

PARISH OF ROSENEATH.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMBARTON, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

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L—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE name is found variously written in documents of different ages ; but latterly it is generally spelt *Rosneath*.* There can be no doubt as to the meaning of the first syllable *Ros*, confessedly a Celtic word, signifying a *point*,—a generic term simply, and not expressive of the elevation or depression, or of any particular shape of the headland to which it refers. Respecting the adjunct, *neath*, however, etymologists widely differ. Some derive the name from *Rhos-neth*, the *promontory* or *peninsula* of the *small dingle* ; and such an origin is probable from the fact, that in the southern extremity, there is a dingle, which, to persons approaching it from the east or west, must always have presented a striking feature in the aspect of the peninsula. Nothing could be more natural to the aboriginal Celts, emerging from the vast glens of the contiguous mountains of Cowal, than the exclamation, *this is the little dingle!*—and if tradition, tracing the route of the Cambuskenneth pilgrims to Icolmkill, be correct in representing Killcreggan, (in the immediate vicinity of the dell, and then the seat of a religious house) as one of their resting-places, they could not fail, in approaching it, to detect in the dingle a miniature resemblance of the larger hollow of Glenfruin, which might lead them to repeat and sanction, if not to *originate* the name. Others consider it to be derived from *Ros-neoth*, the *bare unwooded promontory* : such, however, in the judgment of Celtic scholars, are

* In the twelfth century, it is found with its modern orthography, *Rosneth*, in the grant by Amelic, the brother of Maldoen, the Earl of Lennox, of all its temporalities to the monks of Paisley. Afterwards *Rusneth*—*Rosneuth*, *nevet*—*negt*, obviously a contraction, and *Nenet*, probably from the mistake of a letter by the transcriber of the document. Then again *Nevino* persona de *Neveth* and *Gilmothe* filio sacristi de *Nevneth*, *Michael Gilmodyn* persona de *Nenet*, are signatures to charters which identify the various orthographies with the name of one place. *Renyt* is another variety, and equally with the others differing from the Saxon or Celtic orthographies, assumed to be still more ancient.

exceedingly plebeian in their etymological solutions, and exhibit no taste for romantic and interesting derivations. But, notwithstanding this impression, they may be correct in the present case; for it is certainly by no means improbable, that such an epithet would be suggested by the general aspect of the peninsula, before any art was employed in its cultivation or adornment. A third class, however, reject both these derivations, being confident that the modern orthography is a corruption of *Ross-na-choich*, or *the Virgin's promontory*: these would thus have us believe that the name has no connection with the natural appearance of the locality, but with a fact in its ecclesiastical history,—a church having at a very early period been dedicated to the blessed Virgin. It is of very little consequence which hypothesis be adopted: all seem to be equally probable. It may be said, however, that with neither of the two last does the natural appearance or ecclesiastical condition of the place at present correspond: for it is now clothed with artificial plantations of various ages, and singular beauty, while the venerable cruciform church, so consecrated, no longer exists—that which in superstitious times seems to have extended no ordinary sanctity, if it did not give a name to its sequestered environs, having been superseded more than seventy years ago by a Presbyterian parallelogram of the plainest description. The name is thus of a very conjectural origin: and it may farther be stated, that there are strong reasons for supposing that it is not descriptive of the promontory at all, but of a large district of country, comprising part of the lordship of Lennox, designated *Nevyd*; and that the peninsula of Roseneath is just the *Ros-de-Nevyd*. So long, then, as the meaning of *Nevyd* is undetermined, we cannot fix the origin or import of the present name: but should it be equivalent to *Snowy*, which is very likely, then Roseneath might be translated the *peninsula of the snowy* district, which would be graphically applicable to its position in the gorge of the adjacent mountains, partly comprehended in that lordship: for in winter, especially after a snow storm, its aspect is very remarkable, extending its undulating surface darkly on the waters, while the snows are unmelted in the mountainous regions which surround it. But etymologies of the name seem quite exhaustless.

Extent and Boundaries.—The length is about 8 miles, and the breadth varies from about $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 miles. It is bounded on the east by the Gareloch; on the south, by the Clyde; on the west, by Loch Long; and on the north, by the parish of Row; being thus,

with the exception of the isthmus connecting it with the mainland of Dumbartonshire, entirely surrounded by water. Its form may be described as somewhat resembling that of a boot; in such a way at least, as to the eye glancing over the map of Europe, Italy has been supposed to do.*

Topographical Appearances.—The parish consists mainly of one continuous ridge, rising gradually from the level at its southern extremity, to the Gallowhill, and thence extending in undulating lines of various elevation to the hill of Tamnahara, which is the highest point of the peninsula, about 800 feet above the sea-level. With the exception of the level grounds, where the castle and policies are situated, and the few alluvial fields of the Clachan farm, contiguous to the church, the cultivated parts consist of acclivities from the lochs on either side. The whole of the more elevated tracts, comprising the summit of the ridge, and forming a kind of table-land, are covered with heath and morass; and from the edges of these, the enclosed and arable fields descend to the gravelly beach or rocky banks which skirt the shores.

The aspect of the whole parish is interesting and beautiful; to the south especially, where it is adorned with extensive plantations of various ages. The natural lines are of most delicate symmetry, and generally the plantations have been so felicitously arranged, as to give every advantage to that original and intrinsic beauty of the environs,—while the trees are so mingled, as to secure all variety of tint to the foliage in the transitions of spring and autumn.

It is often visited on account of its attractive scenery, and certainly nowhere in this or perhaps in any other country, does a locality of such limited extent contain within itself or command the prospect of a greater variety of interesting objects. Proceeding by any of the roads which intersect it, there is a succession of magnificent landscapes, abounding with whatever elements of sublimity and beauty the eyes delight to look upon; and thus, from

* Formerly the parish of Roseneath extended much beyond its present dimensions, and was designated in presbytery records and other documents of the time, "the parochin without and within the isle." It is now limited to the isle alone, and that moiety without the isle forms now part of the parishes of Cardross and Row. The disjunction was effected in 1635. Considerable difficulties had occurred in accomplishing the new erection of the parish of Row, but at last a presentee was inducted on the express proviso that he should sanction the measure when otherwise matured; and, moreover, that he should denude himself of a portion of the teinds, to secure a competent living to the incumbent: while, on the other hand, the laird of Ardencaule only consented to his admission, on the condition of his preaching alternately in the new kirk of Row, on the opposite side of the Gareloch, and therefore without the isle (except when the Marquis of Argyll should be resident in Roseneath,) without prejudice to the course of the erection, &c.

such points as the Tower of the Castle—the Gallowhill or Tamnahara, commanding the most panoramic views, may be seen in one direction perhaps dying away in remote distances, such soft and graceful lines of beauty as vulgarize the most exquisite creation even of such a pencil as Claude; while at a glance of the eye elsewhere, sublimer forms rise to the contemplation than ever excited admiration around the bold and impetuous fancies of a Salvatore Rosa.

Perhaps, in absence of more important materials of statistical record, an instance or two may be given of the effect of these remarkable scenes upon sensitive minds. A distinguished man, well known as an elegant religious author, and exhibiting in his works a peculiar delicacy of perception of natural beauty, sat and wept like a child, when he first looked down upon the Gareloch from Barmman, so singularly bounded by the Castle point, the promontory of Ardmor, the distant hills of Renfrewshire; the exquisite harmonies of the landscape were too much for even his eye, so familiar with beauty. Another, scarcely less known, from a different point, thus affected with the contemplation of the same objects, one fine summer morning, the writer heard exclaiming, “O! this is too much, this is too much!” and then his feelings were relieved by bursting into tears. After a long silence, absorbed in gazing from Tamnahara on the rugged forms of the mountains, rising abruptly from the waters of Loch Long and Lochgoil; “Never”—did a certain graphic author thus exclaim, creating terms for what he so admired, “Never did I see such specimens of the statuary of nature.” An English artist accompanied the minister one day to a cottager, who was labouring under very acute disease. He betrayed no peculiar emotion as he heard the groans of the poor man, so expressive of his intense endurance. No sooner, however, had he crossed the threshold, than he exclaimed;—“O nature! O man!” waving his hand towards the glories he looked upon. The contrast was indeed irresistible. How much of the primeval order and beauty seemed to adorn what surrounded the cottage—how much of the misery of man’s primeval folly dwelt within it!

Meteorology, &c.—There has been no register kept with sufficient accuracy to afford any precise test of the comparative temperature and pressure of our atmosphere. It may be stated, however, that the air is much milder here than at most other places in the same neighbourhood, and on the same line across the coun-

try. This is known to be the fact, and is indicated by various natural appearances, such as the continuance of the foliage, and the length of time during which exotics of considerable delicacy may be exposed to the open air without injury. This mildness of climate is more observable towards the end of autumn and during the winter than in the season of spring; and while the frosts of winter are less severe than in the interior of the country, the heats of summer are by no means so violent; which may be accounted for by the peninsular situation of the parish, and its being surrounded and sheltered by higher grounds, which, though separated from it by the intervening waters, are not more than a mile or two distant. The prevalent winds are from the south and south-west; and to these the Loch Long side of the parish is particularly exposed, while the Gareloch side is enjoying shelter the most complete. The average rain is certainly not greater, but it is without doubt more frequent, than in the neighbouring districts of Renfrewshire and Argyleshire. The chief reason of this is to be found in the conflicting attractions of the higher grounds on opposite sides of the Frith. A large mass of dense vapour may frequently be seen driving up the estuary of the Clyde, as if ready to deluge the peninsula in its progress. On reaching the narrow part of the channel, between the *Cloch* and Dunoon, it appears to pause for a while, as if considering in what direction to proceed: but whether it eventually verge toward the mountains of Cowal on the left, or toward the masses of Renfrew on the right, a portion of its watery burden descends on our intermediate shores,—and thus, whichever attraction prevail, we have invariably what is called the *tail of the shower*. This phenomenon is very striking, and may be very easily seen at certain seasons of the year; and during the struggle of the opposing forces for the mastery, the scenery of the dark and stormy heavens oftentimes presents an aspect of bold and rugged sublimity. *

* Changes of weather are preceded by such prognostics as are common in other districts,—such, for example, as the low flight of the crow in the growing humidity of the air,—the landward flight and flocking together of the gulls before a gale. One or two may be specified as rather peculiar.

In the calmest night the tide-stream at the ferry, although, as it passes, silent like the falling dew, will sometimes, before atmospheric changes, resound like a cataract. Let the sky be starry and cloudless, and otherwise studded all over with promises of a beautiful morning, the sun to a certainty will have much ado to escape from the clouds that shall crowd together to blindfold him.

Between two peaks on the Arrochar range, to the east of the “Duke’s Bowling-green-Hill,” should there appear a hazy ill-defined cloud in the afternoon, even although not a cloud should be elsewhere above the horizon, many a dingy mass of vapour will it have to bear by the morning.

The parish is, upon the whole, very healthy, as is indicated by the longevity of a much greater proportion of the people than is observable in ordinary cases, and by the great number of large families that reach maturity without the occurrence of a single death. The air is indeed moist, but it is, at the same time, particularly pure, to which the tide-streams, running in all directions round nine-tenths of its boundary, must in no small degree contribute. It is vitiated by no miasma: the beaches are generally gravelly and bold; and though a considerable part of the surface of the parish consists of marshy grounds, these lie along the summit of the ridge, and none of their exhalations at any season descend to the cultivated and inhabited districts. It is very seldom that any thing like foggy weather prevails; and the *haars* of the east coast are entirely unknown. It ought to be mentioned, however, that one part is certainly less healthy than the rest: that toward the south, which is much crowded by plantations, and where, during the last twenty years, the proportion of sickness and death has been much greater than in the Loch Long district, and on the upper shores of the Gareloch.

The prevalent diseases are rheumatic and pulmonary affections, which may be accounted for by the humidity of the climate, the nature and situation of the dwellings. Fevers do not frequently occur, and when they do, are traceable in almost all cases to infection from without the *isle*, as it is called, and are conveyed sometimes under circumstances that reflect but little credit on the principles and feelings of the wealthier classes of our city.

The transmission of sound across the Ferry is remarkably varied by the degree of humidity in the air; but no state of the atmosphere for the last twenty years has enabled the writer to detect the celebrated echo of the district. It is, however, gravely stated as a fact in acoustic treatises, on the authority of Dr Bird, "that, somewhere in the 'isle,' when a person at a proper distance played eight or ten notes on a trumpet, they were correctly repeated, but a third lower; after a short silence another repetition was heard in a yet lower tone; and after another short interval they were repeated a third time lower still."

That proper distance nobody has been able to discover, at least within the last twenty years. It is possible the reverberation may have been greatly modified by the growth of the plantations; but it is not likely that these varying keys should have been altogether lost. It is a curious circumstance, that, many years ago, when hailing a steam-boat at anchor in the contiguous bay from the point of Craigneroan, the words were repeated distinctly; and finding, on trial, that we had caught an echo of nine syllables, the writer and his friend at first supposed it was the long lost echo restored to the vicinage. There was no such repetition, no pause, nor change of key; but from that day to this the echo none can rouse from her slumber. A most evanescent creature she must have been, in all probability depending for her existence on the position of the steamer at the time.—annihilated by the first dash of her paddle.

So much for the Roseneath echo. Philosophers, puzzling themselves to explain the mystery of her being, may remind one of Charles the Second, with his fish and tub of water, among the fathers of the Royal Society.

population. The evil alluded to, and from which the parish occasionally suffers, is of the following kind : There are a great number of young women from this parish employed as domestic servants in the contiguous towns, more especially in Glasgow. As may be expected, not a few of these are from time to time seized with fevers and other infectious disorders : and though they are well known to be both faithful and active domestics, yet, no sooner are they unfit for their labour, than they are often hurried away from the families in whose services they have caught the infection, without any attendant, sometimes without any arrangement for their safety or comfort having ever been attempted. In this diseased and distressed condition they are left to find their way home as they best can : though symptoms of their malady are thus highly aggravated by undue exertion and exposure ; and with a diminished likelihood of recovery to themselves, they are made the vehicles of conveying disease, in its most virulent forms, to the small, and damp, and often crowded cottages of their native parishes.

Within the last twenty years, there have been several fatal cases both of palsy, scrofula, and cancer ; and during the late visitation of Asiatic cholera, there were two cases of the disease, both of which terminated fatally.

Many remarkable forms of disease have appeared among us ; and not a few very peculiar cases of insanity. In regard to these no minute details can be given here ; but in closing this section, it may be stated, that two very singular recoveries from disease have occurred within the last fifteen years. The one was the case of an epileptic youth, whose mind and body were fast decaying under his severe malady. It so happened that his parents had on one occasion left within his reach more than a pint of ardent spirits, for which, unhappily, he had contracted a liking. On their return home they found the bottle empty, and their epileptic son stretched senseless on the floor. He slept continuously for upwards of forty hours, and awoke in comparative health both of body and mind. He lived for several years, and during all that period he had no return of his malady, and no desire for violent stimulants. The other was the case of a poor woman, the mother of a large family, who, for a considerable period, had been in a state of violent and seemingly confirmed derangement. Her husband was so arrested and exercised with her distressing situation, that at length his mind became unhinged also ; and one night, in a fit of impetu-

ous distraction, he rushed from his cottage, and drowned himself in the Gareloch. So awful and sudden an event was not unblest to the poor widow: the result was her entire and almost immediate restoration to soundness of mind.

Hydrography.—As might be expected from the nature of the parish, there are many small rivulets, or brooks, descending from the higher grounds. In rainy weather, these give an aspect of great liveliness to the scenery on both shores, increasing at times from brawling brooklets to impetuous torrents, and showing in the lower parts of their course many cascades of various and picturesque beauty. During the piercing frosts of our severer winters, there may thus be seen an endless variety of columnar congelations, glancing through the leafless brushwood of the bolder rocky banks; while during the intense heats of summer, the streams which should replace them entirely disappear.

Of late years, there have been several waterspouts of unusual magnitude on the Gareloch side; and, as these occurred at one locality, there must in all probability be something in the nature and form of the ground to occasion the coincidence.

There is one small lake in the parish contiguous to Tamnahara. It is not deep, but its waters are very pure, and it affords what may be considered rather good perch fishing. A small stream from this lonely and elevated lake falls into Loch Long near the north-west extremity of the parish; but this, like our other streams, is very inconsiderable during the warm summer months.

There are but few perennial springs: one of these, near the old mansion-house at Clachan, is nearly of the same temperature at all seasons; and in drougthy summers has been occasionally resorted to from considerable distances. The other, in the Clachan glen, called the *Minister's well*, is slightly chalybeate, and, like the former, scarcely varies in its temperature.

Although there are no fresh water rivers, there is a considerable stream in the tides of the Gareloch at Roseneath Ferry. These are very remarkable, as well for their rapidity as their varying direction, occasioned by the narrowing of the loch at the Row Point, and the various headlands or horns of the contiguous bays. The waters both in Loch Long and Loch Gare are generally clear,—their depth varies from 10 to 30 fathoms, and the saltness of neither is materially diminished by the waters of the Clyde. In Loch Long, the current runs about two miles, and in the Gareloch three or four miles, an hour.

The Gareloch affords excellent anchorage for vessels of all sizes ; the holding-ground is good, and the shelter is complete from all the more prevalent winds. This is especially true of the beautiful small bay of Campsaile, perhaps the best sheltered anchorage on the west coast of Scotland. Of late years, it has on this account been selected by many gentlemen of the Royal Yacht Club, and during the winter season is studded with their cutters, which ride there in perfect safety during the most violent gales. It appears that, at a very early period, it was used by the Kings of Scotland for a similar purpose, having been a frequent station of the royal navies : and within the memory of the present generation a 74 gun-ship lay for a considerable time at anchor, between the Row Ferry and the Castle-point : Indeed, the whole navy of Britain might ride securely on the bosom of the Gareloch, and enjoy all the comforts of an inland harbour.

Geology and Mineralogy.—There is scarcely any thing worthy of notice in the geological structure of the parish. It may be mentioned, however, that nearly the whole strata of this peninsula belong to the primitive class of rocks. The prevailing formation is clay-slate, which, at times, passes into chlorite slate, and, more rarely, into mica slate. One example of the chlorite slate has been furnished by quarries that have been opened on the face of the hill rising from the Gareloch, above the Row Ferry. The clay slate strata are inclined at an angle of about 60°. The direction appears to be pretty uniform, from north-west to south-east.

On the shore of Loch Long, near the site of the old fort at Knockderry, a large mass of greenstone has been forced up between the strata, and appears as a dike of from twenty to thirty feet thick, lying interposed between the strata, and not cutting them across. In the immediate vicinity of this dike, the rock approaches in its mineralogical character to chlorite slate ; but at no great distance, the clay-slate appears. Another much smaller greenstone dike, about three feet thick, and nearly half a mile farther south, on the same shore, is found similarly related to the adjoining strata. The south-eastern extremity of the parish is occupied by a rock of the secondary class, conglomerate, or coarse sandstone, which occurs in beds of considerable thickness. This rock is recognized as a portion of the great sandstone formation which extends along the opposite shores of Renfrew and Ayrshire, and embraces the Cumbræ Islands and a large portion of the southern half of Bute. The sandstone must, no doubt, be regarded as one

of the lowest members of the carboniferous series, which pervades the great valley of the Scottish Lowlands, in which no organic remains have hitherto been found. The line of formation between the sandstone and primitive rock of the parish runs along the vale or dingle which stretches from Campsaile on the eastern shore to Portkill on the south-west. Although seldom observable on the surface, it is easily known by the superior fertility of the fields lying on the sandstone. In the slate formation on the Loch Long shore, as well as in the quartz, iron pyrites is found in considerable abundance. In the slate, it is always crystallized, and in the quartz it appears in irregular masses of larger size. The colour of the slate varies very much, and obviously in proportion to the quantity of oxide of iron which pervades it. Boulders of granite are frequent on the western shore, some of them of considerable size.

Zoology.—There is nothing remarkable in the zoology of the parish. No animals of any rarity seem to be indigenous. The zoological ornament of the parish is its herd of roe-bucks. These elegant creatures, although not so numerous as formerly, may still be seen in little groups, chiefly in their favourite haunts throughout the woods, or bounding across the open fields. They seem rather migratory in their habits, which, independent of other causes, accounts for their diminished numbers. For it is a remarkable fact, that, although the plantations here afford the best possible retirements, and seldom any thing can occur to startle or annoy them, they have been seen occasionally swimming across Loch Long to the Cowal mountains, and throughout the Lennox different colonies are springing up, whose common ancestors browsed in our quiet groves on this side the Gareloch.

It is said that at one time the soil of the peninsula was so sovereign a repellent of rats, that not one of the race would come near it. The Greenock skippers, to secure their vessels from such a nuisance, shipped ballast from the Roseneath shore for any of their longer voyages; and it seems there is no doubt a sagacious West India planter did veritably export some casks of our earth to Jamaica, in hopes of killing the rats that were gnawing his sugar canes. The alleged peculiar sanctity of the spot, may have originated such an impression of the virtue of the soil of the beautiful isle. The fact of their being no rats in the parish, would aid the delusion. Now, indeed, different races of these pestilent vermin, under cover of our agricultural improvement or from vessels with less sacred ballast touching our shores, have effected a habitat here as in other districts. Not

more than forty years ago, however, a rat seemed so rare and strange a creature, that the children were let loose from the parish school for the express purpose of seeing the skeleton of one which had been found, to the surprise of the whole neighbourhood, at the demolition of the old ferry house.

In the high grounds, grouse are still found in considerable numbers, although gradually giving way to the more muscular black game. The partridge coveys have multiplied with the cultivation of the fields below. Hares are not increasing in number. In their season, snipe and woodcock are abundant in certain localities: but pheasants, although all the ordinary arts have been employed to naturalize them in covers apparently most agreeable to their habits, —the soil has hitherto put forth no virtue sufficient to attract.

The surrounding waters periodically abound with herrings; and salmon* are caught at different stations in considerable numbers; but there is nothing peculiar in the mode of fishing either. In regard to the herrings, it may be stated that they appear in the Gareloch sooner than in any other of the western lochs, and are fully equal in quality to those of Loch Fine. Of late years, they have not been so numerous as formerly, owing, as many persons in lack of a more exact philosophy imagine, to the frequent passing and repassing of steam-vessels in all directions, and more especially where the waters of the Gareloch and Lochlong diverge from the estuary of the Clyde.

The symptoms of the approach of the shoal for the season are familiar to the natives, and always excite interest around our shores. Nor does the flight of gulls and other aquatics, or the harlequin movements of the porpoises in the end of May or beginning of June, contribute more to the picturesque aspect of our secluded waters, than they excite agreeable sensations, as the well known heralds of God's bounty, on its way with each coming tide from the prolific depths of the more distant ocean.

There is, besides, a great variety of fishes, more or less abundant, fit for the table, found in our contiguous waters, viz. sea-trout, haddock, common or rock-cod, ling, (20 lbs.) whiting, skate, mackerel, flounders of all varieties, sethe, lithe; but, from whatever cause, they are all less numerous than about ten or twenty years ago. In addition to these others, are occasionally found, such as the hali-

* In the twelfth century, Amelec, the Earl of Lennox, granted to the monks of Paisley a right to all the salmon fishing in the Gare'och, reserving to himself and heirs every fourth salmon.

but, (60 lbs.) said to be a peculiar favourite with the Jews; mullet, sperlins, John Dorys, one of the most elegant of the finny tribe, the gurnard or crooner, so named, from its emitting a sound at the depth of several feet, similar to the grunting of a pig, the braise, of singular beauty of colour, (2 lbs.) grim iris, the bones of which, when boiled, become quite green, and several years ago, a tunny, of about eight feet in length, was entangled in the salmon nets; or rather was entrapped out of his depth at the head of the Gareloch.

The shell fish of any value are few. Occasionally a crab or lobster is found on the Loch Long shore. Mussels are numerous, but seldom come to maturity; there is a bed or two of oysters, also of excellent quality, but scantily inhabited.

The following is a list of Roseneath shells, or shells on the Gareloch shore, two or three of which may be interesting to conchologists.

<i>Patella vulgaris</i>	<i>Modiola vulgaris</i>	<i>Venus gallina</i>
<i>Turbo littoreus</i>	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	<i>Venerupis pullastra</i>
<i>Turbo rudis</i>	<i>Cardium edule</i>	<i>Venerupis Virginea</i>
<i>Nerita littoralis</i>	<i>Cardium echinatum</i>	<i>Pholas dactylus</i>
<i>Tornatella tornatilis</i>	<i>Tellina tenuis</i>	<i>Hiatella rugosa</i>
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	<i>Psammobia solidula</i>	<i>Mya arenaria</i>
<i>Rostellaria pes-pelecani</i>	<i>Astarte Scotica</i>	<i>Mya truncata.</i>
<i>Pecten opercularis</i>	<i>Astarte Ganensis</i>	
<i>Pecten varius</i>	<i>Cyprina Islandica</i>	

Botany.—The soil seems favourable for the growth of trees of all descriptions; and evergreens, shy, or rather difficult of culture, shoot up in the more sheltered spots with wonderful celerity and luxuriance. There are in the woods of Campsail, as well as in the policies contiguous to the Castle, and around the church, trees of great magnitude and beauty. But the botanic glory of the parish, are the two *silver firs* near the site of the old mansion of the Campbells of Carrick. They are supposed to have been among the first specimens, and coeval with the introduction of that species of pine into this country. Their circumference, five feet from the ground, is about 19 feet, and their lofty stems support a profusion of mighty boughs, by the peculiar form and grouping of which, such an expression of power and majesty is conveyed, as to excite, even in the most insensible, sublime emotions. They singularly combine, by their relative position, to effect this. A distinguished artist greatly erred, when preparing his work on forest trees; he sketched only one of these magnificent forms. Would a section of York Minster do justice to that noble pile in a collection of Gothic cathedrals?

The following is a list of the more humble plants in the parish, some of which will be found of considerable rarity.

Salicornia herbacea	Oxyria reniformis	Hypericum quadrangulum
Veronica soutellata	Triglochin maritimum	perforatum
anagallis	palustre	humifusum
montana	Erica tetralix	pulchrum
Pinguicula vulgaris	cinerea	elodes
Lycopus Europæus	Vaccinium uliginosum	Leontodon palustre
Circea lutetiana	vitis idæa	Cichorium intybus
alpina	oxycoccus	Eupatorium cannabinum
Valeriana officinalis	Polygonum viviparum	Gnaphalium dioicum
Fedia olitoria	Pyrola media	sylvaticum
Scirpus sylvaticus	Chrysosplenium opposi-	Aster tripolium
Poa frutans	tifolium	Solidago virgaurea
Briza media	alternifolium	Orchis mascula
Elymus arenarius	Saxifraga stellaris	latifolia
Triticum junceum	aizoides	maculata
Galium boreale	granulata	Gymnadenia conopsea
Asperula odorata	hypnoides	Habenaria viridia
Plantago maritima	Sedum villosum	albida
Ilex aquifolium	Prunus spinosa	bifolia
Lithospermum maritimum	padus	Listera ovata
Lycopsis arvensis	Rubus idæus	cordata
Myosotis palustris	suberectus	Zostera marina
Anagallis arvensis	saxatilis	Myrica gale
tenella	Glaucium luteum	Juniperus communis
Lysimachia vulgaris	Thalictrum majus	Polypodium vulgare
nemorum	Trollius Europæus	phegopteris
Erythraea centaureum	Thymus serpyllum	dryopteris
Samolus valerandi	Teucrium scorodonia	Aspidium lobatum
Lonicera periclymenum	Galeopsis tetrahit	oreopteris
Glaux maritima	versicolor	filix-mas
Gentiana campestris	Prunella vulgaris	dilatatum
Sanicula Europæa	Scutellaria galericulata	filix femina
Cicuta virosa	Bartsia viscosa	Cistopteris fragilis
Sison verticillatum	Digitalis purpurea	Asplenium viride
Carum carui	Lepidium Smithii	ruta-muraria
Pimpinella saxifraga	Draba verna	adiantum nigrum
Oenanthe fistulosa	Geranium sylvaticum	trichomanes
crocata	Corydalis claviculata	Scolopendrium vulgare
Daucus carota	Polygala vulgaris	Blechnum boreale
Salsola kali	Ononis arvensis	Hymenophyllum Wilsoni
Viburnum opalis	Anthyllis vulneraria	Botrychium lunaria
Parnassia palustris	Vicia sativa	Lycopodium clavatum
Drosera rotundifolia	Lotus major	selago
Hyacinthus non-scriptus	corniculatus	alpina
Narthecium ossifragum	Hypericum androsaemum	selaginoides,

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

As has been already observed, the peninsula formed a portion of the district de Nevyd, granted at a very early period to the Lennox family, and continuing in their possession till the close of the fifteenth century. In the year 1489, the Earl of Lennox seems to have been engaged in measures rather of a treasonable character, for which he had forfeited the royal favour. The records of the Scottish Parliament contain a declaration and ratification of his pardon; but the forfeiture from all his property was not withdrawn, for, in that same year, the lands of Roseneath were a royal

gift to Colin, the first Earl of Argyle. It does not appear that the whole of the Roseneath district, or of the lands de Nevyd was bestowed upon Argyle, for down to the beginning of the seventeenth century, the property of that family, even in the 'isle' was limited to its southern extremity. The new acquisition, however, was of importance in the history of that illustrious family, being its first territorial connection with the western Lowlands, which thus extended its influence beyond its original limits, and greatly facilitated, in later ages, its predominance for more than a century, amid the agitations and antipathies of a transition country, so to speak, consummating the demolition of one, and construction of another system of religious opinions. The first proprietor of Roseneath was a man eminent for his wisdom in conduct. His integrity of principle, and his talent for public affairs, were evinced by the offices he filled, having been Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, and plenipotentiary at the celebrated Northampton conference; by his fidelity to the last to his sovereign, amid the rebellious nobles; and by the confidence reposed in him, notwithstanding, by James IV. on his accession to the throne. The occasional presence or residence of the successive Earls of Argyle must have materially affected the civil and religious condition of this district, but especially when they abjured the Romanist superstitions. The fourth earl was the first nobleman of his country who embraced the Scripture faith of the Reformation; and as he cherished in his household the teachers of the truth, his dependents and tenantry would unquestionably share the blessedness which he enjoyed himself, and which, in his celebrated letter to the furious and bigoted Primate, he evinces so strong a desire to secure for them.

Subsequently, during the tyranny of the latter Stewarts, the Lowland Presbyterians often found shelter on this side the Gareloch, as the names and traditional histories of several families, residing here for many generations, indicate. It is curious, indeed, to observe how tradition sometimes extends the line of its vague remembrance. An old woman of the name of Chalmers preferred a claim some years ago for sessional relief, grounding it on the alleged fact, that her "mother's forbears had for fifteen, and her father's forbears for twenty-five generations been residents in the parish." The truth of her story was not difficult to expiscate, although tradition had so rapidly elongated her genealogical tree, for there is little doubt but that Chalmers of Gadgirth, a leader of the

Covenanters, was the chief of her ancestors, who had found their way across the Frith of Clyde during the troubles of the western Lowlands, to enjoy the protection of the family of Argyle.

Notwithstanding the accounts that are generally given that Balfour of Burley, one of the assassins of Sharpe, passed over to Holland, and died in the service of the Prince of Orange, there are strong presumptions that he found an asylum in the same peninsula, and that, having assumed the name of Salter, his descendants continued here for several generations. They were always considered of more gentle kin than the tenantry around them; their family traditions, it is said, uniformly so identified their ancestor. The last of this race died about thirty years ago.

The effect of this immigration and settlement from the Lowlands was traceable in the earlier disuse of the Gaelic language in this than in the contiguous parish; of which this may be stated as conclusive evidence, that there were Gaelic services at communions in the neighbouring church of Row, although not half a mile across the Gareloch, for fifty years after they had been laid aside in Rose-neath.

Antiquities, &c.—There are no ruins or monuments to throw any light on the more remote history of the spot, with the exception of the debris of an old Danish or Norwegian fort at Knockderry, on the Loch Long shore. This must have been coeval at least with the battle of Largs, and is admirably situated for observation, commanding an extensive range of the frith and its shores in all directions. It is certain that the Danes sailed along the northern shore of the parish to Arrochar, and that, having conveyed their boats across the isthmus of Tarbet, they devastated the islands of Loch Lomond, and the contiguous district. Thus, in the absence of more authentic information, we may gather from witnessing the ruins of the antique stronghold, fitted to protect them, either as they advanced or retired, that these now peaceful shores were once the scene of violence and bloodshed. It may be noticed in passing, that though the term Loch Long, sufficiently characterizes the form of the waters that bound the parish in the west, yet it does not primarily refer to their appearance at all, but to the ancient expedition alluded to, and strictly means the lake of ships; and no doubt the classical reader may see in this, not a very distant or indistinct connexion with the *longæ naves* of the Romans.

There is a precipitous rock of conglomerate on the north of the castle called Wallace's leap, which is traditionally monumental

of similar occurrences at a less distant period in the south of the peninsula. On one occasion, as the story goes, Wallace, having been hotly pursued by his enemies, galloped in the direction of this cliff, and having no other way of escape, leaped his horse from its lofty brink. The poor steed was killed upon the spot, and its grave is still marked by a rude block described as its tombstone; but Wallace himself made for the Gareloch, swam across, and so escaped his Saxon pursuers. Such is the tale of tradition; but Blind Harry describes a visit of his hero to the "Isle" under more auspicious circumstances: for instead of hurrying hence as a fugitive in imminent peril of his life, he took and set on fire and demolished the castle, and then crossed in triumph to Fasslane, a residence of the Earl of Lennox, whose patriotism never gave way in those days of aristocratic apostacy. To use the language of the old minstrel,

Yan to Fasslan ye worthe Scot yan pass,
 Quhar Erle Malcolm was bydand at defence,
 Richt glad was he of Wallace gude presence.

In what condition the castle remained for centuries, or whether it was ever rebuilt or possessed while within the Lordship of Lennox, it is impossible now to say. About 1630, it seems to have been fitted up by the Marquis of Argyle, as a subsidiary residence to the old family mansion of Inverara. A small castellated building situated on the point south of Campsail bay, the late Duke enlarged, and surrounded it with more commodious suites of apartments. About thirty years ago, Rosneath Castle was once more burnt to the ground, which gave occasion to his Grace, then a very aged man, thus piously to express his gratitude to Divine Providence, as he viewed the conflagration from Ardencaple on the opposite shore, "I thank my God I have another house to go to."

Of religious houses there are no ruins, although the names of several places indicate their former existence, and tradition confirms the impression conveyed by the name. Of these, Kilcraigin, the chapel of the Rock, and Port Kill, the harbour of the chapel, may be given as examples. Some traditions attaching to these spots have already been alluded to; and it may further be stated, that the bodies of the dead used to be brought thither from the Hebrides and other districts of Argyleshire, and even from Ireland, as if to enjoy a more sacred and happier sepulture in ground, from a very early period imagined to be of peculiar sanctity. In one of the fields near Port Kill, several stone coffins were found about thirty years ago. They were of very rude construction and the

relics of the dead they contained had become as the dust that enclosed them.

On the farm of Marson, the last ruins of what seemed to have been some ancient chapel, were employed in completing the enclosures of that district, regarding which some interesting traditions were in circulation among the people; very much resembling those of the crusade adventures. In the contiguous farm of Membig, there is a deeply affecting spot by a beautifully sequestered little bay overhung with lofty trees, which cannot be omitted, when noting the few antiquities, if they can be so called, which the "isle" contains. There is indeed nothing seen there monumental of the doings or sufferings of man; only the green sward meets the eye, and no relics of any former age; but who can look on it without emotion? it is the traditionary burial place of unchristened infants, during the iron tyranny of the papal delusion. A sweetly solemn seclusion, as if a dark and severe superstition, half relenting its own uncharitableness, and yielding to a certain compunctious tenderness of feeling, had sought for the loveliest spot in this beautiful "isle," for the repose of those babes whose dust it had harshly doomed to exile from the sepulchre of their fathers.

Modern Buildings.—After the destruction of the old castle, the late Duke of Argyll founded another mansion in 1803, not on the old site, but retiring from the shore more towards the bosom of the Bay of Campsail. It is from a splendid design by J. Bononi of London, in Romanesque, or rather modern Italian style of architecture. The general effect is exceedingly graceful and elegant. It has two principal fronts, to the north and to the south. The former is adorned with a magnificent portico, approximating to the Roman Ionic, and projecting so far as to admit of a carriage-way being within it. A circular tower rises from the centre of the building, surrounded by a balustrade at the summit, from which there is one of the most splendid panoramas that can possibly be conceived.

The situation, although in some respects inferior to that of the old castle, and not perhaps the best that might have been otherwise selected on the grounds, is happy in many respects; and the castle itself, with its magnificent environs of woods, and waters, and mountains, contains, in rich variety and profusion such elements of beauty and sublimity, as those who are strangers to the shores of the Gareloch may find it exceeding difficult to see any where else.

The Easter House, formerly the seat of the ancestors of the present Ducal family, of the house of Argyle, is remarkable for its position, from the magnificence of its back-ground, and the yew avenue, with its parallel of lofty limes extending to the church—a grouping which excites very much the admiration of strangers.

Besides, there have been, within the last twenty years, erected throughout the parish, chiefly on the Gareloch, a considerable number of villas and cottages, which, if not distinguished for architectural elegance, generally occupy situations which command most interesting prospects of the surrounding scenery.

Maps, &c.—There have been very minute maps, plans, and surveys recently made for the respective land-owners; but there are no letters or documents existing which particularly illustrate the history and antiquity of the parish. The sessional records do not extend back above seventy years, and have not been regularly or fully kept. A pretty correct list of the births, marriages, and deaths has been kept for the last twenty years.

There are regular half-yearly meetings of the heritors and kirk-session for the distribution of poor's-money; and notices of these have been regularly engrossed, in a separate volume, for the last half century.

Heritors.—There are only four heritors in the parish: The Duke of Argyle; his Grace's brother, Lord John Campbell; Colin Campbell, Esq. of Pealton; and Dugald Cumming, Esq. of Baremman. The last only is resident in the parish.

Eminent Persons, &c.—Respecting various members of the Argyle family, whose names are honourably associated with their country's history, reference might be made to the public records, since none of the events in which they bore so conspicuous a part happened here, or are especially connected with this locality,—it being uncertain, besides, whether any of them were natives of this parish; yet, as it seems to have been a favourite residence with one of these illustrious men, the Marquis of Argyle, a notice of his character may be inserted from one of the historians of his own age.

“He was a man of singular piety, prudence, authority, and eloquence; and though he had been much envied and calumniated, yet his death did abundantly vindicate him. He left his desolate family upon the Lord's providence and the King's uncertain favour. As he was a very great support to the work of reformation, so it was buried with him in one grave for many a year.”

His widow continued to reside in the castle which he had rebuilt, nor can the insertion be resisted of this beautiful eulogium on one who so long hallowed these sequestered shores by her presence. "His noble lady, Lady Margaret Douglas, a lady of singular piety and virtue, bore the sad shock with other both personal and domestic afflictions, with great patience and incredible fortitude, giving herself always to prayer and fasting, and ministering to the necessity of the saints." In the old Castle* one of their daughters was married to the Earl of Caithness, whom Middleton, the brutal minister for Scotland, (one of those dissolute bacchanals to whom Charles II. confided the government of his kingdom,) "threatened to kick with his foot when sitting on her knees before him, begging her dead father Argyle's head to be buried."

The fate of the next Argyle, rather a rash patriot, the victim of royal resentment and jealousy, is well known; although, perhaps, the particulars of his escape from his first imprisonment are familiar only to the readers of the more minute and circumstantial biographies. They were of a romantic cast, and reflect exceeding credit upon the self-command and dexterity of his step-daughter, the Lady Sophia Lindsay, to whom, after his arrival in the Low Countries, he addressed a poem well expressed, and throughout containing a pleasing vein of religious sentiment. The following lines might be applied to the present phase of our own community, and are quoted to show how curiously in certain cycles men are the agents or the victims of the same ecclesiastical and political antagonisms :

The world is here as I have seen,
All do cry down what is—up what hath been ;
Debate for government in church and state,
Are still the devil's delight.

* The castle was the scene of superstitious omens of his untimely end. According to Baillie, "all the dogs on the day Charles II. landed in England, did take a strange howling and staring up to my lady's bedchamber for some time together. The Marquis's sister, Lady Kenmure, 'from a little skill of physiognomy which Mr Alexander Colville, Justice Deput, an old servant of the house, had taught her, had said some years ago that her brother would die in blood.'" "When the Lord Marquis of Argyle went from Inverara to Roseneath in his birline, when going up to see the King after his return from exile, Mr Gordon, minister, with some others, accompanied him to the boat, and after said lord was upon his voyage they, returning home, met a dumb man, who falls a whining and mourning, and having a staff in his hand, laid down the staff on the ground, and lays his body on the ground, laying his neck upon the staff, and smyting the upper part of his neck with the edge of his hand. he arose from the ground and pointed at my Lord Argyle in the birline, which accordingly fell out, for he was behended."

Dr Anderson, the well known founder of the Andersonian Institution of Glasgow, was the son of a former minister of the parish, and was born in the manse. He was a man of eminent talent and various attainments, and will long be remembered as having first realized the idea of bringing within reach of the labouring classes the philosophy and science of the chartered universities.

Matthew Stewart, one of the most distinguished of the Scottish mathematical scholars, perhaps better known as the father of the celebrated Dugald Stewart, was for some years minister of Roseneath. There are still current among the older people, some rather amusing traditions respecting his singular absence of mind, and the avenue of yew trees, in itself so remarkable, leading from the church to the old family seat of the Campbells of Marmore, has acquired rather a classical interest, from having been the frequent and favourite scene of his peripatetic meditations.*

III.—POPULATION.

Since the date of the former Statistical Account, the population has been gradually increasing. Then it was stated to be only 394, now it consists of 709 souls. The agricultural improvements of the intermediate period easily account for this: having rendered necessary the employment of additional labourers, and increased the productiveness of the soil. The Government census of 1831 shows a still higher number, but that was a partial augmentation arising from a temporary cause, the working of two slate quarries which had been opened on two different properties, but which have since been closed.

The number of families is 156, and the average of births, marriages, and deaths, during the last seven years, has been 17, 4, and $9\frac{1}{2}$ respectively.

It may be remarked, that, while the average of each family is not more than $4\frac{1}{2}$, the average of children born in each productive marriage is so high as $5\frac{1}{2}$; nor is it unworthy of note, that from a calculation regarded as accurate that of all the children

* It seems not just to pass over, without some particular notice, the extraordinary instance of Isabella Campbell, who indeed, although in humble life, might have been named among the eminent persons connected with the parish. Successive editions of her memoirs, consisting of many thousand copies, have been printed; and it may be truly said, that wherever the English language is spoken, the knowledge of her godly example has found its way. The letters, although she had no other advantage than what the cottage school afforded, are written with great elegance and beauty, admirably showing how the habitual contemplation of the glorious revelation of Divine truth may supersede the ordinary means of mental cultivation and refinement.

born to the heads of families now in the parish, and resident for the last forty years, $\frac{1}{10}$ are still alive.

To whatever cause so small a mortality may be attributed, the salubrity of the air, the general healthiness and sober habits of the parents, or the skill and care with which they nurture their offspring, it is a fact not a little remarkable in the history of human life. Large families, indeed, frequently reach mature age without a single breach, and sometimes with scarcely the experience of any acute disease; and instances of longevity, it is believed, are much more numerous than in most parishes of similar extent.

Of the whole population 1-9th are above sixty years of age, 1-18th above seventy. Many are considerably beyond eighty. Several have reached their ninetieth year, and although only one female is older (in her ninety-third,) a few years ago there were several living nearly a century old, and one female died in her hundred and third, who a twelvemonth before had displayed such strength of constitution, and such tenacity of life, as to have recovered entirely from a severe dysentery of several weeks duration.

Regarding one venerable lady, whose age extended to within a little of a century, it is worthy of record, that, as each Sabbath returned, she regularly committed to memory, as in the days of her youth, a portion of scripture, with some psalm or hymn, or spiritual song, to supply her wakeful nights, or when she was alone, as she used to say, with materials of reflection and devotion.

The great bulk of the population now are engaged in agricultural pursuits, and the tradesmen are of such crafts as are needful to supply the wants of a rural district. There is neither a baker nor butcher in the parish, but the contiguous towns compensate that deficiency.

Character of the People, &c.—In their general deportment, they are well conducted, sensible, and judicious in the management of their affairs, not distinguished, perhaps, for enterprise or energy, but steady and industrious, exceedingly neighbourly and kind, and although with some exceptions, compared with other parishes, exemplary in their attendance on religious ordinances.

Very much as one family the parishioners dwell together, and in the interchange of kind offices there but seldom occurs any interruption. Insurmountable difficulties are in the way of ascertaining intimately the amount of religious principle actuating any community. It has been remarked they do generally attend public wor-

ship; besides, it merits notice, that many have family worship daily, and are readers of the Scriptures, while occasionally there have been remarkable examples among them of the transforming power of the truth of God. The periodical influx of strangers for the summer months, although in some temporal respects an advantage, is not to be regarded without serious apprehensions in its moral and religious bearings. Occasionally very estimable persons are met with among this fluctuating population, whose temporary residence is even a blessing to our secluded community; but there has always hitherto been a leaven of ungodly scorners among our summer visitants. Incapable of laying aside habits intrinsically criminal, they aggravate their guilt by transferring them where they are more obtrusively offensive. As if long accustomed to think that "man made the town," they seem to conclude that he "made the country" also; and it ought to be known through such a medium as a statistical survey of the parish, that there are many persons of respectable stations in life from the commercial districts, so lost to all sense of decorum, as systematically to disturb the devotions of a peaceful people, by retiring during the service, should continuance to its close unexpectedly interfere with the projected relaxations and amusements of the day. Some bolder, or more hardened in their desecration, attempt no such compromise with their conscience, as to attend any portion of the service; but while others are reverently occupied, may occasionally be seen prowling around the walls of the church, or along its contiguous avenues, contemptuous of the worship of the God whose works they pretend to admire.

Only one illegitimate birth occurred in the parish in the course of the last three years.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture and Rural Economy.—The parish consists of 6140 acres, of which about 3000 are uncultivated moorland, although of these it is calculated 500 are capable of profitable culture, 520 are under valuable wood plantations of various ages, and 720 of old and natural copse, which leave about 1900 acres of ground cultivated, or occasionally in tillage.

In the grounds of the Castle, and the environs of the church, and the site of the ancient House of Campsail, are chiefly found the trees of any considerable age and magnitude, and these are of all varieties; ash, elm, beech, plane, lime, oak, yew, horse chest-

nut, holm oak, cedar, with various species of fir, &c. Some of these are magnificent trees; the silver firs of Campsail have already been particularly noted.

Those planted of late years consist of all varieties of the pine tribe, with oak, ash, and birch, which are indigenous to the soil. Within the last thirty years, the appearance chiefly of the southern district of the parish has been greatly improved by numerous plantations, harmonizing exceedingly well with the more ancient trees of the Castle grounds, and the natural woods skirting the shore.

The Gallowhill, for example, which lies immediately opposite Greenock, a few years ago, was a mere heath and furze cover for game, but now bears to its summit a luxuriant forest of this description, and which, resting on a base of beautifully pendant fields, highly cultivated, forms one of the most interesting and remarkable objects to be found in any locality. The woods are kept in good order, all fenced and drained, and according to the most approved rules periodically thinned.

Rent of Land.—The average value of land under the plough may be rated at L. 1, 5s. per acre; the charge for grazing a cow, L. 2, 10s.; and, for a full-grown sheep, 5s. The rental of the parish may be estimated rather below L. 3500.

Rate of Wages.—Agricultural labour averages 1s. 10d.; artisans, 2s. 6d. per day. Farm servants are hired at L. 7 and L. 8 for the half year, with bed, board, and washing. On three or four farms only are there married ploughmen, who receive, in lieu of fixed money wages, allowance in produce with free house, garden, and cow's grass, amounting in the aggregate to L. 32.

Implements used in husbandry cost thus,—an iron plough, L. 4, 10s.; pair of wooden harrows, L. 1, 15s.; wheelbarrow, L. 1, 5s.; one horse box-cart, L. 8, 10s. Sawing of timber,—yellow pine, 3s. 6d.; hardwood, 4s. per 100 feet.

Breed of Cattle.—The common breed is Ayrshire, and a considerable portion of the parks is under grazing for black and West Highland cattle. A few sheep are kept; and on one farm a small herd of goats.—An association has been lately formed for improvement in this branch of rural economy, and it may be stated as a token of its probable success, that, at the last annual meeting of the Highland Society held in Glasgow, two oxen fed on the farm of Mr Lorn Campbell, his Grace's chamberlain, under whose

auspices the association has been formed, greatly distanced all other competitors, and were, indeed, supposed to have been the very finest specimens ever reared of that peculiar breed.

Husbandry.—The general character of the husbandry is improving chiefly by inclosing and draining on the modern system, which might, however, be carried to a still greater extent. Nearly the whole of the cultivated ground is inclosed by hedge and stone-dikes, and on some farms there have been reclaimed lands to complete the uniform aspect of the fields, which indicate a very determined spirit of agricultural improvement.

To this, throughout the parish generally, there is no peculiar obstacle, but the want of better farm buildings, which, with very few exceptions, are inconvenient,—not in good repair and of limited extent; and sometimes a lack of sufficient capital. For the produce there is a steady and constant market, with easy access and water carriage for any amount of stimulating and enriching manure; while the sympathy and encouragement of a kind and intelligent proprietary have the natural effect of giving no small energy to the farmer's proceedings. The ordinary duration of a lease is nineteen years, on terms that seem favourable to the occupier, and such as are fitted to secure the full benefit of his compact with the landlord. The enclosures are very complete, and are in good repair, perhaps more thoroughly suited to the purposes of the farmer, than those of any other parish in the district.

Quarries and Mines.—Of the latter little need be said. The parish contains both limestone and slate, but neither has hitherto been productive. The lime can at all times be procured from the north of Ireland in abundance, and at less expense than the farmers could prepare it on their own fields.

A few years ago, two slate quarries were opened by the Duke of Argyle and Mr Cumming of Baremman, on their respective properties. Both were wrought for some time but unproductively, and were abandoned by their respective proprietors. The slate, however, is of excellent quality, and Mr Cumming lately re-opened his quarry with greater prospects of success.

Fisheries.—Both salmon and herring fishing in their season are carried on to a considerable extent on both shores of the parish.

Produce.—The average yearly value of all kinds of produce, calculated pretty exactly may be thus rated:

Value of all kinds of grain,	L. 2000	0	0
Of potatoes and turnips,	1500	0	0
Of hay cultivated,	400	0	0
(Meadow trifling)			
Of flax for flannel, are	20	0	0
Of land in pasture, rating it at L. 2, 10s. for each cow or full-grown ox, and for each sheep, 5s.	1200	0	0
Annual thinning from plantation grounds,	600	0	0
Of salmon fishing,	100	0	0
	L. 5820	0	0

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Occasionally sales are effected in Glasgow and elsewhere; seed oats are sometimes exported to Ireland, and potatoes to the colonies; but Greenock is the chief market for all descriptions of farm produce from the parish, to which there is a ready access by the two ferries of Row and Kilcraigin. By the former, (on the Gareloch shore) and about six miles from Greenock quay, the farmer can convey his articles to market in steamers every day; by the latter, which is on the Loch Long shore, where the estuary is about three miles wide, in the regular packet-boat on Mondays and Fridays.

Villages.—There are several little groups of cottages, scarcely one of which can be termed a village, unless, indeed, the Clachan lay claim to that distinction among those of the hill of Campsail, Kilcraigin, Barber, or the mill of Reheane. In none of these, are there above ten or twelve families, and in the Clachan itself there are not sixty souls.

Each family in these groups occupies a separate or *self-contained* cottage, so that although contiguous or rather crowded together, each thus enjoys a certain domestic privacy. Very few of the cottages are without a *ben*, the comfort of which is so felt by the poorest of the people. It is of no mean importance in their domestic economy, for very obvious purposes; but it may be observed that it is prized in proportion to the diffusion of the power and habit of reflection, especially when the mind becomes religiously impressed. Such a family accommodation in their humble dwellings facilitates the attainment of that quiet and seclusion so indispensable for those exercises with which a stranger cannot intermeddle.

Means of Communication.—There are no turnpike roads; but about twenty-four miles of carriage roads, kept in excellent repair, traverse the parish in various directions, with the exception of not more than three miles, the isthmus extending from Coalport to Fernivarry, they entirely surround the peninsula, and bisect it first across the dingle of Campsail Bay, then at Mamore, thus connecting the Loch Long and Gareloch sides of the parish, while another line,

longitudinally stretching from Portkill to Pattown, along the farmsteadings of the west, very much facilitates all intra-parochial communication. An additional line bisecting the ridge between Kilcraigin and Mamore would afford a more direct access to the Row ferry, and the church from the Loch Long side farms, and contribute to the comfort of a very considerable portion of the population.

From the position of the parish, our extra-parochial communication is chiefly by water, for which since the use of steamers, there are abundant facilities. Not many years ago, an open packet boat from the Row and Kilcraigin ferries was the ordinary mode of conveyance to Greenock; often against wind and tide would hours be spent in crossing the frith; now, there are two or three steamboats at all seasons, and in summer, arrivals and departures at the Gareloch ferry seven or eight times a day. At all times, by the row-boat, passengers can cross the Gareloch for the interior to the east. The channel of the ferry, at low water certainly not more than one-sixth, widens, with the return of the tide, to upwards of half a mile.

Of late years, a daily penny post subsidiary to Helensburgh, has been added to our means of communication. It was established on the condition that, although arriving on the Sabbath, no bag should be made up or dispatched as on other days. Its time has rather varied. At present, it arrives at twelve and departs at half-past two.

Ecclesiastical State.—In the twelfth century Rosneath was a parsonage, the patronage of which belonged to the Earl of Lennox. The territory which the name then included, with the patronage of the church, Amelec, a younger son of Allwyn, Earl of Lennox, obtained for his patrimony in 1225, granting the church with all its pertinents in perpetual alms to the monastery of Paisley. By an agreement in 1227, between the Bishop of Glasgow and Abbot of Paisley, the monks of that abbey were allowed to appropriate the church of Rosneath, and it continued in their possession till the Reformation. They enjoyed the whole of the revenue, and employed a curate to perform divine service.

At the Reformation, the revenue was let by the Abbot for L. 146, 13s. 4d. per annum; and in 1587 the patronage and tithes, then held by Lord Claud Hamilton for life, as commendator of Paisley, were granted to him and his heirs for ever, along with the other property of the monastery, now inherited by the Marquis of Aber-

corn. The patronage of the church was afterwards acquired by the Argyle family, with whom it still remains.

The church, although situated within about two miles from the southern boundary, from the peculiar form of the parish, is perhaps more convenient than it could be elsewhere for an equal number of the people. It was built in 1780, rather prior to the revival of that taste in architecture which has adorned so many of our rural districts with convenient or rather elegant churches. Were it a matter of much importance, one might regret a structure had not been erected to harmonize in some degree with the exquisite beauty of the environs. It is an edifice of the oblong or barn form, and that of the very plainest description. The belfry must always be excepted, which is singularly symmetrical in its proportions,—the only relique of that more ancient fabric, which the modern parallelogram supplanted: cruciform, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary,* very aged people still speak with considerable reverence of its venerable and picturesque appearance. Its exceeding uncomfortableness had determined the heritors to demolish it; and it is very probable that the incurable damp in its walls may induce, respecting the present church, a similar decision.

It is, however, sufficiently commodious for the indigenous or ordinary population; but in summer, when the cottages and villages throughout the parish are studded with sea-bathers from the interior, it is often so crowded as to render the congregation very uncomfortable.

The living consists of 210½ bolls of meal, 26½ of bear, and L. 8, 10s. in money, with an allowance of L. 5 by his Grace the Duke of Argyle for communion elements. The teinds are exhausted. The glebe contains not more than 6½ acres, the greater portion of which is very inferior land.

The manse is newly built, in every respect affording a comfortable residence for the minister's family. The former manse, although not an old house, and thoroughly repaired about twenty years ago, on account of damp, the heritors, perhaps wisely for themselves, at all events most considerately of the minister's comfort,

* This only traditionally,—for in whatever way the assumed sanctity of the place depended upon the patronage of the Virgin, even in the charter of the twelfth century, the church is designated the church of St Nicholas. It is probable the church or religious house at Kilcraigin, originated the relationship, which secures to this isle the soubriquet of the Virgin promontory, the more popular translation of the name.

instead of enlarging, resolved to convert into a quarry for the present edifice.

153 families attend the Established Church ; and 3 are Dissenting or Seceding families.

Education.—The different branches of a commercial and classical education are very efficiently taught by the parochial schoolmaster ; and every day the children under his care are instructed in the principles of religion. The average attendance may be rated at 70, although in the winter season upwards of 100 sometimes are at school. The school-house was built a few years ago, a very handsome and commodious structure, superior to any in the county, reflecting great credit, at once upon the liberality and taste of the heritors. The schoolmaster's house is at a little distance from it, immediately contiguous to the church, with accommodations much superior to what the statute provides for that class of most deserving men. His garden is much less than the legal dimensions, but he enjoys an allowance in lieu of that deficiency. The salary is the maximum, which, with the fees, 2s. 6d. for reading, 3s. for writing, and 3s. 6d. for arithmetic, may constitute an income of between L. 70 and L. 80 per annum.

The only other school in the parish is at Knockderry, on the shore of Loch Long. The teacher there has a salary of L. 35 a-year, guaranteed to him by Mr Lorne Campbell, his Grace's factor ; and although the parents pay at the rate of 5s. per quarter for each child, the fees fall greatly short of the sum guaranteed, from the circumstance of the school commanding pupils from a very limited population, but whose distance from the parish school rendered its erection necessary,—the expense of which was solely met by the Duke of Argyle. Although less, it is built upon the same principle as the parochial school-house. Both houses are much more commodious than at present is needful, and may be considered as anticipating any probable increase of population in their respective districts, for a century to come.

It may be stated, that the people are universally anxious to have their children educated. All the natives of the parish, male and female, are taught at least to read and write ; and although individuals from time to time are found that can do neither, they are generally natives of Argyshire, servants to the different farmers.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—There are nearly 30 on the poor list ; these, chiefly desolate widows, and frail lone women—only two men, indeed, the one blind, the other lame, receive any relief

from the funds. The amount of poverty is not so great as such a number in so small a parish might seem to indicate, for assistance is rendered to the needy long before they reach that extremity of destitution, which in some districts seems to be held as an indispensable antecedent to the bestowal of public alms. The allowance varies from 15s. to L. 5 in the year. The mean amount of collections at the church amounts to about L. 35 : there is also interest on L. 170, and a donation of L. 10 from the Duke of Argyle. At present, there are three lunatics in different asylums chargeable upon the parish. To meet this extraordinary outlay, the heritors, by a judicious arrangement, subscribed, in proportion to their respective interests in the parish, the greater portion of the necessary funds ; and for the reversion the kirk-session are responsible.

One of the lunatic cases is of peculiar interest. Formerly the individual had been confined for more than a twelvemonth, and was dismissed perfectly cured. For five years he continued sane ; and, during that time, he liquidated, from the proceeds of his spade labour, at the rate of L. 5 per annum, the whole of the outlay which the session had incurred. A Bible was given him as a memorial of God's goodness to him, and the integrity of his conduct,—which he had not in his possession more than two or three months, before a relapse ensued ; and although convalescent, he is still in confinement.

When any case of more than ordinary distress occurs, the people are in the habit of raising contributions throughout the parish ; and nothing can be more conclusive of their sympathy with each other, than the amount which in this way is often raised. It cannot, perhaps, be stated that there exists any general disinclination in the poor to receive assistance from the session, although instances do occur of extraordinary exertions made by the kindred of the parties, rather than they should apply for it. One widow, with several children, not long ago entreated the minister to give her allowance to some other person, on the plea,—that her father was able to assist her ; and another individual, about the same time, prevented a subscription in behalf of his brother's family, who had died prematurely, on the ground that they should always have a share of what he himself possessed. Another example of no ordinary interest ought not to be omitted. One day, the minister met two labouring men on the Gareloch shore, and, upon inquiry, discovered, rather with difficulty, that they were raising money to assist a poor parishioner, who had been long a bed-ridden invalid.

They would take nothing;—they were not going to the manse, nor to Baremman, nor the Clachan, nor Portkiln. “You have all enough ado with the poor,—it is right we should go among ourselves, the commonalty.” The feeling was too sacred to repress. They were allowed without further molestation to proceed on their way; and they collected from among themselves about L. 9, which met the necessities of their young friend so long as he lived.*

These instances indicate a right spirit in the people. The readiness with which they thus assist each other seems to have prevented the feeling of degradation, when they are assisted from the general fund,—which, indeed, they are besides led to regard in the light of a friendly society fund, to which in their day they had regularly contributed.

It must not be omitted to observe, that, in addition to his annual donation, the Duke of Argyle allows pensions to all his infirm labourers, when unable to work,—also to the widows of labourers, and their children, until able to do something for themselves,—a hereditary compassionateness worthy of the patriarchal interest in the comfort of their dependents, which has so long distinguished the house of Argyle.

Library.—A subscription library exists in the parish, consisting of several hundred volumes in all departments of literature. It is rather in a more flourishing condition of late than formerly; but still the number of subscribers is considerably below what even our limited population ought to furnish. The subscribers are chiefly among the labourers and artisans, not the farmers. There is also a small juvenile library, consisting of religious publications, exclusively for the use of those who attend the Sabbath school and the more private instruction of the minister.

Neither friendly society nor savings bank exists in the parish, but several individuals, chiefly farm-servants, send their deposits to Greenock, and these are rather on the increase.

Inns.—Lately there were five, now there are only two in the parish,—the ferry houses of Row and Kilcraigin. The privilege which this parish enjoys in a magistracy, which resorts to all just

* But the most remarkable case in the parish of the relief of the destitute occurred some years ago. A young woman was supported on her deathbed by the charity of sympathizing friends. From the subscription edition of the memoir of her life more than L. 600 were raised, exclusive of all expenses, and the author devoted the entire amount to the benefit of her surviving kindred, who are in circumstances of extreme poverty.

expedients for diminishing the opportunities of indulging in the use of intoxicating liquors, cannot be too highly valued. From the evil, likely to inundate some of the contiguous parishes, by the proprietors encouraging rather than preventing the multiplication of licenses, the people of this parish are comparatively secure.

Fuel.—The ordinary fuel is coal in the southern part of the parish; elsewhere peat is used to a considerable extent. The coal is generally brought from Glasgow;—of peat, the summit of the ridge affords an inexhaustible supply. Including carriage, the coal in ordinary years costs 6d. per cwt.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the date of the former Statistical Account, very considerable changes must have taken place in the parish, of which a few examples may be given. Then, it seems there were 96 herring fishermen, manning with hirelings, about 40 wherries, from which one must conclude almost the whole effective male population were occupied during the season in that precarious calling. The farms could not but be very imperfectly cultivated; it is well known, indeed, that they were generally in a very miserable condition, the return of produce not averaging threefold. With few exceptions, they merited the appellation of crofts rather than farms.* The cultivation of the soil, the tillage of this peninsular ridge, must have been of inferior importance in their eyes, to those labours in the deep waters, for the proceeds of a summer fishing were sometimes more than double the rental of the whole parish. Such a precarious, although often lucrative vocation, was not favourable to the promotion of regular habits, accompanied as it was with such practices as obtained here. The division of funds by each boat's crew, was signalized by a gathering of all the neighbours, and this reci-

* The average might now be stated at 7 or 8 seeds. On some farms L.30, sometimes L.40 Sterling have been realized from an acre of potatoes, for the growth of which the soil generally seems peculiarly favourable. The great stimulus to agricultural improvement in the parish, was given by the late Duke of Argyle, himself interested in rural pursuits, under the active agency of his factor, Mr R. Campbell, one of the few first members of the Highland Society still surviving. He had powerful prejudices to combat, but with energy and decision he prosecuted, what he deemed so indispensable to their own improvements, and the farmers generally can now appreciate the benefits resulting from having been so resisted and controlled in the management of their own fields. His successor, Mr Lorne Campbell, the son of a gentleman who occupied the same important office, nearly a century ago, most efficiently sustains the same spirit of parochial improvement—giving free effect to the kindly feeling so long hereditary in the family of Argyle to their tenantry: while he displays on the splendid fields of his own farm, unmatched for beauty of situation in the country, those almost horticultural niceties of *doing up* which distinguish the most noted of the plains and valleys of the lowlands.

proximity of civilities, diffused over several weeks of their vacation, bore very hard upon their sobriety and temperance.

Now, not half a-dozen individuals prosecute the fishery beyond the shores that skirt the farms, which now, with few exceptions, would creditably bear comparison with fields of similar size in the most highly cultivated counties.

Then, also, according to that Account, there were "plenty of whisky houses in the parish," which must have been fatal attractions during the long nights of winter, to the unoccupied fishermen. Now there are just two regularly licensed—"the two Ferry houses," if not to the parishioners, yet to the stranger and the traveller considered indispensable conveniences.

Previous to Huskisson's Act of 1829 for the encouragement of legal distillation, many of the cottagers were engaged in smuggling operations, like others in the mountain districts of the contiguous counties. The position and form of the parish rendering it peculiarly suitable for the prosecution of this unlawful manufacture and traffic, others than the natives burrowed with their stills in the sequestered ravines. For many years these illicit practices have been altogether abandoned; but when the mind of a community has been long familiarized to any evil, the demoralizing consequences may linger long after the evil itself shall have passed away.

In those days also, and till within these very few years, other practices, although not violating any distinct law, yet doubtless offending decorum, very generally prevailed. At marriages, for example, numerous crowds assembled, and generally they were very boisterous festivities. On the intermediate days, before the kirking, the young pair with their attendants, preceded by the bagpipe, perambulated the parish, visiting the cottages that had furnished their quota to the carnival. The ceremonies were closed by the whole party, after Divine service on Sabbath, adjourning for refreshment to the contiguous tavern.

Now, marriages consist of small family parties; only the nearer kindred of the bridegroom and the bride meet on the happy occasion, and thus is secured a far greater delicacy in the expression of kindly sympathies, than marked the penny or crowded bridals of former times.

Baptisms were habitually desecrated by the accompanying ceremonies. The kindred and friends assembled with the parents after the dismissal of the congregation, and proceeded, like the marriage parties, to eat and to drink in the house of refreshment, under the

pretence of toasting prosperity to the child and its family. Now such a practice is no longer known.

At funerals, four services or rounds of ardent spirits, with accompanying viands, were considered as necessary out of "respect to the dead." Now, only once spirits or wine is presented, and nothing can exceed the becomingness of the funeral rite.

Again, if elsewhere New Year's Day was a festival, here it seemed to absorb the mind of the whole people. For weeks, the youths had been preparing for the great annual game; and in one of the fields contiguous to the church, assembled many hundreds, old and young, with music and banners, either to witness or to join in the shinty combat of the day. At night succeeded a ball, which generally did not close till the dawn of the following morning. Now the game is almost abandoned, and there is no ball. Divine service is performed in church at the ordinary hour, and this year, the day once so signalized with boisterous festivities, had a most pleasing aspect even of Sabbath tranquillity.

This sketch of the change in the manners of the people within a period of not many years, may be closed with an additional illustration; and those who have had opportunities of judging of the practice of the district will best know how to appreciate its singular interest. On the Saturday evening of a communion, had arrived the usual supply for the consumption of the following day, as in former years: particular circumstances had urged the minister to address his people on the propriety of at once abandoning the old hereditary practice of the district, and not one individual resisted his counsel, or entered the threshold of the house of refreshments. To the end of the service they continued engaged in their devotions, like a quiet family party assembled to eat the passover.

These are some of the changes, among others, that might be noticed, as significant of an ameliorated condition of society. Relying, however, on the authority of aged people, it might seem that the future generations are far from the moral and religious standard of their fathers. A very old man, not long ago, stated to the writer, that, although the Bay of Campsail be very beautiful, it was once to him more so; when a little boy, early on a summer Sabbath morning, he would go down to the shore and hear the fishermen at anchor in the bay singing the praise of God in their boats, for each boat then had family worship.

Be it devoutly hoped that some future statist shall be able to say,

that, early on the summer Sabbath mornings, “arises the voice of rejoicing and salvation as in the tabernacles of the righteous,” from all the cottages and villas around the bays of the Gareloch.

May 1839.