where boats can land, one near the borders of Pitligo, one immediately below the church, and one at the N. W. corner of the parish, where the burns of Troup and Auchmedden discharge themselves into the sea, and where, about 50 years ago, was a small neat and convenient harbour, where ships from the neighbouring sea-ports used to winter, as well as to land, but which being neglected, is now totally destroyed, not a vestige of the piers remaining, but the stones of which they were built, and which have so entirely filled up the former basin, that it is with difficulty that the fishing boats, 3 in number, with 6 hands each, can land. Here is a fishing-town, consisting of 110 inhabitants, in general very sober, industrious, well behaved people. Along the sea-coast are many caves, entering from the sea. The most remarkable one is at the N. E. corner of the parish, near the borders of Pitligo parish, called Cows-haven, which runs up through the country, no body knows how far, though several people have proceeded as far as the air, which is foul (the entrance of the cave being mostly choked with the sand and pebbles thrown up by the sea), would allow them to do with safety*.

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* There are two others in the bay of Aberdour, near the church, through which the tide flows. The eastmost of those is quite dry at low water, covered with a fine sand, and affords a pleasant retreat in a warm summer's day, as well as an agreeable passage to the rocks on the other side: It is 90 feet long, 22 feet

About half a mile English E. from the church, is the site and remains of the ancient castle of Dundargue, upon a rock of red free-stone, 64 feet high from the beach immediately below, 261 feet in length, 38 feet mean breadth, making an area of nearly 29 falls, surrounded by the sea, when the tide flows, except a narrow neck of rock and earth, which joins the castle rock to the land, the breadth 12 feet, where it joins the land, but decreases gradually, till it reach the entry of the castle, where it is only about 4 feet wide. Here the rock has been cut, but in place of the draw-bridge, which (it is probable) has formerly given access to the castle, the narrow rock is made up with earth, in order to enable the tenants' cattle to get at the fine grafs which grows on the rock*. There is a large

22 feet broad, 11 feet high, and the arch most neatly jointed. The other cave is parallel to this, and distant from it only 42 feet, is never quite dry at low water, but can be passed through with dry foot, upon a number of large stones which lie in it: it is 100 feet long, 24 feet broad, 13 feet high, and the rock over these is 70 feet high, and is joined to the main land by a neck of earth, of about 2 feet wide; a part of the rock runs off on the E. side, almost at right angles from the caves, and forms an arch 46 feet broad, and 21 feet high, through which the sea also flows at high water.

* The only part of the castle now standing, is the entry. The whole breadth of the front is only 12 feet, the door is 4 feet 2 inches wide, 6 feet high, and is arched; the height of the walls 12 feet 7 inches; the length of the side-walls still standing, is 10 feet 6 inches; there are no other remains of the castle walls, except the inside of the foundation, the outside having fallen down, owing to the mouldering away of the rock on which it was built. There is a fine level green, where the outworks have been, which has been secured on the land side, by a wall (the foundation of which still remains) of the same kind of stone with the castle rock, cemented with lime, after the manner of what is commonly called run-lime, as the remains of the castle have also been, and which renders the walls so firm, that you may more easily break the stone, than separate it from the lime; on the outside of this wall or rampart, is a dry ditch 29½ feet long, and still 30 feet wide, and 6 feet deep: running parallel to this, are 2 other ditches, of the same length with it; the first of these is 12 feet wide, and 10 feet deep, the mound, or the distance between it and the dry ditch, or moat last mentioned.

large cairn of stones at Coburty, about 2½ miles E. from the church; from this cairn a considerable part of the stones being taken away to build enclosures, and the earth below where they lay being dugged up for making dunghills, it was found to be mixed with a number of human bones*.

Diseases.—There are no diseases peculiar to this district, the bodily complaint that most prevails among all ranks, young and old, is rheumatism.

Proprietors, Church, School-house, &c.—There are only two heritors

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is 40 feet. The breadth of the last, and outer parallel, is irregular, from 5 to 8 feet, and its depth 4 feet; the distance between it and the former parallel is 12 feet. Though this fortress could now be of little service, even if remaining in its former strength, being commanded by the neighbouring ground, yet before the use of great guns, it must have been a very strong place, and could have received supplies of men and provisions by sea, as at full tide a small vessel could have lain to at the very foot of the castle rock; the garrison, however, might have been starved for want of water, by cutting the pipes, which conveyed the water to the castle, from a spring about 200 paces distant, some remains of which pipes have been found of late years by the tenants, in digging the ground between the castle and spring. And tradition says, that it was this circumstance which obliged Henry de Beaumont, the English Earl of Buchan, to capitulate, when besieged therein by Andrew Murray, regent of Scotland, during the captivity of King David Bruce, in the year 1336.

* The tradition is, that the Danes having landed on the Buchan coast, and pillaging the country in their way to Murray, then in possession of their countrymen, were come up with, at the place where now stand the cairns of Menis in the parish of Rathen, by the Scotch army, and defeated, three of their leaders being slain, over whose buried bodies the 3 cairns there were raised, on the very spot where each of them fell; that the Danes retreated, and were again overtaken and defeated at Coburty, the cairn being raised over the graves of their slain; and that the remains of this Danish army were finally defeated and cut to pieces, on a heath about a quarter of a mile W. from the church of Gamery, which still retains the name of the Bloody Pots; in memory of which victory, the skulls of 3 of their slain leaders were built into the inside of the church wall, where two of them still remain, the other being consumed through length of time.

heritors in the parish, the Earl of Aberdeen, who has that part of the parish W. from the church, and Mr. Gordon of Aberdour, that on the E. of it, and who resides on his estate at Aberdour house. The fabrick of the church is very old, being built before the Reformation, but in what age is not known. About 30 years ago, the aisle was rebuilt, and some years after, the steeple was rebuilt; but the rest of the fabrick is in a bad state of repair, and the school-house is quite ruinous *.

Language, Disposition of the People, &c.—Though the language spoken in this district is a dialect of the English, known by the name of broad Buchan, yet the ancient names of places seem to be derived from the Gaelic, such as Achlin, Achnagan, Auchmadden, Bracklamore, Achintum, &c. The people, in general, are sober and industrious; and, till of late years, were so peaceable, and so little inclined to litigation, that for 12 or 13 years after the year 1766, there was only one single instance of a law-suit going from this parish to the courts at Aberdeen, and that arose from a difference between two tenants, about the boundaries of their respective farms; every other difference subsisting between parishioners being settled

* Besides the parish school, there is another school in the W. corner of the parish near the fishing-town, the teacher in which instructs young children in reading english, in writing and arithmetic, and is commonly a tradesman, and receives from the church session, besides the ordinary fees paid by the scholars, a yearly salary of 2 l. 1 s. 8 d. Sterling, out of the interest of money mortgaged for that purpose by one of the lairds of Auchmedden, and his lady's sister, Lady Jean Hay, a daughter of the Earl of Kinnoul, of which mortgagement the church session are made trustees. This school has been of great service to that corner. There is also a woman lives within a quarter of a mile of the church, who has taught young children to read english, and knit stockings, upwards of 40 years with great success; and what is very extraordinary, has still a few scholars, who make very good progress under her instruction, though she is upwards of 90 years of age. Her name is Jean Lefly; she has been a very useful member of society.

led by arbitration. But of late years, from the frequent sequestrations or prosecutions for debts, the parishioners are better acquainted with lawyers, and consequently are more frequently engaged in law-suits.

Manufactures.—The women are employed, partly for making coarse serges for home consumption, but principally in spinning linen yarn for the merchants, and by means of these, and breeding black cattle, the subtenants and smaller farmers make a shift to pay their rents to their landlords. No other kind of manufacture is carried on in this parish. What would be most profitable for us would be fishing; but the restraints laid upon that business, by the salt-laws, discourage private persons from engaging in it; frauds, no doubt, ought to be prevented, but certainly some remedy might be found for several of the many hardships brought upon those concerned in the fishing business by these laws, without prejudice to the revenue.

Productions.—As to vegetables and plants, there are none but what are common in the country, except in the den of Auchmedden, where there are some rare herbs. And for trees, except a few fruit-trees in the garden of Aberdour, and in the minister's garden, there is not one that deserves the name of a tree, though, in former times, it is evident that there has been plenty of growing timber. The principal productions of this parish are barley, bear, beans, pease, oats, turnips, potatoes, greens, and cabbages. The staple commodity along the coast, is barley, bear, and beans; and, in the moors, oats. In the year 1766, there were scarcely 10 acres of sown grass within the parish, and not one ounce of hay made; now every subtenant or cottager who has a croft of land (and there are only 3 tradesmen in the parish who have no croft),

has less or more of sown grafs. The quantity of grain produced cannot be ascertained, as few of the farmers measure their corns, or weigh their meal, except what part of these they sell.

Mode of Cultivation, &c.—Since the introduction of turnip crops, the farmers, in general, take a rotation of crops in their infields. After the turnip crop, they sow the field with bear, clover, and rye-grafs seeds: when the grafs is broken up the third or fourth year, the ground is sown with oats, next year with bear or barley, the third with pease or turnip, and the fourth with bear and grafs-seeds: But this only during the former years of their short leases. The outfields, when unimproved, are worn out with crops after lime, are employed as folding for their cattle, or as faughs (as they are called), a partial kind of fallow, and according to the old absurd practice, carry successively 3 or 4 crops of oats. The old Scotch plough, and a mixture of Scotch and English ploughs, are used in this district. Besides the dung of their cattle and peat ashes, which are every where used as a manure, the farmers on the sea-coast make use of sea-ware; and they, as well as the other farmers throughout the parish, use lime and likewise broken shells mixed with sea-sand, which last they draw from the neighbouring parish of Pitligo, and which produces the same effect as lime. This mixture of shell and sand was discovered only a few years ago, by Mr. Williamson, a gentleman employed by the Society at Edinburgh, for making new discoveries of mines, &c. and who recommended the use of it to the late Mr. Garden of Troup, on whose estate it was discovered, who first used it himself, and encouraged his tenants to follow his example, which is now become the general practice. The lime is partly brought from the parish of Rathen, distant of 6 or 7 miles,
partly

partly the product of limestone brought by sea from the quarries in the Boyn, and partly from limestone dug up within the flood-mark of the sea, in the bay of Aberdour, at low-water; but this last begins to be scarce and hard to be got at. There are, besides, two other quarries of a kind of red stone, the lime of which, though of a sandy quality, answered very well when laid upon the ground, but required a larger quantity; but both these quarries are either worn out or over-run, and have not been worked for several years.

Improvements.—Notwithstanding what is said above, very few solid, substantial, and permanent improvements have been made in this parish for the last 30 years, except upon two farms, where the tenants have longer leases than is ordinarily given here; the one of these had a lease of the Mains of Coburty, to himself and his heirs, for the space of 19 years, and after the expiration of these, a liferent to the then possessor; the tenant of this farm and his son have done a great deal, and most substantially, by draining, trenching, liming, and dunging their farm, by enclosing a considerable part of it with good stone fences, for which purpose, they were supplied with stones from the cairn formerly mentioned, and by building a set of elegant office-houses, for which houses and fences, the heirs of the present tenant are allowed the estimated value at the expiration of his lease. The other tenant has also very much improved his farm, but has made no enclosures, having nothing allowed him by the proprietor for that purpose, he has a liferent tack for himself, and 19 years for his son, upon a rise of rent agreed upon. That others have not imitated their example, is not owing to their ignorance of the advantage, nor of the methods of improving their farms; nor do they want the means and materials necessary for that effect; but to various other causes, which
have

have hitherto hindered, and still must impede the improvement of our country. The principal of which, is short leases, which (except in the instances mentioned above) never exceed 19 years, often not so many. When the farmer enters upon the possession of his farm, he generally proceeds with great spirit in improving it according to his ability, and sometimes even beyond it, for the first 10 or 12 years of his lease; but being sensible that this will only tempt others to envy and supplant him, and the more so, as there are so few instances of farms to be had, but in an exhausted state; he therefore not only stops short in his improvements, but continues to scourge the ground to the expiration of his lease, as the proprietor is not inclined to renew his lease with him, till it is upon the point of expiring. And thus, after all he has done upon it, his farm is left by him in as bad, if not a worse condition, than when he entered to it. Another hinderance to improvement, is the time necessarily taken up in cutting and bringing home peats for the tenants themselves, and leet peats (as they are called) for their landlords; this takes up most of the summer, the most proper season for carrying on their improvements. Add to this, their straitened circumstances, the rents of their farms being doubled, and in several instances more, in the last 30 years, and upon the expiration or fall of a lease, fines or grassums being still paid, and that to a pretty high extent, though the ground still continues in its pristine, or in a worse, state: and the only advantage, the present tenant has over his then predecessors, is a little higher price for his grain, and the advanced price of cattle: and to balance this, the expense of managing his farm is in that period of time almost tripled. It is hoped, however, that the proprietors of land will see their mistake, and grant their tenants longer leases; for it is the settled opinion of the most intelligent people in this country, that if tenants

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got leases of their farms to themselves and their heirs, for 2, 3, or 4 19 years, they could not only afford to pay the present rent, which distresses them, but live comfortably, and at the same time improve their farms, render them far more valuable to the proprietor and his family, and prevent the disagreeable necessity of frequent sequestrations for rents. As to the obstacle of improvement, arising from the time necessarily taken up in providing and bringing home their fuel, it is hoped, that the laudable and useful step taken by the Legislature in abolishing the duty upon coals carried coastways, will be productive of the happiest consequences. Were all such obstacles to the improvement of the country, and other bars to industry, which impolitic laws throw into the way, removed, our country bids fair to advance in improvement, with a rapidity hitherto unknown.

Millstone Quarries.—There are two millstone quarries in the parish, one belonging to the Earl of Aberdeen, in the land of Auchmedden, in the face of a very high rock overlooking the sea, and whose foot is washed by it at full tide; to this quarry, the workmen, from a tremendous height, descend by a kind of stair cut out of the rock, and where this fails, by ladders reaching from one shelf of the rock to another. When the millstones are finished, they are pushed over the remaining precipice, and fall at the foot of the rock, on a small sandy beach dry at low-water, but covered by the tide when it flows. From this the millstones are conveyed by sea, and landed at the mouth of the burn of Troup, the west boundary of the parish. The other millstone quarry is also close by the sea, upon the lands of Coburty, belonging to Mr. Gordon of Aberdour, but is now neglected. And all along the coast is found a kind of red freestone.

STATISTICAL TABLE of the Parish of ABERDOUR for the Year 1792.

Length of the parish, Eng. miles, 6½	Houses inhabited by families
Breadth, - - - - - 6	of 4 persons, - 53 212
Population, according to Dr. Webster, in 1755, - - - 1397	by families of 5 persons, 44 220
Population in 1769, - - - 1329	6 persons, 22 132
In 1792, - - - - - 1306	7 persons, 17 119
Males under 10 years of age, - - - - - 140	8 persons, 7 56
from 10 to 20, - - - 132	9 persons, 6 54
from 20 to 30, - - - 79	10 persons, 4 40
from 30 to 40, - - - 86	11 persons, 2 22
from 40 to 50, - - - 46	12 persons, 1 12
from 50 to 60, - - - 49	13 persons, 1 13
from 60 to 70, - - - 51	15 persons, 1 15
from 70 to 80, - - - 23	16 persons, 1 16
from 80 to 90, - - - 3	
	Sum total of families and persons, - 340 1326
	Seceders, 3 families, - 19
	individuals, - - - 21
Females under 10 years, 134	Episcopalian, 1 family, - 4
from 10 to 20, - - - 101	individuals, - - - 3
from 20 to 30, - - - 135	
from 30 to 40, - - - 92	Papists, - - - - - 1
from 40 to 50, - - - 66	Members of the Established Church, - - - - - 1277
from 50 to 60, - - - 79	Proprietor residing, - - - 1
from 60 to 70, - - - 65	non-residing, - - - 1
from 70 to 80, - - - 20	Clergyman, - - - - - 1
from 80 to 90, - - - 1	Schoolmasters, - - - - - 2
from 90 to 100, - - - 4	Surgeon, - - - - - 1
	Farms above 50 l. a-year, - 2
Married persons, - - - 486	Ditto under 50 l. - - - 53
Widowers, - - - - - 9	Subtenants having ploughs, 18
Widows, - - - - - 46	
Unmarried men above 50, 3	Shopkeepers, - - - - - 4
women above 45, 22	Innkeepers, - - - - - 4
Houses inhabited, - - - 340	
by single persons, - 43 43	Weavers, - - - - - 1
by families of 2 persons, 62 124	
by families of 3 persons, 76 228	

Weavers, - - - - - 24	and arithmetick, for 1791, and 9 preceding years, 50
Apprentices to ditto, - - - 26	Number of children taught latin in said space of time, 7
Shoemakers, - - - - - 16	of poor on the roll for 1791, and 6 preceding years, - - - - - 30
Apprentices to shoemakers, 3	Average of disbursements to ditto, - - - - - L. 20 Sterl.
Carpenters, - - - - - 12	Capital of their funds, L. 150 ditto.
Apprentices to ditto, - - - 3	Average of burials, 1791 and 9 preceding years, - - - 20
Tailors, - - - - - 7	Average of births for 1791 and 9 preceding years, - 30
Apprentices to ditto, - - - 3	of children from each marriage, - - - - - 4
Masons, - - - - - 3	Number of persons married in the last 10 years, - - 106 212
Sailors and fishermen, - - - 20	Both parties in the parish, 54 108
Millstone quarriers, - - - 12	The men in the parish, - 26
Millers, - - - - - 4	The women in the parish, - 26
Domestic servants, - - - 2	The men from other parishes, 26
Male ditto, - - - - - 2	The women from other parishes 26
Male farm servants under 20, 56	
above 20, 31	
Female ditto under 20, 29	To go to the account of other parishes, - - - - - 52
Ditto above 20, - - - 29	
	Number of parishioners married in 1791, and 9 preceding years, 160
Persons serving in the army in the late war, - - - 14	Number of saddle horses, - 2
Ditto in the navy, - - - 13	of horses for farming, young and old, - - 349
	of black cattle, - - - 1420
Emigrants to North America since the year 1770, viz.	of sheep, - - - - - 1990
Weavers, - - - - - 2	of carts, by computation, 279
Wright, - - - - - 1	of wains drawn by oxen, 6
	Wages of men servants employed in husbandry annually, from - - - - - 6 l. to 7 l.
Ditto to West Indies:	
Wrights, or carpenters, - - 2	
Surgeon - - - - - 1	
Clerks, - - - - - 2	
Average of children taught at both schools, english, writing,	

Wages of boys, ditto, from 1 l. to 4 l.	Rent of the parish, including
— of female servants, 2 l. to 3 l.	40 l. for rent of a millstone
— of day-labourers, with	quarry, and 8 l. for rent of
meat and drink, a-day, - 6 d.	kelp-shores, about - - 1600 l.
— ditto without meat, - - 1 s.	Minister's stipend, money, L. 42 17 0
— tailors, with entertain-	Meal, 20½ bolls, at 10 s. the
ment, - - - - 6 d.	boll, - - - - 10 5 0
— mafons, with ditto, - 1 s.	Money for communion ele-
— ditto, without meat, - 1 s. 6 d.	ments, - - - - 2 15 6
— of wrights, with enter-	
tainment, - - - - 7 d.	L. 55 17 6
— plough-wrights, with do. 1 s.	Glebe, including grafs, acres
— reapers during harvest,	7½,
men, - - - - 1 l. 10 s.	Schoolmaster's salary, meal,
— women from - - 15 s. to 1 l.	bolls 5½, and money, - 2 10 9

OBSERVATIONS on the foregoing TABLE.

The number of the inhabitants, as stated in the table, is from actual enumeration: so is the number of tradesmen, and those of other occupations. Their ages are as near the truth, as could be obtained, and it is presumed, pretty accurate. The small decrease of the inhabitants of this parish since the year 1769, is not owing to the number of deaths exceeding the births, as appears from the table; but to a constant drain of young people, who leave the parish. Many of the young men, despairing of getting a comfortable, or indeed any kind of settlement here, remove to towns, either to learn or prosecute their respective trades; others of them to such places as give higher wages to farm-servants. And young women repair to towns, where they are employed as servants, and not only to the neighbouring towns of Aberdeen, Banff, &c. but even to Edinburgh and London. Besides, in this current year, a greater number than ordinary have died, several young people of putrid sore throats, but the greater part old people. The people here are very inattentive to the registering their children's births or baptisms; so that no authentick information can be got from the parish register; but the annual average of births, according to the register, and making allowance for such as may have been neglected to be registered, may amount to the number stated in the table. No register of deaths or burials was kept here, till the late act of parliament laying a tax upon burials, &c. Since that time, the schoolmaster has kept one, but many people are averse to the measure of registering their friend's death; besides, several of the parishioners of Aberdour are buried elsewhere, and it is

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gers, on the other hand, bury here: But the annual average, as in the table, will be found to be very near the truth. The register of marriages has all along been accurately kept; and from it is the article of marriages in the table taken. The average of births from each marriage, is calculated from a hundred known instances in the neighbourhood of one another. It appears from the table, that the number of soldiers and sailors employed in his Majesty's service in the last war, amounts to upwards of the eight part of the whole males residing in the parish at this time, from 20 to 50 years of age; a very large proportion indeed, besides those employed in the merchant service, which farther accounts for the small decrease of inhabitants. The number of the horses, as in the table, is from actual enumeration. And so is that of the black cattle and sheep, as it stood in summer 1792, when their numbers are highest; with this difference, however, that being obliged, from the reluctance of the lower rank of people (through ignorance or prejudice) to inform as to the number of their black cattle and sheep, to employ others than the owners in the enumeration, their reports cannot be equally depended upon: but of these last, the number was but small, and deviates, at most, only a little from the truth. The sheep, in general, are of the north country breed, only about 20 of the English breed of the polled kind; but along the coast, are a good many of a mixed breed between the two. The number of sheep has much decreased since the introduction of winter keeping, the sheep walks being too confined to enable the owner to pay a shepherd for the whole year, and reap any profit besides from his small flock. All these several sorts of cattle, being, in general, but small, may be estimated at present, at the following average value, viz. horses from 5 l. to 6 l., black cattle from 2 l. to 3 l., and sheep at 6 s. Sterling. This is the opinion of the most knowing people the writer of this article has conversed with upon the subject, but he does not sustain himself a competent judge in these matters. Generally speaking, and with few exceptions, there are as many carts as horses employed in the summer time in bringing home fuel; but as a good many young horses are reared, who are unfit for drawing in the cart, the carts, as in the table, are computed to be in proportion to the horses, in the ratio of 4 carts to 5 horses. The ploughs are drawn, some few in the moorland part of the parish, by 6 small horses, 2 or 3 ploughs by 8 oxen and 2 horses; and through the rest of the parish, a few are drawn by 2 horses, but the greater part by 4, or 2 horses and 2 oxen, and these last are most approved of.

In stating the funds belonging to, and disbursements made to the poor, it was not thought fair to go back so far as the years 1783 and 1784, when the wants of the poor required an extraordinary supply; and accordingly a considerable sum was actually distributed: but the average is taken from the year 1792, and 6 preceding years, when there has been no extraordinary demand; and the sum mentioned in the table, as given to the poor, several of whom have families, has

with

with their own industry, where able to work, kept them in their own houses, so that not above one or two at a time have gone a-begging.

The minister's stipend stands in the table, as it has hitherto been paid, but there is a process of augmentation presently depending before the Court of Session.

Besides the land-rent, as in the table, paid by the tenants, partly in money, partly in meal and bear, they also pay customs, such as wethers, hens, peats, and a certain number of carriages, as verbally agreed upon, or as contained in their letters of agreement (for there are very few leases or assidations extended on stamped paper in the parish), and all the subtenants, besides the rent they pay for their respective possessions to the tenants, their millers, do over and above that, each pay yearly to the proprietor a hen and three days work. And to the residing heritor, the tenants pay likewise a certain number of reapers in harvest.

NUM.

NUMBER XL.

PARISH OF FETTERESSO.

(COUNTY OF KINCARDINE, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNES,
PRESBYTERY OF FORDOUN.)

By the Rev. Mr. JOHN HUTCHEON.

Name, Rivers, Extent, Soil, &c.

THE name of the parish is Gaelic, and means a place between the banks of two rivers, which is highly descriptive, not only of the place where the church stands, but likewise of a tract of ground about a mile square, extending towards the coast, on the N. of which runs the Cowie, and on the S., the Carron, two small rivers with high banks. The parish is about 10 statute miles in length, between 5 and 6 in breadth, and contains 19,006 Scotch acres, or 24,914 English, according to a survey of the country by Mr. W. Garden. Of the above, one-third may be arable;