

THE KINGDOM OF KIPPEN:

ITS HISTORY AND TRADITIONS.



SITUATION.

THE VILLAGE OF KIPPEN, otherwise known as the "Kingdom of Kippen," is situated on an eminence overlooking the Valley of the Forth, and commands upwards of thirty miles of landscape view. Within three minutes' walk of the Cross of Kippen, on the road to Music Hall, and about thirty yards from the first house in that hamlet, is to be found one of the most extensive and beautiful views in Great Britain. On the right, rising like towers in the valley, we have the three crags, viz., Craigforth, Abbey Craig, and Stirling Castle; in the distance, Demyat and the Ochil Range; and sweeping towards the left, the wild heaths of Uam Var, Ben Voirlich, Bed Ledi, Ben A'an, the rugged cliffs of Ben Venue, Ben More, and Ben Lomond; while lying spread out at our feet is the Carse of Stirling, which merges into and includes the Vale of Menteith. The scene, as far as the eye can reach, is classic. There are associations of thrilling historic interest connected with the district, while Sir Walter Scott has added creations to it of romance and song which will never die.

BOUNDARIES.

SCOTLAND was divided into parishes during the twelfth century. The parish of Kippen lies chiefly in Stirlingshire, but in different places is intersected by portions of Perthshire, which run across it from north to south for nearly a third part of the parish. The

boundaries of the County, especially in this parish, are somewhat perplexing and eccentric, showing something like a zig-zag, or forked appearance. An insulated portion of Perthshire, about two miles long and half-a-mile broad, embraces a part of the village. A portion of the Manse, *e.g.*, the kitchen part, is in Perthshire, the remainder being in Stirlingshire, thus enabling the dinner to be cooked in Perthshire and partaken of in Stirlingshire. The greatest length of the parish is about eight miles, and its breadth from two to five miles. The river Forth is the boundary on the north, dividing it from the parishes of Port of Menteith, Norrieston, Kilmadock, and Kincardine. On the west, Kippen marches with the parish of Drymen ; on the south with Balfron ; and on the east, the burn of Boquhan forms the boundary between it and Gargunnoch. Descending from the rock of Ballochleam (Gaelic—*Beallach-leum* signifies “the gorge-leap;” *Beallach* is an upland gorge or rising pass) the burn meets with the red sandstone, through which it has opened a passage, and wrought its soft materials into a number of curious forms resembling the wells and cauldrons of the Devon. After running through the beautiful and picturesque Glen Boquhan, equalled only by the Trossachs, and through which the proprietor has made extensive and agreeable walks, the burn discharges itself into the Forth at the Ford of Frew, and forms the natural boundary of the parish in the south and east.

NAME OF PARISH.

IN old records Kippen is sometimes spelt Kippan, Kippene, Kippone, Kyppane. The derivation of the name, given in the old “Statistical Account,” from *Ceap*, English cape, meaning a headland or promontory, is likely enough, as it describes pretty well the appearance of the parish, jutting out into the carse land below. At the same time, it might be derived from the Gaelic *Giopan* (pronounced Kippan), which means the stumps or roots of trees, and in that case it would refer to the

remains of the forest which undoubtedly at an early period covered both the high and low lands of the parish. To support this derivation, we have places in this and neighbouring parishes, such as Kep or Keppoch, which obviously means the "field of the stumps," and, more distinctly still, Kepdarroch, "the field of the stumps of oak trees." Inverkip, in Renfrewshire, is explained by Colonel Robertson, in his "Gaelic Topography," as "the confluence of the roots of stumps."

BARONIES.

The Parish of Kippen was sub-divided into eleven Baronies or properties, belonging to gentlemen entitled to call themselves Barons. Regarding the origin of the title Baron there have been differences of opinion. Derivations of the word have been sought for in the Celtic, Teutonic, and Hebrew languages, but it would appear that the term Baron was introduced by the Normans into this country, which points, therefore, to a conclusion favourable to a Romanee origin. From an early period Barons were distinguished as greater and lesser, and, according to old Scotch law, the greater Barons had certain rights relative to and direct from the King himself, which were confirmed by Crown Charters. These rights embraced not merely civil but criminal jurisdiction, to which all the people or inhabitants of the particular Baronies were amenable. The lesser Barons held their lands from the greater by a tenure of military service, and it was to the lesser Barons that the eleven gentlemen in this district belonged. Modern legislation has, however, obstructed the exercise of Baronial rights: indeed, by the 20th Act of George II. the rights of Baronies became obsolete, although by a subsequent Act, in the reign of George III., they were permitted for the encouragement of fisheries on the sea coast.

The following are the names of the eleven Baronies within the parish:—Glentirran, Dasher or Deshour, Shirgarton, Broich, Arnmanuel, Arnbeg, Arnmore, Arnfinlay, Garden, Buchlyvie, and Arnprior.

PLACE-NAMES OF THE PARISH.

IT is generally accepted that, in giving names to places, our forefathers obviously endeavoured to express the nature of the situation and its most prominent features, its shape or its size, its relative position, high or low, in mountain or valley, the climate or the vegetation by which it was surrounded. We have in the names of places in the parish, therefore, descriptions or verbal pictures of the object. With this general fact before us, let us glance at the etymology of some of the names—

BOQUHAN—Gaelic *Mocuan*, plain of the sea or ocean. It might also be from the Gaelic *Both*, meaning a “house” or “dwelling;” and Gaelic *Càn*; Scots kane; Eng. rent or tribute: hence Boquhan would be the place where the tribute was received or kept. Mr. Johnston, in his “Place-Names of Stirlingshire,” suggests *Both-bhan*, the Gaelic for “white house,” which is also possible.

DRUM—Gaelic *Drom*, a ridge.

GRIBBLOCH—Corruption of Garbhlach, the rough place—rugged country, or rough and warm, lying to the sun. It is said that Gribbloch was a favourite place of meeting in Covenanted times. There is a watershed on the lands of Gribbloch, a portion of the water going to the eastern, another to the western ocean.

LOCH LEGGAN—The lake in the small hollow.

BALGAIR—Gaelic *Bal*, contracted from Baile, originally a home, a town, or farm; the second part, “gair,” may be the Gaelic *gearr*, short, hence “short-town” or “farm;” or it may be *Bal-a-gabhair*, meaning “the goat-farm.”

CASTLEHILL—The upper part of the village of Kippen is known by the name of Castlehill. Ages ago a castle stood midway in the Burn Loan, on the south side, about thirty yards from the roadway

—the Castle of the “Kingdom”—hence the name Castlehill.

OXHILL may have reference to the manner in which our forefathers sometimes computed pieces of land, calling thirteen or fourteen acres an ox gang.

SPITTAL—There are many places named Spittal throughout the county, the name being derived from Hospital. Spittal means of the Templars, and hospitals were attached to the religious houses in the Middle Ages. The first of the Spittals was a son of Sir Maurice Buchanan of Buchanan, in the time of Alexander III. Having entered the Order of Knights Hospitallers, he was called in the Scots dialect Spittal.

CAUSEWAYHEAD—French, *Chaussée*, the head or termination of the Roman Road.

CAULDHAME—Cold, bleak place. The erection of the houses dates from the beginning of the nineteenth century, but the place was known as Cauldhame before the houses were built.

MUSIC HALL—Long the residence of the piper or fiddler, first called Piper’s Hall, afterwards Music Hall. In ancient times every village in Scotland had its piper, who was employed not only on festive occasions, but during the season of harvest, to play behind the reapers. Hamilton, in his “Elegy on the Piper of Kilbarchan,” alludes to the practice:—

“ Or wha will cause our shearers shear,
Wha will bend up the braes of Weir.”

GLENTIRAN—The glen of the small fort, not unlikely referring to what we know as the Keir Hill of Glentirran. It may refer to the fortification up the shoulder of the hill, south-west from the Keir Hill, circular in form, with a number of trees growing within the space; but more probably it is *Gleann Tighearn*, the Chief’s Glen, as it was here where the chief Baron lived.

DASHER, from Gaelic *Deas*, "south," having a southern exposure, and *ar* or *air*, "field," more properly a "battlefield;" hence "Southfield" or "South-battlefield." In old charters the lands along the north shore of Loch Tay, which thus lie to the south, are called Disher.

SHIRGARTON—The last part of the word is certainly Gart or Gort (old English, Garth, modern English, Garden), which originally signifies corn, and then an enclosed or tilled field. Shir (Gaelic, *Siar*) is west, so that Shirgarton would mean the west field. As terms of direction are relative, it would probably be thus called Westfield, in relation to Dasher. *Gortan* is the Teutonic *Gort*, with the Gaelic denomination, *an*, but in its Gaelic form it does not mean an "enclosure," but a "green sward," hence Shirgarton will mean "West-green."

BROICH, Gaelic *Braigh*; Scottice, brae, a bank, or acclivity. In front of the old house of Broich there was a fosse or ditch.

ARNMANUEL—The word Arn, Gaelic *Earran*, which occurs so often as a portion of names in the parish, means a section or division of land. As most of the lands with names so beginning lie along the slope of the hill side, and parallel, or contiguous to each other, they may have been portions of a territory which was originally all under the same superiority, possibly the ecclesiastical authority of Inchmahome, and for services rendered, or for other sufficient reasons, granted to vassals of the Priory. Manuel is probably a corrupted form of a personal name.

ARNBEG, the small portion.

ARNMORE, the large portion.

ARNPRIOR, the Prior's portion.

ARNFINLAY—Here might also be included

ARNGIBBON—Both Finlay and Gibbon being not unlikely proper names. Gibbon, at any rate, in its

patronymic form of M'Gibbon, is a name still common amongst us.

GARDEN—If we hold to the use of the letter G in Garden, then the same root *gart* occurs here as in Shir-garton, and the termination indicates a diminutive form, and correlates with Gartmore, Garden being the smaller, and Gartmore the larger enclosed and cultivated field. But the original spelling of Garden was Carden, and, better still and more complete, Cardun, which altered the case entirely. There can be no doubt about the meaning. The word is Calhair-divna (pronounced Card(y)en), which means "the fort of defence or shelter." Carden is the spelling used in the old Acts of Parliament. The prefix *Car* is generally the Brythonic *Cathair* (t is silent), meaning a "seat" or "fort;" hence *Cathair-dun* would be equivalent to the English Castle-hill. There is a Carden in Peebles-shire, and another in Fife. Then we have Carnock, Carbeth, Cardross, etc.

We now come to the last barony,

BUCHLYVIE—In his "History of Stirlingshire," the Rev. William Nimmo suggests *ball-cladb-beheth*, "the field of the burying ground," but this theory is doubtful, and in the absence of tradition there is much difficulty in getting at the etymology of this name. It may mean "the bog beside the birches;" or, if there is any tradition surviving associating the place with an ancient battle, it may be *Buaidh Chlaidhcamh*, i.e., "the victory of the sword." There is no doubt whatever that, not merely in urns, but also in certain knolls in Buchlyvie, human remains have been found in large numbers, and this might well point to the latter conclusion as the correct interpretation. But a lively imagination may even trace in the word Buchlyvie a root which means poor or needy, and thus recall the rhyme

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and the poverty of the place which Sir Walter Scott describes in "Rob Roy"—

"Ye Baron o' Buchlyvie,
May the foul fiend drive ye,
And a' to pieces rive ye,
For building sic a toun,
Where there's neither horse meat,
Nor man's meat, nor chair to sit doon."

It may also be *Both-Chliabhach* (pronounced "Buchleevich"), meaning "the wicker-work house," a kind of which there were not a few in the old days.

POPULATION.

The population of the parish in	
1793 was	1,777
1801	„ 1,722
1811	„ 1,893
1821	„ 2,029
1831	„ 2,085
1851	„ 1,892
1861	„ 1,736
1871	„ 1,568
1891	„ 1,486
1901	„ 1,456

The population of the village in 1901 was 356.

RATEABLE VALUATION.

The valuation of the parish, taken in 1777, was £5,194 2s. 10d.

In 1902 the valuation of the entire parish was as follows:

IN STIRLINGSHIRE—

Eastern Division,	...	...	£3,664	19	5
Western Division,	...	...	3,423	17	3
Railways,	...	...	916	0	0

IN PERTHSHIRE—

Central Division,	...	...	£4,311	9	8
Railways,	...	...	935	0	0

Total valuation of parish, £13,251 6 4



MAIN STREET, KIPPEN.

By the order of the Boundary Commissioners, dated 5th August, 1890, that part of the Parish of Kippen which formed part of the County of Perth ceased to be part of that county on the 15th day of May, 1891. The whole of the Parish of Kippen is now in Stirlingshire for all purposes except Parliamentary, parishioners residing in that portion which forms part of the County of Perth still retaining the privilege of voting for a member of Parliament for West Perthshire.

ACREAGE.

The following tabular statement shows the acreage of the parish, with the number of acres under cultivation, in pasture, and wood.

Acrea.	Tillage.	Pasture.	Wood.
6,342	1,420	4,360	562

THE KINGDOM OF KIPPEN.

THIS facetious "kingdom" was constituted in the reign of James IV., and came about in the following manner. Sir Duncan Forrester of Garden was comptroller of the King's household under James IV. The Menzies were then proprietors of great part of the parish of Kippen, and of some part of that of Killearn. Menzies of Arnprior, in that part of the former which is included in Perthshire, had a quarrel with Forrester of Garden, who, as Menzies was childless, insisted that he should either settle his estate upon him by testament, or instantly withdraw from it. Menzies applied to Walter Buchanan of Buchanan, and offered to leave Arnprior to one of his sons if he would defend him from Forrester. Buchanan accepted the offer, and sent his second son, John, with a dry nurse, to live with his adoptive father. On hearing this, Forrester came to Arnprior, in Menzies' absence, and ordered the nurse to carry back the child, otherwise he would burn the Castle of Arnprior about

their ears. The woman, however, setting him at defiance, and threatening him with her master's vengeance, intimidated him, and he did not make good his word.

KING OF KIPPEN.

John Buchanan became proprietor of Arnprior, and afterwards the noted "King of Kippen," a phrase which originated in the whimsical episode between himself and James V., who, it may be explained, was fond of travelling in disguise under the title of "The Guid Man o' Ballengeich," after the steep path leading down from the Castle of Stirling.

The story has been variously put. It is shortly this:—The King, with his nobles, was residing in Stirling Castle, and having sent a party for some deer to the hills in the neighbourhood of Gartmore, on their return to Stirling with the venison they passed through Arnprior, where they were attacked by the chief, and relieved of their burden. On expostulating with Buchanan for so ruthlessly taking from them what belonged to the King, Buchanan replied that if James was King in Scotland, he was King of Kippen.

The messengers reporting the circumstance to the King, he, relishing a joke, resolved to wait on his neighbouring majesty of Kippen, and rode out one day with a small retinue from Stirling. Demanding admittance at the palace of Arnprior, he was refused by a fierce-looking warrior standing at the gate with a battle-axe sloped on his shoulder, who told him there was no admission, as his chief was at dinner with a large company, and could not be disturbed at that time.

"Tell your master," said James, "'the Guidman of Ballengeich' humbly requests an audience of the King of Kippen."

Buchanan, guessing the quality of his guest, received His Majesty with the appropriate honours, and became so great a favourite that he had leave to draw upon the carrier as often as he pleased, and was invited, as "King of Kippen," to visit his brother sovereign at Stirling.

“OOT O’ THE WORLD AND INTO KIPPEN.”

THE situation of the village is so sequestered that a common saying of the country folks is as above. The phrase is the title of the following lines composed by Stewart A. Robertson, M.A., Stirling High School, and are supposed to be spoken by a husband to his wife, both natives of the “Kingdom,” dwelling in New York:—

“Oot o’ the world and into Kippen,”

Eh ! Jean, d’ye mind the braes
That rise sae bonnie frae the carse ?
D’ye mind the summer days
When you and I were bairnies there,
And never thocht we’d be
Sae far frae hame in this far land
Across the sant, sant sea ?

“Oot o’ the world and into Kippen,”

The folks wad laugh and say,
Losh keep me ! lass, hoo things come back,
It seems but yesterday
Since you and I forsook the braes
And owe the waters came,
To settle in this weary land,
Sae far, sae far frae hame.

“Oot o’ the world and into Kippen,”

Eh ! Jean, that that could be ?
There isna ocht I hae on earth
But I wad gladly gie
If only we could tread again
The paths where ance we ran,
Where the heather grows on Kippen Muir
And the braes abune Boquhan.

Oot o’ this world o’ noisy streets

Into that place o’ calm,
Where to the hills men lift their eyes,
D’ye mind they sang that psalm
The Sabbath we were kirkit there ?
Aye, fifty years are gone,
But ye were then the bonniest bride
’Tween Kippen and Balfron. .

Oot o’ this world o’ unkent things,

Oh ! that we baith could win !
And hear the pee-weep on the hills,
And see the yellow whin,

THE KINGDOM OF KIPPEN :

And see the bonnie gowans smile
 As if they kent us a',
 And welcomed us to oor ain land,
 The best land o' them a'.

" Oot o' the world and into Kippen,"
 Jean, lass, it ne'er will be,
 The burnie's waters ne'er run back,
 Nor buds the uprooted tree.
 The fecht o' life for us is past
 Forfochen wi' the fray,
 Oot o' the world and into——rest,
 Ere lang we baith shall gae.

The foregoing poem elicited the following reply :—

Thy voice across the saut, saut sea
 Has reached the " Kingdom " high,
 And draws from kindly Kippen folks
 The tribute of a sigh.

That a warm, human heart should long,
 In New York's surging city,
 For breath o' auld warld Kippen air
 Fills all our souls with pity.

Though times are changed sin' ye left here,
 And auld folk passed away,
 Mayhap as kindly hearts beat now
 As flourished in your day.

Whatever changes come to pass
 'Mangst men and their affairs,
 Still winds the Forth through fair Menteith,
 Still blow heaven's balmy airs

O'er Kippen Muir, through garden bower,
 Round many a humble dwelling,
 Or doun the glen, by Dougal's tower,
 The same brown spate is swelling.

The rushing waters o' Boquhan
 Fall o'er the " Hole of Sneath,"
 And rest awhile, from their turmoil,
 In the deep, dark linn beneath,

Then onward through the red rock bowls
 The " Devil's Cauldron " boiling,
 And round and round, with deaf'ning sound,
 The angry waters toiling.

Anon, through "Belly o' the Whale,"
Where brown trout dart and quiver,
And laddies throw the baited hook
To-day—the same as ever.

Still the shy dipper lays white eggs
In Cuthbertson's shady glen,
And the grey wagtail rears her brood
Where truant schoolboys ken.

Still slips the burn o'er rocky bed,
O'er "Leckie's Loup" it dashes,
Round the Keir Knowe, to join the Forth,
Through marigolds and rashes.

Athwart Ben Ledi—Hill of God—
Falls the weird morning light,
And heralds each returning day
Born of the silent night.

The varied gleams of fairy light
Still dance on Flanders Moss,
And glory bathes the ancient oaks
And mansion of Cardross.

Still Glenney and Mondouie's slopes
Look on the "sharp steel sheen"
That girds the holy island which
Once sheltered Scotland's Queen.

O, Hill of God, that doth abide
While generations pass,
I to thy heights will lift mine eyes,
Will sing my morning mass.

The parson from the manse still views
The mountains, plain, and skies,
Still, for men's sins he cannot cure,
He supplicates and sighs.

"Oot o' the world and into Kippen,"
Far from the rough world's din,
May your spirit come o'er the saut, saut sea
To rest with your kith and kin.

KIPPEN RAILWAY STATION.

THIS hitherto dull and cheerless station has recently undergone a complete transformation, a large selection of plants and choice flowers, producing every shade and variety of colour, being artistically studded on, around, and in every available nook and

corner of the platform; while borders in semi-shaded spots are profusely filled with *Polypodium Vulgare*. Ornamental vases, beds and mounds of various designs, edged with blaes and white pebbles, blue and golden-coloured violas, etc., adorn the centre of the platform; while in the background, stretching the entire length of the boundary fence, are rows of superb varieties of sweet peas, in the centre of which rises the artistic hoarding of Messrs. Munro & Jamieson, of the *Observer* Office, Stirling.

Although passengers, tourists, etc., are still bowled along the track at the same slow speed as fifty years ago, yet tourists and others alighting at this newly made miniature paradise will hesitate and ponder ere they are again heard to exclaim they have come "oot o' the world and into Kippen."

CIVIC RULERS.

"PROVOSTS."

THE "Kingdom" having for centuries enjoyed the high distinction of possessing a Royal ruler, it is no wonder that aspirants to honours in a less degree loomed on the horizon, and it is with little surprise, therefore, that about the year 1880 we find a full-fledged magnate bearing the civic title of "Provost of Kippen" appearing in our midst. Some villagers, probably envious ones, went the length of saying that the title was self-conferred. Be that as it may, Provost Welsh enjoyed the privileges of the title unmolested by opposition for about ten years, when a rival in the person of Provost M'Niven endeavoured to depose him from office, and a bitter feud for supremacy existed between them for several years, each holding on tenaciously to the title. In order to enable the villagers to better understand who was the real and only Provost, Provost M'Niven caused a spring of excellent water to be conveyed from one of the fields on his farm to the road leading to Kippen Station, where he erected a drinking fountain for travellers, marking the spot by

building in the wall an iron tablet bearing the inscription, "Provost M'Niven's Well."

The demise of Provost M'Niven in 1897 left Provost Welsh again in the undisputed possession of the Provostship, and, the better to secure his tenure of office, as a precedent several villagers assembled at Kippen Cross on the first day of January, 1900, and elected him Provost of the "Kingdom" for the ensuing year, there being no other nominations. On the first of January, 1901, a number of villagers again assembled at the Cross, and the spokesman having called for nominations for the office of Provost, only one candidate appeared—Mr. David Young, Claylands, and Mr. Young was therefore unanimously elected. Since his appointment, Provost Young has proved, by many deeds of philanthropy, he has the interest and welfare of the "Kingdom" at heart. Not only does he distribute annually seasonable gifts of potatoes and other fruits of the husbandman amongst the poor, but shortly after his election he raised by subscription a sufficient fund to enable him to place a number of well-appointed seats in convenient nooks around the village, where the weary toiler can spend a summer evening and enjoy his pipe and evening paper, and where also the visitor and careworn legislator of this progressive "Kingdom" can pause and rest amidst splendid scenery, and muse on Kippen's coming greatness.

PARISH COUNCIL.

On 10th August, 1894, a Local Government Act was passed in Parliament, by which a Parish Council was established in every parish, taking the place of the Parochial Board, which administered the Poor Law (Scotland) Act, 1845. Previous to this Act the administrators of the Poor Law Act were for the most part representative of property, but now the Parish Council are elected from among the electors, and retire at the end of three years, but are eligible for re-election. Regarding the powers and duties transferred to the Parish Councils, it has been simply a case of exit Parochial Board, enter

Parish Council, with power to provide or acquire suitable buildings and public offices to carry on their business. In addition to administering the Poor Law Act, the Council have charge of the providing and maintaining of public recreation grounds ; have power to protect rights-of-way ; to hold property and bequests for the benefit of the parish ; have certain powers under the Public Health Act, 1887, and also with regard to allotments ; have the right to make complaints regarding unhealthy dwellings, under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 ; and of looking after the repair of public highways.

Eleven councillors are allotted to Kippen Parish. The first Council, elected on 2nd April, 1895, consisted of the following gentlemen :—

Duncan Buchanan, Forth Vineyards, Kippen.
 Admiral Campbell, C.B., of Boquhan, Kippen.
 John Drysdale, Fairfield, Kippen.
 Andrew Dewar, Arnprior, Kippen.
 Daniel Kennedy, Wood Merchant, Buchlyvie.
 James M'Phie, jun., Grocer, Buchlyvie.
 James Macfarlane, Oxhill, Buchlyvie.
 Alex. M. Gardner, Cashley, Buchlyvie.
 James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.
 James Weir, Blacksmith, Buchlyvie.
 Thomas Welsh, Beechwood, Kippen.
Chairman—James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, 1903.

Andrew Buchanan, Residenter, Buchlyvie.
 John Drysdale, Arngibbon, Arnprior.
 Robert Dougall, Post Office, Kippen.
 Andrew Dewar, Arnprior, Kippen.
 James Dick, Joiner, Buchlyvie.
 John Monteath, Esq., of Wright Park, Kippen.
 Rev. John A. Macdonald, Buchlyvie.
 Thomas M'Ewan, Land Surveyor, Buchlyvie.
 James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.
 Thomas Syme, Strathview, Kippen.
 Thomas Welsh, Beechwood, Kippen.
Chairman—James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.



STATION ROAD AND UNITED FREE CHURCH, BANCHLYVIE.

COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Parish also returns one representative in their interests to the County Council, who is elected at the same date and place as the Parish Council.

The first County Councillor, Admiral Campbell, C.B., of Boquhan, and the present, James Stirling, Esq., of Garden, were elected without opposition.

SCHOOL BOARD.

With the passing of the Elementary Education Act, 1872, the old parochial system of teaching became extinct, and a system which produced an inestimable privilege to teachers and taught passed away, the pupils under the old regime having been well grounded in a few subjects, instead of being washed with a dozen. But since the introduction of the Act, the Educational Department has considerably revised and amended the general working of the measure, and teachers now possess a wider latitude and more freedom from code restrictions than when the Act first came into operation. For ages the parish has been productive of sons and daughters who have acquired high scholarly attainments, as also brave, loyal, and industrious citizens, who have contributed not a little to the welfare of the empire.

Five members constitute the Board, who retire at the end of three years, but are eligible for re-election. The first election of a School Board for the Parish took place on Saturday, 29th March, 1873, at Arnprior School, considerable enthusiasm being displayed by the electors. The following gentlemen were elected members of the first Board:—

Henry Fletcher Campbell, Esq., of Boquhan.

Daniel Fisher, Esq., of Ballamenoch.

Rev. Patrick Thomas Muirhead, F.C. Manse, Kippen.

George M'Farlane, Esq., Buchlyvie Station.

James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.

Chairman—Henry Fletcher Campbell, Esq., of Boquhan.

MEMBERS OF BOARD, 1903.

John Drysdale, Arngibbon, Arnprior.

D. H. Mack, Banker, Buchlyvie.

Stephen Mitchell, Esq., of Boquhan.

James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.

Thomas Syme, Builder, Kippen.

Chairman—James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.

WATER SUPPLY.

THE "Kingdom of Kippen," in addition to being in the centre of a historical and interesting neighbourhood, is now recognised as one of the finest summer resorts that can be found in Britain, and within recent years the village has become quite a fashionable holiday centre on account of its bracing air and picturesque surroundings. Its walks are many and varied, and the position of the village, like the "city that is set on a hill, and cannot be hid," commands one of those views which is rarely, if ever, met with in any other part of Scotland. Within the last decade or so numerous handsome villas have been erected on charming sites on the brow of the hill, where busy city residents can retire to spend their leisure "far from the madding crowd." This has been largely brought about by the improved water supply, and the expectation that still further improvements will be made.

The use of sunk wells, or "weavers' wells," as they were locally defined, necessitating the conveying of water from the well to the household by means of wooden "stoups," in several instances for distances of over a hundred yards, was in vogue till about the middle of the nineteenth century. At that period a supply of water by gravitation was brought to the village by a private company, from springs in the Black Brae, furnishing a supply of about 5,640 gallons per 24 hours. At the close of the century, owing to the erection of a number of villas fitted with modern sanitary conveniences, including bath rooms, etc., this supply was found to be inadequate for the

requirements of the Public Health Act, and a petition was presented to the County Council to provide a more abundant supply of water, and to form the district into a special water district for assessment. After considering several schemes, the County Council in 1901 adopted that of purchasing the existing works of the Kippen Water Company, and augmenting the supply by a bore sunk to a depth of 90 feet in a field on Dighty Farm, above the village of Cauldhame, which was expected to yield an additional supply of 17,280 gallons per 24 hours, the total cost being estimated at £1,039 12s. 2d.

The special water district embraces the villages of Kippen, Cauldhame, and Shirgarton.

LIGHTING SCHEME.

A SCHEME for the purpose of providing light in the village streets on dark winter nights by means of paraffin lamps was promoted in 1898 by Mr. William M'Queen, Shirgarton. From the proceeds of a concert held in aid of the scheme over half-a-dozen lamps were provided, and fixed at various places in the village. The proceeds of an annual concert in their behalf, however, failed to keep them alight for more than three winters, and the village streets have again assumed their dark and dismal appearance on winter nights.

LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

TANNING AND TAMBOURING.

A S we have already noted, the Parish of Kippen is at present almost wholly agricultural. It is interesting, however, to know that for generations a successful business was carried on in Buchlyvie in tanning leather. Indeed, the works, which consisted of some 200 pools, were in a flourishing condition at the beginning of the nineteenth century, while at the same period the tambouring of muslin was an important industry in the village and its vicinity, upwards of sixty young women being employed at this branch in the village alone.

WEAVING.

During the same period there was also a good trade done in cotton and linen weaving, the raw material being carted from Glasgow by way of Campsie and Fintry, and eighty looms were employed in the village, with a corresponding number in the hamlets of Loaningfoot, Arnprior, Arnfinlay, and the village of Buchlyvie. A carrier was employed four days a-week conveying the material to and from Glasgow. Silk weaving was also carried on for several years in the village, and the silk weavers of Kippen earned a reputation throughout central Scotland for producing a very superior article. It was when these industries commenced, and while they flourished, that the village chiefly assumed its present appearance. The manufacture of woollen fabrics was also engaged in well on to the third quarter of the nineteenth century by the process of handloom weaving. The last handloom worker who was known to "ca' the shuttle" in the vicinity of the village was Mr. James Lennie of Loaningfoot, old age causing him to give up this means of livelihood about the year 1870.

MALTING AND DISTILLING.

A very extensive trade was also carried on in the district in malting and distilling. This trade preceded the weaving industry by a good many years. At one time there were five distilleries and sixteen malt barns. A distillery of considerable dimensions was situated at Burnside, on the site where the tenement of houses called The Pit is now erected. It was subsequently converted into a saw pit (hence its present name), following which a portion of it was converted into a school. This distillery was owned and carried on by one Nicol Shirra. Latterly there was only one distillery carried on in the parish, that of Arnprior, the tenants being John and David Cassels. For many years the average annual duty to Government from this distillery alone, according to the "Gazetteer," amounted to £17,000. Having been placed by an old Act on the north, or Highland, side of the line, Kippen had

certain privileges for the somewhat free manufacture of whisky. By a subsequent Act, however, dated 1793, placing the parish on the south side of the line, these privileges were withdrawn, hence the reduction of the number of distilleries in the parish, if not the decay of the trade.

The existence of such a large number of malt barns, carried on to the middle of the nineteenth century, enabled the smugglers of the district to obtain their supply of malt without much difficulty. Recent structural alterations and improvements have obliterated in most cases all traces of where the majority of these malt barns were situated. It may be interesting to note here, however, a few of the sites, and by whom they were owned. Burnside Malt Barn, where the present farmstead of Burnside stands, was owned by William Shirra. That house at Music Hall, presently occupied as a gamekeeper's lodge, was carried on as a malt barn up till 1830 by Alexander M'Lachlan. A portion of The Pit, already mentioned, by John Neilson, who also had a large malt barn where the villa of Howden Lea is now erected. Moirstone, adjoining the site of the present tilework, by James Macfarlane. The old, red-tiled, barn-shaped house known as Oxhill House stands almost entire as in the days of malting, a few internal arrangements having converted it into dwelling-houses. The old ruins at Kirkhill House, of which a portion is at present converted into a hearse house, was used as a large malt steep.

MEAL MILLS.

There were at one time several meal mills in the parish, all of which, with the exception of the present one at Arnprior, have ceased working, and in some instances been demolished altogether, the plough and the reaping machine passing over the spot where once they stood. Well might some of the natives still alive, on viewing the site of their birthplace, exclaim—

“ An old oak tree, or maybe twa,
Among the waving corn,
Is a' the trace that time has left
O' the place whaur I was born.”

The oldest meal mill we have record of was the Mill of Dasher, which was situated in the glen of Boquhan, afterwards converted into a sawmill, and continued as such until 1896. A meal mill also existed at Newmiln in 1682, for we find that one Arthur Dougall, miller at Newmiln, was apprehended in that year for attending a conventicle at Gribbloch, and carried to Glasgow Tolbooth. This mill was burned to the ground in 1855, and never rebuilt. The meal mill of Glentirran ceased working about 1880, and has since been entirely demolished, not a stone having been left to mark its site. The meal mill of Broich has also long ago ceased working, but a portion of it is still used as a saw mill by the proprietrix of Arngomery.

BRICK AND TILE WORKS.

A brick and tilework, affording employment to about a dozen of the villagers, was carried on at Kippen Station till about 1895. The proprietor of Boquhan, Admiral Campbell, who had it in his own hands, gave it up at that date as a non-paying concern.

CREAMERIES.

Two creameries, or butter factories, have been established in the parish—one at Fairfield, in 1885, named The Fairfield Farming Company, transferred to Arngibbon in 1899; and one at Gateside, Arngomery, in 1899, named The Stirlingshire Creamery Company. The farmers in the district find a ready sale for their whole milk at these creameries at a fairly remunerative price; while the companies command a good price for the manufactured article in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and other large centres, the butter being of a uniform grade and excellent quality; the by-products, buttermilk and separated skim-milk, are also in great demand by the dairymen of large towns.

VINERIES.

Through the energetic enterprise of Messrs. D. & W. Buchanan, gardeners, vineries for the cultivation of hot-house grapes were erected in 1889 at Cauldhame, the

glass alone employed in their structure covering an area of 44,000 square feet. Since the beginning of this industry, Forth Vineyard, as it is named, has been a household word in the gardening world both north and south of the Tweed, and at every important horticultural exhibition in Britain its products have generally obtained the highest awards, with bunches of grapes weighing from 8 lbs. to 10 lbs. respectively, although grape-growing for market is the primary object of the establishment. In addition to grape-growing, the Messrs. Buchanan are specialists in the raising and introducing of new grapes, a seedling raised by them in 1895—"Diamond Jubilee"—being now seen on every exhibition board, while "Empress of India," "Forth Vineyard," and "Queen Victoria," are other seedlings of great promise. Another feature of this industry is the preserving, by a special process, of their celebrated autumn-tinted vine leaves, fronds of maiden-hair fern, etc., which keep fresh in vases without water for months, and make the most lovely and unique decorations that it is possible to conceive of.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Other industries and trades at present are red free-stone quarries in Kippen Muir, carried on by Mr. Thomas Syme; building trade, by Mr. Thomas Syme and Mr. John Duncanson; coachbuilding, by Mr. James Forrester; carting and contracting, by Mrs. James Hay, Mr. George Hay, and Mr. Robert Davidson; watch and clock making, by Mr. Robert Dougall; boot and shoemaking, by Mr. John Ure and Mr. George Walker; tailoring, by Mr. John Gilchrist; smith work, by Mr. John Rennie and Mr. William Duncanson; joinery, by Mr. Thomas Welsh and Mr. John Welsh; jobbing and posting, by Mr. John Duncanson and Mr. William Stirling; fleshing, by Mr. William M'Queen and Messrs. Bennie & Livingstone; bakery, by Messrs. John Watson & Son; news agency, by Mr. Robert Dougall; dealing in china and earthenware, by Mr. James Kenny; coal agency, by Mr. James Stewart, Ladylands; grocery, by Messrs. John Watson & Son, Mr. James Blair, Mrs.

Alex. Blair, and Mrs. James Stirling; licensed grocery, by Mr. James Buchanan and Mrs. John Mason; hotels, Cross Keys, by Mr. Robert Buchanan; Crown Hotel, by Mr. John Duncanson.

AGRICULTURE.

THE advance and general diffusion of agricultural knowledge has completely changed the character of the district in regard to soil. Apart from systematic husbandry, the importance of thorough draining and trenching, where the land was wet, began early to be understood, but it was only when the laird found it convenient to do the work at his own expense that any progress in this direction was made, for, however willing the tenant might be to have his ground improved by tile draining, it was rare that he could command the funds. During the eighteenth century an immense improvement was effected in agriculture in the parish, consequent upon the introduction of the cultivation of clovers and artificial grasses and of turnips. Rents increased at least one-third by the close of the third quarter of the century, and also kept steadily rising during the last quarter, through the operation of the high prices prevailing during the French and Continental wars.

THE LAIRD.

The position of the laird was most favourable, as his income had greatly increased, largely through his own active participation in the new agriculture. The laird of that day might well be termed a country squire; he usually farmed a considerable area himself, was in all respects a practical farmer, and usually a pioneer in matters of agricultural improvement. His amusements and recreations were neither expensive nor ultra refined, and, as a rule, he lived on his estates and spent the greater part of his surplus income in their improvement, and took a very active part in the amenities of rural life. The position of the laird of the present day is decidedly inferior to that of his predecessor of the eighteenth century; his



PARISH CHURCH, KIPPEN.

amusements and habits have become more expensive, but in the rivalry with the aristocracy of commerce he has often had to take second place. He is no longer practically conversant with farm cultivation, and where the management of the estate is wholly committed to agents the old relationship which survived the abolition of the feudal system is gradually dying out.

THE FARMER.

The farmer was a man of ruder and rougher type than is to be generally met with at the present time. He rose with the lark, wrought with his workers in the fields, was blessed with but little more education than they, but he possessed most of the solid comforts of life without any of its elegances. He rarely travelled far from the parish, and his world was very circumscribed, but the exigencies of the then cultivation needed little knowledge of what is now termed scientific agriculture, and, comparatively ignorant though he was, he made money. The farmer of to-day belongs to a new order, although here and there men of the old stamp may be met with, especially on small crofts. The imperative use of artificial manures and feeding stuffs, the introduction of expensive and complicated machinery, and the approximation of agriculture to an exact science, necessitate larger capital and wider knowledge. He is much better educated and more refined than his ancestors, but in this age of luxury he has acquired more expensive habits and some want of relish for physical labour. He may not make much money, but he lives well, and possesses most of the comforts of life and a fair proportion of its luxuries.

THE FARM SERVANT.

The position of the farm servant or ploughman a hundred years ago was most unenviable. He wrought long hours for a mere pittance of a wage, averaging about eight or ten shillings per week, and subsisted principally on oatmeal. He was coarse and uncouth, and almost devoid of education. To-day he works shorter hours and

receives double the wage paid to his predecessor, and his position has vastly improved. Free education is provided for his children, some measure of political power has come to himself, and his general habits have materially improved, but the cottage in which he lives is often insanitary and in some cases woefully deficient in bedroom accommodation. The conversion of two or three small farms into one large farm has been a means of checking the supply of farm servants in the locality, and we find the ploughmen forsaking the parish and resorting to Glasgow and other populous centres, attracted by higher wages and shorter working hours, and also impelled by the desire for change which has so largely followed the spread of education. The scarcity of suitable servants thus occasioned is to a certain extent checking the development of dairying in the parish, one of the most lucrative branches of modern agriculture.

ADVANCEMENT IN HUSBANDRY.

Although the main features of agriculture have remained seemingly unaltered for many generations, yet there are few of the myriad branches into which this great industry is split up which do not show proof of considerable advancement and improvement, until now, we may truly say, our oldest and principal industry in the parish has in several ways become truly scientific. Not only has it secured the devoted service of men who are highly scientific, but the vast body of farmers and all others interested in husbandry are learning how to put away ignorance and fallacies of many types, and in their place are adopting views and methods founded upon true principles. For ages the produce of Kippen parish has been held in high esteem, but there are few things grown which within living memory do not show signs of improvement. In most cases the improvement is still more marked in the methods of production. At the beginning of the nineteenth century the crops in the parish generally sufficed to supply home requirements, although the produce was small and the quality inferior

compared with present standards. Several years in the early part of the last century were disastrously bad, so that prices for cereals ruled high till 1812. At that period farmers in the carse lands beneath the village sold wheat in Stirling market at 63s. per boll; but instead of poor, thin wheat, often weighing little over 52 lbs. per bushel, and running down to 14 bushels per acre, this cereal can now be grown from 45 to 50 bushels per acre, nearly all of which exceeds 65 lbs. per bushel, the average price being 28s. per quarter.

In earlier times, oats, barley, peas, and beans entered more largely than at present into the ordinary food of the parishioners, but when these were used exclusively as substitutes for wheat, they generally deranged the bodily health of the consumer.

Formerly wheat was frequently divided into two classes—the winter, *Triticum Hibernum*, and the summer, *T. Aestivum*. This classification, however, is no longer recognised, as it is now well known that the cereal, by being constantly sown in the spring, quite changes its habits as to time of ripening. The produce of wheat sown in the spring acquires the habit of perfecting its growth quicker than the produce of the same wheat sown in the autumn. In soils containing large proportions of sand, or of organic matter, but deficient in clay, we often see the young plant very luxuriant at first, but without the power to build up its stem, for which a certain amount of silica and potash are necessary. Silica and lime are also required for the chaff, with potash, phosphoric acid, magnesia, and ammonia for the seed. In no other description of soil will wheat flourish. These substances are generally found to exist in clays to a greater extent than in other kinds of earth—hence the suitability of the carse for this important crop.

Barley is generally admitted to the second place in the order of cereal crops, but our climate and soil being as a rule better adapted for oats, the latter take the precedence in the farmer's estimation.

The Scotch, or horse bean, is the principal bean

grown in the parish, and the method of distributing the seed broadcast is practised in the carse lands.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The machinery of the farm has also shared in the general improvement. The manufacture of farm machinery and implements has passed from the hands of the village blacksmith and joiner into those of great engineering firms, who have been able to employ scientific experts to develop ideas to the greatest advantage, and to provide machinery which render construction much more efficient. It would be an impossibility for the higher class of machinery to be turned out at the village smithy, and the employment of scientific engineers has resulted in the application of sound mechanical principles. This has affected comparatively simple implements as well as more intricate machinery. At the same time our country blacksmiths have added a considerable number of inventions to the list, some of them of great value.

The primitive home-made utensils contrast strangely with the improved agricultural implements of the present day. Ploughs in the earlier times were seldom bought, but, as a rule, manufactured on the farm. In 1330 we find their price one shilling, and between 1351 and 1370 their value was one shilling and sixpence. The implement, of course, was common joiner's work, and subject to no demand. Wooden ploughs, wooden harrows, wooden threshing implements (flails), and a host of other wooden articles were the weapons which our farmers had mainly to rely upon in wresting their crops from the soil. The material might have mattered less had the implements been less crudely constructed. In spite of their crudeness, however, there were a great many implements and machines in use which embody the principles of to-day.

What see we now in the fields? Light, easily-drawn steel ploughs and grubbers, drill harrows, potato planters and diggers, turnip lifters, seed and manure distributors, self-binding reaping machines, hay forks and rick lifters,

also portable steam threshing machines. At the farm steadings we now have machines which make it possible for the first portion of a cow's milk to be churned into butter before the milker can strip the cow's udder clean; also incubators for the wholesale hatching of chickens.

No doubt the merry scene of a band of the young of both sexes striving with the hook as to who should have the honour of carrying off the "maiden" for the crown of the harvest home, was attractive, but although hoeing and weeding, and even sheafing, may still be done on our smaller crofts in the parish by manual labour, the days of the "hairst" field are gone for both hook and scythe. Some great feats in shearing were, however, performed with the "hook," notwithstanding the fact that the reaping machine sweeps down the grain, in regard to time, in the ratio of ten to one. One old woman in the parish was known to shear with the hook over 400 good-sized sheaves daily.

FAMOUS CLYDESDALES.

The district has now become famous throughout the United Kingdom owing to the advancement made in the breeding of a superior strain of Clydesdale horses, Mr. Andrew Dewar, Arnprior, having bred, amongst other famous animals of the Clydesdale breed, the sensational stallion, "Royal Favourite" (10630). This horse was got by the noted Cawdor Cup Champion horse, "Royal Gartly" (9844), and his dam was a daughter of the famous Keir-bred horse, "Brooklyn" (6547), which fetched £700 at the Keir sale in 1890. "Royal Favourite" has not been much shown, but the illustration we give elsewhere proves him to be a thick, well-built, and typical Clydesdale stallion. "Royal Favourite" was foaled on 6th May, 1897, and was sire of first and second yearling fillies, and first, third, and fourth yearling colts at the Glasgow Show of 1902. Six of his produce won sixteen prizes last year, and a yearling filly, "Nellie," sired by him, bred by and the property of Henry Gray, Kincardine-on-Forth, won first at the Highland and Agricultural Show at Aberdeen in 1902, and also won the Female Clydesdale Championship at

Glasgow Show the same year. He is now owned by Mr. Dewar's son, Mr. Peter Dewar, who refused the very tempting offer of £3,000 for him in 1902. Other breeders of a superior class of Clydesdales who have realised handsome prices are :—

William M'Keich, Woodend, Buchlyvie.
 George Graham, Faraway, Port of Menteith.
 John More, Fordhead, Kippen.
 James Gray, Birkenwood.
 John Paterson, Wester Frew.
 John Risk, Culmore.

AYRSHIRE CATTLE.

Particular attention has also been paid to the breeding of Ayrshire Cattle with considerable success by

John Drysdale, Arngibbon.
 Arch. Blair, Arnmore.
 John More, Fordhead.
 James Macfarlane, Oxhill.
 James Strang, Knockinshannoch.

OWNERS OF FARMS.

There are thirty farms in Kippen Parish, the largest holders of property being—

Dame Helen Catherine Connal, of Arngomery.
 Stephen Mitchell, Esq., of Boquhan.
 James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.
 John Monteath, Esq., of Wright Park.
 William Galbraith, Esq., of Blackhouse and Littlekerse.
 William Forrester, Esq., of Arngibbon.
 James Harvie Brown, Esq., of Shirgarton.
 James Macfarlane, Esq., of Oxhill.
 Andrew Dougall, Esq., of Angusstep.
 Moses B. Scouler, Esq., of Middlekerse.

CHEMISTRY.

The study of agricultural chemistry is making rapid progress among the majority of our farmers of the present day, and it is evident that an element of the greatest

moment in attaining their present advanced position has been chemical analysis, which now constitutes one of the agriculturist's most useful servants. Under its guidance he is taught to prepare and conserve farmyard manure satisfactorily. He knows what plant food his soil requires, and how best and in what form to apply it. His choice is directed in purchasing costly fertilisers and foods, whose preparation, again, is largely dependent on help rendered by analysis; moreover, through its instrumentality he finds efficient protection from fraudulent and careless dealers. As a result of this progressive movement, we now find practical men respecting and seeking, rather than slighting, well-directed scientific efforts, and whereas a farmer's knowledge formerly consisted chiefly of isolated facts and rule of thumb procedure, we observe precision and true economy extending as the reasons underlying various courses of action become more apparent and appreciated.

SOIL.

KIPPEN Parish consists of a variety of soils, which are named respectively carse, dryfield, and moor. The first extends along the banks of the Forth, the whole length of the parish from Buchlyvie to the Bridge of Frew. It is composed of the finest clay, without stones, and interspersed with strata of marine shells.

CARSE.

The following is an analysis of the carse soil:—

Water,	...	...	...	10	parts.
Silica,	...	...	...	44	"
Alumina,	...	...	...	28	"
Carbonate of Lime,	...	...	...	2½	"
Organic matter,	...	...	...	6	"
Oxide of Iron,	...	...	...	1½	"
Soluble Salts,	...	...	...	1	"
Soluble matter,	...	...	...	2	"
Loss matter,	...	...	...	5	"
				<hr/> 100 parts.	

DRYFIELD.

The term dryfield is not descriptive of the soil, but is used merely to distinguish it from the moor and carse lands. Its average depth is six or seven inches. It rests on a subsoil of gravel or till, and, springing from the valley, abruptly in some places, stretches for the most part slopingly—with here and there patches of rich tableland well enclosed and tastefully studded with trees—till it reaches the ridge, where it joins a moor. Sloping southwards the entire length of the parish, its appearance is somewhat cold and bleak in winter, but bright and genial when clothed in summer with its robe of heather. What is called moor comes to be termed dryfield by cultivation.

OLD YEW TREE AT ARNGOMERY.

In testimony of the fertility of some parts of the soil of the parish, as also the genial nature of the climate, we may refer to the grand old yew tree of Broich, now named Arngomery. For symmetry and general appearance this tree is admitted to be the finest in Britain. Growing on the lawn in front of the mansion house of Arngomery, it presents a stately and majestic appearance from the approach, and it is computed that a party of 160 might easily dine under the branches unobserved from the lawn outside. In 1858 the girth of trunk of this tree at the ground was 14 feet 6 inches; at three feet from the ground, 10 feet 1 inch; height, 35 feet 4 inches; circumference outside the branches, 205 feet. In 1878 a measurement was taken by the Rev. W. Wilson, and the girth at the ground was 14 feet 9 inches; at three feet from the ground, 11 feet 2 inches; and the circumference, 213 feet. In December, 1901, we measured the tree. The girth of trunk at ground was 15 feet 1 inch; at three feet from the ground, 11 feet 5 inches; circumference outside the branches, 235 feet. It is therefore steadily growing.

At Fortingall, in the West of Perthshire, there is a large yew tree, considered the oldest in Scotland, but it is



UNITED FREE CHURCH, KIPTEN.

unshapely ; indeed, it seems cleft asunder, and appears as two trees. In Wiltshire, on the property of the Marquis of Bath, there is a yew tree, the girth of which at the ground is 32 feet ; height, 50 feet ; and circumference outside branches, 164 feet. In the churchyard of Knockholt there is a yew tree, the girth of which is 22 feet ; height, 46 feet 7 inches ; and circumference outside branches, 202 feet. These trees appear to be higher and thicker in the trunk, but the branches of neither of them so spreading, nor, we should imagine, so handsome or so graceful as the tree at Arngomery.

An ancient Act of Parliament decreed that yew trees should be planted in all burying grounds of the Kingdom, to furnish material for bows. When the late Mr. Ewing took down the old house of Broich, which stood in front, but a little west of the site of the mansion house of Arngomery, in 1852, he found stones which antiquarians pronounced at least 800 years old, and it was inferred that probably the tree was of the same age. We do not think it is quite so old. Naturalists tell us that the age of a yew tree may be arrived at by giving a century to every foot of diameter of trunk. It is obviously upon this principle that the age of the tree belonging to the Marquis of Bath has been determined, and if we apply the same rule to the yew tree at Arngomery, its age must be about 500 years.

While on a visit to Arngomery in 1849 the late Lord Robertson composed the following lines on the yew tree :

“ Ne’er vaunt of blooming shrub, of stately tree,
The waving of sycamore, time-honoured oak,
As if their spell might solemn thought evoke,
Within these changeless shades enshrined there be
The silent depths of nobler sympathy,
At dewy morn, beneath the vesper star,
Tidings may waft, from cloudless realms afar,
Of times long past unveil the history.
No record proud proclaims thy mystic birth,
Thy prime no glimmering legend seems to tell,
Whether thou waviest o’er unhallowed earth,
Or at thy feet some Celtic warrior fell,
Or from the land of dreams enchanted here,
The mist-born spirits did their temple rear.”

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

THE villagers of earlier times were of a social, intellectual, and kindly race, and genuine brotherly love predominated. Families were interested in the history and welfare of other families. Births, marriages, sickness, and deaths were talked over at all firesides, and when assistance was needed it was in most cases offered before it was asked. They were also a very intelligent class, and devoted much of their spare time to reading. In proof of this numerous ancient volumes, treating of religion, history, poetry, and philosophy, are to be found in the village.

The weekly newspaper cost sevenpence, and was conveyed to the village by the Glasgow coach, its coming being eagerly awaited. Several villagers having clubbed together to procure a copy of certain newspapers, they assembled in some weaver's shop, where it was read by one of them to an attentive audience, who, with penetrating sagacity, afterwards discussed the greater social questions of their day.

The majority of the villagers, being feuars, had comfortable dwellings, roofed with thatch, and trim, well-kept gardens, in which were grown green kale, cabbage, potatoes, etc., and borders of delightful, old-fashioned flowers, among which were honesty, jelly flower, monkshood, columbine, primroses, pinks, with clumps of balm, peppermint, and apple-ringie. Their food was simple, but substantial and abundant. Those who had their feus in pasture arranged to have drills of potatoes with the neighbouring farmers, which they themselves planted, hoed, and carted home in the "back en" for winter use. At Martinmas two or three neighbours joined together and bought a "mart"—a fat stot or cow—which any of the neighbouring farmers had for sale. It was taken home to the village, killed, and divided according to agreement. They had usually a fat pig themselves ready for killing at the same season, which, along with a well-stocked girdel, enabled them to face the stormy days of winter with

"plenty in the hoose," and thus to some extent they enjoyed "the glorious privilege of being independent."

SOCIAL CHANGES.

Social changes have been no less marked in the village than those of an industrial character. The sphere of woman has been greatly enlarged, and new theories of the relation of the citizen to the State have come into vogue the world o'er. In literature, realism has substituted romance, while the philosophies of Spencer and Darwin have taken the place of that propounded by Sir William Hamilton. Even our pulpits are not free from discourses on science and philosophy, in place of the "old, old story." In all the walks of science and learning changes extraordinary for their extent and character have taken place within the past fifty years, probably not surpassed by that of all the past ages, and it is worthy of note that the "Kingdom of Kippen" has kept steadily at the front in the general march of progress.

LOCAL FAIRS.

ST. MAUVAE'S.

BY various Acts of Parliament the parishioners of Kippen have been privileged to hold a number of fairs in the parish. When the people flocked long ago to the monasteries, or abbeys, or churches on special days or festivals, they required, of course, some refreshment. Hence they brought with them not only food and drink, but articles of various kinds for sale. As a general rule, fairs were named after the local saint, and a fair held yearly in Kippen on the 26th of October was named St. Mauvae's Fair, after the saint of the parish. St. Mauvae's Well, on the west side of Kirkhill Cottage, in that narrow strip of field known as the Kiln Park, takes its name from this saint.

BALGAIR.

In 1686, William Leckie, the proprietor of the barony

of Dasher, by an Act of the Estates of Parliament, received permission, as also his successors, to hold three fairs in the course of the year, likewise the markets on the first three Wednesdays of December, on the Castlehill of Dasher. The original extract is in the possession of the Gartmore family. With the exception of one fair, known as the Mid-Wednesday of Kippen, all the others have fallen into abeyance. And so, too, have the fairs known as the Gowk Fair in April, and four markets at Balgair, in March, May, June, and August, and one at Buchlyvie. The June Fair at Balgair ranked as one of the most important fairs in Scotland. The opening up of the country with railways, and the establishing of auction markets in Stirling and other centres is responsible for the change. An earlier supplication, as it was called, by the Estates of Parliament to the heritors and parishioners of the parish of Kippen, of two yearly fairs, granted in 1663, runs thus—"That they (the heritors and parishioners of Kippen) ly at a far distance from any mercat toun, whereby they are much prejudged, put to great expenses in going to fairs for buying of their necessaries, which otherwayes they would not be put to if there were fairs appointed to be holden at any place within the said bounds, and therefore humbly desiring two fairs yearly might be allowed them to be keepit at the said Kirk of Kippen as the supplication bears, which being taken into consideration, the King, with advice and consent of his Estates of Parliament, doth hereby give and grant to the heritors and parishioners of Kippen, or where the same shall be situat heirafter, in any place of the said paroche, one fair in May the other in October yearly in all time coming, with all privileges and liberties belonging thereto."

CORN MARKET.

Frequent attempts were made towards the close of the eighteenth century to establish a weekly corn market at Kippen, also a weekly market during harvest time to engage reapers. The project, however, fell to the ground. The railway company now run special trains for the con-

veyance of live stock to the auction sales which are held at Stirling weekly, and grain is disposed of by sample packets, often carried in the pockets of farmers, or forwarded by parcel post to grain merchants.

THE "FEEING FAIR."

The "Feeing Fair"—for the hiring of farm servants—is also on the wane. Fairs held bi-yearly at Stirling and Falkirk are the principal centres for the engaging of farm servants resident in the locality, and are looked upon as the great half-yearly holidays of the farm. Many of both sexes visit these fairs purposely for an engagement, but the majority, having been previously hired, go merely on pleasure bent, and join in forming a merry, spirit-stirring spectacle in which there is the very extreme of gaiety. Everywhere along the public street the swarming, streaming mass shout and jostle each other in riotous merriment; the byre girls and dairymaids appear in the strongest colours of gala attire, and as they seldom get the opportunity of turning out in their best gear, they go to Stirling or Falkirk on a fair day, to use their own figurative language, "dressed to death," the outing generally terminating in a dance, while during the day "shows" and merry-go-rounds, if available, receive generous support, affording much diversion to the participants, and no small measure of amusement to the casual on-lookers. Jolly they are beyond description, and form a jubilant throng. A fiddler, above all things, they cannot stand: music takes their heels just as intoxicants would take their heads, yet, notwithstanding their boisterous behaviour, the great majority of the ploughmen and servant lasses who attend those feeing fairs, and share in the exuberant hilarities, know very well how to take care of themselves. It must be taken into consideration that the manners of the country folks are different in degree from those of the denizens of cities and towns. Were certain city belles—modest Flora, for example, who puts the legs of her piano into pretty frilled trousers—present to see their rustic cousins at village dances, feeing fairs,

harvest homes, etc., how their feelings of propriety would be shocked.

The ploughmen of the parish at the present day, however, have, by the cultivation of their minds and morals, elevated their characters and increased their power far beyond the time when the poet depicted them thus—

“ They toil, they eat, they sleep : what then ?
Why, wake to toil and sleep again.”

VILLAGE CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS.

GARGUNNOCK FARMERS' CLUB.

THE oldest club we have any record of in the parish is that instituted by General John Fletcher Campbell, of Boquhan, in 1794—and who was its first president—called the Gargunnock Farmers' Club, which embraces the parishes of Gargunnock, Kippen, Stirling, Fintry, Balfroun, Killearn, Drymen, Port of Menteith, Kincardine, Kilmadock, and that part of St. Ninians west of a line from the port of Stirling, south to Gillies Hill, and from thence, west the north side of Touch Hill until it meets the parish of Gargunnock. In 1807 General Campbell bequeathed to this club the sum of £500, the interest of which is laid out in promoting the object of the institution. At first the members of the society met at Boquhan and other places for the purpose of discussing matters of interest concerning agriculture, and in 1796 we find members agreeing to send two or more horses, carts, and drivers, if called upon, to assist His Majesty's troops into the adjoining counties. A match was also resolved upon for the ploughing of lea, which ultimately took place the following year, the date and place of match being advertised at the kirk doors of the different parishes in which the club was concerned. It was stipulated that the furrows were to be $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. The first prize was a watch with engraving on back, value £4 5s., and was won by Henry Redpath ; second prize, watch with engraving on back, value £3 1s., won by — Chrystal. Subsequently it

was resolved to hold two ploughing matches annually, one for lea ploughing in early spring, and the other for fallow ploughing in July. No suitable fallow land, however, could be found, and ultimately a competition for making turnip drills took place at Rashiehill on 26th May, 1807. In the following year a prize was offered for the best bull over three years old, to be shown and judged at a turnip drill competition taking place at Craighead on 13th June, 1808, the prize-winning animal to be at the service of members' stock. It is recorded that only one bull appeared at this competition. Later, prizes were offered for young stock, both cattle and horses, to be shown and judged at Kippen Fair, and success attending this effort the event has now become an annual show of live stock and dairy produce, held in the first week of June in a field near Kippen Station, adjoining Boquhan House.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1902.

President :

Sir Alan Seton-Steuart, Bart., Touch.

Vice-President :

Colonel S. Home-Drummond of Blair Drummond.

Secretary and Treasurer : John Risk, Culmore.

Committee :

Robert Mailer, Redhall.	Alex. Inglis, Kepdarroch.
John Muirhead, Hillhead.	John Mailer, Woodyett.
John Murray, Munnieston.	James Paterson, Burnbank.
R. Downie, Knock o' Ronald.	Alex. Moir, Nether Carse.

The following gentlemen have held office as Secretary of the Club :—

Peter Gordon, Gartmore,	...	...	1796
John Galbraith, Kippen,...	...	...	1799
Rev. Christopher Tait, Kincardine	Manse,		1800
John Leckie, of Broich,	...	...	1812
R. Banks, of Craighead,	...	...	1814
Robert Paterson, Easter Frew,	...	...	1817
John Paterson, Easter Frew,	...	...	1835
John MacNie, Woodyett,...	...	...	1839
Alex. Buchanan, Whitehouse,	...	...	1846
Thomas Leishman, Meiklewood,...	...	...	1857
Matthew C. Stark, Westerton, Doune,	...	...	1883
John Risk, Culmore,	...	...	1902

KIPPEN PARISH HEARSE SOCIETY.

FIRST MEETING HELD IN 1810.

THE proposal to form a society for the purpose of providing a hearse for the parish was mooted at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and a meeting was convened for that purpose in the Parish Church of Kippen on the 28th day of June, 1810. Those present were:—The Rev. P. Macfarlane, Mr. Key, of Wright Park; Mr. Galbraith, of Blackhouse; Messrs. John Zuill, Ladylands; Archd. Cunningham, Arnmore; Andrew Chrystal, Broich; James Dougal, Parks; John M'Lause, Waterside; John M'Nee, Arnmore; John Haldane, Robert Hutton, Alex. Harvie, John Haldane, jun., John Neilson, David Miller, Kippen; Andrew Harvie, Braehead; James Graham, writer, Kippen. Mr. Key, president; Mr. Graham, clerk.

These gentlemen were all subscribers to a previous collection, or fund, raised within the parish for the right of recommending two patients annually to the Glasgow Infirmary. The minute of this meeting bears that "Mr. Macfarlane stated to the meeting that the sum collected by the elders and others within the parish, and the money sent to himself by non-residing heritors and others, amounted to £53 16s. 6d., the total subscriptions made to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary; that of that sum £38 9s. had been transmitted by John Leckie, Esq., of Broich, conform to the preceding state, and that the balance from thence arising, being £15 7s. 6d., had been deposited by Mr. Macfarlane in the Stirling Bank. The meeting unanimously resolve that the above balance of £15 7s. 6d. shall continue to lye in the said bank as the beginning of a fund for purchasing a parish hearse, and the subscription papers, with the bank receipt for said balance, indorsed by Mr. Macfarlane, the meeting direct to be given to Mr. Graham to take charge of them."

It was also resolved to issue subscription papers, in order to raise a fund adequate for purchasing a hearse, and also a piece of ground, and erecting thereon a suitable



THE CROSS, KIPPEN.

house for its reception. The following committee was appointed to report progress at some future meeting:—Mr. Graham (convener), Mr. Key, Mr. Galbraith, Mr. John Zuill, Mr. John Haldane, jun.; Messrs. John Cassels, Kepp; Charles Stewart, jun., and Walter M'Gibbon, Buchlyvie.

NINE YEARS LATER.

The next meeting we find noticed was held some nine years later, the minute being dated, Kippen, 10th January, 1819. There were present on this occasion: Mr. Galbraith, of Blackhouse; Mr. Key, of Wright Park; Mr. Graham, of Arnfinley; the Rev. Mr. Anderson; Mr. John Zuill, Ladylands; Mr. Wm. Graham, Moreston; Mr. Graham, writer, Kippen; Mr. Galbraith (president). Mr. Graham stated that the £15 7s. 6d., with £1 1s. afterwards received from Mr. Wright, had accumulated to the amount of £21 18s. 9d., and for £21 thereof he laid a bank receipt before the meeting. After some further business, the meeting recommended Messrs. Key and Graham to obtain a report from tradesmen as to the expense of building a hearse of two wheels with suitable furniture, and also to obtain a report as to the expense of building a house for such hearse, and to ascertain if Mr. Cassels would give a site gratis for building the same thereon.

SIXTEEN YEARS PASS.

After a further lapse of sixteen years we find the following meeting minuted:—"At Kippen, and within the Parish Church, on this 24 day of March, 1835 years, convened in consequence of the intimation aftermentioned, viz.:—Present, Dr. Weir, Messrs. John Cassels, David Graham of Kirkhill, John Haldane, George Graham, Alex. Harvie, Robert Galbraith, Robert Thomson, Andrew Doig, James Graham, Walter Moir, John Dougal, Alex. Risk, John Rennie, James M'Farlane, Robert Hutton, Robert Dougal, and John Galbraith. John Cassels produced mandates from 28 subscribers, not present, who reside in the western part of the parish. The Convener was

appointed preses. Dr. Weir moved that an addition should be made to the former committee, which motion being seconded by Mr. Cassels, the following individuals are hereby appointed, viz., Andrew Forrester, Esq., of Arngibbon; William Key, of Wright Park; John Edmond, of Newburn; John Cassels, of Arnprior; Alexander Harvie, Kippen; Doctor Weir, Kippen; William Hutton, Burnside; Robert Galbraith, Kippen; David Harvie, wright, Buchlyvie; James Risk, of Dunston." Reports regarding the cost of a hearse were submitted to this meeting, when it is duly minuted that, "In regard that the former reports by Messrs. Graham, Buchanan, and others regarding the expense of a hearse are held by the meeting to be extravagantly high, and that a site for a hearse house, with a hearse, and all its furniture, can now be obtained at less expense."

The committee were empowered to make further inquiries, and report at meeting to be held within the church on the first Monday of May, and, accordingly, on Monday, 3rd May, 1835, they again met. Only one estimate, that from Messrs. Thomson & Buchanan, was given in, which stated that they would make a substantial hearse for £75. The meeting, however, came to no definite decision other than to circulate a further supply of subscription papers throughout the parish.

Some delay, however, arose at this stage owing to the death of Mr. David Graham, chairman of the committee, the documents belonging to the Hearse Fund being in the hands of Mr. William Hutton, writer in Stirling, agent for Mr. Graham's representatives.

A NEW CHAIRMAN APPOINTED.

We also find minutes of a meeting, which read thus:—"Upon the 13th day of February, 1836, and within the Parish Church of Kippen—present, Messrs. John Cassels, Kepp; John Edmond, Newburn; Wm. Haldane, Thos. Weir, surgeon, Alex. Junkine, Alexander Harvie, James M'Donald, surgeon, James Graham, Alex. Buchanan, and John Rennie, Kippen—the meeting appoint, in place of

the deceased Mr. Graham, John Edmond as Chairman, John Cassels and Wm. Hutton as Vice-Chairmen, with full powers to call meetings; also empowers the chairman to call upon the heritors at their meeting and get up from them the money in their hands. Mr. James Graham was also appointed to wait upon Mr. Hutton, Stirling, and get from him the papers belonging to the subscribers."

PROGRESS.

The providing of a hearse for the parish, which had taken almost twenty-six years to accomplish, began now to assume a more practical form, as we find from the following minute:—"At Kippen, within the Parish Church, the 18th June, 1836—present, Messrs. John Edmond, John Cassels, Wm. Hutton, Alex. Harvie, Alex. Risk, James M'Farlane, John Haldane, Robert Hutton. David Risk, John Fisher, James Kerr, John Rennie, Wm. M'Alpine, Robert Galbraith, Thos. Weir, Jas. M'Donald, Alex. M'Allister, Arch. Russel, James Wright, and James Graham. The committee stated that they some time ago, through their chairman, Mr. John Edmond, agreed with Messrs. Thomson & Buchanan, in Stirling, to make a hearse for the sum of fifty pounds sterling."

Rules and regulations for the government of the society were approved of, these stipulating that all persons subscribing towards the purchase of a hearse shall become members, and thereafter a payment of two shillings and sixpence shall qualify for membership; that the hearse shall be at the disposal of members on twenty-four hours' notice, on payment of five shillings; if taken out of the parish one shilling extra will be charged for each additional mile beyond the bounds thereof; and if out for more than twenty-four hours, except in cases of unavoidable accident, a payment of 10s. 6d. shall be made for every day so kept; hearse and harness to be kept in good condition by the society, but if damaged through carelessness, to be made good by user; horse and driver to be provided by user; committee to have discretion to grant hearse free

of charge to poor of parish. The hearse was placed in a house provided by Mr. Cassels, at a yearly rental of £2 10s., the appointment of a man to look after hearse being left with Mr. Cassels.

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE HEARSE TO ARNPRIOR.

For some years afterwards the society seems to have made favourable progress, having a sum amounting to a few pounds lodged to its credit in the bank, but at a meeting held in Arnprior School, on 10th August, 1850, it was reported that there was a balance of £2 19s. 9d. against the society in consequence of the tax or duty demanded for the hearse by the collector of assessed taxes for the county. Subscription sheets, together with the money, amounting to £10 3s. 6d., collected for the purpose of paying the duty, were, however, produced. It was then moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed to that the hearse should be removed from the village of Kippen, where it has been kept for some time, to Arnprior, the society undertaking to erect a house for it upon a piece of ground obtained from James Stirling, Esq., of Garden. A sub-committee was appointed to superintend the erection of the house above referred to. The meeting then elected James Sands, chairman; Wm. Ure, vice-chairman; James Zuill, treasurer; John Graham, secretary; members of committee, Robert Bennet, Archibald Murdoch, David Harvie, David Ure, Robert M'Farlane, and Andrew Rennie." At a subsequent meeting, however, the proposal to remove the hearse from Kippen to Arnprior was deferred.

MEETINGS AT KIPPEN.

The general meeting of the society is recorded as having taken place yearly at Arnprior School from 1850 until 1855, while the next meeting recorded is held in the Parish School, Kippen, on the 17th day of March, 1868, when the committee appointed to examine the state of the Kippen parish hearse fund, and to ascertain what

repairs are necessary to be made on the hearse, met, there being present, Dr. M'Donald, chairman; Messrs. John Buchanan, George Harvie, Robert Dougal and Andrew Rennie. This committee having examined the hearse, found that it required considerable repairs, and on the 12th day of July, 1869, the committee again met at Kippen to consider what measures were to be taken for repairing the hearse—present: Dr. M'Donald, treasurer; J. Graham, secretary; Messrs. John Buchanan, Robert Dougall, sen., Andrew Rennie, and Robert Dougall, jun. A resolution was adopted to instruct David Cook, wright, Kippen, to make the necessary repairs on the hearse, and paint and varnish same. The secretary, Mr. John Graham, paid over the balance in his hand in favour of the society, and Mr. John Buchanan was thereafter elected secretary. The society again made headway under the chairmanship of Dr. M'Donald, and on his demise the chairmanship was taken by Robert Dougall, sen., in 1876.

In 1881 Mr. John Dougall was appointed secretary and treasurer, but the repairing of house for hearse, along with the execution of some repairs, including the painting and varnishing of hearse, placed a balance on the wrong side of the society, and at a meeting convened on 20th September, 1888, Mr. Dougall refunded the small sum which had been allowed him for his services, so as to enable the tradesmen's account to be settled. At this meeting Mr. Robert Dougall, postmaster, was elected secretary and treasurer, and he advanced a sum to wipe off the balance due by the society.

RECENT CHANGES.

Compared with the more modern vehicle, the Kippen parish hearse is now looked upon as being cumbersome and ancient in design, and is only used by those resident in the village. The fact of the burying ground being now located at some distance from the village necessitates its use amongst the villagers more than hitherto; while those resident outwith the village generally obtain a more up-to-date hearse from jobmasters in Stirling and other places.