

## NUMBER XVII.

## PARISH OF STONEHOUSE.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

*By the Rev. MR. JAMES MOREHEAD,**Situation and Extent.*

**T**HE parish of Stonehouse is in the county of Lanark, in the presbytery of Hamilton, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr;—18 miles from Glasgow,—7 and a half from Hamilton,—and nearly the same from Lanark. It is 5 miles in length, and, at an average, nearly 2 miles in breadth. No exact survey has yet been taken of it; but, by comparing what has been surveyed, and what has not, it may be reasonably supposed to contain nearly 6000 acres. Of the above, it is computed, that about 12 acres consist of moss, and about 24 of muir. All the rest is arable, excepting the banks of the river. The soil, at the top of the parish, is light; in the middle and lower end, it is also light, but mixed with some clay. It is laid out mostly in small farms. Four or five, perhaps, may pay between 60 and L. 80 of yearly rent; but, at an average, they do not exceed 20 or L. 30.—In the centre of the parish, there is a very thriving village, called Stonehouse. In the course of the last 20 years, 35 new houses have been built; and 2 or 3 more are to be built next summer. Some of these houses con-

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tain 2, 3, 4, and even 5 families. The village is principally inhabited by weavers. A few have begun to carry on business for themselves: but, generally speaking, they are employed by manufacturers elsewhere. Some begin working the loom at nine or ten years of age. The females are remarkable for spinning fine. The village above is supposed to draw L. 500 annually for that article. Some years ago, there was one woman, who spun to the extent of ten spindles in the pound.

*Produce.*—The produce, which principally consists of oats, barley, and pease, is, in general, more than what is necessary for the consumption of the inhabitants. The surplus is sent to Hamilton, Glasgow, and Paisley. About 12 years ago, an attempt was made to raise wheat; but, after repeated trials, it was found not to answer, and is, therefore, mostly given up. Every farmer lays his account to raise 10 or 12 bolls of potatoes yearly; and to sow about a peck, or a peck and a half of lint seed, for family uses. They have no fields either of potatoes, flax, or turnip. In the middle and lower end of the parish, every farmer has some parts of his ground in ryegrass. What they peculiarly attend to, is the dairy. It is, in general, expected, that the half, and in some parts the whole, of his rent should be paid by the produce of the byre. They deal greatly in rearing calves for the butchers, which they sell from 20s to 3 or L. 4 each.

*Diseases.*—There is no disease peculiar to the parish. What has hitherto proved most fatal, is the small-pox, which returns every 4 or 5 years. In 1778, 18 children were carried off in the course of a few weeks. Some have begun to inoculate: In every instance where tried, it was successful; but the prejudices of the people against it are so strong, that it is not  
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gaining ground. There are few instances of longevity. Some have attained to 90, but none, (at least for these 30 years,) to 100 years of age.

*Rivers and Mineral Springs.*—The Avon, which rises in the parishes of Avondale and Galston, passes through a part of this district, and runs into the Clyde, not far from Hamilton. —Near the village of Stonehouse, it has a fall which would answer for a cotton mill. —There is a mineral spring at Kittymuir, which has been found to be of service in scorbutic disorders. It would, probably, be more resorted to, if some attention were paid to the well, and if there were better accommodations near it.

*Mines.*—Some years ago, there was a good coal-work in the parish, the property of Mr Lockhart of Castle-hill, which was afterwards, in a great measure, abandoned. Of late, different trials have been made, and it is hoped, it will again be set a going. The parish, in the mean time, has not suffered much, being abundantly supplied with coal from 3, and now 4, different coalliceries in the parish of Dalserf, the nearest, scarcely a mile, and the farthest, not four from the village. At present, they cost at the work, 10½d. per cart, which is more than double what they were 30 years ago. A cart is supposed to contain about 30 stone, Trone weight. —The parish abounds in lime; which has been much used of late, for the purposes of farming. It is generally sold in shells, at L. 2 : 10 the kiln, and to the tenants of the proprietors, at L. 2 : 5. A kiln contains 100 bolls of flacked lime. In the river, and on the top of the lime stone, there is plenty of excellent iron stone; which, in all probability, will become soon an object of importance.—There are also fine quar-

ries of free stone, easy to be got at, which has been of great service in the late buildings.

*Population.*—By a list taken in 1696, which seems to have been made out by Mr Foyer, the then minister, there appears to have been, at that time, 872 souls in the parish: of these 272 resided in the village, and 600 in the country. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was 823 souls. By a list made out by the present minister in November last, there were found to be 1060; of whom 593 resided in the village, and 467 in the country. The village consequently has increased 321, and the country decreased 133, since 1696. The increase, on the whole, in the last 40 years, is 237. Of the above 1060, there are,

	Males.	Females.
In the village	263	330
In the country	222	215
	485	575

Majority of females, upon the whole, is 90.

Families in the village	181
———— in the country	99
	360

Every family, at an average, will contain little more than four.

#### General Division.

Farmers, who make it their business	56
Weavers	131
Shoe-makers	15
	Masons

Masons	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Wrights	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Miners	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Smiths	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Different millers	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Taylors	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Coopers	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Married	-	-	-	-	-	-	344
Widows and widowers	-	-	-	-	-	-	57
Under 20 years, supposed	-	-	-	-	-	-	400

*Births.*—It is impossible to ascertain the number of births: though there is a register kept, yet it cannot be depended upon. Some of the antient Dissenters seem never to have registered their children at all. Many of the Established Church forget it. Since the late duty was imposed, there are many who refuse it. Some on account of the expence, and some from a mistaken notion of religion. Some who now reside in one parish, register in another, because it happened to be their former place of residence; and strangers sometimes register in this, because their children, by some accident, have been baptized in it. As it stands, the average will be found to be 25 precisely, reckoning from the beginning of the register, which was in 1696, till November 1790, there being 2275 baptisms recorded. No register appears for the years 1721, and 1722, excepting 2 at the beginning of 1721, and 4 at the end of 1722, which are not included in the above. Multiplying 91, the number of years, by 25, the number of children, the product is 2275, precisely.

*Deaths.*—It is difficult to ascertain the number of deaths. Of these there is no register kept. The only thing, that can throw any light upon it, is the account of the mortcloths,

kept by the treasurer for the poor. But this will not be found quite satisfactory; because some, who reside in this parish, bury in another, and consequently get a mortcloth from them; while strangers, sometimes, bury in this; and, supposing these to be equal, which it is probable they are, the matter will be uncertain, because mortcloths are seldom required for children under two years of age. As it stands, the annual average for these last twenty years, will be found to be 17 and  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Marriages.*—There is no authentic register of marriages. A list of proclamations, in order to marriage, is kept, both by the precentor and treasurer for the poor. These two have been compared, and found to agree. According to them, there have been, of proclamations, from the beginning of the year 1761, to the end of the year 1790, in all, 289: Of these 7 must be discounted, because the marriages did not take place. Of the remaining 282, in 133 instances, both parties resided in the parish;—in 75, the man resided, but not the woman; and in 71, the woman resided, but not the man. These facts being ascertained, every person will be able to strike an annual average, according as his views are, in making the inquiry.

*Dissenters.*—It is not easy to ascertain the precise number of dissenters from the Established Church, principally, because many scarcely know to what particular sect they belong. Such heads of families, as have come to a determination on this point, are as under:

Cameronians	-	-	4	Presbytery of Relief	21
Antiburghers	-		5	Burghers	5

On the supposition, that the above heads are followed by  
their

their families, and according to the average of families above mentioned, the number of dissenters will be somewhat more than 140.

*Rent, &c.*—The valuation of the parish is L. 2721 Scots; the real rent cannot be exactly known. The heritors at present amount to 18. Four of these only have L. 100 of valuation; and none such reside in the parish. More than one half is the property of Mr Lockhart of Castle-hill; who is also patron.

*Poor.*—The stated poor on the list, in the year 1790, were 13. The expence of maintaining them amounted to L. 37 : 12; L. 4 or L. 5 more were distributed in, what is called, occasional charity. The funds, for defraying the above expence, are raised in the following manner :

By collections, (at an average)	-	-	L. 14	0	0
Interest of L. 120 of principal stock	-	-	6	0	0
Money arising from mortcloths, (at an average)			4	0	0
————— from proclamations of marriage			0	8	4
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			L. 24	8	3

If the above is not sufficient, as has been the case for some years, then a stent is laid upon the parish, one half of which is paid by the heritors, according to their valuation, and the other half by the inhabitants, according to their circumstances.—None of the parishioners are allowed to beg, though we are much troubled with beggars from other parishes.

*Stipend.*—The stipend of this parish is 97 bolls, 7 pecks and a half of meal, and L. 16 : 12 : 6, in money. Some years

years ago, it was paid by 60 different hands; at present by 42. The glebe is about 4 acres of arableground, and about an acre of pasture. At an annual average, stipend and glebe will amount to a little more than L. 84 sterling. The manse was built in the year 1761: it cost the heritors, besides the old manse, valued at L. 20, to the extent of L. 153.—The church was rebuilt in the year 1772; the expence betwixt 400 and L. 500.

*Prices of Provisions.*—The prices of provisions in November, 1790, were as follows:

A boll of meal	-	-	-	16s 6d.
Beef, per stone	-	-	-	5s 6d.
Hens	-	-	-	1s 3d.
Eggs, by the dozen	-	-	-	5d.
Butter, by the pound	-	-	-	9d.
Best cheefe, do.	-	-	-	4½d.
Inferior, or scum, do	-	-	-	3d.

*Wages.*

A man servant, exclusive of victuals, <i>per annum</i>	-	-	-	L. 8 10 0
A female, do. do.	-	-	-	3 10 0
A labourer by the day, without victuals	-	-	-	0 1 0
In hay or harvest	-	-	-	0 1 6 or 5d
Women in harvest	-	-	-	0 1 0
Masons	-	-	-	0 1 0
Tailors	-	-	-	0 1 0

*Horses, Cows, and Carts.*—The parish, in former times, was divided into forty ploughgates. On the supposition, that every plough has 5 horses, young and old, 12 cows, and



3 carts, the amount will be 200 horses, 480 cows, and 120 carts. The carts are always drawn by one horse only.--There are some sheep, mostly in the upper part of the parish. They are supposed not to exceed 5 score.

*Roads and Bridges.*-----The roads are not in good repair; and it is not easy to say, how they can be made better. They are much hurt by the carriage of coal and lime. Materials to mend them are ill to be got. There are no turnpikes within the parish.-----Two bridges over the Avon were both swept away by one flood, in the year 1771: but they were rebuilt in a year or two after,--partly by private contributions, and partly from the county funds.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*-----The produce of the year 1782 fell short of what was necessary, for the consumption of the parish. The deficiency was made up, by some of the more wealthy inhabitants, who purchased foreign grain, and sold it without profit.--By sobriety, frugality, and a more diligent attention to business, the difficulties of that unfortunate season, were got over more easily than could have been expected.--The parochial school-master has 100 merks of salary, which at present is paid by 47 different hands. His perquisites, at an average, amount to 20s annually. The number of his scholars are about 50;--his wages 1s 3d. per quarter;--one third is deducted for the vacation quarter. The amount of the whole about L. 18:--his payments are ill made; and something ought to be done, to make his situation more comfortable. He has a house, and school-house allowed him by the parish. They were built in 1781; and cost the heritors upwards of L. 40.--Besides the parochial school, there is one generally at the head, and another, sometimes, at the foot of the parish. The expence is defrayed by the parents of the children.

There are 4 alehouses, who have taken out a licence, all in the village. No very bad effects, on the morals of the inhabitants, have yet been felt from them; but many suspect, that this will not long be the case.--The difference betwixt employing cottagers and hired servants, in agriculture, cannot be ascertained here, few or none in the parish, having employed the former. —There is no jail in the parish; or were any of the parishioners in prison, during the year 1790. Indeed there has been no justiciary trials of any of the people of this parish, for these 30 years, one excepted, who was punished by whipping. —The people in general, are of a middle size;—healthy in their constitution;—decent in their conduct,—and, though they may have some real, and some imaginary grievances, yet they are as much contented with their state, as most of their neighbours.

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