

## PARISH OF CRAIL.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

WILLIAM MERSON, A. M., MINISTER.

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### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—In the former Statistical Account, the name of this parish is supposed to point out, in the Gaelic language, its situation upon a small winding or bending of the shore. But, as in old times it was written *Carrail* or *Carayle*, afterwards contracted into *Craill* or *Cryle*, and in Latin it is called *Oppidum* or *Burgum Caralæ* or *Caraliæ*, it is not improbable that it is compounded of *caer*, a town, and *ayle* or *ala*, a wing or corner, which is quite descriptive of the place, the town being situated in the eastern corner of the county commonly known by the name of the East Nook o' Fife.

*Extent, Boundaries, &c.*—The parish is of a very irregular shape, and of a very unequal breadth, while its boundaries are so ill defined that the precise number of acres which it contains has never been ascertained, on account of its intermixture with other parishes. However, it acknowledgedly extends from Fife Ness at the east, to King's Cairn at the west, a distance of about 7 miles, and from the Frith of Forth on the south, to the German Ocean on the north, about 3 miles; but within this area are included three farms in Kingsbarns, which were taken off when that parish was disjoined in 1631. It is bounded on the south and east by the Frith of Forth and German Ocean, extending along the former about 3, and the latter about 2 miles; on the north, it is bounded by the parishes of Kingsbarns, St Leonards, and Denino; and, on the west, by Carnbee and Kilrenny.

*Topographical Appearances.*—When viewed from the sea, the general appearance of the country is flat, and, owing to the want of wood, it looks naked. The coast is bold and rocky, with only a few creeks, where vessels of any size can be landed with safety

From the sea the ground rises abruptly to a considerable height, so that, at the distance of a hundred yards from high water mark, there is scarcely a point where it does not reach the height of 60 feet. Thence it gradually swells in a westerly direction, without hill or steep, towards Airdrie, (*Ard-rhi*, the King's Height,) and Drumrack. In this direction, when the sun goes westerly, and the atmosphere is favourable, the view at some points is beautiful and extensive. From Airdrie or Drumrack, and especially from the ancient tower of the former, one may, with a very slight turn of his eye, survey the whole Lothian coast from Leith to St Abb's Head, along with the islands of the Forth,—Inchkeith, the Bass, the May, &c., together with the multitude of vessels that float upon the Forth, and the number of towns and villages situated upon its banks on either side, till at last his attention is arrested by the Bell Rock Lighthouse, erected to warn the mariner of danger, and at night to guide him onward in his pathless track. In ascending from the shore to the highest part of the parish, the agriculturist never fails to be struck with the variety of soil he has to pass over, proceeding from the richest black loam to thin wet clay; the former, in the neighbourhood of the town, drawing a yearly rent of L.6 and L.7 the Scotch acre,—the latter let on improving leases for a mere trifle.

*Island and Rocks.*—The Isle of May, which, in 1743, was claimed by the magistrates and minister of West Anstruther, as a portion of their parish, has *de facto*, if not *de jure*, been connected with Crail since the Reformation at least. It lies about six miles south-east from the harbour of Crail, and is about a mile in length by about three-quarters of a mile in breadth. Its shores are generally clifty, and at the west end rise perpendicularly to the height of 150 feet or upwards. Yet there are two or three places at which vessels can touch according to wind and tide. Although situated in the mouth of the Frith of Forth at its junction with the German Ocean, and consequently exposed to heavy eastern storms, the island is very productive of its native plants, and several parks are cultivated and enclosed. It supports a few cows and a flock of sheep, which are said to improve in flesh and fleece. A peculiar kind of long-wooled rabbit is also found upon it; and about June and July immense numbers of birds breed their young upon the ledges of its western precipices. It has also abundance of fresh water and a small lake. This island, once famous for the cure of barren women, belonged at one time to the monks of Read-

ing, for whom David I. founded a monastery, which was afterwards dedicated to St Adrian, whose body was buried there, and whose coffin, cut out of stone, is still exhibited in the ruins of the chapel. From the monks it was purchased by a bishop of St Andrews, and attached first to his own cathedral and afterwards to the priory of Pittenweem. In aftertimes it became the property of Cuningham of Barns, and all parochial burdens exigible from it are understood to be paid out of his barony in the parish of Crail. This proprietor in 1635 received power from Parliament to erect a lighthouse upon the island, (though one had existed there before), and to collect certain duties from the shipping for its maintenance.

The lighthouse then erected consisted of a square tower, on the top of which a quantity of coals was kept burning every night. Rude as this mode of giving light to the navigators of the Forth may seem, it continued with little improvement till 1816, when the Commissioners of the Northern Lights (having previously purchased the island with all the rights of the light-keeping), erected a beacon with a stationary oil light, 240 feet above the medium level of the sea, and capable of being seen at seven leagues distance.

About the same time the attention of the Commissioners was directed to the Carr—a reef of rocks extending between one and two miles from Fifeness, on which, according to calculation, there had been at least two shipwrecks every year. And after years of labour and many disappointments, they at length succeeded in erecting a building at the extreme point, where there is water deep enough for vessels entering the Forth. This building consists of a base of solid masonry, from the top of which spring iron pillars terminating in a point, with a hollow ball raised 25 feet above the medium level of the sea. This erection was reckoned a mighty boon to the shipping interest; but still the Commissioners were not satisfied. Guided, therefore, by Mr Stevenson, civil engineer, they, in 1843-44, built a second lighthouse upon the Carr, with a light so directed as to point out the position of the Carr, and show mariners how to enter the Frith in safety. This light was first exhibited in autumn 1844; yet, strange to say, on the 1st of October of the same year, the Windsor Castle steamer, on her return from Dundee with about 200 passengers, who had gone thither to witness the Queen's departure, struck upon the Carr rock beacon with such violence as to compel the commander

to run her ashore among Kilminning rocks, where she went to pieces. Providentially no lives were lost.

Beside the lighthouses, there are comfortable lodgings for the keepers and their families, and excellent accommodation for the Commissioners when they may visit the island. The only inhabitants are the persons connected with the lighthouses; but there are generally also a number of pilots from various quarters looking out for ships, and the old light tower is fitted up for their accommodation.

*Hydrography.*—There are no lakes or rivers in this parish, yet there is a plentiful supply of excellent water from the springs which are everywhere to be found, and from a few burns which meander here and there. At one time there was a loch of Sypsies, covering six or eight acres of ground; but, since the beginning of the present century, it has been drained, and the soil is now under cultivation.

*Climate.*—The nature of the soil, and the position of the country at the junction of the Forth with the ocean, combine to render the climate particularly pure and healthful. The public roads, and the streets and walks of the town, are almost always dry, for no sooner does the rain fall, than it is absorbed and lost in the soil, or flows away into the sea. The spring is, no doubt, often rendered chill and unpleasant by a *haar* which sets in from the east during the months of April and May. The wind continuing in that quarter sometimes for weeks together, brings with it a dense vapour, which spreads over the country for several miles, thus rendering the east coast not so agreeable as the west at that period of the year; yet, though such weather be unpleasant to the feelings, and sometimes leads delicate persons to remove to a more inland situation, it does not seem to retard vegetation, or to be very prejudicial to animal health. Every species of crop advances to maturity as speedily as in almost any district of the country. The arbutus and similar trees often ripen their berries; the jessamine flowers on houses along the streets; and fuschias not only withstand the winter in open ground, but, on returning spring, may be found budding at a height of four and five feet from the ground. Indeed, unless upon extraordinary occasions, the labour of the husbandman has been, for a number of years, but little interrupted either by frost or snow. Bestial of all kinds thrive well and fatten rapidly. Among cattle, murrain prevailed pretty extensively last year, but with very few deaths; and this

year there have been a few instances of a sort of influenza among horses, but they have in general recovered. Judging from history and experience, the climate of this parish may be considered as highly conducive to health; and there can be no doubt that, from its proximity to the sea, it is less exposed to the extremes of heat and cold than more elevated situations.

Epidemics, or contagious diseases, (unless what are common to children,) are scarcely known here. Within these few years, several people have died beyond ninety years of age, and there are still a number in wonderful health and activity, who are upon the borders of it.

*Geology and Botany.*—The geological structure of this parish, as seen along the shore, consists entirely of the coal formation, including sandstone, shale, clay, ironstone, and coal. The usual dip of the strata is towards the east; but on the western part of the parish, where lime and coal are still wrought, the dip is to the west. On the west of the harbour, different seams of coal appear, and clay-ironstone in thin bands alternate with the shale. The action of the advancing tide is very remarkable on the east of the harbour, where the priory stood. The ruins, which were there about half a century ago, are now entirely swept away, and only the gateway from the land, with a small part of the foundation of a wall in the alluvial soil, remains to point out its site.

At the very extremity of Fifeness, a pure white sandstone occurs particularly adapted for various economical purposes. As plants used in medicine, the *Pareitaria officinalis* and *Conium maculatum* may be mentioned. On the rocks under the castle the *Cheiranthus Cheiri* occurs; and on the sea-cliffs to the west of the harbour, the *Brassica oleracea* maintains its place in a congenial locality. In a small garden on the sea margin at Fifeness is the *Lavatera arborea*, which once had a habitat on the islands of the Frith. The *Asplenium marinum* is met with among the rocks on the south shore.

Of the less common algæ may be mentioned the *Alaria esculenta* and the *Himanthalia lorea*, which grow abundantly about Fifeness.

*Woods.*—The plantations in this parish are of very limited extent, not exceeding seventy or eighty acres, chiefly fir; of which about fifty are on the lands of Airdrie and Redwells, ten or twelve on Kingsmuir, about eight on Sipsies, and four on Wormistone. A good number of the trees about Airdrie and Wormistone, chiefly

ash and elm, are of stately size. There are also a few in and around the churchyard, of ash, sycamore, and elm, on which crows find a place to build. But in general the soil is considered too valuable for agricultural purposes, to tempt any one to plant trees, unless around his domicile.

*Quarries and Mines.*—Freestone for ordinary purposes may be found in almost any quarter of the parish, so that few farmers require to go for stones beyond their own lands. At Craighead, Newhall, and Kingsmuir, stones may be found suited to the finest operations of masonry. Ironstone is also abundant, and frequently exported from the harbour of Crail. Lime has been wrought to a great extent upon the borough muir, as the remains of the work still testify. The only work of that description now in operation is at Troustrie, and occasionally at Newhall.

There are many indications of coals having been dug here at an early period; and only a few years ago Robert Inglis, Esq. had an extensive work upon his estate of Kirkmay, with a steam-engine for pumping out the water—but he gave it up. And at present, unless at times on Kingsmuir, coals are raised only for burning lime, though there is not the least doubt that many seams remain untouched.

Fire and common clays are dug in great abundance on the estate of Kirkmay, where a brick and tile work has been carried on for a long time. Fire-clay bricks and chimney cans are manufactured here and exported to Arbroath, Dundee, and other towns to a considerable extent.

## II. CIVIL HISTORY.

*Seats and Residences.*—Almost all the baronial abodes have been suffered to fall into decay or ruin, and some of them are now only known by name. At the southern extremity of this parish an old house with vaulted cellars, and rooms above, occupied by farm-servants, is the chief remain of the extensive mansion of the Cunninghams of Barns. Here, about 1620, the poet and historian, Drummond of Hawthornden, is understood to have written his celebrated *Polemo-Middinia*, or *Battle of the Dunghill*—a humorous poem in doggerel Latin, giving a satirical description of a real or an imaginary quarrel between the Lady of Barns and one of her neighbours. Here he tuned that lyre, (which he afterwards addressed in melancholy strains,) to the full enjoyment of a lively imagination and buoyant spirits. Here he may be said to have enjoyed the happiest period of his life. And here his feelings re-

ceived a shock which no human contrivance was able to remove. For it was at this spot, near *Crellia Crofta*, and in this very house, of which a remnant now is seen, that he captivated the affections of Miss Cunningham, the daughter of the principal heroine of the *Polemo*, and engaged her for his wife. The marriage day was fixed—the friends were invited—the feast was in preparation, and the parson engaged to do the solemn duty, when the beautiful and youthful bride was seized with fever and expired. Drummond's grief on this occasion he has expressed in poems which have gained him the name of the Scottish Petrarch. In the hope of relieving his burdened spirit, he forsook his patrimonial estate and country for foreign climes. Eight years he spent abroad. At length returning, he was united to Miss Logan, grand-daughter of Sir Robert Logan of Restalrig.

In process of time the estate of Barns passed into another family, and is now the property of Robert Anstruther, Esq. of Caipley.

A small summer-house on the rock projecting into the sea at Castlehaven points out the spot where Sir Neil Cunningham—an elder branch of the house of Barns—entertained his followers, and whence he defied the assaults of his deadly foes. The ruins of the castle were pulled down in 1839.

Newhall tower is now completely gone, so that only some old persons can point to the spot where once it stood.

Balcomie Castle, once reckoned amongst the finest buildings in Fife, and in which a late owner is reported to have said he could accommodate a troop of dragoons, and give every man a bed and every horse a stall, is now reduced to one wing, which, however, affords genteel and ample accommodation for the tenant. The ancient lofty tower still remains, though much mutilated, and, while it forms an excellent land-mark to mariners, shows what the building must have been. Some of the houses which enclose the court-yard are evidently of far more recent date than the castle; for, over the arched gateway into the court, there are two stones, on one of which are the arms of Learmonth, as depicted on the seating in the parish church, with the initials J. L. at the bottom, and on the other the arms of Myrton, with the initials E. M. Between these stones there is a vacant space, as if a third had dropped out; and fortunately, Mr Todd, the tenant, discovered it lately as one of the paving stones of his barn-floor. On this there are, at the top, hands joined as if by the ties of wedlock, and

underneath, the arms of Learmonth and Myrton quartered, with the letters J. M. and date 1602 at the base. We must therefore conclude that the initials J. L. and E. M. mean Sir John Learmonth and Elizabeth Myrton, the proprietors of the estate at the time, and husband and wife when that portion of the building was erected. Now, Sibbald states that from Malcolm IV. to James II. the castle belonged to the Hays; that since, the Leslies have had it; and that afterwards it came to the Learmonth; which would lead down to nearly the above date. Sir James Learmonth, eldest son of Sir John, became a Lord of Session in 1627, as Lord Balcomie. He was a member of several Parliamentary Commissions, and died in Edinburgh while presiding as Lord President of the Court, Lamont says, in June 1657. Lord Balcomie had a son, John, who became a regent in the Old College of St Andrews, but he must have died young, as his Lordship was succeeded in the castle and estate by a daughter as heiress. This daughter married Sir William Gordon of Lismore, and the property continued in the Gordon family till 1705, when it was purchased by Sir William Hope, son of Sir James Hope of Hopetown. Sir William was a soldier who had seen much foreign service, and gained the renown of being the most expert swordsman and the finest rider of his day. He published a work called "The Complete Fencing Master," in which he described the whole art, and gave directions how to act in single combat or on horseback. According to a tradition in the country, the fame of Sir William and his book induced a foreign cavalier to take a far journey to try his skill. Having arrived at Crail with this intent, he challenged Sir William to meet him on horseback in the open field. The parties met within a mile of the Castle of Balcomie, at the spot where the standing stone of Sauchope still remains, and which the road from Crail to Balcomie then passed. The onset was dreadful—but at length Sir William's sword, with deadly force penetrated the body of his antagonist. The wounded cavalier fell, and with his dying breath declared his name and title, and requested his victorious antagonist to become the protector of his widowed lady.

Sir William died in 1724, and was succeeded by his son Sir George, who enjoyed the property for a very few years. Sir William, son of Sir George, was an officer in the East India Company's service, and was killed in India. Thereafter the property was sold to Mr Scott of Scotstarvit, and left by him to his second son, General Scott, who rebuilt the part now occupied by



the tenant, and added a large house at the north end of it for a billiard room. The General seems to have had one son, who died young, and was interred in the choir of the church of Crail. His three daughters became respectively Duchess of Portland, Countess of Moray, and Lady Canning. By these noble persons the castle was sold to Thomas, Earl of Kellie, who pulled down the old building, and reduced it to what it now is. Sir Thomas Erskine, great-grandson of said Earl, is now the proprietor.

In the Castle of Balcomie Mary of Guise was hospitably entertained by the then proprietor, in June 1538, having landed, after a stormy passage, at the adjoining creek of Fifeness, to be married to King James V.

Airdrie House, which is situated in one of the most beautiful and commanding positions in the parish, is embosomed in wood in every direction, except the south, whence the finest view is to be had; but, like the other ancient dwellings, it is no longer the habitation of a belted knight or noble peer. Yet the ancient tower and most of the walls of the original house remain entire, though the interior arrangements are made to correspond to modern taste. Of this place, Sibbald says, "in King David II.'s reign I find that it belonged to Dundemore of that ilk. Afterwards it came to the Lumsdens, who had it in 1466." The family of Lumsden possessed it till at least the end of the sixteenth century, as is proved by a fine monument erected in the churchyard, of date 1598. From the Lumsdens, says the same writer, it was purchased by Sir John Preston of Pennycuik, President of the Session in King James VI.'s time, though it would appear he inherited it through his lady.

This baronet seems, along with many of the gentlemen in his neighbourhood, to have keenly espoused the cause of Charles I., and to have been subjected to pains and penalties in consequence. For, within a month after the death of that ill-fated monarch, we find in the record of the kirk-session, 16th February 1649, that Lord Balcomie, Sir John Preston of Airdrie, Lawrence Cunningham of Barns, John Lindesay of Wormistone, and a number of others, whose names are mentioned, had to appear before the congregation to acknowledge publicly their sinful engagement, and sign the covenant. During the seventeenth century Airdrie became the property of General Anstruther, who greatly enlarged the house by the addition of two wings, of which the one was a large and lofty hall, with figures in niches, pictures on the walls,

massy chandeliers for lights, and a splendid chimney-piece of white marble, which he brought workmen from Italy to execute. After the General's death the estate was purchased by Methven Erskine, Esq. afterwards Earl of Kellie, who died there in 1830. Upon the Earl's death Sir David Erskine, Bart. succeeded as heir of entail. He took down the wings built by General Anstruther, and removed the fine chimney-piece to his own house at Cambo, where it now ornaments the drawing-room.

Upon the same estate, but a little to the west of Airdrie, at Redwells, or Redwalls, stood an ancient and extensive building, the history of which we have not been able to find. It was a quadrangular building, having the ground apartments on every side arched over with hewn stone, and small apertures or loop-holes at regular distances from each other. Over these there was a second story of solid masonry, containing accommodation for a numerous family, and at one end a well-paved barn, with two inclined planes up to the door, as if for cattle carrying up their burdens and again descending. The barn, the last remain of this singular erection, was taken down a few years ago, when the walls were found to be of amazing thickness, and of uncommon strength. A general impression is, that it had been a religious house; but, as some of the old charters convey the property *cum fortaliciis*, others think it must have been a kind of fortress; while from the name, *Ard-rhi*, or *King's height*, a third conjecture is, that it was a hunting seat of royalty.

Kingsmuir House, the residence of George Francis Hannay, Esq. is a respectable country mansion, which has been greatly enlarged, and now forms a genteel and comfortable dwelling.

In former times, the extensive property on which this mansion stands, was an open muir adjoining to the commony of Crail, with limits so ill defined as to lead many to believe that the neighbouring proprietors helped themselves to portions of it, without leave asked or given. However, after it came into possession of the present family, buildings began to be erected, and progress towards improvement made, so that in 1724 the presbytery of St Andrews took into consideration, "under whose ministerial inspection the dwellers thereon should be," and adjudged the inhabitants *ad interim* to be under the jurisdiction of the minister of Denino. A similar appointment took place in 1743, when a new minister came to that parish. Thus it continued till it was found necessary to rebuild the church and manse of Denino, when Mr Hannay being

called upon to pay his proportion of the expenses either as *quoad sacra* or *quoad omnia* in the parish, he refused all, and was exempted from payment, upon pleading that his property formed a portion of the King's muir of Crail. And in 1828, when the seating of the church of Crail was enlarged, Mr Hannay attended the meetings of heritors, and claimed his position as a proprietor in the parish, together with the right of himself and his tenants to be admitted to all the privileges of parishioners. His claim was admitted, seats in the church were allocated to him, and instructions given to the kirk-session accordingly. Since that date, therefore, Kingsmuir has been considered as an integral part of the parish of Crail, and its poor have been supported out of the common funds. It may be here observed, that in no place in this quarter has the judicious management of a resident landlord been more remarkable than in the case of Kingsmuir. Within the last twenty-five or thirty years, Mr Hannay and his tenants have, by their skill and industry, brought hundreds of acres, which before were considered a barren waste, into very productive corn land; and where, before that date, neither man nor beast could pass without the risk of sticking in the mire, luxuriant crops of wheat now grow. This alteration Mr Hannay has effected by paring, burning and liming where any heather grew, and by draining and enriching the boggy land. The estate is now nearly all under cultivation, and we hope and trust that the spirited proprietor will be spared to reap the reward of all his personal exertion, and his liberality towards his tenantry.

Wormistone, the residence of David Aytone Lindesay, Esq., is a fine old house surrounded by hard-wood trees of considerable size, and the only place in the parish in which, for hundreds of years, the same family have had their abode. This property, Sibbald says, belonged of old to a family of the name of Spens, descended from Macduff, Earl of Fife; but in the beginning of the 17th century it came into the possession of Patrick Lindesay, a descendant of Lord Lindesay of the Byres. John Lindesay, son of the first proprietor of this name, (as shown in the account of Airdrie,) was, like Lord Balcomie and the landholders in this quarter in general, a strenuous supporter of Charles the First and Second; as his descendants afterwards were of King James and Prince Charles; and much the family suffered in consequence of their attachment to that infatuated race. This gentleman had to submit to the degradation of appearing before the con-

gregation within the church of Crail, and there making a public disavowal of his adherence to the cause of Charles I.; and at the battle of Worcester, in 1651, one of his sons was slain and another taken prisoner while contending in the royal army. Patrick (the son taken prisoner) either experienced the leniency or escaped the cruelty of Cromwell, and, after the Restoration, was appointed commissary of St Andrews, an office which was held by several of his descendants in succession. In the troubles of 1715, this family appears to have taken an active part in favour of King James, and to have suffered in substance, if not personally;\* and in 1746, Patrick Lindesay, son of the then proprietor, was executed at Carlisle for having joined Prince Charles, and fought at the battle of Culloden. The last proprietor, Patrick Lindesay, Esq., commanded a ship for a number of years in the East Indies, and afterwards purchased the patrimonial property from his elder brother, who had succeeded to the estate of Kilconquhar.

Kirkmay House is a handsome and spacious building, at a little distance from the principal street of the burgh, with pleasure ground in front, and a fine garden and offices behind. It was built in 1817 by Robert Inglis, Esq. of Kirkmay, a descendant of the baronets of Cramond, and is the finest modern structure in the parish.

\* A letter, which the writer of this found in Wormistone house, together with the annexed extracts from the record of the kirk-session, will help to show the state of the parish at the time. This letter is addressed "To the Laird of Wormistoun and Heritors of the parish of Crail," and is as follows: "Sir,—I am directed and ordered by the Earl of Marr, commander in chief of his Majesty's forces in this kingdom, to transmit to one of the principal heritors of each parish the inclosed order, and it is required that the order so transmitted should be intimated to the severall heritors and their tennents within your parish, to the intent that punctuall obedience to my Lord Marr's orders." (may be given, we presume, has been omitted.) "You have the inclosed warrand sent you to be published and intimated accordingly. If payment of the money imposed is refused or delayed after three days, a party of Highlandmen are to be employed to poind for payment: What loss that will occasion to your parish you may easily conceive, and that it may be prevented is heartily wished by—Sir, your most humble servant, (Signed) JA. SMYTH. Dated Cupar, 13th October 1715.

Session Record, 18th October 1715. "There was no sermon Sabbath last, the Highland army being here." Nov. 13. "There was no sermon Sabbath or week day, the town being then bombarded, and the minister sought for to read the Earl of Marr his edict." Nov. 20. "No sermon on Sabbath, the Highlanders being in town." Nov. 27. "The Minister forbidden to preach in the church, unless he read the Earl of Marr his edict, and pray for K. James. A young man, Mr Nivens, by order of baillie Craford, preached in the church after the old Episcopall fashion. Our minister preached in his own house." Dec. 6. "Sermon in the minister's house." Dec. 11. "No sermon, being stopped by a party of Highlanders." Dec. 18. "Sermon in the Minister's house forenoon, but interrupted afternoon." Dec. 25. "No sermon, being stopped by letters, one from baillie Craford to baillie Robertson, another threatening letter to the minister." Jan. 31 1716. "No sermon on Sunday by our minister, the Highlandmen being here. One Mr Nivens, an Episcopall preacher, possessed the kirk that day, and had the English service."

*Heritors.*—In mentioning the land-owners of the parish, it may be proper to mention, that for the purposes of building or repairing church, manse, or school, one-third of the expense is defrayed by the corporation as superiors of the town and burgh muir. The other two-thirds are paid by the landward heritors, according to their valued rents, as under.

Heritors.	Valued rent in Scots money
Sir Thomas Erskine, Bart.	L. 5206 14 3
J. Inglis, Esq. of Kirkmay,	2545 15 0
General Graham Stirling,	1480 11 6
J. Lindesay, Esq. of Wormistone,	1273 0 0
R. Anstruther, Esq. of Third part,	687 14 2
Captain Corstorphine of Pittowie,	619 12 7
Wm. Douglas, Esq. of Pinkerton,	583 8 1
Mrs Murray, Crail,	305 5 1
Geo. F. Hannay, Esq. of Kingsmuir,	200 0 0
Andrew Brown, Esq.,	193 6 4
Mrs Wemyss of Denbrae,	131 12 1
Trustees of W. Glass, Esq.,	125 9 8
Kilrenny Fisherman's Box,	114 0 0
Kirk-session of Crail,	64 13 4
Mrs Dr Chalmers,	58 0 0
Right Hon. Lord William Douglas,	57 0 0
Crail Sea Box,	55 10 7
Mr R. Meldrum of Peatfield,	55 6 8
Thomas Landale, Esq. S. S. C.,	47 0 8
Lord Blantyre for Troustrie feu,	28 13 4
Rev. Bishop Low, Pittenweem,	18 0 0
Town of Crail,	10 13 4
Mr D. Henderson,	6 13 4
Valued rent of the parish,	L. 13,670 0 0

This valuation is, with the exception of Kingsmuir, the same as the parish was rated at in the new valuation of Fifeshire 1695; and, though it be very high in comparison of many other places, it shows that the land in this quarter must have been early in a high state of cultivation. In 1615 the landward part of the parish was valued at L. 7234 Sterling, for property-tax, and the burgh L. 1391 Sterling, making in all L. 8625; and it is considered that the real rental of the parish, exclusive of the burgh and its pendicles, is now only about L. 10,000.

*Parochial Registers.*—These commence, on the 15th April 1648, with a minute in the beautiful handwriting of Mr James Sharp, who was then minister of the parish and afterwards Archbishop of St Andrews, and are carried on, with little interruption, to the present day. The greatest blanks are from the 4th February 1729 to the 4th January 1732, which seems to have been occasioned by the clerk neglecting to copy from his scroll-book, as the leaves are paged but not filled up; and from 1779 to 1790. They now occupy fourteen folio volumes, and are valuable records.

of the days of other years; for they not only contain the minutes of session with an account of its discipline; a register of births, baptisms, and marriages, along with the receipts and disbursements for the poor, and a list of deaths and burials; but, by their direct or indirect reference to passing events, they tend to throw light upon the state of society and the history of the times. No doubt, in perusing them we are sometimes astonished at the powers which the office-bearers of a Protestant church seem to have exercised over the persons and properties of the people; but, if we carry our minds back to the rude state of society which then existed, and reflect on the difficulty which the learned had to instil moral and religious feelings into the ignorant population, we must admit that the men acted in the manner that was perhaps best suited to the times. With these views we might perhaps be able to vindicate the conduct of the afterwards Archbishop from all reproach on account of his severest acts of discipline while minister of Crail. Yet, even in those days, his proceedings did not escape the animadversion of his brethren; for, at the termination of little more than the first two years of the record, we find the visitors appending the following not very ambiguous hint: "St Andrews, 21st August 1650.—The Presbyterie, after revising and considering this book, do commend and approve the proceedings of the session. Only they are appointed to refer to the civil magistrate the enjoining of corporal punishment and pecunial mulcts." One grand point against which Mr Sharp seems to have firmly and properly turned his face was the desecration of the Lord's day; and there is no wonder that this was necessary, considering that the parents of the then generation were accustomed to regard it as the day of greatest relaxation and business; for, be it remembered, it was only about sixty years before his time that an act of the Scottish Parliament was passed, abolishing the Sunday market in Crail.

Though, then, the power assumed by Mr Sharp and his successors seems to us to have been occasionally unwarrantable, when we look back to the times, we will be brought to admit that the stretch of power was for the benefit of the people, and perhaps the only way in which the lower classes could be brought to submit to Divine or human authority.

Besides the registers above noticed, there are four volumes of records of burials, which commenced in 1754 and are still carrying on. These have been kept by the beadles, and point out the spot

where every body has been laid, by stating in yards and feet the distance and direction of the grave from certain fixed points about the church and churchyard. For some time, these records were considered as almost a sufficient register of deaths. But, as in 1826, the inhabitants erected a vault in the churchyard, in which corpses were to be deposited in winter for three months and in summer about six weeks, and then buried; the interval between death and burial was, in many cases, found too long for identifying a deceased individual; and therefore the plan of keeping a separate register of deaths was renewed.

*Antiquities.*—Some of these will be afterwards mentioned, such as the castle, the priory, and the college; to which it may be added that a nunnery is said to have existed near the Nethergate Port, of which only an entrance now remains; but, at this entrance, human bones were found, when the street was levelled a few years ago. In the church, there is an oblong Runic stone, a good deal mutilated, having cut upon it a Maltese cross, with figures like serpents over it. "Below the transept," as Leighton describes it, "on each side of the lower limb of the cross a variety of figures are sculptured, now much defaced and indistinct. On the right side is a portion of a horse, a wild boar, the legs of a man, another horse, and a ram; on the left, a figure seated in a chair something like a man, with the head of a bird, as seen on Egyptian antiquities; and, lower down, part of a horse and part of a dog." Other relics of similar antiquity are believed to have been in the church, before last repair; but the workmen, not knowing the value put upon them by antiquaries, hewed them down into paving stones. The stone mentioned in the former Statistical Account as having a cross rudely sculptured on it, is no doubt of the same description. It is the one at which Sir William Hope is reported to have killed his challenger. Many urns containing calcined bones have been dug up in different parts of the parish. In 1843, at a place called Swinkie Hill, probably *Sueno's Knoll*, no fewer than seven urns were discovered; and, in April 1845, another was found at Toldrie. They seem to be all of the same kind of material, though differing a little in size. The general shape is tapering towards both ends, with various beltings, and some with zig-zag ornaments. All were found with their mouths downwards, imbedded in an artificial mound which seemed to have been erected over them. Some of these urns may now be seen in the Museum at St Andrews. When levelling the ground ad-

joining to Castle Haven several stone-coffins were found with bones nearly consumed ; but, about twenty years ago, about thirty were discovered lying in regular rows, with bones so entire that the farmer dug a hole and buried them. The last were upon the estate of Wormistone, near the cave in which the Danes are said to have murdered King Constantine II. in the year 874, and may have contained the remains of persons killed at that time.

The only other antiquity in the parish which seems deserving of notice is the *Dane's Dyke*, a building of dry stones of about half a mile in length, said to have been raised by the Danes when they fled before Constantine II. after defeat at the water of Leven in 874. This dike, at one time, enclosed a considerable piece of ground of a triangular shape, having to the east the little harbour of Fifeness, whence, it is said, the Danes expected to escape in their boats, which were then hovering at the mouth of the Frith. A considerable portion of it is now removed, the farmhouse of Craighead being built upon its site. From what remains now faced up on one side as a park fence, some have disputed the accuracy of the tradition, and maintained that it was a natural, not an artificial mound. This supposition, however, is disproved by the fact, that, in removing a portion of it, human bones were found, and none but broken and carried stones discovered. At the one end, which must have been within the dike, is a natural cave in the rocks, which the appearance of lime at its mouth indicates to have been extended by artificial means. This is the spot of the reputed murder of Constantine. At the other end, but without the dike, a place is pointed out called the *Long man's grave*, where the ashes of a Danish hero may have been deposited.

### III.—POPULATION.

Partly owing to the enlargement of farms and doing away with cottars, and partly owing to fewer hands being employed in fishery, the population of the town and parish has been diminishing for a great number of years.

In 1759 the population amounted to	2173
1791,	1710
1801,	1652
1811.	1600
1821,	1854
1831, including Kingsmuir,	1966
but excluding Kingsmuir,	1836
1841, including do.	1906
but excluding do.	1765
Decrease since 1759,	408



Statistics of the burgh in 1841.—Houses inhabited, 261; houses not inhabited, 23. Males, 520; females, 707; total, 1227.

In the same year there were in the landward 342 males and 337 females, of whom 66 males and 75 females were upon Kingsmuir.

Marriages in 1844, 13; births, 52; deaths, 42; increase, 10.

The food of the lower classes is chiefly farinaceous and vegetable. Yet butcher-meat is used to some extent in every family; for there are few householders who do not every year feed a pig or two for domestic use.

The people on the whole enjoy in a tolerable degree the comforts and advantages of society, and are industrious and contented. They are justly entitled to be denominated an enlightened, intelligent, and well-principled community. In their daily intercourse, they are kind and friendly, and in their general conduct obliging and civil.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—In agriculture almost every species of modern improvement has been tried, with the greatest activity and attention, so as to bring the land to the highest state of cultivation and productiveness, and in very few places have the effects of draining and trenching been more conspicuous than here. The places which old people recollect of, fifty or sixty years ago, as dangerous for man or beast to tread on from their boggy nature, are now bearing luxuriant crops of corn—the rough and stony *bowks* which intersected almost every field and yielded a scanty support to the cows, can no longer be distinguished from the surrounding soil. Nor are the improvements on the land more remarkable than the change in the implements of husbandry. At the period referred to, no farmer was reckoned respectable who had not two or four oxen with a couple of horses and two men to conduct the slow motion of each cumbrous plough. Now 115 ploughs are at work in the parish, each drawn by a couple of horses guided by a single man;—then *wains*, or large carts with a pole to which two oxen were yoked with two horses as leaders, formed the only mode of carrying manure to the field or produce to the market; now not a wain is to be seen nor an ox in harness;—then the cattle fed upon the grass that grew from the roots of the *quicken* or couch grass upon the *fauch* or fallow land;—now labourers may be seen picking up and carrying away in their baskets every portion of the roots that had escaped the harrow;—then, too, the

ploughman had to start at cock-crowing to prepare the daily straw for his cattle; now the sound of the flail is seldom heard, as every farmer has his thrashing-mill. The first two-horse plough in the parish was used upon Pittowie in 1783-4, and conducted by one who still lives and enjoys a good old age. The first thrashing-mill was erected in 1801.

The greater number of farms have been furrow drained; and with the exception of the quantity already mentioned as being under wood, and about sixty acres, chiefly sea braes and links used as pasture, the whole land in the parish is under tillage.

Near the coast, sea-weed is much used as a manure which answers well, so that some pieces of ground which seldom get a change, produce as good crops as any lands adjoining. Lime and stable dung are of course universal; bone-dust, guano, soda, &c. are also more or less employed.

The rotation of crops differ according to the soil and situation, but the generality follow the four or six rotation. In the former case, the crops are, 1st, potatoes or turnips; 2d, wheat or barley; 3d, beans or grass; 4th, wheat or oats. In the latter, 1st, fallow; 2d, wheat; 3d, beans; 4th, barley; 5th, grass; 6th, oats; and then recommence with fallow, potatoes, or turnips. In consequence, it will be seen that very little land lies fallow, not above one acre out of twenty; while potatoes and grass may be reckoned each one in six; turnips and beans each one in twelve; the remainder in wheat, barley and oats. Bere or bigg is very seldom grown.

In a parish containing such a variety of soil, and one acre in one locality producing more than two in another, it is almost impossible to ascertain the actual amount of produce; but the following may be regarded as an average per Scotch acre. Potatoes, 35 bolls; turnips, 20 tons; beans, 4 quarters; wheat, 4½ quarters; barley, 6 quarters; oats, 6½ quarters; grass, 175 stones.

*Stock.*—There are not many cattle bred in this parish, but such as are, consist chiefly of the Fife and short-horned breed. A good many calves are purchased and brought from other places; and a number of two and three year old beasts are bought at the public markets, partly for the purpose of eating the straw and turnips to make manure, and partly to fatten for the butcher; and from the great attention paid, they generally bring very high prices. Great attention is paid to the quality and keeping of horses, as well as to their harness, &c. Only one or two farmers keep any

flocks of sheep, and these they generally bring from the Highlands to fatten for the market.

*Wages.*—Young unmarried men living about the farm get from L.9 to L.12 a-year, according to their age and qualifications. Married farm-servants have from L.10 to L.12, with a house and garden; 10 pecks of potatoes planted, 6½ bolls of meal, half a boll of pease or wheat, a pint of sweet or 1½ of skimmed milk a-day, coals driven, and liberty to feed a pig with their own potatoes,—all of which are estimated at about L.25 a-year. Female servants living in their masters' houses get from L.5 to L.6 a-year. Other field labourers are, males, 9s. a-week; females, 4s. a-week or 8d. a-day; but in harvest the daily wages are higher.

In very few places, are the farm-steadings so good and the accommodation for man and beast so ample, as they are in general in this parish, which proves the good taste of the tenants and the liberality of the landlords. Leases are in general for nineteen years.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—Only one mail arrives here every day, bringing letters from every direction, which often occasions serious inconvenience, as letters from St Andrews and other towns only a few miles off are received here the day after they were written, and the answer fares the same. This might be remedied by the post-office re-establishing the runner between Crail and St Andrews, as it was to 1829. By this means letters written in that city could be received here within two hours of the time when they were posted. There are turnpike roads crossing the parish in every direction, and the commutation roads are in good keeping.

A light van or waggon has, for many years, run from this to St Andrews every lawful day, carrying passengers and parcels. A parcel carrier goes to and returns from Anstruther in the same manner. A carrier goes twice a-week to Edinburgh. There are also conveyances to Dundee and Cupar for goods. By sea the conveyance of passengers and goods is still more complete, as the Aberdeen, Montrose, and Dundee steamers call off the harbour, thus giving always one, and often three opportunities a-day, of getting to Edinburgh, and, on their return, a conveyance to the respective ports to which they belong.

*Royal Burgh of Crail.*—As a town, Crail is of great antiquity, and mentioned by the Scottish historians as a place of some consequence so early as the beginning or middle of the ninth century.

As in days of other years, it consists chiefly of two parallel streets extending along the shore from east to west, intersected by others of inferior note. Many of the houses are large and of ancient appearance, giving evidence of the grandeur of former days, when some of the neighbouring proprietors of land had either their house in town, or one to which the dowager might retire when the old laird died and the son came into possession of the estate. At one period the thoroughfares seem to have been considerably interrupted by houses projecting upon them at right angles here and there; but these have been mostly bought up by the corporation and removed; so that there are very few towns of its size in which more spacious streets are to be found. These are now lighted with gas, and in general kept very clean. There was a royal residence within the town, upon an elevation overlooking the present harbour, of which some vestiges still remain; but at what time it was erected, cannot now be ascertained, nor by how many crowned heads it was occupied. However, the historians of the day agree in admitting that David the First lived in it about the beginning of the twelfth century. Sibbald says he died here, but others maintain that he died at Carlisle, where he had a residence as Duke of Cumberland, and that the mistake arose in consequence of the similarity of names, *Carayl* and *Carlisle*.

It is not unlikely that this monarch or some of his successors might have conferred some important privileges upon the town in which he occasionally dwelt, but of that we have only this presumptive evidence, that when Robert the Bruce granted a charter to the burgh, which is dated at Stirling 12th June 1310, he confirmed to the burgesses and community privileges which they had enjoyed under former kings, and exempted them from all jurisdiction vicecomitis de Fife. This charter, with several new grants, was afterwards ratified by Robert II., Queen Mary, James VI. and Charles I. By these charters the privileges of the burgh, extended not only over the town and common muir, but also from the middle of the water of Leven to the water of Puttekin, (now called Pitmilley burn), with a right to the fishings, tolls, anchorages, &c. in all the harbours and creeks within these bounds, being an extent of coast of about twenty-five miles. Yet, though all these rights were confirmed by Charles I. in his deed executed at Whitehall on the 20th April 1635, there seem to have been some heartburnings excited, and a desire expressed by many to get free from the jurisdiction of Crail long before that date. For in 1587,

when Anstruther was erected into a royal burgh, we find in the proceedings of Parliament that James Geddy, burgess of Carrail, appeared before the king and three estates, and in name and behalf of the same burgh solemnly protested "that the erection, creation, and confirmation of the burgh of Anstruther in ane free burgh royal suld on nawys be hurtfull or prejudiciall to the said burgh of Carrail anent the richtis, liberties, and privileges of the same." About the same year, the bailies and council of Crail are understood to have let in feu-farm the customs, anchorages, &c. of Elie to Thomas Dischinton of Ardross, through whom they have been transmitted to the family of Anstruther; but the feu-duty has not been paid for many years. The towns of Pittenweem and Anstruther appear also to have complained of the jurisdiction of Crail as a grievance, and threatened to resist payment; but the dispute was settled by arbitration, and both towns continue to pay a trifling sum yearly in name of *reddendo*, in consequence of which a free trade is established. A similar contract seems to have been made with the late Thomas Earl of Kellie, about 1810, for the customs, anchorages, &c. of Fifeness, Old Haiks and Kingsbarns, and thus the ancient jurisdiction of the burgh has been much curtailed. Still the town has a revenue of nearly three hundred pounds a-year, which answers all the purposes of the corporation. The ends of the streets leading out of the town still retain the name of ports, which would lead one to infer that at some period they had been actually shut up with gates; and that they were so, is evident not only from the fact, that an act of Parliament was passed in 1503, wherein it is statute and ordained, that all towns and ports on the sea side, sik as Leith, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Dysart, *Crale*, and others, ware their common gudes on the walls of the town to the sea side, with ports of lime and stane;" but many people are alive who recollect of the ports being taken down. The burgh had also the liberty of holding a free market upon Sunday, which, by an act passed in Parliament in 1587, was changed from Sunday to Saturday, and all markets between the waters of Leven and Puttekin forbidden on any other day. In proof of this we may mention that the following entry is in the session record of St Andrews:—"April 18, 1582. A great number of drapers, fleshers, and merchants, accused of keeping the market of Crail on the Sabbath; prohibited from repeating the offence under pain of exclusion, and debarring of themselves, their wives, bairns and servants

from all benefit of the kirk in time coming, viz. baptism, the Lord's supper, and marriage."

Before and up to the beginning of last century, Crail was a great station for the herring fishery. To this many resorted from different parts of the country, particularly from Angus and Aberdeen shires, who were supplied with nets and other conveniences by the inhabitants for a stipulated premium. Over the multitude of boats that then assembled in the Frith, a person (generally a lawyer from Edinburgh) was appointed by the Lord High Admiral to preside, under the title of Admiral-depute for the east of Fife. This officer had power of trying all offences committed by persons engaged in the fishing, and of fining or otherwise punishing those found guilty. He had also a vessel called the admiral's boat, which was employed in regulating the fishery, and fired a gun for announcing the hours of beginning or ending the fishing, particularly on the Mondays and Saturday nights; for which each boat had to pay a certain sum as admiral's dues.

Since then, however, the fishing has gradually declined, and was nearly lost sight of upon the Fife coast; and the office, as well as officer, is entirely unknown. But within the last few years, the fish have returned to their wonted haunts, and many who from their early years had been in the habit of joining the herring fishery at Wick or other places in the north, have staid at home and reaped the reward of their labour. Yet Crail has not resumed its place as a fishing station—for last year there were only twelve boats belonging to the harbour engaged in the trade. In former times Crail, Kilrenny, the two Anstruthers, and Pittenweem had the privilege of returning a member to Parliament; but, since the Reform Act was passed, St Andrews (the returning burgh) and Cupar have been associated with them; and these, being larger towns, swallow up in a great measure all the consequence of the minor burghs at a disputed election. The government of the town is vested in three bailies and a treasurer, with seventeen other members of town-council. There are seven incorporated trades. In the centre of the town, there is a very neat town-hall and a lock-up-house, with two cells under charge of the police. The harbour is small, not very safe, and difficult of access to the small vessels that frequent it; but Room or the old harbour, which is only about a quarter of a mile to the eastward of the present, might be easily converted into a haven capable of containing a large fleet, and would, it is said, have nearly thirty feet of water at spring tides.

It is sheltered from all winds but the south, and may be entered by vessels of small draught of water, from any point, at an hour and a quarter's flood. The corporation have voted a sum of money to defray the expense of having it surveyed with the view of bringing it under the notice of Government, as a harbour of refuge; and should it be so constructed, it would prove a benefit not only to the traders on the Forth, but also to the whole east coast of Scotland.

Unless in importing coals, and exporting the produce of the land, the port is not much frequented by shipping. However, twelve vessels belong to it, with a register of 530 tons. In potatoes alone, several vessels have been employed for a portion of the year, carrying them to Newcastle, London, and elsewhere; above 3000 tons having been exported in one season. This crop has fallen off considerably for some time, and, in consequence, last year's export was only 1800 tons. Fishing is not carried on to the same extent as in some of the neighbouring places, such as Cellardyke. Yet a number of respectable men contrive to make a living by it. The kinds of fish which they most commonly bring ashore are, cod, ling, halibut, haddock, rock or red cod, cole-fish, dog-fish, cat-fish, flounder, turbot, skate, and occasionally mackerel. Sand-eels and shrimps are gathered among the sand as the tide recedes. The principal employment of the fishermen here is in catching shell-fish, such as lobsters and crabs, but in these the quantity seems to be rapidly diminishing; for, when Mr Bell wrote the former Statistical Account, he states the number of lobsters sent annually to the London market to be about 20,000 or 25,000, and that ten years before there was double the number; whereas, though the same trade be still continued, the number sent to London last year was only about 4000. During the same year, (1844,) after supplying the home consumption, between 3000 and 4000 dozens of crabs were sent to the markets of Dundee and Edinburgh. Within the last few years, a new trade in shell-fish has been opened with London, viz. in periwinkles or wilks, of which no fewer than 50 tons were sent from Crail in 1844. The town-council has also let the salmon-fishing to the south of the town, and, a few days ago, the tackaman set his nets and was successful. He therefore anticipates that the salmon-fishing will be advantageous to himself, and a new source of revenue to the town.

In the burgh, no manufactures are carried on, nor any trade of

importance, except what is required for the neighbourhood; but there are a post-office, with a daily arrival of the mail, a number of shops at which any of the necessaries of life can be purchased, a good butcher-market, and a brewery. Fourteen persons are licensed to sell spirits, and two gentlemen act as medical practitioners. The Parliamentary and municipal constituency is 51.

The town is ten miles south-east by east from St Andrews, and thirty north north-east from Edinburgh.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—It is generally believed that Crail was at one time the seat of a priory dedicated to St Rufus, and, when the last Statistical Account was written, a ruinous gable with Gothic windows was standing, and bore the name of the Prior Walls. That gable was thrown down by the sea about the year 1801, and there now only remain some of the foundations of the outworks, to point out where it once stood. The adjoining ground, however, retains the name of the Prior's Croft, and a well near the old building is still called the Briery or Priory Well. As this is not mentioned among the religious houses suppressed at the Reformation, some have doubted the common tradition; but Leighton, in his *Fife Illustrated*, states that, according to General Hutton, there is an old manuscript inventory among the Harleian manuscripts in the British Museum, in which the following charter is mentioned:—"To the prior of Crail, of the second teinds of the lands between the waters of Neithe and Nith." There was also a chapel within the Castle of Crail, dedicated to St Rufe, which had teinds belonging to it, both parsonage and vicarage, but its name is now only to be found in ancient charters.

The present church is so old that many believe it to be the one in which David I. worshipped when he lived in Crail; and, although its beauty has been much destroyed by the alterations it has undergone, it is still a fine specimen of pointed architecture. It consists of a central nave, with aisles divided by a row of pillars on each side, and, at the east end, a portion of what originally formed the choir, in which daily service was performed. The choir was for a number of years shut up; but, in 1828, it was re-opened, and seated for the sake of additional accommodation to the parishioners. In all, the church will now accommodate nearly 1000 persons, being about the legal allowance for the population. This church, which, with the teinds, both parsonage and vicarage, anciently belonged to the priory of Haddington, was, in the year 1517, (upon the petition and endowment of Sir



William Myreton, vicar of Lathrisk, and Janet, prioress of Haddington,) erected into a collegiate church, with a provost, sacrist, ten prebendaries, and a chorister. The provost had a right to the vicarage tithes, and six of the prebendaries had annuities, payable out of certain lands and tenements of houses lying in the town and neighbourhood, mortified for that purpose by Sir William Myreton, who is called the founder of the College Kirk of Crail. At that time, besides the high altar, which was richly endowed, there were eight other altarages within the church dedicated to the Virgin Mary, to St Catharine, to St Michael, to St James, to St John the Baptist, to St Stephen, to St John the Evangelist, and to St Nicholas.\*

For many years after the college was established, the church retained its connection with the priory of Haddington; for though King James VI., in 1586-7, made over to the town of Crail the place called the college, with the college kirk, and all emoluments belonging to the provost and prebends thereof, with the advocacy, donation, and right of patronage, it was not till 1594 that an act of Parliament was passed disjoining the church and parish from the priory, and establishing Crail as an independent rectory.

By this act, one-third part of the fruits was assigned to the minister serving the cure, another to the new college of St Andrews for the sustentation of students of theology, and the remaining third to the college of Edinburgh, for students of philosophy,—Lord Lindsay being declared patron of the parsonage and bursaries.

“About the time of the Reformation,” says Mr Bell, in the former Statistical Account, “Lord Lindsay seems to have obtained from the prioress and convent of Haddington a tack of the teinds both parsonage and vicarage, for the yearly rent of two hundred and fifty-five merks. The patronage was vested in Sir William Murray of Balvaird, who presented Mr Murray to the benefice. He then resigned the patronage into the king’s hands in favour of John Lord Lindsay, who, in 1609, obtained from Mr Murray a confirmation of the former tack of the teinds for three lives and three nineteen years.”

“The town of Crail,” says the same writer, “having by several charters obtained a grant of the *collegiate church* and its revenues, with the right of patronage, &c. disputes began to arise between

\* A list of the “ornaments and sylver werk in the College Kyrk of Crail,” is contained in the chartulary now in the Advocates’ Library.

it and Lord Lindsay concerning their respective rights. To prevent law-suits, a compromise was entered into in 1630, by which the town's right to the collegiate church and place called the college, with the right of patronage, was confirmed; but its claim to emolument was expressly restricted to the tithe fish, and the rents, fees, and duties which had been the especial property of the provost and prebendaries. The parsonage and vicarage tithes, excepting the tithe fish, were declared to remain with his Lordship and his successors. In 1774-6, the question concerning the right of patronage to the *parish church* was tried. By an interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary, it was given against the town, and the Earl of Crawford, as successor to Lord Lindsay, considered as undoubted patron. The Earl of Glasgow is now patron, as representing the Earl of Crawford.

It is proper to mention that in this church John Knox preached and excited the people to begin the work of abolishing the monuments of idolatry in Fife. In reference to this, Grierson, the historian of St Andrews, says, "John Knox, on Sunday the 29th of May 1559, preached a sermon at the town of Crail, in which he represented the favourers of Popery as guilty of the heinous sin of idolatry, and their churches as containing the monuments of it, namely, pictures and images. The effect of his eloquence was such, that the populace immediately rose, and in a very short time demolished all the churches in Crail, Anstruther, and the other adjacent towns along the sea coast. They then proceeded to St Andrews, where the preacher delivered another sermon of the same sort on Sunday the 5th of June; and the effect of it was similar to that which had before taken place at Crail, for the infuriated mob set instantly about demolishing the superb cathedral church, plundered both the monasteries of the Black and Greyfriars, and razed these edifices to the ground."

Spottiswood says, "John Knox preached a sermon at Crail, and persuaded the expulsion of the French. The people were so moved by his exercitation, that they immediately set about pulling down altars, images, and every thing which had been abused to idolatry; and did the same next day at Anstruther, and from thence came to St Andrews."

Besides the religious houses already mentioned, there was, no doubt, a cell or chapel dedicated to St Minin or Monan at Kilminning farm; the corn-yard of which is still full of graves, like a regular burying-ground.

Within the town there is a congregation of the Associate Synod, who have a church and a minister's house enclosed in a garden. The members of the Free Protestant Church are also building a place of worship.

Attendance at church is remarkably good, and the ordinary number of communicants about 800.

The manse, which is within the burgh at the entry to the church, with a small garden attached to it, was purchased by the kirk-session in 1637 for 3300 merks, and mortified to the then minister and his successors in office. The house, thus bought, remained entire till 1789, when the greater part of it was taken down and the present manse erected in its stead, having still a portion of the old building for bed-rooms and other conveniences; but in 1829 the last remains of the old house were swept away, cellars, &c. erected on its site, and a third storey added to what was then called the new manse. As it now stands, it is a good commodious dwelling, and has every convenience that a family may desire. The offices are very poor, consisting only of an old stable and a gig-house; but the minister is allowed a sum of money to pay the rent of additional accommodation, till a proper situation can be found for building a suitable steading.

The glebe was designed in 1658, out of lands which once belonged to the priory of Haddington. It measures a little more than four Scotch acres. A small park, not quite an acre in extent, called the vicar's garden, and believed to have belonged to that official, is also attached to the living; and in 1799 a field of nearly three acres was obtained as a grass glebe in exchange for seven and a half acres of the links of Sauchope, which were designed by the presbytery. For property-tax the manse and glebe are valued at L. 64 per annum.

The stipend, as settled in 1834, is 152 bolls of meal, 110 quarters, 5 bushels, 1 peck, 1 gallon, 1½ quart of barley, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

*Ministers of the Parish.*—Upon the elevation of Mr Sharp to the archbishopric of St Andrews, Dr Alexander Edwards, minister of Denino, was transported to the charge in 1662, and continued to discharge the duties of it till his death, 10th May 1684. Dr Edwards was succeeded by Mr Alexander Lesly, minister of Ceres,\* who was deposed in 1689 for non-conformity. He was

\* The following extract from the record of the kirk-session shows the mode of procedure in those days:—"September 14th 1684. Dr John Wood, minister of Kiltrennie, did preach, and Mr Alexander Lesly, minister of Ceres, being presented to

the last Episcopal rector of the parish. After his ejection he got a chapel erected at the west end of the town, part of which still remains as a wright's shop, behind the gas work, in which he continued to officiate till his death in 1707. Mr William Hardie was then ordained minister of Crail by the presbyteries of St Andrews and Cupar—the session record says, “by preaching, prayer, and imposition of the hands of the presbyteries—by delivering to him the Bible, the bell tow, and the key of the kirk.” Mr Hardie removed to St Andrews in 1701. Mr Robert Fairweather, minister of Carnbee, was then elected by the people 14th August 1701, was inducted by the presbytery, and continued till his death in 1738. But Mr Fairweather having become old and infirm, Mr Patrick Glas was ordained as his assistant and successor, 24th December 1734, and continued to be minister of the parish till 1787. After his death Mr Robert Glendinning succeeded, but lived only a short time. Mr Andrew Bell was ordained 6th May 1790, and dying in 1828, was succeeded by the present incumbent.

*Education.*—In 1542, a grammar school was established here by Mr David Bowman, one of the prebendaries of the college, who mortified a house and lands for the maintenance of the teacher, and left the patronage, after his death, to the town-council of the burgh, unless a qualified person of his own name should apply, who was to be preferred.\* How this provision came to be alienated from its purpose, we have been unable to discover; but, from time immemorial, the sum of L.12 a-year has been paid to the teacher out of the town's common good. In 1821, the heritors and council agreed to erect it into a parochial school, the former paying the maximum salary to the rector, the latter continuing their L.12 payment, under certain conditions, to an

the cure and benefice of this parish by Thomas Moncrieff of that ilk, as undoubted patron of this kirk, and having a right thereto from the Earl of Crawford, there was an edict granted by John Bishop of Edinburgh, vicar-general of the see of St Andrews, (being in the vacancie of the see of St Andrew's,) in his favour, which was served and read this day in face of the congregation by the said Dr John Wood, and is to be called at the Trinitie church of St Andrews upon Wednesday come eight days next, at ten o'clock.”

\* See deed of endowment and mortification in the town's charter-chest. As connected with the church, schools, and records, it may be mentioned here, that Mr John Preston of Drumrack, a branch of the Airdrie family of that name, presented to the church the handsome silver basin and ewer used at baptism; that the Earl of Crawford, out of the vacant stipend of 1789, gave the session L.20 for education, which is mortified in the town's hand at five per cent.; and that a lady, who wished her name to be concealed, gave, through the late Mr Bell, L.50 for the same purpose, which is now lying at bank interest.

usher. The rector, therefore, has the maximum salary, and the fees average about L.40 a-year. He is also kirk-treasurer and session-clerk. At this school, all the ordinary branches of education are taught, and frequently the higher branches of mathematics, with Greek and Latin, French and Italian. The number attending is 93.

There are other three schools in the parish, two of them being within the burgh, and one upon Kingsmuir, at all of which the ordinary branches are taught. One of the burgh teachers has a free school, and a small salary allowed him by the town; the other is upon his own adventure. At the two, there are about 190 scholars. The Kingsmuir school was erected by subscription in 1843, and is attended by about 50 children.

In both the endowed schools the teachers are bound to educate a certain number gratuitously, and thus there are none above six years of age who do not at least know the letters.

*Poor.*—The kirk session funds arise from the rent of about six acres of land, rents of seats in the church given by some of the heritors, dues upon marriages when the bride is in the parish, collections at the church doors, and some small feu-duties. Last year the number of poor upon the roll was thirty-one, who each received from a shilling to two shillings and sixpence a-week according to their circumstances—some received assistance in paying their rents—every applicant received clothing, and in many cases persons not upon the roll received assistance in money. Two persons were also maintained in a lunatic asylum, and the deficiency in the session's funds was made up by a voluntary assessment among the heritors. Besides what was bestowed by the session, the interest arising from a share of the Bank of Scotland's stock, bequeathed by the late Mrs Coldstream, was divided among sixteen, in terms of her deed, and ninety persons received a cart load of coals each by voluntary subscription.

The poor here are better provided for, on the whole, than they are in most places.

*May 1845.*