

New Statistical Account - Denny

PARISH OF DENNY.

PRESBYTERY OF STIRLING, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING.
THE REV. JOHN DEMPSTER, MINISTER.

I - TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY

Name - The name, it is conjectured, is a corruption of the Gaelic word Dun, signifying a *hill*. It is descriptive of the locality, upon the height of a gentle acclivity, which slopes on the north to the river Carron, and on the south to Sclanders burn. The church is 400 yards from the nearest bank of Carron, and the houses extend from the church down a neat street to the bridge over the Carron, here called Denny-bridge. The ancient village consisted of a broad street, having a row of houses on each side directly east from the church, on the road to Falkirk and Edinburgh. A new street, parallel to this broad street, with one row of neat houses on the north side, has risen since this century commenced. This street is called, in honour of the principal heritor, Herbertshire Street. There are no houses on the southern declivity of the little eminence on which the town stands, partly from the glebe being on the west side of that declivity, and partly from the nature of the ground on the east side, and high price of feuing.¹

Extent - The parish is generally computed at 6 English miles in length, and 4 in breadth, on an average. It is much about the same dimensions as laid down in a map of the county of Stirling, from a survey by Grassom, and published in 1817. About the same time, a survey and valuation of the rent of the parish was made by Mr William Kemp, land-surveyor, by direction of the Honourable Charles Elphinstone Fleming of Cumbernauld, superior of a great part of the parish, - a copy of which is before me, dated 9th July 1818, subscribed by Mr Kemp. The extent in Scots acres, according to him, exclusive of the common, which was divided in 1800, is 5314 acres, 4 falls, valued at the yearly rent of L.7914. The extent of the common he makes 702 acres, 20 falls Scots measure, and the yearly value, L.173, 8s. 4¼d. Both together make the parochial territory 6016 acres, 24 falls Scots measure, and the rental, L.8087, 8s. 4¼d.

Boundaries - The Darrach Hill, a principal feature of this parish, ("*Hill of Oaks*,")² forms the western boundary, from which, sloping to the eastward, in few places with abruptness, the whole parish stretches along to the parish of Dunipace, its boundary in that direction. The rivers Carron and Bonny are its lateral boundaries, Carron on the north, and Bonny on the south. On the west and north of Carron, the contiguous parishes are St Ninians and Dunipace; and on the south, Falkirk and Cumbernauld. The parish of Kilsyth is the boundary on the south-west.

Topographical Appearances - The figure of the parish is irregular, but has some resemblance to a parallelogram. In this figure, but more to the north side, there is a wide irregular ridge of whinstone and freestone through its whole length, from which the grounds slope on each side - on the north towards Carron, and on the south towards Bonny, dividing the parish into two nearly equal parts, both as to extent and population, often called South and North Herbertshire, and referred to in various tenures by these appellations, as the lands happen to lie on the north or south side of the parochial ridge. The reason of these appellations is unknown. If true, as the editor of the second edition of Nimmo's History of Stirlingshire states, page 739, that Herbertshire was the name of a parish,³ Denny might have been part of that parish, and have thus got its natural divisions characterized. The surface of the parish is diversified by heights and hollows, blended together by varied and beautiful undulations. The only hill within it, is Myothill, the property of John Graham, Esq. It is in the upper division of the parish, which is called Temple Denny. It is comparatively small, but beautiful, of a conical shape, and lies at the base of Darrach Hill, justifying, from its general, lateral, and summit smoothness, its name of Myot, which is conjectured by the editor already mentioned to signify *smooth* or *soft*. Myothill-House stands at the bottom of the hill, embosomed in trees, and forms the most prominent parochial object to the traveller westward from Falkirk. The turretted antique grandeur of Herbertshire, the house of the lady of the late William Forbes, Esq. of Callendar,

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and mother of the present William Forbes, Esq. of Callendar, late Member of Parliament for the county of Stirling, first, indeed, attracts notice, from its fine elevated position on the northern bank of Carron, in a lawn adorned with ancient trees; but, although the fourth part of the parish of Denny belongs to its proprietor, Herbertshire is in the parish of Dunipace. The undulations of the surface for a mile about Denny, and more especially to the eastward, are noticed as varied and attractive, and by strangers particularly admired for their beauty. The rush of the diluvial waters from Darrach Hill to the Forth, sweeping before them the softer mould, seems to have occasioned the tasteful knolls in this direction, which adorn the lower fields of the parish.

Hydrography - Springs abound in the parish. but none of them are remarkable for peculiar properties. Castlerankine (conjectured to mean *Castle of the headland point*) burn is the largest rivulet that runs through the parish. It forms the boundary between Temple Denny, and North and South Herbertshire, marking off that portion of the parish - a third part, perhaps, of the whole - which, it is said, once belonged to the Knights Templars. It rises in the south-west, at a little distance from the base of Darrach Hill, and falls into Carron, near Denny Bridge. It takes part in contributing to the manufactured products of the parish. About a mile from Denny, there was once a lint-mill driven by its waters. Next, about five years ago, a small printfield was set down, instead of the lintmill. The printfield having not succeeded, was relinquished; and Messrs John Gray & Son have now, within these twelve months, in consequence of extending their dyewood manufactory, become proprietors of it. Lower down the rivulet, there are chemical works, for making pyrolignous acid and its compounds, in which its waters are useful for keeping the metal conduits cool. But both these manufactories will be more particularly noticed afterwards.

Cascades - In the division called Temple Denny, and within a mile of the new bridge over Carron, on the road to Fintry, about five miles west from Denny, there is a cascade called Auchinlilly lin-spout. In the first year of the present century, the wild natural beauties of the spot were transformed into a sort of fairyland, by the genius of Robert Hill, Esq. W. S. Edinburgh, who had purchased the lands of Forrest Hill, of which it is a part. A rustic cottage of whinstone, with the angular points facing one in all directions, was built on the very margin of a deep fissure, through which the waters of Carron flow, to be tossed over the rock of Auchinlilly, within perhaps six yards of the heath-covered cottage. There were a kitchen, a cellar, and other apartments; and also a stable was dug chiefly out of the rock, below the level of the floor of the cottage. On that floor, were a handsome dining-room, drawing-room, and two small bed-rooms. A spacious window in the dining-room fronted, westward, the rushing waters as they fell over the rock into the fissure, in their course to the spout. The river was seen, for some way up its channel, diffused in comparative largeness of expansion, and studded with tiny rocks, which might be reached when the waters were low. At other times, the river, swollen by the rains around the Muckle Bin, from which it takes its rise, and by the various feeders of the Carron between the Bin and Auchinlilly, rushing forward in roaring majesty, presented a magnificent spectacle from the dining-room window. On one occasion, the stream, having suddenly risen much above its usual elevation, struck the dining-room window with its surges, and, increasing in strength, burst through the window, and, rushing into the kitchen and cellar, made a new cataract over the rock adjoining the spout, into the channel of the river. No lives were lost. The damage was speedily repaired, and, to prevent in future such accidents, a deep excavation in the rock was made in front of the cottage, through to its east rocky banks, sufficient to receive any future overflowings. It was arched over, and thereby easy access, as formerly, to the entrance to the cottage was provided. The banks on each side of the river were planted; walks were made along their sloping sides, with resting-places at proper stations, for enjoying the picturesque beauties of the scene. A carriage way from the turnpike, from Denny to Fintry, was formed down to the cottage. A bridge of plank, close to the spout, was thrown over the fissure, which divides Denny parish from St Ninians, to give access to the garden on the other side. - For a time, it was the resort of the curious, who came even from a distance to see and enjoy the scenery of the Cliffs of Carron, the name by which it was known. A mother's fears for her offspring, amidst so many perils, soon made the amiable and accomplished lady of the property, a stranger to its beauties. The last interesting inhabitant of this once enchanting and still beautifully wild place, was the widowed sister of the amiable Graham, the Sabbath poet. Since she left it, some dozen

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years ago, it has gradually decayed, and has at present only the ruins of its beauty remaining. It is now the property of Archibald Wishart, Esq. W. S. Deputy-Keeper of the Register of Sasines, Edinburgh.

Rocks - The rocks are whinstone and freestone. The dip in a recently opened freestone quarry in the parochial ridge, already mentioned, is from the north, cropping-out on the south. Its colour is whitish. There are other freestone rocks, of yellowish and greyish colour, as well as whitish.

Soil - On the lower banks of Carron and Bonny, the soil is loamy. In the upper parts, it is frequently marshy, and in the central parts, gravelly.

Mines - The mines in the parish are of ironstone and coal. The ironstone lies in Castlerankine division of the parish; the coal is diffused over the upper part of the parochial surface, and more especially in the southern quarter, called Banknock. The coal on the northern side of the parochial ridge, though nearest Denny and the manufactories, is only occasionally worked, owing to the want of a level for drawing off the water; and it is doubted whether the quality of it be such as would indemnify the working it by steam.

Banknock coal is the common fuel of the parish and neighbourhood, and is sent by means of the adjoining canal, both to Greenock and Edinburgh. There are three strata of this mineral in the district of Banknock. No.1. The upper seam of 60 acres, 3 feet 6 inches thick. No.2. The thin seam, 160 acres, 22 inches thick; and, No.3. the main seam, of about 100 acres and 5 feet thick. The deepest pit at present is 68 fathoms deep.

Wood - There are no plantations in the parish; but there may be about 200 acres of coppice wood on the property of William Forbes, Esq.

II - CIVIL HISTORY

The parish of Denny was originally a part of the parish of Falkirk, from which it was separated, as is supposed, (for the records are lost), about the year 1618. The rector of Falkirk had a vicar at Denny, who, besides the small tithes, had a valuable glebe of 28 acres, which was by the last vicar, before the Reformation in 1560, in some way, secured to some of his family connections. The vicar's name was Oswald. The property was confirmed to the family by a formal approbation of James VI. Excerpts from that proceeding, written in Latin, are before me. The text is not complete. The property continued in the name of Oswald until the death (about twenty-five years ago) of James Oswald of Dryborough. Dryborough is adjacent to Denny, and is the name by which the ancient glebe lands are at present known. The Protestant minister had 4½ acres Scots provided for him out of the glebe lands, - a provision which is still enjoyed by his successor, and which constitutes the whole glebe land which now belongs to the cure. There are deeds among the sasines of Stirlingshire from 1520 to 1620, kept in the Register-Office, Edinburgh, which the curious will be rewarded by consulting on the subject of church lands, as applicable to the parish of Falkirk, and to Denny, as part of that parish. The minister of the parish of Polmont, disjoined also from Falkirk about a century ago, draws from the heritors in Temple Denny, in this parish, the equivalent for his grass glebe, a satisfying evidence that both parishes were, at one time, portions of the parish of Falkirk.

Chief Land-owners - William Forbes, Esq. of Callendar is the principal land-owner in the parish. He has lately added to his extensive domains in various parishes in Scotland, the fine estate of Donovan, on the opposite side of the Carron, and is now principal heritor in Dunipace as well as in Denny. Mr. Forbes holds the fourth part of the valued rent of Denny; John Graham Esq. of Myothill is the other principal heritor of Denny, and resident in the parish, whose estate is about one seventeenth part of the valued rent. The remaining heritors are about 120 in number.

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Parochial Registers - The parochial registers consist of nine volumes. The births and marriages commence about 1679; but both the volumes are in a dilapidated state. They are merely a list of names, having no speciality connected with them but the date.

The minutes of session commence in 1742. There are great gaps in them, not from decay, but from no minutes, so far as appears, having ever existed.⁴

Since the commencement of the present century, the session records exhibit all the meetings and the business done; and are subscribed by the moderator. The births and marriages are also entered in properly bound volumes. It is to be regretted, however, that there are some who do not record the baptisms or births of their children. Not a year passes in which parties do not suffer from this neglect.

Antiquities - On the southern boundary of the parish, about Bankier (Fair-fort), are circular places said to be the sites of Caledonian camps. The great Roman station at Castlecarric, a small portion of the remains of which, after seventeen centuries, is still in good condition, is opposite and near to Bankier; and the Fair-fort, it seems not unreasonable to conclude, once stood there to guard the *terra invicta* of Scotland.

The only other antiquity in the parish is that mentioned in the history of Stirlingshire. "In digging at Woodgate, (Woodyet), on the Carron, for the foundation of the newly built house, there, (now called Headswood Cottage,) a rude stone coffin, made of flags, about two-thirds of the ordinary length, placed nearly perpendicular, and containing the bones of an adult person, was found. It is dated, as we have learned, 1301." The stone is placed in the lobby of the cottage, and is seen by every one who enters it. Some of the bones found were, for a while, in the manse of Denny. They are supposed to be the bones of some distinguished person, who fell in connection with the invasion of Edward I in 1298.

Modern Buildings - The parish church, built in 1813, is the principal modern building. Next in point of date, is the church built at Denny Loanhead, for members of the United Secession. These two churches are very much alike in external appearance and interior arrangement. They are nearly the same in size, the latter having only about 40 sittings fewer than the Established Church. The parish church has a turreted steeple, about 75 feet in height, which was erected at the east end of the church by voluntary subscription, chiefly of churchmen. Hag's Church, opened 19th July 1840, and built by voluntary subscription, is the neatest church in the parish, and has about 700 sittings.

There is a decent place of worship in Denny, of a square form, belonging formerly to the Burghers, but now to the United Associate Synod Members. It contains nearly 200 fewer sittings than any of the other two. There are various modern buildings, in all parts of the parish, erected since this century commenced. Two-thirds and more of the present town of Denny have been built within that space. The houses are generally of two stories, with garrets, slated roof of blue slates, and finished with sashed windows, &c. Around Denny, and also in the village of Hags and its vicinity, there are different neat cottages as well as some houses of two stories. The most remarkable erection at Hags is a handsome row of collier cottages, amounting to twelve in number, terminated on the east with a large building as a store for the workers at the colliery. These were built in 1836. A manifest improvement is taking place in the farm-steadings on the estate of Herbertshire. The smaller proprietors have done much, within these last thirty years, to improve their dwellings. Increased comfort and tasteful arrangement are gradually advancing. One now meets with boarded floors, plastered walls and ceilings, and in some instances, with parlours furnished with tables, sofas, and carpets.

A commodious building, adjoining to the town of Denny, for the parochial school, is now in progress. This structure will be an ornament to the town, and serves, among other parochial improvements, to give evidence of the care with which Mr Forbes attends to the educational interest of the youth of the parish, and the domestic comfort of the teacher.

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Mills and Manufactories - There are eleven of these on the banks of Carron, within a mile and a-half of the town of Denny. There are seven of them modern buildings; one for manufacturing oatmeal and pot-barley, one for millboards, one for dye-stuffs, and three for spinning sheep's wool. Herbertshire Mill, the oldest establishment in the parish for manufacturing paper, and the other mills, were the work of last century. Two distilleries have been also erected, one in Denny and another at Bankier, already mentioned. A spade-manufactory about a mile and a-half down the Bonny from Bankier, has been set agoing, within these few years; and, lastly, a considerable wheaten, flour, oatmeal, and pot-barley mill, with a small saw-mill, were built, some time since, at Bonnyford, in the eastern extremity of the parish. The waters of Bonny not furnishing adequate power for meeting the demand for the manufactories here, a steam-engine is erected and put to work, when necessary.

III - POPULATION

There are no accounts of the population previous to 1755. In that year, the parochial population, as reported by Dr Webster, amounted to 1392 souls; as reported by Mr Fergus in 1790, it was 1400; as taken by the writer hereof, by personal communication in the years 1800 and 1801, it was found to be, 1967; by Government census in 1821, 3364; Ditto, 1831, 3843; as communicated in 1837, and reported to the Royal Commissioners on Religious Instruction when in Denny on 27th February 1838, 4300.

The increase of manufacturing is obviously the main cause of the great and progressive increase which has taken place, and which seems to be steadily continuing. Denny has such advantages of situation, that before another century revolves, it may be a large manufacturing town, with its provost and bailies, churches, ministers, and elders. About half a century ago, Denny was only a hamlet adjoining the church, containing unsophisticated prayerful families.

Population in villages	2421
in the country	1879
	4300

The yearly average of births for the last seven years is	86
of deaths	70
of marriages	35
The average number of persons under 15 years of age, is	1597
between 15 and 30	983
30 and 50	1337
50 and 70	349
upwards of 70	34
	4300

Of proprietors of the yearly value of L.50 and upwards, there are	41
There are of unmarried men, bachelors and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age	21
females, upwards of 45	88

Insane persons, 1; fatuous, 1; blind, 3; deaf and dumb, 2.

Amusements - Curling, in its season, is eagerly pursued, and the confidence of the Denny players, in their superior skill and tact, prompts a challenge every season to their neighbours. A year or two ago, a Denny Curling Club was formed. John Carnie, Esq. of Curling Hall, Largs, so well known to the curling world by his zeal for curling, received at Denny the rudiments of his eminent skill in curling. That gentleman is the second son of the late Mr Niel Carnie, who was a principal partner in the firm of Messrs Thomas Shiels and Co. of Herbertshire Printfield. On the Carron, and the reservoirs of the printfield, his son, John, first shone as a curler, and imbibed the knowledge which enabled him to

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write a standard work on curling, and to bear the palm for the invention of a curling rink, which, on any morning, when there is a little frost, may, by a slight suffusion of water over its surface, present in four hours, (the thermometer at 28°,) the finest and firmest ice a curler could desire.

A Denny Archers' Club was instituted in 1828, for the purpose of enjoying the amusement of archery. The club competes annually for the captaincy, at the distance of 100 yards, the captain being preses for the year, - for two poisoned arrows from the island of Mombase, at the distance of 160 yards, - for a silver medal, at 50 yards, - for three prizes of arrows, at 30 yards, - and for a silver arrow, at the same distance, - the successful competitors becoming vice-presidents. The medal and arrows remain in the possession of the successful competitor; the others are shot for annually. Members are admitted by ballot, - one black-ball excludes. The club dine together in October, annually; and the greatest harmony has existed among its members, since its institution.

The people generally enjoy in a good degree the comforts of society, and are contented with their situation. Unprincipled^s newspapers, are the chief causes of any discontent that exists. Their general character, however, is good. They are rather what may be called a church-going population. There are sometimes, but not often, prosecutions for poaching. Smuggling is annihilated. Would that drunkenness were so also!

IV - INDUSTRY

Agriculture - A practical and extensive agriculturist has favoured the writer with the following statements. He computes the whole number of acres within the parish at 7520.

Of the above number there are either cultivated, or in occasional tillage	6000
Acres which have never been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste or in pasture	1139
Acres which might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish. whether that land was afterwards to be kept in occasional tillage or in permanent pasture	360
There is no undivided common in the parish.	
Under wood, either natural or planted, there are	181

The kind of wood planted is Scots fir, larch, spruce, ash, elm, birch, oak, lime, and plane. The natural wood is, oak and birch, all kept properly thinned and in good order. The time of felling the planted wood is generally in the months of February and March; and the time of cutting the natural or copse-wood, and all oak for peeling, is the month of May. The time for thinning wood is in winter.

Rent of Land - The average rent of arable land per acre, is L.1, 15s. The average rent of grazing oxen and yeld cows per annum, is L 3 each; or milk cows, L. 4 each; of ewes or full-grown sheep, 17s, each.

Live-Stock - No sheep are bred in the parish except pets, which are mostly of the Leicester and Cheviot kind. Ewes are sometimes grazed in parks, which are of the black-faced breed. The cattle are generally of the Ayrshire sort, and the breed very much improved of late years, by giving premiums for the best bulls and cows, &c. Horses are mostly of the Clydesdale description, and the breed also much improved by premiums for the best stallions and brood mares. The style of farming is also greatly improved by premiums bestowed annually on the best ploughman, and for the best managed farm.

Draining is much neglected in the parish, from the want of capital among the tenants. The general duration of leases is nineteen years, which is considered to answer well for both proprietor and tenant. The state of farm-buildings and enclosures is not good. The principal improvements which have recently been made in the parish, are by the Messrs Gilmour of Knowhead, by means of thorough

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draining and trenching the most part of their lands, which are now worth double the rent in consequence.⁶

The want of capital prevents many a tenant from liming and purchasing manure for his land. Were landlords to allow so much for every chalders of lime which the tenant laid on the farm, it would increase both the produce and the rent. To give premiums for the greatest quantity of draining on a farm - for the largest and best field of turnip and potatoes, - for the best laid down field of hay, &c. would give a stimulus to agriculture of the most beneficial description. Sheds and straw-yards are likewise much wanted in this parish, to enable the farmer to feed and rear more stock, and so to make more manure and sow more turnips for feeding, &c.; for the more manure, the more turnips; the more turnips, the more cattle; and the more cattle, the more manure again, and so on indefinitely.

Quarries and Mines - The quarries are of freestone and whinstone. There are several mines of iron ore in the glen of Castlerankine, and on the estates of Herbertshire and Myot-hill: but they are not, at present, from the want of a remunerating price, worked. The coal mine at present at work in the parish, is that of Banknock, already described. About ninety workers, young and old, are employed in the various operations going on there. Three steam-engines are constantly at work.

Produce - The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

Oats	9000 quarters
Barley	1300
Wheat	500
Beans	100
Pease	100
Rye-grass hay	200 tons
Meadow hay	100
Flax	2

which, estimated at the rates formerly mentioned, makes the value of the raw produce to be as follows:

Produce of grain of all kinds whether cultivated for the food of man or of the domestic animals	L.15,130
Potatoes, turnips, cabbages, beet, and other plants cultivated in the fields for food	3,600
Hay, whether meadow or cultivated	1,050
Crops cultivated for the arts, as flax	70
Land in pasture, rating at L.3, 10s per cow or full-grown ox grazed, or that may be grazed for the season, at 17s. per ewe or full grown sheep, pastured, or that may be pastured for the year,	2,000
Mines, whether coals, quarries, or metals,	500
Miscellaneous produce not enumerated,	100
	L.22,450

Farmer's Club - A farmer's club was recently instituted in the parish for encouraging agriculture in all its departments: it is exciting attention to ploughing, breeding, &c.

Manufactures - The mills on the river Carron, in the parish of Denny, have been already stated to be eleven. The upper-most are Garvald mills. There are two of them, and both are employed in grinding charcoal for moulders, &c. Each mill has a miller at 12s. per week of wages, and a man, horse, and cart, to bring charcoal to the mills, and to carry the ground produce to the moulders. The carters have each 12s. per week.

The next mill down the river is Tamaree, for grinding oats, and preparing pot-barley.

The next lower down is Mr R. B. Lusk's mill at Carron Grove, for manufacturing millboard, and different kinds of coarse paper. The workers employed are, 15 men, 2 women, 2 lads, and 6 boys;

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wages are paid every fortnight, and average about L.27 every fortnight. The materials used are almost exclusively old tarred ropes, of which fully one ton, on an average, is used daily. No rags are made use of in this manufactory. The goods manufactured are almost exclusively millboards, which are used for the boards of books, of which from four to five tons per week are manufactured. Sometimes a little coarse paper is made, used for sheathing ships and other purposes, as also some large coarse millboards, used by engineers for making steam-joints tighter. The mill is lighted by gas, and the manufactured goods dried by steam and heated air. The excise duty paid is from L.300 to L.400 every six weeks.

Next in order, down this lovely though busy spot on Carron Banks from Tamareelin, is Herbertshire Mill, the property of William Forbes, Esq. Messrs Alexander Duncan & Sons carry on at this mill the manufacture of writing-paper. They employ upwards of 20 men and 50 women. The wages are paid monthly; on an average, 15s. per week for the men, and 5s. for the women: besides these, 2 men and 4 horses are constantly employed carting rags and coals, and carting the paper to Grangemouth for shipment to London. The workers principally reside in Denny and Fankerton, a small village in the parish up the Carron, and in the neighbourhood. The following is an account of the process of paper-making at Herbertshire Mill: As soon as the rags are cut by women across a scythe blade fixed into a table covered with wire-cloth, for the purpose of getting rid of the dust and sand, they are passed into the boiling-house, where they are boiled for twelve hours; afterwards, they are washed, and broke into a pulp by an iron cistern, called a paper-engine, capable of holding one hundred weight of rags, which are beat by a roller with thirty-six steel bars, which turn on a plate in the bottom of the cistern. Five of these engines, of twenty steel bars, are kept constantly going night and day, requiring upwards of forty horse power to drive them and the other requisite machinery. After the rags are broke in and bleached for twenty-four hours, they are beat into pulp or stuff ready for passing on to the paper-machine, perhaps one of the most complete pieces of machinery ever invented in this country; as, in one room of 60 feet in length, by 25 feet wide, one may see the stuff much resembling churned milk, passing by means of a fine web of wire-cloth fifteen feet long into a series of rolls used in pressing out the water, and forming the paper into a firm body. It then passes into a set of cylinders heated by steam, from which it is reeled into rolls in a perfectly finished state, quite dry and pressed, ready for use. Six of the rolls are then put on to the cutting-machine, which cuts them into the sizes required. The cutting-machine is the invention of Messrs Foudrinier of Hanley, Staffordshire, and patent. It is capable of cutting 144 sheets per minute of post or writing-paper. On an average, 26 cwt. of rags are cut per day in the rag-house, and 21 cwt. of them beat into stuff, yielding an average of from 1600 to 1700 lbs. per day of twenty-four hours, as all the machinery is kept going night and day. The duty paid every six weeks averages L.320; the wages every month, L.100; carting, and other carriages, L.40. The water-wheel for driving the paper engines is 24 feet diameter, and fully 12 feet wide, all iron, and weighs 33 tons. Another small wheel is used for driving the paper-machines, 22 feet diameter, and 18 inches wide. The works are lighted with gas, and four tons of coals are used daily.

There has been a considerable branch of the woollen trade carried on in this parish, for thirty years past. The next three mills are at work in this manufacture. They are driven by water power, and are extensively engaged at present in the manufacture of tartan and fancy shawls, and linsey-woolsey stuffs, solely upon account of Messrs Wingate and Son and Company of Glasgow. Mr John Wingate of this firm is well known in the country, as a distinguished Constitutionalist, and one of the munificent Church Extensionists of Glasgow. The quantity of wool wrought up into these goods exceeds 160,000 lbs. annually. The various branches of the manufacture are included, viz. spinning of the yarns, dyeing, weaving, and the finishing of the goods, which afford employment to nearly 200 persons of both sexes, young and old. The wages paid average L.300 per month. The water of the river Carron being uncommonly pure and soft, is peculiarly adapted for cleaning and dyeing, producing bright fancy colours, so requisite in that description of goods. The three mills are all on Carron, and near each other, two at Stoneywood, and one at Randolph Hill, - lighted by gas, and heated by steam. A recent cut from Tamaree lin supplies plentifully with water four of these mills. Before that cut was executed, there was no paper-mill below Tamaree lin, excepting Herbertshire mill, at which, according to the old practice, paper was made by the hand. Combinations among operative paper-makers were, at that time, a frequent cause of great annoyance to masters, and of misery to

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many innocent families. The improvements mentioned have put an end to combinations among paper-makers.

A mill for chipping, rasping, and grinding dye stuffs, belonging to the firm of Messrs John Gray and Son, stands on the river bank a little below Herbertshire mill. The company have lately enlarged their premises by the works on Castle Rankine Glen, so that they now not only furnish the dye stuffs, but, by means of the addition referred to, provide at once to manufacturers of fancy woollen, cotton and linsey-woolsey articles, the liquor for the colours desired. The company employs 21 hands, and pays monthly L.46, 12s. of wages.

Lowest on the river in this parish, is Denny corn and pot-barley mill, belonging to the estate of Herbertshire, which has a large thirlage astricted to it.

Distilleries - There are two distilleries in the parish; one is in the close vicinity of Denny, under the firm of Macpherson and Macnaughton. It consumes yearly 3500 quarters of malt made from barley, which produces 53,500 gallons of proof spirits. Two stills are used: contents of the wash still, 500 gallons; of the low-wines still, 400 gallons. Bear or big makes the finest spirits: but this is not so profitable to the distiller. The best season for distilling is in spring; and for fermentation, autumn. This distillery affords a ready market for the barley of the farmers in the vicinity, and of others more distant. Such is the confidence of the farmers in the Company, that it is a common practice to forward the grain at once to the distillery, and, if received there, to leave the settlement of the price to the Company, without previous bargain. The other distillery is at Bankier, in the southern division of the parish, on the Bonny, and is much the same in respect of consumption of barley, and of the quantity and kind of spirits produced.

Brick-Work, &c - A brick and tile-work has recently been set agoing in this district of the parish, which will be a great accommodation to the parish and neighbourhood.

About a mile and a half east, on the lands of Knowhead, a spade manufactory, famed for the excellence of the article manufactured, has been erected. An adjoining morass furnishes water-power for working the ponderous hammer by which the materials for spades are consolidated, and afterwards beaten into plates. The wooden handles for the spades are likewise prepared at the mill; and the goods sent to the market, fit for immediate use.

It remains only to notice, that there are two extensive calico-printing establishments in the immediate vicinity of the town of Denny, although locally in the parish of Dunipace, of whose labourers three-fourths and upwards have their habitations and families in the town of Denny. The labourers, old and young, employed at these printfields, amount, on an average, to 1000, three-fourths of whose monthly wages amount, on an average, to L.1200. On the whole, then, it appears, that there are about 1100 individuals of the parochial population who are workers at manufactories, the average produce of whose monthly wages is L.1, 13s. to each individual, of whom some receive L.8 per month, and others 8s. per month.

The whole machinery of the mills enumerated, and of all the manufactories west from the junction of Bonny with Carron, (which takes place about two miles east from Denny,) were driven, until within these few years, by Carron water alone. The supply of Carron, however, from agricultural improvements going on in the high grounds through which the river flows, was unsteady; and, within these five or six years, the proprietors of the mills upon its banks, in order to obtain a fuller supply of water-power, were induced to form themselves into a society, and, by subscription, produced funds to erect an embankment for a reservoir upon the Earl's-burn, about nine miles above Denny. The artificial lake thus erected, covers an extent of nearly 60 acres. The embankment is 22 feet in height. The cost of the whole has fallen little short of L.2000, and was borne by a few individuals. On the 24th of October 1839, after a great fall of rain, the embankment gave way. Much injury was done, by the resistless torrent, to property along the whole course of the Carron downwards.

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V - PAROCHIAL ECONOMY

Market-Towns - Denny is not a market-town. Arrangements were made, some twenty years ago, to have it erected into a market town, by the Honourable Charles Elphinstone Fleming of Cumbernauld. But the different dealers were not friendly to the proposal, and preferred petitioning for a baron bailie, before whom they might prosecute for payment of their accounts. The bailie was obtained, and has power to give judgment, and enforce payment to the extent of L.2.

Some idea of the business done in Denny, may be formed from the following statement, made from actual enumeration:- There are 21 houses and grocery shops licensed to sell, beside groceries, ale and spirits, of these 19 sell spirits over the counter, the remaining 2 are common whisky-shops; 3 stationers; 4 bakers; 1 pastry-shop; 4 butchers ; 2 excise-officers; 7 wrights; 3 smithies; 4 medical practitioners; 4 schoolmasters; 1 writer; 2 ministers of the Gospel; 4 haberdashers and cloth shops; 10 shoemakers; 1 tinsmith; 1 gas manufactory; 2 coopers; 5 tailors, two of whom are clothiers; 1 messenger; 1 dame's school.

An intelligent member of the Total Abstinence Society has handed me a note, which shows what becomes of a great part of the wages of labourers in this parish: "In Denny village, and that part of Denny on the north of Carron, and between Denny and Fankerton, from October 1835 to October 1836, there were sold by the retailers of spirits, 10,600 gallons of spirits, at a cost to the inhabitants of this small district of upwards of L.4300, - besides the value of the time lost while drinking, and in consequence of drinking, which I am sure would be underrated at L.800 more. This quantity of spirits, I understand, would consume nearly 700 bolls of barley." Add to this enormous amount, the quantity of spirits sold on the southern side of the parochial ridge, and it will appear that there are no less than L.7000 annually spent in this parish, in the purchase of spirituous liquors; a sum nearly equal to the rental of the whole parish. "How easy a matter it would be," observes the gentleman referred to, "for the working classes to make grain cheap, without any alteration of the Corn Laws, and to make themselves most comfortable, without any reduction of taxation."

Villages - There are four, villages in the parish, - Denny, Hags, Fankerton, and Loanhead. From Broomage toll-bar to where the road strikes off right and left near Hags to Glasgow, for the space of a mile, the houses are so thickly planted as to promise to become, in the course of twenty or thirty years, one continuous street.

There are about 190 parliamentary voters in this parish.

There is one post-office, the average revenue of which is annually about L.300. The length of turn pike roads in the parish is ten miles and upwards. In winter, the number of public carriages which pass and repass daily through the parish, is 22. The bridges and fences within the parish are kept in good order.

Ecclesiastical State - The parish church stands west from the old village of Denny. Its situation is sufficiently convenient for the parishioners on the north side of the parochial ridge; but not so for the inhabitants of Hags and Bankier. It was built in 1813, and cleaned and beautified internally, in 1838, by the voluntary contributions of the people, and is at present in good and comfortable repair. It contains 767 sittings, at eighteen inches for each sitter. On sacramental occasions, there may be 900 persons within its walls. Ordinary Sabbath days attendance 560. Communicants, on an average, 512. There are seven free sittings for the poor. The minister, elders, and schoolmaster have each separate accommodation; and their sittings, amount to 28. The manse was built in 1803, and is in good repair and comfortable. The glebe consists of four arable acres, worth L.10; and half an acre for manse, offices, and garden. The stipend is 16 chalders, one-half meal, the other half barley. L.10 are allowed for communion elements.⁷

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There are two Dissenting chapels in the parish, both now belonging to the United Secession Church. The one at Denny Loanhead is among the oldest and strongest, in point of wealth, in the Secession Church. When the Royal Commissioners for Religious Instruction were here on 27th February 1838, the minister of that church stated that the erection took place in 1738, and that the first minister of it was ordained in 1751. There was a dispute, as before noticed, in the parish, after Mr Watson's death in 1733 about his successor. The cruel operation of patronage was then beginning to be felt; and some of the people, by proceedings that took place during the vacancy, were reluctantly constrained to secede.

Another dispute arose after Mr Turnbull's death in 1765, - when, at length, the minister most unacceptable to the parishioners was intruded upon them, and then another party betook themselves to Loanhead. Since that time, the congregation there has not been augmented by any violent proceedings on the part of the Assembly. The minister farther stated before the Commissioners, that it is increasing but slowly; that the communicants are on an average 512; and that of the adherents to the congregation, 10 were resident in St Ninian's, 67 in Dunipace, and 250 in Falkirk, - in all, 357 beyond the bounds of the parish. His stipend, as understood to be reported to the Royal Commissioners, is, besides a manse and garden, L.170, and L.10 for the expense of two sacraments annually, and L.2 for attendance at each synod. He said he had no bond or security for its payment. His church was stated to have 731 sittings, and the average, number of regular attendants to be 560.

The other Dissenting chapel is in the town of Denny. It was originally Burgher, as the other was Antiburgher; and both are now of the United Secession. It was established in 1797, when Mr Fergus, the parochial minister, was incapacitated for duty by old age. This chapel has about 500 sittings, as is supposed. The congregation, through no fault of the minister, who is the first that was placed in it, has fallen off to about 200 individuals in ordinary attendance on Sabbath. The communicants, he was understood to say to the Royal Commissioners, were once 320, but are now not more than 271. His stipend is L.100 per annum. He has no bond or security for its payment. He has a manse, a garden, and small glebe.

There are not four Episcopalians in the parish but the Roman Catholics may amount to 50, nearly all Irish.

There is a Bible Society connected with the Established Church, for which there is annually collected and subscribed about L.7. The four schemes of the General Assembly, and the new object for promoting the restoration of Israel to the Christian Church, are all less or more supported by the people of the Establishment. The Dissenting brethren do much in the way of similar works in their congregations; in particular, the contributions to Christian objects by the congregation at Loanhead, are stated to be large and exemplary. The parochial contributions for these objects may be estimated at L.80 so annually. The church door collections are not more than one-fourth of this sum.

*Ministers of the Parish of Denny since the Revolution 1688.*⁸ - Thomas Watson; ordination, time unknown; death, March 1733. William Bennet,¹⁰ 22d August 1738; translated to Duddingston. Edward Anderson, 23d September 1747; died April 1749. James Turnbull, 14th August 1750; died 20th December 1765. Thomas Fergus,¹¹ 22d June 1769; died 25th January 1801. John Dempster,¹² 25th April 1800.

Education.-The total number of schools in the parish is nine. There is one parochial school; one partially endowed; the rest are unendowed. Besides these nine, there is one dame's school for reading, sewing, &c. carefully taught.

The parochial teacher has all the legal accommodations. His salary is L.34, 4s. 4½d.

There are few of the young between six and fifteen years of age who cannot read a little. The schools are quite numerous enough, and sometimes injurious to each other. Two qualified and endowed

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teachers for the town, and three for the other parts of the parish, qualified and endowed also, would be sufficient, and might do more good than is done by all the ten at present.

The people are partially alive to the benefits of education; but the concern of parents for the education of their offspring seems on the decline.

Literature - There is one parochial library in Denny, containing at present 1100 volumes. Entry-money as members, L.1, 1s., - and 1s. every six months afterwards. It was instituted in 1806. Books are lent to non-subscribers at the rate of 1s. 6d. per quarter. There is also a Denny Religious Library. Number of volumes about 400; entry-money, 1s.; out readers, 6d. per month; - and Denny Loanhead Congregational Library, instituted in 1831; number of volumes nearly 500; dues, 1s. 6d. per quarter. There have been several public reading-rooms, some for persons who were not artisans, and others for artisans; but, from different causes, they have failed, and at present there are none.

Societies - The following are the names of the societies in Denny, besides those already mentioned: Denovan Printfield Friendly Society, instituted 1802 ; Herbertshire Printfield Friendly Society, 1816; Herbertshire and Denovan Friendly Society, 1817; D. L. St Andrew's Lodge, 1825; Hags Friendly Society, 1830 ; Banknock Friendly Society, 1834; Denny Ploughman's Society, 1834; Denny Horticultural Society, 1836; Denny and Dunipace Total Abstinence Society, 1837; Denny and Dunipace Funeral Society, 1837; Denny Farmer's Society, 1838; Denny and Dunipace Mutual Instruction Society, 1838; Independent Order of Odd Fellows Friendly Society, 1838.

Savings Bank - There was an attempt made, in 1825, to set on foot a savings bank, which failed. Mr Gray, the Actuary of the Glasgow Savings Bank, and other benevolent individuals, renewed the attempt in 1837. There is a fear of consequences, if masters should know what gains their servants make. It failed also.

Poor and Parochial Funds - The average number of persons receiving parochial relief is 32. The average amount allotted to each per month, 5s. 9d. The average annual amount of contributions for their relief, collected at church doors, L.14, 5s. 7d.; assessment, L.72. No other regular mode of procuring funds.

Every winter, however, some benevolent persons give donations of coals, which the farmers lay down gratis at the doors of the poor. L.7 or L.8 per annum, on an average, used to be added to the poor's funds, by mortcloth dues. But there is hardly ever now a mortcloth put over the coffin.

One meets now and then with persons who, in the old Scottish spirit, refuse aid from the poor's funds. In general, however, they are abundantly clamorous.

When the new church came to be used as a place of worship in 1814, a dispute among the heritors arose as to the division of the sittings. This suit continued five years. Never was the parish happier than during these five years, and never was the church better or more regularly attended, and never were the collections at the church door more liberal. The people paid no seat rents, and they poured their money into the church plate; L.1, 6s. and L1, 10s. were not uncommon collections in these days, on ordinary Sabbath days. The average of each of the fifty-two Sabbaths of the year, was L.1, 2s. The plea was ended, and the heritors demanded seat rents. The people considered this unreasonable: but, rather than leave the Establishment, they came to an understanding that they would pay seat rents, but withheld their contributions at the church door. There was no assessment for the poor, at that time. The collections began gradually to diminish. Offence was taken at the session having sent a lunatic to the Glasgow Asylum. The lunatic was recalled and given to his relations. Objections were then taken to the payment of the wages of teachers for instructing poor scholars, - the payment of the presbytery and synod clerks, of the beadles of those courts, and of the precentor and parish beadle; all these payments were resisted. The cleaning of the church was considered an expense, that the heritors had nothing to do with. The session were prevented advancing money for any of these purposes, unless at their own risk, and the aliment of the poor woman that cleaned the church, was stopped. The

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session were even threatened with a prosecution, to cause them refund the outlays which had taken place; but happily, at every annual settlement of accounts in presence of the heritors, the accounts had been docketed as approved. The session, however, were prohibited making any of these payments in future, out of the poor's funds. In these circumstances, the elders resolved no more to collect. The funds were wholly handed over to the heritors, who have them still in their hands, to the great relief of the minister and elders. The procedure of the heritors was not approved by others, and the collections continued to decline. For a while, the heritors, under the excitement of novelty, stood, at the collection plates: but at length they have, almost without exception, given up collecting: and the grave-digger, the servant or the heritors, sits commonly at the plate, and receives, it is said, 1s. per day, for the discharge of this duty. While the session took charge of the poor's funds, the expense to the heritors was only L.1, 1s. per annum, as an acknowledgement to the session-clerk for acting as treasurer, beside his regular salary of L.2, 2s. per annum, for discharging the duties of session-clerk. The state of matters now is instructive. The session did not interfere, after their surrender of the funds, to discourage the collections, except that they withheld their own contributions, understanding that the collections were to be employed in the prosecution against themselves. Instead of L.70 per annum of collections at the church doors, there is now only L.14, if so much.¹³ Instead of L.1, 1s. to the treasurer, a writer in Denny is paid L.10 per annum for being treasurer and clerk, and the session-clerk's salary of L.2, 2s. is continued, as it must be, by law. Instead of there being no regular assessment, there is now a regular assessment of L.72 per annum, which threatens to rise, notwithstanding all possible care; and, moreover, there are hardly any seat-rents collected, for the people are utterly averse to the payment of such an impost. It is due to the memory of one of the kindest and most gentlemanly of characters, the late William Morehead, Esq. of Herbertshire, to say, that he had no hand in the ruinous proceedings which have been mentioned; and his successor, the present chief heritor, is far above such doings.

Fairs - There are two fairs held annually in the parish, - one about Whitsunday, and the other about Martinmas.

Fuel - The fuel is chiefly coal from Banknock, and the neighbouring coal-pits.

Drawn up February 1839.

Revised April 1841.

NOTES TO DENNY PARISH

1. The entry to Denny from the south is now improved by a new turnpike being made. An excellent house, fronting both the west and the north, has been erected on the east side of the road. The road is now wide, and of easy ascent, from the erection of a new bridge over Sclanders burn. The height opposite the church gate has been levelled, and the appearance of the town by this entry is even beautiful. (1841.)
2. Nimmo's History of Stirlingshire, p.740.
3. It is mentioned as a barony in a charter of Robert I. Nimmo's Hist, p. 575.
4. Mr Watson, proprietor of Knowhead, a respectable property in the parish, and whose ornamented tombstone is in good preservation in the churchyard, is supposed to have been the first minister of Denny after the Revolution in 1688. His induction is not mentioned in the Presbytery records, but his death in 1733 is mentioned.

There is one remarkable minute in reference to a point, which, a few years ago, was agitated between the heritors and the kirk-session, namely, the payment for the education of poor children. The act 1803 makes it imperative on the parochial teacher to instruct the poor *gratis*; but in this parish, from the parochial school-house being in the northern extremity of the parish, and there being families four miles distant from school, the children of the poor not being able to attend the parochial teacher, on

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account of this distance, must either be neglected, or taught at some school nearer their dwellings; and in that case, it was contended, the school wages must, according to use and wont, be paid out of the parochial poor fund. This was resisted: but for peace's sake, the session acquiesced. At that time also some 20 of the 121 persons entitled to vote at heritors' meetings, objected likewise to the payment of the salaries of the presbytery and synod clerk, and their beadle, &c. The argument from the use and wont payment of such charges was not listened to: and from the causes just mentioned, these officers of the church have not been paid, as heretofore, out of the parochial funds for the poor since 1831. There is before me a distinct minute of session, dated 28th May 1746 with the list of the elders present *nominatim*, and signed William Bennet, moderator in which these disputed are distinctly mentioned as paid, and reported accordingly. In settling the accounts, the words are, "also for the Synod and Presbytery clerk, and Presbytery beddal, as by particular account, the sum of," the amount paid is partly soiled, and partly torn, and not legible throughout, and "also John Bane is allotted by the session twelve pounds Scots, for teaching poor scholars."

5. The public morals and peace are at this time both suffering from what is called Chartism. The principles of Chartists, as exhibited here, are infidel and anarchical. Few, happily, countenance them. - (1841.)

6. Draining may be said to be the rage at present. All proclaim the increase of produce which follows. (1841)

7. 5th February 1840. The Court of Teinds was pleased to augment the stipend to 19 chalders, one-half meal, and the other half barley, and the sum for communion elements to L.15 per annum.

A new church at Hags was opened for public worship on 19th July 1840. On 15th September 1840, the Rev. Colin M'Culloch was, without one dissenting voice, chosen minister, and, on 14th January 1841, he was ordained pastor of the parish, *quod spritualis*, of Hags. The church has nearly 700 sittings and 550 Sabbath occupants.

8. Communicated by the Rev. Alexander Leitch, Clerk of the Presbytery of Stirling.

9. Probably; for all the letters on the tombstone cannot be traced.

10. The parish was in a state of disquietude and dissatisfaction, during the five years which intervened between Mr Watson's death and the induction of Mr Bennet. A presentation was issued by the Crown in favour of Mr James Stirling, and another by Herbertshire; but the majority of the parish were in favour of a Mr Penman. The great objection against Mr Stirling was his acceptance of a presentation. This objection seems to have weighed very much with the Presbytery, which, at that time, was decidedly of an anti-patronage character. Once, the Presbytery refused, at the order of the Commission, to take Mr Stirling on trials for ordination, and twice thereafter, the order of the Assembly itself to the same effect. For the third time, in 1737, the Assembly issued its order to effect the settlement before September, that year; and in case of its not being done by that time, the synod of Perth and Stirling, at its meeting in October, were to take up the case, and to proceed with the settlement; and in case of their not doing so within a given time, the Assembly appointed a commission to accomplish it before their next meeting. Even this peremptory order, the Presbytery found means of evading. What became of Mr Stirling afterwards, does not appear from the record. Some time thereafter, a petition is presented to the Presbytery, to allow certain probationers therein named, to preach as candidates. Mr William Bennet, one of these, was chosen and ordained 22nd August 1738.

11. After Mr Tumbull's death, there was a dispute about the presentation, between the Crown and Herbertshire. Mr Fergus was the Crown presentee.

12. Mr Fergus having become, through the infirmities of age, unable for his public duty, agreed to have an assistant and successor. Through the influence of William Morehead, Esq. of Herbertshire,

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the Crown consented to give the parish a leet of five. Mr Dempster was one of the leet, and on the 27th July 1799, was chosen unanimously, with the exception of one voice, assistant and successor to Mr. Fergus.

13. The collections for eight weeks lately were reported to be 2s. every Sabbath. (1841).