PARISH OF FALKIRK

(COUNTY OF STIRLING, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEED-DALE, PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW)

Rev. James Wilson M.A.

Boundaries and general description - The parish of Falkirk is between 7 and 8 miles in length from E. to W. and in some parts more than 4 miles in breadth. It is bounded on the E. by the frith of Forth and the parish of Polmont; on the S. by the parishes of Polmont and Slamannan; on the W. by Cumbernauld and Denny; and on the N. by the river Carron, which separates it from the united parishes of Larbert and Dunipace. By the changes which the course of this river has undergone, a few houses belonging to this parish are now on the Larbert side; and a few, which are connected with that parish, are on the Falkirk side of the river.

From a reference to the parish of Falkirk, in an action with respect to the patronage of the church and parish of Oldhamstocks, in the Presbytery of Dunbar, which was depending in the year 1748 between the King and Mr Hay of Lawfield, it appears that the parishes of Denny, Slamannan. Muiravonside, and Polmont, constituted formerly parts of the parish of Falkirk. The first three of these parishes must have been very early separated from Falkirk; but it was not until the year 1724 that Polmont was formed into a parish. The minister of Polmont has not only stipend from his own parish, but also from those of Falkirk and Denny.

The estate of Callendar having been confiscated immediately after the commotion in the year 1715, it was sold about the year 1720; and such tithes as were not conveyed with the estate, were disposed of by the commissioners and trustees of the forfeited estates in Scotland to Mr Hamilton of Dichmond, under this express stipulation, that they should be subject to the stipend of a minister for the new parish which was to be taken off the parish of Falkirk. This circumstance explains by what means it happened that stipend is paid both out of this parish and Denny to the minister of Polmont.

Falkirk is situated on the north road between Edinburgh and Glasgow, and it is nearly an equal distance from both. The road to Stirling and the North Highlands also passes through this town. Falkirk was once denominated *Ecclesbrae*, that is, the Church on the Brow; and the name is truly descriptive of the situation, for the town stands on an eminence, which has a declivity on every side. In the Gaelic language it is called an *Eglais bhris*, but more commonly an *Eglais bhrec*. The former of these phrases signifies the Broken Church, which some think is not improperly translated Falkirk, that is, the Fallen Church. Certain it is, that the Church of Falkirk, as it now stands, has not all been built at the same time. In the year 1166, it was given (Nimmo's History of Stirlingshire, page 136) to the monastery of Holyroodhouse by the Bishop of St Andrew's; and as the parishes belonging to these religious foundations were often not properly attended to with respect to religious instruction and accommodation, so it is not improbable that the church of this parish might have been permitted to fall into ruin, and thence the name under consideration might have taken its rise.

An *Eglais 'bhrec*, the latter of the Gaelic designations which I mentioned**,** signifies the Spotted Church. To this name Buchanan, who understood the Gaelic language, gives his support, for in his History of Scotland he calls Falkirk, "Varium Sacellum." It is supposed by some, that it got its designation from the party-coloured appearance of the stones of the building.

As the wall of Antoninus, which will afterwards be described, passed very near the church, and where a part of the town is built, some are of opinion, that the present name of this place is derived from Vallum and Kirk, which by an easy transition became Falkirk, thereby signifying the Church upon the Wall.

The greater part of this parish is inclosed and subdivided, as well as enriched by trees, villas, and gentlemen's seats. The numerous fine trees which are in Callendar park and its neighbourhood, together with the wood belonging to the same place, add much to the pleasantness of the town of Falkirk; as it is situated in the immediate vicinity of these rural and enlivening objects. From the manse, and other places on the north side of the town, the prospect is delightful, and comprehends a fertile and well cultivated country of 12 or 14 miles square, which is hounded by the Ochil-hills and elevated situations in the counties of Stirling, Fife, and Linlithgow. Towards the N.W the tops of some of the Highland hills are to be seen, involved in clouds, and at certain seasons of the year covered with snow, when none of it is to be seen elsewhere within the whole compass of our prospect. A part of the frith of Forth, presenting itself to view, and the vessels passing on the canal, within a mile of Falkirk, enhance considerably the beauty of the scene.

When this prospect is involved in the darkness of night, the flashes of light from the iron-works at Carron, appear in awful and sublime majesty. When a fall of rain or snow is soon to happen, the light is refracted by the thick and moist atmosphere, and considerable illuminations appear in the air above the works. These are seen at a considerable distance, and great flashes of light are thrown into the houses in this neighbourhood, which have windows towards the Carron works. Upon the eminence on the S. of Falkirk, the prospect not only comprehends the whole view which I have described, but also the scenery about Callander house, to which I have already alluded; the vessels in the harbour of Grangemouth; the masts of those in that of Borrowstounness; the ruins of the palace of Linlithgow; the steeples of that town, and those of Dunfermline; together with a variety of striking objects on both sides of the frith of Forth, as well as those which appear in other points of the prospect.

Population, and Ecclesiastical state - The parish of Falkirk contains about 8020 inhabitants. In the town there are 3892; in the village of Camelon there are 568; in that of Briansford (commonly called Bainsford) 758; in the village of Grangemouth 410; and in that of Laurieston, 858; in the country part of the parish the inhabitants are about 1534 in number. (The annual number of births, taken upon an average from January 1, 1784 to January 1794 is 272. The annual number of marriages taken in the same manner for the same term of years, is 62. But it appears, that the population of the parish is increasing, for the average of marriages for the last eight years is 72.) Among a people so numerous, we must expect to find different sentiments respecting religion, as well as about every other subject which comes under their consideration; but it is no small consolation to see, that the bitterness of ill directed zeal is fast giving way to charity, and the natural influence of progressive improvements. Nothing will stand the test of time and experience, but that which is founded on truth. Error and prejudice will pass away; and it behoves us to rejoice, that amongst the wreck of false or unimportant speculations, virtue will remain without a blemish, and completely secure. It is the essence of true religion; it is the point where men of worth meet; it is the centre from which every ray of excellence proceeds. The jarrings of interest may, on occasions, disturb the calmness of human life; but if reason directs the thoughts, and conduct the actions, the effects on the whole must be harmony and peace.

In the town of Falkirk, there is one chapel for the Burghers, two for the Antiburghers (There is a difference subsisting between the two congregations of Antiburghcrs in this town which arose chiefly from the manner of setting apart the elements in the Lord's supper) and one belonging to the Relief interest. In Lauriestown, there is a chapel for the most ancient Presbyterian Dissenters in Scotland, who are generally known by the name of Macmillanites. The congregations of these different meeting houses are composed of people from this and other parishes. In this parish there are a few of the Episcopal persuasion, who have the opportunity of attending divine service every fortnight in Carron. The Roman Catholics are very few in number here, and have no place of worship in the neighbourhood.

The Church of Falkirk is the only place of worship in this parish for those who belong to the religious establishment of Scotland. The building is in the form of a cross, and far from being sufficient for the accommodation of those who wish to attend; but it is hoped something will soon be done to provide a remedy for this inconvenience.

Before the Reformation the parish of Falkirk belonged to the see of St Andrew. Immediately after that period, and before the Presbyterian mode of worship had assumed its present form, there were superintendents appointed for the different districts of the country. Falkirk was within the bounds of Mr Spottiswood's inspection, who was parson of Calder-Comitis (This parish is now divided into two, which are called Mid and West Calder), and father of Spottiswood, who succeeded the superintendent in the parsonage of Calder, was Archbishop of Glasgow after Episcopacy was re-established in Scotland, wrote a history of the Church, and after enjoying many honours, died Archbishop of St Andrew's.

While he presided over this see, that part of the diocese which was situated on the south side of the frith of Forth was erected into a bishoprick, and called the see of Edinburgh. St Giles's was the Cathedral, and the minister of Falkirk was one of twelve prebends. His salary for this office was L.80 Scotch, which is L.6 13s 4d Sterling. A person of the name of Forbes was the first Bishop of this diocese. He is represented as having been a man of learning and piety, but rather suspect of being a friend to Popery. His studies were chiefly directed towards antiquities; and being recluse in his manners, he was little acquainted with the world. It is said that it was no uncommon thing for him to preach five or six how's at a time. (Burnett's History of his own times. vol. 1.p. 31.)

After the benefice of Falkirk was bestowed upon the monastery of Holyroodhouse, the living of this parish became a vicarage. The great tithes, which formerly belonged to the parson, were then claimed by the religious order to which they had been given, and the minister of the parish was paid with the small; and the parson of Falkirk still receives some small sums of money as vicarage-dues. The stipend of this parish consists at present of 32 bolls of barley, 64 of oat-meal, and about L.65 14s $2/_{12}$ of money, together with a manse, garden and glebe. The minister of Falkirk also claims the right of getting from the estate of Callandar all the coals which are made use of by his family, without any other expence than that of paying for cutting them from the stratum in the pit and bringing them home. Among several donations which King David I made to the monastery of Newbottle was that of fuel and pasture for cattle in the wood of Callandar (Nimmo's History of Stirlingshire, p.135), and it was upon this grant, I presume, that the privilege under consideration was founded.

The King is patron of this church, and has the right of presenting ministers to all the parishes of which the Earl of Linlithgow and Callendar was patron before he was attainted of high treason. The patronage of the church of Denny appears, by the deed of conveyance, to have been sold along with the barony of Herbertshire in the year 1632. This transaction was sanctioned by charter's of confirmation from the King in the years 1654 and 1680. However the King, as well as Mr Muirhead, claims the right of presenting, and the matter has not yet been brought to a final decision.

Schools **-** The grammar-school of Falkirk is justly held in great reputation. Besides the school-wages, the master enjoys a salary and considerable emoluments as session-clerk. We have here a school for English, to which there is also a salary annexed, the master whereof has no small degree of merit in the line of his profession. There are other schools in Falkirk which do honour to their masters; and, upon the whole, our youths have good opportunities of laying the foundation of future usefulness and importance.

In the village of Camelon there is a dwelling-house and school-room provided for the encouragement of a schoolmaster, but no salary. Lord Dundas of Aske gives to a schoolmaster in Grangemouth a house to dwell in, a schoolroom, and L.5 a year. In Laurieston he gives a dwelling-house and school-room, but not any salary. One of the name of Scott, some years ago, left a small sum of money for the encouragement of a school at Bonnybridge, which is towards the west end of this parish.

Though populous and flourishing situations like Falkirk yield a decent competence for the support of respectable schoolmasters, yet in few situations are they paid in proportion to their usefulness in society.

Country schools, where the inhabitants are neither rich nor numerous, require at this time peculiar attention. Parish schools in general ought to have their salaries increased as everything necessary for the comfort and support of life is rising in value, except money, which must of course fall in proportion. Parish schools have been the great nurseries of that general knowledge which is so commonly to be found even among the peasants in Scotland; and from them some of our most illustrious characters have sprung forth. But I am afraid, if additional encouragement be not soon given, that those sources of improvement and wisdom must soon be abandoned to the direction of the illiterate. Men of learning and ability will not chuse to languish in obscurity and indigence, but will seek for employment in some of the more lucrative situations of civil life; and then the nation will be prevented from being adorned and improved by those luminaries, which opportunities of education would have formed and drawn out to public view.

Poor **-** The number of persons in this parish who are at one time upon the poors roll, may be estimated at an average at somewhat more than 150. They are supplied with small sums of money, according to their circumstances, from 1s. to 5s. or 6s. a month. The money which is thus expended on the indigent of this parish arises from funds belonging to the poor, from offerings at the church-gates on days of divine service, from other voluntary contributions, and from an assessment which the landowners annually lay upon themselves of L.1 Sterling for every L.100 Scotch of valued rent in the parish. As many persons, from the nature of their property, are little or in no degree exposed to the assessment, there is an annual voluntary and liberal subscription in the town of Falkirk, and in the villages of the parish.

There is also in the town of Falkirk an hospital for the support of four aged and infirm persons. It was founded and endowed in 1640 by Lord Livingston of Almond and Callander. This deed was amplified and confirmed by him in the year 1668, after he was created Earl of Callendar. Upon certain parts of the estates which then belonged to his Lordship, there is security given for the fulfilment of the obligation. Moreover, if his Lordship, or any of the successors to his estates, should neglect or refuse to fill up any vacancy in this hospital, it is provided by the foresaid act, that, if this neglect or refusal be persisted in, after notice shall have been given in due form to the person or persons then possessing the Callendar estates, then the minister of Falkirk for the time being is authorised to present a proper object of this charity to fill any vacancy which shall be in the circumstances now described. Mr Richard Callander, then minister of Falkirk, and his successors in that office, were, in the above specified deed, made, constituted and appointed patrons of this hospital, and were lawfully authorised to nominate and admit proper poor persons to the benefit thereof in all cases where the said Earl or his successors should refuse or illegally delay to do their duty.

There are several societies in this town and neighbourhood for the support of the members thereof, when they are seized by sickness, infirmity or old age; but it is much to be lamented, that institutions of this kind are not more common and extensive. When the labourer is in health, he finds sufficient demands for his money, and too seldom thinks of making a little retrenchment in his expences, in order that he may prepare for the evil day. The Legislature have turned their attention to those useful and important societies, but much still remains to be done, in order to insure their extension and success.

Agriculture, and rural Improvements **-** The land immediately about the town of Falkirk is let in small pieces, and produces a rent of L.2 10s. to L.3 5s. per acre, Scotch measure (the Scotch acre contains 54,760 square feet, and the statute acre 43,560). The Carse farms, upon an average, may be stated at L.2 an acre; more or less, according to circumstances. Good land, which is not of Carse quality, is also let at a very high rent; but in son parts of the parish, where the soil is very poor, wet, and spungy, the value of the acre is very small.

In the Carse, the crops of grain are so luxuriant and productive, that the farmers have but a small portion

of their land in pasture; and of course they have no more cattle than are necessary for the family and the farm.

The rotation of farming in the Carse of Falkirk consists in general of six parts; First, the ground is fallowed; secondly, it is sown with wheat; thirdly, with beans and pease; fourthly, with barley; fifthly, it produces a crop of grass for hay, the seeds of which had been sown the preceding year with the barley; and sixthly, it is sown with oats.

The valued rent of the parish, by which the land-tax, parish assessments, &c. are paid, is L.13,521:8:6 Scotch money (a pound Scotch is twenty pence Sterling; but all payments in this country are now made in Sterling money). The rental of the parish, about fourteen years ago, was estimated at L.6,277 9s. Sterling; but owing to the improvements which have taken place since that period, the rental cannot now be less than L.9000. House-rents are not taken into the account in either of the above valuations.

Soon after the estates of the family of Linlithgow and Callander were forfeited, they were purchased by the Company which undertook to raise water from the river Thames into the York-buildings, for supplying a part of the city of London. The affairs of that Company having soon after gone into disorder, their whole estates were sold for the benefit of their creditors by the authority of the Court of Session; and those of Callendar and Almond were bought by William Forbes Esq; the present proprietor.

The whole estates, together with some other farms which were purchased by him about the same time, amounted to about 8000 Scotch acres; almost 7000 of these are in this parish. Excepting about 500 acres, it was all arable; but little more than 200 of it were inclosed. The whole farms were out of lease, and the tenants were all removed as soon as they could provide themselves with other situations, in order that there might be no obstruction to the intended improvements.

Almost the whole of these estates is now inclosed and sub-divided. The fences are, as much as possible, drawn at right angles to one another, the ridges are straightened; and the wet parts are drained, or in the train of being done with all convenient speed. The inclosures which are near the town of Falkirk or the villages adjoining, contain each from three to four Scotch acres of land; but those which are in different situations, comprehend from seven to eight acres of the same measure.

About 2000 acres, which are near the canal and in the vicinity of Falkirk, were limed upon the green sward, and let to tenants for the space of two years, who were bound to lay them down with grass-seeds in the last year of their leases. A considerable part of the land, which was overrun by heath, broom and furze, was let to tenants also, who were to plough it five times. This in like manner was to be laid down for grass; but in both cases the grass-seeds were to be provided by the proprietor, and at his expence.

These improvements will not only add much to the beauty of a district already delightful; but when completed, will add much to the richness of this neighbourhood. It is one distinguishing feature in the improvements of Mr Forbes, that they are intended to be completed before he let the land in long leases; whereas it is common to carry on improvements after the farms are in the possession of tenants.

Of Servants' Wages, Prices of Food, &c. - A good ploughman gets about L.12 a year, together with his bed and board; and a common female servant expects from L.3 10s. to L.4 *per annum*, independent of food and lodging. A man who engages to labour by the day has 1s. 2d. in summer, and 1s. in winter. During harvest the wages are higher. Great quantities of grain, especially barley, beans, and pease, are sold in this market. Carse barley is held in such high estimation, that it brings, in general, two or three shillings *per* boll more than barley from other parts of the country. During these several months, the price of grain has been extravagant; barley has been sold at L.1:12s. *per* boll, wheat at L.2:12:6d, and oat-meal at 1s.4d. a peck. It is worthy of observation that in former times of scarcity, the people of Scotland looked up to England, as well as to foreign countries, for supply; but in the present season,

when the people of England are in want, we have not only plenty within our borders, but have been enabled to relieve them in their necessity.

Markets, &c. **-** Besides several fairs in the year, and three trysts, there **is a** market every week on Thursday. At these three trysts (Tryst is a Scotch word for an appointed meeting) there are, at an average, 60.000 black cattle. As most of them are of the small Highland breed, the medium price may be fixed at L.4 each. Thus, at these meetings, it is supposed, L.400,000 Sterling are put into circulation. Not a small proportion of this money passes through the Falkirk Bank. There are also horses and sheep disposed of at these markets.

By the favour of Mr Longmoor, a very accurate farmer, I have it in my power to lay before the public a statement of the prices which the Carse wheat, barley, and oat-meal, brought for the space of 40 years preceding the crop of 1794.

Prices of Kerse Grain for 40 years preceding Crop 1794,

Crop	Wheat per boll	Barley per boll	Meal per boll
1754	L.0 14 0	L.0 11. 8	L.0 10 6
1755	0 15 10	0 14 4	0 13 8
1756	1 3 0	1 0 0	0 16 8
1757	1 0 0	0 16 8	0 9 0
1758	0 14 6	0 10 8	0 9 0
1759	0 14 6	0 11 0	0 9 4
1760	0 16 0	0 11 8	0 10 4
1761	0 15 10	0 12 9	0 14 0
1762	1 1 0	0 17 0	0 15 0
1763	1 0 0	0 16 6	0 12 6
1764	1 1 0	0 16 6	0 15 0
1765	1 1 6	1 1 3	0 17 6
1766	1 1 6	1 2 0	0 16 10
1767	1 2 0	1 1 8	0 12 0
1768	1 2 0	0 16 4	0 15 0
1769	0 18 0	0 16 8	0 15 0
1770	0 18 6	0 17 6	0 15 0
1771	1 2 0	1 0 4	0 17 0
1772	1 4 0	1 1 8	0 16 10
1773	1 4 0	1 1 0	0 16 0

Medium price from 1753 to 1774, being 20 years,

Wheat per boll L.0 19 5 $^{6}/_{11}$
Barley per boll 0 16 10 $^{3}/_{11}$
Meal per boll 0 14 1 $^{3}/_{11}$

Prices of Kerse grain continued.

1774	0 1 0	0 19 0	0 15 0
1775	0 19 0	0 17 0	0 12 8
1776	0 19 0	0 15 3	0 12 8
1777	1 1 0	0 16 6	0 14 6
1778	0 19 0	0 15 9	0 13 0
1779	0 15 0	0 15 3	0 12 0
1780	1 1 0	0 15 3	0 14 4

1781	0 19 0	0 14 10	0 14 3
1782	1 6 0	1 6 6	0 17 6
1783	1 0 0	1 0 6	0 18 8
1784	0 19 6	1 1 6	0 13 4
1785	1 0 0	0 16 0	0 16 0
1786	0 18 0	0 19 6	0 16 0
1787	1 1 0	0 19 0	0 16 0
1788	1 0 6	0 16 9	0 13 6
1789	1 4 0	1 0 0	0 17 0
1790	1 3 0	0 19 0	0 16 8
1791	1 1 6	1 2 0	0 15 3
1792	1 2 0	1 4 0	1 0 0
1793	1 4 0	1 0 6	0 18 0

Medium price from l773 to l794, the last 20 years,

Wheat	L.1 0 8
Barley	0 18 8
Meal	0 l5 3

Our markets are well supplied with butcher-meal of excellent quality. It is sold by the Scotch Trone weight; the pound of which, as it is used here, is to that of the Avoirdupois, as 7,000 are to 10,450.

Forty years ago, not more than one heifer, cow, or bullock, together with a few sheep and lambs, were exposed to sale in the weekly market of Falkirk. As to veal, it was scarcely to be found, but in the spring. But I am authorised to say, that there have not been sold in the shambles of this town, during the course of the last year, fewer than 2000 black cattle, 6000 sheep and lambs, and calves in proportion.

Forty years ago, few of the common people were in the habit of eating butcher-meat, except a little with their greens in winter. This scanty portion they salted about Martinmas, and consequently about that season of the year, more butcher-meat than common was brought into the market. But now all descriptions of the people are more in the practice of eating animal food.

It appears from Dalrymple' s Annals of Scotland, that the price of a hen in 1295 was only one penny; but now one that is well fed will cost fifteen or eighteen pence.

Forty years ago, the price of butcher-meat in this market was only about 2d. per pound; but now it is from 4d. to 6d. or 7d.

Forty years ago there were but three surgeons in the town of Falkirk; but at present there is 1 physician, 5 surgeons, and 2 druggists.

About 60 years ago this town and neighbourhood were supplied with wheaten bread from Edinburgh and Linlithgow. There were then only 3 bakers in Falkirk, and they were but occasionally employed. Hence it is, that the people in the remote parts of the country, when they come to procure bread for feasts or funerals, do still enquire of the bakers if their ovens be heated.

There are now 18 bakers in the town of Falkirk, and 6 in the different villages within the parish. They make excellent bread and the price is regulated by the Edinburgh assize.

At the period above alluded to there were not more than 200 bolls of wheat per annum reduced into flour for the use of the Falkirk bakers. It was ground in common mills and boulted by hand-sieves. Now, about 7000 bolls are made use of annually; it is ground in mills, which are made for the purpose of preparing flour; it is boulted, and the different kinds separated by machinery, which is constructed according to the latest improvements. Seven of these mills are within a few miles of the town.

Forty years ago there were but 2 grocers in Falkirk; they complained of little business, and one of them was also a tallow-chandler. They had all their grocery goods from Borrowstounness, and imported nothing themselves. We now have 22 in that line of business; some of them carry on an extensive trade, both in wholesale and retail, and import wine, &c. from foreign parts.

It appears that in the reign of Charlemagne, there was but one clock in Europe, and it was sent to him by Abdalla King of Persia (Andrew's History of Great Britain, vol 1, p.83). How different is the situation of arts and improvements now, when there are four clock and watchmakers in the town of Falkirk itself!

There are two lodges of free-masons in Falkirk. One of them is so ancient, that it is marked No. 18 in the books of the Grand Lodge. The lodge of Carron also meets in a house within the precincts of this parish.

Falkirk was formerly a burgh of regality, and I have before me a burgess-ticket, signed by one of the Earls of Linlithgow and Callendar. I find no vestiges of any magistrates which have been invested with the powers of the burgh, except the bailiff of barony, who in former times, before the hereditary jurisdictions were taken away, had an extensive jurisdiction both in criminal and civil cases. We have still a baron-bailie, who is nominated by the lord of the manor. But the power of life and death is not now attached to any barony. He can, within the bounds of his jurisdiction, enforce the payment of rents to any amount, and decide in disputes about money affairs, provided the sum do not exceed L.2 Sterling. The debtor's goods may be distrained for payment, and if not sufficient, he can be imprisoned for one month. He can, for small offences, fine to the amount of 20s. and put delinquents into the stocks in the day time for the space of three hours.

We stand much in need of a police-bill for regulating the affairs of the town, and making those improvements which the state of its increased population requires. Much to the honour of the people, it may be mentioned that though there is no place of confinement in the county nearer than Stirling, which is eleven miles distant, yet there are few instances of riot or disorder. It has been observed, that a considerable part of the business which comes before the Court at Stirlingshire assizes, &c. proceeds from this quarter of the district; but it ought also to be attended to, that the population of Falkirk, and three of four miles round it, bears a great proportion to that of the whole county.

A considerable part of these astonishing improvements, which within these 40 years, have been made in this parish, and in the adjoining country, has been owing to the great canal, which is cut from the frith of Forth to the river Clyde. As Scotland is almost cut into two parts by the frith and river, which has just been mentioned, an idea was formed as early as the reign of Charles II of opening a communication between the east and west seas through the medium of a canal. In 1723, a survey of the intended track was taken by Mr Gordon, who is well known as the author of the "*Itinerarium Septentrionale.*" In the year 1762, Mr Mackell, at the expence of Lord Napier, took another survey of the projected canal, and gave also an estimate of the money which would be necessary to carry the design into execution. Mr Mackell's report attracted the attention of the Board of Trustees appointed for the Encouragement of the Fisheries and Manufactures of Scotland; and at their request Mr Smeaton in like manner took the business under his consideration, and gave in an estimate of the expence.

After various attempts, a bill was sanctioned by Parliament, which gave powers for raising a stock of 1500 shares for the purpose of making a canal between the Forth and Clyde. Each share was to consist of L.l00, and the whole capital would thus amount to L.l50.000.

On the 10th of July 1768, this great wonk was begun under the direction of Mr Smeaton. The operations commenced at the east end, and the late Sir Lawrence Dundas of Kerse, Baronet, cut and removed the first spadeful of earth which was taken from the canal. The spade is yet kept in Kerse House in memory of that transaction, which was the beginning of an undertaking, great in the design, and difficult in the execution; but happy in its effects, and likely to be of unspeakable advantage to succeeding generations.

On the 10th of July 1775, the canal was fit for navigation as far west as Stockingfield, which is within a few miles of Glasgow. About two years afterwards a side branch was cut, by which vessels could go still nearer Glasgow, and a bason, together with granaries, and other buildings, were prepared. By this time the Company's public funds were exhausted; for the making of canals being then in its infancy in Britain, the manner of doing the business in the easiest way was not understood, and consequently the work was carried out at a much greater expence than it could be done for now, although the value of labour is much increased.

The canal remained in this languishing and unfinished state, till by the assistance of Government, the managers were enabled to begin their operations again in July 1786. The work was conducted by Mr Robert Whitworth, and on the 28th of July 1790, the navigation from sea to sea was opened. When, by the intervention of the canal, a communication between the eastern and western seas was completed, the event was signalized by the characteristic ceremony of pouring a hogshead full of water of the frith of Forth into the river Clyde (Edinburgh Magazine for April 1793), amidst the shouts and approbation of an astonished multitude.

When we consider the novelty of the undertaking, and the difficulty of the enterprise, we shall not be surprised to find that it was 22 years and 18 days in being finished. The canal in its course passes through marshes and over rivers, rivulets, and roads. There is a considerable aqueduct bridge, which conveys it over the Glasgow and Stirling road, a little to the westward of Falkirk. But the most magnificent is that having four arches, which conducts it over the river Kelvin, where the valley in which it runs is 400 feet wide, and the depth from the summit of the middle arches to the channel of the river is more than 65 feet.

The side cut, which has already been mentioned, was carried forward to within half a mile of Glasgow. Larger and more commodious basons were made; necessary buildings were erected; there is land to be sold for building a village, and the place is called Port Dundas, in honour of Lord Dundas. From this port there is a junction made with the Monkland Canal, which is a small cut running 12 miles into the country on the east of Glasgow, for the purpose of conveying coals to that city.

The length of the great canal is 35 miles; the collateral cut to Glasgow 2¼; and that from Port Dundas to the Monkland Canal, 1 mile; in whole 38¼ miles. The extensive track of a canal is supplied with water by six reservoirs, which cover about 409 acres of land, and contain about 12,679 lock-fulls of water; and the Company have it in their power to increase the number of reservoirs.

The summit of the canal is 141 feet above the level of the sea. (The summit of the canal was at first but 140 feet. One foot in height was afterwards added to all the lock-gates, which had made some people conclude, that as twenty locks are on the east, the summit must now be 160 feet. But though the water throughout the canal be one foot deeper. yet the summit is only raised 12 inches. The first lock from the sea does now elevate vessels 8 feet; but the increased height of this lock raises the water on the next one foot; thus the upper gate of the second lock, which was 7 feet above the level of the water on the lower side, is reduced to 6 feet, and consequently when a foot is added to its height, it only, as formerly, raises the vessel 7 feet. The same thing happens to the third lock, and so on through the whole; and when you arrive at the summit, the boat is only one foot higher than it would have been before the addition was made to the gates, and this foot was gained at the first lock. The circumstance of there being 20 locks on the east side of the summit, and only 19 on the west, may be accounted for as follows: On the east the canal terminates in the Grangeburn, where there is so little water, that the vessels are left nearly dry at the ebb tide; whereas on the west it ends in the Clyde, where the water is eight feet deep without the help of the tide, and thus one lock is saved. The revenue arising from the canal was annually increasing from the commencement till 1792, when it amounted to about £14,000. By the stagnation of trade in 1793, it did not reach L.12,000; but in 1794, it was somewhat more than L.12,000. Government have shares in this canal to the extent of L.150,000.) The number of the locks is 20 on the east, and 19 on the west. The length of the locks between the gates is 74 feet, and the width between the walls 20 feet. The medium breadth of the canal at the surface is 56 feet, and at the bottom 27.

Vessels of 80 or 90 tons, properly constructed, may be navigated through, and are fit for voyages by sea. The tonnage dues are 2d. per ton every mile, with some exceptions, respecting lime. &c. The direction of the canal is under a Governor, Council in London, and a Committee at Glasgow, who meet monthly. They are chosen annually, by a general meeting, which is held in London every month of March.

The extensive trade carried on through this canal suggested to Sir Lawrence Dundas the propriety of building of a village and quay near the east end of it on his own estate. The place which he fixed upon for this purpose was the angle which is formed by the junction of the river Carron and the canal. They were begun in to be built in the year 1777; the village is now of considerable extent, and is called Grangemouth.

Vessels bring into this port timber and hemp, deals, flax, and iron, from the Baltic. Norway, and Sweden, and grain from foreign markets, as well as from the coasts of Scotland and England. The trade to London is carried on by the Carron Shipping Company, who in their vessels convey to that place goods which are made at Carron, together with other articles of commerce; and when they return they bring grocery goods, dye-stuffs, &c. for the supply of Glasgow, Paisley, Greenock. Falkirk, Stirling, and many of the inland towns of the west country.

The tonnage at this port is, at a medium, nearly as follows: Vessels which belong to England, which bring cargoes from foreign places, about 5000 tons annually; ditto, from England which carry on a coasting trade, about 4000 tons annually; those belonging so Scotland which are employed in foreign traffic, about 10,000 tons annually; those which carry on the coasting trade are about 9000 tons annually; the Carron Shipping Company require about 9360 tons, the vessels belonging to foreign nations, which come annually to Grangemouth, may be estimated in their tonnage at 2000. Great quantities of herrings made their appearance last winter in the frith of Forth, and many of them were caught at the very mouth of the river Carron. More than 120 sail from Greenock. Rothsay, Stranraer, &c. came through the canal to fish, and they returned homewards with full cargoes.

At Grangemouth, there is a great need of additional warehouses and shades. But what is most of all wanted is a customhouse, or branch thereof, Borrowstounness having till of late been the principal place of trade in this neighbourhood, a customhouse was established there, and sufficient attention has not yet been paid to the situation of Grangemouth. Those at this port, who have business to do in the customhouse, are obliged to travel to Borrowstounness, which is eight miles distant; and when the river Avon is not fordable they are under the necessity of going round by Linlithgow Bridge, which lengthens the journey four miles.

But the Carron iron-works have in a peculiar manner tended to improve this town and neighbourhood. They are situated on the northern banks of the river Carron; and though they are not in this parish, yet many of the workmen live in it, and as they are not two miles from the town of Falkirk, the shops and markets thereof are generally resorted to by those who are employed in the various operations of that extensive manufacture.

The Carron Company have a charter for employing a capital of L.150,000. It is divided into 600 shares, and no person can have a vote in the management, unless he be possessed of ten shares. These works were first projected and established by Dr Roebuck, and Messrs Cadell and Garbet. They were joined by other gentlemen of respectability, and the Company are now in a very flourishing condition. The works arc under the immediate direction of Mr Joseph Stainton, who is also a partner.

They are supplied with iron-ore from Lancashire and Cumberland; and with iron-stone from Banton, Denny, and Bonnyhill &c. in this vicinity, and from the county of Fife, &c. They have limestone from Burntisland &c. and coals from Kinnaird, Carron-hall, and Shieldhill. All the materials, which are made use of at these works, are brought to them by water-carriage, except coals, and these are found in the neighbourhood. At an average they use 800 tons of coal, 400 tons of iron stone and ore, and 100 tons

of limestone per week. The ironstone is first calcined in an open fire; but the iron-ore needs no preparation in order to be fit for the blast furnace.

There are five furnaces of this description, which are supplied with strong currents of air from cast iron cylinders, instead of bellows. These cylinders arc constructed somewhat like forcing pumps, and are not only more durable than bellows, but have mare power, and produce a better effect. They have three cupolas which receive a proper supply of air by means of pipes connected with the forcing cylinders. There are also fifteen furnaces, which are kept in action by the external air, without the aid of any artificial blast.

At Carron all kinds of cast-iron goods are made in the best manner. A short kind of cannon called Carronades were invented there; and, in certain situations, they are considered as of great importance. They arc moved in grooves; and thus the increased friction more effectively opposes the force of the recoil. The caliber of the cannon is bored out of the solid metal, and thus the whole is more smooth and just in its direction, than when cast with a core, and the piece is less ready to burst in time of action. The outside of the cannon is turned by proper instruments, and the whole is not only neat, but substantial.

At these works bar iron is also made; and in accomplishing that business, the following method is pursued: The pig-iron is melted in a finery, where coke is used; while hot, it is beaten out into plates about an inch in thickness. These plates are afterwards broken into pieces about two inches square, for the convenience of scouring them, &c. They are then scoured in an iron cylinder which is connected with the water-wheel, and when they are properly prepared by this operation, they are put intp pots which are made of fire clay, and in an air furnace they are brought to a welding heat; in this state of preparation they are put under the hammer, and wrought into blooms; the blooms are heated in a chasery, or hollow fire, and then drawn into bars for various uses. In this condition the iron is equal in goodness to that which is imported from Russia under the name of new sable iron.

The machinery is moved by the water of the river Carron, and for a supply in time of drought, they have a reservoir to the extent of about 30 acres. But as this precaution is not enough in very dry seasons, they have moreover an engine for throwing back the water that it may be used again, and this engine raises 4 tons every stroke, and makes about 7 strokes in a minute. If we take into the account, along with the people who are directly employed in the manufacture at Carron, those also who are engaged in the mines and pits, together with those who carry materials to the works, and goods by sea and otherwise immediately from them, we may estimate the whole at 2000 people.

Nobody is admitted to view the works on Sundays, except those who are property recommended, or known to be worthy of attention. Mr Burns, the Ayrshire poet, not knowing, or not attending to this regulation, made an attempt to be admitted, without discovering who he was, but was refused by the porter. Upon returning to the inn at Carron, he wrote the following lines upon a pane of glass in a window of the parlour into which he was shown:

We cam na her to view your warks,
in hopes to be mair wise;
But only, lest we gang to hell,
it may be na surprise.

But when we tirl'd at your door,
your porter dought na bear us;
So may, should we to hell's yetts come,
your billy Satan sair us.

(William Fullarton, Esq; of Fullarton, in the county of Ayr, North Britain has obtained a patent for making cast and malleable iron after a new method. He calcines the iron stone or ore, if it be necessary, reduces it to powder, bolts it, separated the extraneous matter, and then puts it into a furnace, along with a sufficient quantity of coke, or charcoal. The furnace is intended to act as a crucible; and the metal,

when fluid, is not to be drawn off, and cast into pigs, but is to remain as a loop at the bottom. When it is taken out thence, it does not require to be melted again, but after being heated may, without any other process, be heated into bars.
The principal advantages, which appear to attend the method proposed by Mr Fullarton must arise from his manner of preparing the iron stone or ore, and from permitting the metal to cool gradually in the furnace; to which may be added the removal of the slag, which he takes care to do while the fusion is going forward. From the specification which he has given, it seems as if pulverising the iron stone or ore, and freeing it of extraneous matter, precludes the necessity, and saves the expence of using limestone as a flux; and cooling the metal gradually, prevents that brittleness which cast iron and steel possess when they are cooled on a sudden; and thus the loop is in a better state of preparation for being under the hammer.
But if I fully understand the specification, Mr Fullarton's method must be subject to several inconveniences. Either the furnace must be very small, or it will be difficult to remove the regulus after it has remained there till it be cold, and the work must suffer an interruption by waiting so long before a new charge can be put in. In order to obviate these inconveniences, it might be proper to draw off the metal in the fluid state, and having cast it into pigs of the usual form, put them while hot into a furnace, exposed to a well regulated heat, and suffered gradually to become cool.
A gentleman, who was taken by the French during the last American war, having escaped from prison, was travelling homeward, and on his way, in passing through a valley among the Pyrenean mountains, came to a small forge, where some men were making iron from the ore. They sifted it, and having mixed it with charcoal, put it by small quantities at a time into a furnace. They let it remain till it was duly fused. Then they put a bar of iron among the metal, to which a knob adhered, and when it had acquired a proper constituency, they beat it with a hammer, repeating the operation, till, in a short time, they had made a bar of considerable length. This method is recommended by its simplicity, and perhaps it may suggest something for the improvement of making bar-iron in this country.)

Remarkable Events - Margaret, commonly called by historians the Maiden of Norway, died at Orkney, on her way to Britain, where she was to have been crowned successor to her grandfather Alexander III of Scotland. Upon her death there was much agitation in the kingdom, and many competitors sprang up for the Crown. But of all those who laid in their claims, the rights of Robert Bruce and John Balliol (formerly called Robert de Brus, and John de Balliol) appeared to be the most worthy of investigation and support. On the side of one or other of these opponents were the people of Scotland generally arranged. As the contest was violent, and not likely to be brought to a speedy issue, ii was resolved to submit the whole business to the decision of Edward I of England. He accepted of the offer with much pleasure, and took that opportunity of confusion, uncertainty, and terror, to have himself proclaimed Lord Paramount of Scotland; and finding Balliol not unwilling to acknowledge this supremacy, he decided the contest in his favour. But Edward soon hurled him from the throne, under the pretence that he had only put the sceptre into his hands to be swayed in trust. The troops of the English monarch soon over-ran many of the most important districts of this kingdom; and in triumph carried to Westminster the stone of Scone, which was made somewhat in the form of a chair, in which the Kings of Scotland had been in use to be seated at the time of their coronation.

In this season of national dejection and dismay, appeared William Wallace, of an ancient but at that time an obscure family (of Elderslie, in the county of Renfrew, which was probably at that time a part of Lanarkshire - Dalrymple's Annals. Vol. 1 p. 286). He lifted the standard of liberty, and many flocked around the signal. But still there not a few, who through envy or fear would not join the patriots. But Wallace and his adherents prevailed. They fought and were successful. They drove the English beyond the borders, and entered the countries in the north of Edward's kingdom.

When the King of England was informed of these events, he returned from the continent where he had been with an army; and marching into Scotland, he advanced with victorious bands through the country, meeting with little resistance till he came to Falkirk.

Having come within view of the Scotch army, they saw them drawn up in battle array, somewhat more

than half a mile north from Falkirk. Before this time many persons of eminence and power had joined the party of Wallace. Of those who were present with him on the occasion now under review, the following names are the chief of those which have been preserved on record; John Comyn, or Cuming, of Badenoch, the younger; Sir John Stewart of Bonkill, and not of Bute, as tradition has handed it down. This gentleman was brother to the Steward of Scotland, from whom the surname of Stewart, or Stuart, was taken. To these we must add Sir John Graham (generally called in old records, Sir John de Graham) of Abercorn or Dundas; and Macduff, the uncle of the Earl of Fife (Dalrymple's Annals of Scotland).

Wallace had arranged his infantry in four bodies, of a circular form, with the convex side towards the enemy; the archers formed a line between the circles; and the cavalry were placed a little distance in the rear. The strength of Edward's army consisted of cavalry, which were drawn up in three lines; and the third which was intended to be kept as a corps of reserve, was commanded by the King himself. Nothing being said of the manner in which the English infantry were disposed, we are naturally led to believe, that they were not numerous.

A morass, which was in front of the Scotch army, but is now drained by the canal, prevented the troops of Edward from attacking the Scotch in front; but wheeling to the right and left, they flanked them on both sides, and the carnage was dreadful. Struck with a panic by the fall of Graham, Stewart and Macduff, and pressed by the well appointed cavalry of England, they were compelled, after a brave resistance, to abandon the conflict, and leave the victory in the hands of Edward.

Sir John Graham and Sir John Stewart were both buried in the churchyard of Falkirk. The stone which was laid on the grave of Sir John Graham had some sculpture upon it, which the hand of time was fast obliterating. At length another stone was erected with decorations, and an epitaph, the whole being supported by pillars. When the letters of the inscription were nearly defaced, another of similar kind was put over it; and when it also had suffered considerably by the lapse of time, the late William Graham of Airth, Esq; erected a third, after the same manner as the two former. The inscriptions are as follows:
Mente manuque potens, Vallae fidus Achates,
Conditur hic Gramus, bello interfectus ab Anglis.
xxii. Julii, anno 1298.

Heir lyes Sir John the Grame, baith wight and wise,
Ane of the chiefs who rescewit Scotland thrise,
Ane better knight not to the world was lent,
Nor was gude Grame of truth and hardiment.

Not far from the tomb of Sir John Graham lie the ashes of Sir John Stewart. The place of rest is but a few feet from the east end of the church, and near the south corner of it. Though Sir John was nearly allied to the progenitors of the house of Stuart, whose kindred blood flows in the veins of many illustrious families of Great Britain, and also in not few of the princes and potentates of the earth, yet his grave is not marked out, except by a stone without a name, and is the segment of an octagon.

Much has been said with respect to discontents, which are represented as having subsisted among the leaders of the Scotch army on the eve of the battle. The peevish departure of the well-tried patriots, Wallace and Cuming, cannot be received but upon the most authentic documents. Jarrings might have prevailed among a number of leaders, where the subordination of regular government was not observed; but from the character of the men, and the circumstances of the case, no fault seems to have been committed, which was either disgraceful to themselves or hurtful to the issue of the day (Dalrymple's Annals of Scotland, vol. 1, pages 262 and 263).

In the reign of Charles I the Earl of Lanark, who was afterwards the 2d Duke of Hamilton, together with a person of the name of Monro, being friendly to the King, attacked with their troops, near Stirling, the army which had been raised by the Marquis of Argyle, and the Earls of Cassilis, Eglintoun, and Loudon. The former were repulsed, and fled to Falkirk; but a temporary accommodation stopt for a time the effusion of human blood.

In the battle of Dunbar, Cromwell was successful, and he marched forward to give Charles II battle, who was encamped with his army at the Torwood in this neighbourhood, and had then been proclaimed King of Scotland. On his route, Cromwell stormed and took Callendar House, where Charles had a garrison.

The Earl of Arran, when Governor of Scotland, did with the consent of his party, agree to give Mary, the young Queen of Scots, in marriage to Prince Edward, the heir to the English throne. But having at Callendar house met with Cardinal Beaton and the Earl of Murray, leaders of the opposite party, a negotiation was entered into, which broke the matrimonial treaty.

It appears, that Mary Queen of Scots visited Lord Livingston at Callendar house, anno l565 (Stuart's History of Scotland. Vol. 1. p.98).

In the year 1745, when the troops of Great Britain were in Flanders supporting the house of Austria against the arms of France, the grandson of James II who, at the revolution in this country, had taken refuge at the Court of Versailles, asserted his father's pretensions to the throne of these kingdoms. This measure was, without doubt, agreeable to the French Court, as it would evidently be the means of withdrawing our forces from the continent. Perhaps it was even suggested by them; and we know they gave a small supply of money and arms.

Charles, flushed with the hopes of power, eminence, and royalty, sailed from a port in Brittany on the 15th of July, and in a short time landed in the Highlands of Scotland. There he instantly drew together a considerable number of partizans, and marched directly to Edinburgh. He got possession of the town of Edinburgh, lodged in the palace of Holyroodhouse, and soon afterwards engaged at Preston, near Musselburgh, a few of the King's troops, who were under the command of Sir John Cope. Here he was victorious; and in the anxious expectation of future success, marched into England, as far south as Derby, by way of Carlisle. Though he had many friends near the road by which he went, yet prudence permitted but a few of them to follow his fortune.

Disappointed in his views, he returned by Glasgow; marched to Stirling, and laid siege to the castle. By this time a considerable number of the King's troops were assembled near Edinburgh, commanded by Lieutenant-General Hawley. He marched for the relief of Stirling; and having stopped to refresh the troops at Falkirk, he encamped with them between the glebe and the field where Sir John Graham fell in defence of liberty and his country.

On the 17th of January 1746 the alarm was given, that the Prince's followers were advancing by the Torwood. By different means they attempted to deceive the army of the King. They left a standard at the place where they had halted on their way from Bannockburn, which, being seen at Falkirk, would, they supposed, hush their opponents into a temporary security. They also sent a small detachment by the north side of the river Carron that it might appear, if there was any alarm, that they intended to attack the King's camp on the left; but, in the mean time, the principal body of their forces were led straight forward, and crossed the ford of Carron, at Dunipace, about the distance of three miles to the westward.

No sooner was this discovered than the drums at Falkirk camp beat to battle. But the General not being present, they were detained so long before his arrival, that the enemy had gained an eminence, which is about a mile south-west of the town. The way thither being rugged, the cannon could not be dragged up time enough for the action; swampy ground rendered the cavalry almost useless, and a tremendous storm of wind and rain blowing directly against the face of the national troops, added to the unfortunate circumstances of the day. Notwithstanding the bravery of Major-General Husk, and other officers, the King's forces were worsted; many were killed, several taken prisoners, and the rest fled to Linlithgow.

Among the persons of rank who were left dead on the field were Sir Robert Munro of Foulis, Bart. and his brother Duncan, a physician. Sir Robert, in the retreat, was surrounded by the enemy, and after a desperate resistance yielded to the stroke of death. The physician, from the affection which he had for

his brother, left the peace and sweets of retired life, and followed him through the din of arms, and the dangers of battle. In the discharge of this amiable office, he fell a victim to kindness and brotherly attachment. They were buried beside each other in the church-yard of Falkirk; a superb monument was erected to their memory; and the circumstances of their death are recorded by suitable inscriptions. The number of forces which were led to action that day was about 6000 of the royal party and somewhat more of those in the interest of the Prince; but the true amount of his troops has not been exactly ascertained.

Hawley found means to vindicate himself to his Sovereign; but the impressions of his conduct which remain here, are by no means favourable to his character as a General entrusted with an important command. If we credit report, he was dining that day at Callendar house with Lady Kilmarnock, whose Lord had then declared himself in favour of the young adventurer, and was at that time actually engaged in his services somewhere in the island.

The action began about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and by the evening the Prince's army were in possession of the town of Falkirk. One of the sons of Macdonell of Glengary, when walking in the principal street, soon after he had arrived from the field of battle, was shot from a window by a musket ball. He did not instantly die; but having languished a few days, he expired. His death was accidental, for it was occasioned by one of his own men, whose gun had missed fire during the engagement, and not being apprised of this circumstance, while he was cleaning his piece, the shot went off at the expense of a life, which he would have done much to save. But such was the violence, zeal and distrust which prevailed, that he was found guilty, and shot in this neighbourhood. Soon after the battle of Falkirk, the Prince's troops were vanquished and dispersed at Culloden. Thus tranquillity was restored to the nation; and we trust, that the horrors of civil war will never again prevail in the land.

Eminent and Remarkable Characters - The Livingstons were long conspicuous and powerful in this parish and neighbourhood. It is supposed that they are of Hungarian extraction, and that the family sprung from a gentleman of the name of Livingus. who came with Margaret, Queen of King Malcolm Canmore, about the year 1075. We find, that different branches of this family were employed in some of the most important situations and transactions of this country (Douglas's Peerage, articles Linlithgow, Callander, and Kilsyth).

In the progress of society there arose among them the three distinguished families of Linlithgow, Callander, and Kilsyth. The Viscount Kilsyth, and the Earl of Linlithgow and Callander, were found guilty of rebellion in 1715, had their estates confiscated, and their titles forfeited. The titles of Linlithgow and Callander at this time centered in the same person, and the Earl found means to escape to the continent, where he died. Sir Thomas Livingston of Bedlormie and Westquarter, Baronet, is lineal heir of the family.

Lady Ann, the only surviving child of the last Earl of Linlithgow and Callander, was married to the Earl of Kilmarnock, who joined the followers of the Prince in the year 1745, and was beheaded on Towerhill, on the 18th of August 1746, in the 42d year of his age. His infidelity to the King is the more remarkable, as his family had always been loyal, and as he himself, at the beginning of the commotions in which he afterwards was an abettor, had exerted himself considerably on behalf of the reigning family.

The truth seems to be, that as he was not in opulent circumstances, he was induced to become an adventurer; and from his marriage-connection, he was in hopes that if the Prince succeeded, he would be raised to the possessions and perhaps to the honours of the forfeited and deceased Earl of Linlithgow and Callander. And this leads me to observe, that it is politic in a state to inflict as few permanent disabilities and punishments as the nature of government and good order will permit. If a man falls a just victim to the law, the galling remembrance is gradually destroyed among his connections and descendants; but if an estate be forfeited, or a civil privilege be permanently taken away, there is a perpetual brooding over the misfortune, and from this source there so often springs the bitterness of strife.

Our Government have, with much prudence and humanity, restored the estates which were confiscated in 1746; and it is much to be lamented, that something effectual has not been devised for the heirs of those who suffered by the forfeitures in the year 1716. The estates having been otherwise long ago disposed of, could not be restored; but the wisdom of those in power, among the many resources which they have, might perhaps find out the means of at least a small compensation.

The estate of Kerse, in this parish, once belonged to the Hopes, a family of considerable note and antiquity in this country. John de Hope was one of the barons who submitted to Edward I of England in 1296, when he had invaded Scotland.

Kerse, as well as many other estates in Scotland, were purchased by Sir Thomas Hope, who, as an advocate, made a conspicuous figure.

In the revolutionary period of the Scotch Church, six ministers who had denied that the King had any power in ecclesiastical affairs, were committed to the castle of Blackness, and for high treason were brought to trial at Linlithgow, Jan. 10. 1606. No counsellor of eminence, not even Sir Thomas Craig, the procurator for the church could he prevailed upon to stand forward as their advocate at the bar of the Court. Mr Thomas Hope, for he was not then created a baronet, undertook, though but a young man, to plead their cause. His forcible elocution, his ingenious though unsuccessful exertions, procured him admiration and brought him into notice.

He was not only consulted in all difficult cases by the Presbyterians, but was esteemed by the Court party, and was King's Advocate, both in the reign of James VI and Charles I. He had three sons, who were Lords of Session, and two of them sat upon the Bench as Judges, while he himself was at the bar. The Lord Advocate has a right to plead with his hat on, and tradition says, that this privilege was introduced in the time of Sir Thomas Hope, as it was thought unbecoming the dignity of a father in his situation to plead with his head uncovered before his sons. But it is more probable, that the custom was introduced as a distinguishing mark of respect to the King's Advocate.

Sir Thomas, his second son to whom he gave the estate of Kerse, was eminent in the law, and, I believe the only commoner who ever has been Lord Justice-General of Scotland; as his father, Sir Thomas of Craighall in Fife, was the only person not honoured with a title of nobility, who at any time, in the character of Lord High Commissioner, represented his Majesty in the General Assembly of this Church. The estate of Kerse was sold some time ago to the late Sir Lawrence Dundas, Baronet, father of Lord Dundas the present proprietor.

Antiquities - In the barony of Seabegs, near the canal, there is an artificial mound of earth where courts and deliberative councils were formerly held, as appears by the name Mote, which the place yet retains. There is also a small burying ground where formerly there was a Roman Catholic chapel.

In different parts of the neighbourhood there have been dug up urns, filled up with ashes, and stone coffins, containing human hones. Somewhat more than twenty years ago, there was found in the hollow of a freestone quarry near Castlecary, some wheat which had became black, and was supposed to have been there, from the time that the Romans possessed that station.

The small river Bonney, which separates a part of this parish from Denny and Dunipace seems to be the Cronan of Ossian.

Old Camelon (a new village in its neighbourhood is called Camelon), not *Camelodunum*, but probably Bede's *Guidi*, appears to have been formerly a place of consequence. There are now few vestiges of it remaining; but not long ago, foundations of houses, and the direction of some of the streets, were visible. Much has been said about the importance which it once had; we have heard of the riches and ornaments of royalty which were found there, when it was taken by the Romans. But we have no authentic

documents by which we can decide whether it was a habitation of some of the ancient tribes of North Britain, or whether it was only a Roman station.

It is also reported. that Camelon was a sea-port town; and in confirmation of this we are told, that an anchor was formerly dug up (Sibbald's Historical Enquiries, chap 7) in the ground near it. There are circumstances which authorise us to conclude, not only that the river Carron has been navigable farther up than the place where Camelon stood, but also that the sea came very near Falkirk, and covered the whole of that district which is now called the Carse. The name Carse in Scotland is generally applied to that land which has been formed by the retreat or exclusion of the sea. Our carse lands are very little raised above the level of the frith of Forth, and in many places are defended by its banks. (A few days ago, in the morning of October 30. a tide being uncommonly high, the banks were overflowed by the sea, and the water not only entered many houses, but inundated several hundred acres of the Carse land.) The carse, which is very valuable in quality, might easily be enlarged by encroaching farther on the sea. Lord Dundas, by this method, has lately added 70 acres to his estate. About the beginning of this century, a Dutchman, who was well acquainted with operations like those in Holland, proposed to the Duke of Hamilton to gain for him 2000 acres off the sea, adjoining his estate of Kinneal, in the parish of Borrowstounness, provided he should be allowed to possess it rent free for forty years, and be furnished with timber, &. from the Duke's wood in the neighbourhood. The proposal was rejected; and the sea continues to roll its tide's over those shallows, where fruitful fields might now have been yielding an annual income of L.4000 or L.5000 to the proprietor, and a considerable quantity of provisions for the supply of this populous part of the country.

But the most prominent feature of antiquity in this parish is the Roman wall, built in the reign of the Emperor Antoninus Pius, under the direction of his Lieutenant Lollius Urbicus. It in general follows the track where Agricola had previously erected a chain of forts. It is more than 1600 years since the wall was built, and yet in several parts, both in this parish and elsewhere, its form and course are visible. It extends from the frith of Forth to the river Clyde, and was about 40 Roman, or 37 English miles in length. Camden. Kinneal, and Blackness on the east, Dumglas and Old Kilpatrick on the west, have, by different people, been suggested as its boundaries. Bede says, that it began two miles from the monastery of Abercorn, and ended at Alcluith, which appears to be the same place which is now called Dumbarton (Camden's Britannia by Gough, article Lennox). If the wall terminated at Old Kilpatrick, Dumbarton was probably a fort belonging to the Romans; and we know, that on the east coast their forts and stations were carried far beyond the end of the wall (Sibbald's Enquiries).

This wall, or rather defensive work, consisted of a ditch on the north, and a wall on the south. It varies as to the breadth of the ditch; but is never less than 12 or l5 feet wide, and the wall was about 12 feet thick at the foundation. (The ditch in Callendar park is above 40 feet wide; in some other places it is not so much by half.) The ditch was deep in proportion to its breadth; and the wall was high in proportion to its width. Notwithstanding what has been said by some authors, no part of this wall appears to have been built of stone, except in swampy places, where the nature of the ground required it. Forts or stations, and between these, turrets or watch towers, were erected for the accommodation of soldiers to defend it; and as they were at no great distance from one another, a general alarm could be given at the approach of danger. Hence the vulgar belief that the wall was hollow, and that the sound of a trumpet which was blown at one end could be heard at the other. Castlecary. Roughcastle, and Camelon, were the most remarkable forts or stations in the neighbourhood. The site of the two former are still to be seen.

Much light has been thrown on the history of this wall by stones and inscriptions, which have been dug up in various parts of it. A considerable number of these stones are in the College of Glasgow, &.; one in Sir John Clerk's collection and one in Callander house, with the following inscription:

VEXI
LEG XX
PRIMIO

From these different stones it appears, that the wall was chiefly made by the 2d and 20th legions, and

the vexillations of the 6th and 20th, together with a cohort of auxiliaries (Henry's History of Great Britain). Every 100th part of a legion was called a century, and had a vexillum, or pair of colours. To guard these, ten of the best soldiers were allotted for each vexillum, and those guards, which in every legion amounted to 1000 men, were called its vexillation.

This rampart is denominated by Buchanan, in his History of Scotland, the Wall of Severus. Other writers have also given it the same name; but though it may have been repaired by Severus, as it was by different people, yet the wall which he built was not in this district of the country, but was drawn between the Solway frith and Newcastle, nearly in the same direction in which Adrian had formerly built his.

The wall of Antoninus is generally known in this country by the name of Graham's Dike. Some are of the opinion, that it derived this name from a powerful leader of that name, who broke through this famous line of defence, and routed the Britons on the south side of it, who were then abandoned by the Romans. Others affirm, that in the reign of Malcolm II one Gryme, who was connected with the royal family, aspiring to the throne, drew together some followers, and, in order to settle the commotion, the pretender got a grant for the term of his life of all that part of Malcolm's kingdom which was on the north side of the wall, and the line of separation was from this event called Gryme's Dike; hence, by an easy transition, Graham's Dike. It has also been suggested, that as the building of this wall has also been attributed to Severus, so by translating Severus into English, you have Grim; and in a country where the surname of Graham is so common as it is here, it was very natural to find the appellation Grim's Wall, converted into Graham's Dyke (dyke in the Scotch language means a wall). The name itself is of little consequence, but the wall itself is a striking monument of Roman activity.

The soldiers of the Roman Empire were not allowed to become enervated by idleness. They were constantly employed, and often engaged in severe manual labour. Not only the walls which have been taken notice of, but also the various roads which they made in Great Britain are clear proofs, that they were called forth to exertion, and kept in active life. Along the south side of Graham's Dyke a causeway was formed for the more expeditious and comfortable travelling of the soldiers from one part of it to another.

Nearly opposite to Callendar house, an earthen wall of considerable height and thickness branches off from Graham's Dyke, runs through West-quarterhouse garden, and reaches the old Castle of Almond. From that towards the east there are few or no certain traces of it to be seen; but we may presume, that it once ended at Linlithgow, where there was a Roman camp, on the very place where the King's palace was afterwards built. This wall was no fosse, and, being broad at the top, was probably intended to be a road, as well as a line of defence.